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Friday, October 24, 2008

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Neighborhood discussions fizzle when students, neighbors no-show

Corinna Storch
THE WESTERN FRONT

On the night of Oct. 22, one of Lara Welker's worst fears was realized.

At 7 p.m. the Campus Community Coalition planned to host the first of three nights of "Let's Talk," an open forum for students living off campus to meet with their residential neighbors. The Oct. 22 meeting was for the Sehome neighborhood, held at the Garden Street Family Center.

"I fear every time we hold a meeting

that no one will show up," said Welker, the coordinator for the Campus Community Coalition. "It's never actually happened before."

After waiting for 15 minutes, Welker canceled the meeting and sent the three student facilitators and the three police officers home. No other students or community members had come.

The coalition hosts these meetings to address problems in the neighborhoods, as well as to establish friendly relations between students and long-term residents, Welker said.

"The forums are for addressing and explaining the lack of connection between students and their long-term neighbors," Welker said. "That's not true for all long-term neighbors and all students, but it's common. There's less time to establish friendly relations because students don't stay in the same area for a long time. Sometimes they're only there for a year or less."

Welker said the lack of attendance surprised her because it was one of their most advertised events.

"It was the same location as last year,"

Welker said. "So I don't think people had a hard time finding it."

Welker said last year the Sehome neighborhood meeting had the fewest number of attendants.

Welker said the coalition worked closely with the neighborhood associations, sent out a press release and invitations to the block watch captains and rental property owners and had the event announced on KGMI.

Western senior Sharron Hallanger

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Flu shots help staff, students ward off sickness

Megan Jonas
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Student Health Center began administering flu shots during walk-in clinic hours this week to students and staff trying to avoid the virus this season.

George Mariz, Western history and honors professor, said the sickest he's ever been was when he had the flu, so he's been getting annual flu shots for the past eight to 10 years at the health center. He said he hasn't dealt with the flu since.

"It's \$18," Mariz said. "It's not a guarantee, but it seems to me it's as good of a bet as you can get. I like the odds."

Dr. Emily Gibson, director of the Student Health Center, said a greater percentage of faculty members take advantage of the flu shot clinics than students do. Approximately 300 students come in for shots each year, Gibson said.

She said the health center treats 15 to 20 cases of influenza each week during the 12 to 15 week flu season, which is usually from December to March. However, Gibson said the students who come in for treatment only represent the tip of

see FLU SHOTS page 3

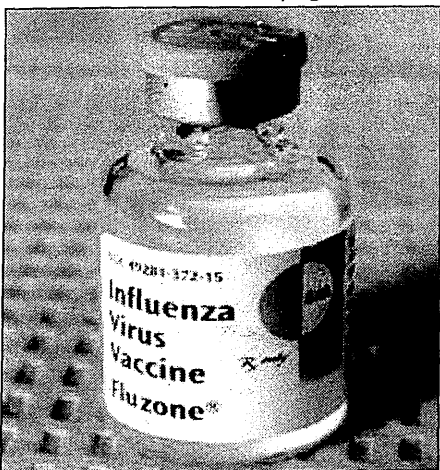


photo courtesy of Center for Disease Control

Lead found in drinking water

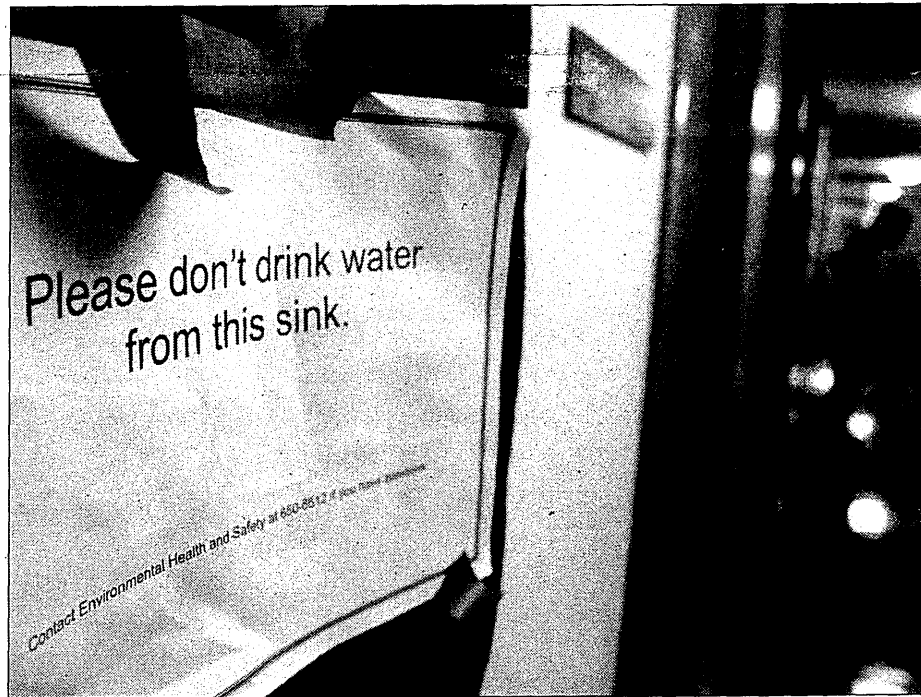


photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

The fifth floor drinking fountain in Arntzen Hall is being removed after health inspectors found almost twice the amount of allowable lead in its water.

Strange odor prompts search, cause unknown

Ashley Mitchell
THE WESTERN FRONT

Odd-smelling water was the first clue there was a problem with a water fountain on the fifth floor of Arntzen Hall. The fountain is now being removed after test results revealed nearly double the allowable amount of lead in the water.

The water from the fountain was tested after the Environmental Health and Safety office received multiple complaints, said Gayle Shipley, director of Environmental Health and Safety.

Removing the fountain solves one problem, but there is still the issue of the original smell, said sociology professor Jennifer Lois, who has an office on the fifth floor of Arntzen Hall. Lead is taste

see LEAD page 5

New forum encourages dialogue

Adam Cochran
THE WESTERN FRONT

Since it launched on Oct. 6, 2008, Western's Community Forum has presented Western students, faculty and staff members with a new way to communicate openly about a variety of issues.

The online forum allows students, faculty and staff to voice their opinions about issues on and off campus, offer advice and post ads similar to those found on Craigslist.com. Anyone can create a profile, join a conversation, submit a blog or suggest any ideas they feel will help improve the forum, said Andrea Peterson, head of library systems.

"It's meant to encourage other things to talk about than just school and what it's like to be involved in the Western com-

munity," Peterson said.

Deborah Frost, assistant director for Information Technology for University Residences, said the forum could work to foster a sense of community.

Students and faculty are even able to chat with and suggest ideas to Western President Bruce Shepard. Shepard most recently posted on Oct. 10 about the interdisciplinary programs at Western.

"This will allow for us to feel like we are a part of something and learn about each other," said Frost.

Thus far, more than 650 have visited the forum and 62 profiles have been created, Peterson said.

Some students say they have already had positive experiences on the forum.

see FORUM page 3

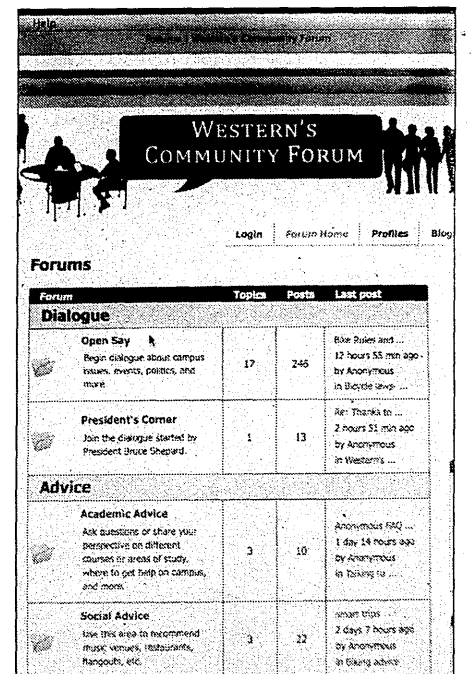


photo by Graig Hill THE WESTERN FRONT



photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman Zoe Vernon rides a mechanical bull at the ninth annual Mt. Baker Film Festival in the Bellingham Sportsplex Oct. 23.

Blank examines Canada-U.S. trade

Stephen Blank, Western's Ross Distinguished Professor of Canada-United States Business and Economic Relations, recently toured Western Canada as part of the U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program.

