

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 117 Issue 6

Bellingham, Washington

Vehicle Research Institute to display Viking 30

By Maureen McGraw
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Vehicle Research Institute will display the Viking 30, its most recent experimental hybrid car, at the American Le Mans Series in Portland, Ore.

"It's the most work-intensive, most ambitious car we've ever built," VRI founder Michael Seal said.

The American Le Mans Series is the North American version of the 24 hour race in Le Mans,

France, which dates back to 1923. The event is three days long with the Grand Prix of Portland race on the third day.

Jason Nelson, a recent Western graduate, said the trip is important to him because he is looking for a job, and companies have a lot of recruiters at events like the Le Mans Series.

Working in the VRI is a "real world experience," Nelson said.

Going to Portland is good experience and gathers publicity for the VRI and its workers.

The VRI team has been working on the Viking 30 for about two years, Seal said.

The Viking 30 has "extensive use of carbon fiber," he said. The transmission is also made out of carbon fiber to keep the weight of the car down. Transmissions have traditionally been made from iron, or more recently, from aluminum, Seal said.

The jet black viking 30 is nine feet long, four feet high, and weighs 429 pounds.

Co-captains Nelson and Jai Prasad and club members Ben

Erickson, Graham Fotheringham, Rob Goivenale, Richard Lawton, Chris Small and Mike Zaccardo will be displaying the Viking 30 August 3-5 in Portland, Ore. at the Portland International Raceway.

The VRI members will be displaying the Viking 30 in the paddock area of the raceway. A booth will be set up in front of the car for participants to get information about Western's one-of-a-kind vehicle, said Western junior Chris Small.

Editor, student Scott A. Keys dead at age 24

By Levi Pulkkinen
THE WESTERN FRONT

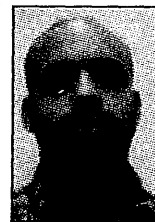
On July 24 the Western community lost one of its finest.

Scott Alexander Keys, a 24-year-old Western senior, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound early Tuesday afternoon, leaving behind his mother, Elizabeth M. Moya, his sister, Dee Dee Keys, as well as innumerable family and friends in Bellingham and Bremerton, Wash., his home town.

Services for Keys took place Monday at Lewis Funeral Chapel in Bremerton, where his friends and family came together to remember the young man's life and grieve at his passing. Photographs from Keys' youth were displayed for mourners, many if not all of whom were shocked at his untimely passing and missing the man dearly.

"(Keys' death) was so crazy because we talked about everything," said James Neal, Western alumnus. "He was such an upbeat guy."

Keys was a manager at Costco Wholesale in Bellingham and the accent/features section editor for The Western Front.



Editor's note: We who worked with Scott on the Front struggled to cover our friend and co-worker's death appropriately, respecting the privacy of those he left behind while bringing to light an entirely preventable tragedy. Help for those considering suicide or suffering from depression is available through Western's Counseling Center, at 650-3164 or by phoning the University Police at x3555.

High schoolers flock to Western for Business Week



High school students from across Washington came to Western to attend Business Week, a seminar for business-minded high school students that continues through Saturday. Seminar attendees are residing in the Edens North and Mathes Hall residences.

Taber Streur/
The Western Front

Insurance plans may be required to cover most contraceptives

By Jessica Sparks
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's Student Health Center will not be changing its birth control prices if the Washington State Insurance Commissioner's proposal to require all insurance plans to cover prescription contraception is approved.

"We're glad more women will have the option to get contraception," said Emily Gibson, Student Health Center medical director.

Students who don't want to have their birth control paid by insurance will still be able to purchase pills for \$12 per cycle.

See HEALTH, Page 3

Dorm to be built by 2005

By Taber Streur
THE WESTERN FRONT



Ridgeway Gamma stands above the area where the new dorm will be built. Site drainage of the wetland has begun, and a new pump house that will feed the new dorm and other Ridgeway dorms is soon to be constructed.

Rumors that Western will be receiving a new dorm are true.

By 2005, Western should have a new dorm located below Ridgeway Gamma.

The dorm will accommodate the increase in freshmen admittances to Western.

"We will need another couple hundred sets of beds by 2005," Hart said. "We obtained building and wetland permits in February."

Construction of a new dorm was postponed from previous plans for construction in 1995.

"We resurrected (the idea) two years ago, but it has since been abandoned because the design would be 12 years old by time of completion," Hart said.

There are plans underway to hire a new architect to design the new dorm, he said.

Hart said last year Western had a prob-

See DORM, Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Boxing beauty goes for the glove

Western Alum prepares for her shot at the Golden Glove in August.

See story, Page 8.

The 'Rainbow Maker' shines in Blaine

Fred Stern showed off his rainbow making skills July 20 at the International Art Festival at Peace Arch Park.



See story, Page 5.

COPS BOX

University Police

July 18, 4 p.m.: A student at Birnam Wood apartments reported she was being harassed by another student. The two students have had an ongoing conflict, police said. Both students agreed to stop contacting each other. Hall staff was advised of the problem.

July 17, 8:55 p.m.: Four Western employees reported their lunches stolen from a refrigerator inside the Biology building. The estimated value was \$22. Police have no suspects.

Bellingham Police

July 24, 2:36 p.m.: The manager of an apartment complex in the 3100 block of Studio Lane reported to police that one of his tenants had fired a gun inside an apartment. The shot went through a wall and into the bathroom of a neighboring apartment. No one was injured.

July 24, 4:52 p.m.: The manager of a tattoo shop in the 2800 block of Meridian Street reported to police that after receiving a tattoo, a customer left the store without paying. The manager tried to contact the customer but has had no luck.

Compiled by Brandon Korab

Protesters search for answers to July shooting

By Matt Bucher and
Margo Horner
THE WESTERN FRONT

More than 30 protesters stood outside the Whatcom County Courthouse Friday seeking answers to the July 7 shooting death of Lummi Tribal member Ben Hillaire, 55, by Whatcom County Sheriff's Deputy Rod Cadman.

The protesters asked for an independent investigation into the death of Hillaire after Whatcom County Prosecutor Dave McEachran found that the shooting was a justifiable homicide.

"This has been a violation to my family and I have a lot of questions," Lummi Tribal member Cindy Horne said. "So far we're not satisfied with the answers we've been given."

Cadman shot Hillaire five times while at his home in response to a 911 hang-up call.

When a 911 operator called back, there was no answer at the Hillaire home.

Cadman was dispatched to the residence to do a welfare check on the occupants. Upon his arrival, he discovered the family had been involved in a domestic dispute. Hillaire's girlfriend Mira Valencia told Cadman that Hillaire had injured her.

After a struggle by both men, bullets were fired.

Medics arrived and Hillaire was pronounced dead from gun shot wounds to the heart, liver and lungs.

