

Legislature passes gay rights bill

BY PETER JENSEN
The Western Front

To the elation of gay rights advocates statewide, the Washington state Legislature passed a bill Friday outlawing the discrimination of gays and lesbians in housing and employment.

The Senate passed the bill 25-23 with the support of the majority Democrats and a lone Republican,

Sen. Bill Finkbeiner of Kirkland. The House of Representatives passed it 60-37 Jan. 20.

The bill, which lawmakers have tried to pass in similar forms for 30 years, failed to pass in the Senate last year by one vote.

Gov. Christine Gregoire will sign the bill today and it will take effect in June, 90 days after the current legislative session ends.

"You just can't have the kinds

of discrimination we permitted in prior generations," said Rep. Fred Jarrett, R-Mercer Island.

Jarrett, who has a lesbian daughter, was one of six Republican representatives to support the bill in the House. He said Finkbeiner, as the only Republican senator to support the bill, was the most instrumental in its passage.

Finkbeiner voted against the bill last year because he was the Senate

Minority Leader, Jarrett said. After relinquishing the position at the start of this year's legislative session, he no longer had to vote along party lines, he said.

"Last year, he voted with his caucus," Jarrett said. "This year, in my opinion, he voted with his conscience."

The bill expands the Washington Law Against Discrimination to include sexual orientation. The

law protects Washington residents from discrimination based on race, gender, physical disability and national origin.

Under the expanded law, employers cannot fire or refuse to hire people based on their sexual orientation. It also prohibits landlords from refusing rent to people based on sexual orientation.

see LAW, page 3

SMOKING BAN



CHRIS JOSEPH TAYLOR / THE WESTERN FRONT

Casa Que Pasa, known for its world-famous Potato Burrito, allows customers to smoke in its bar despite the Washington state smoking ban and is now facing a lawsuit from Whatcom County.

Piping, peat bog cause flooding

BY RIGIS VINCENTI
The Western Front

Washington state's winter rainstorms have exposed problems with pathway drainage on Western's campus this year.

Major pathways, such as the pathway connecting Carver Gym and Red Square, are in need of repairs after a 27-day rain spell this winter, said Rod Walker, temporary supervisor for University Outdoor Maintenance.

The department has the funding to make the repairs, but is waiting for drier weather conditions said William Managan,

the assistant director of operations for Western's facilities management department, but he could not give a specific date for the repairs.

"We're in the process, and a work order has been sent out," Managan said.

He said problems such as the flooding outside of Carver Gym involve tree roots growing into the aging pipeline system, causing them to crack and leak.

Western built many of the pipes in the 1980s, Walker said.

Campus facilities

see PUDDLES, page 3

County sues Bellingham bar

BY MEGAN SWARTZ
The Western Front

Whatcom County is suing the owner of Bellingham restaurant and tequila bar Casa Que Pasa for refusing to prohibit smoking inside of his establishment — the first lawsuit of its kind since the state's indoor smoking ban.

The county is seeking a court order in an effort to stop the owner, Abel Jordan, 33, from allowing smoking inside his business, said Randall J. Watts, Whatcom County deputy

prosecuting attorney.

Watts said the county could seek a maximum of \$100 a day in fines from the first complaint, Dec. 9, 2005, until the court date. A county judge will set the court date.

Jordan said he doesn't want to release names, but he knows of a few businesses that still allow smoking.

"I'm just the one being targeted for it," Jordan said. "I am the only one standing up against this law."

Jordan received a summons from the county prosecutor's office on Friday and has 20 days to agree to

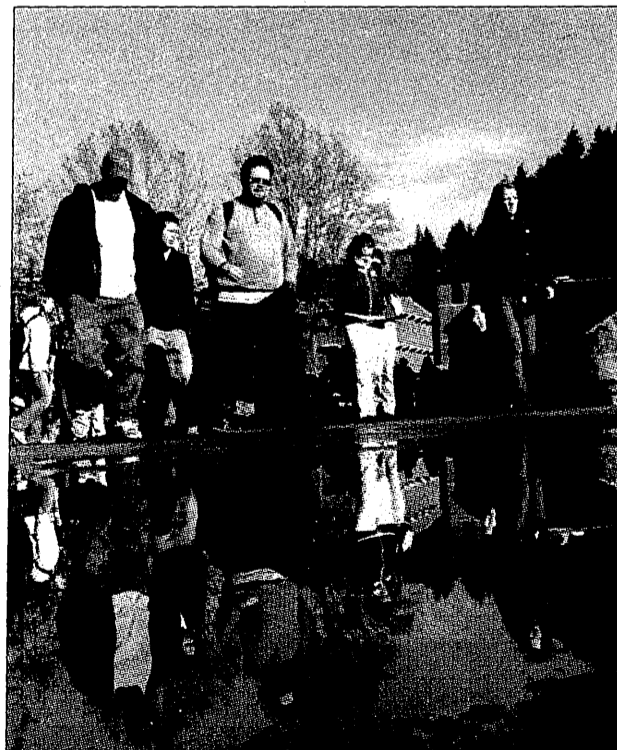
appear in court or could face contempt of court charges, Watts said.

The court will decide on the amount of the penalty by determining the amount fine per day and the date when the violation first occurred, he said.

Initiative 901, the Washington Clean Indoor Air Act, went into effect Dec. 8, 2005, after two-thirds of Whatcom County voters supported it.

The Whatcom County Health Department received the first complaint from a customer against

see BAN, page 3



JARED YOAKUM / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students skirt past a puddle outside of Red Square Monday. Western built many of its around Red Square on a peat bog.



WINNING FORMULA

Students in Western's Vehicle Research Institute work to complete its latest formula car.

FEATURES, PAGE 6

STREAK SNAPPED

Women's water polo wins its first game in three years.

SPORTS, PAGE 8

NACHO WAY

Dining halls ignore appeals for better vegetarian and vegan options.

OPINIONS, PAGE 13

WEATHER

Wednesday: Rainy
Hi: 47 Low: 38

Thursday: Cloudy
Hi: 48 Low: 37



Cops Box

University Police

Jan. 29, 12:15 p.m.: UP responded to a report of a hit and run car accident in Parking Lot 15.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 29, 9:08 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a mentally ill person on the 2300 block of Williams Street.

Jan. 29, 12:15 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of an egging incident at the 1000 block of Key Street.

Jan. 29, 1:09 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a loud party on the 1000 block of Jersey Street.