The Bureau of International Information selected Blank for the program as a U.S. expert consultant for the program to give lectures and lead seminars pertaining to his specialty.

Blank's week-long trip involved meetings with members of government, chambers of commerce, international media and the academic community, to discuss challenges of transportation and trade that face Canada and the United States.

Blank is teaching Master of Business Administration course 539, "Topics in International Business," this fall.

Western's College of Business' and Economics appointed Blank visiting professor on Sept. 10. The position engages Blank in teaching, community outreach and scholarly activity related to business and economic relations between Canada and the U.S.

Annual Teaching Scholarship Day

Western's annual Teaching Scholarship Day, hosted by the College of Business and Economics, will be held in cooperation with the Fall Family Open House on Oct. 24 in Parks Hall.

Forums and lectures are free and open

to the public and the day's events begin at 1:30 p.m. with three forums.

"The Mighty Tieton Projects," a student analysis and revival of an economically depressed town in Eastern Washington, will be held in room 108.

"Reaching K-12, Western's Future Students," highlights the department's efforts to encourage and promote financial responsibility to high-risk, high-potential youth with the help of business professionals and public school educators. It will be held in room 228.

"Teaching from the Heart," an exploration of effective teaching and student learning processes exceeding the simple exchange of knowledge from teachers to students, will be held in room 441.

An open discussion panel on globalization will be offered at 2:30 p.m. in room 441, followed by closing remarks from the department's associated dean, Joseph Garcia.

Cyndie Shepard program honored by Wisconsin

Wisconsin's PK-16 Leadership Council presented the Phuture Phoenix Program, co-founded by Cyndie Shepard, one of the two Programs of Distinction awards for 2008 on Oct. 15.

The award recognizes the program's collaborative efforts to improve student transition in the PK-16 educational system in the state of Wisconsin.

Cyndie Shepard, wife of Western President Bruce Shepard, served as director and co-founder of the program at the

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

The program launched in 2003 and encourages students to seek higher education after graduating from high school, by bringing students from at-risk schools to the Wisconsin-Green Bay campus and by providing positive role models.

Western Reads author speaks

Gordy Slack, author of the 2008-09 Western Reads selection, "The Battle Over the Meaning of Everything," will speak about his book at the program's public forum at 4 p.m. on Oct. 28 in Fraser Hall room 4.

COPS BOX

University Police

Oct. 21

- Officers responded to a report of a burglary in Arntzen Hall that occurred overnight.
- Officers responded to a maintenance problem involving a person stuck in an elevator in the Viking Union. The person escaped and the elevator was shut down.

Bellingham Police

Oct. 21

- Officers responded to a burglary report on the 400 block of South Garden Street.
- Officers arrested three men on suspicion of possession of marijuana on the 200 block of East Magnolia Street.

Oct. 22

- Officers responded to a report of malicious mischief on the 3800 block of Magrath Road after a pumpkin was reportedly thrown through a vehicle window.

Cops Box and News Briefs compiled by Jennifer Oato

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Corrections

A headline that appeared on page 15 of the Oct. 21 edition of The Western Front contained a factual error regarding the Western football team. The team lost its second straight game, not its third.

FLU SHOTS: Vaccinations work to keep faculty members, students healthy

from 1

the iceberg, since she estimates 10 percent of Western students come down with the flu each year.

This year in particular, Gibson said she feels there is more awareness on campus about health because of the death of Western junior Chris Feden in February from Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), an infection most likely related to influenza.

"That was a very scary thing to see a Western student die of influenza-related causes," Gibson said.

While Gibson said vaccinations are never 100 percent effective since it's impossible to know exactly which strands of the flu will hit each season, she said the

flu vaccine will help people be less sick. Good hygiene is also imperative for flu prevention, she said.

Gibson said some people are discouraged from getting a flu shot because they believe the myth, "the flu shot causes the flu." This is not true, she said.

Teresa Bodensteiner, a health center nurse who gives flu shots, said it is a coincidence when people come down with influenza after getting vaccinated. Most likely, they had already contracted the virus and it just hadn't kicked in yet, she said.

Gibson said while there can be side effects from the shot, such as soreness at the injection site or a low-grade fever, she has not yet received reports of negative side effects from the staff who got vacci-

nated last week.

Despite the possibility of mild side effects, Gibson said she recommends flu shots to the average student so that he or she doesn't miss classes.

The flu normally wipes students out for four days and keeps them sick for 10 days overall, she said.

"It's pretty tough to catch up after missing five days," Gibson said.

Gibson writes emergency leave excuses for students, and said she has seen students fail classes after getting the flu.

"Nobody wants to get sick, but if there's any incentive to get the shot, it's so you don't lose a quarter," she said.

The walk-in vaccination clinic will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the end of

the quarter. Gibson said she recommends coming in before Thanksgiving, since people will be travelling, possibly being exposed to new viruses. Students can also be more protected during finals that way, she said.

The \$18 cost can be covered by insurance but regardless, Western freshman Grace Miller said the cost is less than other pharmacies she looked into around Bellingham.

Miller said she chose to get a flu shot for the first time on Tuesday because she didn't want to experience getting the flu again and thought it was a good idea to keep herself and others in her residence hall healthy.

"In the scheme of vaccinations, this is an easy one," Gibson said.

FORUM: Message board represents new medium for communication

from 1

"The cool thing is that it's just about Western, and I think it's one step ahead of a lot of other schools," said Western senior and forum user Michael Murphy. "It allows for us to talk about how we really feel about a topic."

Because the forum is only open to Western students and faculty members, it will be easier to manage than if it were open to the public, Peterson said. The idea for the forum came about after a group of faculty members from the library and members from ATUS attended a visual learning conference in Canada about two years ago, Peterson said.

"At the conference, we learned that some groups were creating a virtual learn-

ing commons where people were working together to create an online collaborative space for people to talk," Peterson said.

After the conference, Peterson said she collaborated with Carmen Werder, director of the Teaching and Learning Academy at Western, and together they worked to create an online forum for Western.

Werder also teaches a civil discourse class where all of her 25 students are expected to participate in the forum.

"This gives my students a chance to observe, study and analyze dialogue," Werder said.

Five groups, including the library, ATUS, the Teaching and Learning Academy, The Writing Center and University Residences helped the idea achieve fruition, Peterson said.

An advisory group has met about the forum idea since last winter. The advisory group consists of Western faculty and staff, including Peterson, Werder, Frost, faculty from The Writing Center, president of student voices and Western senior Whitney Dunbar and graduate student Jonathan McConnell.

If someone posts or says anything offensive, vulgar or defamatory, anyone can flag it on the forum and Peterson will be notified. Peterson said she would e-mail the advisory group so members can discuss what to do about it as a group.

"If anything that is posted is way over the top, then I will pull it off of the forum immediately," Peterson said. "We're hoping that if something gets bad, then it'll become a learning experience for [the

poster], and we'll ask them to revise it themselves."

The guidelines for posting anything on the forum include being humane, open, ethical, credible and forgiving to the people who decide to post.

Although the forum was created with good intentions, this does not guarantee success, Werder said.

"The con would be that if students don't use it," Werder said. "If it isn't about what the students and staff want to talk about then I could see the forum just sort of fizzling out."

Dunbar said she has high hopes for the forum.

"Being honest and able to say what they will hopefully benefit everyone on campus," she said.



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Rick Steves to clear the air on weed, travel

Marisa Willis
THE WESTERN FRONT

Travel aficionado Rick Steves will receive another memorable stamp in his passport Friday, Oct. 24, as he speaks at Western for the first time.

Steves has explored the ends of the globe over the last few decades, writing 30 guidebooks along the way, and he will now pass along his tips of traveling smart and packing light to students and Bellingham residents.

Steves will be leading lectures at three different venues throughout the afternoon and evening, discussing topics from how to travel on a budget, to the problems with the American drug policy on marijuana.

Family Outreach manager Kim Oesterling helped organize Steves' visit, which is a part of Western's annual Fall Family Open House, and said the university likes to bring speakers to campus who promote a dialogue of different perspectives.

"That's another form of learning," Oesterling said. "It challenges you to grow when you hear how someone else thinks about an issue."

Oesterling said Steves' "Travel as a Political Act" lecture, at 8 p.m., Oct. 24, in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) Concert Hall, is about being exposed to different opinions and the importance of learning about the politics and culture of other countries while traveling.

Oesterling said any one of the three presentations by Steves would provide Western students, especially those who

have not traveled outside the country, a taste of how eye opening traveling can be.