Family and friends outside the courthouse said Hillaire was a highly respected Lummi elder and talented wood carver. They said that although Hillaire had a deep, imposing voice he wasn't a violent man and this tragedy could have been avoided.

"(The sheriff's deputies) might have been afraid for their lives



Brendan Manning/ The Western Front

Debra Covington Paul, Frank Pickernell and Iva Smith drum outside the Whatcom County Courthouse last Monday, protesting the shooting death of a Lummi Tribal member.

but for the wrong reasons," Lummi Tribal member Winona Casimir-Boxberger said. "He was a big man, a big native man. I think they were afraid because of quiet personal prejudices."

The investigation by McEachran and the sheriff's office paints a different picture.

"The circumstances surrounding the death of Hillaire certainly illustrate the danger that domestic violence presents to the participants of that violence as well as the officers that respond to protect the victims of these crimes," McEachran said. "Hillaire had a history of domestic violence and was receiving anger control counseling prior to this incident."

A toxicology report also

showed that Hillaire had a blood alcohol content level of .17 percent.

According to the sheriff's office, officers are trained to shoot in the center of the body to be sure the suspect is stopped.

"We need to change the policy," activist Flip Breskin said. "Police need to be trained to shoot to disable, not to kill."

The sheriff's office will review the case to see if any policy changes need to be made or if training should be altered according to a press release.

Because there is a history of racism against the Lummi, it is easy to shift blame to the police Breskin said, but the sheriff's office has denied that race was a factor in the shooting.

As the protest was winding down, Arlene Hillaire Traus quietly called for the attention of the crowd, once receiving it she rhythmically pounded on her drum and chanted the song of Laughing Crow in honor of her slain cousin.

"(Hillaire) was respected in the community," Traus said. "He would emcee many tribal events. He was also a gifted wood carver and was carrying on the family tradition. The (Totem) pole in front of the sheriff's office is by a Hillaire."

"We feel that if we were not Native Americans this would not have to be a process," Traus said.

The Western Front Online

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Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Thursday for inclusion in the next Tuesday issue.

Announcements should be limited to 50 words. Announcements may be submitted by e-mail to pubs@cc.wwu.edu. The subject line should contain a brief topic title and clearly state that the item is for official announcements. Items sent by e-mail should be sent separately from submissions to FAST.

Announcements that are typewritten or legibly printed also may be sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, sent via fax to X/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT OFFICES. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on Aug. 6, 13 and 20 and at 9 a.m. Thursday on Aug. 2. During the break between summer and fall quarters, it is offered at 9 a.m. Thursdays on Sept. 6, 13 and 20. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$10 fee is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes. Sample problems may be found at www.washington.edu/oea/aptp.htm.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) will be given at 2 p.m. Aug. 21 and Sept. 21 in OM 120. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$35 fee is payable at test time. Registration is limited to 16 students. Allow 1-1/2 hours.

WINTER QUARTER DEGREE APPLICANTS must have a degree application on file in the registrar's office, OM 230, by Aug. 24. Applications are available in OM 230.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

KEEP YOUR WESTERN CARD. Students, faculty and staff are reminded to keep their Western Card for the duration they are affiliated with the University. Once registered for fall quarter, students can go to the Card Office, EH 108, to receive a validation stamp for the 2001-2002 school year.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

THE WELCOME BACK EDITION OF THE WESTERN FRONT will publish Sept. 25. The deadline for advertising is Aug. 27. Don't miss your chance to reach new and returning students with news about your programs. For more information, call Joel Hall at X/6763.

Commission meets to eliminate discrimination

By Sonja Rose
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Washington State Human Rights Commission had its annual meeting Thursday in Bellingham at the Best Western Lakeway Inn and Conference Center to discuss current issues and to hear community members voice their concerns.

The commission serves the people of Washington to help eliminate and prevent discrimination. It enforces state laws pertaining to human rights, and its goal is to see that public interest is served and that all people are treated fairly.

showed 39 total complaints, 22 of them in Whatcom County.

The top three areas of complaints involving discrimination are in employment, housing and public accommodation. The commission investigates complaints and gathers facts about the situation and then determines if there is cause to believe discrimination occurred.

Joe Deeny, a member of the WHRTF spoke on behalf of the organization about its activities over the past year.

Deeny reported a rise in complaints from people of color being harassed or followed around in the Bellis Fair Mall by security and employees of certain stores.

He also spoke of increased discrimination complaints regarding disability issues of both physical and mental types.

"We are trying to build a new culture that celebrates human dignity and embraces it and all of its manifestations," said Vernon Johnson, task force member and Western political science professor.

Julie Mauerman of the Ferndale Diversity Coalition spoke to the commission about problems of discrimination and harassment in the Ferndale school district. The lesbian student who was named prom king was the main topic of discussion. She talked about the community problems and tensions that resulted.

Carroll informed the audience and the commission about the Expanded Outreach Program the department has implemented in the Bellingham communities.

Officers are appointed to certain areas, and officers get to know people and participate in community activities. The goal of the program is that each neighborhood has a direct officer to go to with a problem or complaint.

"It's all about human beings and how can we react as a facilitator for change."

Rudy Vasque

Washington state Human Rights Commission chairman

"It's all about human beings and how can we act as a facilitator for change," commission chairman Rudy Vasque said.

The commission travels year-round to all areas of Washington hearing from local community members and organizations about discrimination problems. It acts as a tool to help better each community and increase understanding about diversity.

Representatives from the Whatcom County Human Rights Task Force and the Ferndale Diversity Coalition as well as the Bellingham Police Chief Randy Carroll were among the attendants.

Opening statements focused on the activities and complaints the commission has received in Whatcom and Skagit counties.

From July 1999 to June 2000 it has received 35 complaints of discrimination in Whatcom County and eight in Skagit. Updates for the 2000-2001 year

Dorm planned to accommodate increasing enrollment



Taber Streur/ The Western Front

Wetland tags mark the area located below Ridgeway Gamma where the new dorm will be built. Plans are underway to hire an architect to design the new building. An older design was abandoned because it would have been 12 years old by the time of its completion in 2005.

From DORM, Page 1

lem with living situations in the dorms and had to create 163 triple-occupancy rooms. Western's University Residence office coordinators hopes to fix these problems with the added rooms of the new dorm.

Enrollment for 2001-2002 freshmen is presently 2,235, and 2,039 of those will be living on campus.

Western senior Brad Hendrickson, must live in the dorms for Western football's preseason camp.

"Living in the dorms is a great experience for incoming freshmen because you get to

meet lots of new people, but it is so much cheaper to live off campus," Hendrickson said.

"Living in the dorms is a great experience for incoming freshmen because you get to meet lot of new people, but it is so much cheaper to live off campus."

Brad Hendrickson
Western senior

Dorm life for the average freshman for 2001-2002

school year will cost \$5,353.69, including a double room and a gold meal plan.

Residence pays for itself with no added funds.

