



VINO GALORE

Local winery has grown in the shadow of Mount Baker.

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PRIMARY GOALS

Democratic candidates seek the White House bid.

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MEN'S VICTORY

Dykstra and Diggs own court and secure win.

Sports, Page 10



Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

ISSUE 7
VOLUME 128

The Western Front

TUESDAY
FEB. 3, 2004

Students usher in Year of the Monkey

By Sarah Getchman
The Western Front

For most people, January means returning to the monotony of daily life after almost a month of celebrating. But for Chinese and Vietnamese cultures, the party has just begun in the Year of the Monkey.

Western's Chinese Student Association celebrated its annual New Year's festivities Jan. 28 in the Viking Union. The Vietnamese Student Association's new year's celebration followed Saturday night at Assumption Church.

"There's so many beautiful traditions, especially around new year," CSA publicity officer Emily O'Neil said.

Chinese New Year starts on the first new moon of the year and ends with the full moon 15 days later.

Tet, which means the first morning of the first day of the new year, begins the Vietnamese New Year and lasts for seven days.

Most countries in Asia follow the lunar calendar, VSA President Binh Do said.

Unlike the American calendar, it is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements, causing the Chinese New Year to fall in mid- to late-January.

Western's third annual Chinese New Year celebration was bursting with Chinese culture and tradition, with red as the primary decorative color to signify good luck, O'Neil said.

Hosts gave red packets of candy money to guests at the door. During Chinese special events, people give money to their family and friends, CSA President Sammy Ng said.

"Older people are supposed to give little kids money for the new year," Do said.

Approximately 190 people attended the Chinese New Year event to eat traditional food and participate in cultural activities.

Chinese calligraphy artist Cecilia Poon wrote on approximately 2-foot-long banners in Feichun, which is Cantonese Phonetic writing. Onlookers received the banners as gifts. Poon said the Chinese traditionally write sayings such as "good luck," "healthy year" or "academic success" and hang the banners on a door for the entire year.

Approximately 350 people attended Western's fourth annual Vietnamese New Year event, Do said.

The celebration featured traditional foods, decorations and entertainment. VSA members performed in a fashion show, a traditional Vietnamese New Year custom, VSA member Xuanly Le said. The fashion show showed the

SEE Celebration PAGE 5

Procedure delays police

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office cites lack of resources, staff as factors in the misclassification of sex offender Thomas Tucker Jr.

By Eric Berto
The Western Front

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office took 46 months to reach an official clas-

sification of Level III sex offender Thomas Tucker Jr., who Western officials expelled this past week because of his classification. This far exceeds the typical one- to two-week delay typical of registered sex offenders, Sheriff's Office

Detective Ray Oaks said.

"(The backlog) has gotten to the point that the staff said, 'We've got to fix this now,'" Oaks said.

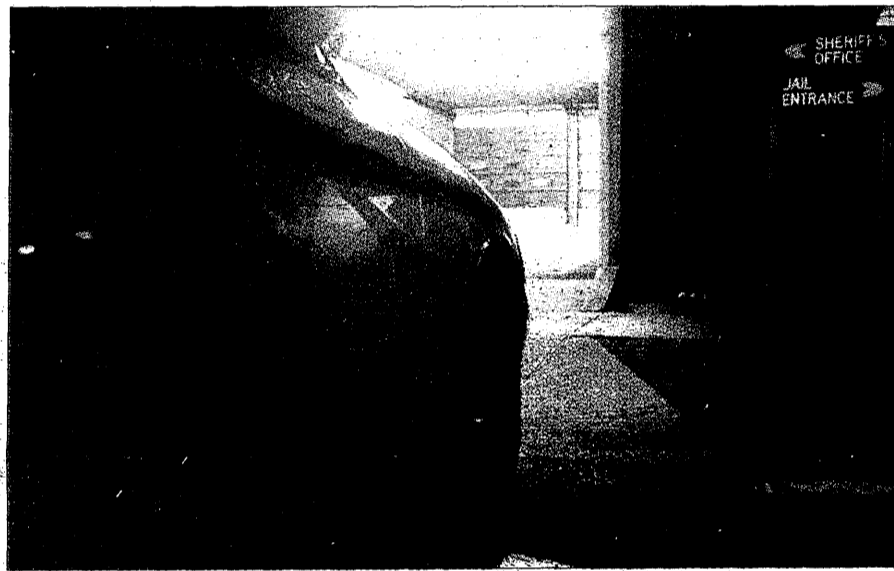
As of Jan. 16, the sheriff's office had 387 sex offenders registered in the county, according to a database it maintains. Of those, approximately 17 percent, or 67 of the offenders, have either not been classified, or have not had their statuses reported by other agencies. According to the database, 223 Level I, 61 Level II and 36 Level III offenders reside in Whatcom County.

Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo said the backlog hinders the progress of daily procedures.

"We've got huge response areas and huge workloads," Elfo said. "It could take us hours to get to a (report of a crime)."

This lack of resources is the result of unfunded mandates, or directives, the Washington State Legislature hands down that dictate what sheriffs' offices must perform. The Legislature, however, does not provide adequate funding for the offices to perform these duties, Elfo said.

SEE Offenders PAGE 5



Keith Bolling/The Western Front

A Whatcom County Sheriff's patrol car at the sheriff's office downtown, on the corner of Prospect and Lottie streets. The sheriff's office said that despite a lack of resources, it has made progress classifying sex offenders.

Self-segregation remains a problem



Editor's note: This is the second in a six-part series examining race at Western.

By Eric Berto
The Western Front

As many incoming freshmen can attest, venturing away from home and its familiarities is a difficult process. Once at Western, new students seek comforts,

often resulting in the phenomena of self-segregation.

Self-segregation — when members of a certain ethnic or racial group in everyday activities consciously remove themselves from these activities — is a remnant of the lingering divide between the racial make-up of the United States, said Augustine Kposowa, a professor of sociology at University of California at Riverside.

At Western, however, the experience of the new student lends to the phenomena of self-segregation, said Michael Vendiola, adviser for the Ethnic Student Center.

"What we see is that, for students of color and underrepresented students, when students come to campus and they don't find something to hook into, there is a higher risk of dropping out," Vendiola

said.

Associate professor of sociology Kyle Crowder said new students at Western tend to seek out what they perceive as familiar. Students look for social comfort or people who make them feel welcome, he said.

Crowder said people generally choose whom they first interact with based on the assumption of shared past events. Interacting with people who look like them is commonplace, and these same people generally become close friends, he said.

"The assumption is that people who look like us have similar experiences than us," he said.

SEE Cultures PAGE 6

Western cannot afford to pay work-study staff

By Wolfgang Deerkop
The Western Front

Western senior Pat Lariviere found himself without a work-study position when he returned to Western in fall 2003 after studying in Germany. Although Lariviere had worked in the department of engineering technology's plastics lab for three years and majoring in plastics design, he quickly found he could not return to his old job.

"Just about every department has a need for work-study students," said

Mary Murray, the program coordinator at Western's Center for Student Work Experience.

A plethora of work-study jobs are available at Western, some paying as much as \$10 per hour, but because of budgetary shortages, these positions remain unfilled this year, she said.

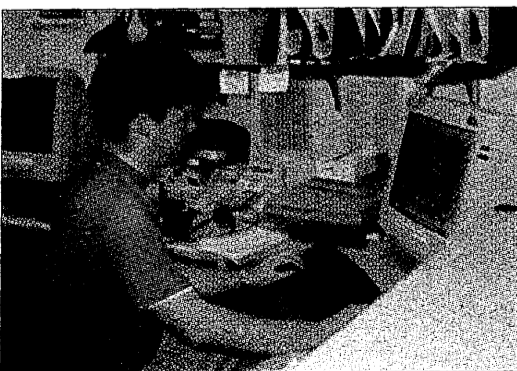
The federal government instituted the work-study program to help students with financial aid find jobs related to their majors. The program also helps universities limit expenditures because state and federal governments, not the school, pay students' salaries.

The shortage of funding for work-study positions is due to decreased levels of funding Western receives from the federal government.

"We get a smaller share of the pie because our costs are not rising as fast as other institutions," said Jim DeWild, associate director of Student Financial Resources.

"I got put on a list of 180 people for the first quarter," said Lariviere, who was reinstated at the plastics lab after one quarter on the list.

SEE Jobs PAGE 5



Wolfgang Deerkop/The Western Front
Western freshman Brandon Adam, sits at the ATUS help desk for his work-study job and answers technical questions.

COPS BOX

University Police

Jan. 30, 8:53 a.m.: UP discovered drugs in a bathroom in the Fine Arts building.

Jan. 30, 8:31 p.m.: Mathes Hall resident advisers confiscated marijuana and contacted UP to have them destroy it.

Jan. 30, 11:57 p.m.: UP responded to a report of people consuming alcohol near Higginson Hall.

Feb. 1 12:28 a.m.: UP cited and released four 19-year-old males for minors in possession of alcohol in Parking Lot 23.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 31, 9:28 a.m.: Officers responded to assist the Bellingham Fire Department with a death investigation in the 1700 block of Cornwall Avenue.

Jan. 31, 8:08 p.m.: Officers arrested a juvenile female for shoplifting at a store in the Bellis Fair Mall. She later was released into the custody of her mother.

Feb. 1, 1:48 a.m.: Officers cited a 61-year-old female for fourth degree assault in the 3700 block of Alabama Street.

Feb. 1, 9:36 p.m.: Officers responded to a hit-and-run in the 900 block of 32nd Street.

Compiled by Bryan Sharick.

Viking Voices

Do you think there is a lack of job availability for on-campus students at Western?

Compiled by Sarah Getchman.



Shannon Fitzgerald
Senior, environmental studies/economics

"I think the availability of non-work study jobs needs to be looked at and increased."



Briana Armstrong
Senior, environmental studies/economics and Spanish

"I think the issue is the students not wanting to do the work — for me, it's not worth my time and energy."



Matt Vogt
Sophomore, biology

"I think that everything's all too specialized — I wish there were more jobs where you didn't have (to) know a bunch of stuff."

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Sound Transit's Sounder ridership has shrunk

The number of commuters riding the Sound Transit rails between Everett and Seattle have been low.

On its inaugural run Dec. 22, two-thirds of the seats were empty. Ridership on the transit's Sounder runs has shrunk more since then, even with free service.

Starting this past Monday, fares of \$3 for a one-way ticket took effect.

NATIONAL NEWS

Super Bowl celebrations lose control; one dead

Police reported three arrests following a violent night in Boston during a victory celebration.

Thousands of New England Patriots fans caroused the streets of Boston after the Patriots beat the Carolina Panthers 32-29 Sunday.

One person died and several were injured when a sport utility vehicle backed into a crowd near Northeastern University. A police officer was injured.

The driver sped off, but police later arrested him or her and are charging them with vehicular homicide and drunken driving, among other charges.

Revelers also overturned approximately six cars. A local television station said one of its vans received damage, and police had to escort the crew from the area.

In one neighborhood, firefighters hosed rioters to disperse the crowd despite temperatures in the mid-20s.

Prison standoff ends after hostage release

Prison officials in Buckeye, Ariz., have launched a criminal probe into the longest U.S. prison hostage standoff in decades.

Corrections spokeswoman Cam Hunter said the two inmates who took guards hostage will be held

accountable for their actions.

On Jan. 18, the inmates took control of a prison guard tower and took two guards hostage, releasing one guard Jan. 24. After they released the female guard, who was treated yesterday, the inmates climbed down from the tower and surrendered.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. military arrests two who tried to plant roadside bomb

The U.S. military said Iraqi police have arrested two men who tried to plant a roadside bomb near Baghdad's main oil refinery.

The Doura oil refinery has a capacity of 110,000 barrels a day. It supplies much of the Iraq capital's gasoline, heating oil and cooking gas. It also distributes crude oil that two of Baghdad's four electric plants use as fuel.

Authorities have not said how destructive a bomb at the refinery could have been.

In January, guards at Doura

seized a group of intruders, and a search found more than 80 containers of explosives.

Two more die from bird flu in Asia

Two more people have died from bird flu, bringing the confirmed number of deaths in Asia to 12.

An 18-year-old male died Monday in Vietnam. A woman also died earlier that day in Thailand but had not immediately been confirmed as a victim of bird flu.

