



The longest road
For many of the STP's 7,100 riders, 'it's just enough to finish.'
See Story, Page 7.

An emotional walk
Bellingham citizens raise money for cancer research.
See Story, Page 4.



TUESDAY, July 16, 2002

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 122 Issue 4

Bellingham, Washington

Western, WTA plan Haggard bus shelter

By Soraya Abi-Farah
THE WESTERN FRONT

Construction on a new north-bound bus shelter in front of Haggard Hall could begin as early as fall quarter, said Tim Wynn, Western director of Facilities Management.

The Whatcom Transportation Authority Board of Directors contributed \$40,000 to Western for building the new bus shelter.

The shelter will help alleviate the congestion currently centered around the Viking Union stop, Wynn said.

"It is just not a safe situation to have that mix of buses, bicycles, service vehicles and pedestrians," said Rick Gordon, WTA director of Service and Development.

Gordon said the existing VU shelter and stop is the second highest boarding area for the WTA. On rainy days, during high traffic times, some students are stuck in an area beyond the coverage of the shelter.

Wynn said many students feel it is too dark and unsafe to wait for the evening buses there.

"It's almost like a dark cave," Gordon said.

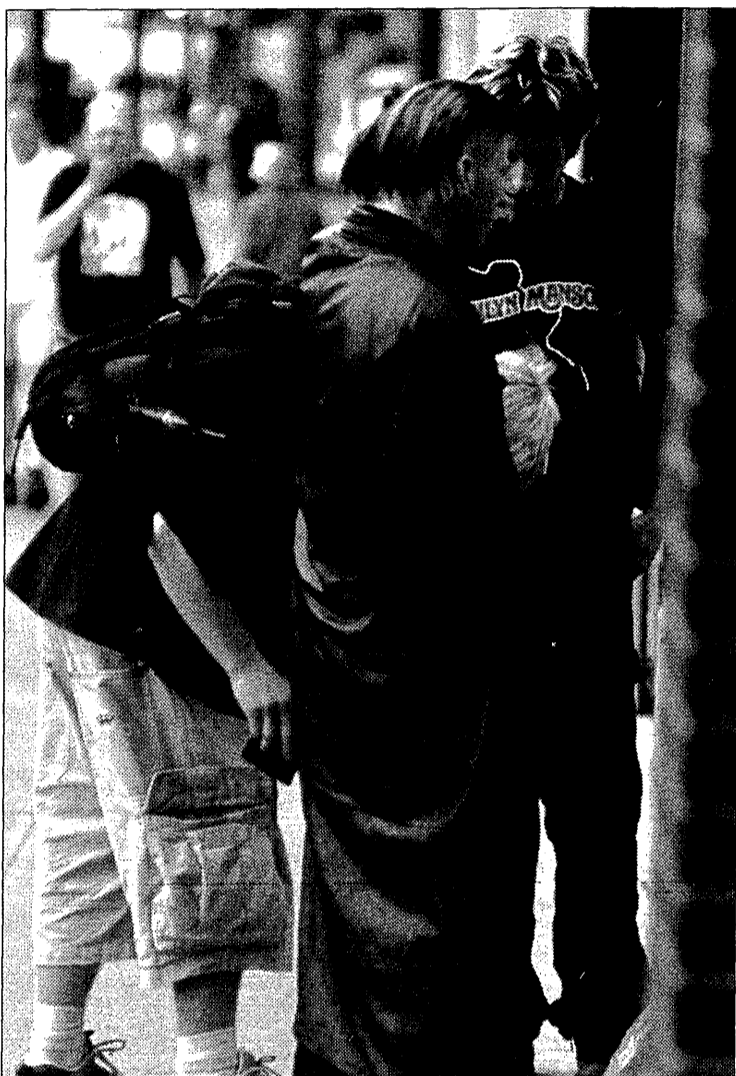
Barbera Alten, an architect hired by Western to design the shelter, started working on the plans for the new shelter in December. The structure will be built out of steel and will have glass shields from all sides to protect bus riders from the wind.

"It was designed to protect from inclement weather," Alten said.

The area of the bus shelter will cover 500 square feet and include a dual-faced clock, benches, vandal resistant lighting, a bus route map and a

See BUS, Page 3

Loiterers slow renovation, official says



Alaina C. Dunn/ The Western Front

These three teens are among the many loiterers who gather near Railroad Avenue by the Horseshoe Cafe.

Community debates bench installation on Railroad Ave

By Andrea Jasinek
THE WESTERN FRONT

Whatcom Community College student Carly McMacken perched precariously on a concrete flower planter as she kept a watchful eye on traffic.

"The cops ride by every few minutes," McMacken said.

McMacken, like the dozens of people who frequent the corner of Railroad Avenue and Holly Street, said she fears being caught sitting or leaning on planters before 9 p.m., an offense punishable by law with a \$100 ticket. But, she said, there is nowhere else to sit.

Bellingham City Councilman Gene Knutson said the downtown loitering problem has gotten worse in the past few years as more people realize the corner's social and drug-acquiring potential.

The corner is slowing the progress of the city's new downtown renovation plan, which aims to inject new life into downtown Bellingham, Knutson said.

As part of the plan, benches designed by local artists were to be installed in different areas downtown, said Office of Community and Neighborhood

Development Manager Steve Price.

"There's a scarcity of convenient, interesting places to sit," Price said.

The plan to make downtown friendlier is actually causing tension, Knutson said.

"What I hear from people is that they don't want it (benches) at all," he said. "Benches that had been installed downtown only added to the problem (of loitering)."

Despite the controversy, the benches are still in the process of being created, Price said.

"We're just holding up on the Railroad corner until there's some resolution with the (loitering) issues," he said.

He said the dissenting voice is a mere whisper in comparison to the shouts of support he has heard.

"There are only a couple of people saying they don't want benches downtown," Price said. "The community wants to fix the pedestrian atmosphere and make it more friendly."

McMacken said she has been frequenting the block for over a year.

See LOITERERS, Page 3

Munro seminar: Educators learn about politics

By Nicole Langendorfer
THE WESTERN FRONT

Jerri Patten, a teacher at Longview High School, came to Western's Ralph Munro Seminar for Teachers to learn more about how the nation's government will influence her students.