"Its just like your house — you have a mortgage," Hart said.

Construction will begin this summer for site drainage of the wetland where the dorm will be built, and a new pump house for fire sprinklers in the new dorms, and also to feed the other Ridgeway dorms. This will hold the site for future building until models are complete and construction can begin.

Proposal requires full contraception coverage

From HEALTH, Page 1

Gibson said.

The proposal by Washington state Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler requires all forms of contraception, including implants, oral, IUDs, injection, barrier methods and emergency contraception to be covered by all insurance plans.

A public hearing is scheduled Aug. 21 in Olympia. The plan must provide expected financial impact on small businesses.

"I'm very pleased with (Kreidler's) position on this issue," said Linda McCarthy, Mount Baker Planned Parenthood assistant director.

Women pay 65 percent more out-of-pocket medical expenses for health insurance, McCarthy said, adding that most of the cost is related to contraceptives.

Gibson said this proposal is long overdue, adding that contraception is an essential part of women's health care, and men's indirectly.

The commissioner's proposal won't significantly effect Regence BlueShield because they have been working for a year now on a plan that covers forms of contraceptives including oral contraceptives, spokesman for Regence Chris Bruzzo said. The new coverage will cover injections, barrier devices and diaphragms, as well as others.

Bruzzo said Regence doesn't know at this time the impact the new costs will have, but they have evaluated the decision and the cost will be spread broadly across the board, Bruzzo said.

Insurance companies should pay for contraceptives because it would help reduce unexpected pregnancies, McCarthy said.

Summer Allergies Getting You Down?



If you are one of the estimated 35 million Americans suffering from allergies, and presently experiencing symptoms of sneezing, nasal congestion, itchy nose, runny nose, and sleep disturbances related to your allergies, you may be eligible to participate in a research study to evaluate an investigational medication for the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis.

Eligible participants will receive study medication & evaluations at no cost, and will be compensated for time and efforts.

For more information about this and other studies with Dr. David Elkayam, please call

Bellingham Asthma, Allergy & Immunology
Clinical Research Center at
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START SPREADIN' THE ...

Thousands of fans and bucket loads of rain welcomed the Sixth Annual Mount Baker Blues Festival Saturday in Deming

By Sonja L. Cohen
THE WESTERN FRONT

A lot of rain welcomed the Sixth Annual Mount Baker Blues Festival Saturday morning at River's Edge Christmas Tree Farm in Deming.

An eclectic group of people gathered for the event. Leather-clad bikers mixed happily with teenagers in tie-dye.

Last year more than 2,000 people attended the festival and this year 2,500 were expected.

Saturday's lineup included David MacVittie, Steel Blu, the Aaron Black Band, Taylor James, Incognito, Sista Monica and Legends of the Blues.

Levon Helm and the Barnburners were scheduled to play, but cancelled at the last minute.

This year's festival got off to a wet start. It rained constantly for the first two hours, sometimes pouring, other times just drizzling.

When the first performer, David MacVittie, started at 11:55 a.m., only about 20 people stood in front of the stage.

A few others huddled beneath vendor canopies or trees circling the field.

Former Western student Jennifer Mueller and her boyfriend Andy Magers were among the many vendors at the festival.

For two years they have made and sold tie-dyed clothing at

farmer's markets, concert and shows. This was the first year they made it to the Blues Festival.

"Business has been bad so far, but I'm optimistic about the sun," Mueller said.

Festival-goer Penny Rockwell, owner of Wicked Witch Tattoo in Birch Bay, has attended all six years of the festival.

She said that though it was off to a slow start, traditionally the festival got busy later in the day.

"What we want to do is show what the roots of blues are."

John Marshall
Washington Blues Society

"In fact, there are more people than I expected at this point, with or without the rain," Rockwell said. "It'll be wall-to-wall people later, especially if it gets nicer."

Last year she said temperatures ranged in the 90s and everyone suffered through the heat.

Rockwell is a good friend of Steel Blu, Saturday's second performer.

Johnny Brewer, a guitarist for Steel Blu, lives in southern Lake Whatcom and grew up in Chicago.

He said Steel Blu has been playing together for almost six

years. The band has played at the first three years of the festival.

"This is one of the most professionally organized venues and it's frustrating to see the weather kill it," Brewer said. "But it's early, and given the weather, I'm glad to see people still coming out."

Just before 1 p.m., as Steel Blu was beginning its set, the clouds started to clear and the sun came out. There was applause from all around the field and the crowd grew quickly.

The Mount Baker Blues Festival is the brainchild of Lawrence Walton and his family. Walton owns the River's Edge Christmas Tree Farm where the festival takes place each year.

Originally, he said, the festival was a benefit for bald eagles, but then they were taken off of the endangered species list.

The festival also serves as a family reunion for Walton. Every year, his family comes from all over the country to visit during the Blues Festival.

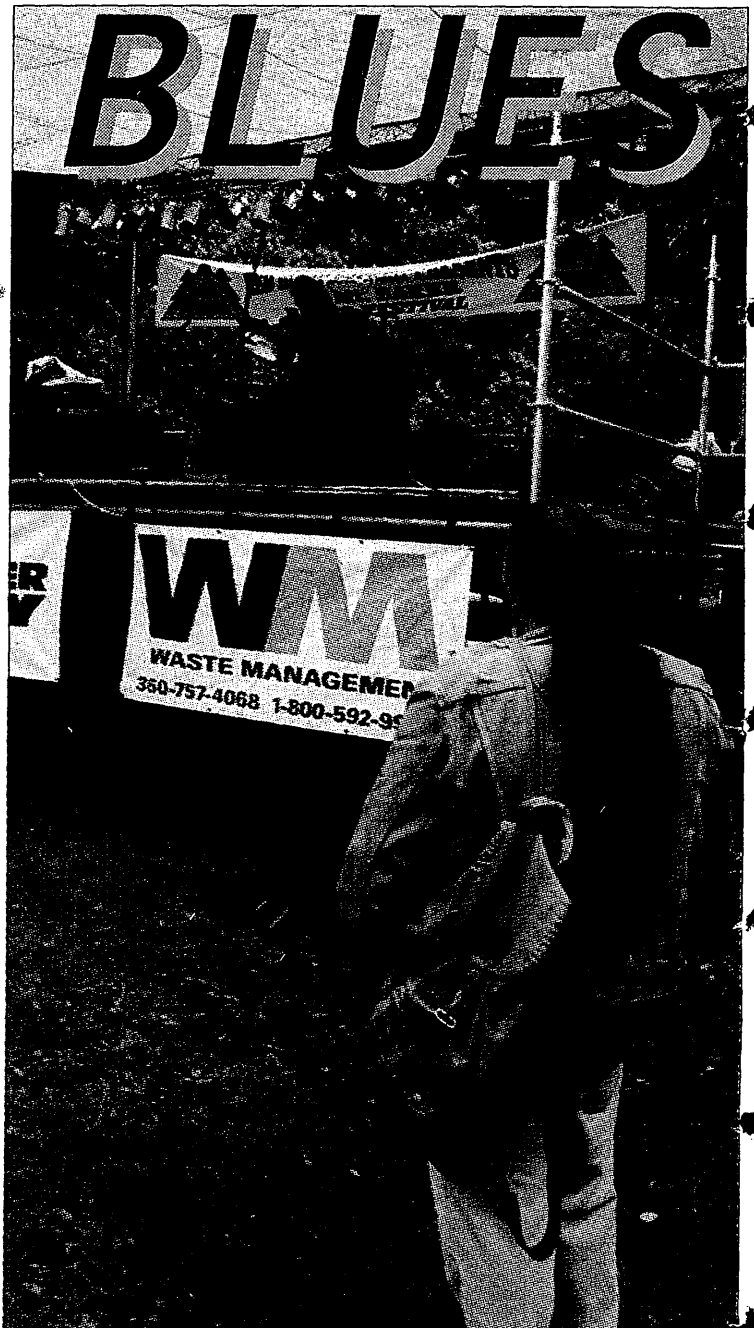
"We emphasize a good family time both at Christmas and at the Blues Festival," Walton said. "This year, the festival has gone to two days instead of one. It makes for a better weekend event that way."

