

Regional jugglers unite

Jugglers travel to Western for weekend festival

BY DAN GROHL
The Western Front

Jugglers from throughout the Northwest packed Carver Gym D Friday, Saturday and Sunday to take part in the Bellingham Juggling Club's first annual Bellingham Juggling Festival.

The club conducted workshops to teach juggling techniques such as juggling balls and pins, and juggling while riding a unicycle. Approximately 100 people attended the festival.

Participants in the festival were able to play juggling games such as Combat and Quarters, said Will Taylor, 2004 Western alumnus and Bellingham Juggling Club member.

Combat is a game in which the participants juggle three pins while walking around and bumping into other people, causing them to drop their pins, Taylor said. Once somebody drops a pin, they are out. The last person juggling wins.

Quarters is a game in which everybody juggles three quarters, Taylor said. The last person juggling all three quarters wins all of the quarters dropped during of the game.

Saturday evening, the club played host to a free juggling show at Maritime Heritage Park in downtown Bellingham.

The show opened with music by 2x4,



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front

Western junior Amiel Martin juggles four clubs during a practice session Sunday in Carver Gym D as part of the Bellingham Juggling Festival.

see **JUGGLING**, page 6

KVIK to produce AS advertisements

BY KATIE ROTHENBERGER
The Western Front

Western's on-campus television station, KVIK, is creating a promotional production department to give students a chance to experience the world of television.

This fall, KVIK will launch the department, which will give Associated Students clubs, activities and events the ability to advertise and inform the student body through commercials and promotional videos of campus events. The new department will represent the Ethnic Student Center, the Outdoor Center, AS Productions and Western's radio station, KUGS.

KVIK's goal is to bring students' attention to issues concerning Western clubs. The station will promote upcoming AS events and activities, said Shawna Cook, Western senior and KVIK promotional production coordinator.

One of the station's goals is to introduce a student DVD package. This DVD will educate incoming students about Western's activities and community.

"This will set the pathway for a future for KVIK to start growing with other departments by promoting ourselves and other people," said Matt Acosta, Western junior and KVIK coordinator. "We used ideas from other colleges as an example and saw this as a step toward the future."

The production department plans to show its informational videos about clubs and events to students through commercials at Western's Information Fair on televisions in Red Square as well as at the Kappa Carnival next spring, Acosta said.

"This is a chance for KVIK to get their foot in the door, gain broadcasting capabilities and run commercial spots," Cook said. "This quarter everything is still in stage one while we are developing paperwork and working out the kinks, but next year is the step-off point to promote the entire student population."

Cook said she knows finding jobs and internships is challenging for many students in college because

see **KVIK**, page 3

Western faculty to vote fall quarter on forming union

BY KELSEY DOSEN
The Western Front

A majority of Western professors are in the process of attempting to form a union. But Western's administration, which includes the president, provost and vice presidents, intervened in the middle of the process and

delayed the vote.

The faculty planned to vote winter quarter 2005, but the administration postponed the voting until at least fall quarter 2005, English professor Bill Lyne said.

Members of the administration could not be reached for comment.

In 2002, Congress passed legislation allowing unions at four-

year universities, initiating the efforts of Western faculty toward collective bargaining rights. Collective bargaining rights enable faculty to collaborate as one voice in bargaining talks.

Andrew Bodman, Western's provost, is attempting to divide faculty members and stand in the way of unionization, assistant

professor of history Steven Garfinkle said. This caused delays in the faculty unionization efforts for nearly a year, he said.

"We want to meet in the middle," Garfinkle said. "Access to collective bargaining helps faculty, administration and students."

The administration is interfering by dividing the eligible faculty

into categories: full-time faculty, limited-term faculty, which is faculty not in the 10-year plan and not entitled to a salary increase after that period, and department chairs, Garfinkle said.

The administration wants to consider only full-time professors

see **UNION**, page 6

Border officers taking steps to prevent drug smuggling

BY ADAM BROWN
The Western Front

Border patrol seizures of counterfeit goods and illegal drugs along the Canadian border throughout the past two weeks have focused public attention on the border patrol system.

On May 9, U.S. border patrol officers intercepted 48,000 doses of the stimulant MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy, said Joe Giuliano, 51, border patrol officer. He estimated the street

value of the drugs to be approximately \$1 million.

"This was a bigger-than-average seizure," Giuliano said.

Customs officers arrested Canadian border officer Altaf Merali, 37, of Surrey, B.C., May 3 on suspicion of attempting to smuggle 227 pounds of marijuana into Bellingham. Merali had allegedly arranged to deliver the drugs to Stanwood resident Jason Dean Smith, 20, but confessed to officers during a routine check at the Pacific Highway

truck crossing in Blaine. The case is currently under investigation.

Giuliano said his department guards the land between the Sumas, Lynden and Blaine ports of entry and prevents anyone from sneaking across the border unchecked. These ports are land or water checkpoints that all travelers must pass through before crossing the border.

"The demand in the United States for drugs is high," Giuliano said. "So

see **BORDER**, page 3



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front

A Canadian tour bus proceeds through a U.S. Customs and Border Protection X-ray checkpoint.



BOLD BREWS

A look at local tea rooms and the properties of tea.

FEATURES, PAGE 8

GRADING TEACHERS

Web site offers students a valuable way to preview teaching styles.

OPINIONS, PAGE 14

HIKING AROUND

Western students and Bellingham residents explore new terrain.

SPORTS, PAGE 11



COPS BOX

University Police

May 13, 1:45 a.m.: UP responded to a report of an intoxicated man wandering onto a road on the Ridgeway exterior. UP found no one.

May 13, 1:26 a.m.: UP assisted the Bellingham Police Department on the exterior of south campus.

Bellingham Police

May 16, 1:10 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a man yelling obscenities on the 2300 block of J Street.

May 15, 10:45 a.m.: Officers asked a transient sleeping in the entrance of a business on the 1400 block of North Garden Street to leave the premises.

May 15, 8:22 a.m.: Officers transported an individual from the 3100 block of Old Fairhaven Parkway to the emergency room for an involuntary mental health evaluation.

May 14, 7:14 p.m.: Officers responded to the 1200 block of Harris Avenue to conduct traffic after traffic signals lost power. Officers told an intoxicated man to leave twice because he tried to direct traffic himself.

May 14, 3:27 p.m.: Officers responded to an incident involving road rage at the Bellis Fair Mall.

May 14, 11:13 a.m.: Officers cited a 22-year-old man on suspicion of disorderly conduct in connection with a loud party on the 100 block of Ashley Street.

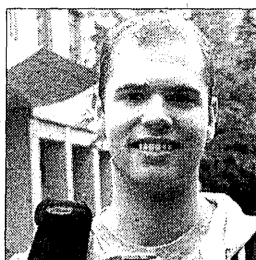
May 14, 11:01 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a loud party on the 2300 block of North Garden Street.

Compiled by Taune Sweet

Viking Voices

What do you do to get rid of a hangover?

Compiled by Susan Rosenbery



Nathan Rich
Junior, accounting

Drink lots of water and lots of coffee. Oh, and french fries — they help coat the stomach for acid reflux.



Genevieve Layman
Sophomore, art and recreation

Smoke a bowl.



Alan Ritter
Senior, computer science

Lie on the couch and whine.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Mount St. Helens expels liquid magma

Visitors to Mount St. Helens can expect more than memories of its big blast 25 years ago.

A relatively quiet dome-constructing eruption, which is when ash and rock fragments are expelled from the volcano and build up the surrounding cone, has been building since October. Visitors to the Johnston Ridge Observatory five miles away can look into the steaming crater where magma is pushing to the surface.

The observatory reopened May 6 after park officials closed it in October because of volcanic activity. Park officials advised visitors to bring dust masks in case the mountain shoots an ash plume their direction.

Scientists said a more explosive eruption is possible, but the

volcano has been relatively stable with mostly small earthquakes since last fall.

State patrol seizes fireworks at Port of Tacoma

Washington State Patrol fire marshals seized 14 tons of fireworks at the Port of Tacoma.

They said the shipment, intended for professional displays, was headed for an American Indian reservation.

Customs agents said they became suspicious last month because the importer lacked a license and the proper identification number.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission tested the fireworks.

The seizure Sunday involved the Tacoma Fire Department, State Department of Labor and Industries, Pierce County and state prosecutors, and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush checks out soybeans

President Bush took a look at an alternate source of energy Sunday. He went to a Richmond, Va., plant that converts soybeans into fuel.

Bush said soaring gas prices underscore the need for a new energy strategy before the summer driving season.

At the plant near Richmond, President Bush saw how the facility turns soybeans into fuel.

Thanks to high gasoline prices and a new tax credit, biodiesel is enjoying new popularity. Bush has urged Congress to finish work on an energy plan by the August recess.

He also acknowledged an energy bill will not be a magic wand to immediately cut the price at the pump. Rather, he said, it will get at the root of the problem — America's dependence on expensive, imported crude oil.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fox will not apologize for racist remarks

Mexican President Vicente Fox will not apologize for remarks many saw as a slur against blacks.

In a speech Friday, Fox praised the dedication of Mexicans working in the United States and said they are willing to take jobs that — as he put it — even blacks will not do.

Fox's spokesman read a statement Sunday expressing the Mexican president's respect for minorities, whatever their racial, ethnic or religious origin.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher called the remark insensitive and inappropriate.

African American leaders, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton, are calling on Fox to apologize

Compiled by Lincoln Smith
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM

Corrections

In a May 13 article titled "Evening cruise offers DJs and local band," John Meloy's name was misspelled.

The Western Front regrets this and any other errors.

The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CF 251, Bellingham, WA 98225. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising.

Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230, or by phone 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 — PLEASE POST

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

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT) is offered in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on May 23 and June 6 and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on May 19, 26, June 2 and 9. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification, student number, Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE TOPICS may be found at www.ac.wwu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is a computer-based test administered by appointment. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Preliminary scores available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days. Testing takes about one and a half hours.

LOT RESERVATIONS. • Lot 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. May 17 for those attending the WWU Retirement Association dinner; • Lots 6V, 11G and 14G will be reserved at 5 p.m. May 18 for those attending performances of *The Cider House Rules* and an alumni dinner.

NOW HIRING STUDY SKILLS TUTOR. The Tutorial and Academic Skills Center is looking for a student with strong academic skills who enjoys working with people. The position starts fall quarter. Applications and other information are available in OM 387, X/3855, or www.wwu.edu/depts/tutorialcenter. Application deadline is Friday, May 20.

BIOLOGY SEMINAR. Dan Udovic, Center for Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Oregon, "Population Dynamics of an Obligate Pollination Mutualism: *Hesperoyucca whipplei* and its Floral Associates," 4 p.m. May 25, BI 212. Refreshments, 3:50 p.m.

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

WEST-B TEST. Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on basic skills assessment by the application deadline. See www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample questions. Test date: July 9. Registration deadline is several weeks in advance.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Beginning in September, Washington requires anyone seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area. For a description and registration information, see www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html. Registration bulletins also are available in MH 216.

THE REMAINING WEST-E PRAXIS TEST DATE for this academic year is June 11. This test will not be administered at Western; check www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for location and registration information.