"If the goal of civic education is to get kids to be active citizens,

they have to know what is going on and who they can talk to," she said.

Patten will begin teaching history to high school sophomores and juniors in the fall and is currently an English teacher.

"I want to give the students the best understanding of the political process that I can," she said. "I think that hearing it straight from the horse's mouth will hope-

fully make it easier."

The Ralph Munro seminar connects legislators, state agency directors, local government officials, party leaders, journalists and Western faculty members with high school teachers for an in-depth look into the nation's political system.

"The seminar is structured so that they (teachers) are primarily interacting with practitioners

in the political system," said Donald Alper, Western political science professor.

Alper said he believes by interacting with political leaders, the teachers will benefit from meeting and talking with those in charge of the social and economic programs they teach to their students.

See MUNRO, Page 3

Samish Twin Drive-in to be demolished

By Peter Malcolm
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western graduate student Kevin Kindelberger said he has fond memories of going to the drive-in when he was six.

"I would always fall asleep before the second movie, but I always had a good time," he said.

Kindelberger and other drive-in fans in Bellingham will have to find a new place to watch a movie under the stars because the Samish Twin Drive-In, Whatcom County's lone remaining drive-in, is closed and set to be demolished.

The owner, Sterling Realty Organization, has decided to tear down the buildings and keep the lot vacant for future development because of financial problems, property manager Jason Horning said.

Horning said the drive-in has not been profitable for several years.

"Even on nights when we were full, we would still lose money," he said. "It just didn't make any financial sense to keep the place running."

Horning said Sterling leased the company in the past two years to Darryl Bratt of Oak

Harbor.

Bratt said he struggled with the same problems Sterling did — not generating enough revenue to compensate for the labor costs, production costs and an increasingly high property value.

"It's hard to operate a drive-in in a city the size of Bellingham," he said. "The property value is simply much higher than the income."

Bratt said he had an advantage over other would-be owners because he had help from his mother and father. They came in

See DRIVE-IN, Page 3



Alaina C. Dunn/ The Western Front

Weeds clog the concrete of the Samish Twin Drive-In.

COPS BOX

University Police

July 10, 9:33 p.m.: A custodian reported an incident of vandalism in the men's bathroom in Haggard Hall. A towel dispenser was ripped from the wall.

July 10, 8:18 a.m.: UP provided medical attention to a female who fell and injured her wrist in Parking Lot 3.

July 10, 12:11 a.m.: UP arrested a male, 23, on suspicion of driving under the influence and possession of under 40 grams of marijuana, dangerous weapons and drug paraphernalia. He was booked into the Whatcom County Jail.

July 9, 12:56 p.m.: UP responded to a report of a stolen purse in the Old Main Tutorial Center. The purse was found shortly thereafter.

Bellingham Police

July 12, 11:04 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a vehicle prowling on the 2900 block of Squaticum Parkway.

July 12, 10:22 p.m.: Daniel Benjamin Klein, 22, was arrested on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance with an intent to deliver the substance. He was booked into Whatcom County Jail.

July 9, 8:32 p.m.: Officers responded to a fireworks complaint from neighbors in the 2700 block of Woburn Street. Law enforcement officials confiscated and impounded the fireworks.

Compiled by Soraya Abi-Farah

Viking Voices

Do you feel students should only be charged fees for the services they actually use?

Compiled by Laura McClay



Michael Mack
Computer science major

'No ... You're not just paying for your needs; you're paying for the institution.'



Sally Hewitt
Accounting major

'No ... Those students who can't afford it won't have an equal opportunity.'



Jenn Nicholas
Art major

'Yeah, absolutely. It would be nice to feel that my money is going to something I use.'

Online poll results: 33.3 percent of 18 voters said yes. 33.3 percent said no.

www.westernfrontonline.com

AP WIRE NEWS BRIEFS

STATE NEWS

Utility blames power companies for rate hike

The Snohomish County Public Utilities District is suing some of the nation's largest power companies.

The suit, filed in San Francisco federal court, said the companies conspired last year to create an artificial electricity shortage to drive up prices.

Seattle class-action lawyer Steve Berman said the price inflation raised rates by 60 percent for the PUD's 270,000 customers.

Orphaned whale follows her pod

Clint Wright, of the Vancouver Aquarium in British Columbia, said monitors saw Springer, a two-year-old orphaned whale, trailing about a half mile behind her pod Monday morning.

Wright said experts do not know if Springer will rejoin

the pod, but she seems interested in it and is in the best position for reintegrating.

NATIONAL NEWS

Manatee laws halt development plans

Plans for redeveloping a river front in Jacksonville, Fla., near the site of the 2005 Super Bowl are running into trouble with federal protections for endangered manatees.

Two luxury condominium high-rise developments are seeking permits for boat slips along the St. Johns River near Alltel Stadium. If ready before Super Bowl XXXIX, the boat slips could mean additional business during the festivities.

Negotiations about the permits have been on hold for months because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service does not believe enough is being done to protect the manatees that swim there.

Authorities do not want to

approve developments that would bring more boat traffic to the area until effective protections for the manatees are in place.

Wyoming woman dies from rare virus

A blood sample from a 20-year-old Cheyenne, Wyo., woman who died last week tested positive for the rare, rodent-borne hantavirus, officials said Saturday.

Deputy State Epidemiologist Scott Seys said a second sample would be sent to the Center for Disease Control early this week for confirmation.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Refugees storm U.N. office in Kenya

Hundreds of refugees stormed the United Nations office in their Kakuma, Kenya camp and demanded officials solve a dispute that has led to a shortage of firewood.

The dispute began last week when Kenyans, who gather firewood for the camps, refused to deliver more until they get 83 cents for every 22 pounds, which is more than six times the 13 cents the U.N. currently pays them.

Monsoon rains cause three deaths in landslide

Mud and debris loosened by monsoon rains that pounded the northern Philippines buried a hillside house, killing an elderly couple and their 3-year-old granddaughter, officials said Sunday. Six people who were inside the house were rescued by neighbors.

Floods have killed an estimated 61 people over the past week in the Philippines. The monsoon rains have been intensified by Typhoon Halong, which is moving toward southern Japan at 19 mph.