John Marshall, chairman of the Education Committee for the Washington Blues Society had a booth teaching people of all ages how to put together a diddley-bo.

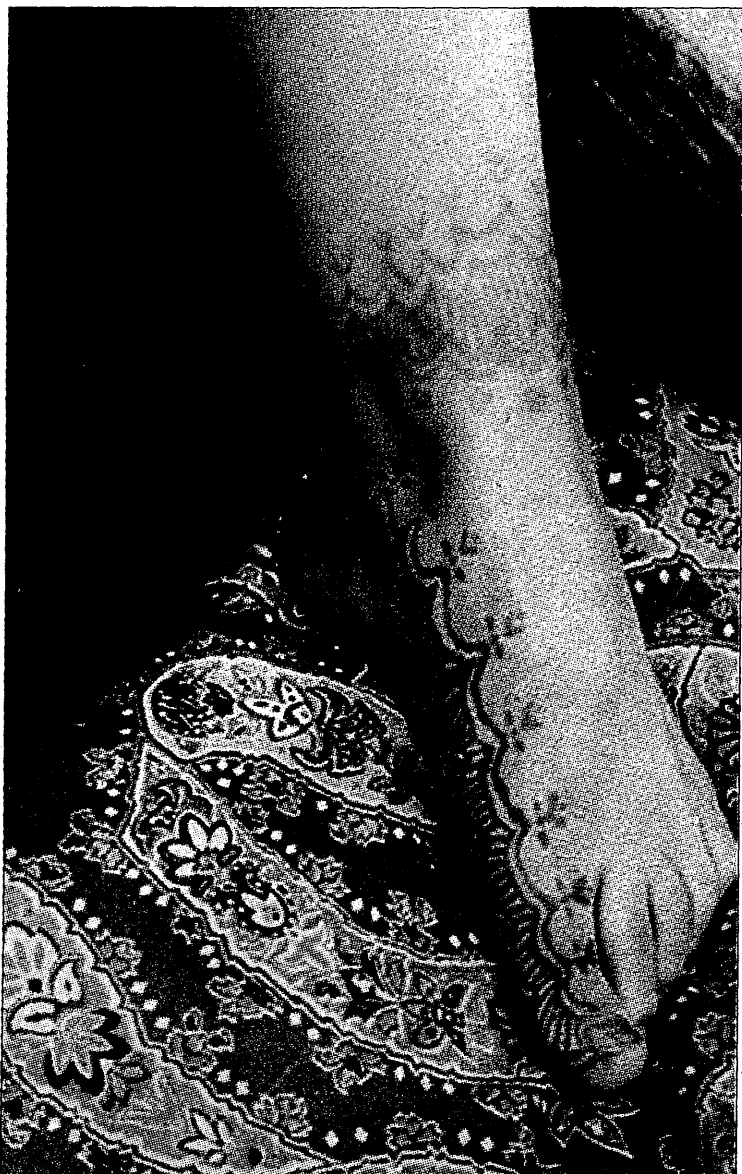
The diddley-bo is a one-stringed instrument that blues players used to learn on when they couldn't afford a guitar.

"What we want to do is show what the roots of blues are," Marshall said. "One way to do that is to have a workshop of how to make a basic one-string guitar and how simple it is."

The Washington Blues Society is about 10 years old. It has nominated the festival for "Best Blues Event" four years in a row.



Photos by Gail Hemmerich/ The Western Front
One of the estimated 2,500 blues fans, above, watches Steel Blu at the 6th Annual Mount Baker Blues Festival Saturday at River's Edge Christmas Tree Farm in Deming. Steel Blu was the second act of the rain-soaked day. The sun eventually broke out of the rainfall in just before Steel Blu started the set. David MacVittie, below, kicks the blues with the first set of the festival. Only about 20 onlookers watched in front of the stage while others retreated to canopies and trees from the damp weather. Aubrey Kornelis, left, of Henna Tattooing shows off her tattoo made from hemp paint. Kornelis manned one of the many vendor booths at the blues festival.



Unification

through visualization

By Cindy Vrieling
THE WESTERN FRONT

A little girl named Mandy stood in the middle of the field at Peace Arch Park in Blaine wishing for the sun. She squinted her eyes tight and clasped her hands and said, "I think I can do it."

Fred Stern, the "Rainbow Maker," said he could do no magic without the sun, and Mandy wanted a rainbow.

Mandy's wish was granted, and the clouds gave way to the sun at the June 20 afternoon rainbow making rehearsal.

Stern, who was performing at the International Art Festival, was able to make a beautiful rainbow.

He was so touched by Mandy that he presented her with a special prize at the evening performance.

"She empowered me," Stern said. "I was moved by it."

Stern kicked off the fourth International Art Festival, which took place Friday, July 20 through Sunday, July 22 at Peace Arch Park.

The festival unites artists from United States and Canada.

Stern creates rainbows by pumping water through large fire hoses when the sun is setting.

"There is nothing more true than 'a picture speaks a thousand words,'" Becky Neusar, a festival observer, said. "Especially when you review one of Stern's magical rainbows."

Stern said the rainbow is a bridge between the real and imaginary.

He creates rainbows across both the land and water and encircles the crowd with double rainbows.

On Friday night children were wrapped in large colorful costumes created by Evelyn Roth, an artist from Point Roberts. The children danced under the rainbows.

It was an intense and incredible visual experience.

Stern believes that if the earth had a flag it wouldn't be made out of cloth.

"I believe the rainbow is the true

flag of our planet," he said.

Stern has created rainbows for humanitarian purposes all over the world.