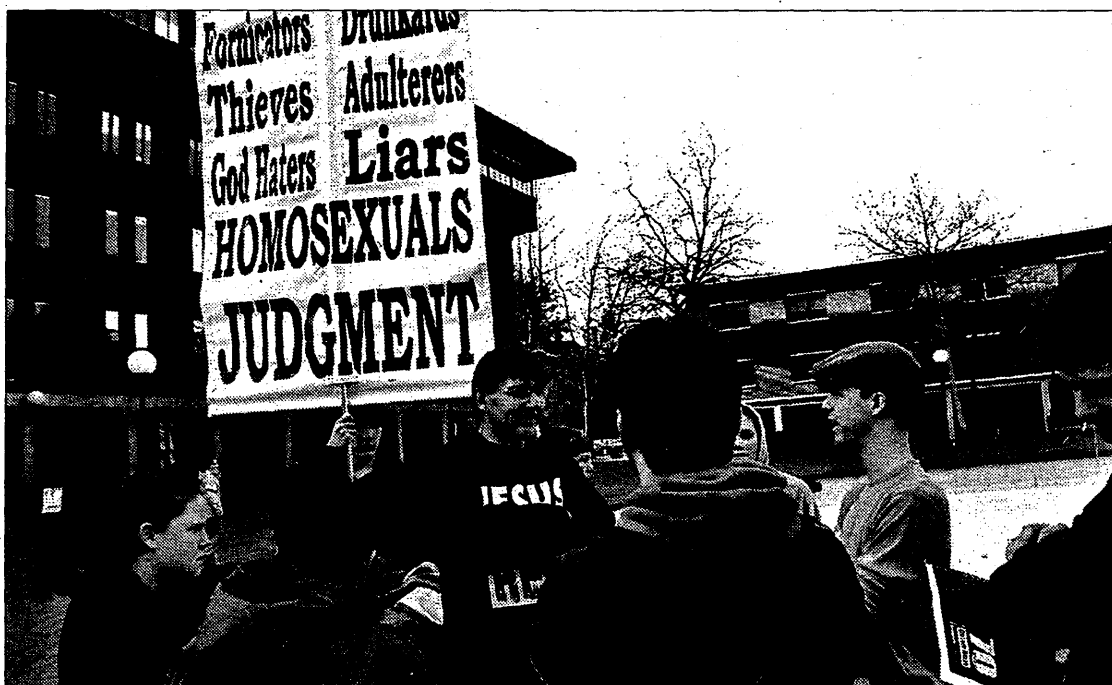
Jan. 29, 1:09 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a person on the suspicion of threatening her boyfriend on the 2300 block of F Street after he turned her dog over to the Humane Society.

Jan. 28, 11:43 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a hit and run on the 4200 block of Meridian Street.

Jan. 29, 1:09 a.m.: Officers responded to a report of a female hiding in a garage on the 2900 block on West McLeod Road.

Compiled by Rigis Vincenti

Family exercises freedom of speech



JEFFREY LUXMORE / THE WESTERN FRONT

Christian fundamentalist Bob Johnson, 49, preaches to Western students about God Wednesday afternoon in Red Square, while his son David, 17, holds a sign.

Heart of Western's campus remains free of censorship

BY JEFFREY LUXMORE
The Western Front

Bob Johnson said he moved to Spokane from Bellingham in 1991 after God told him the area along the Pacific coast was to be destroyed by an earthquake or tsunami. He and his family visited Western's Red Square Wednesday, Jan. 25 to warn students to repent for their sins or face eternal damnation in hell.

Anyone can congregate and speak in Red Square as long as they don't interrupt the normal operations on campus, according to Western's Exterior Space Use Policy. A person making excessive noise or blocking walkways would be in violation of the policy. Police would ask the individual to stop, and if the person didn't comply, he

or she would be subject to criminal trespassing charges at the officer's discretion, according to the policy.

Lee Enell, event services manager for the Viking Union, said larger events, such as a concert or events needing a table must schedule with the Viking Union administration in advance. Red Square is the only free-speech area the administration authorizes on campus, she said.

University Police assistant chief David Doughty said individuals preaching on Western's campus are not unusual.

"Police just consider them a nuisance," he said.

Doughty said the Constitution protects free speech, but he said that police would approach a demonstrator in two scenarios: If an individual is in violation of

school policy, such as being too loud, police could consider them to be trespassing. Police would also approach demonstrators if their words or actions could instigate violent reactions, he said.

Doughty said he remembered an incident during the Vietnam War when a student group posted flyers about a war protest on campus. The flyers said the group would napalm a cat in Red Square at noon.

"You can bet the police were there at noon," he said.

The napalm claim turned out to be a gimmick to draw a crowd, Doughty said.

Police usually don't interfere with demonstrations in Red Square unless someone complains about policy or law violations, he said.

If police anticipate possible

conflict, they may attend the event, he said. For example, if someone held a gay rights rally, he said, police might have an officer occasionally supervise demonstrations to prevent potential harassment or violence problems.

Police did not interfere with Johnson's demonstration Wednesday afternoon.

Western freshman R.B. Wick joined people listening to Johnson on Wednesday.

"All he's preaching is that 'we're going to hell, going to hell, going to hell,'" Wick said. "He kind of pissed me off."

Wick listened to students who asked Johnson questions about the Bible and Christianity. One student asked where in the Bible it says homosexuals would go to hell. As students were leaving, Johnson asked them to come back because he said he had all the answers.

"How the hell can he have all the answers?" Wick said.

Johnson's wife, Diane, and five of his nine children joined him for the demonstration. Johnson talked while his 17-year-old son David held a sign listing groups of people Johnson called sinners and said are doomed to hell. The sign listed fornicators, drunkards, thieves, adulterers, god-haters, liars and homosexuals.

Three Western students, sophomores Jen Bainbridge and Lydia Grace Henson and junior Barbara Martin, created signs in response to Johnson, with messages including "Gay boys are hawt (sic)!"

Doughty said students should leave if demonstrations upset them. Students should avoid engaging with demonstrators in Red Square, he said.

"If they don't have a crowd, then they'll probably leave," Doughty said.

The Western Front Online



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

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

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST will be in OM 120 at 9 a.m. Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, and 16 and at 3 p.m. Feb. 6, 13, 27, March 6, and 13. Registration is not required. Students must bring photo identification, their student number, Social Security number and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

THE WWU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS OFFERING SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS ranging from \$1,000-\$5,000. Deadline to submit applications, which are available at the Scholarship Center and the Alumni House, is March 1. For more information, see www.wwu.edu/depts/wwualum/alum_assoc/.

HAROLD AND LYLA LANT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS are now available to students pursuing a career as a lawyer and who have applied to an accredited law school. Full description and applications materials are available in Academic Advising and Tutorial Services, OM 380. Application deadline is Feb. 1.

THE CEA ARCADIA STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM will have an information table in the VU Lobby from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2. **BIOLOGY SEMINAR.** Christopher Ivey (plant biologist candidate, Illinois Natural History Survey), "Pollinators, Herbivores, and Plant Sex: The Community Genetics of Plant Mating Systems." 4 p.m. Feb. 6, BI 234.

THE WINTER CAREER FAIR will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 9 in the VU Multipurpose Room. Students can also attend "Preparing for a Career Fair Workshop" offered on Feb. 2 and 6. For more information, see www.careers.wwu.edu.

THE ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM (AUAP) IS HIRING WWU STUDENTS to become international peer advisers for September 2006 to February 2007. To request an application, stop by HS 47, call X/3297, or send e-mail to AUAP@wwu.edu. Application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 2.

AN ETIQUETTE DINNER, available to students and staff, will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 8 in the VU Multipurpose Room. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the Career Services Center, OM 280.

SAVE THE DATE. Doors open from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 14 in VU 565 for a Catering Fair displaying the latest offerings from University Catering.

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT). The computer-based Miller Analogies Test is by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or call X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at test time. Testing takes about 1½ hours. Preliminary scores will be available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days.

WEST-B TEST. Everyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. For a study guide and to register, visit www.west.nesinc.com. Remaining test dates through July are May 13 and July 15. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass the WEST-E (PRAXIS) in the chosen endorsement area. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for description and online registration information, or obtain a registration bulletin in MH 216. Remaining academic-year test dates year are March 4 and April 29.

TO LEARN IF WESTERN IS CLOSED DURING STORMY WEATHER, call 650-6500 after 6:30 a.m. or tune to KGMI (790 AM), KBAI (930 AM), KPUG (1170 AM), KUGS (89.3 FM), KISM (92.9 FM), KAFÉ (104.3 FM) or KWPZ (106.5 FM). Broadcasts about whether Western is open or closed will begin between 6:15 and 6:30 a.m.

FACULTY OR STAFF DESIRING NOTICE OF THE COUNSELING CENTER'S CURRENT WORKSHOP AND GROUP OFFERINGS may send e-mail to James.Orr@wwu.edu. Specify e-mail or hard copy. Periodic notices will be sent to those on the list.