*Compiled by Romeelah Payofelin
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM*

The Western Front Online

Look for more news at:

www.westernfrontonline.com

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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 Thursday for inclusion in the next Tuesday issue.

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

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

PLEASE POST

SUMMER SESSION REGISTRATION: Pick up a bulletin and start planning for the six-week session (through Aug. 2) or nine-week session (through Aug. 23). Call Dave Plakos at X/2841 for more information or visit www.acadweb.wvu.edu/eesp/.

THE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING IS RECRUITING applicants for the 2002-03 academic year. Do you want to make a difference in your community and have work study or subsidized loans? Applications are available online at www.ac.wvu.edu/~csl or in WL 481. Questions may be addressed to Lisa Moulds, X/6515.

CAN'T FIT THOSE LAST COUPLE OF CREDITS in your schedule this summer? Take an online course through Extended Education and Summer Programs. No specific class time to meet. Fit your education around your schedule. For information, call X/3308 or X/3717.

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

SEVERAL JOB SEARCH AND CAREER WORKSHOPS are offered through the Career Services Center. Signup is required. For detailed workshop information or to sign up, see www.careers.wvu.edu, stop by OM 280, or call X/3240.

DEADLINE FOR OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS during summer quarter is noon Thursday for the following Tuesday. Announcements must be typewritten or legibly printed and are limited to 50 words. They may be sent by e-mail to pubs@cc.wvu.edu, faxed to X/4646, or sent by intercampus mail to MS-9117.

Loiterers: Officers patrol area to discourage leaning, drug dealing

Continued from Page 1

"I came here at first just to buy pot, but now I only stay to meet friends," she said.

The addition of benches would reduce the number of fights in the area, McMacken said.

"People would be a lot less cranky if they could sit down and not be paranoid about cops all the time," she said.

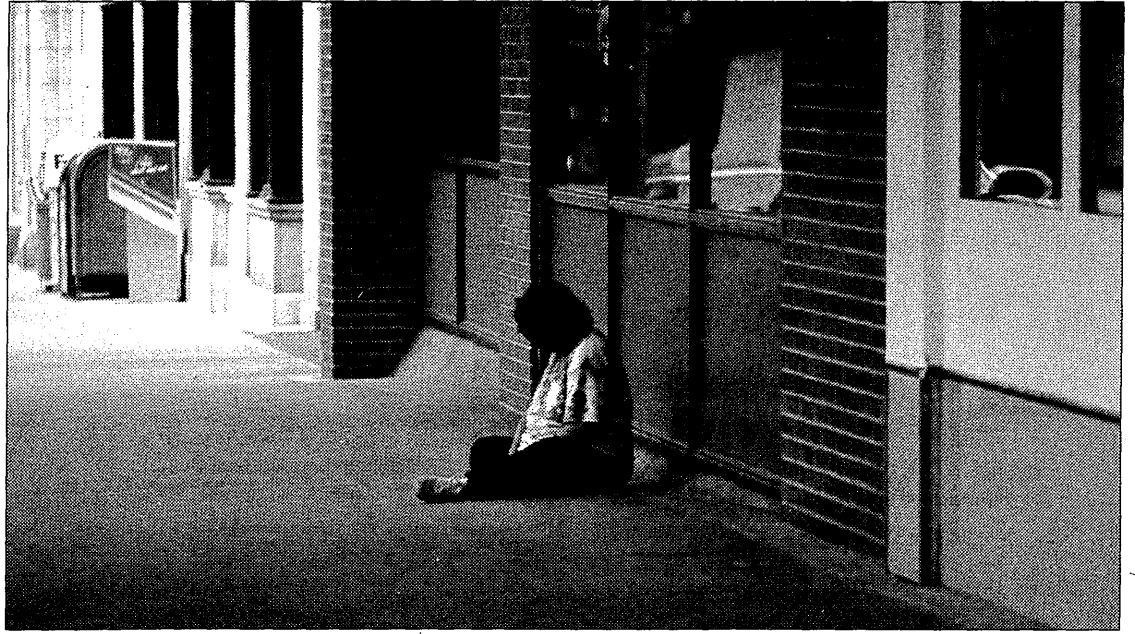
As she described the perils of downtown socializing, Bellingham Police Officer Keith Johnson approached and asked McMacken if she was aware of the city's ordinance prohibiting leaning on planters. Johnson said it was okay to crouch on the ground as long as her feet were not touching her buttocks.

Johnson took McMacken's name and warned that the next infraction would result in a \$100 fine. He said he patrols the area often to discourage illegal behavior like sitting, leaning and drug dealing.

"There's an emphasis on this neighborhood because there's a lot of activity here," Johnson said. "We just want to make sure it's safe."

McMacken said adding benches would reduce the tension between the street dwellers and the police officers, but it would not change the number of people who congregated on the corner.

"Regardless, benches or no benches, people will hang out here," she said.



Alaina C. Dunn/ The Western Front

A woman sits in front of the Little Cheerful Cafe. The City Council has proposed a new bench at the site, which some shop owners say will encourage more loitering and crime.

Munro: Civic education topic of discussion

Continued from Page 1

"I think most are coming because they want a better understanding of how to teach citizenship and government in the classroom," Alper said.

In addition to gaining new insights into civic education, the 17 participating teachers received two graduate credits in political science they may apply toward Washington state's essential learning requirements.

Not everyone who attended the seminar is a teacher; the sessions were open to the public and some Western students took advantage of the chance to talk with legislators.

Western senior Henry Houghton said he plans to teach in the future and attended the seminar because he wanted a better understanding of where officials might be coming from.

"It has been really informative," Houghton said.

Bus: 500-square-foot shelter to include clock, vandal-resistant lighting

Continued from Page 1

WTA phone line. The shelter structure will be split up into three components. People exiting Haggard Hall will be able to walk inbetween the structures.

The new shelter is designed to be the complete opposite in design of the existing bus shelter across from the VU. More space and light were incorporated into

the design, Wynn said.

"It will be bigger, better and it will increase the desirability of using the buses," Wynn said.

Although the decision to build the new shelter is final, some students are not convinced the shelter is a good idea.

"A new shelter would be nice, but it's a waste of money," Western senior Vale Bates said.

"It just seems like there are a lot of other things they could have used the money for."