He made one over the United Nation's Building that served as a flag that symbolized world peace and unity.

"For Stern to accept our offer to come here is a real honor. It was really special," said Christina Alexander, president of the United States/Canada Peace Anniversary Association and organizer of the festival.

Alexander stressed the importance of bringing unity through this festival.

A special photo exhibit, titled "Rainbows Around the world," was set up in honor of Stern's rainbows.

The photos meant to exemplify the beauty and symbolism of rainbows.

John Choulochas, one of Stern's assistants, pointed to the photo of a person standing in the misty shadows of a rainbow.

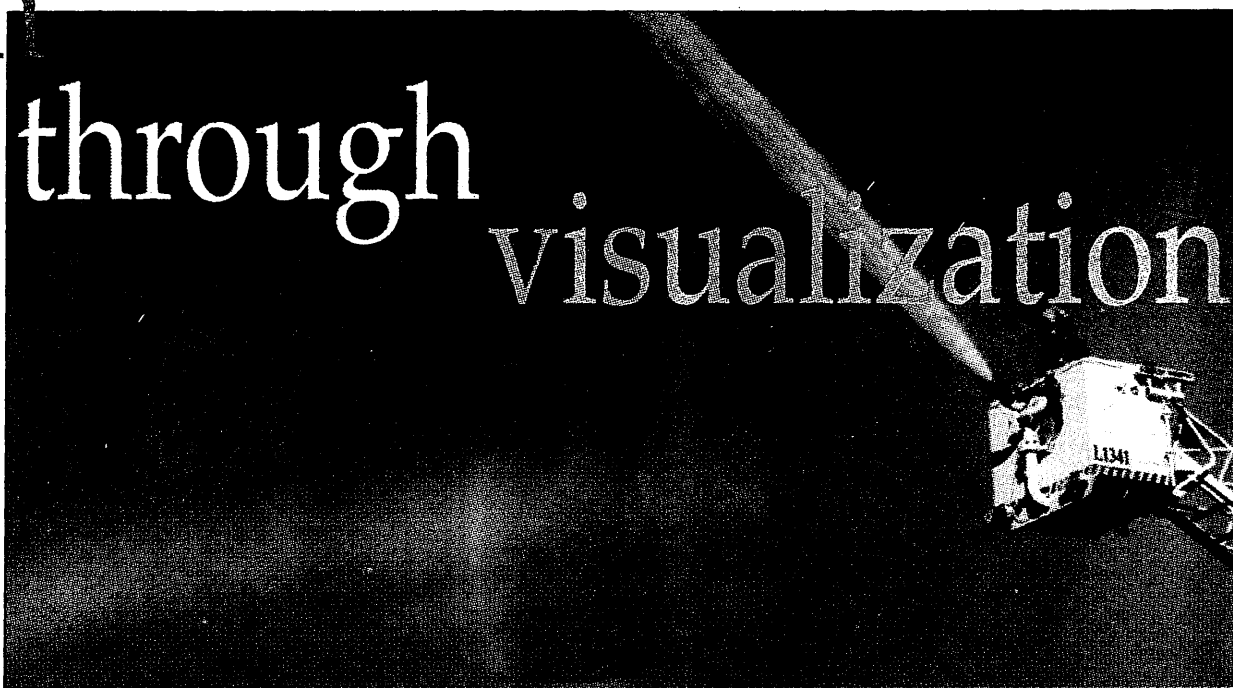
The aquatic sculptures perpetuated the spirit of the Peace Arch between the borders.

The art and performances are meant to bring people together and take down the imaginary walls separating the two countries.

Bellingham's Harborview Lions Club sponsored the display.

Fred Stern, the "Rainbow Maker," fires his water hose, creating a colorful rainbow above Peace Arch Park in Blaine June 20 as part of the International Art Festival, which took place from June 20-22.

Photo courtesy of Jack Kintner



"I believe the rainbow is the true flag of our planet."

Fred Stern

The 'Rainbow Maker'

The Lions Club International Peace Posters exhibit, created by children from ages 11-13 from all over the world, was on display.

The exhibit highlighted the universal concern of children to live in a peaceful world.

The theme of this year's posters was "United in Peace."

The 3,025 entries made for an inspiring colorful display. Delphin Tiberge, 11, from St. Barthélemy, France, was the grand-prize winner.

He received a \$2,500 savings bond and a trip to the Lions Day with United Nations for the big awards ceremony.

Amelia Bethke, 13, of Bellingham,

won second prize.

"These children are thinking global peace," said Francine Kincaid, a representative of the Lions Club. "Isn't it incredible how detailed and perceptive these children are?"

She said these children come from different areas and speak different languages, but they have a common desire for global peace and unity.

For events at Peace Arch Park go to www.peacearchpark.org.

International Poster Peace Posters are available for viewing on: www.lionsclub.org.

For more information on the "Rainbow Maker," visit www.zianet.com/rainbow.