U.N. officials said the outbreak is not under control.

One official said more than 45 million chickens have been killed in an effort to contain the disease.

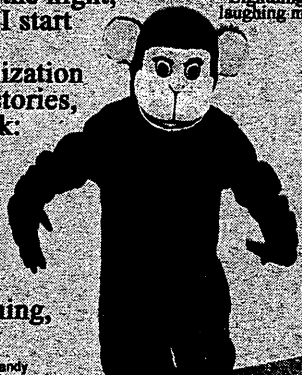
China announced five new suspected cases in poultry Monday, including one in a remote region more than a thousand miles from where China's first case was confirmed.

Compiled by Matt Hietala.
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM.

The Western Front online

Sometimes, when I drive across the desert in the middle of the night, with no other cars around, I start imagining:

What if there were no civilization out there? No cities, no factories, no people? And then I think: No people or factories? Then who made this car? And this highway? And I get so confused I have to stick my head out the window into the driving rain — unless there's lightning, because I could get struck on the head by a bolt.



The Western Front monkey says, "Lightning is no laughing matter!"

John Handy
www.westernfrontonline.com

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, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. 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 College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS -9117, via fax to X/4343, or brought in person to Commissary 113F. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

STUDENTS WHO EXPECT TO GRADUATE AT THE END OF SUMMER QUARTER must have a degree evaluation on file in the registrar's office, OM 230, by March 12. For information, call X/3240 or stop by OM 230.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT). Registration not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes. Testing is in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 4, 11 and 18, and 3 p.m. Feb. 23; March 1, 8, and 15.

SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE PROBLEMS for the Math Placement Test may be found at www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

LOT 14G AND SPACES IN LOT 10G WILL BE RESERVED at 5 p.m. Feb. 5 for those attending a basketball reception.

LOT 17G WILL BE RESERVED AT 5 P.M. FEB. 5 AND 7 for Viking permit holders. All others can park in Lot 12A and take the shuttle, which will run from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

LOT 14G WILL BE RESERVED AT 5 P.M. FEB. 7 for those attending the Black History Month dinner.

LOTS 11G AND 14G WILL BE RESERVED AT 1 P.M. FEB. 8 for those attending the North Sound Youth Symphony performance.

A HUMAN SERVICES MAJOR OPEN HOUSE will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 5 in MH 403. Drop by program and faculty offices during this open house and find out more about the Woodring College of Education Human Services major. For more information, call X/7759.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES is looking for qualified students to become peer advisers for the 2004-2005 academic year. This is an opportunity to become involved with the Western community and meet students from around the world. Applications are available from IPE, HS 25. Application deadline Feb. 13.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT). Registration required in OM 120 or call X/3080; test not administered individually. A \$42 fee is payable at test time. Test takes about 1 1/2 hours. Registration limited to 16. Testing is at 2 p.m. in OM 120 as follows (those participating in the MAT Research do not register for these dates): Feb. 10, March 9.

MILLER ANALOGIES RESEARCH TEST PROGRAM. The Testing Center offers first-time examinees an opportunity to participate in a research project. Participants will take two MATs back-to-back. One score will be posted as your official score. The \$42 will be waived. For information and registration, stop by OM 120 or call X/3080.

THE TUTORIAL AND ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER IS SEEKING a student with strong academic skills who enjoys working with people to be a study skills tutor 10 to 14 hours a week during spring quarter. Salary and other information is available in OM 387 or at www.wvu.edu/depts/tutorialcenter/employment.htm.

WEST-B. State-approved educator preparation program applicants and persons from other states seeking a Washington residency teaching certificate need a minimum passing score on basic skills assessment. Residency teaching certificate applicants who completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed WEST-B may be granted additional time. Testing: March 13, May 1. To register, see www.west.nesinc.com.

SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS, RANGING FROM \$1,000 to \$3,000, are offered by the Alumni Association board of directors; some are renewable. Preference may be given to children or grandchildren of Western alumni. To request an application or to get more information, call X/3353.

STUDENTS MAY PICK UP COPIES OF THE 2003-04 CAMPUS DIRECTORY at the Associated Students Bookstore while supplies last.

Department of Housing gives local homeless agencies more than \$574,000 in grant money

By Zoe Fraley
The Western Front

Five nonprofit agencies that work through the Whatcom County Coalition for the Homeless applied for grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in July and should receive the money within the next month.

The department announced in late December an allocation of \$574,789 in federal grants to Whatcom County for local agencies that serve the homeless.

The department granted Washington state \$33.3 million, almost \$5 million more than in 2002, said Katie Franks, development specialist for the city of Bellingham.

Franks said to receive the grants, the agencies had to meet standards based on their performance, influence and how well they met the needs of their target populations, the homeless.

The department announced the awards at the end of 2003, and the projected 2004 budget has allowed for their funding. The department renewed grants for four of the previously funded agencies, and only one new project received funding, Franks said.

The Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic, this year's new applicant, received the largest grant, \$270,000, Franks said. The clinic is planning a new housing development for the mentally ill and homeless called the Rainbow

Community Place Project. This project will coordinate with the Rainbow Center, a drop-in center where homeless people can take a shower, eat, do laundry and receive support from others in similar situations.

The new housing development will have 20 permanent beds and 20 emergency beds for the mentally ill and chronically homeless and may also provide a new base for the Rainbow Center, Franks said.

"The bottom line is, within the mental health community, we just don't have enough housing," said Lyle Stork, director of the Rainbow Center. "If someone is looking to improve their lives, they need a place to stay."

The Opportunity Council of Whatcom County received two grants for the services it provides. The first, a \$140,868 grant, will provide one year of operating assistance to Dorothy Place, a service for domestic-violence victims and their children, said Caroline Flickinger, city grants and budget manager.

"This was identified as a critical need in the community," Flickinger said. "It's important to get this funding so that they don't have to close their doors."

The council's second grant of \$84,130 will go toward one year of operating assistance for case management, which will cover the cost of salaries, utilities and basic operating expenses, Flickinger said. Case management helps more than

SEE Grant, PAGE 4



Zoe Fraley/ The Western Front
Salt on the Street volunteer Duane Stewart serves chili to a homeless man from a mobile kitchen. The organization meets at 8 p.m. every Saturday in the Rainbow Center parking lot to provide homeless people with food, used clothes and musical entertainment.

Valentine's Day CONTEST!

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HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

1. Go to the Western Front business office (College Hall Room 7)
2. Fill out a Classified Valentines message that will publish in the Western Front classified on February 13 (only \$6.00)

The two people who write the "sweetest" message will each win a dozen chocolate roses.

(Judging done by the advertising department of the Western Front)



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Huxley dean cites budget cuts as reason for teaching cutbacks, despite lack of cuts

By Jessica Alvarado
The Western Front

Despite what Huxley College of the Environment Dean Bradley Smith has told members of his faculty, no budget cuts have caused a decrease in the number of adjunct faculty, which are those without tenure, hired back to the department for the '04-'05 academic year, University Public Affairs representative Barbara Fasser said.

"Two weeks ago, Dean Smith told me and the rest of the faculty that, due to deep cuts to Western's and Huxley's adjunct faculty funding, he would not have the money to hire me to teach the 101 course for all three quarters next year," environmental studies lecturer Scott Brennan said.

The University Planning and Budgeting Office staff said otherwise. The deep cuts at Huxley appear to be nothing more than rumors, said Paula Rustan, executive director of University Planning and Budgeting.

No major changes to adjunct faculty funding have affected any of the colleges or departments for the current school year, Rustan said.

"The reductions for this year's 2003-'04 academic year amounted to a 1-percent decrease in funding across the entire university," Rustan said.

No plans for reductions have taken place at Western for the '04-'05 academic year, Fasser said.

"In fact, the university is not planning on any reductions for adjunct faculty funding at any of the colleges for the 2004-'05 academic year at this point in time," Fasser said.

University Provost Andrew Bodman said Huxley College simply raised the amount of money the college requested for temporary funding for the '03-'04 academic year.

For the '02-'03 academic year, Huxley requested and received from the provost's office almost \$49,000 in temporary funding, Bodman said. In '03-'04, the college requested \$93,000 and received approximately \$80,000. Its request rose by 90 percent, and the university was able to cover only 86.6 percent, of the

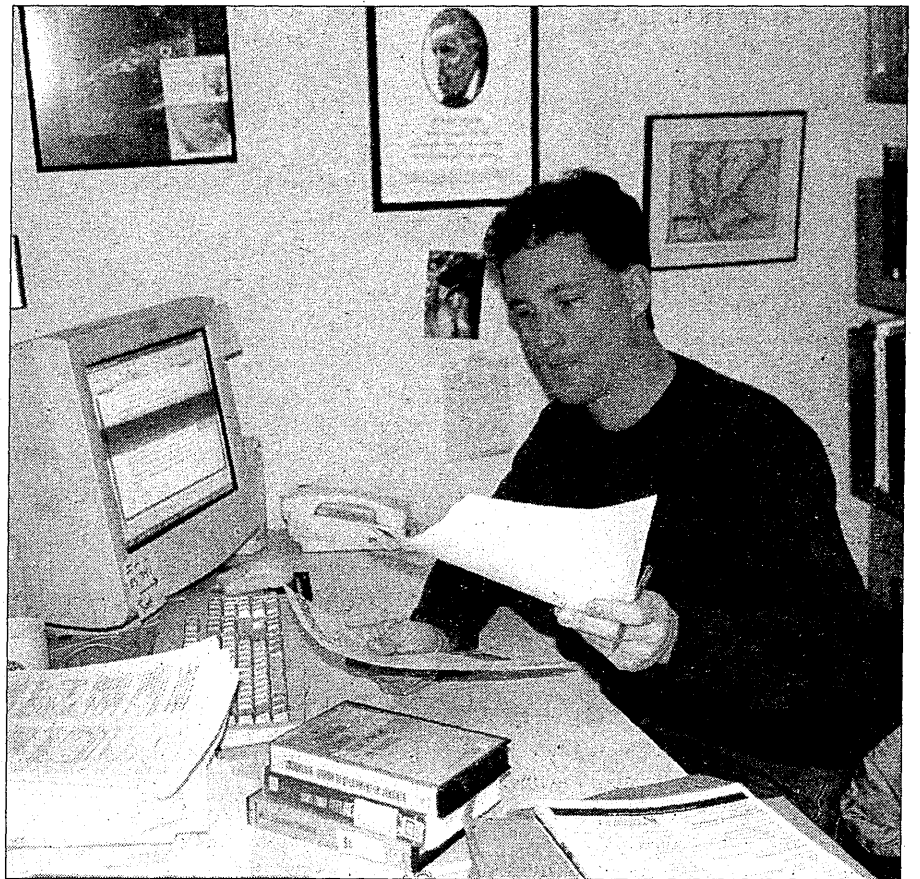
... the university is not planning on any reductions for adjunct faculty funding at any of the colleges for the 2004-'05 academic year.

Barbara Fasser
University Public Affairs representative

total, he said.

When asked about the rumor of cuts to adjunct funding for '04-'05 at Huxley College, Bodman said no changes have been made, though it is possible for cuts in the future.

"Colleges are in the process of submitting their requests for 2004-05 budget cuts," Bodman said. "The budget has not been set yet and won't be for another couple of months."



Jessica Alvarado/ The Western Front
Scott Brennan, an environmental studies lecturer who teaches at Huxley College of the Environment, reads through papers. Brennan was told he would not be teaching all 101 courses next year because of budget cuts, but non are apparent.

Grant: Money will help to provide more beds, food and utilities for homeless shelters

Continued from Page 3

400 homeless families find housing each year.

"Housing is always a priority concern in this area," Flickinger said.

All of the agencies that received grants provide some type of housing for people identified, as the most in need. Recent Whatcom County Coalition surveys for the Homeless identified domestic violence victims, substance abusers, the mentally ill and homeless youths as groups in need of the most assistance, Flickinger said.

The Northwest Youth Services' transitional living received \$43,822 to provide funds for six beds for homeless youths older than 18, transitional living coordinator Kathy Bock said. The service provides counseling, food,

clothes and weekly life-skills classes on subjects like safe sex and money. The agency expanded from 16 beds to 22 in February 2003 to accommodate community needs.


"There is an endless stream of homeless kids that need somewhere to stay," Bock said. "They need an address to go to school and get a job."