"It opens you up and expands your horizons as a person, which facilitates learning," Oesterling said. "That's the point, and that's what we're here to do [at Western]."

Students also have the opportunity to attend a more intimate question and answer forum with Steves if they signed up in advance. "Viking Travel Tips with Rick Steves" was organized by the International Programs and Exchanges (IPE) department and will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 24 in Haggard Hall room 153.

IPE program coordinator Krista Mantello said the department felt bringing in someone as knowledgeable as Steves would allow students to personalize their travel plans and interact with someone who has spent more than 100 days a year in Europe for the past 25 years.

Mantello said Western's incoming freshmen class expressed a strong interest in international studies, more so than any previous year, which stood out to the admissions office and prompted the departments to come together to cater to students' needs.

With the economy struggling, Mantello said learning how to travel on a budget is important. Some students have been forced to withdraw from their international study plans because their financial situations are not as solid as they used to be, she said.

"You can go to places [abroad] that are cheaper than studying at Western,"

Mantello said. "[It's] going to be really beneficial for students to realize that they can do what they want to do. They can go experience something outside of Western, and they can do it affordably."

Steves hosts the PBS travel show "Rick Steves' Europe" and the original name for his business was Europe Through the Back Door, whose headquarters are located in Edmonds, Wash.

"Personalized travel planning by Rick Steves?" Mantello said. "I don't think you can get much better than that."

Western senior Molly Daugherty participated in a semester at sea in the spring of 2007 and traveled to countries such as Brazil, South Africa, Russia, India and Vietnam. She said she feels Steves' visit will be a great chance for students who are interested in traveling to narrow down their travel plans.

"I think it's important to travel because it's so easy to get caught up in our own world," Daugherty said. "It sounds really cliché, but [traveling] totally opened the door and made me realize how lucky I am to be born where I was born."

Anthropology professor James Loucky worked with Western's American Democracy Project to present Steves' "Challenging the Prohibition of Our Age" lecture at 2:30 p.m. in the PAC Concert Hall.

Loucky said Steves' lecture would discuss how other countries have dealt with the war on drugs much differently than the U.S. has, and how Americans may be able to benefit from the European view on the issue.

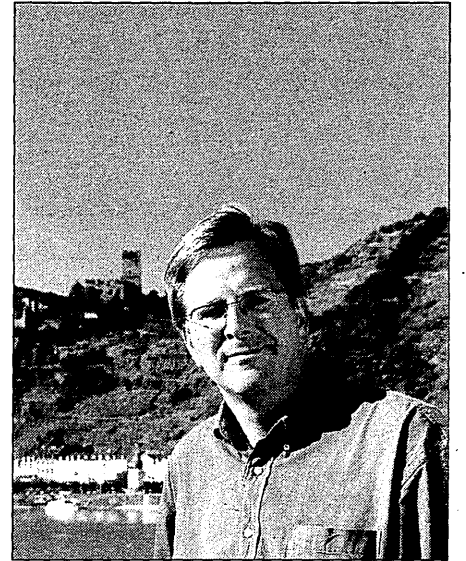


photo courtesy of ricksteves.com
Rick Steves stands next to the Rhine River in Germany.

"Other places in the world give us other ways of dealing with [marijuana use] as a health issue, as a personal choice issue and not just as a criminal issue," Loucky said.

Loucky, who said he is an advocate for the legalization of medical marijuana, said it was critical for this discussion to take place on campus because controversial issues such as marijuana use need to be talked about more openly.

"People all across time and space have used different substances for altering their consciousness or altering their states of being," Loucky said. "[Marijuana] is not just a negative phenomenon. It's widespread and it can have positive social functions."

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LEAD: Drinking fountain removed, health and safety questions remain

from 1

less and odorless, so the smell coming from the water fountain did not come from the high lead concentration, she said.

The water was tested for bacteria but the results came back negative, Lois said. She is concerned because the focus on the high lead concentrations is taking attention away from why the fountain was originally checked. There are still no explanations why the fountain water smelled to begin with.

The fact that the lead was found in the fountain could almost be called an accident, said Sociology department chair Karen Bradley, who has an office on the fifth floor.

It is unknown how long the lead has been in the water because the only reason it was tested was because of the unrelated smell. Tests were conducted when faculty members with offices on the fifth floor of Arntzen noticed the water pressure was unusually high and there was a funny smell to the water in September, said Bradley.

"The change in the water was very sudden and it smelled like paint thinner," Bradley said. "It was when the building maintenance was contacted about the smell that the testing started in early September."

Lois said the main complaint was the smell.

"I heard complaints from two separate faculty members and decided to look it up myself. When I Googled 'water that smells like paint thinner,' I ended up with a list of results that had nothing to do with

lead."

Lois said she is still concerned for two reasons: first, because it is unknown how long the lead has been in the water and second, because it is unknown how it has affected employees' health.

While lead in higher concentrations doesn't usually have heavy effects on adults, it can cause developmental problems in children, Bradley said. Many women on the fifth floor of Arntzen have been pregnant or brought their children to their offices, she said.

If people are concerned about their health in regards to lead poisoning they should consult their health providers, Shipley said.

"Worrying about things that happen in the environment is not a healthy way to live," Shipley said. "Additional testing is happening on campus and students should feel safe drinking the water."

Western doesn't usually test the water on campus because it is supplied by the city of Bellingham, Shipley said. The water in Bellingham is tested vigorously and doesn't contain high levels of lead, she said.

The Environmental Health and Safety office first sampled the fountain's water on Sept. 17. The results came back on Oct. 7 and showed that the concentrations of lead were 0.028 milligrams per liter (mg/l), which is twice the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level. The allowable maximum containment level is 0.015 mg/l, according to the EPA Web site.

The Environmental Health and Safety

staff retested the water Oct. 8 after receiving the first results, Shipley said.

"The testing involves a two-step sampling process," Shipley said. "The second testing uses a 30-second flush or running of the water so you can get a sample further down the plumbing section that has been sitting in the pipes."

The second sample showed the lead levels in the water were 0.026 mg/l. That sample was lower than the first but still too high, Shipley said.

The Whatcom County Health Department guided Western in making its decision on what should be done if the second sample came back high as well, said John Wolpers, Environmental Health Manager for the Whatcom County Health Department.

"High concentrations of lead don't result from the water itself but from the pipes in the plumbing," Wolpers said. "Older buildings can have older lead-lined tanks and pipes that lead to the water fountains."

The numbers were over the allowable amount but they weren't abnormally high, Wolpers said.

Western officials turned off the water and put signs on the water fountain advising people not to drink the water. After contacting the state Health Department and looking at the concentration levels, it was decided to remove the fountain, Wolpers said.

"The state has seen a lot worse," Wolpers said. "Western officials just decided better to be safe than sorry."

All other water fountains in Arntzen

Hall were tested for high concentrations of lead on the same day the second test were administered, Shipley said.

No second samples were needed because the tests for those fountains came back with very low levels of lead.

"To my knowledge, we have not removed any other water sources on campus for high levels of lead or any other reasons," Shipley said. "The water and plumbing is checked when problems arise and there haven't been any like this."

The water from newer buildings on campus, specifically structures built or updated from the 1990s on, does not contain lead because the plumbing is updated, Shipley said.



photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

DISCUSSIONS: Coalition cancels community forum after dismal turnout

from 1

was at the meeting with her roommate, Western senior Andrea Smith. Both are part of a new Associated Students Club called Viking Community Builders, and planned to be facilitators at the meeting.

"I first came to 'Let's Talk' my sophomore year," Hallanger said. "That was my first realization that there are a lot of community members out there affected by students. I think a lot of students don't realize when they move to Bellingham that they are moving to a city with long-term residents."

Smith said the meetings serve as a great opportunity for students to become aware of the different goals of their neigh-

bors.

"There are always problems between students and long-term residents," Smith said. "That's what happens when two different groups of people with different ways of living live near each other."

Smith said "Let's Talk" tries to help relieve tension over those differences.

"The forums provide a structured but informal setting to discuss issues like parties and noise when it's not in the heat of the moment," Welker said.

The issues covered at the meetings are not limited to parties and noise complaints but also extend to garbage and parking disputes, Welker said.

The meetings are held every quarter and over the course of the year, every

neighborhood has a meeting.

Welker said they always hold the fall sessions in the three neighborhoods with the largest number of student residents, York, Sehome and Happy Valley.