WINTER 2006 GROUP OFFERINGS. • Relaxation Training, Mondays, 11 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays, 4 to 5 p.m., OM 540 — both days cover the same content; drop-in for one or all sessions; • Grief and Loss Group, Tuesdays, 3 to 4:30 p.m. through Feb. 14, registration required. • Also offered are "Ride the Emotional Wave," "Assertiveness and Social Skills," and "Women's Support Group." For information or to register, call X3164 or stop by OM 540.

FOR WINTER CAMPUS RECRUITING OPPORTUNITIES, see www.careers.wwu.edu, stop by the Career Services Center in OM 280, or call X/3240.

Ban: County can't shut down Casa Que Pasa, smoking not a health code violation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the restaurant on Dec. 9, 2005, the day after the start of the ban, said Nicole Willis, tobacco prevention coordinator for the Washington State Department of Health.

Willis said after approximately 10 complaints from customers, health department workers visited the restaurant on Dec. 19, 2005 and found the bartender and Jordan smoking inside the bar.

The health department is targeting Casa Que Pasa because the restaurant is receiving more customer complaints than other local businesses and Jordan still refuses to comply, Willis said.

"It's the actual customers complaining about the smoking, not just the health department's complaints," Willis said.

The only other restaurant under watch by the health department is the Pastime Tavern in Blaine,

but the owner recently agreed to enforce the ban, Watts said.

Jordan said he disagrees with the perception that only customers have complained. Jordan said he heard rumors about competitors calling in complaints to ruin his business because individuals can report complaints anonymously.

Watts said the focus of the lawsuit is to stop the restaurant from permitting smoking.

"We are not going against individual smokers," Watts said. "We are going after the owner because it is the county's responsibility to stop this violation of the law."

The health department enforces the ban inside of businesses and the police cite individual smokers.

An individual smoking citation costs \$100, Whatcom County Undersheriff, Carey James said.

Jordan said this is a problem because the police are busy with

other work and rarely cite tickets, but the health department has the resources and the time, so business owners end up being fined.

"Clearly, lawyers didn't write this law because it is poorly written," Jordan said. "In my opinion, any law should be prosecuted equally."

Jordan said the law enforcement is unfair. The health department came to his business and cited him but not individual smokers, he said.

"Hopefully enforcement on this restaurant will get business owners to comply with the law," Watts said. "Then this won't become an epidemic."

The health department can't shut down Casa Que Pasa due to indoor smoking complaints because smoking in a restaurant isn't a health code violation, but a violation of the Clean Indoor Air Act, he said.

Jordan said Casa Que Pasa is in



CHRIS TAYLOR / THE WESTERN FRONT

Casa Que Pasa cashier Veronica Jensen chats with her roommates Monday afternoon.

no danger of shutting its doors.

"It seems to me that I am being made an example of because I publicly disagree with this law," Jordan said.

Despite the tension between the county health department and Casa Que Pasa, Willis said the dispute

remains amicable.

Writers of the Clean Indoor Air Act expected the first couple of months to be rocky, Willis said.

"Locally, we are very happy with the results," Watts said. "Most people have been incredibly compliant."

Law: Republicans turn attention to state Supreme Court

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Washington became the 17th state to pass laws protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination, said Sen. Harriet Spanel, D-Bellingham. The Senate attached an amendment to the bill, however, asserting the state doesn't endorse any specific belief, practice, behavior or orientation.

To gay rights advocates, the bill is a triumph 30 years in the making. The state's first openly gay lawmaker, the late Sen. Cal Anderson of Seattle, a Democrat of

Seattle, introduced the bill in 1977. He sponsored the bill for eight years and Spanel said he deserves credit for keeping it alive. Anderson died of AIDS in 1995.

With Democrats controlling the House and the Senate and a Democrat in the governor's office, passing the bill was only a matter of time, Spanel said. Republicans controlled the Senate three years ago, and the bill never made it to a floor vote, she said.

Republicans voted against the bill because they feared it would be an indictment of the viewpoints

LOCAL SENATORS

Sen. Spanel, D-Bellingham	YES
Sen. Brandland, R-Whatcom County	NO

their supporters hold about sexual orientation, said Rep. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale.

Ericksen, who voted against the bill, said Republicans will focus their attention to a state Supreme Court case regarding gay marriage.

In the coming weeks, the court could overturn a ban on gay marriages within the state.

Puddles: State legislature would have to approve large-scale project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

management and outdoor maintenance said they prioritize problems with health and safety concerns first, such as tripping hazards. Damage prevention comes second, such as damage to building infrastructure, and maintenance comes last.

The maintenance category includes standing water issues, unless it poses a danger to students and faculty or causes damage to facilities, Managan said.

"I do not know of any damage incurred to the (Red Square) courtyard," Managan said.

Western receives funding for maintenance projects from an

annual operation budget and a capital budget funds, which funds larger, long-term projects, such as replacing Western's pipe system.

Director of Capital Budget Renée Roberts said a campus-wide renovation of Western's pipe systems would require money from the 2007-2009 budget.

Campus-wide improvements would cost Western millions of dollars, Walker said.

The state legislature has to review and approve the capital budget every two years, Roberts said.

"It comes down to funding and scheduling," Walker said.

"We only can do so much with what we have."

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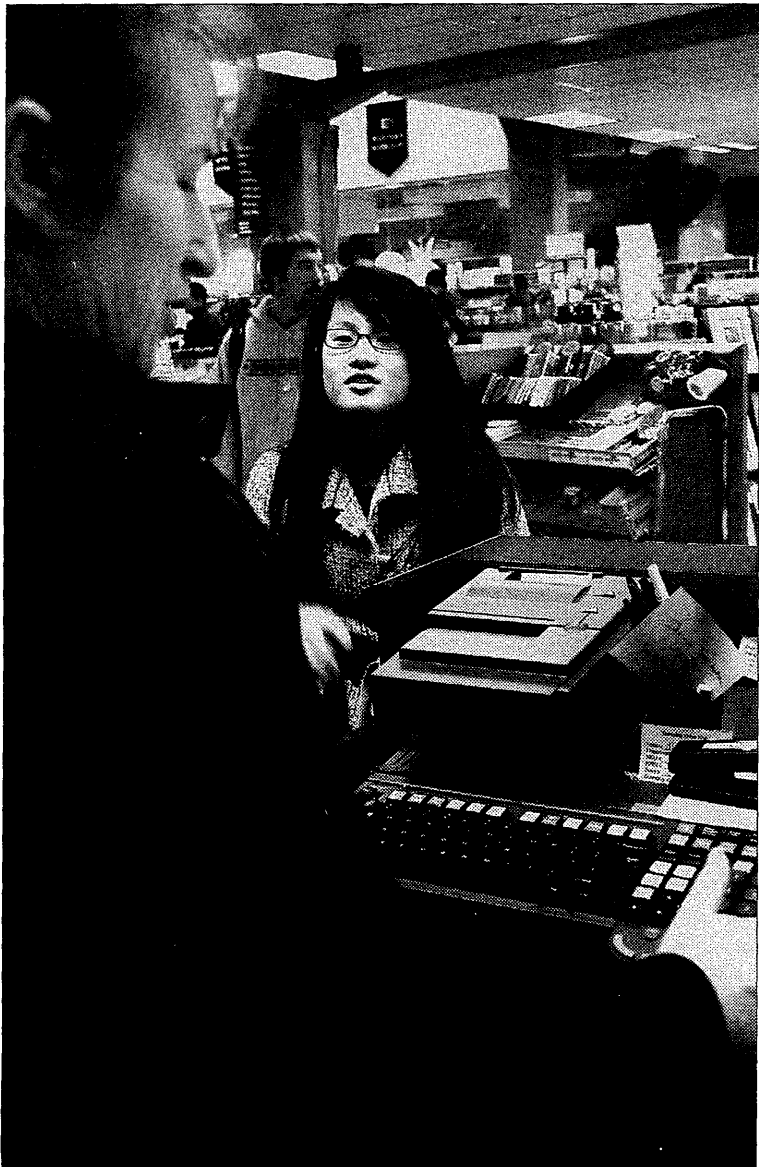
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Bookstore suffers profit loss



JARED YOAKUM / THE WESTERN FRONT

AS Bookstore cashier Michelle Mallahan rings up Western freshman Rebekah Nguyen Monday afternoon. Sales have dropped since the start of winter quarter.