An exact start date for the bus shelter project is not settled, Wynn said.

"We want to get [the bus shelter] done as soon as possible, but the Parks Hall fire has not helped matters much," Wynn said.

Wynn and Alten said they

hope that the entire area between Haggard Hall and the VU will eventually be turned into a passenger mall, a closed-off area out of bounds to all vehicles except buses.

Western would need the approval of city officials to completely close off the street before such a plan could be implemented.

Drive-in: Lot likely used for retail buildings, says property manager

Continued from Page 1

from Nebraska to help out during the season.

After the buildings are gone, Sterling will keep the lot vacant until a contractor approaches them with a favorable proposition, Horning said.

"It may take a while for anything to happen," he said. "Most likely it will become low-rise retail buildings that will create a sort of buffer zone between I-5 and the residential area behind the lot."

Bratt said the financial problems were not a result of the resi-

dents' lack of interest in drive-ins.

"We wouldn't sell out every time, but we had some loyal clientele who came week after week."

Darryl Bratt
Samish Twin Drive-in
lease holder

"The town of Bellingham supported the drive-in," he said. "We wouldn't sell out every time, but we had some loyal clientele

who came week after week."

The Samish Twin Drive-In opened in 1971, when drive-ins were more prevalent than they are now.

It opened after the industry boom in the 1950s, when more than 5,000 outdoor theaters were in operation throughout the nation.

Today, the number is down to 663, according to the National Association of Theatre Owners.

While drive-in numbers are not as high as they were, Bratt said he believes there will always be a place for drive-ins in America.

"They're the best," he said. "It's too bad Bellingham won't have one anymore."

With the drive-in now gone for good, some people may miss an opportunity to experience a night at the drive-in.

Western junior Kristen Shoemaker said she has never been to a drive-in and was looking forward to seeing her first one during her first summer in Bellingham.

"I've never been to one, and I was really excited to go this summer," she said. "I'm really bummed out that it's gone."

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I can dance I can coach

how can you keep a kid off drugs?

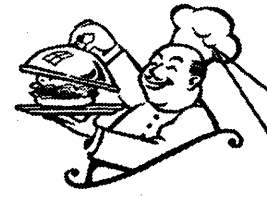
The truth is, a little of your time can make a lifetime of difference. Because kids with something to do are less likely to do drugs. **You can help.** For more information on drug prevention programs in your community, call or visit:

1 877 KIDS 313
www.youcanhelpkids.org

Office of National Drug Control Policy


.99-cent Pizza Slices Thursday the 18th

Come to La Vincita, located in the Viking Union Market, Thursday, the 18th for your .99-cent slice of pizza.




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Our delicious pizzas are made fresh Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30-2:30 at La Vincita, located in the VU Market.



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Heidi Mulhern/ The Western Front

Hundreds walked in downtown Bellingham last Sunday to kick off the American Cancer Society's seventh annual Relay for Life.

Celebrating survival, remembering the fallen

Cancer survivors and supporters participate in the Relay for Life

By Heidi Mulhern
THE WESTERN FRONT

Cancer survivors, along with their family and friends, gathered in downtown Bellingham on Friday and Saturday during the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

"The Relay for Life began seven years ago in Bellingham and is a very big event," said Jill Karsh, community development manager of the American Cancer Society.

The relay walk began at 6 p.m. on July 12 under a colorful balloon arch with the Bellingham Police Honor Guard leading the flag salute.

Bagpipe music serenaded cancer survivors as they started the event with a lap representing their victory over cancer. The crowd's cheers and clapping brought smiles and tears as the survivors passed.

"The Relay for Life is a very emotional, but honestly a real healing process for family and friends," said cancer survivor and Bellingham resident Vicki Day-Bazhaw.

Day-Bazhaw was diagnosed, as a 19-year-old college student at Santa Monica College, with Hodgkin's disease. She was told she had a 50-50 chance of survival and, even if she did live, she would never have children.

Now the mother of two teenage children, Day-Bazhaw is able to face her one-time fear of cancer through the support of her family and friends.

"This was a hard thing for me to deal with, but with the help of my husband and children, it is a very humbling experience," she said. "I lost both of my parents to cancer. I brought my children this year to show them what this relay was all about and how lucky I am to have them in my life."

Day-Bazhaw said she has put being a cancer survivor on the back burner. She said she now accepts the struggles she once had and is able to face and talk about the disease.

Bellingham streets were illuminated with 7,123 candle-lit bags for this major fund-raising event.

The bags represented those who have been taken by cancer, those who are currently fighting cancer or those who have won the battle against the disease. The luminarias, paper bags filled with sand and a candle, were purchased in advance or at the

event and decorated in honor of a loved one.

"The lighting of the bags brings mixed feelings," said Carol McBride, cancer survivor and volunteer chairwoman of the Luminaria Lighting Ceremony.

McBride is a seven-year survivor. She said she volunteers because she feels like giving back. She was so overcome with emotion she began to weep.

After apologizing for the tears, Carol said, "I want to give back to all those who helped me win my battle."

Individuals of each team are sponsored by donations. They walk the track downtown in 30-minute shifts for 20 hours. The teams have fund-raising events to increase their donations to the American Cancer Society along with the individual sponsorship.

Kathy Morgan, a Whatcom County Parks team member, was the number one fund-raiser for her team. Now in her third year as a supporter, Morgan said she approaches fund raising from a different angle.

"This year, I wrote letters and asked people to join in the fight and celebration for those touched by cancer," Morgan said. "Every letter I sent out included a donation form for a luminaria, and, to my surprise, every person filled out the form and wrote touching stories back."