Robert Vanderyacht, one of the three police officers at the meeting, said he thought it was too bad nobody showed up.

"It's great to talk directly with students and let them know what we expect, as well as talk about ideas of what has worked in the past," Vanderyacht said.

Vanderyacht is a night-shift supervisor and said he deals with the party scene. Every year, when fall quarter starts, there is an increase in student parties and noise complaints, Vanderyacht said.

"It's important for students to understand the level of tolerance our community has for bad conduct," Vanderyacht said.

Vanderyacht attended another Campus Community Coalition last year and said a neighborhood representative admitted to being a rowdy student before he graduated.

"He was so outward about how bad his conduct was as a student, and now he understands the other side," Vanderyacht said. "It was really helpful for everyone to hear his story."

Welker said the coalition will still host its next meeting in the Happy Valley neighborhood at 7 p.m. Oct. 27. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Harris Avenue.

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Sharing knowledge

Coordinators of campus information centers just want to help

Andrew Frazier
THE WESTERN FRONT

Consider this hypothetical situation: a female Western student, adjusting to the trials and tribulations of college life, is at a party when a mysterious substance is put into her drink while she is not looking. When she wakes up the next morning, she is not sure if she was sexually assaulted, nor is she familiar with the after-effects of the drug she unknowingly consumed.

Regardless of gender, what then? Where does a person go to receive the help and information needed to ensure personal safety and prevent a situation like the one above from happening again?

Resources include the Associated Students Resource and Outreach Programs (ROP), tucked away in the hallways on the fifth floor of the Viking Union and composed of eight different centers. The overall goal of the ROP is to provide students with information, advocacy and peer education on a wide range of issues that affect Western's diverse community.

Western students may hear about the centers making up the outreach programs around campus, but the directors from the Legal Information Center, Drug Information Center and Sexual Awareness Center said they are surprised the services offered by the ROP are not utilized by more students.

"I thought those centers just put on events. I didn't know students

could go there to sit and talk about personal matters," Western sophomore Alyssa Miller said. "I learned more about the centers from the Chick-fil-A discussions than from any flyers around campus."

Miller said her lack of information about the outreach programs might have been because of her busy schedule, which includes an off-campus job, which keeps her out of the information loop.

"Unfortunately, many students are too busy to seek out our services, attend our events or come to us after their problem already occurred," Jake Lunden,

coordinator of the Legal Information Center said. "But the ROP is all about helping students succeed. The more students are informed about the issues affecting them, the better campus will be."

Lunden said many students are unaware of the outreach programs' location in the Viking Union, so while they may see flyers advertising ROP events around campus, it is unclear where they need to go to obtain advice they need.

Drug Information Center director Brian Arcement said he thinks the issue is more significant than students simply not knowing where the programs' offices are or not having enough time in their schedules. Arcement said many of the centers have been a part of campus since the late

60s, and they are not hard to contact.

Instead, Arcement said many students are simply uncomfortable talking openly about socially stigmatized issues like drug use and sexuality. Also, sometimes students assume the outreach program coordinators, who are fellow Western students, are not qualified.

"Most of our centers check out books, movies, host events and cooperate with off-campus organizations," he said. "We are spending Western students' money and we strive to provide resources that go beyond having conversation with a coordinator or the pamphlets lining the halls of the ROP offices."

Sexual Awareness Center coordinator Ashley Thomas said her center offers free condoms of all sizes and colors, lubricants, dental dams and female condoms in addition to their resource library containing books, videos and models of male and female reproductive organs.

Thomas, who has been an activist for comprehensive sexual education since she was 13 years old, said students' reluctance to visit her center is because of a communication barrier about prevalence of stereotypes in society.

"The ROP centers are confidential, empowering spaces where nothing is taboo," Thomas said. "We try to be casual in our approach but

strongly believe knowledge is empowering—that if students find their voice and confidence, they can expect people to treat them with respect and acceptance."

Lunden said the legal center offers advice ranging from landlord-tenant issues, to what to do after a person is arrested and charged with a crime, to food and pesticide laws. Although the outreach centers' programs aim to provide useful information, the advice is still unofficial.

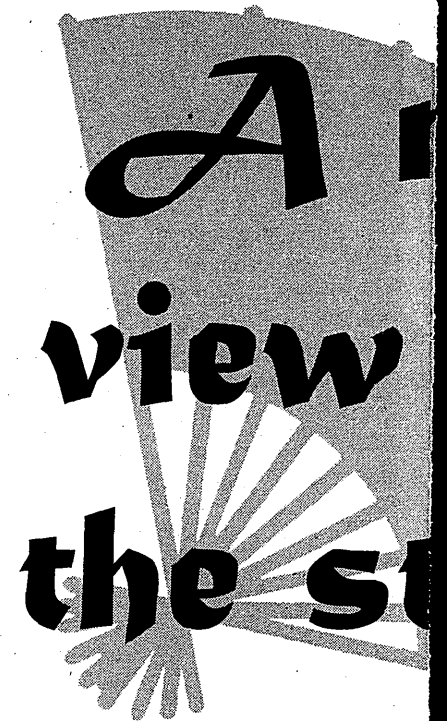
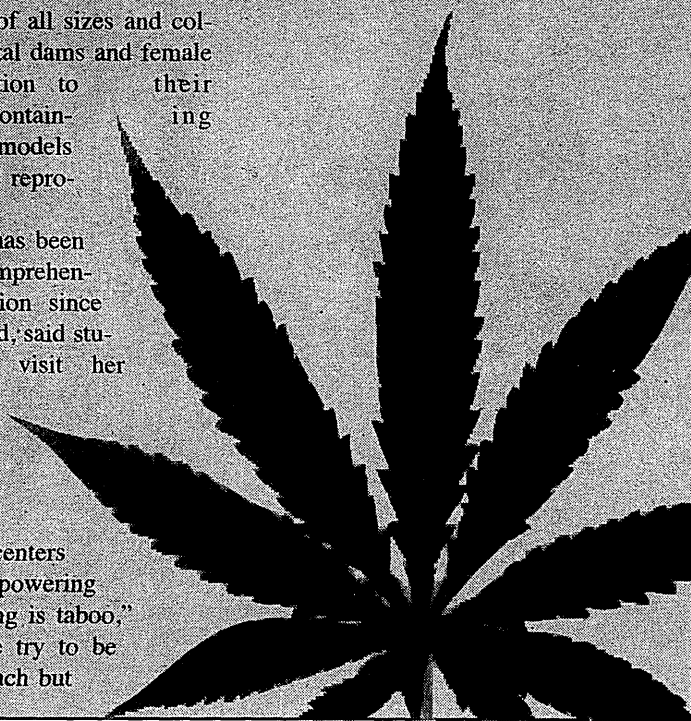
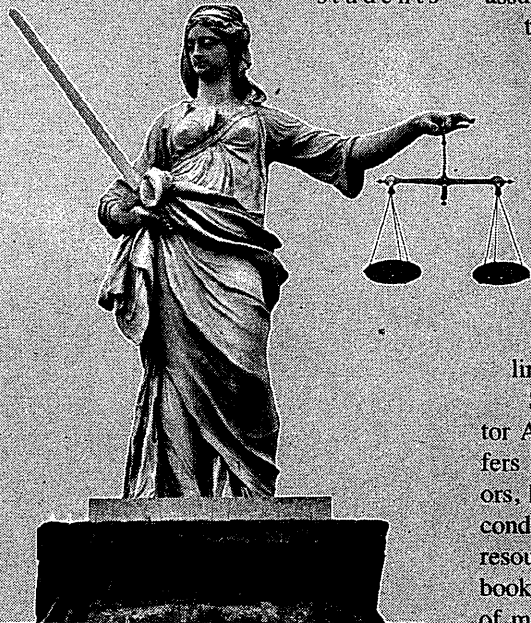
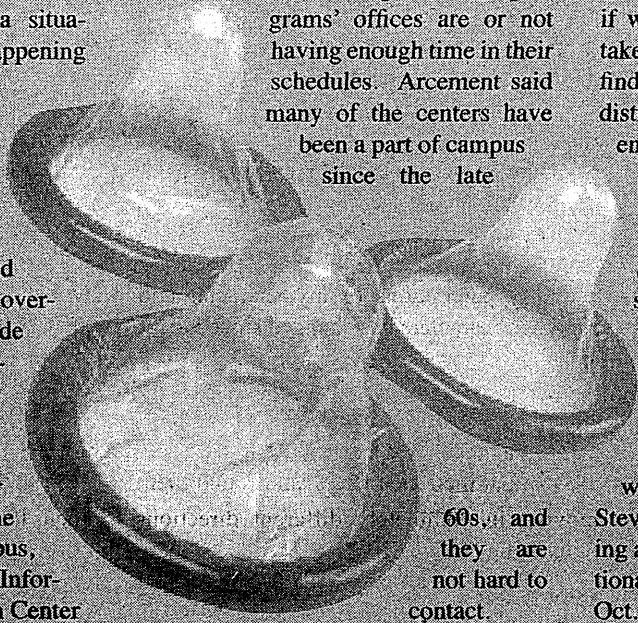
"We are qualified to give advice," Lunden said. "Students would have to go to a professional counselor if they needed treatment or legal guidance, but if we do not know an answer, we will take whatever measures necessary to find out because students have a lot of distractions, and we just want them to enjoy student life overall."