By SHANNON DEVENY
The Western Front

Western's Associated Students Bookstore reported a 6 percent drop in sales this quarter compared to winter quarter 2005.

Students buying or trading books from other retailers and bookstore personnel adjusting to a new inventory system involving new cash registers and computer programs caused the decline in sales, AS Bookstore manager Lara Mann said.

"To have a 6 percent decrease is not something we want to see, we would like to see increases in sales," she said. "Fewer students are buying books here."

Bookstore's sales began to drop winter quarter 2005, Mann said.

"Textbooks aren't getting any cheaper," Mann said. "And students are trying to save money."

Many students buy books online from the Amazon.com Web site and also post their used books on Web sites to sell and trade textbooks with other students, AS Bookstore textbook manager Robert Perks said.

"I don't sell out of all my titles," Perks said. "It's the fourth or fifth week of the quarter here and there's still a lot of material on the shelves, which means students are buying them somewhere else."

Mann said the bookstore lost money because of mistakes when adjusting to the new inventory system and an increase in expenses

after raising the staff's wages.

The campus bookstore also lost sales this quarter to local competitor, The College Store in Sehome Village, Mann said.

"Our local competitor did some pretty aggressive marketing in the fall with things such as flyers so freshmen who might not have known they existed now do," she said.

The College Store manager Joshua Canham said his store tried to market itself on Western's campus to increase their sales fall quarter. He said store representatives dressed up in gorilla suits and handed out bananas and flyers to students.

The College Store has a better selection of used textbooks and lower prices than the AS Bookstore, Western junior Tyler Wilkens-Haigh said.

"The campus bookstore doesn't have as big a used book selection as The College Store," he said, "which hurts them because people want to get the cheapest books possible, and if they can get them all in one place, they will go there."

The AS Bookstore does not have a parking lot for customers, which hurts business because students find it inconvenient to carry around textbooks they buy with them while on campus, Wilkens-Haigh said.

"I know the bookstore on campus has limited parking, which makes our parking lot a selling point for students," Canham said.

An advertising intern will

generate a new marketing plan to try and improve sales in the spring, Mann said. She said she wants the bookstore to increase its audience size and interest.

The bookstore is trying other tactics to improve sales, including using its staff more effectively by consolidating the number of employees who do certain tasks and bringing in new products, such as jewelry and more iPod accessories, she said.

"We are going to talk to the instructors whose books aren't selling to see why students aren't buying books or enrolling and find out if there is anything we can do to fix that," Perks said.

In an economics class of 118 students, 13 students bought their books from the campus bookstore, Perks said. This class resulted in a loss of approximately \$7,000.

Perks said every quarter he buys books for each class based on the total number of spots available for student registration. When not enough students enroll in a class, the store loses money on all the books it couldn't sell.

He said students may see the current 50 percent buy-back value of their books rise in the upcoming quarters as an enticement for students to shop at the AS Bookstore.

"If you spend your money here it stays on campus," Mann said. "If you spend your money online or down the hill (at The College Store) you don't get any return on it."

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FEATURES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006 • WESTERNFRONTONLINE.COM • PAGE 5

Strange days

Deputy Tasers goat

Deputy Jeff Scott zapped Dodge the billy goat three times after Dodge broke from his leash and knocked Dawn Pinette, 38, to the ground Jan. 25 in Round O, South Carolina.

Pinette's daughter called the Colleton County Police and Scott arrived to help. When the goat continued to charge, the deputy used his Taser. Scott and Pinette put the goat in the back of Pinette's pickup truck to contain Dodge after zapping the goat two more times.

Pinette's neighbor owns the goat and plans to find Dodge a new home, police said.

Steelers fans love their team

To avoid confusion about where their loyalties are, the mayor and council members of Washington, Pa. changed the town's name to Steeler on Jan. 28, the Associated Press reported.

The name change will last until Feb. 5, when the Seattle Seahawks and the Pittsburgh Steelers face each other in the

Super Bowl in Detroit, Mich.

The town residents wanted everyone to know the city of Washington fully supports the Steelers, Mayor Kenneth J. Westcott said in a Jan. 28 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review article.

Scientists hunt Bigfoot in Malaysia

The Malaysian government is sending two teams of scientists to locate a large ape after reported sightings in rainforests in southern Malaysia, a government official said on Jan. 27.

Reports of "Bigfoot" sightings have dominated the Malaysian media for weeks, with many sightings of a tall, ape-like, hairy creature in the Endau-Rompin National Park, the national news agency Bernama said. The government sent a team of scientists to explore the forests and another team to study the creature itself, according to Bernama.

Natives who live in the area claim to have seen the creature for generations, said Vincent Chow, a worker in the area who has lobbied the government to investigate past sightings. Now scientists need to confirm the reports, he said.

The accusation goes against the traditional stereotype of boys being favored more than girls, according to the article.

The school's principal denied the complaint and said Milton High does not discriminate against groups or individuals, according to the article.

Teachers skip school, too

Instead of worrying about teenagers skipping school, Saudi Arabia's education ministry is trying to keep its teachers in school. Teachers are skipping school to participate in the ever-growing stock market.

The education ministry said it told headmasters on Jan. 26 to keep teachers from using work hours to contribute to the largest stock market in the Arab world. Trade analysts estimate half of the 18 million citizens in the country hold shares in the oil companies and 3 million trade regularly.

Loincloths hardly cover twins

Police detained twins pending trial for indecent exposure after going to an upscale shopping mall in Harare, Zimbabwe last month in traditional African goatskin loincloths, court officials said.

Tafadzwanashe and Tapiwanashe Fichani said they wanted to make a statement by wearing pre-colonial African clothing. Zimbabwe prosecutors disagreed and said dressing in traditional garments is for cultural occasions only. The Harare magistrate, Mishrod Guvamombe has ordered the brothers to attend a psychiatric evaluation, he said.

The twins were denied bail and are scheduled to appear in court on Feb. 2.

Man with stun gun holds 11 women hostage

Tokyo police found a stun gun, tear gas, hypnosis books and 11 women at the home of Hirohito Shibuya on Jan. 27. Shibuya, 57, said he convinced the women to stay by chanting a spell, according to police.

Police suspect he used the weapons and books to prevent the women from leaving his home, according to police reports.

He denied threatening the women and said he was a former senior officer in Japan's military, the Kyodo news agency said.

Compiled by Sara Thompson

SATURDAY

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'God' can't vote

A registered Republican in Pennsylvania will not be able to vote until he explains his signature on his registration form to the Berks County elections board, elections director Deborah M. Olivieri said.

Paul S. Sewell, 40, signed his form "God" but is registered under his real name, Olivieri said.

Sewell's Pennsylvania Department of Transportation driver's license and credit card accept the signature without any problems, he said, so the signature should be legal, Sewell said.

Teen files complaint against school

Doug Anglin, 17, filed a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights accusing his public high school of treating girls better than boys, Rueters reported.