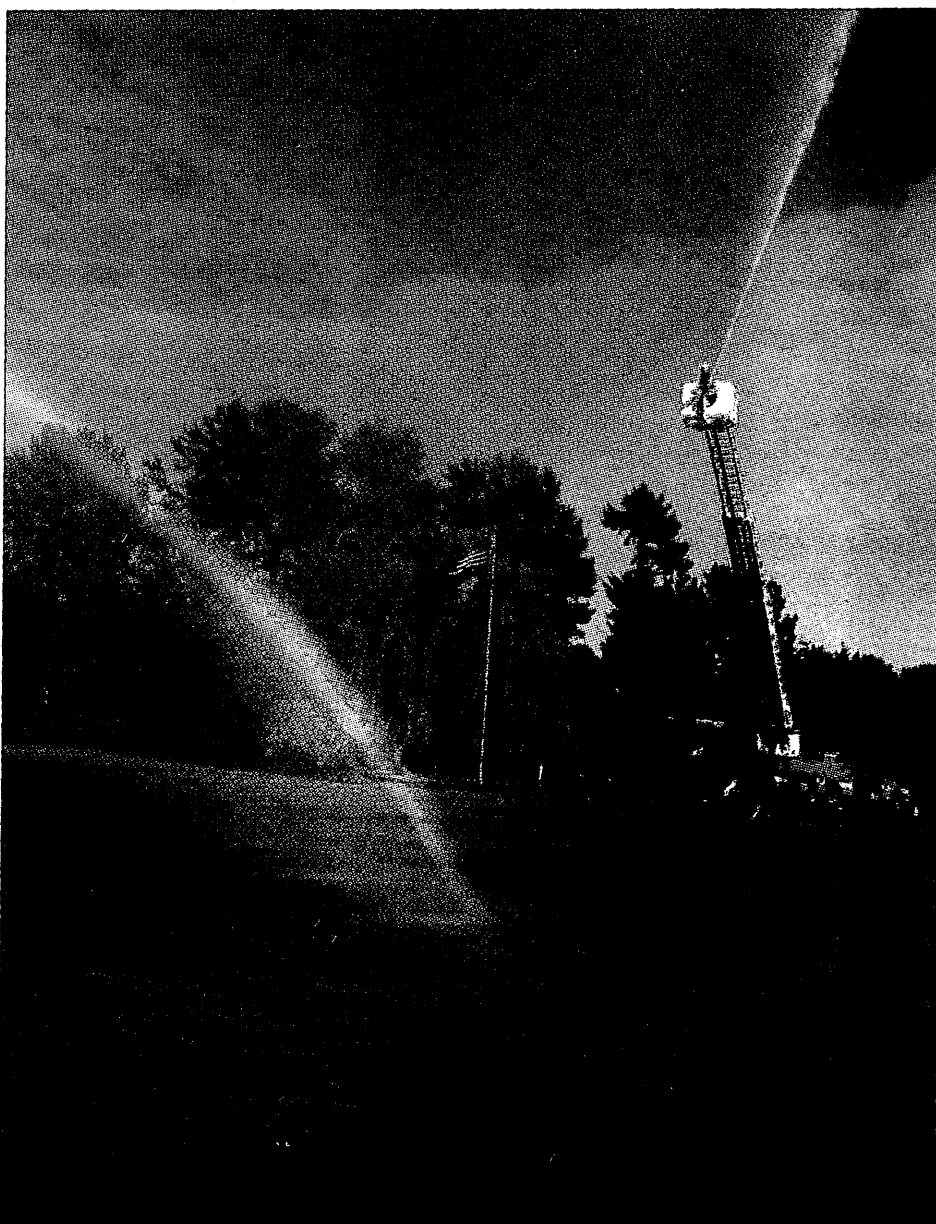


Photo courtesy of Christina Alexander

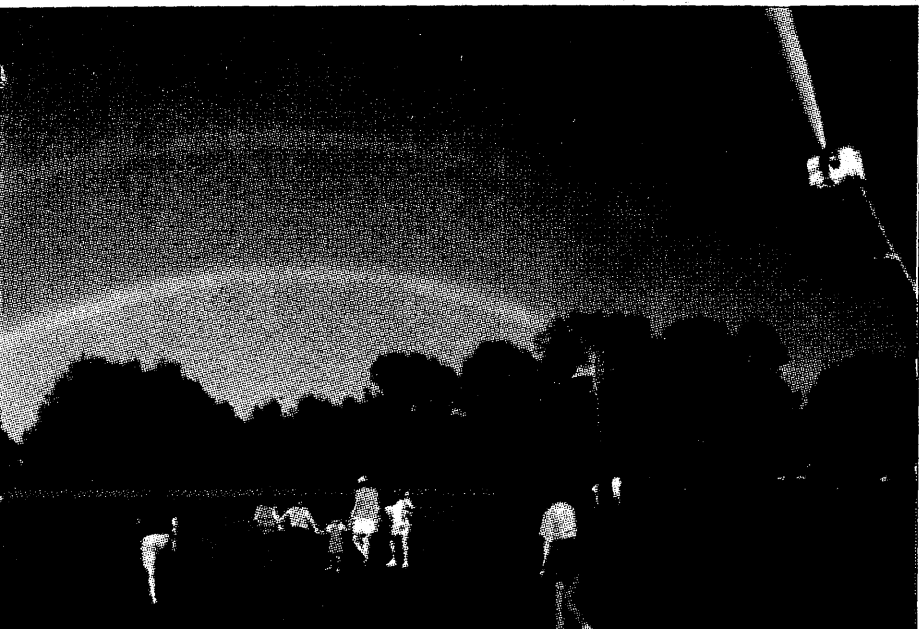


Photo courtesy of Jack Kintner

Frontline

Birth control coverage makes sense

Babies are undeniably cute. Sure, the crying and diaper changing is a downside to having a baby. When they smile, however, they can turn a bad day upright again.

Some people, however, choose not to have a baby until they are ready for the responsibility of taking care of another life. They practice safe sex. The guy uses a condom and the woman uses birth control pills.

According to Planned Parenthood's Web site, nearly half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended.

For years, however, insurance companies denied coverage for female contraceptives. Washington State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler wants to change that. Kreidler proposed a regulation which would require all insurance companies that cover prescription drugs to cover prescription contraceptives.

Birth control will help prevent unintended pregnancies.

The proposed regulation is a step in the right direction to create insurance equality.

According to an article from the publication University of Maryland Medicine, women spend about 68 percent more in out-of-pocket expenses for health care than men. And contraceptives are estimated to be the biggest expense. A typical woman spends approximately \$250 per year on birth control.

Inequality in prescription coverage for women came to the forefront when Viagra was introduced to the prescription market. Viagra is a drug which treats erectile dysfunction. Within two months on the market most insurance companies covered the drug.

Insurance companies are willing to help people to have sex, but unwilling to help prevent consequences of such an act.

The math is simple: It is cheaper for insurance to cover birth control than to cover a pregnancy.

According to a study done by the University of Maryland Medicine, full coverage of female contraceptives would cost employers \$17 per year. This is minute compared to the staggering costs of covering pregnancies. For every 1,000 female workers, pregnancy-related absences it would indirectly cost employers \$542,000 annually. It would also cost employers an additional \$14,000 to replace a worker that left their job because of pregnancy.

Besides indirect costs, insurance companies would also have to factor in repeated doctor visits, hospital stays and the cost of delivery.

The decision is easy. Contraceptives are cheaper than having a baby.

Besides the cost, insurance should cover the contraceptives to control world population. Also, birth control has beneficial effects to women. Women on birth control will have a more consistent menstrual cycle which will alleviate cramps.

Washington state lawmakers should pass this smart regulation which would commend women for taking action to prevent pregnancy.

The Frontline is the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Heather Baker, Brendan Manning, Levi Pulkkinen, Laura Thoren and Brendan Shriane.

The Western Front

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And we quote:

He liked to like people, therefore people liked him.

—Mark Twain

In memory of our friend, Scott Keys



Current gun control laws are obsolete



Jessica Sparks

COMMENTARY

A gunman entered a restaurant and opened fire, killing 22 people, including Texas State Rep. Suzanna Hupp's parents.

During an interview for the news segment "Packing Heat" on ABC's "Downtown," it was reported that Hupp said she believes more lives might have been saved if someone had been carrying a concealed gun to shoot the gunman.

Although that may be true, arming American citizens is not the solution. Arming people for the purpose of protection will only lead to more deaths.

Maybe it's time for the country to re-evaluate what the Second Amendment protects.

According to the Second Amendment, "a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The amendment was ratified in 1791.

In 1791, our forefathers did not worry about their young going to school and shooting each other. In 1791, they were not concerned with how many children and teenagers died each year in gun-related accidents. Today, nearly 500 die each year according to familyeducation.com.