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS ARE OFFERED through the Counseling Center spring quarter: • Relaxation Training, 4 p.m. Thursdays, OM 540, drop-ins welcome for one or all sessions; • Riding the Emotional Wave, 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, OM 540, drop-in group; • Learning to Live with a Family Member's Chronic Illness, 4 p.m. Mondays, registration required. For more information, to register or to learn about other groups, stop by OM 540 or call X/3164.

THE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING IS HOSTING two informational meetings on Tuesday, May 17 to discuss staff position opportunities for the 2005-06 academic year. The meetings will be in VU 462B at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Questions may be addressed to Kristi Slette at X/7518, Kristi.Slette@wwu.edu.

Employers On Campus

For complete and updated information, including locations and deadlines, visit www.career.wwu.edu or stop by OM 280.

KVIK: Department will create commercials for student centers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of competition, and Western does not offer a department that can help students learn hands-on knowledge in the television business. This includes working behind the camera on production, such as filming, editing and directing, as well as acting in front of the camera.

KVIK offers a place for students to network with media professionals in town and become involved with the television industry, Cook said.

"If we are able to do what we intend and start growing, this department can turn over to paid positions," Acosta said.

The new production department will combine three public relations teams and one creative team. The teams will perform public relations work by finding clients, such as Comcast representatives, and they will learn to make connections with people working in television in Bellingham and promote their ideas. Along with the public relations team, a creative team will create, compose and edit commercials and storyboards for the department, Cook said.

The AS board of directors task force, which monitors KVIK's production, agreed with the new department idea last quarter, and is working on KVIK's future endeavors with the promotion department and the AS events and activities for next year, Acosta said.

"The AS is not as visible to students as it should be," Acosta said. "This is a really cool way to add footage of events and activities to all of AS as a whole."

Michael Vendiola, Ethnic Student Center coordinator and activity adviser, said the new promotional department is an asset to Western's programs and clubs because it will spread information to help the clubs grow.

"This promo department is a great idea," Vendiola said. "This shows the great evolution of what KVIK is trying to represent — professional and high-quality media work."

The station is working with the Ethnic Student Center on two projects — filming a 30-second promotional commercial explaining the centers' services, and recording its award ceremony for its members this month, Vendiola said.

"The promo department is integral to building KVIK and could be a big part for them in the future," Acosta said. "This gives an opportunity to both students and KVIK."

Border: Officers look for defining features of fake items

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

people continue to risk bringing them into this country."

Giuliano also shares surveillance and intelligence information with the ports of entry, where port officials inspect vehicles and passengers crossing the border.

Mike Milne, 52, is the press contact for the Seattle service port, which collaborates with the Sumas, Lynden and Blaine ports to stop potentially dangerous people and illegal goods from crossing into the United States.

"Our number one job is to keep terrorists out of this country," Milne said. "We also work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to keep drugs, illegal aliens and counterfeit goods out."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is a division of the Department of Homeland Security.

Milne described a three-pronged system he said has helped U.S. Customs and Border Protection slow illegal trafficking of goods across the border. The prongs are more staff, more advanced technology, and more efficient information and intelligence systems.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection intercepts approximately 25 to 40 shipments of marijuana per year at the border between Washington and British Columbia, though the inside involvement of a border officer is rare, Giuliano said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection works closely with supervisory import specialists such as Shelly Wise, 45, who works at the Pacific Highway

Marijuana seizure statistics	
(Blaine area: Blaine, Sumas, Lynden and Point Roberts)	
Year	Amount seized (pounds)
2000	4,984
2001	5,227
2002	9,319
2003	11,590
2004	6,183

Statistics courtesy of Seattle service port

truck crossing. Import specialists work to protect U.S. companies and consumers from counterfeit goods that do not sell at market value or meet federal regulations.

Commonly intercepted goods include DVDs, video games and textiles such as clothes and purses, Wise said. Fake Oakley sunglasses and Rolex watches, subsequently nicknamed "Foakelys" and "Folexes," also are popular counterfeits.

"We try to protect (intellectual property rights) and make sure that commercial importations are safe, legal and meet regulations," Wise said.

Intellectual property rights include copyrights, trademarks and trade names, Wise said. She works with attorneys from corporations that have had goods counterfeited to protect

the quality and reputation of U.S.-regulated products.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized nearly \$140 billion in counterfeit goods in 2004, an 11.6 percent increase from 2003, according to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection annual report.

"There is often a defining feature we look for to see if a good is counterfeit," Wise said, citing a recent shipment of fake Cabbage Patch dolls that did not have belly buttons.

The import specialists separate into three teams: technology, chemicals, and textiles and agriculture, Wise said.

The teams rely on an extensive computer database to target suspected counterfeiters, and they often receive anonymous tips.

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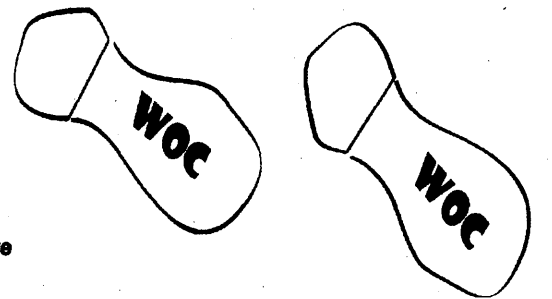
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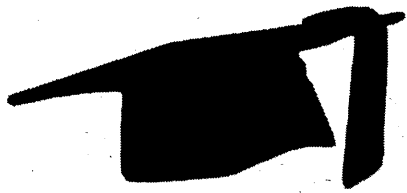
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Life after

graduation

A closer look at popular majors

Education

BY SARAH KUCK
The Western Front

Miss Kleinert extended the pages of the book and panned it slowly from left to right for the half-circle of cross-legged second-graders gathered around her.

Although Jennifer Kleinert is a student at Western, the staff and pupils at Geneva Elementary School in the Bellingham School District regard her as a teacher.

"I see her as a colleague, as a peer — not as a student teacher," said Stacy McColl, a second-grade teacher whom Kleinert interns for at Geneva Elementary.

McColl — amid a sea of construction-paper flowers and traced hand cut outs — said she graduated from Western in 1998.

Kleinert said she came to Western because of its reputation for teaching and said she feels the department has fulfilled that reputation.

Kleinert is a senior majoring in interdisciplinary child development, which is a major offered through Woodring College of Education specifically for students in elementary education. Elementary education is an endorsement to her major, she said. An endorsement signifies the subject area in which the university has prepared and authorized the student to teach in.

"What is important to realize is that there is no such thing as an education major," said Suzanne Krogh, elementary education department chair at Woodring.

Western's elementary education program is one part of Woodring. Students in the program must major in an academic subject and complete the education courses in the elementary sequence, Krogh said.

For example, Kleinert is majoring in child development, which is 45 credits, and completing the 90 credits Woodring requires for the elementary education program.

"My best fit is with primary

students," Kleinert said. "You see positive gains so often, and it's really encouraging to know that you're making a difference. Plus, they are hilarious. Your day can never be too serious."

Kleinert said she has been an intern at Geneva Elementary since the middle of March. Even though she graduates from Western in the spring, Kleinert said she plans to stay at Geneva Elementary until the school year ends for the children June 24.

Upon completing the program, she will have earned a Washington State Residency Teaching Certificate and a kindergarten through eighth-grade elementary education endorsement.

Bellingham school districts have told the education department they enjoy having Western students to choose from in their hiring pools, Krogh said.

The education department is preparing to undergo some changes. Currently, approximately 160 students per year graduate from the education department, but Krogh said the department is going to decrease that number.

"For a number of years, we could report that 90 percent of students could get a job after graduation," Krogh said. "In the past couple of years that number has been closer to 50 percent."

Krogh explained the reasons for the decrease as twofold. First, teachers are not retiring as quickly as the department expected, and second, the department needs to increase the job-placement rate to benefit students.

"We have an ethical responsibility to ensure that our students will have a job when they graduate," Krogh said. "Starting this fall, we will take far fewer students — probably 100 a year."

The new program will not be entirely different. Some change will occur in the practicum experiences, which are similar to mini-internships. These practicum experiences allow students to take what they are learning in their program's classes and apply it

in the elementary and middle-school classrooms where they are teaching, Krogh said.

Kleinert said she completed her practicum in Skagit and Whatcom County school districts.

Starting in the fall, professors will observe practicum experiences their students are involved in. Professors will be able to spend more time in the classroom with

classroom."

Karen Hoelscher, elementary education professor for Woodring, said she agrees with the department's decision to decrease enrollment in the elementary education program because the student-teacher ratio was not producing the highest possible combination of direct attention from professors and direct

"And they realize that these are the years in a child's life where all of the building blocks are being shaped and put into place. The challenge grabs the people who are meant to be elementary teachers."

Kleinert said her advice for those in the program or thinking of entering the program is to take classes seriously and to spend

Cold Hard Numbers

Number of students accepted into the elementary education program at Woodring in the 2004-2005 school year: 160

Number of students to be accepted at Woodring starting fall 2005: 100

Number of students in the elementary education program who received their residency certificate fall 2003 – summer 2004: 324

Total number of students in all programs (elementary, secondary and special) combined who received their residency certificate fall 2003 – summer 2004: 555

Salary of students graduating with a bachelor's degree in education: \$30,023

Average salary of a Western graduate with a bachelor's degree: \$29,880

Statistics courtesy of Western's Office of Field Experiences

the Woodring students. This will allow Western's professors to remain aware of the experience students are having in schools, Krogh said.

"In education there is always change; we rarely get to teach the same thing the same way," Krogh said. "It's a good thing, but it can be exhausting. It's both exhilarating and exhausting."

Krogh said her favorite part of her job is seeing students mature and develop into enthusiastic and competent teachers.

"They come in as thinking of themselves as students, and they leave knowing that they are professional," Krogh said. "And that is so exciting."

Teachers have to prepare children to do well on standardized tests and remain creative, which can be a difficult but accomplishable task, Krogh said.

"We do our best to prepare our students as beginning teachers," Krogh said. "But it still takes several years of practice for people to feel comfortable in the

experience in the classroom.

Woodring's program attracts students because it offers early and continuous experiences in classroom settings, increased time in the schools, and compatible partnerships in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Hoelscher said.

"We draw a lot of people who really want to make a difference in a child's life," Hoelscher said.

as much time around children as possible.

"Take advantage of as many practicum opportunities as you can; volunteer and tutor," Kleinert said. "The more experience you have with children, the better teacher you'll be. Get into a classroom. Really see what teaching is like, not just what you remember."

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Reality: An alumna's point of view

BY SARAH KUCK
The Western Front

Western alumna Denise Bentley sat in a pint-size plastic desk chair as she glued pictures of smiling first-graders to a piece of orange construction paper.

Bentley graduated from Western in winter 2003 with a bachelor's degree in special education with a kindergarten through eighth-grade elementary education endorsement. An endorsement signifies the subject area in which the university has prepared and authorized the student to teach. Bentley

also earned a Washington State Residency Teaching Certificate. The state issues residency certificates to new Washington state teachers according to performance-based standards. Birchwood Elementary School, in the Bellingham School District, hired Bentley shortly after graduation.