According to Anglin's Dec. 9 statement Milton High School in Milton, Mass., discriminates against boys by punishing them more than girls. The school is less likely to encourage boys in academics.

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Formula for success



JARED YOAKUM / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Bill Rahr prepares Viking 38's engine for testing last Thursday.

Western's Vehicle Research Institute constructs its latest car, Viking 38

BY LOREAN SERKO
The Western Front

Nestled inside the brick walls of the Ross Engineering Technology building are students designing, welding and assembling with Western's Vehicle Research Institute. Since the summer of 2004, the institute's Formula Society of Automotive Engineers' team has been working on their newest prototype — Viking 38.

In 1974, former Western professor Michael Seal, who retired in 2004, established the institute. VRI designs and builds experimental vehicles such as hybrids, race cars and off-road vehicles. Students have entered the vehicles in engineering design competitions all throughout the United States.

"(Western) is one of the only schools that your first day, freshman year you will be able to work in the shop with the cars," said Brian Seiler, Western sophomore and Formula SAE team leader. "As long as you are willing to learn and ask questions, you are welcome here."

The Hybrid, Mini Baja and the Formula SAE are the three teams which make-up the institute. The Hybrid team works on building cars with electric and gas powered engines, the Mini Baja works on creating off-road vehicles and the Formula SAE teams builds cars which have restrictions on the cars body and engine, Larsen said.

"It is a great experience because we are learning on our own and we are able to apply it hands-on," said Western senior Chris Larsen, who is a member of the institute.

The Formula SAE team is designing and building Viking 38, which they will enter into the Formula SAE West engineering design competition at the California Speedway in Fontana, Calif., in June, Western junior and team member John Furtado said.

Western senior Leon Cheung, who has been a member of the institute for a year, said the competition involves 130 vehicles, designed by college students from as far away as Finland and Australia. Students participating in the competition envision, design and construct small formula racing cars, Larsen said.

The Society of Automotive Engineers lays out the restrictions on the formula car, Larsen said.

"In reality, they want us to build a vehicle that is reliable, inexpensive and that uses low production, that someone could buy and race on the weekends," Seiler said. "But in reality,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN FURTADO

Western formula team spent two years working on the Viking 35. The team completed the car in 2004.

it is expensive and usually unreliable."

A group of 15 students are now designing Viking 38, Cheung said. He estimated that an average team member works in the vehicle shop 10 hours per week.

"We all came to college with a passion for working on cars and none of us have garages to do it," Seiler said. "This is our outlet for tinkering."

Larsen said the formula team divides itself into five sub-teams. One team works on completing the engine, another assembles and designs the car's suspension, a team is devoted to the body of the car while another team works on steering controls and one works on training the driver how to maneuver the vehicle.

"It is so important that all the teams work together," Seiler said. "If one part is off or doesn't fit right, it messes up the whole process."

Seiler said 90 percent of the car parts are manufactured at in the engineering building.

"One thing that sets Western apart from other programs, is that we manufacture most of our own parts," Seiler said.

Students use Computer Aided Design to diagram the vehicle and use Computer Aided Manufacture to make the car's parts.

Seiler said they begin by designing each car part with CAD. After the students design the part, they review the plan to make sure everything will fit together. The students then take the computer design and enters it into a machine, which reads it and manufactures the part using a process of cutting and drilling, Larsen said.

Unlike the previous six formula cars, Viking 38 will be the first formula car to be designed fully in CAD before making any parts, Cheung said. Teams in the past have created parts one by one and many don't fit together properly, he said.

The team receives some money from Western, but the majority comes from local sponsors. Janicki Industries, located in Sedro-Woolley, donates parts such as carbon fiber, which is an essential material for constructing the car, Cheung said.

Seiler estimates that it costs \$25,000 to make one car, which would not be possible without the help of local sponsors.

"It is so exciting to see the finished product and to know you were a part of it," Seiler said.

Viking 30, another formula vehicle which the team built in 1998, appeared in Race Tech magazine and continues to be one of the only cars in Formula history with an engine built by students from raw materials, Seiler said.

Students manage the team with advising from Western industrial technology professor Eric Leonhardt, Seiler said. Leonhardt has been the institute director for four years and built two cars at Western as a student from 1993 to 1995, Seiler said.

"I enjoy reading and preparing for classes, but a good day for me is working in the lab with the students, building," Leonhardt said.

Larsen said students don't have to be vehicle design the major to work with the team.

"The team only attracts students from this major, but what we do involves management, engineering, accounting and graphic design," Furtado said. "If anyone has a car interest, really that's enough."

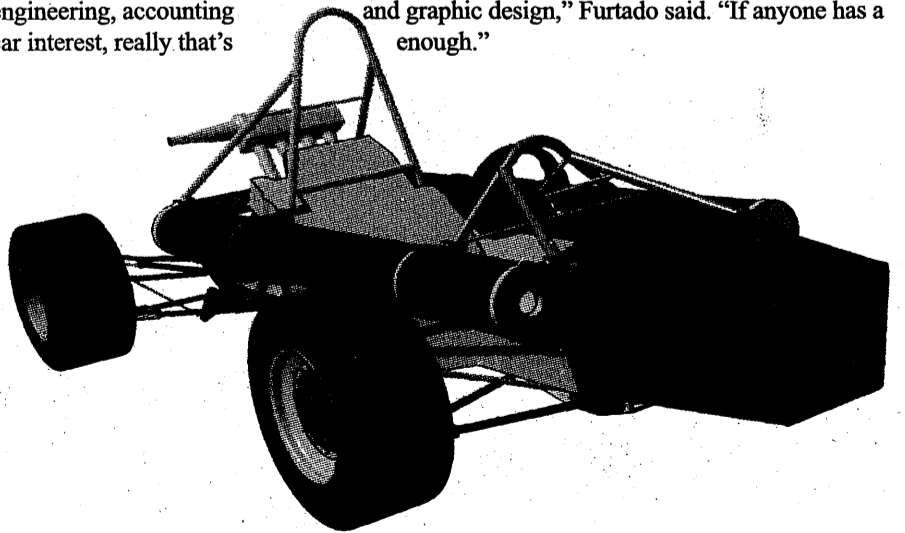


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF JOHN FURTADO

Fifteen Western students are building the Viking 38 (above). The car will compete in June in the Formula SAE engineering design competition at the California Speedway in Fontana, Calif., in June. Judges expect students to envision and construct a formula-style car and grade them on design, engineering style and reliability.

Flavor roasted right

Organic coffee provides caffeine fix for residents

BY JANI NYGAARD
The Western Front

In a college town, where late nights and early mornings are inevitable, a cup of coffee can be a student's best friend. Bellingham ranks fourth in the nation with 2.5 coffee shops per 10,000 residents according to a NPD Foodworld ReCount survey, which tracks the eating and drinking habits of Americans. Bellingham ranked behind San Francisco, Anchorage and Seattle, respectively. Getting a caffeine fix is hardly a problem, but not all coffee drinkers consider where their cup of coffee came from or what it might be doing to their body.

"We felt responsible that if we were putting a product in peoples' mouths, that it be free of pesticides," Moka Joe owner Trudy Scherting said.

Moka Joe, located on James Street, is one of six coffee roasters in the nation that purchases and roasts 100 percent organic and Fair Trade certified coffee beans, according to the company Web site.

Fair Trade certification guarantees roasters pay coffee farm owners a fair price for the coffee, she said.

Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International, located in London, sets the worldwide Fair Trade certification standard. More than one million farm owners, farmhands and their family members in 50 countries benefit from Fair Trade certification standards set by the organization.