They were concerned with the the new state from foreign aggression, something that now longer threatens the United

States.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights aren't set in stone. It changes as society changes. The Constitution once prohibited women from voting and allowed slavery. As society changed, women gained the right to vote and slavery was abolished.

And now it's time for the Second Amendment to change it's no longer in tune with American society.

The Second Amendment today is protecting a right of those people who shouldn't have access to firearms.

What is so sacred about the right to bear arms, especially in a society where the chances of being shot at a public school are greater than from a foreign nation or the government?

'The Second Amendment today is protecting a right for those who shouldn't have access to firearms.'

A perfect example of the dangers in Hupp's solution was illustrated through the action of a Texas cab driver Wayne Lambert.

Lambert carried a concealed gun under the front seat of his cab. One night he picked up two young men, Lance Hughes and Kevin MacDonald, who Lambert said were drunk and on drugs.

Lambert said the two men picked a fight with him. Lambert said his life was in danger and that is why he shot Hughes who was lying on the

ground face down in the back and MacDonald at point blank range in the chest.

'...now it's time for the Second Amendment to change because it's no longer in tune with American society.'

Later in the interview, it was revealed that Lambert had a prior record for choking someone and almost killing another cab driver. Despite his prior record, Lambert was able to get a license to carry a concealed weapon.

Violence and murder are made easier when a weapon is present.

Before MacDonald died, he told police that Lambert had started the fight with his friend, and the reason he got out of the cab was to break up the two men from fighting. No trace of drugs was found in either man's bloodstream.

Regardless of who started the fight, the two young men didn't deserve to die.

Lambert said in the interview that it's dangerous out there. Well, adding more guns to the mix is not going to make the world any safer, which is why Hupp's solution will only make people more fearful to walk down the street. At what cost should society pay for the innocent gun collector or hunter? In order to protect an entire nation some individual rights must be sacrificed.

Cigarette tax will benefit smokers and nonsmokers



Cara Hazzard

COMMENTARY

More money could be drifting out of the pockets of smokers if Initiative 773 is passed in November.

The initiative, which was approved for the ballot last week, would add \$.60 a pack of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Of the extra money collected, 10 percent would go to a statewide anti-tobacco campaign and 90 percent would expand the Basic Health Plan for low-income residents within the state.

The initiative, if passed, will raise the tax on a pack of cigarettes to \$1.42 – the highest in the nation.

Association and sponsor of the initiative.

It has been proven that cigarettes and other tobacco products are harmful and anything that discourage people from smoking would be good.

It is an added bonus that the money gained from this initiative will fund health services for low-income people.

Nonsmokers will also benefit from this initiative in that a decrease in smoking will lead to a decrease in second-hand smoke.

According the American Lung Association Fact Sheet on Secondhand Smoke more than 4,000 chemicals, including 200 poisons and 63 cancer-causing chemicals, are emitted from either smokers' mouths or the butts of cigarettes.

Even with these staggering statistics, pleas for people to quit smoking often fall on deaf ears.

Opponents of this initiative say it will only hurt the low-income people it was designed to help.

According to the American Heart Association, the group of people below the poverty level has the highest percentage of smokers.

The National Health Interview Survey released in 1998 showed 33.3 percent of people living below the poverty line were smokers.

Opponents say smoking for these people, who don't choose to live in poverty, is just a way

to ease the stress of struggling to pay living expenses.

Opponents also say quitting smoking is extremely difficult to do cold turkey, and the programs that help people to quit cost more money.

The number of people who will actually be helped by the added funds going to the Basic Health Plan is also being questioned.

“...with the money saved from not buying cigarettes, a person can pay for the programs or products need to help them quit.”

Will the benefits of the health care outweigh the added costs given to low-income smokers?

In answer to this question: Yes, the added costs will be harmful for the 33.3 percent of people who smoke, but it will be helpful to the 67.7 percent who don't.

Yes, quitting smoking is difficult, stressful and sometimes expensive, but with the money saved from not buying cigarettes, a person can pay for the programs or products needed to help them quit.

Yes, smoking does help ease tension, but so do many other things, such as exercising, meditating, or taking five minutes a day for yourself to breathe.

As for the number of people who will actually be helped by this initiative, it is difficult to predict the future, but at the risk of sounding sentimental, if it saves one life, it is worth it.

If this initiative passes, thousands of smokers in Washington state will have to pay more money to harm their bodies and the bodies of those around them when they light up.

It is fitting then, that this extra money should be used to help those that are harmed.

Letters to the Editor:

Marijuana may cause giggling and other euphoric behavior, but it's not criminal

Hello Marilyn (et al), while a majority of this article was well articulated and reinforced with fact, I must take issue with the third sentence in the final paragraph.

It states, "Marijuana may alter the moods of a person, causing hilarity, including giggling and other euphoric criminal behavior." This is most probably an issue of semantics, but including the phrase "...other criminal behavior" after what you had previously written indicates the possibility that altering one's mood, being hilarious and giggling are criminal acts.

I'm certain that was not the intent. Certainly, evidence has indicated that alcohol is a greater contributor to "criminal acts" in general (compared to Marijuana) and the inclusion of that particular phrase in this article was, in my opinion, inappropriate considering the overall tone of the article, which generally indicated Marijuana as a beneficial drug.

As someone who argues in favor of drug policy reform on a daily basis, I had to comment on this, in addition to thanking you for keeping the issue alive on campus.

Please feel free to contact the WWU chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy for any information on drug policy reform issues.

Tyree Callahan
Bellingham Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Don't diet, eat a balanced diet..

As usual, the nay-sayers are out in force again. Yes, Laura Framback is correct that balance is important and that is important with the Atkins Diet which tells you to increase your carbs to a level that will still allow your body to remain in ketosis.

She said there are no "long term" health studies. Dr Atkins has been doing this for more than 30 years. How much longer is "long term"? And, of course, we have Dr. Burden who said the Atkins diet allows zero carbs.

He has no idea what he is talking about because the Atkins diet never tells you to have zero carbs. It stresses reduction and then adding carbs back with healthy foods like fruits and vegetables.

Eating "Atkins" is not a diet, its a way of changing your eating habits to eat better and more healthy foods. As with all diets, if you go off them, you will gain the weight back so Atkins is no different than the others if you cheat or eat lots of unhealthy sugar.

And, if Atkins is too restrictive for you, try the "Zone" which allows you to balance carbs, proteins and fats.

Good luck.
Paul Armstrong
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Accountant
Bellingham, WA

Do these opinions reflect yours? Are we full of crap?

Write us and let us know.

Submit a letter to the editor no more than 250 words to:

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It pays to advertise in the Western Front

Hoop Jam raises \$20,000 for domestic abuse awareness

By Matt Bucher
THE WESTERN FRONT

From little kids kicking basketballs around while doting parents watched their every move, to highly competitive games where seemingly every call was debated, this year's Hoop Jam was a success.