"Coming out of school you are more highly regarded with a dual certification," Bentley said. "Your ability to teach at any level makes it easier to get a job."

Western special education professors teach their students how to develop educational plans for children with learning disabilities and ways to focus on behavior management. Bentley said having more knowledge about all learning levels increases what a teacher can do in a general education classroom.

Bentley said she has always wanted to become an elementary teacher.

"The fact that they like learning and like being here is rewarding," Bentley said. "First grade is really where things start to click."

A Bellingham native, Bentley said Woodring College of Education's teaching credentials are well-known throughout the school district and state.

"Woodring and the Bellingham School District work together and align the program with what the district is looking for," Bentley said. "It's kind of like being a lawyer and going to Harvard."

Bentley said she completed four practicum experiences and two student internships, in

which she was able to get ample experience in classrooms. The internships allowed her to act as a student teacher for a longer period of time than the practicum experiences. She worked at Kulshan Middle School and Evergreen Elementary School, among others, for her practicum experiences.

Practicum experiences are comparable to mini-internships. Woodring students are able to teach one subject in local kindergarten through eighth-grade classrooms, usually two days per week or multiple half-days during a quarter. Practicum experiences let students implement what they are learning in their classes at Western, she said.

Bentley said she completed practicum experiences in general studies, science, math and literacy in elementary and middle-school classrooms at Sedro-Woolley, Lynden and Bellingham schools.

Only two practicum experiences and one internship are required, however, the department recommends doing as many of either that a student can.

The lectures and homework prepare students to an extent, but the most beneficial experience is when aspiring teachers are able to teach children, Bentley said.

"A lot of the information you are learning makes sense, but there were a lot of people who struggled," Bentley said. "I wouldn't say it's nuclear physics, but it is a lot of work, and it's time-consuming with paperwork and lesson plans."

Bentley said some think teaching is easy, but she feels that is not true.

"You become a parent in charge of 20 kids for the majority of the day," she said.

Bentley said the job is more demanding than she had thought, especially in the first year because of all the materials a new teacher has to create. During her first year at Birchwood Elementary, Bentley said she spent approximately 12 hours a day at the school.

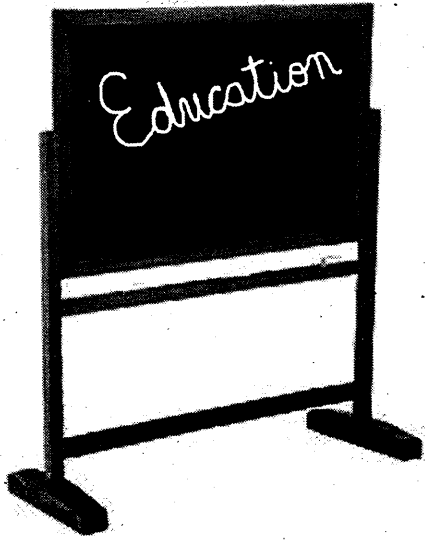
"You have to produce everything you're going to do," Bentley said.

After graduating, teachers have seven years to obtain their professional certificate in order to maintain their teaching certification. Bentley will go back to school to earn her professional certificate and also hopes to get her master's degree at Western in curriculum and instruction next year.

Bentley said Western students who are in the elementary program should take note of any teaching tools, lesson plans or bulletin boards they might want to use in the future. They should keep a collection because those are the things new teachers do not want to have to re-invent later, Bentley said.

She said her advice to those interested in teaching is to make lessons entertaining and not be afraid to make mistakes while learning how to be a teacher.

"Make as many mistakes as possible while in the experience because it is the only way you're going to learn," Bentley said.



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Juggling: Weekend festival teaches the fundamentals and provides entertainment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a marimba band from Orcas Island. The band members play the marimba by striking the instrument's wooden bars with a mallet.

The show featured Bellingham juggling groups Nobody's Fools, the Mud Bay Jugglers and the Juggling Jollies.

Taylor also taught the basics of juggling balls to students, such as Western sophomore Steven Parker and Western senior Jessica Armstrong, who stopped by the festival and wanted to learn how to juggle for the first time.

"It is a slow process, but a fun one," Armstrong said. "There is lots of giggling and lots of dropping."

It takes a long time before people feel comfortable juggling, Taylor said.

"I don't know if I'll ever accomplish it, but it was fun trying," Parker said.

The easiest way to learn to juggle is to start with one ball, then move to two, and once the juggler feels comfortable, they add a third ball, Taylor said.

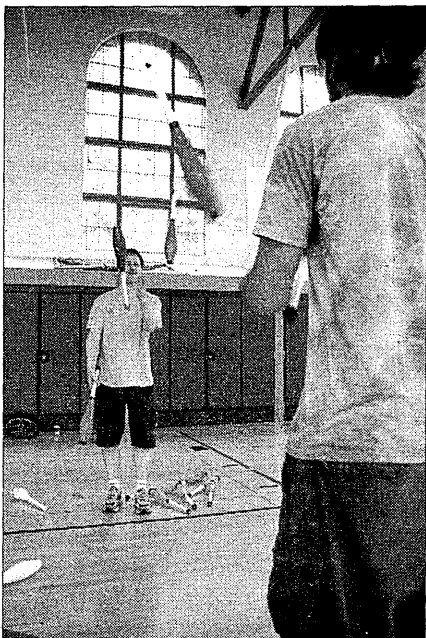
"Ninety percent of juggling is spent picking things up," he said.

The club began planning the festival six months ago, said River Mitchell, 25, Bellingham Juggling Club member.

Members of the club have participated in juggling festivals in Victoria, B.C., Seattle, Portland, Ore., and Lopez Island, said Collin Topolski, Western graduate student and club president.

"Juggling festivals are all over the place," Topolski said. "Bellingham needed a festival, too."

The Associated Students paid \$320 of



CHRIS HUBER/The Western Front Western junior Amiel Martin and Issaquah resident Marcel VanDerHolst, 34, practice juggling Sunday in Carver Gym D as part of the Bellingham Juggling Festival.

the \$380 cost of the festival because the juggling club is an AS club, as well as a community juggling club, said Mitchell. Costs comprise rental of the gym, usage of the Maritime Heritage Park amphitheater and advertising.

The juggling club meets at 6 p.m. every Monday on the Old Main lawn or in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room if it is raining.

During the summer the club practices at Boulevard Park. The club has attendance of up to 30 people at practice.

Union: Salary of Western faculty thousands of dollars lower than unionized professors' earnings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as eligible for joining a union, excluding the other groups from a chance to have a right to voice concerns in unionization efforts, he said.

"I think that it's a little bit unfortunate the administration hasn't chosen to embrace letting faculty choose for themselves," Lyne said.

Garfinkle said he sees the division and the prevention of faculty from joining a union as a way of undermining the position of faculty members.

Engineering technology professor Jeff Newcomer said he is opposed to the formation of a union.

"I don't think this is a good idea because I really don't think that any of the benefits that people are talking about are supported by evidence," Newcomer said.

Collaborative access, when faculty members collectively voice an opinion provides benefits valuable to most faculty, Garfinkle said.

First, are the economic benefits. Western faculty members earn a significantly lower salary than the national average, Garfinkle said.

On average, the faculty on Western's campus makes approximately \$4,500 less compared to professors at schools with union membership, he said, citing evidence from the National Education Association of Higher Education Almanac.

In the 2004-2005 academic year, Western professors made an average of \$68,350, associate professors made an average of \$55,450 and assistant professors made an average of \$48,300, Garfinkle said.

While the salaries are lacking, the quality of professors at Western is exceptional, Garfinkle said. He said one of the most important goals of a university is to recruit and retain the best faculty possible.

"The lower income has a direct impact on the ability of the university to fulfill its mission of serving the needs of the state — That is recruiting and retaining the best faculty possible," Garfinkle said. "We can better achieve this by offering a better salary."

Shared governance is another benefit the faculty is looking forward to, Garfinkle said. Historically, faculty members have played a role in the governance of the institution, such as deciding class size, he said.

Newcomer said the cost of living has an influence on salaries, not unionization. Base salaries are adjusted to compensate for cost of living, he said. Faculty unionization happens to be

higher in areas with a higher cost of living, Newcomer said.

"I really worry that people who think this is a good idea don't have a firm grasp of the legal issues," he said.

Newcomer said he worries the formation of a union could lead the faculty to have less of an influence rather than more, and to risk losing something to which they already are entitled.

The professors are not seeking a new or larger role, Garfinkle said, just seeking to restore the ability of faculty to directly participate in the future of the university.

"The faculty are directly responsible for carrying out the mission of the university," Garfinkle said. "That is, educating students."

I think that it's a bit unfortunate the administration hasn't chosen to embrace letting faculty choose for themselves.

BILL LYNE
English professor

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FEATURES

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 7

Strange days

Officers arrest suspected human skinners

Tanzanian police arrested two men on suspicion of allegedly killing a 9-year-old boy and selling his skin for 20,000 shillings, \$18, to make charms, a senior police officer said Friday.

Police officers said they arrested Martin Kalunga, 25, and his associate Nico Benson, 31, Tuesday in Lilwa village in southern Tanzania after neighbors overheard Benson accusing Kalunga of plotting with their buyer to skin him as well.

The identity of the buyer was unclear.

"During interrogation, Martin confessed that they were both skinners and that they had skinned a boy in Mbozi six months ago," said Suleiman Kova, police commander for the southern Mbeya region. "They then threw his body into the river Jianga."

Kova said police expected to charge the pair once they had

completed investigating the identity of the victim, whose remains are still missing.

He said he was not aware of any report of a missing child who would match the description the suspects gave, but police officers were still making inquiries.

Witch doctors use human skins to make charms or potions in order to make their users rich, especially in southern Tanzania, renowned as a center for traditional sorcery.

Police officials said the once rampant practice has decreased significantly in recent years because of tougher action by the authorities, describing this as the first suspected skinning case in southern Tanzania since April 2004.

Faculty regrets dog dissection

Faculty of a Salt Lake City, Utah high school expressed regret Thursday for the vivisection of a stray dog as part of a biology lesson.

Some parents and students complained after a substitute biology teacher at Gunnison Valley High School took eight girls, ages 16 and 17, to a local veterinary clinic Tuesday to watch abdominal dissection on a dog under general anesthetic.

The teacher intended for the lesson to teach students about the digestive system.

"This shouldn't happen again," said Donald Hill, assistant superintendent of the South Sanpete School District. "Our schools will not participate in this again. We don't condone this."

Veterinarian Tom Anderson said the reporter of local television stations and newspapers blew the event out of proportion.

The school officials said they received permission from parents of the students, and two students had exercised their right to opt out of the visit.

The action, if any, taken against the substitute teacher, who has not been named, is still unclear.

Authors imitate reality television

Three New York authors are living in boxes in a Queens, New York art gallery for a month on display to the public as they each try to write a novel in what the public has called publishing world's equivalent of reality TV.

The art project, called "Novel: A Living Installation," is a 30-day literary experiment The New York Times has already denounced as "trivializing the nature of writing."