Many family-owned farms in coffee producing countries, such as Peru, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Mexico, don't know what fair price is. The farmers can be taken advantage of by the roasters who buy the coffee by purchasing the coffee for as little as four cents per pound.

"It sends farmers into a desperate situation," Scherting said.

The loss of profit leads some farmers' wives and children into prostitution, she said.



CHRIS JOSEPH TAYLOR / THE WESTERN FRONT

Barista Callie Provazek reads a book during the slow hours of her shift Monday afternoon. Pik-Me-Up Espresso is the only drive-thru in Bellingham that serves Moka Joe coffee.

The main goal of the organization is to guarantee that coffee buyers meet a trading criteria. Trading standards stipulate that traders have to pay a fair price to producers that covers their cost of living and production and sign a contract with the farmers allowing long-term planning and sustainable production practices. This ensures farmers' families are not forced to work in the fields and children can attend school.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture classifies food that farmers produce without using conventional pesticides as organic. The insecticide DDT and the herbicide Round-Up can both keep a product from being organic certified. The use of synthetic ingredients or sewage sludge and bioengineering practices can also lead the USDA to deny a product

as organically certified.

Before a product can be labeled "organic," a government-approved certifier inspects the farm to ensure the farmer meets USDA organic standards.

Mallard Ice Cream, The Swan Cafe, Bargainica, Haggen and Pik-Me-Up Espresso are all establishments that buyers can purchase Moka Joe coffee. Pik-Me-Up is the only drive-thru coffee stand in Bellingham that serves Moka Joe, Pik-Me-Up owner Diane McCarthy said.

After opening 12 years ago, Pik-Me-Up Espresso, located on Samish Way, is the oldest continuously running coffee stand in Bellingham, McCarthy said. But it hasn't always served organic coffee. McCarthy, who bought the stand in March 2005, kept the name but made the switch to organic.

"I tried Moka Joe at a restaurant in town and loved their espresso," she said.

Organic products are always more expensive than non-organic foods, McCarthy said.

"It's definitely a sacrifice financially to switch to organic," McCarthy said. "But I like supporting small local businesses."

She said much of her customer base supports her business because the stand serves organic coffee.

"A good handful of our clients are keyed into the fact that it's organic and Fair Trade," she said. "(The stand) has history too, so that helps."

Although the USDA doesn't claim that organically grown products are healthier or safer, both Scherting and McCarthy think they are.

"I'm convinced that it's pesticides in other products that give people upset stomachs," Scherting said.

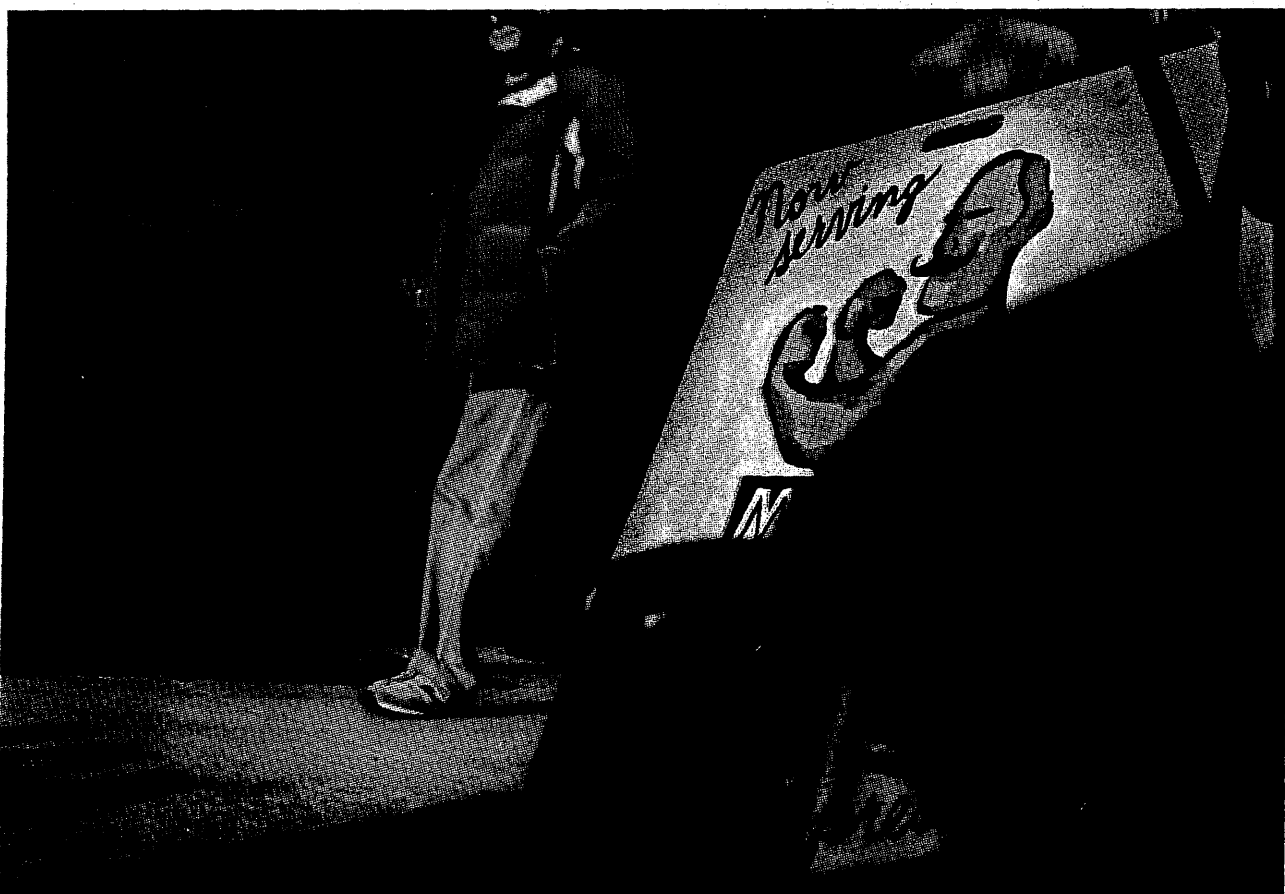
While some coffee drinkers say organic and non-organic coffee taste the same, Scherting said the effects on the body are what makes the difference.

Bellingham resident Kay Campbell, a frequent Moka Joe customer agrees that organic coffee doesn't taste differently from non-organic coffee, but she can feel a disparity.

"I can only drink organic coffee because the others upset my stomach," she said. "Same with my husband."

The couple tried different Moka Joe coffees around Bellingham and found that none of the coffees upset their stomachs, Campbell said.

"We were getting Starbucks before that," she said. "We were finding that it hurt our stomachs. But with Moka Joe coffee — the organic — we like the flavor and it doesn't bother us."



CHRIS JOSEPH TAYLOR / THE WESTERN FRONT

A Moka Joe Espresso sign is displayed outside the new Mallard Ice Cream and Cafe shop on Railroad Ave Monday afternoon. Mallard is among the few businesses in Bellingham that carry the organic brand.

Water polo club faces difficulties early

By BRITTNEY LEIRDAHL
The Western Front

Western women's water polo team started its season this weekend with its first Northwest Division win in three years.

The women played in the semi-final tournament Sunday at Curtis High School in Seattle, where they won a game against the University of Oregon and lost its other three games.

Western freshman Caroline Barth said she's eager to start the season because the team has eight freshmen with impressive water polo experience are joining the team.

"We have a lot of girls straight out of high school who played high school ball," Barth said.

Barth quit playing basketball her freshman year at Paso Robles High School in Paso Robles, Calif., to play water polo and said she has never looked back. Barth comes from a family of water polo players — her father, brother and sister-in-law all played the sport.

An inconvenient practice schedule prevented many veteran players from returning to the team this year.