Beyond the offices, the outreach programs' centers organize events and bring speakers to campus. The Sexual Awareness center recently started "Sexploration" on Oct. 21, which consists of group discussions about sex, and is planning to bring speakers to campus.

The Drug Information Center and Legal Information center worked in cooperation to bring Rick Steves to Western. Steves will be hosting a free discussion concerning international attitudes about drugs at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 24 in the Performing Arts Center. The same centers will also be cosponsoring an event in early November with the American Civil Liberties Union titled, "Your Rights and the Police."

Coordinators from the Sexual Awareness Center, Legal Information Center and Drug Information Center currently have no volunteers to assist with projects. Any Western student interested in helping out with events or strengthening the community of the outreach programs can stop by any center and volunteer.

The directors have posted hours of availability on their office doors, and they can be reached via phone or email.



'36 Views,' the current...
by the Theatre Art...
merges East with We...
Japanese style



new
for
stage

ent play produced
Department,
est in a traditional
of drama.

Austin MacKenzie
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Jordan Williams and Western senior Anna Townes faced each other on stage.

"They're almost archaic, but the strokes—the strokes are almost identical," Williams said.

Slowly, Townes approached him until their faces almost touched and placed a brush in his hand.

"Show me," she said.

Williams approached a blank screen and began to mime the motion of painting.

"Hold please," a tech crew member interrupted from the lightboard placed in the center of the almost empty theater.

The actors immediately fell into laughing and talking. Director Patrick Dizney, a Western theater arts instructor, took this moment to discuss the lightning cues with the tech crew.

"Please continue," the crew member said after a short discussion.

Immediately, the actors snapped back into character, and the scene resumed as if uninterrupted.

The actors were rehearsing their performance of "36 Views," a play written by Naomi Iizuka.

"It melds an ancient Eastern world with a contemporary, cosmopolitan Western world," Dizney said.

Dizney said the play is set in a modern city where a woman creates a mock Japanese manuscript and makes it look authentic, causing a stir in the art world.

While the manuscript is eventually revealed as fake, Dizney said, the play centers around the characters and their reactions instead of the art world's reaction.

The name "36 Views" comes from the famous Japanese wood block print series, "36 Views of Mt. Fuji," by the artist Katsushika Hokusai. The play emphasizes how people

view the world from different perspectives and can only experience one perspective at any given time, Dizney said.

The play has a cast of only six characters, which actors came in and openly auditioned for, Western junior Harry Jamieson said.

Jamieson, who plays Asian antique dealer Darius Wheeler, said after auditioning he was called back specifically for the part of Wheeler.

"It's a big challenge, but in some ways it comes very easily to me," Jamieson said. "I think Darius Wheeler, in a way, can be kind of a chameleon in that he behaves very differently depending on who he's interacting with. It gives me as an actor room to have fun with that."

Western senior Zach Mercier plays Owen Matthiassen, a professor of East Asian studies.

"I auditioned just because I liked the style I heard the play was going to be using," Mercier said. "As any other actor we try to get as many parts as possible. I auditioned for that and Patrick Dizney is a director I really enjoy and I really wanted to work for him."

Dizney encouraged the members to get a feel for their character by having them act out scenarios in character and flesh out how each character feels and thinks, Mercier said.

"My perceptions of my character and the other characters has changed since I originally got the script in that we've just had a lot of ensemble building time with what each character wanted," Mercier said. The members spent time holding discussion sessions to flesh out their characters, and found them moving in completely different directions than originally anticipated, he said.

Mercier said he had studied the Kabuki style of Japan before, which was one of the major reasons he wanted to join the cast.

"I have this worry that people will hear that the play is based off Kabuki style and

be turned off by the idea of it," Mercier said. "It's a very Western style which incorporates Eastern style."

Kabuki theater is an acting tradition in Japan that is highly presentational in nature, Dizney said. It emphasizes dramatic movements and makes use of distinctive exits and entrances when the characters enter or exit the stage.

The style also employs clappers, wooden blocks that are smacked together to produce a sharp cracking sound to mark a scene. These clappers are used in "36 Views" to mark the change in mood or emotion, Dizney said.

Western senior Anna Townes plays Claire Tsong, a woman who becomes embroiled in the fallout surrounding the mock-up manuscript.

"She's a very eccentric, very in-the-moment kind of girl," Townes said.

Townes said she was attracted to the play's Kabuki-based visual style, which has also challenged her as an actress.

"It's based on timing and fluidity and moving together in the same space and making it look coherent," Townes said. "That's been challenging but in a really fun and interesting way."

The play isn't separated by tangible acts, Dizney said. The scenes move at their own pace and there is no major benchmark as to when one part begins and the other ends, which sets it apart from many Western plays, he said.

"It's a smart play," Dizney said. "It makes you think and hopefully feel."

Dizney said he's proud of his cast and the effort they've put into the show.

"I can't tell you how much energy and focus they've put into this," Dizney said. "It's one of the plays I'm most proud of."

"36 Views" debuts at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Oct. 23 and runs through Nov. 2. Tickets for students and seniors are available in the Western Box Office for \$9. General admission is \$12.



photos by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

LEFT: Western junior Jessica Young plays Setsuko Hearn, an assistant professor of East Asian literature.
TOP: Western senior Zach Mercier, left, as Owen Mathiassen and junior Jordan Williams as John Bell rehearse on Oct. 21 before their first show.

Civic Stadium: Compost for change

Derek Messling
THE WESTERN FRONT

Quick. Think about how long it takes to get dressed in the morning. Has the task ever been so daunting that skipping it altogether and leaving the house naked seemed like the best option?

Spectators at Civic Stadium now have the option to spend the amount of time it takes to get dressed in the morning, sorting their garbage thanks to a new Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department recycling and composting program.

The overall goal of the program is to change the social norm that exists within athletic venues, said Heather Higgins-Aanes, environmental program coordinator for Bellingham Parks and Recreation.

"People need to learn there is more to life than the eat, dump, and run routine they have grown accustomed to," Higgins-Aanes said.

The new routine needs to involve two essential steps, she said.

First, spectators should steer away from leaving their garbage at their seats. Once patrons leave their seats, they need to take the time to sort their various pieces of waste at the recycling stations, she said.

"Spectators need to understand their social responsibilities extend to the sporting events," Higgins-Aanes said. "There is no other recreational area where people throw their garbage on the ground."

If a spectator buys a fountain drink, three different receptacles are used to sort the various parts, Higgins-Aanes said. The straw goes into the garbage while the lid is to be placed in the recycling bin. Finally, the cup is made of paper and is biodegradable and should be deposited into the blue composting bin.

Less than two months after the inception of the program, the amount of garbage thrown away at football games has been reduced by 85 percent, said Sara Southerland, environmental education and

outreach coordinator for the city parks department.

Seventeen 60-gallon bags of compost were collected at the first Western football game of the year at Civic Stadium.

In past years, Civic Stadium's waste was composed of 100 percent of garbage, destined for a 300-mile trip to the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in the hills of Klickitat County, Southerland said.

In comparison, composted materials are now transported 20 miles to Green Earth Technologies in Lynden, where the composting process takes effect in just 60 days, she said.

Once the composted materials are converted into soil, the product is sold to local businesses to aid in their development efforts, she said.

Each of the four recycling stations is managed by recycling educators dressed in bright shirts, ready to aid visitors in their sorting efforts, Higgins-Aanes said.

Reactions have been mostly positive to the new procedures, Southerland said. Although she admits some negative responses concerning the importance of the project have been heard.

The concession stands at Civic Stadium are working to sell products that can be recycled or composted entirely, Higgins-Aanes said.