Sun Community Services, a temporary housing facility for the mentally ill and substance abusers, received a \$35,966 grant that will cover basic expenses such as food, salaries and utilities for one year, for patients in five beds, Flickinger said.

Agencies must meet two requirements to renew their grants. First, each agency must efficiently meet its individual goals for servicing its specific community, whether through housing, counseling or outreach services. Second,

the agency must address the needs of the Whatcom County community, Flickinger said. Through monthly meetings with the coalition, agencies coordinate their plans and the focus of their services with each other and the community to ensure their services are meeting critical needs. They need to know all problems are being addressed equally and that no one is being neglected or receiving disproportionate aid. Coordination throughout the community is essential for agencies to run efficiently and is necessary to receive department grants, Flickinger said.

"There's never enough money," Flickinger said. "The federal government wants to see that money isn't flowing from them into efforts at cross purposes."



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Offenders: Series of 21 questions determines classification levels

Continued from Page 1

"One of the things you'll find are frustrations with all the sheriffs in the state," Elfo said.

Elfo said the office is making progress in tackling the number of offenders who have yet to be classified.

"We're caught up, and we're keeping our heads above water," he said.

The classification process begins after an offender is released from prison. When an offender goes through the state's department of corrections, prison officials conduct an evaluation before a prisoner returns to a community, said Oaks, who is in charge of making the classifications.

The time when an offender is released from prison until authorities classify him or her

depends on how soon the office can obtain the various signatures that it needs to finalize Oaks' decision.

Once the offender is out of prison, the sheriff's office in the county where he or she resides must make an official classification using a 21-question survey that is designed to assess the severity of the crime and the person's probability to reoffend, Oaks said.

Within the 21 questions, four questions ask if the victim was vulnerable — younger than 2 years old — if the offender created the relationship for the purpose of offending, if the offender continued to act out deviantly in prison and items about the offender's relationship to the victim, Oaks said.

If an offender receives a

positive on three out of four of these questions, he or she is automatically rated a Level III, Oaks said.

The remainder of the questions are scored on a sliding scale. If a person scores less than a 46, he or she is classified as a Level I. If a person scores more than a 46 but fewer than three of the notification considerations then the sheriff's office classifies him or her as Level II.

Jeff Parks, chief of criminal investigations at the sheriff's office, said numerous documents must be obtained from outside sources so a proper investigation can occur. Since the bulk of the office's resources must go to answering emergency calls, these investigations must wait.

"It's a balancing act," Parks

said. "All of our normal daily processes take a back seat to a major crime."

The sheriff's office must gather documents such as the original police report, court documents, pre-sentencing investigations and a sexual deviancy evaluation, Oaks said.

In Tucker's case, he disclosed information in his psychological evaluation that played a role in the determination of his classification.

"During the psychological evaluation, they self-disclose prior offenses they were never arrested for," Oaks said.

The process of classifying sex offenders is always evolving, Parks said.

"There is always a review of where people are in the process," he said.

Jobs: Faculty may see large impact from cuts in staff

Continued from Page 1

Although Lariviere was frustrated while on the waiting list, he said he enjoys the perks of a work-study job.

"I really like work-study because you don't have to leave campus for work, and if you have a test, your boss understands," he said.

Although work-study funds have always been a limited resource, this year has been especially tough, said Jamie Harrington, the facilities and operations manager of Western's Science, Math and Technology departments.

The Science, Math and Technology department usually has approximately 10 work-study employees a quarter, Harrington said. Students cannot qualify for work-study, so only five of these positions are filled.

The lack of work-study candidates has created a range of negative trickle-down effects influencing everything from teaching assistants' workloads to future budgetary considerations, Harrington said.

"Without the students, things just don't get done, so we have to dip into department funds," Harrington said. "As an employer, I am going to get the money from someplace else, and that means that we get shorted in other areas."

Although departmental considerations are an issue, Harrison said the real victims in this crisis are the students.

"Students already pay enough, and we should not put any more burden on them," he said.

Celebration: Hosts design celebrations as learning experiences for all

Continued from Page 1

previous year's Vietnamese styles to symbolize the coming of a new year.

"The fashion show is about gathering everything we've done in the previous year and looking at it," Le said.

Clothes are portrayed in a modern, American way that shows current styles and trends, Le said.

The goal of the events coordinators was to allow the whole community to welcome the Lunar New Year, Do said. Some people traveled from as far as Seattle to

attend, he said.

"The celebration is mostly for non-Chinese people to come here and learn," O'Neil said. "The best thing about Western is people are open-minded and eager to learn."

Western sophomore Amanda Norenberg, a Chinese minor attended the event after spending some time in China this past year.

"Considering China's the hugest, most populated country, it's sad that more people don't celebrate (the Chinese New Year) — it's their most important holiday," Norenberg said.

Do said the Vietnamese New Year cele-

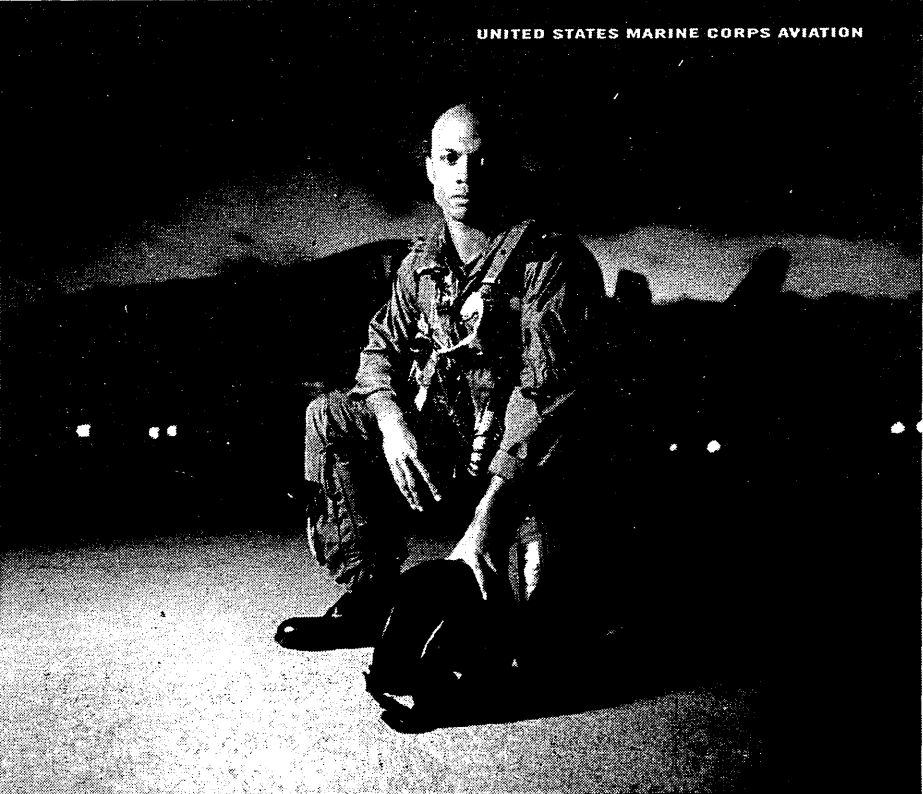
bration is about bringing luck in the New Year and having a new start. People do not generally go to work but receive time off to spend with friends and travel, he said.

Both events had performances called the Lion or Dragon Dance, which is a sign of luck, goodness and health, Do said.

"We chose to pick students (as performers) because it's a student event," O'Neil said.


The New Year celebrations are the most important events of each year for the CSA and the VSA, the groups' leaders said. "It's for everyone to celebrate with us," O'Neil said.

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Cultures: Cross-cultural communication breaks down the barriers to better race relations

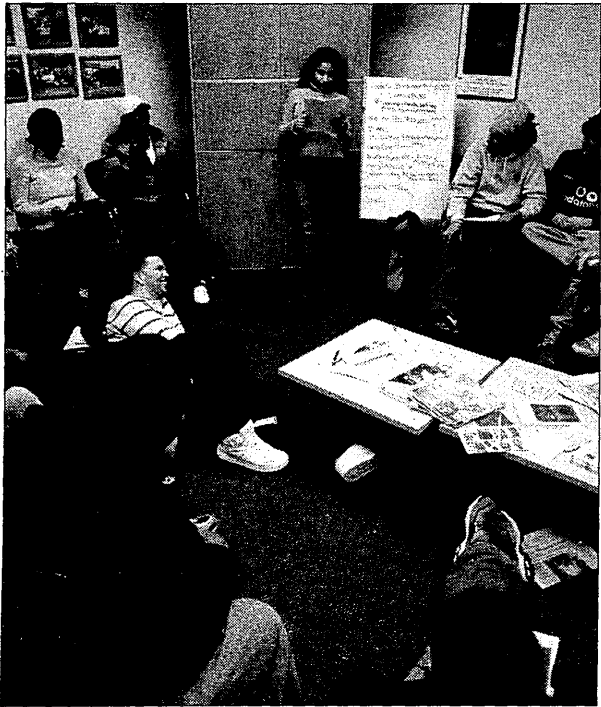
Continued from Page 1

Crowder said Western is not as diverse as other institutions he has visited, such as the University of Washington.

"The fact that (minority students are) so few in number has got to be conducive to a feeling of isolation," he said.

Many students cite the feeling of isolation as a reason for dropping out of college within their first year, Crowder said.

Vendiola said he does not think the center fosters self-segregation because of its commitment to being a place



Eric Berto/ The Western Front
Marita Gumbs, Western junior and president of the Black Student Union, runs a meeting in the Ethnic Student Center facilities Jan. 28th.

where different cultures can learn about one another.

"Internally, it's a really marvelous thing because Latinos are learning about Africans who are learning about Cambodians because they are going to all of the events," he said.

Minority students face a challenge when they come to Western because they encounter few people of different ethnicities who attend the university, said Western senior Nicole Wells, who is a member of the Black Student Union.

This past fall, 12,680 students enrolled at Western. Minorities made up approximately 14 percent, or 1,791, of the population, while Caucasians accounted for approximately 80 percent, or 10,088 students, according to the Western registrar's peak-enrollment report. The remaining students chose not to report their ethnicity.

Western's minority population is small, and when people of the same ethnicity congregate, others take notice, Wells said.

"When five or six of us stand together, it's a lot more obvious than when white people do it," she said.

She said that when people hang out together, others misconstrue it as self-segregation. In actuality, it is just a time to socialize between classes, she said.

"It seems we're unapproachable, especially black students," Wells said. "It's just a time to get together. Don't be afraid to walk up to any group and talk."

Crowder said the overall lack of diversity at Western tends to make self-segregation more apparent.

"Students of color, because they're such a minority, they're almost forced to interact with white students," Crowder said.

No statistical evidence exists to provide insight as to how prevalent self-segregation is, but Kposowa said it usually is not an intentional decision.

"Usually, it is an individual family who makes a pragmatic decision to live in a black neighborhood," he said.

When a family of color moves to a white suburb, the family could live without any negative experiences, Kposowa said. But at some point, someone will make a negative comment or a racial slur that will cause the white children to interact differently with the black children, he said.

"The parents tend to move to a black community to have a black experience," Kposowa said.

The students at Western generally have not been exposed to a lot of diversity, Wells said.

"The white students are afraid to say anything because they don't want to be labeled as ignorant or racist," Wells said.

Establishing an avenue of communication across racial and ethnic boundaries is essential to ending the problem of self-segregation, Vendiola said.

"Race and ethnic issues are one of those heated dialogues," he said. "People are not open to dialogue because it might lead to conflict."

Vendiola said society teaches people not to externalize thoughts or questions they might have so they do not seem offensive.

"Those subjects that are taboo and the whole idea of political correctness have been damaging to society," he said.

"People internalize prejudice and start to say to me only what they think I want to

hear."

Wells said students are afraid of approaching students who are different because they do not want to act in a way that people can misconstrue as insensitive.

"It's an effort on all of our parts to make it more comfortable," she said.

Minority students are used to having to make a concerted effort to fit in with the majority, Wells said. She said she goes out of her way every day to bridge the communication gap between Caucasian students and minorities.

"When you're not the majority, you're taught that you have to get along with everyone else," she said. "You either get the stereotype, or you become the spokesperson."

"Race and ethnic issues are one of those heated dialogues," he said. "People are not open to dialogue because it might lead to conflict."