Team practices are from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sundays and 8 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Wade King Recreation Center pool. Barth said she has noticed the rigorous schedule helps her set a schedule with her school work.

She said four veteran players quit playing water polo this year because of the late-night practices, but in Barth's case it benefits her.

"Working out makes me feel better both physically and mentally," Barth said.

Western junior and team captain Sarah Glaspell said she



CHRIS HUBER / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman Caroline Barth receives instruction during the water polo club practice at the Wade King Recreation Center Thursday night.

didn't play water polo in high school but participated on the school swim team in high school. Glaspell conditions the team by making them swim laps at the beginning of each practice to build endurance.

She said she tries to encourage the girls to get together outside of water polo practices as well. Glaspell said she

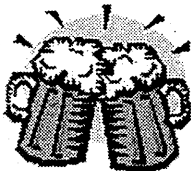
see **POOL**, page 9

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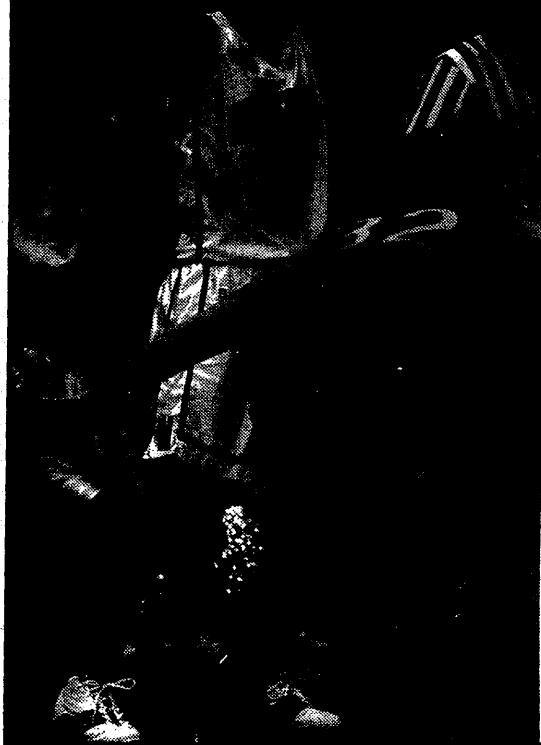


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Pool: Loss of veteran players, late-night practices and lack of coaching plague women's team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

enjoys the team atmosphere of water polo more than swimming, which is more individual.

Western sophomore Amy Williamson said practicing with her teammates motivates her to work harder than she would if she was alone.

Williamson said water polo is different than sports such as baseball or basketball because the team only participates in playoff tournaments.

She said Western's team competed in the league's semi-final tournament this weekend.

The team will play in the league's final tournament on March 4.

The team will not participate in tournaments leading up to the finals because it cannot afford entry fees, Williamson said. The league covers the fees for semi-finals and finals.

Williamson said the competition this year will be tough, but with eight freshmen turning out, it should do better than it has done in previous years.

Last year the team ended the season in last place in the Northwest Division, she said.

Water polo became a sport club at Western in 1998.

Glaspell said Western's team is in the smallest league bracket, but the team is competitive, so she has high expectations for this season. Glaspell said she hopes the team will finish higher in the league than they did last year. She said the league is divided into brackets based on the location.

Western competes against teams such as the University of Washington, the University of Oregon, Western Oregon University and Oregon State University.

Williamson said the team is facing changes in its leadership. Players have stepped up to fill in when their coach is unavailable for practices.

The team's coach Danny Lowderman is unable to make it to most practices because the time conflicts with his work schedule. Williamson said the team would like him to be around more, but said he is trying to make it to as many practices as he can.

Williamson said the team wants to get a new coach for next year's season because of Lowderman's unavailability.

Williamson and Glaspell have taken over the role of coach this year by filling out paperwork for tournaments and running the team practices.

Glaspell conducts most of the swimming drills at practice and Williamson works with the women on drills and techniques, Williamson said.

"The captains are doing an awesome job for us," Barth said.

To improve the team, Williamson said she wants the women to swim more laps than they have in the past.

She said each practice the players swim approximately 1,500 yards before the team starts to scrimmage.

"Some of our tournaments last year turned into swim meets," Williamson said.

She said the other team would have the ball and be in the scoring position that forced Western to swim laps back



CHRIS HUBER / THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Amy Williamson defends the goal during the Western water polo club practice at the Wade King Recreation Center Thursday night.

and forth during the game, never having a chance to score.

The women also have to watch out for their opponents who don't always play fair.

Glaspell said women on other teams play dirty by grabbing swimsuits of players under the water and pulling them under. Glaspell said this isn't legal but sometimes the players get away with it if referees don't see them.

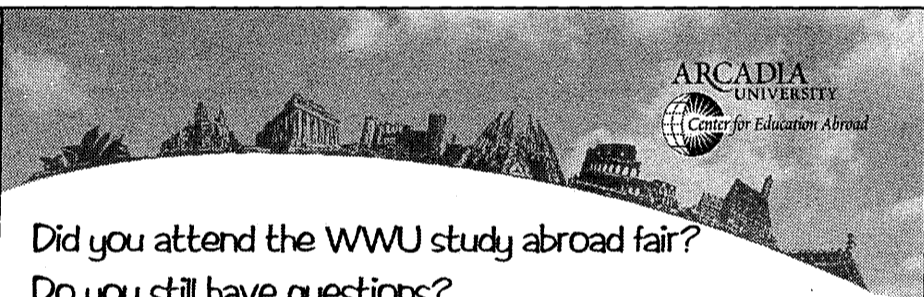
"Water polo can be an intense sport," Glaspell said. "The girls can be really nasty."

Super Bowl trivia

Which city has hosted the most Super Bowls?

New Orleans has played host to eight Super Bowls.

Compiled by Sara Thompson



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Frontline

Western needs to fix puddle problem

As the rain continues to pour from the sky and state rainfall records are nearly broken, the rain forces Western students to pull on knee-high wading boots just to arrive at class dry.

Outdoor maintenance faculty, who tend Western's grounds, haven't equipped Western's campus with an efficient drainage system and students, staff and faculty are the ones suffering. Nobody likes to walk into class wearing shoes soaking wet and jeans three shades darker around the bottom after trekking from one building to another.

Most of the pools of water students find on campus are continuing to grow. People walking through campus consider some puddles, such as the one between Carver Gym and the Fine Arts building, as small ponds. If outdoor maintenance employees don't repair the drainage system, the problem will continue to get worse until traversing south to north campus will require a kayak.

Red Square is another disaster zone that will continue to get worse. Western's founders built Fischer Fountain and buildings in Red Square on top of a peat bog that is slowly causing the buildings to sink. The unstable ground disrupts the bricks and when it rains it creates puddles that students, faculty and staff have to dodge every couple steps.

While repairing the entire drainage system would be costly, the changes are necessary. The state legislature approved Western's budget for 2005-2007 in December 2004 and administration would have to factor large-scale renovations to the campus pipe system into the budget of 2007-2009.

The outdoor maintenance department can use money in the budget that budgetary administrators earmark for campus maintenance to make minor repairs, but funds for replacing the cracked pipes all over campus will not be available unless included in the next budget, which administrator will decide at the end of the year.

The flooding outside of Carver Gym is nothing new. Water covers the campus during the rainy months and has so for years. Budgetary administrators should have factored repairs to the drainage system into the 2005-2007 budget or previous budgets.

New crack-resistant pipes need to replace the old clay pipes which are currently outdoor used all over Western's campus. Opting not to repair the system now will increase the amount of damage to Western's campus and will make the final bill much bigger than if action was taken now. The water will damage buildings, puddles will grow and Red Square will continue to sink.