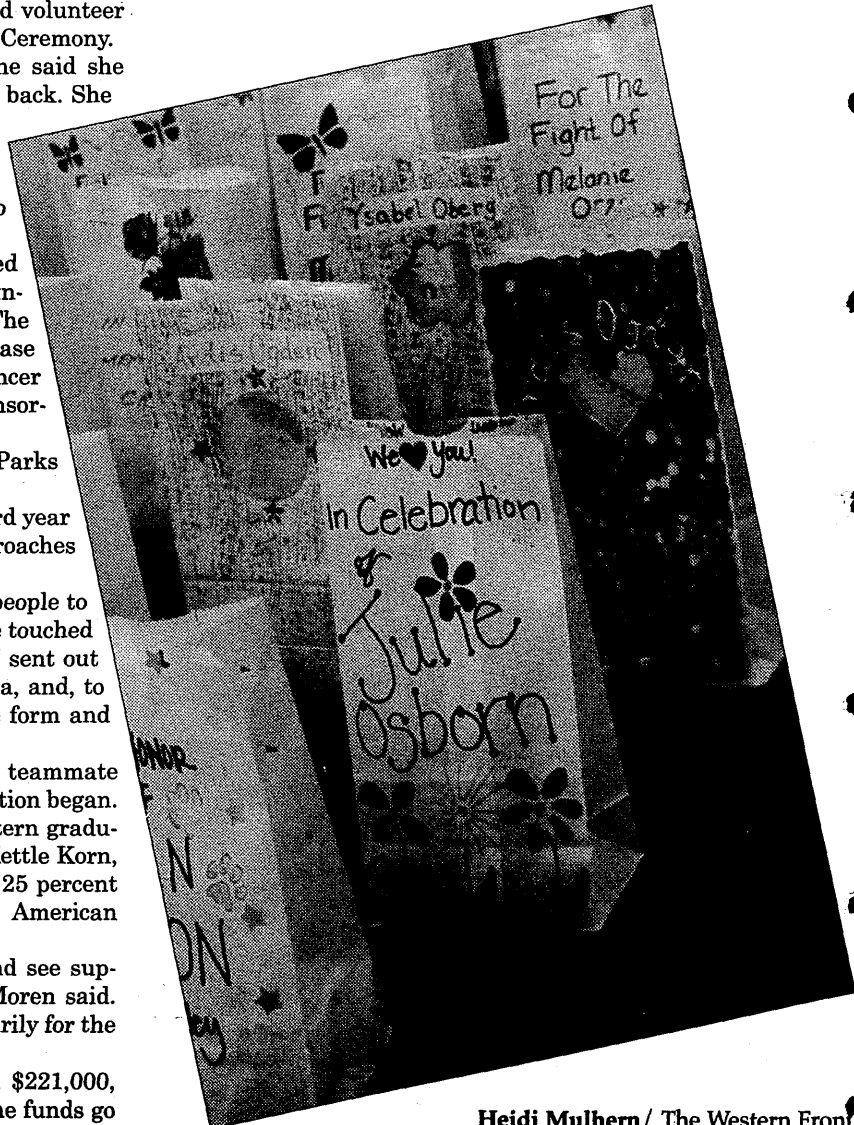
As Morgan finished speaking, her teammate passed the baton, and her own relay portion began.

Not all supporters were walkers. Western graduate Myrna Moren, owner of Mt. Baker Kettle Korn, said she supported this event by giving 25 percent of her sales during the relay to the American Cancer Society.

"It's amazing to just be down here and see supporters of all ages, shapes and sizes," Moren said. "All these people gather together voluntarily for the same cause."

Karsh said The Relay for Life raised \$221,000, with donations still coming in. Most of the funds go toward cancer research and preventative programs, she said.

"Cancer affects everyone in some way or another," Day-Bazhaw said. "It's great to see all these people come together to show support in finding a cure."



Heidi Mulhern/ The Western Front

Paper bags decorated with the names of cancer victims, remind relay participants of how many lives cancer touches.

Performance at the park



By Chelsea Shaw
THE WESTERN FRONT

Several hundred people displayed their dancing and singing skills Saturday night at the Boulevard Park Evening Concert Series. Dancing was optional, although some audience members chose to demonstrate inventive moves such as the "Downhill skier" or the "Karate Chop."

Grandparents, parents and children all danced together to Jimmy Murphy and Friends band's rendition of Sir Mix A-Lot's "I Like Big Butts" at the evening concert series sponsored by the Bellingham Parks and Recreation department.

Blankets, picnic baskets, ice cream and espresso constitute a night out on the town for this crowd.

The concert series occurs every Saturday night from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Boulevard Park. The series started in June, and runs through August 10. The shows are free, and open to all ages.

Western graduate Lindsay Robertson attended the concert series for the first time.

"The concert was really fun and was something different to do on a Saturday night," Robertson said.

Jimmy Murphy and Friends, a local band, played songs and took requests to appeal to all age groups. The band had the crowd up on its feet singing and dancing into the night.

Jimmy Murphy and Friends is a cover band that adds their own flavor to each song. The band performs mostly in clubs and casinos around town. They play about four times a week and have played such venues as the Gorge in George, and the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville.

Becki McGrew was in town from Vancouver, Wash., visiting her sister. Raised in Bellingham, she said it was nice to come back into town for such a fun event. This was her first time attending a concert at Boulevard.

"My favorite song was 'Brown Eyed Girl,' but the band had a wonderful range of songs," McGrew said. "This is such a beautiful place for a concert, especially when the sun is setting over the bay."

Though the core members of the band have been together for about 18 years, a few changes in members have occurred

throughout that time. Jimmy's daughter Minnie and his wife Patty are members of the band, which allows them to spend time together while traveling.

Minnie, having just graduated from high school, recently signed a recording contract with Sony records in Nashville. Her sister Jamie is also a singer in Nashville and has had Grammy nominations. Jimmy's wife, Patty, received a contract from Sony to be a songwriter, leaving the family to consider a move to further pursue their music career.

"I love Bellingham, so it would be a shame to leave the area," Jimmy Murphy said. "It is such a beautiful place to live."

This was the band's first time performing in the Boulevard Park Evening Concert Series.

At intermission, the band members were out mingling with the audience and saying hello to friends.

"I loved performing down at Boulevard," Jimmy said. "It is such a wonderful place to have concerts, and if the weather had been a little nicer, I'm sure the crowd would have been even bigger."

Despite the slight drizzle that came and went, the majority of fans stayed for the entire show. Debbie Granger and Pete Granger are Bellingham residents who try to go to at least one show at Boulevard during the summer.

"This is a great concert series," Granger said. "It is an evening of free fun including great music and people watching."

The Grangers have seen the Jimmy Murphy band play over 30 times and are friends of the Murphy family. Their daughters went to school together, and the Murphy's band would perform at family fun nights for parents and students.