Michael Vendiola
Adviser for the Ethnic Student Center

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FEATURES

All aboard! Valentine's Day train offers a romantic ride near Mirror Lake



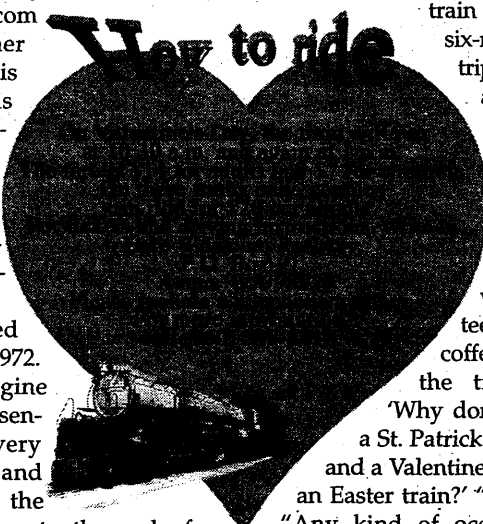
By Cailin Long
The Western Front

Tucked away among the snow-sprinkled hills and evergreen trees surrounding Lake Whatcom is the town of Wickersham. Dotted with railroad crossing signs, its most distinguishable characteristic is a railway that operates on special occasions, including Valentine's Day.

With only 11 days to go, Lake Whatcom Railway owner Frank Culp III is preparing his diesel locomotive by decorating it with pink and red streamers and heart-shaped cardboard cutouts.

Culp opened the railway in 1972. His steam engine pulls three passenger cars every Tuesday and Saturday from the beginning of June to the end of

August. Initially Departing from Wickersham, the train travels a short distance along Highway 9 before entering a tunnel. On the other side, Mirror Lake glistens, and on a clear day, Mount Baker's snow-capped peak pokes through the trees, Culp said. The train stops next to a meadow, where passengers can hike a short distance to a waterfall or inspect the 1940-era locomotive. The train travels the six-mile round-trip in an hour and a half.



"My mother and some of the other ladies who volunteered in our coffee shop (on the train) said, 'Why don't you run a St. Patrick's Day train and a Valentine's train and an Easter train?'" Culp said. "Any kind of occasion that

came up, they thought we ought to run a train for it."

Although the St. Patrick's Day train never became a hit, Culp still runs his train during the summer and the weekends prior to Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter.

Anacortes resident Timothy Winters, 29, began volunteering at the railway with his father when he was 5 years old, sweeping the vestibules between runs. Although he has not volunteered since 1992, he said he still loves to ride the train.

Two years ago, Timothy took his wife Jennifer on the train.

"Everyone goes out to dinner, but riding a train is definitely different," Winters said. "It gets you in that whole nostalgic mood,"

Riding the train is like traveling back in time, Jennifer Winters said.

"It still retains the charm of its full glory," she said. "I could imagine the men in their topcoats coming in and sitting their ladies, with petticoats and umbrellas, down and looking out the window, watching the world go by. It's a feeling that doesn't exist in the world anymore."

strange days

unbelievable news from around the world

Woman sues Fen-Phen and returns award

Deborah Hayes was awarded more than \$1.3 million in November for heart damage she suffered from taking the Fen-Phen weight-loss drug. Hayes recently returned some of the reward, saying it was too much money — she only wanted \$588,000 in damages.

Woman trapped in storage unit for 63 days

Wanda Hudson, 44, said she was inadvertently padlocked into her 30-foot-by-10-foot locker at a storage facility in Mobile, Ala. She was trapped for 63 days until a neighboring renter heard her cry. Hudson survived on canned food and juice. She sued the storage facility for \$10 million but only received \$100,000.

School suspends student for bringing Gas-X

"Zero tolerance" laws in public schools require heavy punishment for slight technical violations. In December, the Bossier Parish, La., school board voted to uphold the year-long expulsion of a sophomore girl for possession of an Advil tablet. In January, a middle school student in Rio Rancho, N.M., was suspended for five days for possession of a Gas-X tablet.

Boy burns down house to hide party damage

A 16-year-old male from Cincinnati burned down his parents' home to hide the \$380,000 worth of damage that resulted from his playing host to a weeklong series of parties while his parents were gone.

Compiled by Caitlin Unsell.

24) Which of the following does NOT describe the Whatcom Family YMCA?

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- b) Washington's Tallest Rock Climbing Wall
- c) Fitness Classes
- d) A Fashion Show

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If the shoe fits

Farriers brave unruly horses, blazing furnaces and manure in pursuit of the perfect fit

By Kelseyanne Johnson
The Western Front

Part-time Ferndale farrier Joel Macari clamps the horse's hoof between his knees as he pounds a nail into it.

Each swift stroke causes the muscles in the horse's thigh to twitch. Macari pauses and grabs another nail.

This time, when he begins to tap it in, the 1,200-pound animal teetering on three legs uses powerful muscles to kick its hoof out of Macari's grasp.

The farrier does not let go because letting the hoof drop with nails sticking out may injure the horse and him. Each time the horse struggles, Macari's body jerks violently back and forth. He hangs onto the hoof until the horse calms down and then resumes his work.

For farriers, this is their job. Their work environment includes mud, manure and the maneuvering of 1000-pound animals in order to reach the most vital part of their anatomy — their feet.

"Horseshoeing is probably the most important thing about a horse, Macari says. "They carry a lot of weight on those little feet,"

Not keeping horses' hooves in proper condition can lead to unnecessary pain and sometimes fatal condition such as lameness, when a horse no longer can walk. Cutting away the excess nail from the horse's hooves, known as "trimming," can have a dramatic effect on how the horse feels. Trimming the toe of the hoof shorter raises the angle of the hoof so the heel does not rest too close to the ground, and the horse's heel and leg receive less stress, Bellingham farrier Shelia Todd says.

"They stand up better," Macari says. "It's like a new horse. They'll go out there



Kelseyanne Johnson/ The Western Front

Ferndale farrier Joel Macari pounds a horseshoe into shape to fit a horse's hoof.

and run around, whereas before they were falling all over each other."

Unlike the days of the Old West, when horse owners would bring their horses to the town blacksmith, who would fire up the coal forge and pound out horseshoes, today's farriers use more modern methods. Some still use coal forges, but many use portable forges that look like microwave ovens and order the horseshoes from manufacturers, Macari says.

Throughout the horseshoeing and trimming process, which can last from half an hour to a few hours, the farrier tries to maintain a working relationship with the horse, Macari says.

It is not uncommon for horses to kick, bite, run away, collapse on top of or fall asleep on farriers, Macari says. "How would you like it if someone brought your feet up past your hip and started pounding nails in it?" Macari says.

Bellingham farrier Shelia Todd, who has been knocked unconscious and broken her pelvis while working on horses, displays claw-like scars on her left arm where a horse pulled its foot away with the nails still sticking out and raked it across her arm. She shrugs these injuries off and calls them hazards of the job.

"Everyone has their bad days, even horses," Macari says. "They're animals, and every time they jerk away, they might have a reason."

Todd's theory is that if a farrier makes the horse comfortable, it will be happy. On one job, Todd and her apprentice, Wendy Woodmansee, might coo and stroke a pony, telling her to "let Mamas see the feetsies" in a voice usually reserved for babies and puppies. During the next job, Todd could wrestle with a stubborn burro that kicks at her while three other people try to control the animal.

Farriers use a variety of techniques to soothe horses and make them more comfortable. Many grab the horse's upper lip and pinch it. This releases endorphins into the horse's blood system that are supposed to ease pain and calm the horse. Macari says the most he will do to a horse is give it a firm slap on the belly to get its attention.

In rare situations, Macari will use a soft, cotton rope to "throw" a horse. He will take the rope and wind it around the horse's neck and legs to create a hobbling web. Macari then will stand back and let the horse fall, he says.

"As long as you don't touch them, they think they did it," he says. "If the horse thinks you did, they'll be scared of you."

Some farriers use more extreme techniques to try to keep horses from misbe-

having.

"You hear of farriers hitting horses, sometimes with a hammer, when they lose their temper," horse owner Tracy O'Flaherty says.

Horse owner Marlon Brass was upset when one farrier poked his horse with a rasp, a long file used to smooth out hoof imperfections after trimming.

"We never called him back," Brass says.

If the farrier makes horseshoeing a traumatic experience for the horse, it is not going to work, Macari said.

The next time the farrier tries to work on that horse, it will remember the bad experience and not cooperate, Macari says.

Some jobs cannot be completed. Woodmansee says she recounts an incident when she and Todd tried to take care of another burro. The burro was kicking, fighting and trying to jump over a nearby fence.

"Times like that, you either walk away or die," Woodmansee says.

When shoeing a horse, the farrier will trim the hoof and file away any excess nail with a rasp. They then go back and forth between shaping the horse's hoof with a rasp to make the shoe fit and heating up the shoe and pounding it into shape on an anvil.

If the horse has "problem hooves," the farrier might use corrective pads to further increase the angle of the hoof. They also can use glue to attach the shoe if the horse's hooves are too sensitive for nails.

Farriers sometimes use a hoof gauge and measuring tape to make sure the horse's hoof angles are the same and the horse is balanced. Some farriers rush through the job, though, and do not use a hoof gauge, Macari says.

"You've got to care," Todd says. "Most don't; they just do it for the money."

Most horse owners let their horses go "barefoot" during the winter because the horses are less active and less likely to need the protection of a shoe.

From the beginning of spring to the end of fall, however, horses need shoeing and trimming every six to eight weeks, which costs on average \$65 each time. A good farrier can earn approximately \$200 per day, Todd says.

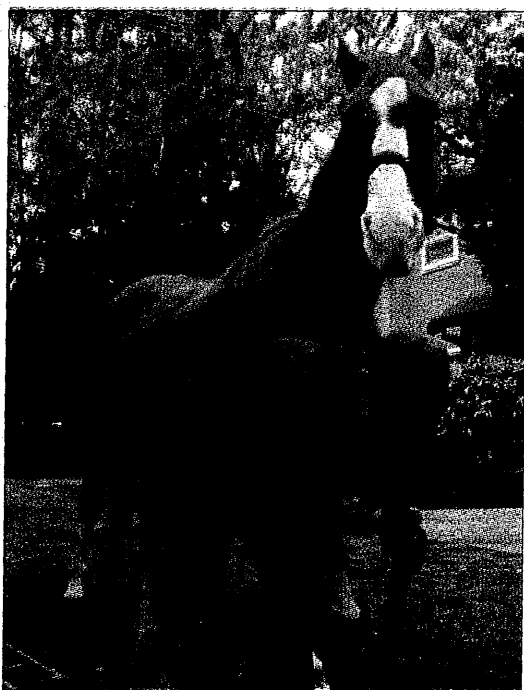
Macari says the earning potential can tempt farriers to overbook appointments and rush through jobs, which can lead to a horse's injury.

"If you act like you're burned out, take a vacation, because that's when you get hurt is when you are burned out," Todd says.

A slight twitch of a muscle or a slight flick of a tail can give the farrier a clue about what the horse is going to do next.

"You've got to know what they are going to do ahead of time," Todd says.