Morgan Meis, who devised the project, freely admits "there's a gimmicky side" to it, but he said he has no shame being compared to reality television.

"There's a certain attitude of art to popular culture that's pretty adversarial, and I don't take it that way," he said.

He insists the task is a serious project to produce quality fiction and explore the idea of writing as performance.

"If this was a reality TV show

we'd be pushing them into conflict and fighting and having sex with each other," Meis said.

An art collective, Flux Factory, set up the project in a warehouse in the borough of Queens.

For the writers to live and work in the home, architects and designers created three studio pods — an indoor "tree-house" with grass on the roof, a high-tech Japanese-style angular box with rice paper walls, and an open-plan space made of boxes and movable walls.

The authors can move around by hoisting up with ropes and pulleys.

The writers may use the roof terrace and other areas within the gallery for only 90 minutes a day, as long as they clock out on time cards.

There are no locks on the doors but the authors are encouraged to remain in the building at all times and refrain from leaving

Compiled by Sarah Kuck

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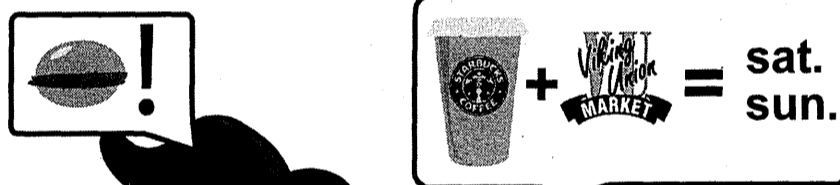
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TRADITION

Bellingham tea sellers add history and

BY SEAN MCGROREY
The Western Front

Western junior Diana Kitching's friends call her the tea lady for good reason.

She aspires to drink at least 10 cups per day, grows her own herbs for herbal teas, uses a thermometer to steep her teas at temperatures that do not ruin their taste, and sometimes she brings a teapot to share with other students in her Fairhaven College human ecology class. A cupboard in her Bellingham apartment smells of jasmine, citrus and spice from more than 50 varieties of loose-leaf tea. Their exotic names roll off the tongue — Pai Mu Tan, Rooibos Tiramisu, Superior Jade Oolong and Yerba Maté, to name a few.

"If I don't get at least eight cups of tea a day, I'm suffering," Kitching said.

Her love of teas, however, is more than a mere addiction. She uses her teas to meet the challenges of school and work and to savor the rewards of her day. Many students might react with surprise at all the flavors and properties of teas and at how conveniently they can make their own teas for purposes such as waking up, falling asleep or just enjoying a moment.

Friends can indulge in English tea and scones together at the local Abbey Garden Tea Room or talk books at a meeting of Western's tea club, Tao Tea Transients.

"Just the experience of drinking the tea as the sun comes up in the morning is very relaxing and just knowing the tea is kick-starting my day," Kitching said.

Later, to keep perky at her construction job, she'll use her mug and strainer to make herself a few cups of black English breakfast tea.

"The Jade Oolong tea I have for special moments, like when I need to reward myself or for celebration," she said.

At Western, she might collect some hot water from Arntzen Atrium and sip her liquid jade on one of the grassy islands outside the building.

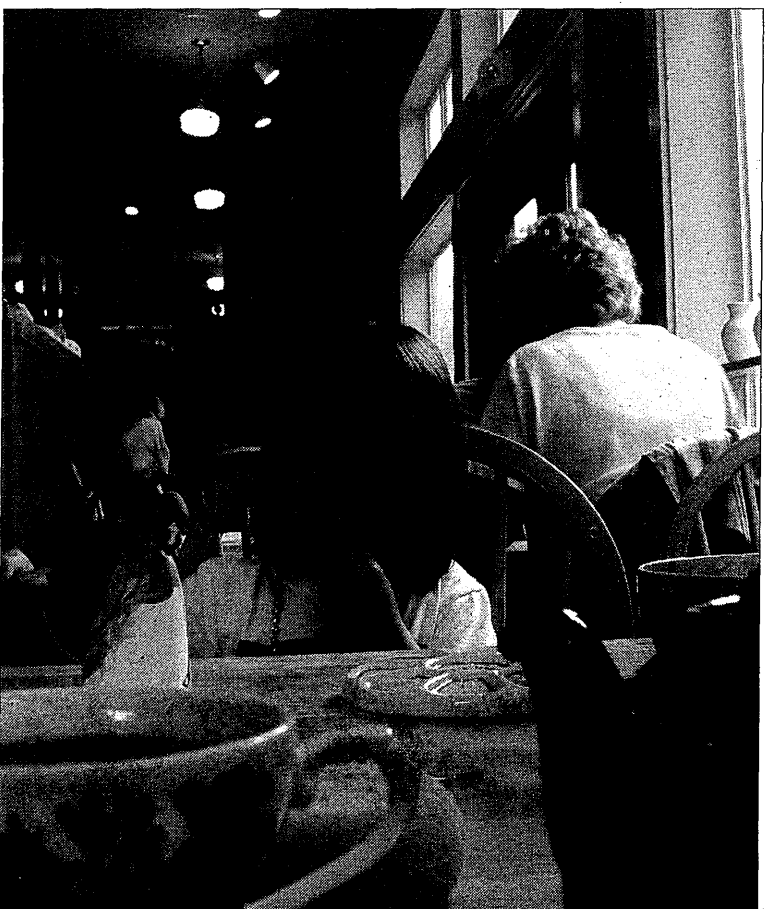
"There's a little cove there, and I'll drink my tea, and it's this total Zen moment for me sitting in the moss and surrounded by trees," she said.

If she needs to relieve stress and sleep at the end of the day, Kitching eschews caffeine-laden black teas and soaks lavender or chamomile in hot water.

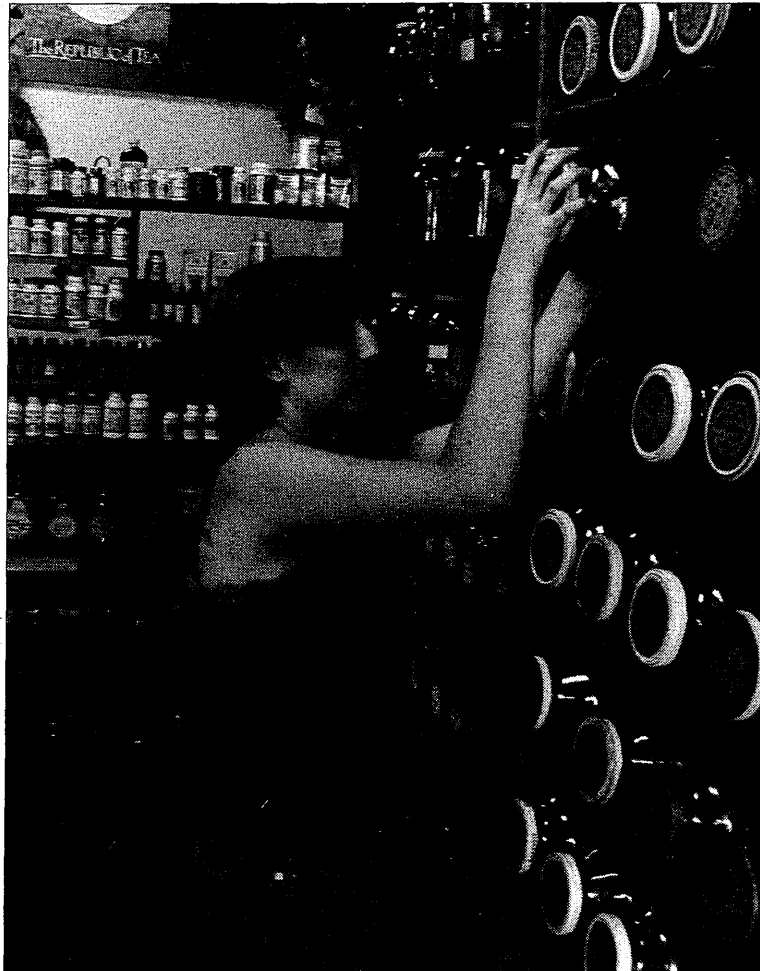
"For late-night study sessions, I'd say a good, dark, black tea, flavored or not, is a good thing to have by your side," she said. "People I think a lot of times don't realize how many teas there are and how many tastes they cater to."

Tea in the family

Roasted Yerba Maté, a Latin American herb, has a strong, bitter taste similar to that of coffee and cigarettes and would be ideal for someone trying to find a substitute for smoking. Someone who relishes sushi could drink the white tea Pai Mu Tan, which naturally has the delicate, salty taste similar to that of nori seaweed. For someone with a sweet tooth, the desert tea Rooibos



SEAN MCGROREY/The Western Front
Bellingham resident Lilah Blum, 4, joined her mother Wendy to paint in the CreativiTea Pottery Painting Studio and Tea Bar, April 7.



SEAN MCGROREY/The Western Front
Wonderland Herbs, Teas and Spices worker Terra Quintana selects a jar of chamomile April 7 in the downtown Bellingham shop.

Tiramisu creates a cider-colored liquor with flavors of chocolate, rum and nuts, Kitching said.

Western junior Tanvir Sidhu and his brother, Bellingham resident Mandev Sidhu, 23, helped make sense of the great variety of teas, a variety some at tearooms compare to that of wine, as songs sung in Hindi played in the background of the Spice Hut, their family's store. The Spice Hut sells more than 140 loose-leaf teas.

"Any time there's a little bit of tea plant in it, it's not herbal tea anymore; it's tea," Mandev Sidhu said.

Herbal teas, also known by experts as herbal tisanes, are distilled by tea-makers entirely from roots, bark, berries or fruits, or from leaves of plants such as Kitching's lemon balm. Most are caffeine-free.

Rooibos, a red tea, is the "up-and-coming tea," said Western sophomore Reed Harvey, who worked from October 2003 to March 2004 at the Market Spice shop in Pike Place Market in Seattle.

He said many people came to the shop after hearing reports that the cider-colored, naturally apple-flavored tisane, distilled from the bark of a South African bush, has no caffeine and has even more antioxidants than green tea.

The Sidhu brothers explained that the four different types of true tea — white, green, oolong and black — come from the same bush, *Camellia sinensis*, which people first cultivated in Asia more than 4,000 years ago.

"The difference is in the processing," Tanvir Sidhu said.

As a rule, the more highly processed the tea leaves, the stronger the taste, the fewer the antioxidants and the higher the caffeine content.

White teas such as Pai Mu Tan do not go through processing other than some steaming and drying, Tanvir Sidhu said. The light yellow-green liquor distilled from white teas has slightly more caffeine than decaffeinated tea and such a light taste that someone might want to add two teaspoons per cup of water instead of the usual one teaspoon for most teas.

"White tea is really a specialty tea, too," Tanvir Sidhu said. "(Almost) no processing. (White tea) has tons of antioxidants because it doesn't lose anything. It's still in its purest form."

Green tea is slightly more processed than white tea. After workers pick and dry its leaves, they heat the leaves to give them an earthy taste.

"There are a lot of vitamins and antioxidants, and they're low in caffeine, too," Tanvir Sidhu said.