Both the city and Western are in the process of determining the most effective methods to make sure spectators at Western games take part in the composting.

Western's Office of Sustainability coordinator Seth Vidafna said the university is in the early stages of the project and decided that in order to create a successful plan, its first step must be determining specifically who attends Western football games.

The Civic Stadium recycling project is part of the countywide Towards Zero Waste program run through local non-profit Sustainable Connections, Executive Director Michelle Long said.

Informational stands are present at

games to explain the process, and why it is important. To help direct spectators to the recycling stations, the announcer also reads new announcements during each

game, Southerland said.

"We have made a phenomenal plunge into this," Higgins-Aanes said. "But we still have a ways to go."

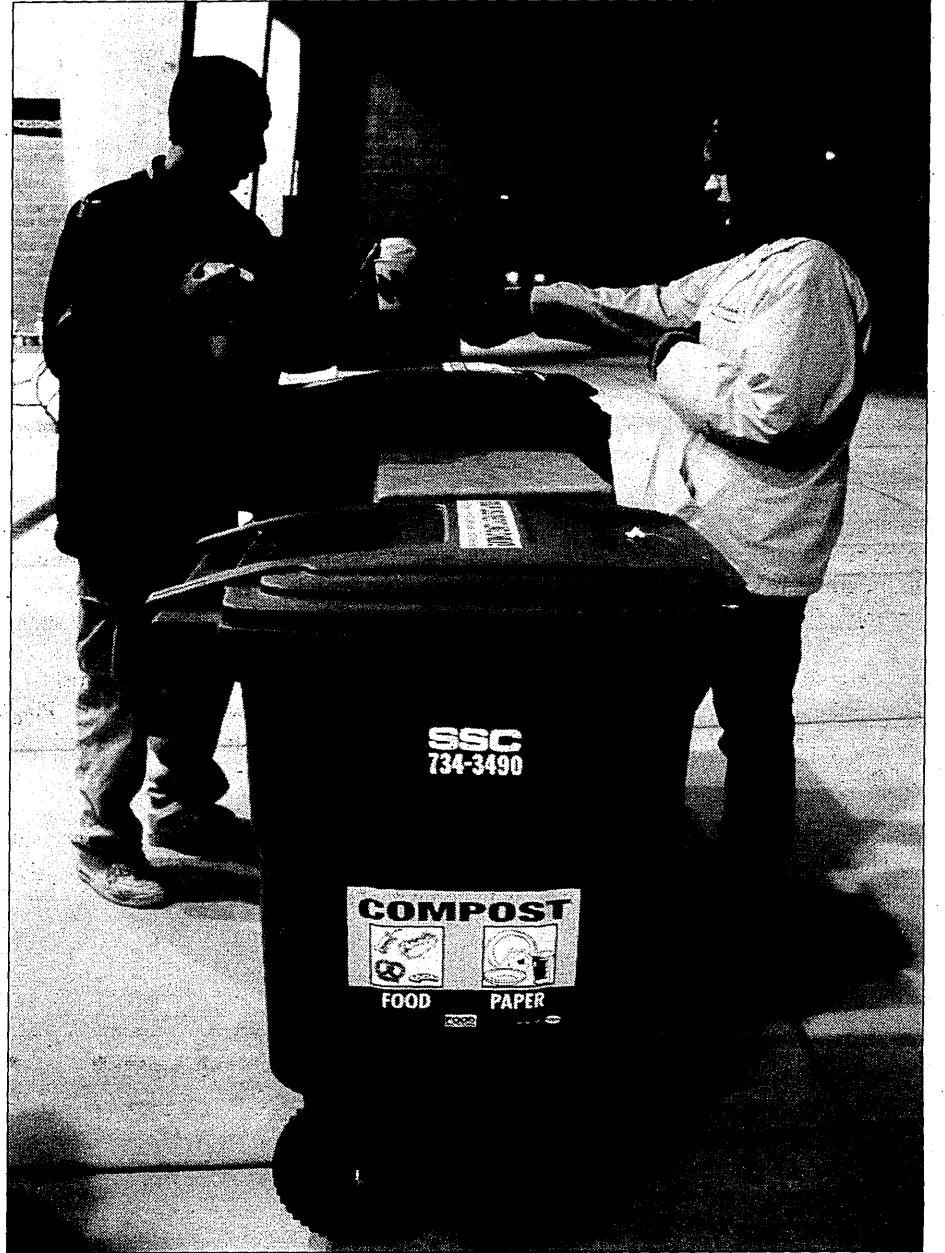


photo by Michael Leese THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham resident Harvey Fox Junior sorts his garbage at Civic Stadium during a football game Thursday night as Bellingham Parks and Recreation employee Cara Dockins informs him of how the new recycling system works.

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Program will not solve plagiarism

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Not many people will argue in favor of plagiarism. In the United States, being honest and taking responsibility for your actions are valued traits.

Western has a very strict policy regarding plagiarism and cheating. If students are caught cheating, they can be ejected from their majors or possibly kicked out of school.

Western is considering using the application SafeAssign on BlackBoard to catch plagiarism. Yes, it might be good to catch cheating but would this program also put innocent students at risk?

Several things are wrong with this program. It searches for identical phrases and does not distinguish whether the passage was cited correctly or not. This means correctly cited work could be labeled as plagiarism by the program. Not to mention, the program's database is so limited, it did not catch some submitted articles from Western Libraries.

The program also takes other papers written by students and compares them. This may not always be effective. If a professor assigns a large class of students the same assignment

year after year, there is bound to be overlap.

SafeAssign would also slow the rate at which professors can return papers to their students. The program could take days to check everything.

There is something eerie about a machine making this type of decision. Plagiarism should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Machines cannot solve this type of ethical problem.

Plagiarism is more than just copying another person's work; it is a serious issue which should be addressed.

Students who choose to plagiarize are cheating themselves. They are wasting their professor's time and wasting their own money. What is the point of attending a university to receive a degree and graduate if you have little interest in learning?

There are resources for students struggling with grades. Students can meet with their professors and get help or guidance on homework. Professors are here to help students in students' pursuit for education and many are happy to help out when someone needs some extra attention.

The Tutoring Center is filled with competent employees who work solely to help students with class assignments. The Writing Center can help students with all their writing

needs and has a number of handouts concerning proper grammar usage and how to cite work.

People should not be ashamed to ask questions and should not resort to cheating.

Plagiarism needs to be stopped before a student submits his or her paper. Students should be honest and strive to uphold ethical standards.

Don't take the easy way out. You wouldn't want to hear the police chief has a false certificate or your brain surgeon cheated on his exams in school. You wouldn't want to enter the job market, especially in the current economic recession where jobs are hard to find, unprepared and incompetent.

Being honest and accountable is vital to developing a qualified workforce. If students plagiarize their way through college they will not be prepared for the challenges of the real world.

Plagiarism is an awful thing that needs to be addressed. But SafeAssign will not be an effective way to bring an end to cheating or the reasons behind it.

The Editorial Board is comprised of the Editor in Chief Gabrielle Nomura, Managing Editor Jeff Richards and Opinion Editor Lisa Hust.

Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

Have you ever or do you plan to study abroad?

Compiled by: Talitha Taitano



Neil Ledda
Sophomore

"I may. I'm multiracial and my family still has a lot of roots in the Philippines."



Ryan Brunhaver
Junior

"I went to India. I wanted to go anyway and at the last minute I found a study abroad program to go with it."



Kristy Huffman
Senior

"Yes. Amsterdam or Budapest. I want to do it for grad school to do international law."



Syd Davidson
Junior

"I haven't yet and I was going to but I changed my major, so its not realistic for me anymore."

Support incumbent Chris Gregoire for governor

Natalie McClendon
Guest Columnist

Our state will face tough times in the next four years, and the next governor will have to make difficult decisions. Our job as voters is to decide how these challenges will be met, by choosing a candidate based on the values and priorities they will use to make these hard choices.

Gov. Chris Gregoire understands the values of our state as a whole. She grew up in Auburn, started her career in Spokane and now works across the state as governor.

She has always understood the issues that matter most to the middle class. Creat-

ing jobs, improving education and expanding health care have been her priorities, and her commitment to those issues has made our state a better place.

This is in sharp contrast to her Republican opponent, Dino Rossi. His plan to help our economy is to lower—yes, lower—the minimum wage by \$1.50 per hour while giving \$500 million in tax breaks to multimillionaires.