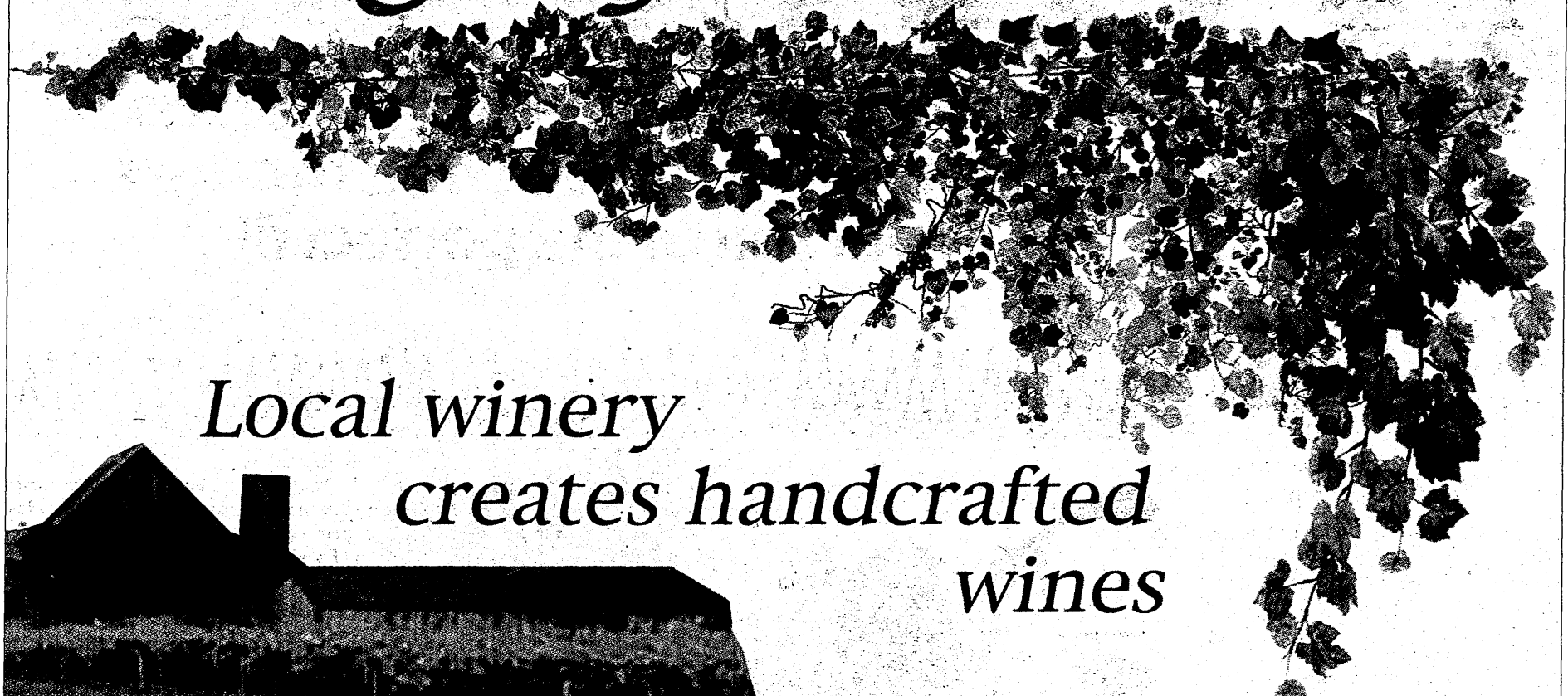
Macari eyes the tail of a horse named Ginger as it begins to rise. He pauses from trimming Ginger's back foot and tells the horse to put down his tail. Macari grins from behind the horse's thigh and says, "Occupational hazard — horses crapping on you."



Kelseyanne Johnson/ The Western Front
Bellingham farrier Shelia Todd files the hoof of a horse named Moose in Woodland.

Straight from the vine

Local winery creates handcrafted wines



By Eric Berto
The Western Front

As he stands above the barren vines, John Derthick, head winemaker of Mount Baker Vineyards, surveys them and exhales slowly, with his breath visible in the frigid air. Although the winter cold is upon the winery, operations have not slowed.

The winery, which sits roughly 10 miles outside of Bellingham, nestled in the foothills of Mount Baker, never experiences a slack time of the year, Derthick said. It has found a niche in the ever-expanding wine market by growing several unusual varieties, he said.

Grapes such as Madeline Angevine, chaselas dore and siegerebbe lend their distinc-

tive flavors to a winery that is truly special to the area. Derthick said Mount Baker is the only vineyard in the state that grows the Madeline Angevine and the siegerebbe because of the special climate required for growing those varieties. Those varieties are necessary to serve the American wine-drinking public, he said.

"People's tastes are expanding," Derthick said. "Americans are getting more sophisticated in their wine palate."

Derthick, who studied viticulture and enology at the University of California Davis, said the key to pleasing the American wine drinker is blending wines well. The winery makes varieties that maintain their fruit flavor, he said.

"Wine making isn't rocket science, but it

is an art," he said. "We do like to experiment a little bit here and there."

Mount Baker Vineyards owner Randy Finley has owned the winery for 14 years and has seen it grow exponentially since he bought it in 1989. The former theater owner said owning a working winery is a bigger challenge than he anticipated.

"I (originally) thought that I could just sit and have wine at 5:00, but it soon became apparent that I had to work," he said. "This is the hardest thing I have ever done."

The winery sits on six acres and has the feel of a French chateau. Walking into the tasting room is like walking into the dining room of 14th century royalty.

Walls of bottles surround the majestic dining room table where guests can enjoy a fully catered meal and a taste of the drink of Christ. One story below the dining room is "the pit," which is home to barrels of wine waiting for confinement in bottles. Derthick said the winery keeps a library of every bottle it produces.

Maintaining the winery is more than a full-time job for the employees. Keeping track of more than 300 barrels of wine, six acres of vineyards and the 7,000 cases of wine produced each year often means 14-hour days six days a week, Derthick said.

Finley said he found his love for wine while living in France for a year in 1988. Having just won an antitrust lawsuit against corporate movie theaters, he moved his family to France, where he was able to hone his wine palate.

"I came back from Europe with a love for good food and good wine," he said.

Owning a winery is difficult because the constant pressure to produce quality wines is always present, Finley said.

"As soon as you make a great wine, the contest is — can you do it again?" he said.

Sometimes, the winery is not able to produce a wine that meets the quality standards Finley and Derthick have set for the vineyard.

In 1992, the winery produced approximately 300 gallons of pinot gris that Finley described as "just no damned good"

because of an error during the fermentation phase.

Finley said he saved the winery from bankruptcy when he bought it from the former owner. He said his motivation to keep going and successfully run the business lies within working with the mom-and-pop restaurants that buy wine from him.

Retailers in the area have begun selling the wines because of their local following, said Tom Norris, who works in the wine department at the Fairhaven Market.

"Their wines have improved over the years," Norris said. "They had a shaky beginning, but now they have a consistent offering."

Norris said he would not, however, list the wine in his top 10.

"They're nice wines, but there's other wines that are a better value," he said.

Selling the wine is one of the most difficult parts of operating the winery, Finley said.

The winery focuses on restaurants in Washington, where Finley and his sales assistant market the wines to restaurants.

They focus their efforts mainly in King and Skagit counties because the restaurants there have a strong interest in their wines.

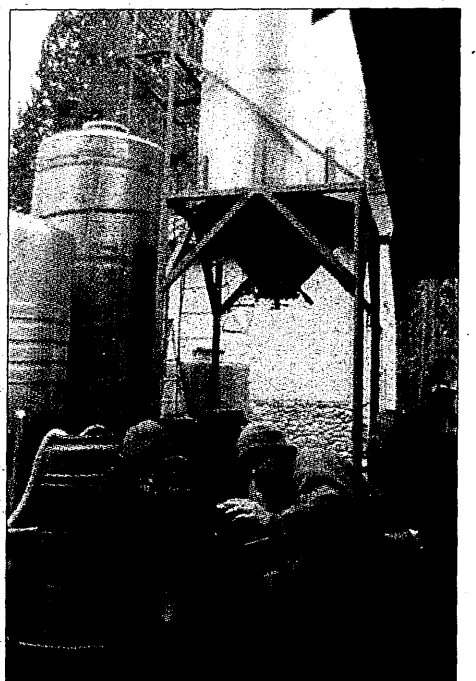
Finley said he expects the future of the winery to be bright.

"I just keep mashing along," Finley said.



Eric Berto/The Western Front

Mount Baker Vineyards owner stares over a glass of merlot. The winery is attempting to break up the chains of tannins, the chemicals in wine that give it a bitter, biting taste.



Eric Berto/The Western Front
Mount Baker Vineyards head winemaker John Derthick and his assistant, Joe Weber, repair a pump used to clean the fermenting tanks.

SPORTS

www.westernfrontonline.com

The Western Front

February 3, 2004 • 10

TRACK AND FIELD

Western men win 4x400 relay, two others place in top three

The Western men's 4x400 relay team finished with a first-place time of 3:27.41 at the University of Washington Husky Indoor Track and Field Preview. Western sophomore Paul Danforth was third in the long jump, and Western sophomore Amy Kruckeberg was second in the high jump.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Gerald GNAC co-player of the week

Western junior forward Jodi Gerald, the conference's co-player for the week of Jan. 25 to 31, collected 40 points and 19 rebounds in wins over Humboldt State and Western Oregon universities.

Vikings secure perimeter, contain Falcon sharpshooters

By Matt Hietala
The Western Front

Western men's basketball head coach Brad Jackson's game plan to defeat Seattle Pacific University worked to near perfection Saturday.

Conceding the paint to SPU junior center Jason Chivers and containing the Falcons' shooters, Western shut down the perimeter and won 80-73 for its sixth straight win Saturday at Carver Gym.

"We knew that Chivers would be a load and tough to stop," Jackson said. "Our feeling was just that we wanted to get out and get after their shooters. We knew if we did that, we'd be OK."

Chivers, a 6-foot-9-inch, Great Northwest Athletic all-conference honorable mention selection this past season, scored 22 second-half points and finished with a career-high 28 on 11-14 shooting from the floor and 6-6 shooting from the free-throw line.

The Vikings, ranked No. 9 in the latest West region poll, improved to 13-5 overall and 7-2 in GNAC play. SPU, which had won three games in a row and five of its past seven, fell to 9-9 overall and remained at No. 5 in the GNAC conference at 5-4.

While Chivers scored his points inside, the rest of the Falcons struggled. Junior guard Jordan Lee, SPU's leading scorer at 16.3 points per game, finished with 10 points. The Vikings also kept freshman forward Dustin Bremerman scoreless after he came in to the game averaging 11.9 points a game.

"We recognized that every game SPU won, their three-point shots carried them," Western sophomore guard Grant Dykstra said. "On the games they lost, they really

struggled from the perimeter. Our big focus was to not let them hoist the three."

SPU, which came in averaging nearly nine three-pointers per game, with four players shooting better than 40 percent from behind the arc, shot 6-17 from behind the three-point line.

While the Vikings kept the perimeter in check for the majority of the game, SPU still managed a late comeback.

The Falcons players, who trailed by as many as 17 points in the second half, went on a pair of late runs that put them within striking distance.

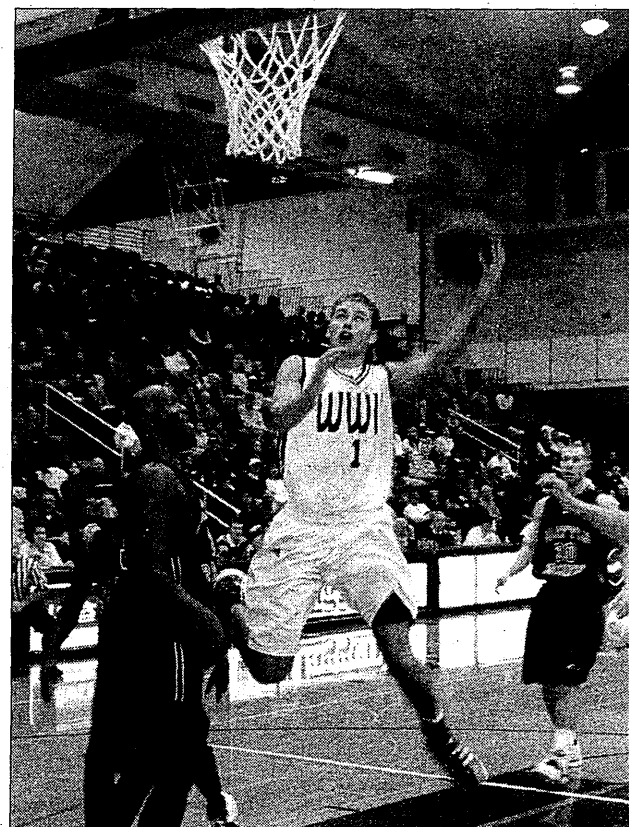
With the score 67-52 in favor of Western, SPU created a 13-3 run to cut the score to 70-65. The Falcons went on a 6-0 run after Western sophomore guard Ryan Diggs hit a jump shot and Western senior guard Stephan Dickason made a lay-in and drew a foul. Western led 75-71 with 59 seconds left.

From there, the Vikings players sealed the win from the line, sinking five of their six free-throw attempts.