"We have seen them play at weddings and New Years Eve parties, but it is fun to see them play in the park," Granger said. "This is the first time we have ever heard Minnie sing country."

If Jimmy and his family stay in town, he said they would love to do another show at Boulevard.

"I love doing the smaller shows because I get more satisfaction out of playing," Jimmy said. "During the smaller shows, I feel I am more focused on playing great songs and enjoying the music."

Alaina C. Dunn/ The Western Front
Jimmy Murphy and Friends violinist hits a high note at Saturday's Boulevard Concert Series in Boulevard park. (above) Three little girls enjoy the music at the event. (below)

Weekly events calendar

In the spotlight

July 16

Irish band The Chieftans will perform at 8 p.m. at the Mount Baker Theatre on 104 N. Commercial Street. Tickets are \$32 in advance and \$35 the day of the show with a \$1 handling fee per ticket. For further information, call 734-6080.

July 17

Timothy Taylor, author of "Stanley Park," will be at Village Books at 7:30 p.m. Stanley Park, Taylor's debut book, is a comic novel about a love story mixed with a murder mystery in a trendy restaurant in Vancouver, B.C. For further information, contact Village Books at 676-2626 or visit www.villagebooks.com.

Sheryl Wiser performs as part of Western's Summer Noon Concert Series. The concert takes place in the Performing Arts Center Plaza or the Viking Union Market if it rains. The concert is free to the public and begins at noon. For more information, call 650-3450.

July 18

The Bellingham/Whatcom County Chamber of Commerce and Industry will meet at Boundary Bay Brewery for "Business after Business." It is an opportunity for the public to meet community business leaders, eat hors d'oeuvres and have a chance to win door prizes from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

July 18 - 21

The Peace Arch International Art Festival will feature NASA exhibit "Artistry of Space" from Artrain, USA, which is the nation's only museum located in a train. Live entertainment, children's activities, art sales, music, food and sculpture exhibition tours will be going on all week. Contact Christina Alexander for more information at 332-7165 or go to www.peacearchpark.org.

July 19

The Brown Bag Children's Concert Series presents the Skiperiors Jump Rope Team on the Bellingham Library lawn from noon to 1 p.m. In case of rain, it will take place in the library lecture room.

July 19 - 20

The Raspberry Festival and Sidewalk Sale will take place in downtown Lynden. Lynden is the largest producer of raspberries in the world. The festival includes raspberry tasting, tours, games, samples, music, a three-on-three Hoop Jam basketball game and more. The event is free to the public. For more information, call 360-354-5995 or visit www.lynden.org.

July 20 - 21

The American Kennel Club Dog Agility Trials will take place at 5299 Nielson Road. Dogs and their owners will be racing over a variety of obstacles during the agility trials. For further information, contact Colleen Pinner at 360-384-1071.

Frontline

Loiterers have rights, too

The city of Bellingham is holding up part of its downtown revitalization plan — specifically the installment of benches along Railroad Avenue — because of business owners' concerns about luring more loiterers, vagrants and panhandlers to that area.

These individuals are breaking no laws by simply standing on street corners. Civil liberties should not be thrown out because of business owners' wants.

As long as these people are not conducting or participating in illegal activities, such as selling drugs, they have as much of a right to gather at a street corner as consumers that business owners would like to attract. By slowing downtown renovation in order to find a "solution" to loitering, city officials are ignoring the rights of those who congregate on Railroad Avenue's corners.

Bellingham Police Lt. Dac Jamison said the city has no law against loitering, and officers issue warnings or infractions only if loiterers are sitting, leaning, sleeping or blocking the sidewalks.

If loiterers are not doing any of these actions, then they have the same right to stand around Railroad Avenue as anyone else.

Business owners are concerned about people panhandling customers in front of their shops and vagrants sitting on the proposed benches. However, Jamison said panhandling is not illegal — only "aggressive panhandling" — and therefore they are not breaking any laws.

Installing benches downtown is part of Bellingham's city center plan, a plan designed to revamp the area. The plan is geared to bring more people downtown to live, work, shop or meet. However, the city officials' postponement of installing benches while searching for a solution to downtown loitering will kick a particular group of people out of the area to draw in a different group.

Understandably, business owners want to make their shops presentable to customers. If loiterers are in the vicinity, the owners may lose potential buyers. However, the loiterers and panhandlers break no laws by simply being there, and Bellingham Police regularly patrol the area to make sure they are not doing anything illegal.

Jamison said four officers check the area on bike day and night, as well as post one patrol car at the Whatcom Transportation Authority Transit Station. He said officers approach loiterers, vagrants and panhandlers only if they are causing a problem or violating city ordinances, such as sleeping or sitting on sidewalks.

He said officers are patrolling Railroad Avenue more often to curb the selling of drugs. Although he admits drug activity may still go on, the patrols have been moderately successful.

This simple issue of downtown benches brings to light a larger issue: Our country is based on freedom and civil liberties for all citizens, and rights are not guaranteed simply to those who are model customers. If no laws are being broken, loiterers have a right to stand where they please.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Heather Trimm, Brendan C. Manning, Leanne Josephson, Derek Sheppard, Kirsten Carlson, Alaina Dunn.

The Western Front

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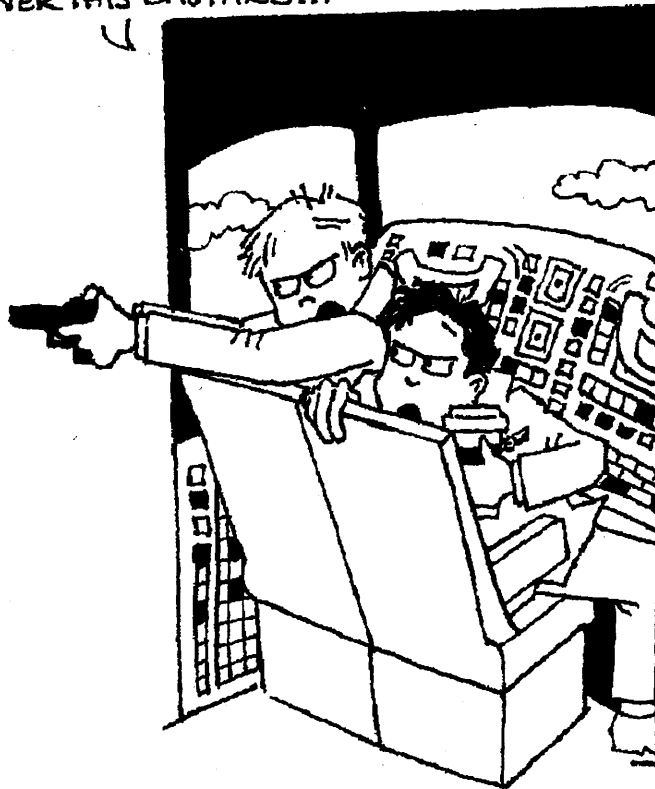
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And we quote:

'In order to be a responsible American, you must behave responsibly.'