Tea makers lay out black teas, the most heavily processed of all teas, and expose them to air until they are completely oxidized, turning black just as sliced apples turn brown in the air.

Black teas have the highest caffeine content of all teas. Breakfast teas, in particular, can have a bitter and astringent taste that leaves the tongue feeling rough, much like coffee.

"Black tea would be the best way to switch," Mandev Sidhu said, if someone were a big coffee drinker.

Oolong teas, only allowed to oxidize partially before heating arrests the process, inhabit a twilight zone between green teas and the fully oxidized

black teas.

"So it kinda has the character of tea," Mandev Sidhu said.

Oolongs such as Formosa Oolong consistency of black tea and a consistency analysis.

"There's a lot going on in the cu

The brothers explained that tea upon the climate and the soil of the grows. Many teas such as Darjeeling from the regions in which they

They also said that after tea's i shop owners can create further such as jasmine or roses, fruits s as mint or cardamom.

"It's much easier, especially if y fruit-flavor tea," Tanvir Sidhu said.

They said their shop sells loose- to make approximately 20 cups of discount after showing their studen

An old

People who want to experie can stop by the Abbey Garden Tea As customers enter the tearoom, th had entered pastry country, and a n background. Comfortable seating two to four people.

"When you're in Britain and you're going to drink tea," said "It's a meal."

Whinfrey named her Afternoon traditionally ate at 4 p.m., and sh p.m. dinner of British workmen. to \$16.95, and most come with a s include pastries, tea cookies and

For \$3.95 a customer can enjo jam and a dollop of Devon cream promptly in a brown pot covered b

"We're not Victorian," Whinfre lot of things that to me are an Ame We're more like a neighborhood t

Western graduate Wendy Bluu Garden April 7 for what she called daughter Lilah.

As she painted a mug yellow an she said she usually comes to enj tea, which she savors for its sooth

"It's unique for Bellingham," s different feel from a coffee house.

With the right implements, stu their own dorm rooms.

Western freshman Amanda T herself in less than two minutes us

Kitching emphasized how cor loose-leaf teas at school by buying water from the campus markets o

Thiel-Setterberg, who grows he Fairhaven Residence Hall, said n as well as the chest congestion sn

She said she also makes her ow balm, chamomile and catnip.

"It helps a lot to fall asleep and said.

Western has one active tea cl Western freshman Calvin Laa discussion.

"I feel like it gets me over the h books for an hour or so," he said.

Laatsch said each Wednesday a dozen students gather to drink tea from bands such as Pink Floyd.

"Sometimes what we'll do is w a quote or pick a word that we th whole idea is never to do it the sa

"Tea, I think it comes in so ma kind of a warming thing," Laatsch everyone enjoys."

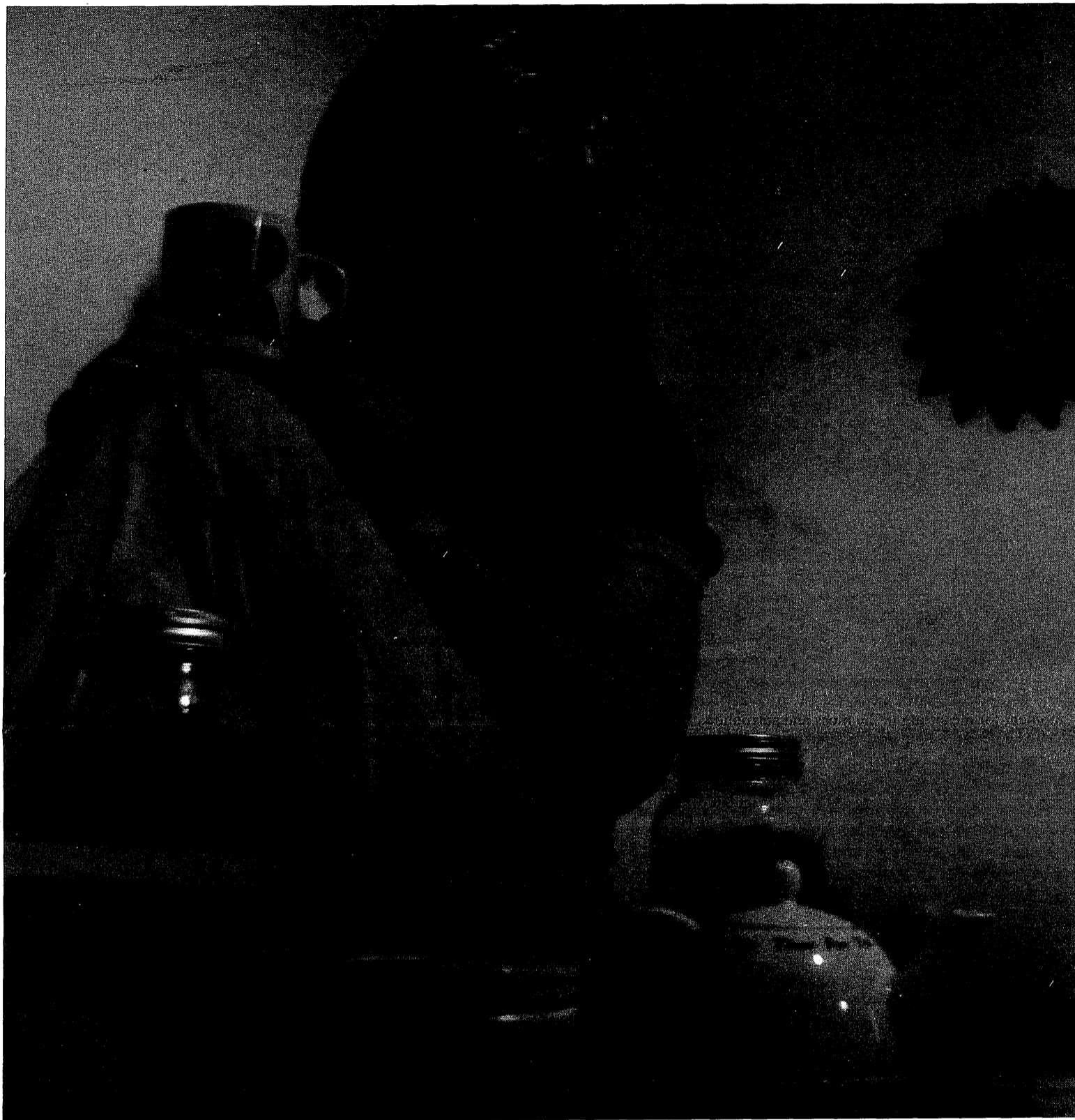
IN A TEA CUP

From traditional heritage to pots of herbal infusions

of green tea and the body of a black
 um Taiwan have the full, unvarying
 ex woody or nutty taste that defies
 anvir Sidhu said.
 ded into further varieties depending
 ation, called a garden, where the tea
 ssam and Ceylon derive their names
 processing, manufacturers and tea
 ties by blending in dried flowers,
 s orange peel, or dried herbs such
 not used to tea, to try your favorite
 for \$3 to \$5 per two ounces, enough
 Western students receive a 10 percent
 d.

ioned cup
 English-style tea for a modest price
 m in the Fairhaven Historic District.
 ma of butter and sugar indicate they
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 lable on a walk-in basis at tables for
 le have tea, it doesn't just mean
 ey Garden owner Anne Whinfrey,
 deal after the light meal some Britons
 ned her High Tea meal after the 6
 ea meals range in price from \$7.95
 a pot of tea and fresh fruit, and can
 yiches.
 Abbey Garden scone with raspberry
 \$2.95 someone can order tea served
 a cozy.
 "We're not fussy and we don't do a
 zed fantasy version of what tea was.
 n."
 the studio located above Abbey
 l's morning out" with her 4-year-old
 h painted a ceramic princess purple,
 bey Garden's Monk's Prayer herbal
 vors of peppermint and chamomile.
 d. "It's really calm ... gives you a

brew
 also can enjoy tea on campus or in
 rberg said she can boil water for
 \$10 electric water kettle.
 ntly students can make their own
 ainer that fits in a mug and using hot
 erias.
 herbs in the Outback Farm south of
 pint is effective against indigestion,
 ggling with from her cold.
 al tisane by heating pinches of lemon
 eally good sleep," Thiel-Setterberg
 campus, Tao Tea Transients, which
 e created for song, fun and book
 a hard week just to chill out and talk
 m. in Viking Union 425, nearly one
 k their minds and play guitar songs
 st randomly open up books and say
 as some importance," he said. "The
 y twice."
 rieties, and I think warm drinks are
 "It's just such a universal drink that



SEAN MCGROREY/The Western Front
 Western junior Diana Kitching proudly displays her stash of loose-leaf teas and tea paraphernalia April 6 in her Bellingham apartment. She said she has nearly 50 varieties of tea.

Tea table: A guide to delicious hot beverages

	Steep times, temp.	Percent caffeine/drip coffee*	Taste
White:	5-7 minutes, 180 degrees	9.1	light, similar to "nori"
Green tea:	3 minutes, 180 degrees	12	earthy or leafy
Oolong:	7 minutes, boiling	18	nutty or woody
Black:	5 minutes, boiling	30	strong and bitter
Rooibos:	6 minutes, boiling	0	slightly apple
Dried herbs:	7 minutes, boiling	0	varies
Fresh herbs:	7 minutes, 190 degrees	0	varies

* Percentages are approximate. Caffeine content depends on steeping time, water temperature and amount of tea used

Sources: Western junior Diana Kitching and the Spice Hut. Infographic by Matt DeVeau

SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2005 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 10

Men's golf on par with national championships

BY DEVIN SMART
The Western Front

After an up and down season, Western's men's golf team is going to the NCAA Division II National Championship with confidence, Western head coach Steve Card said.

The 72-hole national championship will take place May 17-20 at The Club at Savannah Harbor in Savannah, Ga. Western, ranked No. 3 in the country, is making its third consecutive appearance at the national championship. The team finished ninth last year and 11th in 2003.

"At times we have played under our expectations this year," Card said. "At times we've played above our expectations. But right now, I think our team is coming together."

Western earned an automatic bid to the championship by winning the West Regional May 4 at Dakota Dunes Country Club in North Sioux City, S.D.

"After winning at the West Regional we've got a lot of confidence going into the national championship," Card said.

The team's top five golfers will represent Western at the national championship.

Western junior Tim Feenstra, who led the team in scoring average with 72.9, will go along with Western junior Luke Bennett, who averaged 73; Western senior Josh Immordino, who averaged 73.6; Western sophomore Stu Bell, who averaged 75.5; and Western senior Chris Anderson, who averaged 75.7.

"All the players are playing well right now," Card said. "I wouldn't say there is one player I am counting on, and I would

say that is a good thing. You need all five players to play well to win the national championship."

Card said the talent and experience of his team are the reasons this year might be Western's best opportunity ever to win a national championship.

"There is nothing prohibiting us from playing our best and beating the other teams that are out there," he said.

The team did not change its routine during practice rounds leading up to the championship.

"I don't see any reason to do that," Card said. "What we've been doing all year long seems to be working. I don't want the players to get out of their routine or do anything too differently from what they've been doing all year long. I don't intend to treat this golf tournament any differently than we treat any other tournament we play in."