Dykstra, who finished with a team-high 16 points, seven assists, seven rebounds and five steals, scored 12 in the second half. Diggs finished with 12 points. Sophomore reserve guard Kyle Jackson finished with eight points, all of which came in the first half as Western took the lead for good.

"I come in and just try and give us some energy and try and play good defense and hit the open shots," Kyle Jackson said. "I also have to get the other guys the ball. I mean, we got so many guys who can score; it's hard to stop us when we're rolling."

With SPU leading 24-23 in the first half, Kyle Jackson



Chris Taylor/The Western Front
Western sophomore guard Grant Dykstra glides around Seattle Pacific University junior center Jason Chivers on Saturday at Carver Gym.

SEE JACKSON PAGE 12

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A faculty member from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences or the College of Sciences & Technology will be chosen to receive the Peter J. Elich Excellence in Teaching Award, and a faculty member from one of the other Colleges: Business and Economics, Fairhaven, Fine and Performing Arts, Huxley, and Woodring College of Education will be chosen to receive an Excellence in Teaching Award. Nominations are solicited from alumni, students, or faculty members by completing the attached ballot. Letters of recommendation may be attached.
The following criteria and policies are used for selection:
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• If a nominee wishes to be considered, he/she will be asked to submit supporting materials to the committee.
• The award is a teaching award, not a research award. Submitted materials should relate to teaching.
• During the consideration process, evaluations of current and previous classes may be sought; recommendations from students and colleagues may be sought, and a class visitation may be conducted. The committee may devise additional or alternative criteria upon the announcement. The committee will evaluate all material and make selections according to their best judgment.
Excellence in Teaching Awards Ballot
Letter of recommendation or evaluation may be attached to this ballot.
Ballots must be received by March 1, 2004
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Signature of Nominator: _____
Nominator (circle one): Alumni Student Faculty
Faculty nominations for the Colleges of Humanities & Social Sciences and Sciences & Technology may be sent to: Ron Kleinknecht, Dean, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, MS9099. Other college nominations may be sent to: Ron Riggins, Dean, Fairhaven College, MS9118.

Lingerie bowl skimps on talent; Janet revealed more for viewers



Bryan Sharick

COMMENTARY

In an attempt that only seemed to perpetuate female stereotypes in athletics, the gaming Web site PartyPoker.com sponsored a titillating half-time event Sunday called the Lingerie Bowl for \$19.95 on pay-per-view.

While this event probably entertained a few prepubescent-minded individuals, ultimately the "game" was a joke. It never should have taken place, and the creators of PartyPoker.com should be ashamed.

The game was a lingerie fashion show mixed with bad football. The game did not feature any athletes — probably because athletes saw how stereotypical the game would be — but instead pitted teams of models and actresses in lace-decorated sports bras and short-shorts.

While women have continually fought for rights such as suffrage, equal pay and Title IX, which made it illegal for colleges and high schools to discriminate on the basis

of sex, the Lingerie Bowl is an example of how unoriginal people can be. All it did was reinforce the perception of women as sex objects and further objectify female athletes as eye candy — see Anna Kournikova.

The producers even lost their initial sponsor, Dodge, because of complaints from dealerships and women's groups.

The original charity group, The American Foundation for AIDS Research, bailed on the game as well.

The only people close to being athletes were former NFL linebacker Lawrence Taylor and former runningback Eric Dickerson, who coached Team Dream and Team Euphoria. People may remember Taylor from his recent cocaine and solicitation-of-prostitution confession on "60 Minutes."

The media publicized the event as a battle between women wearing lingerie. This is only partly true, however, since the players wore shoulder pads, mouth guards

and other protective equipment.

The lingerie aspect only came into play in the beginning of the event during a pre-game fashion show.

If people wanted to see skin, they needed to go no further than the free Super Bowl half-time show. Pop star Janet Jackson had her right breast exposed when fellow pop singer Justin Timberlake tore away part of her top. Jackson had a star-shaped pasty on her breast, which is definitely more skin exposure than people watching the Lingerie Bowl saw.

Many people, mostly male, would argue that the game was pure entertainment and that it was done in good taste.

The millions of fans who watched the Super Bowl were not likely to watch a bad game of football just because it was played by women in daisy-duke shorts and cut-off shirts. Because of the price tag on the Lingerie Bowl, the show truly was selling sex.

While purchasing a pay-per-view broadcast is a private decision, shows like the Lingerie Bowl have nothing to offer other than bad football and entertainment that perpetuates stereotypes.

'If people wanted to see skin, they needed to go no further than the free Super Bowl half-time show.'

Women's basketball

Vikings hold Wolves to just 41 points

Ranked No.4 in this past week's NCAA Division II West Region poll, the Western women's basketball team defeated the Western Oregon University Wolves 59-41 on Jan. 31 in Monmouth, Ore.

Western senior forward Tessa DeBoer led all scorers with 18 points. Western senior forward Jenn McGillivray and junior forward Jodi Gerald each contributed 15 points.

Gerald, who was the Great Northwest Athletic Conference co-player of the week, added eight rebounds and four steals in her second-career start. During the past four games, she has averaged 20 points per contest.

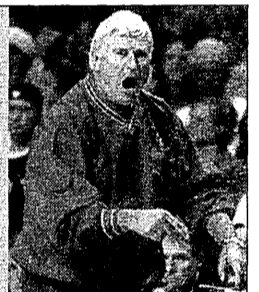
Western continues to play with just eight players, as junior guard Kelly Colard and freshman forward Krystal Robinson suffered season-ending knee injuries.

Western is 14-4 overall and 7-2 in the GNAC. It will play Central Washington University at 7 p.m. on Thursday in Carver Gym.

The Western front online

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Freshman frontcourt factors big

By Caitlin Unsell
The Western Front

After losing standout sophomore forward Maurice Tyree this past season, the Western men's basketball team had a hole in its frontcourt. Two unknowns have helped fill the void.

Fresh off the bench and just out of high school, Western freshman forwards Grant Assink and Lukas Henne are exceeding expectations.

Assink, who is 6 feet 9 inches tall, averages 7.8 points and 3.8 rebounds per game while shooting 57.4 percent from the field.

Henne stands 6 feet 6 inches tall and has averaged 10.2 points and 3.4 rebounds during the past five games. He has blocked a team-high 15 shots.

"They are both mentally tough kids," Western head coach Brad Jackson said. "They have a lot of composure and poise, especially for their age. Couple that with their competitiveness, height and excellent athleticism, and you have two very smart basketball players."

Western senior guard Stefan Dickason said that while he had a gut feeling one of them would

do something substantial for the team, having them both contribute this much is surprising.

"Lukas is a shot blocker," Dickason said. "He won a game for us against (Pacific Lutheran University). Grant is another weapon. He can take it outside or bring it in. He shoots well, especially for a big man."

Assink and Henne said their increased playing time has surprised them, and they feel the need to earn their playing time.

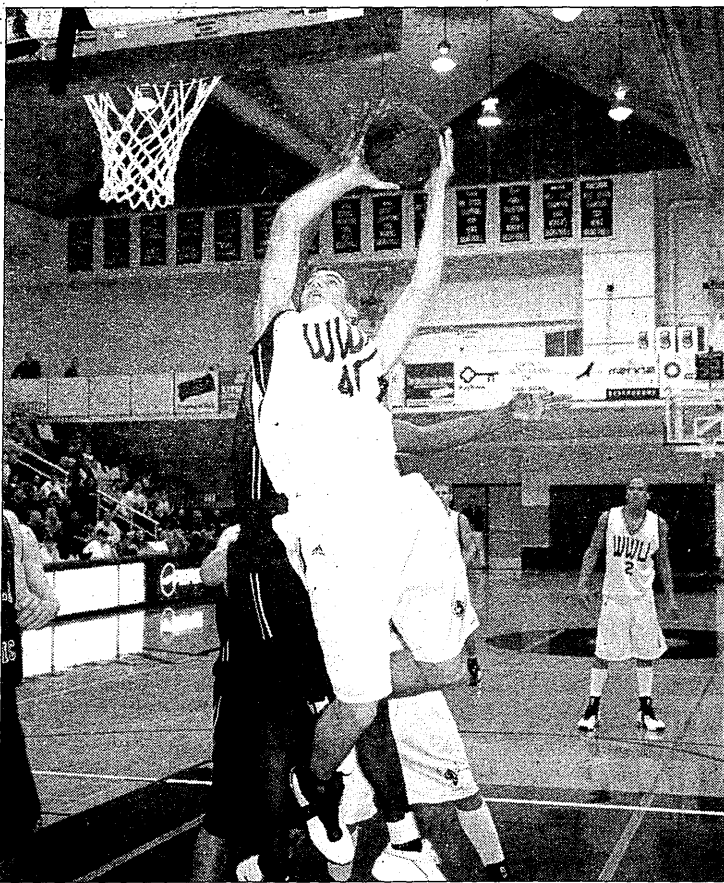
"I have to prove every practice that I deserve to play in the games," Henne said.

When Henne came to Western for tryouts this past summer and met the team, he said the players appeared to be friends with one another, and he could sense the team chemistry.

"In high school, I had to worry about attitudes on my team," Henne said. "I could tell the first time meeting Western's team I wouldn't have to deal with that anymore."

Henne said playing for Western is starting to feel right.

"Coming in, I just wanted to make the team," Henne said. "I thought I would redshirt or maybe play at the end of games. Now my goal is starting



Chris Taylor/The Western Front

Western freshman forward Lukas Henne soars past a Seattle Pacific University defender Saturday in Carver Gym.

and scholarships."

Henne averaged 14.1 points and 8.0 rebounds as a senior forward at Central Kitsap High School. He was team captain and MVP. He started two years and lettered three.

Jackson started the season mostly using Assink off the bench, but recently he has been utilizing both forwards to relieve starting junior center Rod Picou. Henne's average playing time of 12.4 minutes per game and Assink's average of 16.1 are just shy of Picou's 18.8 minutes per game.

Growing up next door to Western, Assink said he has always been impressed by Jackson's reputation for developing players.

Assink said he was considering other Washington state colleges but chose Western in order to stay close to his family.

"I wasn't expecting to be contributing this much my first year, I thought I would maybe play 10 minutes but not 20," Assink said.

Assink averaged 11.9 points and 7.3 rebounds per game his

senior year at Lynden High School. He helped Lynden to a 22-3 record, league and district titles and the semifinals in the Class 3A state tournament, where it placed sixth. He spent a year away from basketball while he attended Whatcom Community College.

Despite their height, they both said the physical aspect of the game is one of the most difficult adjustments they have made in the transition from high school to college basketball.

"In high school, I was one of the biggest guys on the court," Assink said. "Now every night guys are bigger and stronger than I am."

Jackson said Assink and Henne have had an opportunity to adjust to college basketball, and they are becoming more comfortable.

As the season progresses, Jackson said he sees a promising future for both.

"Both players are goal-oriented and have a strong desire to excel," Jackson said. "Now it is a matter of how hard they want to work. The strength they gain will affect (how they dominate their) positions."

Jackson: Guard scores five and keys 18-4 run to finish first half

Continued from Page 10

forced SPU turnovers and sparked the Vikings offense with five points during a 13-0 Western run. After the Falcons sank a pair of free throws, Jackson connected on a deep three-pointer. Western finished the half on an 18-4 run and led 39-28.

Western senior guard Jason Burrell, who finished with 14 points and five assists, said Kyle Jackson and the rest of the Vikings bench have been an important factor during the team's six-game winning streak.

"What's great about our team is we can put anyone in the game at any time," he said. "There's no real letup no matter who we stick in there."