President George W. Bush said to a group of investors on Tuesday.

...TERRORIST ON BOARD... I'M ALL OVER THIS BASTARD...



Terrorists beware: Pilots should carry guns



Holly Forstie

COMMENTARY

Airline security has become a major issue since the terrorist attacks. A bill allowing pilots to have guns in the cockpit was recently passed in the House of Representatives by an overwhelming margin.

While it is not the only measure that should be taken, arming pilots is a necessary measure to ensure passenger safety.

An unfounded fear is that a bullet hole would cause major damage to the plane.

Contrary to popular belief, if a bullet went through the side of a plane, it would not cause a swirling vortex that passengers could be sucked through.

According to the Air Line Pilots

Association, even if the fuselage was punctured by a bullet, such an outcome is highly unlikely.

Many people worry about the repercussions of implementing such a policy.

One concern is that guns would serve as a distraction.

Pilots can't be flying and policing the passengers at the same time, therefore guns should be kept in the more capable hands of air marshals.

While having air marshals on every flight would be ideal, enough trained marshals do not exist.

Some people don't trust the pilot with a firearm. However, by getting onboard an airplane, passengers trust their lives to the pilots.

Airplanes have been used as a weapon of mass destruction. If passengers trust the pilot enough to fly the plane, they should trust pilots who have had weapons training.

It is true that reinforced doors to the cockpits and tighter security measures on the ground would go a long way in preventing terrorist attacks, but nothing is foolproof.

If terrorists armed with box cutters, knives, or some other weapon were able to get onboard a flight it would be better for the pilot to be armed than not. It seems illogical to have the only person armed be the terrorist.

Many people fear pilots carrying guns would ultimately provide terrorists with weapons. People are afraid any weapon a pilot might have could be taken away and used against them.

However, as American Airlines Captain Brad Rohdenburg wrote in the Wall Street Journal on Sept. 21, 2001, "If we make ourselves helpless, we've already done half the terrorist's work for them."

A way to limit the possibility

See PILOTS, Page 8

Kremen: You drove drunk, you must quit



Valerie Bauman

COMMENTARY

Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen should step down from his position in light of his recent arrest on suspicion of drunken driving. Kremen should be held responsible for endangering his constituents.

Kremen was arrested at the Taco Bell parking lot on Sunset Drive after two employees called police to report he was driving recklessly. He refused a field sobriety test and was then taken into police custody. At the police station, his blood-alcohol level tested at almost twice the legal limit.

Some would argue the mistake Kremen made was an easy one to make and the punishment of the court system is sufficient. Others may say this DUI may be an isolated incident for

Kremen, or that it will not affect his job performance.

By driving under the influence, Kremen failed one of the essential duties of his position: preserving the safety of the people.

Luckily, no one was hurt, but with a blood-alcohol level of .155, he was endangering the same people who put him into office.

'Pete Kremen is to Whatcom County what George W. Bush is to America.'

Ironically, in Kremen's most recent election campaign, he claimed one of his goals was to "elevate public safety to be a top county priority." As the county executive, he also appoints members to both the Whatcom Substance Abuse Advisory

Board and an ethics panel.

Although it is no longer unusual for public officials to be the center of scandals, that will never change if mistakes like Kremen's are not treated seriously.

It is Kremen's responsibility to seek the best interest of the people of Whatcom County. Fortunately, no one was hurt or killed by his behavior.

However, he has failed the people he works for by driving drunk. His actions should not be forgotten. The severity of Kremen's mistake, and his failure to fulfill his campaign promise, demands that he relinquish the duties and title of county executive.

It would be an appropriate response for Kremen to acknowledge that his behavior requires him to do what is best for Whatcom County. Resigning would be the only way that he could take responsibility for his actions, and, by remaining in office, he has failed in his duties to make the citizens' safety a priority.

See KREMEN, Page 8

Cyclists struggle for 2 days and 200 miles

Western students past and future participate in Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic

By Peter Louras
THE WESTERN FRONT

As the sun set on the banks of the Willamette River, bicycle riders pedaled across the finish line this weekend bringing an end to their 200-mile journey from Seattle to Portland.

The 2002 Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic, more commonly referred to as the STP, attracted a crowd of nearly 7,100 riders.

They came from 38 states and six countries to start on Saturday.

"It's the granddaddy of them all," Events Director David Douglas said.

The STP, a Northwest tradition since 1979, is an annual fund-raising event for the Cascade Bicycle Club, a non-profit organization in the greater-Seattle area.

"It's like climbing Mount Rainier or running a marathon," Douglas said. "For most, the STP is a year-long goal."

Riders had the choice of splitting the race into two days or trying their luck at tackling the feat in one.

"I hear the one-day is just grueling," two-day rider Mike Holl said.

Holl and his son, Alan, were part of approximately 70 registered riders from the Bellingham area. Mike, 53, is a local flight instructor and Alan, 18, will be a freshman at Western in the fall.

This year marked their second

finish in Portland.

"Last year, I focused more on training because I've never done anything like it before," Alan said. "I think we both feel a little more relaxed this year."

Douglas said over half of those registered in the STP are first-time participants.

"You get to see a lot of fresh faces each year," he said.

The Holls said last year they shared a general apprehension with other riders going into the event.

"Some people are incredulous. They look at you and say, 'Seattle to Portland? It may as well be the moon.'"

Mike Holl
Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic Participant

"I thought, 'Jeez, that is a really long way,'" Alan said. "But I decided to give it a go."