Immordino said he focused on mastering his short game during recent practices.

"If I miss a green, I want to be able to save par," he said.

Immordino also said this year's championship holds special importance to him.

"I am a senior, and this is my last chance at winning a national championship," he said. "I think this year is our best chance at winning."

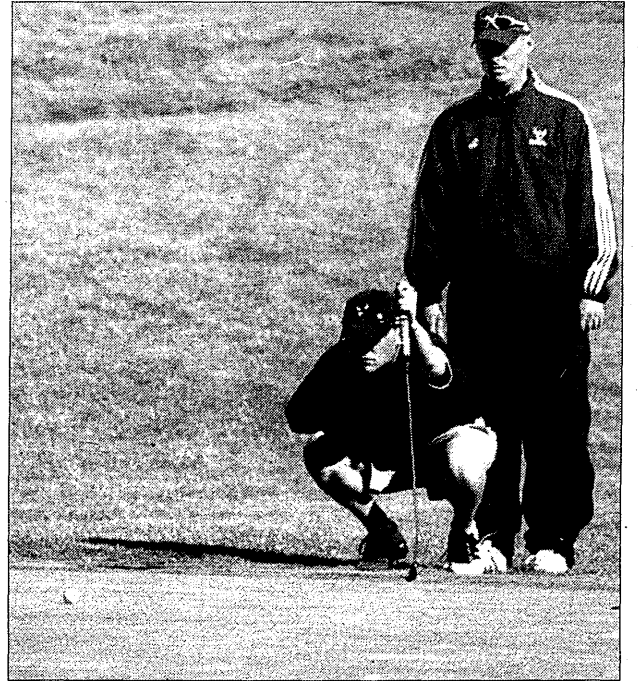
Feenstra said he fine-tuned some elements of his swing with PGA teaching professional Brett Eaton from Homestead Farms Golf Resort in Lynden, and Feenstra said he is satisfied with his game going into the championship.

"In the last month and a half I have been working on slowing my back-swing down and getting more on my toes," he said.

Feenstra said he is optimistic about what the team can do in

'I don't intend to treat this golf tournament any differently than we treat any other tournament we play in.'

STEVE CARD
Western head golf coach



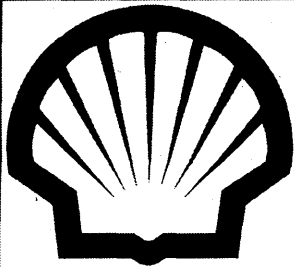
CHRIS TAYLOR/For The Western Front
Western senior Josh Immordino lines up a put on the 18th hole in September 2004 at Bellingham Golf and Country Club.

the championship after its season.

"We have had our bad rounds and our good rounds," he said. "But we're playing fine now, and that is all that matters. Our goal is to win the national championship, and we have our sights set on that."

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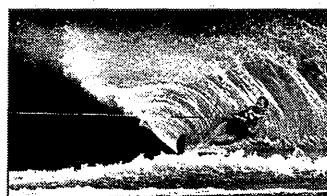
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Bellingham trails provide bliss for hikers

BY LEAH WEISSMAN
The Western Front

Fat drops of rain plunge from cedar branches and splash on hiker's heads and noses on the Baker River Trail near Sedro-Woolley. The constant drip of water hitting the succession of red and blue rain jackets falls in time with the sloshing of hiker's boots through mud. This is hiking in the Pacific Northwest.

"If you go to a park, it's manicured and safe," said Andrew Schweitzer, Western junior and president of Western's Ridge Runners Hiking Club. "But out there in the pristine wilderness it's uncontrolled. You have to dress for it, not the other way around. Nature doesn't accommodate for you."

Hikers in Bellingham can choose from a variety of trails that wind through wildflower fields to paths that reach into the rocky crests of snow-capped mountains. The rain forests on the coast, the Cascade Mountain Range to the west and deserts to the east provide plenty of hiking opportunities.

The Ridge Runners Hiking Club has been an Associated Students program for the past eight years and plays host to approximately three overnight camping trips per quarter, Schweitzer said. He said the goal of the club is to bring students off campus so together they can experience new environments such as glaciers, forests or mountains rather than just a school setting.

"Hiking clears my mind," Schweitzer said. "It puts things in perspective. You're on a ridge looking at Mount Baker and you realize getting stressed out about a test seems so unreasonable."

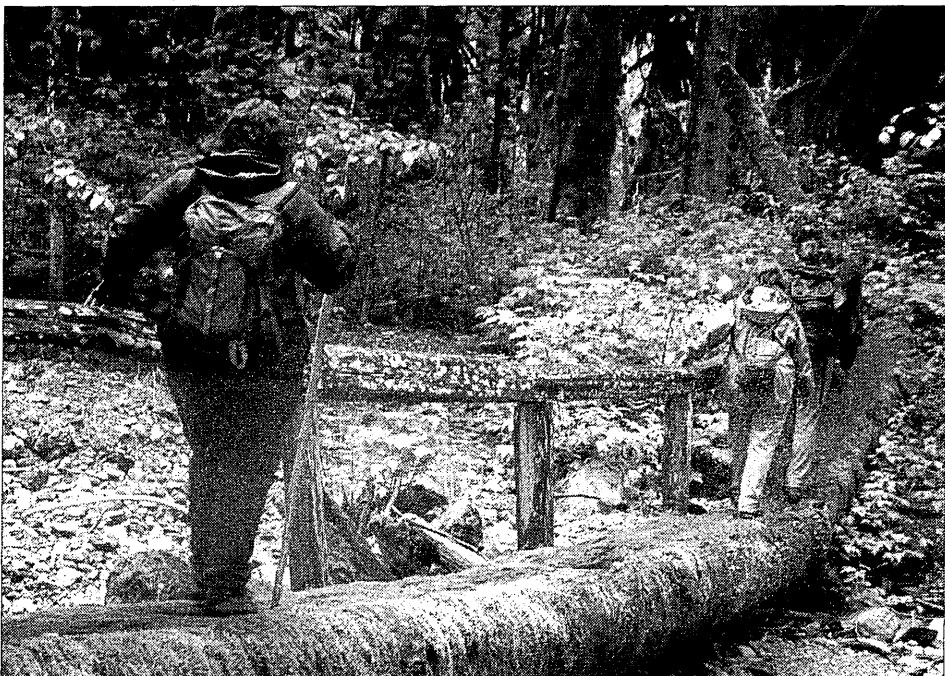
Rachel Lovellford, Western senior and event organizer for Western's Women in the Woods club, said she has hiked since she was 7 years old. While growing up in Enumclaw, her family did not have much money so vacations consisted of outdoor activities such as camping and backpacking.

"I enjoy the fact that nature is the one place people have no control," Lovellford said. "The times I've spent in the woods have exposed me to things that really matter in life — which don't include how much money I have in the bank or what clothes I wear."

Lovellford said Women in the Woods strives to introduce women to the riches the outdoors can offer. She said hiking encourages self-confidence and the ability to leave material things behind by allowing women to participate in outdoor activities.

"Hiking is tough," Lovellford said. "You're going uphill. You're walking through mud up to your ankles. You're breathing hard. It's hot and there's mosquitoes. Just like college, if you don't work your ass off, it's not worth it."

Mel Monkalis, 49, Bellingham resident and president of the Mount Baker Hiking Club, said he enjoys being outdoors. He said



LEAH WEISSMAN/The Western Front

Mount Vernon resident Heidi Nichols, 47, left, and Bellingham residents Kathy Rau, 53, and Marcia Pederson, 39, cross a wooden foot bridge Saturday on the Baker River Trail.

the Mount Baker Hiking Club has been in existence since 1911 and concentrates mostly on day hikes between 5-12 miles long.

"A friend once asked me who I admire," he said. "I had to think about it. And I told him it's not who I admire, it's what I admire — and I admire nature."

If hikers are interested in day hikes,

Schweitzer said Blanchard Mountain, located off Chuckanut Drive, is accessible and has a variety of different trails for both first-time walkers and experienced hikers. He said hikers can trek approximately 40 minutes up to the first hill on Blanchard Mountain and

see **HIKING**, page 12

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Hiking: Simplicity and dynamics of nature provide hikers with superb sights and stress relief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

watch hang-gliders launch off the side of the mountain with a clear view of the San Juan Islands and Chuckanut Bay.

"Hiking is a great stress reliever," Schweitzer said. "Which is pretty good for a college student who gets stressed out a lot."

Monkalis said one of his favorite places to take groups hiking is on Winchester Mountain, which is 20 miles past the Glacier Ranger Station on Mount Baker Highway. He said at the top of the mountain, approximately two miles above sea-level is a fire lookout, which firefighters once used to spot forest fires. The Mount Baker Hiking Club maintains the fire lookout and keeps it open year-round for hikers who want to spend the night in it, Monkalis said.

He said he also likes the simplicity of hiking. Getting away from a job, the city and the crowds, and seeing the beauty of a flowing river or a simple bullfrog is what hiking is all about.

"You're really dependent on yourself," Monkalis said. "There are no outside distractions. Like when you're camping, you worry about preparing food, finding firewood and having shelter. That's simplicity."

Lovellford said some of her favorite day hikes include the Bat Caves — approximately 10 miles south of Bellingham on Chuckanut Drive — and Lilly Lake and Chuckanut Ridge Trail. Converging trails off Chuckanut Drive lead hikers to both destinations.

"Lilly Lake is an easy hike, meaning it's not very steep," Lovellford said. "But I don't recommend swimming in the lake. I heard there's leeches in it. Plus it's kind of moldy and dark-looking."

She said the Chuckanut Ridge Trail is perfect for someone who does not spend much time in the woods because it gives hikers a chance to see ecosystems hikers would not normally see in a city setting, such as creeks and dry, forested areas.

"I really like seeing interactions between living and nonliving things," Lovellford said. "For instance, when trees fall and begin to decay, they provide shelter for rodents and nutrients for fungi."

Lovellford said the Bat Caves trail has a spectacular view of Chuckanut Bay, and if hikers get the timing right, watching the sunset is worth the dark hike back down the

trail in the dark.

"We're really lucky you know," Schweitzer said. "I have friends come visit me from colleges in other parts of the country, and they always say Bellingham is such an amazing place with so many opportunities to be active."

The Whatcom Council of Governments and organizations such as the Mt. Baker Foothills Economic Development Association are trying to implement a 74-mile Bay to Baker trail. Monkalis said the trail would start at Bellingham Bay and meander up to Mt. Baker Ski Area.

"I think we are so shortsighted in today's society," Monkalis said. "We seriously need to start thinking about what we are going to leave for our kids and their kids. This trail is for future generations because people are always going to need a stress reliever."

Aside from going on day hikes in the Bellingham area, hikers can camp or backpack in areas throughout the Pacific Northwest.

"What's cool is you feel so insignificant," Schweitzer said. "You're surrounded by glaciers and waterfalls. Everything is determined by the dynamics of nature."