Even after seeing the devastation on Wall Street, he wants to deregulate health care in the same way. And he's in denial about global warming with no plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In fact, Rossi is so far-right on social issues he would deny women birth control and emergency contraception, with no exception for victims of rape or incest. Gov.

Gregoire's record shows she is the leader we can trust in tough times. She expanded health care coverage to include 84,000 more children and is fighting to cover all children by 2010.

Gov. Gregoire has invested more in education than any governor in state history. She made much-needed improvements to grades K-12, like smaller class sizes and fair teacher pay, and also recognized the importance of early learning and higher education.

Gov. Gregoire is an unparalleled champion for Washington's colleges and universities. She helped add 18,000 new enrollment slots in colleges and universities, including hundreds right here at Western. She also provided funding to renovate three of Western's buildings.

Unlike Rossi, Gov. Gregoire understands the value of scientific research and women's rights. She won't stand in the way of embryonic stem-cell research. She'll always stand up for a woman's right to choose, and she'll ensure women have access to all medications.

In tough times, Washington needs a leader who will stand up for working families and preserve our state's values while making difficult decisions. Gov. Gregoire is that leader.

Natalie McClendon is the chair of Whatcom County Democrats.

The Western Front contacted the Whatcom County Republicans about writing a column and heard no response.

Letters to the Editor

More to technology fee than was reported

I thought it was great that Glenn Smith talked about the technology fee. He used the library laptops as his example for what the fee pays for, but the fee pays for many more services than just the laptops.

If you have ever had to use the student tech center for class or to learn how to use programs, our fee pays for this service. The student tech center has cameras, movie software, printers, scanners and even tape recorders. Only \$2 of the \$17 fee goes to pay for the student tech center. I am amazed at how much the student tech center can do for \$2 per student per quarter. The rest of the \$17 goes toward updating all the other technology services on campus, like all the computers in the library and in the labs and the software found on those computers.

The fee does not pay for ongoing maintenance like buying more printing paper or ink; the school foots the bill for that. But the fee is up for renewal and it can raise up to 100 percent of what it is now unless you, the student, do something about it. Tell people what you want the fee

to pay for. Tell the administration what you want your fee to go toward. They proposed using our fee to pay for music downloading software. This is a waste of our money, and we should urge them to not waste our money in such a way.

I was so glad the Frontline talked about the forums! They make an introverted person like me able to get involved and voice my opinions. There is a thread on the forums about the student tech fee and people's ideas of what the fee should be and if it should be increased. I urge everyone to go check it out and let the administration know how you feel.

Valarie Lloyd
Western senior

There are benefits to Focus on the Family

I would like to give a response to all of the recent discussion in this newspaper regarding Chick-fil-A and Focus on the Family. I desire to bring to your attention programs

run by Focus on the Family that help people. The Focus on the Family Web site alone offers lots of advice for couples, parenting, financial advice, podcasts of talk-radio shows with James Dobson and many more services.

They have a children's radio show, Adventures in Odyssey. Also, there is a Web site devoted to university students and the issues they face as Christians on a college campus. There is a lot of help available for all kinds of people struggling with real-life issues.

I felt the need to speak up because I keep hearing negative criticism about Focus on the Family through this newspaper.

I realize that Focus on the Family is also committed to ministries that will not agree with the lifestyles of many people on campus, but I hope that I brought to your attention that Focus on the Family is a Christian organization committed to making a difference in this world by helping people.

Clinton Richmond
Bellingham resident

Women's soccer downs Central

Stephanie Castillo
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western women's soccer team improved their unbeaten record to 10 games with a 2-1 victory over conference-rival Central Washington University Oct. 22 in Ellensburg, Wash. The unbeaten streak is the longest run since 1984.

Western improved to 12-2-1 overall and 9-0-1 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Central fell to 7-5-3 overall and 4-4-1

in conference play.

"At this point, every win is big," Western junior midfielder Jenny Barton said. "But it's always a tough game against Central."

Western senior defender Katie Warner agrees with Barton about competing well against Central.

"It's good to get a win on the road, especially against [Central]," Warner said. "We have a lot of bad blood with them."

The Vikings remain first in conference standings and have moved up one

spot to 13th in this week's National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Coaches poll.

Western head coach Travis Connell said the ranking makes him proud of the team's success.

"We have great leaders that do a good job on focusing the team," he said. "I give all the credit to our captains and seniors."

Despite Central out-shooting Western 22-14 in shots at goal and 8-3 in corner kicks, Western got on the scoreboard first. Western junior forward Lucy Miller scored in the 18th minute with an assist from Warner.

It was Miller's sixth goal of the season. She is tied for second in goals for the season with Western sophomore forward Molly Shannon. They are right behind Western sophomore forward Claire Morgan, who has eight goals.

Western went into halftime with a 2-0 lead after Western junior defender Bryn Gibson scored her first goal of the season in the 33rd minute, with an assist from Barton.

With 22 minutes left in regulation, Central scored their first and only goal of the game off a penalty kick.

Western senior goalkeeper Kylie Broadbent had nine saves on the game.

"Kylie had some nice saves, some from point blank range," Connell said. "She kept us in the game."

Barton said she likes the team's chances of doing some damage and going far into the NCAA tournament in the playoffs.

"As a team we have great chemistry," she said. "If we keep playing well, we'll get into the tournament."

Western returns home for a non-league matchup against Simon Fraser University at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 at Whatcom Community College's Orca Field.



photo courtesy of Kate Pridemore

Western women's soccer team secured their 10th-straight win Oct. 22 against Central Washington University. Western won the match 2-1.

Volleyball stings Yellowjackets

Christine Karambelas
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western volleyball team swept Montana State University Billings in three sets Oct. 23 at Alterowitz Gym in Billings, Mont.

Now 15-2 overall and 7-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, the Vikings are ranked 12th nationally in Division II.

"The team was focused from the beginning to the end," Western head coach Diane Flick said. "There have been some problems in the past where [we] have stopped putting pressure on the other team and that didn't happen tonight."

The first set included seven consecutive points won by Western, six served by Western freshman libero Haleigh Adkins. Western finished the set strong, winning 25-16. They won the second set 25-18 and didn't hold back in the third set, winning 25-7.

Western sophomore outside hitter Megan Amundson had 12 kills and 10 digs. Western senior middle blocker Angie Alvord had nine kills and five blocks. Western sophomore libero Allison Gotz had 14 digs and three service aces.

"We held our own," Alvord said. "There were good plays, long runs, and we did a good job at keeping the pressure."

The game was kept simple and played with great defense and few errors, Flick said.

Western's next game is against conference-leader Western Oregon University at 7 p.m. Oct. 25 in Carver Gym.

Support Western's athletic teams



Jesse
Amorratanasuchad
Sports Columnist

Western athletic teams have shown their quality this season, and it's hard not to take notice. For those of you who are tired of watching our regional teams lose, go watch one of Western's fall sports teams compete in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Our school's teams are not on SportsCenter every night, but this doesn't mean they aren't putting on exciting performances. That's more than I can say for the other teams in Washington.

The outlook for sports teams in the state has not been particularly good since the beginning of fall. As fans we tend to try and avoid any discussion of the tragic losses for Washington teams.

The Seattle Mariners slumped to another disappointing season. The SuperSonics are officially done as a franchise in Seattle. And the Seahawks, who are 1-4, are having their worst season since Mike Holmgren has been head coach. But it

doesn't stop there.

Washington State University's football team is 1-6 overall, getting crushed by University of Southern California 69-0 Oct. 18 in Pullman, Wash.

The University of Washington football team has yet to win a game this season, with quarterback and Ferndale local Jake Locker going down early in the season with a broken thumb.

The Seattle Storm has been the one quality team in Washington that has competed for playoff spots for the past few years.

"Our school's teams are not on SportsCenter every night, but this doesn't mean they aren't putting on exciting performances."

As a Washington native, the most exciting, but sometimes difficult, part of watching these games is when the game clock winds down to zero. The losses keep piling up and dejected fans keep slumping sadly into their seats.

Professional teams in Washington have been depressing to follow. So since none of the teams nationally televised are worthwhile to watch, support our sports at Western and go see one of our nationally ranked teams play.

Women's volleyball is currently ranked 12th in Division II with a record of 15-2. Volleyball started the season on a 13-game unbeaten run, which was the best start in the team's history.