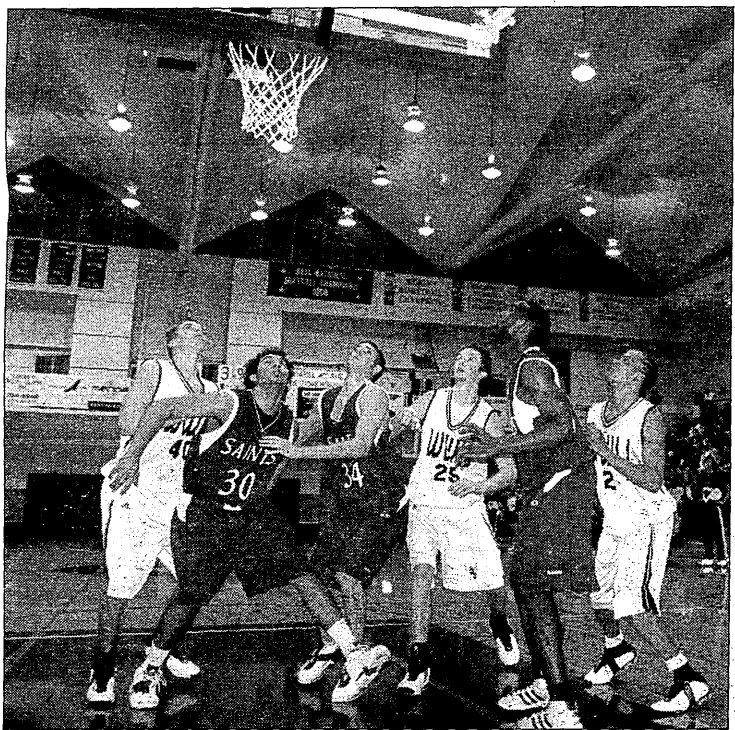
The Vikings used a balanced scoring attack, with seven players scoring at least eight points. Junior forward Craig Roosendaal and junior center Rod Picou each scored eight points and Dickason finished with nine. The Vikings' bench finished with 22 points.

The Vikings had eight turnovers, compared to 21 for the Falcons, 16 of which came in the first half. Off those 21 turnovers, the Vikings scored 24 points. SPU managed only four points off turnovers.

"Being able to hold onto the ball ourselves is huge," coach Jackson said. "I think our guys are doing a good job practicing and getting used to playing with each other and are executing pretty well."

Western takes its win streak on the road next week as the team travels to Western Oregon University on Thursday and Saturday to the GNAC's first-place team, Humboldt State University, which is ranked No. 4 in the West region.

"We haven't really accomplished anything yet, other than putting ourselves in the position to take the next step," coach Jackson said. "But, shoot, we're on the road now and that's not going to be easy."



Chris Taylor/The Western Front

Western freshman forwards Lukas Henne, left, and Grant Assink and sophomore guard Ryan Diggs battle Saint Martin's College defenders for a rebound at Carver Gym.

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OPINIONS

ELECTION 2004: THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series of democratic candidate profiles.

John Edwards is a quality choice



Jason Egan

COMMENTARY

Imagine for a minute the outlandish idea of a person attempting to become president of the United States after serving in only one political office. Also consider that this person is the first from his family to attend college and does not appear to be a day older than 35.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, however, could break the stereotypes surrounding the presidency.

Edwards, although unlikely to win the Democratic nomination because of inexperience, is a candidate voters should consider based on his innovative ideas.

Edwards' education policy sets him apart from his opponents. Not only would Edwards like to increase teachers' wages and provide scholarship programs for students who desire teaching careers, he also has proposed a creative secondary education plan called "College for Everyone." Edwards' proposed program provides

free tuition to qualified university and community college students during their first academic year. In return, students will work or serve in the community, as a volunteer or a paid employee, an average of 10 hours a week.

As a supporter of affirmative action policies, Edwards would also seek to end "legacy" admissions, the admission of a student whose parent also attended the school. He said these take away positions from students who are more deserving of a higher education.

Edwards' economic policies are specifically targeted to help struggling Americans find and keep jobs. That process, Edwards said, begins with corporate America. A quote posted on Edwards' Web site reads: "Instead of giving tax breaks to companies that move their headquarters overseas, we should offer tax incentives to companies to manufacture here in America. We should be exporting American products not American jobs."

In addition to creating jobs in the United States, Edwards said he would like to improve working conditions. He proposed raising the federal minimum wage from

SEE Edwards, PAGE 15

Howard Dean is too wild to win



Sarah Getchman

COMMENTARY

If the general election were today, former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean would run a closer race against President George W. Bush than any other democratic candidate, according to a recent Time/CNN poll. But if the Democrats nominate Dean, he is almost sure to lose, perhaps by a wide margin.

The most recent polls show that 51 percent of Americans said they are likely to vote for Bush if he runs for re-election, and 53 percent do not believe Dean can beat Bush in the November primary election.

Dean spent more than 11 years as governor of Vermont and earned re-election five times. Born in New York and raised on Long Island, Dean is a multimillionaire descended from a long line of investment bankers.

Dean has established himself as the "straight-talk" candidate, and most voters see him as liberal or moderate.

Although Dean's genuine interest in American rights is evident, some key issues will prevent him from winning the presidential election.

Opponents often criticize Dean for his outrageous temper, his fickle political positions and his contradictory viewpoints.

Dean appeared on national television in a hysterical, arm-waving outburst after his loss in the Iowa primary election. Dean subsequently provided excuses for his shrieking, fist-pumping performance.

"You may notice that my voice is a little hoarse," Dean said, following his televised outburst. "It's not because I was whooping and hollering at my third-place finish in Iowa. It's because I have a cold."

To some people, Dean's ridiculous tantrum was the beginning of his inevitable downfall.

"The people of Iowa realized they didn't want a president with the personality of a hockey dad," said David Letterman, host of CBS' "The Late Show."

In a recent interview on ABC, Diane Sawyer brought up a comment Dean made at St. George Boarding School in Rhode Island.

SEE Dean, PAGE 15

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Frontline

Western should allow other companies to compete with Sodexho to provide better, cheaper food

Miller Hall, Arntzen Hall, the Viking Union and Carver Gym are four distinct buildings that have one aspect in common: Only one company is allowed to serve food at their eateries.

Sodexho is nearly the sole provider of food at Western. Others may only compete with the company at the miniscule "vendor's row" outside the Viking Union. The company oversees university dining halls and food markets throughout campus, including those in the four aforementioned buildings. The company has a contract with Western that does not expire until 2012.

Western administrators should seek to break Sodexho's monopoly and allow other companies to sell food on campus.

Sodexho does, in fact, have a monopoly. In a May 2 article in The Western Front, Western Publicity Center coordinator Jeff Bates said, "I certainly wouldn't call it a monopoly because a monopoly specifically refers to an overall national monopoly."

If one thinks of Western as a microcosm, however, the term applies. No other firms may challenge it on campus, and few restaurants are located within easy walking distance of Western.

If the U.S. government does not accept monopolies, then Western should not either.

Providing on-campus consumers with more dining choices would have benefits obvious to anyone who has taken Economics 206. With competition between two or more vendors, food prices likely would fall.

Without other businesses to worry about, Sodexho may charge more for food than it otherwise would. It is unlikely the company could charge \$4.99 before tax for a chicken Caesar salad and a small packet of salad dressing if it was competing with other companies.

In addition to lowering prices, competition between campus food vendors also could lead to the companies offering more food choices. While Sodexho provides pizza in Arntzen and submarine sandwiches in Carver, much of the fare offered in Miller is curiously similar to the selection at the VU Market.

If Western allowed other companies to open on campus, the additional competition would force the vendors to constantly seek what consumers want in order to gain an edge.

Some might say Sodexho is doing a decent job of providing food to the campus. Others may think it is easier for Western to contract food services with one company in order to save time and paperwork.

As adequate as Sodexho may be, the quality of on-campus food always could be better. And while it may be easier for Western to go through one company, it is neither better nor easier for students and faculty members, who must pay high prices if they wish to eat on campus.

Western should allow other companies to compete with Sodexho to provide its students and employees with cheaper food that is as varied as the buildings in which it is served.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Jeremy Edwards, Josh Dumond, Mugs Scherer, Cari Lyle, Jenny Zuvela, Ben Arnold, Shanna Green, Porfirio Pena, Keith Bolling, Justin McCaughan, Jenny Maag, Matt DeVeau, Matt McDonald and Bonnie Coe.

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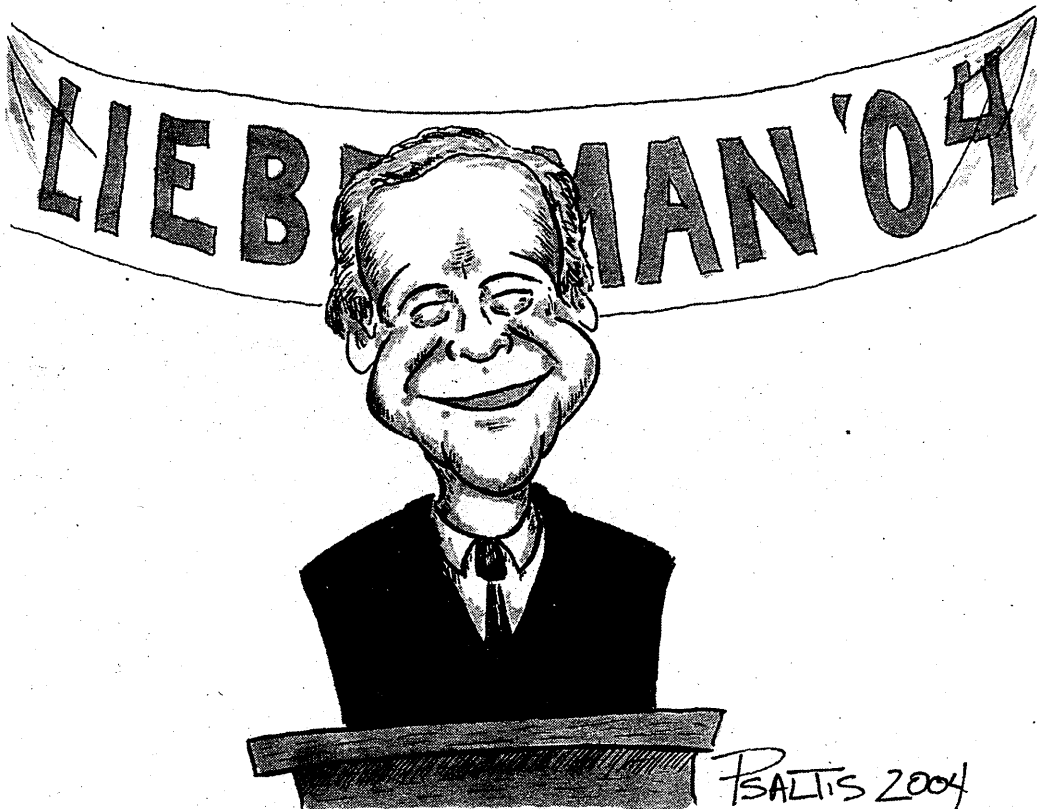
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And we quote:

"More and more of our imports are coming from overseas."

— President George W. Bush

THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOT WHO WON'T WIN...



Independent investigation into prewar intelligence is justified



Jelena Washington

COMMENTARY

President George W. Bush officially declared the end of major combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom almost eight months ago, yet U.S. officials still have not said the much-anticipated phrase: "We found weapons of mass destruction in Iraq."

The public should know the truth before it becomes old news.

Bush finally has authorized an independent investigation into the handling of prewar intelligence.

The investigation will feature a panel of nine, and it will reach its conclusions in 2005. This wait is too long.

Bush and his administration have not admitted to any wrongdoings concerning prewar information, but considering the latest information, they have no choice. In the most recent development, David A. Kay, former chief weapons inspector in Iraq, said Iraq had removed all weapons of mass destruction before the war and had abandoned any real effort to form a large weapons program soon after the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Prime Minister of Britain Tony Blair also has agreed to a judicial investigation into Britain's prewar claims, led by Senior Judge Lord Hutton. The British media took the fire off Blair when the judge said Jan. 27 that Blair and

his administration did not intentionally manipulate knowledge of Iraqi weapons. Bush should take a cue from Blair and speed up the investigations.

Congress has a duty to the United States to alert the people of any wrongdoings within the government, whether intentional or unintentional.

The information that has come out in recent months may prove Bush made United States citizens believe in something that never was. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said in 2002, "We do know that the Iraqi regime currently has chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction."

Bush recently has been hesitant to say anything certain. In this year's State of the Union Address, Bush said Iraq had "weapons of mass destruction-related program activities."

An investigation into this matter should not be stalled, especially because some in Washington were willing to investigate the real-estate dealings and sex life of former President Bill Clinton.

The investigation into the Whitewater real-estate deal began in 1994 because of allegations that Clinton and former first lady Hillary Clinton had improper financial ties to Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan.