The race has a reputation of not only being one of the largest cycling events in the nation, but also one of the longest.

"Some people are incredulous," Mike said. "They look at you and say, 'Seattle to Portland? It may as well be the moon.'"

The day began at 4:45 a.m. Saturday in the Husky Stadium

parking lot at the University of Washington.

Riders traveled out of Seattle while the sun rose to follow the West Valley Highway south. The day was spent riding through scenic valleys, forests, farmlands and small towns.

By noon, riders reached Centralia, the 100-mile half-way-point. Two-day riders gathered their gear to spend the night while one-day riders filled up on pasta and energy bars.

"You see a lot of people you didn't think could do it," Western graduate Daniel Thomas said. "By that point you're thinking, 'Now I have to ride.'"

Bicyclists were aided by volunteers and local fund-raisers.

Stops were set up every 20 to 25 miles for riders to fill up water bottles and their stomachs with pre-made meals.

"I heard that you can actually gain weight on the STP," Mike said. "There is that much food."

The final quarter-mile was lined with cheering supporters and families waiting to congratulate the riders after crossing the finish line.

"I don't feel like touching my road bike for a good, long time," said Doug Moore, a 1983 Western graduate.

Moore's children swarmed him after he finished.

"I think I'll stay with the mountain bike and some suspension," he said.

Festivities brought an end to the journey through music, food and family in Cathedral Park.

"For most folks it's just enough to finish," Mike said. "As for me, I consider it one of my best accomplishments in life."



Peter Louras/ The Western Front
Gary Johnson and his son, Kurtis of Mount Vernon, inspect patches given to finishers of the 200-mile trek from Seattle to Portland. "It was an amazing experience," Gary said.

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Mass transit searches violate constitutional rights



Heatherjune Olah

COMMENTARY

Travelers take the Greyhound or Amtrak down to Seattle, but it is stopped indefinitely in Everett because police suspect a terrorist is on the bus or train.

They board the vehicle, question and search everyone and do not mention that anyone has the right to refuse the procedure. They might even make arrests on vague assumptions of terrorist activity.

Thanks to the Supreme Court, a new law could make this nightmare a legal reality.

The search of bus or train passengers without notice or consent is a blatant violation of the constitutional freedom from "unreasonable searches and seizures."

According to the new law, passengers on buses and trains can be questioned and searched without consent, and police do not have to notify passengers they have a right to refuse the search.

Denying people the right to know they can refuse the search is as bad as denying the ability to refuse itself.

People probably would not agree to random and unreasonable searches and seizures because they know their rights are protected by the Constitution.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer implied this measure could protect public ground transportation from the same fate as the Sept. 11 hijacked planes.

People flying on airplanes are aware of and consent to the search of their belongings, while people travelling by bus or train do not.

"The step from searching without notice in public to searching without notice in private is small."

People travelling by bus or train should be notified of the possibility of a search and of their right to refuse a search.

Signs posted in bus stations and driver or conductor announcements would provide ample notice to passengers. If passengers do not agree, they should choose a different method of travel.

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsberg and David H. Souter agreed the

measure is unconstitutional.

While some might argue this measure is only meant to protect passengers from terrorists, the cost of lost freedom far outweighs the benefit of protection from possible terrorist attacks.

Though the original argument supporting this measure was meant to help crack down on drug smugglers, it will be broadly and loosely extrapolated to apply to anyone suspected of being a terrorist.

Searching the public on buses or searching them at random in public places might soon become legal if this trend continues.

The step from searching without notice in public to searching without notice in private is small.

Even if the police find a guy whom they suspect has TNT strapped to his chest — even if they ask to search and he says no — they have other legal ways to arrest and detain him without an unconstitutional decision that affects all innocent civilians.

Sacrificing freedom for security is unconstitutional. People should have the right to the notification of a search and the right to refuse a search under any circumstances.

Kremen: DUI endangers citizens

Continued from Page 6

Public officials are able to avoid notoriety and even thrive in the midst of scandals in a way the average Joe never could.

If a Western student was caught driving with a blood-alcohol level almost twice the legal limit, as Kremen was, the repercussions would be much different.

The stigma of a DUI sticks to private citizens and affects their personal and professional lives.

Whatever legal punishment Kremen may be subjected to will likely be fair. It is his public trial that will be slanted in his favor.

As a politician, more is expected of him; if this incident occurred during his campaign, he may not have been elected.

Pilots: Firearms will protect flyers

Continued from Page 6

of a gun being taken away from the pilot is to have the gun included as part of the equipment that comes on the plane.

It is unlikely the gun will be stolen if it is in a lockbox in the cockpit.

By the time a terrorist would reach the point of trying to break into the cockpit, the pilot would have plenty of time to retrieve the weapon.

The best course of action if terrorists attempt to take over

Kremen must sign every law the county council passes, and he appoints members to virtually every board and commission in the county.

Pete Kremen is to Whatcom County what George W. Bush is to America. Kremen's power is so far-reaching if he were to go to jail for this arrest, the jail worker who locked him up would be his employee.

Should this man who admits to a crime that would make any other citizen a social pariah continue to represent Whatcom County? No. He should surrender his position so he understands the ramifications of driving drunk and how it affects his relationship with the county.

an aircraft would be to keep the door to the cockpit locked and land the airplane as soon as possible. However, if terrorists are somehow able to get into the cockpit, the pilots need some sort of defense.

Considering the fact that the military now has the authority to shoot down an airplane taken over by terrorists, the last line of defense an armed pilot would provide is a better alternative than being shot out of the sky.

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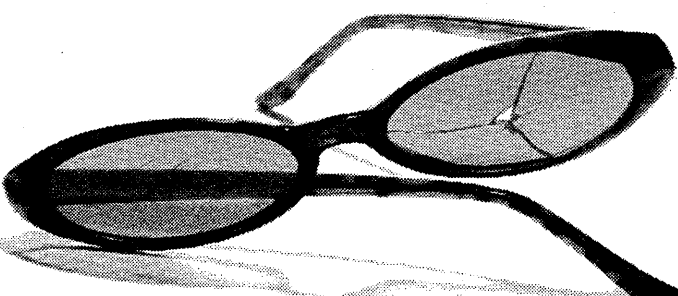


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