The women's soccer team is ranked 13th nationally and has a record of 12-2-1. The team is currently on a 10-game unbeaten streak, the longest since 1984. Last week, Western junior midfielder Kelly Irving earned the conference player-of-the-week award. Irving scored the game-tying goal against sixth-ranked Seattle Pacific University and a goal in the 3-1 win over

cord.

Both men's and women's cross country will peak as regionals come around and have been placing well in each meet they have run so far. The cross country teams will travel to Yakima for the conference championships on Oct. 25. The men's team will be running for their third-straight conference title. On the women's side, Western sophomore Sarah Porter has been running in a league of her own. Porter has a conference-best four wins this season going into the meet, as she competes against the heavily favored women's team from Seattle Pacific University.

This has been one of the more successful seasons for the athletic department for several years and approximately one third of the season is still left.

Successful sports teams all start with fan support. Even if teams are successful, the atmosphere of where they play has a great effect on team performances. The more fans we can get out to games, the more likely athletes will want to play at Western. The better athletes Western recruits, the better the sports programs will be.

What Washington teams need now, more than ever, is support. The more the better. Rally behind Western's fall sports as they all push for postseason play.

Saint Martin's University last week to earn the award.

Men's soccer is 8-5-2 for the season and has won their last three league games, taking first in the conference. Western junior defender Nick Saletto won the conference player-of-the-week award as the team allowed only one goal in two games last week.

The football team is still in the hunt for the postseason, vying for a spot in the Rotary Bowl with a 3-2 conference re-

Women's basketball looks to rebound

Derek Messling
THE WESTERN FRONT

For a team that had its streak of 15 winning seasons snapped last year after being decimated by injuries, one common goal has emerged from the Western women's basketball team – redemption.

Returning to the court this winter will be a healthy team, ready to get back to their winning ways.

"We want to recapture the legacy of Western Washington women's basketball," senior center Claire Pallansch said. "With everyone that was injured last year now healthy, we want to prove that we are back."

Starting five freshmen last year due to injuries, Western lacked experience on the court, sophomore guard Amanda Dunbar said.

The team finished 9-21 overall and 6-12 in conference play last season.

"Last year was tough, but stuff happens and we lost five starters before the season started," head coach Carmen Dolfo said. "Nobody is happy losing here."

Dunbar said the team is hoping the growing pains from last season may have been a blessing in disguise, as the younger players gained valuable on-court experience.

Dolfo said the overall depth of her roster will be an asset this winter.

"We don't drop off when the starters are out of the game," Pallansch said. "We are all talented players."

The team spent much of the offseason strength training and running to become

a great deal healthier than it was at this point last year, Dunbar said.

Looking to play an up-tempo style of basketball this season, Dolfo said she believes her team's ability to get out and run will be vital to its success.

This year's team is led by their three captains, senior forward Liz McCarrell, junior forward Willow Cabe and Pallansch.

"Our captains are players who have experience and know what it means to have success," Dolfo said. "They are players that are willing to step up and take charge."

Nine letter winners return to a veteran team that finished strong last year.

A second team all-conference selection two seasons ago, McCarrell will be back on the court after missing all of last season with a foot injury.

Dunbar, the returning conference Freshman of the Year, heads into the season as the top returning scorer, averaging 14.1 points per game last season.

Pallansch, a second team all-conference selection a year ago, is looking to improve upon last season's numbers in which she was in the top 10 within the conference in scoring, rebounding and blocks.

Two transfers enter the fray in senior forward Jessica Summers from the University of Idaho and sophomore guard Megan Pinsky by way of the University of British Columbia.

The team has high expectations for itself heading into the 2008-09 campaign, Dunbar said.



photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior forward Gabby Wade drives the ball to the hoop as Trinity Western University guard Jordan Verhoeff chases after during a scrimmage held Oct. 22 at Carver Gym.

"We've made a goal to be the [conference] champs this season," Pallansch said. "We want to use that as a stepping stone to reaching both the regional and na-

tional tournaments."

Western begins the year on the road Nov. 6 against Seattle University. League play starts Jan. 8.

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Experience key for men's basketball

Rod Lotter

THE WESTERN FRONT

With the core of last year's team still intact, the Western men's basketball team looks to improve upon last season's 15-12 record and get into the postseason.

"This year, it isn't about whether we make the playoffs," senior guard Ira Graham said. "It's about how far we will go in the playoffs."

After a promising start last season, going 8-2 in their first 10 games, the Vikings finished sixth in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with an 8-10 conference record.

"Last season wasn't a season I look at as stellar," head coach Brad Jackson said. "We had a lot of young players who lacked experience. We lost a lot of close games. If we just finished stronger, we could have easily ended the season with a 20-7 record."

But with age comes experience, and experience will be the team's strongest asset this year, Jackson said.

The team includes five returning seniors including Graham, the leading scorer last year with 18.5 points per game—second best in the league. Another notable returning senior is forward Calin Schell, who shares team captain responsibilities with senior center and forward David Brittain.

"[Schell] is a rugged competitor," Jackson said. "He's what I like to call a blue-collar player. He works hard and does whatever the team needs from him whether it's rebounding or scoring inside."

Schell led the team with 7.7 rebounds per game and was third on the team in scoring with 9.2 points per game.

"The key to this season is to embrace the team camaraderie and realize we're all working toward the same goal," Schell said. "As a captain, I'm going to lead my team, which includes letting them know when they're doing something right and when they're doing something wrong."

"This year, it isn't about whether we make the playoffs. It's about how far we will go in the playoffs."

- Ira Graham, senior guard

Other returning seniors are guard Steve Alford, who was second on the team in scoring with 10.1 points per game last season, and center Zach Bruce.

Western senior guard Derrick Webb will miss the year due to a wrist injury suffered during the offseason.

With the injury to Webb, junior guard Harold McAllister may see more time this season. McAllister led the team in steals last season.

"[McAllister] had a strong year last year," Jackson said. "He's been consistently improving since he's been in the program."

The team has three transfers this year including 7-foot junior center Dave Vanderjagt, who played last year at the University of Montana. The other two

transfers are junior guard Morris Anderson from Highline Community College and junior forward Michael Duty from Bellevue Community College.

"I think we have all the pieces in place for a successful season," Jackson said. "Our attitude is great. The makeup of the team position-wise is nicely balanced between the inside and outside game."

The team's success this season will largely depend on their ability to stay tough minded and consistent, Jackson said.

Offense was not the problem for the team last year, averaging 79.1 points per game, second in their division.

"Defense is the lynch pin of champions," Jackson said. "And I'm anticipating we will play at a high level this year, maybe even at a championship level. But as a coach, there's only one game to worry about and that's the next game."

Last season, the Vikings held opponents to 41.2 percent from the field and 70.9 points per game. But they failed to finish off opponents in close games, losing six games by seven points or less.

"This year, I want to focus on being a defensive stopper," Alford said. "Playing defense as a team is what we're focusing on right now."

Team practice started Oct. 15. Seeing the players on the first day of practice is a good indicator of what to expect this season, Jackson said.

"The things I always look for when the season starts is how conditioned the players are," Jackson said. "The conditioning of the players really tells you how committed they are to the team because it

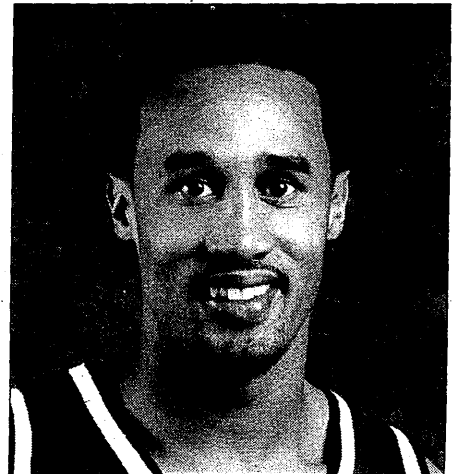
is proof of the work they've been doing in the training room during the offseason."

Jackson was very impressed with the team's conditioning and aims to utilize the team's toughness more in their game play.

"I am trying to create an aura of toughness on the court," Jackson said. "I want the team to play more physical. Basketball is a contact game, and we need to be the aggressors on the court in order to win."

The season starts Nov. 17. The Vikings host an exhibition game against Team Another Level, an amateur team of non-student players at 7 p.m. Nov. 1 in Carver Gym. The team is also hosting an intersquad game at 3 p.m. Oct. 26 in Carver Gym.

"The team will be fun to watch this year," Jackson said. "I hope we can get the community and the students behind us. It really helps to have that sixth-man mentality of the crowd behind us."



Ira Graham



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