While he was backpacking with his friends through Little Beaver Valley in Washington's North Cascades, Schweitzer said rain fell for the entire five-day trip. The Little Beaver River washed out the bridge due to the excessive rain. Schweitzer and his friends had to cross the torrential waters on a fallen 2-foot-wide log that spanned the width of the river.

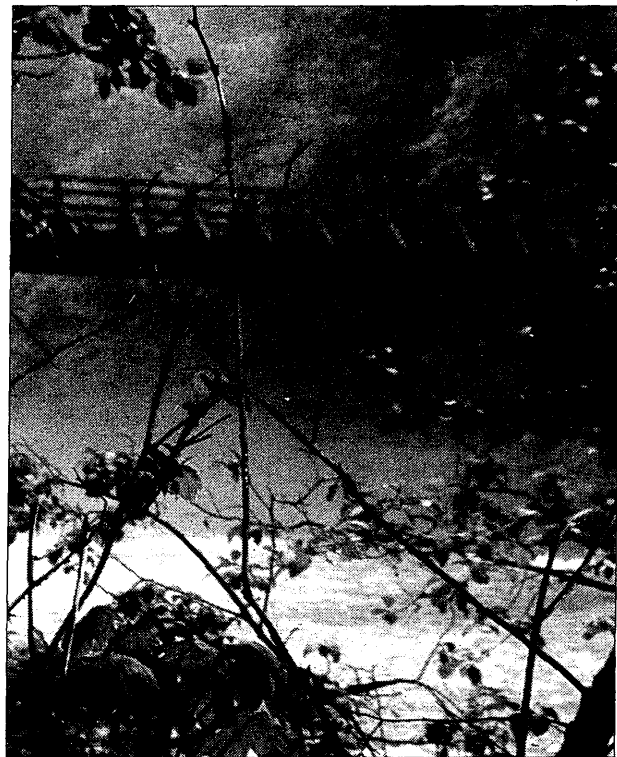
"You could hear boulders coming down the river," he said. "It was the closest I've ever been to dying."

Schweitzer said that even though the rain soaked him and his friends to the bone and they grew tired from the 50-mile hike, they still had an excellent adventure.

"It proved we were smart enough to survive in those conditions," he said.

Lovellford said she and her mother tried hiking Mount Rainier two summers ago and made it to 12,000 feet, which is more than three-fourths of Mount Rainier's 14,411 feet of elevation, before turning around. She said the hot summer temperatures warmed the snow bridges on the glacier, which made the crossings dangerous because the soft snow could not support the two hikers' weight.

"It's really intimidating if you've never gone backpacking



LEAH WEISSMAN/The Western Front

A wooden suspension bridge connects the north segment of the Baker Lake Trail, an approximately 13-mile hike, to the Baker River Trail.

before," Lovellford said. "But when you find you're able to do something you didn't think you could do, it's the most enriching feeling in the world."

Monkalis said hiking gives people a chance to gather their thoughts, even if the excursion is just a walk around Whatcom Falls Park instead of a two-day-long backpacking trip.

"Hiking is better than any counselor I've ever met," Monkalis said.

Some people hike as fast as they can to get to their destination, but they are missing the point of hiking, he said.

"Getting to the end of the trail isn't what hiking is," Monkalis said. "The hike is the journey, not the destination."

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Medicaid cuts unfair to patients



DAN GROHL

Washington state's reduction of Medicaid expenses may be causing more harm than good.

Since this policy began in 2003, Washington legislators have cut spending in half on Medicaid interpreters for patients who do not understand English without reducing patients' access to interpreters, according to the Washington Department of Social and Human Services Web site.

The state budget forecasters predict Washington will save \$12 million each year as a result of this restructure. Washington has 950,000 Medicaid clients,

and 150,000 are not proficient in English and require an interpreter, according to the article.

While saving money may seem like a positive outcome, under the surface of this move is a more sinister effect.

The cuts unfairly affect approximately 16 percent of Medicaid clients by providing them less-than-adequate health care.

The new system is broker-based, which means a government-contracted independent broker assigns interpreters to the Medicaid clients, according to a May 9 Seattle Times article. Instead of assigning interpreters to patients, the state pays an outside firm to do the job for them. This wastes tax money by paying for additional people to do a job that does not require extra help.

A broker assigns interpreters to patients. This extra level of

bureaucracy creates inefficiency in the system.

The broker needs to practice care when assigning interpreters. This system does not allow a client to receive the same interpreter every time, so the firm needs to be careful to assign an appropriate interpreter. Assigning a male interpreter to a woman visiting a gynecologist is potentially embarrassing for the patient.

In addition, the broker firm is less likely to assign patients to the same interpreter they have worked with before, and trust issues can arise from this.

The state's new process compromises patients' care because they have to tell their medical secrets to somebody they do not know each time they visit their doctor.

see **HEALTH**, page 15

Letter to the Editor

Congress' attempts to decrease abortions are justified

To the Editor:

In her May 3 commentary for this paper, Sarah Kuck argues that conservatives have no right to push legislation through Congress that restricts abortion. Among other convoluted arguments, the reader is reminded that abortion is protected by the U.S. Constitution. Perhaps a word of clarification: that's what the Supreme Court of 1973 determined — I invite readers to find a woman's 'protected right' to an abortion in the Constitution for themselves and to please call me when they do.

The biggest fallacy in her article, however (and this is the clutch argument on which abortion stands), is when Kuck claims that the answer to the question of when human life begins is one that is "based on a person's beliefs." No, Miss Kuck, human life begins at conception as any medical scientist or doctor will tell you. Professor Michelline Matthews-Roth of Harvard University Medical School explains, "It is incorrect to say that biological data cannot be decisive ... It is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception." I have a personal preference for Dr. Seuss, however, who uses layman's terms, "A person is a person no matter how small." If medical science and Dr. Seuss are correct, then we are legally killing people in the womb by the millions in America alone.

It is this understanding that drives the majority of our generation (survivors of Roe v. Wade) to be unabashedly Pro-Life, and it is this understanding that drives the members of Congress to curb the rate of abortions.

Tom Herring, Western junior

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Frontline

News outlets should leave celebrities alone

On May 8, Newsweek broke the story that Dave Chappelle, the celebrated — and assumed crazy — star of “Chappelle’s Show” allegedly checked himself into a South African loony bin as a result of drug use and the escalating pressures of his hit comedy series.

Chappelle entering a mental institution might be news — that is, if Newsweek were reporting fact instead of idle speculation. Reports of global warming and soldiers fighting in Iraq have grown so routine and stodgy the media have resorted to spinning scandals that speculate on the actions of their own players. Chappelle denied the rumors circulating and said he has been staying with a friend in Durban, South Africa, simply to think, eat, sleep and laugh, according to a May 15 Time magazine article.

Somehow, eating dinner became shooting up, and a friend’s home became a mental institution. Entertainment Weekly reported this using anonymous sources the magazine cited as being close to the star. If that is where the magazine finds its facts, it might as well publish the conjectures of all the show’s viewers who feel Dave is their pal because he visits their living room at 10 every Tuesday night.

This incident is just one more example of the media’s flair for conjuring mayhem and unfairly intruding on celebrities’ lives. The success rate of the average marriage hovers somewhere near 50 percent, while that of a celebrity couple is close to nil. If American efforts overseas were as much a priority as the state of Brad and Jen’s bedroom activities, terrorist organizations would collapse instead of the media darlings’ matrimony.

In addition to invading celebrities’ privacy, the media also is capable of creating fame. Paris Hilton’s triple threat, for example, the media concocted from nothing but daddy’s money and her peroxi-blond locks — no talent required. Hilton has recently struggled to act in a movie, a reality show and a porn video. At least she is convincing in one of those endeavors. Without the media’s hype, Hilton would be nothing but another shopper on Fifth Avenue. Perhaps she should join Chappelle in his South African village for a reality check. One can only imagine the rumors that would fly from that pairing.

From their corner offices, the CEOs of the ruling media conglomerates insist their headliners bring the hail of criticism upon themselves by choosing a career in the public domain. But the troublemakers should not tarnish genius — whether comic, theatrical or otherwise — with false scandal.

Legitimate news sources such as Newsweek magazine should leave reporting celebrity gossip and speculation to Entertainment Weekly and other tabloids, and instead focus on issues that affect the general population.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Caleb Heeringa, Laura McVicker, Zoe Fraley, Brittany Greenfield, Timory Wilson, Chris Huber, Elana Bean, Marissa Harshman, Molly Jensen, Adam Rudnick, Krissy Gochnour, Christina Twu, Blair Wilson and Greta Smoke.

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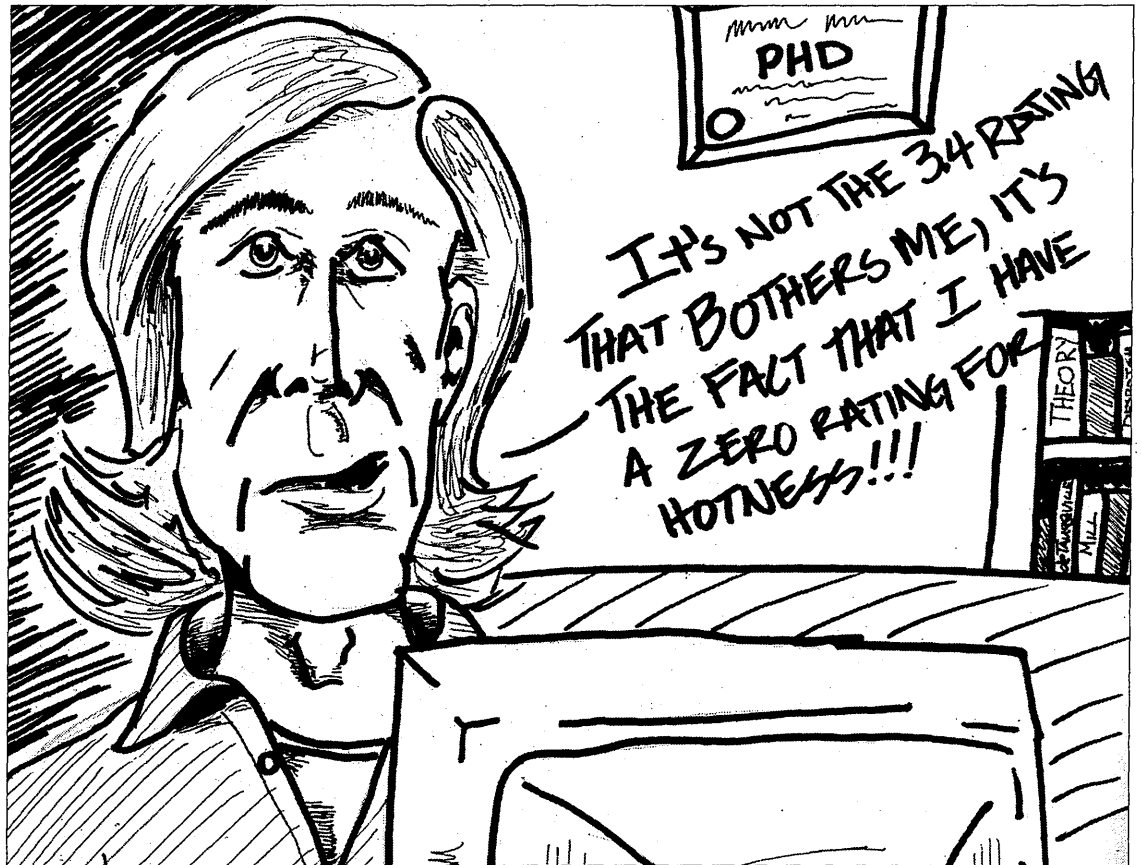
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Editor’s note: The views expressed on The Western Front opinion pages are the views of the authors or cartoonists and are not necessarily the views of The Western Front staff, managers or adviser.