Hey, as a last resort, budgetary administrators could plan for a retractable dome that would enclose campus and prevent it from continuous flooding during the rainy seasons, but still allow fresh air to come in when the skies are clear. At least then students won't look or feel like drowned rats while they sit through class.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Lauren Miller, Adriana Dunn, Bradley Thayer, Jacob Buckenmeyer, Amy Harder, Jared Yoakum, Ciara O'Rourke, Michael Lycklama, Susan Rosenberry, Andrew Irvine, Marissa Harshman, Dawn Chesbro, Aaron Apple, Loren Shane, Chris Taylor and Chris Huber.

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

And we quote:

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear"

— Mark Twain, American author



One size doesn't fit all when it comes to meals



By KRISTI PIHL
The Western Front

Meal plans shouldn't be mandatory for students who live on campus. The lack of meal varieties limits students with eating restrictions such as vegans and vegetarians.

The dining halls don't provide enough meal options for students with dietary needs. Students living on campus include vegetarians, vegans and students with dietary restrictions due to religion or health conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

Vegans don't eat any animal products, including eggs and milk products while vegetarians avoid only meat.

Campus dining halls don't always offer a vegan main-course meal. The menu for Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, Fairhaven, Ridgeway and Viking Commons only offer 6 vegan main course entrees out of 42 lunches and dinners.

Vegetarians have more options, with at least one main course labeled vegetarian at each meal. Still, compared to the non-vegetarian selections, vegetarian options are minimal. However, the dining hall always provides cereal, rice and salad as backup. If those options aren't appealing, tough. The bean burgers, although always available, are enough to drive a firm vegetarian to starvation or even worse — meat. The rubbery cheese pizzas with non-existent

crusts are another appetite killer for any vegetarian.

The dining halls leave students who follow religious guidelines concerning diet little choice. Western's dining hall Web site doesn't even mention less well-known religious diets such as Jewish Kosher and Islamic Halal options.

Students with medical conditions such as diabetes need to know how many carbohydrates are in their meals so they can figure out how much insulin

person eating the smaller meal.

At least the University of Washington doesn't make students pay for what they don't eat. Students only pay for the items of food they actually eat, according to the dining hall Web site. UW's meal plan is the equivalent of a Western's munch money that rolls the extra money into the next quarter. At the end of the year, if the remaining balance is more than \$1,600 — UW refunds the remaining money.

The dining halls serve food that doesn't measure up to most students' freshness standards.

Food servers leave lettuce on the salad bar too long. Stale bread and cereal are available in abundance. Food service workers frequently overcook the meat and food sits under the heat lamps too long to retain proper food warmth.

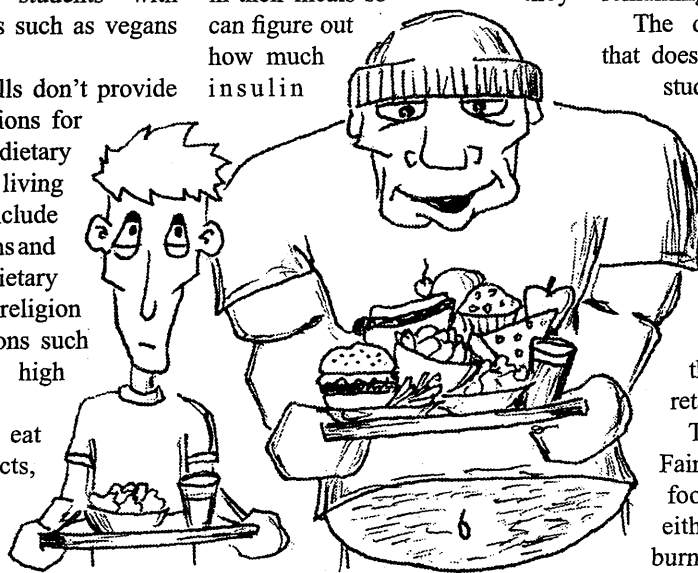
The stir-fry wok at Fairhaven sometimes flavors food with carbon flakes either from the pan or from burnt food mixed in with the entree.

The dining halls don't offer a variety of fruit unless apples, oranges and bananas are all the fruit a college student could want.

Associate director of University Residences Kurt Willis said Western has its reasons for requiring

mandatory meal plans. Required meal plans help build community in the residence halls, he said.

If meal plans were optional, more students would cook in residence halls that have inadequate sinks and cooking facilities, he said.



they need to keep his or her blood sugar balanced. The dining hall's set meal times may not coincide with the times they need to eat.

The "all-you-care-to-eat" model of dining supports only patrons who eat three meals per day. For students who eat many small meals rather than a few large meals, the dining hall system doesn't work. A person who eats four main entrees and three desserts pays the same amount as a person who eats an average meal — this doesn't sit well with the

"The rubbery cheese pizzas with non-existent crusts are another appetite-killer for any vegetarian."

Viking Voices

Do you think students who live on campus should have mandatory meal plans?

Compiled by Shannon Deveny and Devin Smart



Adam Krell
Junior, political science

Sodexo is evil and having a mandatory meal plan is a way to snare people.



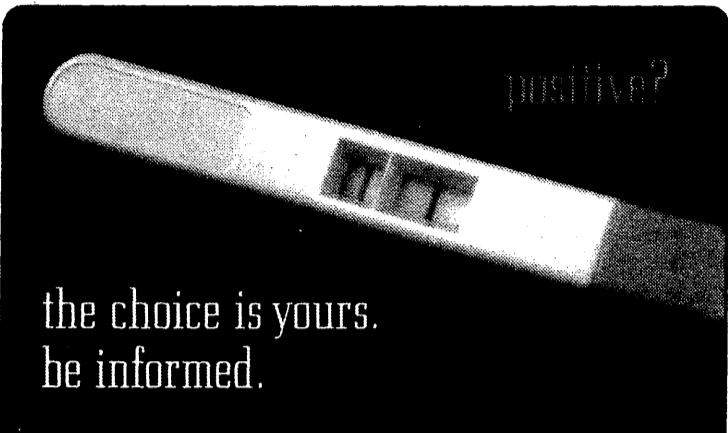
Jesse Lamon
Sophomore, education

What about the vegan kids?



Meghan Stuart
Senior, marketing

I don't see a reason why it should be required. If they don't want to eat there they shouldn't have to.



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Brent Kauffman
Junior, engineering

It's communist propaganda because it's making everybody fund something that they don't have a choice about.



Sarina Lariviere
Freshman, undecided

It's ridiculous overpaying for crap food. If you're living in a dorm with a kitchen why should you have to pay?

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Dining: Mandatory food plans don't take into account students with diverse eating habits

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Optional meal plans would violate the university's contract with Sodexo, Inc, the company in charge of the dining halls, Willis said.

Most students who would cook in the residence halls if meal plans became optional already use rice cookers and microwaves in their dorm rooms and wash their dirty dishes in bathroom sinks. The students who cook consistently in their rooms are the same students who would drop the meal plan.

University officials should put students first and corporation contracts second to give students the freedom to determine what food they purchase and eat.

If food in the dining halls is worth eating, on-campus residents will keep meal plans if they become optional. However, optional meal plans would free students for whom the "all-you-care-to-eat" style of dining doesn't work.

Students who can't find what they want to eat in the dining halls are paying more for food than they should have to. They pay for a meal plan they don't use and eat

food they buy off campus.

Students should have the freedom to opt out without compromising with University Residences that won't exempt a student because of personal preference. Students can appeal to University Residences by explaining their health concerns to the on-campus dietician as well as Willis.

College students are adults. Food is a part of their lives and students should be able to make their own decisions about it.

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