The U.S. media and Congress quickly abandoned the

Whitewater fervor for more tantalizing news — Clinton's infamous statement, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman." If this statement warranted heavy investigation, then Bush's false statements deserve a closer look. War certainly is more important than someone's sex life.

Bush said the war in Iraq was valid because Saddam Hussein was "a grave and gathering threat to America and the world."

If Hussein did not possess weapons of mass destruction, he did not pose a threat to the world, let alone the United States.

Hussein was a threat to civilians living under his reign. He committed crimes that violated

human rights and kept his country poor while he lived in splendor. This, however, was not a valid reason for war. Before the war, the government did not present liberation as a main reason for launching an invasion of Iraq.

Congress cannot undo the war or regain the money spent, but it can investigate prewar intelligence so the public knows the truth in a reasonably short time.

The independent investigation is not about Democrats versus Republicans or about the upcoming presidential election. The public has a right to know if the government has made a mistake.

"An investigation into this matter should not be stalled, especially because some in Washington were willing to investigate the real-estate deals and sex life of former President Bill Clinton."

Edwards: Health care plan is strong

Continued from Page 13

\$5.15 an hour to \$6.65 an hour, an increase of \$1.50. Although the impact of the raise would not affect workers in Washington, where the minimum wage is \$7.16 an hour, workers in 42 other states would feel the impact of such an increase.

Edwards, like his rivals, also has stressed the importance of improving the health care system in the United States. His ideas include a proposal to provide quality health care coverage for all people younger than 21. In order to make such a proposal come to fruition, Edwards devised a plan that calls for approximately \$25 billion in tax credits for families.

Under Edwards' plan, this means a family of four with a combined income of approxi-

mately \$60,000 that receives health care coverage from an employer will receive a tax break of approximately \$300.

Some argue that Edwards' lack of political experience and youthful appearance will hamper his quest for the Democratic nomination. It will be extremely difficult for Edwards to overtake the lead that frontrunner Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts currently holds. Edwards must win in South Carolina and also have good showings in several other states, which vote today.

Many Democrats are preoccupied with defeating President George W. Bush in November and are voting for the candidate they feel gives them the best chance to do so rather than selecting a candidate like Edwards, who could significantly change the United States for the better.



Howard Dean

Dean is a physician who previously shared a medical practice with his wife. He received his B.A. from Yale University in 1971 and his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City in 1978. He served in the Vermont House from 1982 to 1986, was elected lieutenant governor in 1986 and served as governor from 1991 to 2002.



John Edwards

Edwards attended North Carolina State University and graduated with an honors degree in textiles in 1974. He earned a law degree with honors in 1977 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Edwards was sworn into the Senate on January 6, 1999. Senator Edwards serves on four committees: Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Intelligence; Judiciary; and Small Business.

Dean: Statements are not consistent

Continued from Page 13

"If you want to get to know me, you should be the curious type who can put up with a temper," Dean said.

Although Dean has the right to be angry and voice his displeasure about an issue, his duty as a public figure is to present himself in a calm and collected manner. If he cannot accomplish this during a political campaign, people cannot expect him to maintain any sort of composure during a crisis.

Dean has changed his political positions on several issues such as capital punishment and the use of medical marijuana.

Dean was opposed to the death penalty until 1997, but he now favors it for "extreme" crimes like terrorism or the killing of a police officer.

Dean also rejected the use of marijuana in 2002 when he struck down a Vermont bill that would have protected the medical use of the drug. Since then, Dean has supported a proposed Federal Drug Administration study that will evaluate the

benefits of medicinal use.

Dean often says he supports certain causes, but his actions contradict his supposed beliefs.

Although Dean has spoken harshly about the negative environmental impact of sport utility vehicles, he drives a Chevrolet Blazer.

Dean's political campaign emphasizes creating jobs, balancing budgets and expanding the government's social activism. Many people agree the country needs this, but great ideas must have great people to put them into action. Dean simply does not have the disposition or reliability to become a great president.

Americans should not have to put up with Dean's erratic temper tantrums or have to worry his stance will differ from one day to the next. This is not the type of presidential candidate citizens can count on.

If Dean expects to move past the primary and defeat Bush in the upcoming election, he will have to make some dramatic changes to his temperament and credibility.

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BILLY McHALES hiring day servers experience only apply in person 2-4pm

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HELP WANTED

SUMMER CAMP jobs for men and women. Hidden Valley Camp (Granite Falls, WA) needs resident staff (6/19/04-8/27/04). Spend your summer in a beautiful setting while in worthwhile employment.

Room/Board/Salary. Positions include: Counselors, lifeguards, program staff, drivers, kitchen staff and more. Stop by our booth at the Career Fair on February 12th for more information. Interviews available on Feb. 13th. Or, contact us directly by phone: (425)844-8896 or e-mail: hiddevallycamp@earthlink.net

LOOKING FOR women 19-30 who would be interested in our egg donation program. For more information call Bellingham IVS at 715-8124

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

\$450 GROUP Fundraiser Scheduling Bonus. 4 hours of your group's time PLUS our free (yes, free) fundraising solutions EQUALS \$1,000-\$2,000 in earnings for your

group. Call TODAY for a \$450 bonus when you schedule your non-sales fundraiser with Campus Fundraiser. Contact Campus Fundraiser, (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

ARTISTIC GEEKS needed! The CS department is holding a competition for artistic pieces in the digital medium, which will be viewed on a large screen as people enter the CS department in the new communications building. The competition ends March 5th at 5pm. Please see www.cs.wvu.edu for further details and prize information.

CAMPS

THE BEST SUMMER EVER! CAMP STARLIGHT, a co-ed residential camp located in N.E. Pennsylvania (just 2 hrs from NYC) seeks mature and enthusiastic individuals to be general counselors and specialists in athletics, waterfront, outdoor adventure (ropes course) and art. Join our staff from all over the world and enjoy the perfect balance of work and FUN! **ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FEB 23.** Check out our website at www.camstarlight.com and for more information call 1-877-875-3971 or email info@campstarlight.com.

SUMMER CAMP Jobs! Counselors needed for a top summer camp in beautiful Maine. Top Salary, room, board, laundry, clothing and travel (airfare) provided. Must love working with young people and have skills in one of our activity areas of: sports, swimming, horseback riding (English), drama, dance, sailing, gymnastics, tennis, or water-ski. Also available are office positions and early childcare specialists. Camp dates June 16th-August 12th. Come see us at www.campvega.com. Apply on our website! Fill out the on-line application. E-mail us at camp_vega@yahoo.com or call us at 1-800-993-8342 to get more information. **We'll be on WWU campus Feb. 23rd VU Room #460 from 10-3 for interviews and information. No apt. necessary.**

SUMMER CAMP COUNSELORS ON CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FOR PREMIER CAMPS IN MASSACHUSETTS. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports including Roller Hockey and Lacrosse, all individual sports such as Tennis & Golf, Waterfront and Pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. **GREAT SALARIES, room, board, and travel.** June 18th - August 13th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be

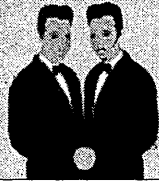
unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys): 1-800-753-9118 DANBEE www.danbee.com (Girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewers will be on campus Wednesday, March 3rd - 10am to 3:00pm in the Viking Union Building.

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ADOPTION

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In depth:



Should same-sex marriage be legalized?

Gay marriage is a civil right



Zoe Fraley

COMMENTARY

In the past century, Americans have seen many civil rights battles unfold. Minorities and women have fought for and won equal rights.

As U.S. citizens, homosexuals deserve the equal rights the Constitution promised, including the right to marry whomever they choose.

In the State of the Union address this past week, President George W. Bush spoke against gay marriage. He voiced his support of a potential constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman, which a joint session of the House and Senate will consider Feb 11.

Everyone in the United States receives the promise of equal treatment under the law. Banning same-sex marriage places homosexual couples at a disadvantage and denies them their rights to equality.

Marriage is not just a ring and a relationship. It also comes with legal benefits. These cannot apply to homosexuals because, however, they cannot legally have spouses. Health insurance does not cover members of same-sex couples under one

policy. They have limited visiting rights at hospitals and cannot receive Social Security survivor benefits.

Vermont and Massachusetts recognize civil unions between same-sex couples. Traditionally, marriage licenses from one state receive acceptance in other states. Civil unions, however, are not recognized outside of the states providing them. States that refuse to accept these unions are doing so unconstitutionally. Under the "full faith and credit" clause in Article IV of the Constitution, states have to recognize each other's legal proceedings.

Despite the constitutional support gay marriage receives, many argue that allowing gays to marry will destroy the sanctity of marriage.

The divorce rate in the United States is approximately 43 percent, according to a study by the National Center for Health Statistics. Britney Spears' recent 55-hour joke of a marriage should prove it does not take same-sex marriage to destroy the sanctity of the institution.

Perhaps a compromise is possible. Same-sex couples could have civil unions that provide them with all the same rights married couples receive, while refraining from calling it a marriage to keep conservative thinkers at ease.

If an amendment outlawing gay marriage passes, it would be a tremendous setback for the equal rights of all citizens, not just the homosexual community.

Many are against same-sex unions



Bryan Sharick

COMMENTARY

The U.S. Supreme Court should not destroy the establishment of marriage by allowing same-sex couples to marry.

The policies the U.S. government creates should reflect the views of its citizens, and the Supreme Court should recognize this.

In a Jan. 21 ABCNEWS/The Washington Post survey, 55 percent of the Americans surveyed said same-sex marriages should be illegal. In the same survey, 51 percent of Americans said civil unions, which provide same-sex couples the same rights as those afforded to married couples, also should be illegal. Only 46 percent of those surveyed said civil unions should be legal.

In light of the survey, one should examine Washington state court decisions. The Washington State Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of a lower court in the 1974 Singer v. Hara case by not allowing same-sex marriages.

In 1998, Washington state established the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman. A majority of the states define marriage as a union one man and one woman. Thirty-seven states

have similar marriage-recognition laws.

In 1996, the federal Defense of Marriage Act used wording from the Singer v. Hara case and defined marriage as being between a man and a woman. Remember that the U.S. Supreme Court stated in the 1985 Murphy v. Ramsey case that marriage is the "union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony."

Another factor in opposition to same-sex marriages is same-sex couples cannot conceive children in the traditional sense. One of the couple's options is having an anonymous third person donate the necessary genetic material, and the child may never know who his or her mother or father is. A known third-person donor is another option. This, however, could create a three-person association unlike any traditional marriage.

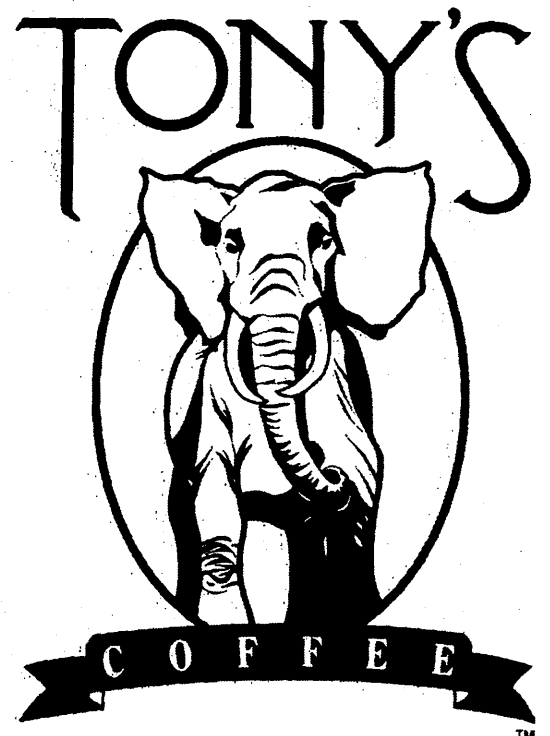
Many would argue that people should be able to marry whomever they want as long as it is a "loving and committed relationship."

The unfortunate part of rejecting traditional marriages is that it opens the door to multiple types of relationships. The possibility of defying the norm could validate people who "fall in love" with adolescents and others types of relationships that Americans do not agree with.

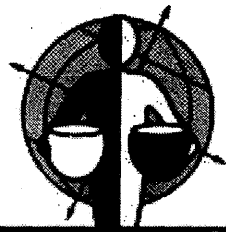
The court should reject any other definition of marriage because it is the only way to truly represent the opinions of the majority of Americans.

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