And we quote:

“Don’t compromise yourself.
You’re all you’ve got.”

—Janis Joplin, American singer



Rating teachers a useful tool



LESLIE ADAMS

Every college student has dealt with — to put it bluntly — the professor from hell.

The ratemyprofessor.com Web site is a useful way for students to scout potential teachers. Ratemyprofessor.com has 4,584 schools and 554,836 professors listed on its Web site from Western to New York University.

It may be the disorganization of the class, the work load or an overbearing teaching style that does not work well with the way a particular student learns. Most students can relate to the frustration of taking a class from a professor they do not like.

Before groaning and punching a wall while reminiscing about a nightmare professor who went

off on tangents and talked about everything except anthropology, students should rest assured it may never have to happen again.

The Web site allows students to get a sense of a professor by reading his or her ratings from previous students before taking the class, which may prevent them from engaging in an unpleasant classroom experience. Students who feel they might not work well with a certain teacher can take the class with someone different.

According to the Web site, the creators of the site feel students are the customers of teachers and have a right to voice their opinions.

“Mostly, I have not taken classes if professors are poorly rated,” said Western junior Rachel Gordon, who uses the Web site on a regular basis. “I will usually pick the teachers with the best overall rating.”

Some students learn well from lectures, while others benefit from examples, demonstrations and involvement. The comments on the Web site provide this type of

information.

“Linda is very nice and approachable,” a student said of Western marketing professor Linda Alvarado, on the Web site. “She is very willing to meet with you if you have any questions with the class or the group project. She shows a lot of examples in class of ads and gets people to talk about interesting topics.”

The site is similar to the teacher evaluations Western students complete at the end of each quarter. Like the student evaluations, the Web site allows students to be anonymous, so they do not have to worry about their teachers finding out who they are.

It could be embarrassing to take another class from the same teacher who knows a student said, “Not only is the book a better teacher but it has a better personality,” which is a comment posted on the Web site.

The Web site has five categories

see RATE, page 15

Vehicle makers should collaborate



SUSAN ROSENBERRY

Instead of bickering and denying talk of sharing hybrid technology, Toyota Motor Corp. and General Motors Corp. need to stop their childish power-mongering concerning automobile sales and should collaborate.

A jointly favorable deal can only enrich social relations between the United States and Japan, generate more environmentally friendly vehicles and increase U.S. car sales.

Toyota and GM discussed a mutually beneficial deal regarding hybrid technology last week, according to a May 9 Associated Press article. With the agreement, Toyota would disclose to GM its

hybrid technology for mid-size vehicles and small gas-electric cars, such as Toyota’s Prius model, according to a May 9 United Press International article. In exchange, GM would divulge to Toyota its dual-mode hybrid technology, tentatively scheduled for use in full-size sport utility vehicles in 2007.

Net profits show Toyota has no need to worry about adequate sales, according to a May 10 Bloomberg.com news article; therefore profit cannot be the reason Toyota refused hybrid-technology business with GM.

GM was the world’s largest vehicle maker in 2004, but Toyota plans to increase its share in the global market and take over GM’s top ranking, according to a May 15 article on Autonet.ca, an automotive information Web site.

Unlike GM, however, Toyota expects its worldwide car sales to increase 6 percent from last year to 7.85 million cars, according to the

Bloomberg Web site.

While Toyota’s profits have increased since 2004, GM’s sales plunged 17 percent from \$3.27 billion in 2004 to \$2.8 billion this year, according to a May 10 AP article.

Although Toyota refused to work with GM, the auto maker has shared the hybrid design with competing car companies Ford and Nissan for their car models. Because Toyota has shared its trade secret with competitors, the rationale behind its rejection of GM is unreasonable.

Toyota sold its hybrid technology to Ford Motor Co. in 2004 and Nissan Motor Co. in 2002, according to a March 9 article on ciol.com, a Web site about technology information. As a result of utilizing the acquired technology, U.S. hybrid car sales tripled this year.

see HYBRID, page 15

Rate: Web site is a necessary tool for catering to different learning styles, discussing classes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

— easiness, helpfulness, clarity, overall quality and rater interest, which is how interested the student was in the class before taking it. Students can rate or see previous ratings of their professors and the classes they teach.

Students also may vote how attractive a teacher is, but that is completely irrelevant to the students' curriculum and is not included in the overall quality, which is a numeric average of the other four categories.

Because easiness may not necessarily be a positive aspect, the Web site creators do not include the category in the overall rating.

Easiness is a relevant category, however, because students have a right to know if

classes are not challenging or are too difficult and impossible to receive a good grade in.

Students and instructors who criticize the Web site say certain ratings are not objective or accurate. Students can misuse the Web site if they are angry at a teacher because of a bad grade or if they are disrespectful and want to bad-mouth a teacher.

While some students may find humor in negative comments on the Web site about a professor's class, such as, "You can't cheat in his class because no one knows the answers," and "I would have been better off using my tuition money to heat my apartment," 65 percent of the feedback is positive. The Web site regulates all ratings and prohibits irrelevant comments such as "My teacher is a fat, ugly jerk."

The Web site also claims that, judging from the number of e-mails it receives from students verifying the comments, the ratings are fairly accurate.

The University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, compared results from a similar Web site in which students can rate their professors, according to the school's Web site. The test took ratings of the Distinguished Teaching Award winners and compared them to the ratings on the Web site. Of the 16 winners, 15 received high-quality ratings on the equivalent Web site.

Although you have to subscribe to view some ratings, Ratemyprofessor.com allows

all students to post comments. So, if professors feel students rated them unfairly, instructors can encourage other students to rate them.

If professors feel students rated them unfairly, instructors can encourage other students to rate them.

Most college-age students are smart enough to know not everyone is going to see eye-to-eye with a professor, and they will take into account that not every professor will have all positive feedback. The site is based on opinions, so students should view every

rating as such. Ratemyprofessor.com is not only a Web site, but a public forum in which students may use their guaranteed First Amendment right to voice their opinions.

Hybrid: Environment, consumers would benefit from negotiations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

On May 11, Toyota President Fujio Cho publicly denied any allocation of hybrid technology to GM, according to a May 14 Japan Today article. If Toyota denied other competitors information about its hybrid technology the company could reasonably justify its refusal to partner with GM. The coveted hybrid design, after all, was Toyota's innovation, according to ciol.com.

Toyota Chairman Hiroshi Okuda said in a press conference last week that the company was contemplating inflating its automobile sales prices in the United States in an effort to boost U.S. sales, according to a May 10 Japan Today article. If Toyota is willing to go so far as to increase sales prices to help the American auto trade — so U.S. consumers will lean toward purchasing cheaper-priced U.S. cars — such disparity in disclosing the company's hybrid technology with GM is preposterous.

Toyota is willing to consider sharing its hybrid technology with GM — but only if the company fulfills perplexing stipulations.

According to the May 9 AP article, Okuda

said if other auto makers, in addition to GM, conveyed interest in acquiring Toyota's hybrid technology, discussions could commence. The issue cannot be that Toyota fears further disclosure of its hybrid success, as Okuda clearly is willing to share the technology with numerous carmakers if GM and multiple companies request it.

But GM and Toyota still steadfastly refuse negotiations to share technology, according to the May 9 AP article. Toyota does not need to stoop so low as to humiliate U.S. carmakers by demanding GM and others beg to receive assistance, but GM should not be so egotistical as to hard-headedly refuse to ask Toyota for help to increase dwindling U.S. sales.

Hybrids are designed not only to be environmentally efficient and conserve money with better gas mileage, and Toyota and GM's refusal to collaborate is limiting the availability and affordability of the technology for consumers.

"It's not that the Japanese had an unfair advantage here or just that they were smart when U.S. companies unwisely rested on their laurels," said Pam Solo,

If Toyota is willing to go so far as to increase sales prices to help the American auto trade ... such disparity in disclosing the company's hybrid technology with GM is preposterous.

president of the humanitarian organization Civil Society Institute, according to a May 9 PR Newswire article. "Instead, Japanese automakers simply acted the way that U.S. automakers used to act when they were intent on maintaining the edge in sales, jobs and technology. U.S. leadership in the global auto industry used to be job No. 1, but today U.S. car companies are in real danger of getting the pink slip from consumers."

Toyota may have prosperous strategies and technology for booming auto sales, but that does not justify fostering negative relations between auto makers. If Toyota and GM wish to deter fiery crossfire arguments and continue to maintain civil business relations, the two companies must reach a settlement.

Health: Interpreters should know patients

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

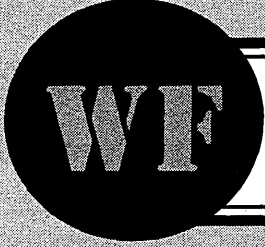
Before this change in 2003, Medicaid would pay for interpreters to schedule medical appointments for their clients and for the interpreters to interpret for the patient during the medical appointments.

Not allowing interpreters to schedule medical appointments reduces the quality of patients' care. Non-English-speaking patients have difficulty scheduling an appointment because they cannot speak the language.

According to the article, some interpreters abused the previous system by scheduling unnecessary appointments for their patients just so they received more hours and extra money.

Washington's restructuring of the Medicaid interpreter system is an overreaction to news of this corruption.

Eliminating the personal service non-English-speaking patients receive may save the state money, but it compromises the health of approximately 150,000 people in Washington.



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Letter to the Editor

State park revenue should not come from user fees

To the Editor:

Kelsey Dosen's recent column in support of charging fees at parks ("Fees in state parks beneficial for all users," May 10, 2005) misses the point. While she is very correct that parks are in need of revenue to maintain operations, charging fees is not the answer.

First, fees do not necessarily result in more money for park operations. A recent federal Government Accounting Office study found that the U.S. Forest Service spent as much money on fee-collection activities as they generated from the fees. In other words the fee program didn't increase operating budgets, it just paid for itself.

But even if fees generate additional revenue for parks, charging for access is contrary to the mission of parks as public lands. From the earliest days of the United States, parks have been made accessible to all citizens. Free and open parks differentiated the young United States from aristocratic Europe, which regarded parks as the manicured playgrounds of the elite.

Entry fees change parks from public goods, available to all citizens regardless of economic status, to private goods, available only to those who can pay \$5 every time they want to go for a walk in the woods. In fact, research has shown that park fees cause lower-income individuals to go to parks less often.

I'm all for fully funding our precious parks — it should be a top priority for society. But that money should come from progressive general taxes and not from discriminatory user fees.

Michael Kirshenbaum, Graduate Student

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