More 1,400 basketball players, aged eight and older, participated in the three-on-three Hoop Jam tournament to benefit Whatcom Crisis Services.

The tournament took place July 28-29 in the Bellis Fair parking lot.

Whatcom Crisis Services provides support for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence while also implementing programs that help to reduce and prevent abuse in Whatcom County.

"This year we'll raise just over \$20,000," said Manca Valum, development director for Whatcom Crisis Services. "I think this is the type of event that shows how the entire community can be involved in making a difference."

With 25 divisions divided by age, sex and ability, everybody was able to find a game for their skill level.

Whether it was in one of the many free-throw contests, consolation bracket games or championship games, players got to test their skills against each other in all types of conditions.

"It rained in our first game

yesterday," said Chad Clark, 11. "We played right through it and won, but it was slippery."

As with any tournament, there were complaints about the referees, but without more than 100 volunteers, whose duties included everything from folding T-shirts to being court monitors, Hoop Jam would never have taken place, Valum said.

"This tournament is run wonderfully," Hoop Jam spectator Louise Tyler said. "I have seven grandkids playing this weekend and they're all having a great time. The only problem for me is when they play each other. I have to cheer for both teams."

While some teams had grandmothers like Tyler on their side, others had entourages that would wildly cheer their team on and also debate calls with the court monitors.

"I had to tell them if they kept being like that their teams would be disqualified," court monitor Julio Rodriguez said.

Although warnings may have quieted some fans, that was not the case in the men's 21-25 year-old open division.

By the time the championship game started there were nearly 100 spectators, easily the largest crowd of the weekend, many who were rowdy and argumentative.

Throughout the game, there was physical play that could have warranted a foul on every possession.

After the game however, teams put away the animosity.

Western grad gloves up for Golden Glove title

By Bryn Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

After more than two years of training and four career fights, Western graduate Jennifer Sutton, 22, has earned a place in the National Women's Golden Gloves Boxing championships.

Sutton, who is the Washington state Golden Gloves 156-pound champion, will travel to Augusta, Ga. for the tournament in less than two weeks.

Sutton earned the right to compete on the national level after her victory over Adrienne Lugg this spring at the State Golden Gloves tournament. The victory was especially important to Sutton because Lugg was a much more experienced boxer and fought in last year's nationals, she said.

Sutton, or "Juice" to everyone at the boxing club, started out doing Tae Bo in her living room to lose weight, she said. She knew it was time to move on when she began doing it twice a day, and began working out at Kick It, a local kickboxing and martial arts gym.

It was the owner of Kick It who suggested Sutton come with her to the White Cobra Boxing Club.

"It was like I was looking for something, and I found it," Sutton said. "It also helps that I do it (box) well."

Sutton who has lost 70 pounds since she began boxing, feels great and enjoys the sport beyond the weight loss.

"I am a boxing fanatic," she said.

Sutton, who weighed 220 pounds, now boxes with her team four nights a week, runs 15 to 20 miles a week and rock climbs regularly.

Sutton, is excited for the tournament, but does her best to stay relaxed, she said.

"Before previous fights I would get too anxious and that takes a lot of energy," Sutton said. "Now I try to relax, get in the ring, and I know the anxiety will come the second I step in."



Brendan Shriane/The Western Front

Western graduate Jennifer Sutton, the Washington State Golden Glove 150-pound champion, is heading to Augusta, Ga. for the Golden Gloves national tournament July 8.

"It would be sweet to win, but if not, I am here (at Nationals) where I want to be," she said.

The national women's tournament began with only six boxers in 1997, grew according to USA Boxing, to include more than 100 the next year. Now, with 1,300 female boxers registered with USA Boxing proponents are working to make it an official sport in the 2004 Olympics.

Sutton hopes the sport can be seen in a new light. With fighters like Mike Tyson and even the recent Ali vs Frazier fight, the sport is portrayed very negatively, she said.

American Le Mans Grand Prix of Portland: New World spin on Old World tradition

August third, fourth and fifth, Portland International Raceway will transform into a showcase of precision machines and world-renowned drivers competing in eight different race groups. Sleek Le Mans sports cars and an array of cutting-edge, production-based autos share the stage with open-wheeled formula racecars.

STREET LEGAL??

SpeedVision World Challenge GT and Touring race groups feature large market, production-based cars that look familiar, but would definitely not pass DEQ. The Acura Integra R, BMW 328is, and the Honda CivicSi represent tame looking but fierce entries in the touring class. Also featured are the Saleen SR, Acura NSX, Corvette and Porsche.

THE LONGEST RUNNING AMERICAN ROAD RACING SERIES COMES TO PORTLAND

The Tommy Bahama 125 Trans-Am Race pits stars of the American road, like Chevrolet's Camaro and Corvette and the Ford Cobra against Jaguar XKR and independent makers such as Mangusta and Panoz. The adrenaline packed 125-mile sprint includes a mandatory pit stop.

LE MANS SERIES BUILDS ON EUROPEAN TRADITION

With four different race groups, and international driving stars, the American Le Mans series is the weekend's main event. In the fastest of the four, the LMP 900 class, the exotic Audi R8 (reigning Le Mans champion) and the Panoz prototype represent the apex of racing design. GT and GTS

races feature recognizable chassis, like Corvette, Viper and Porsche, engineered to be the most advanced production cars in the world.

STAR MAZDA SERIES: THE PROVING GROUND

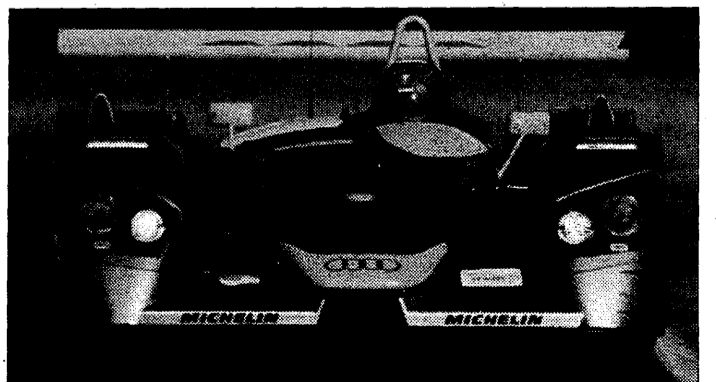
Aggressive young drivers pilot formula style, open-wheel machines in nose to tail racing full of daring passes at breathtaking speed. Clackamas High School graduate and current Star Mazda oval series champion Scott Jenkins joins a group of emerging talents eager to make a name in the world of professional racing.



Tommy Bahama 125 Trans-Am



SpeedVision World Challenge



24 Hours of Le Mans Champions



Star Mazda Series

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• Qualifying ALMS (prototype/GTS/GT)

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