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FRONT**

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WEATHER

Tuesday 62° HIGH
44° LOW

Wednesday 64° HIGH
44° LOW

Thursday 67° HIGH
45° LOW

Friday 66° HIGH
47° LOW

Source: National Weather Service



photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Western juniors Troy Petersen (right) and Rory Savatgy of Team Zissou take a break from the Relay For Life May 19 while fellow team members Dennis Stickler, Kyle Hermansen and Drew Butler walk another lap.

Walking for a cure

Drizzling rain didn't dampen the Relay for Life spirit

Kera Wanielista
THE WESTERN FRONT

Tents, lawn chairs and canopies lined Western's track. Music and excitement drifted through the air as friends, family, fighters and survivors gathered under a constant trickle of negligible rain. This eclectic group came together, braving the elements and giving their time all for a cause.

Through the early hours of May 19, students, faculty and members of the community gathered on Western's track with hopes of raising more than \$100,000 for the annual American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Rachel Rotter, president

of Western Students Against Cancer club, said they raised a total of \$46,772, but they are still accepting donations.

"The idea behind Relay for Life is that cancer patients never get a break," Rotter said. "That's why it's an all-day event."

Rotter, a Western sophomore and also the chairperson for Western's Relay for Life event, said the relay would continue no matter the weather, because cancer patients still have to cope with disease, even on rainy days.

Rotter said 55 teams from the community participated in the event that took place from noon May 19 to 8 a.m. May 20. For those 20 hours, each team

was required to have at least one person on the track at all times.

Western freshman and Team Twilight co-captain Erin Durch said this was her third Relay event. She said she was initially interested because of the effect cancer has had on her family.

"My [inspiration] to do it was my uncle," Durch said. "He had lymphoma and he just recently got over it."

Western junior James Etherington, also a Team Twilight member, said there were 15 to 18 people on their team. He said team members would be walking in pairs, totaling approximately two

see RELAY page 4 ▶

Western 'rides low in the 360'



photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

A Lincoln Town car sits in a three-point stance in Red Square May 20. This car was part of Western's seventh-annual "Riding Low in the 360" car show.

Car show bounces into Red Square

Andrea Dramer
THE WESTERN FRONT

The rain didn't stop watermelons, jalapenos, music and lowrider cars, trucks and bikes from filling Red Square May 20 for the seventh-annual "Ridin' Low in the 360" car show.

The lowrider show is hosted every year by the Associated Students (AS) club Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos De Azatlan (M.E.Ch.A.).

The show gave car enthusiasts a chance to display their lowrider vehicles and win trophies and prizes. Six judges were trained to critique different categories, and trophies were handed out in each

see LOWRIDERS page 7 ▶

Check out an exclusive slide show at
westernfrontonline.com



Events related to the Genocide Awareness Project

The controversial Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) is returning to Western's Red Square May 23 and 24. The project displays large color photos of aborted fetuses adjacent to images of Holocaust and lynching victims.

The following is a list of campus events that will discuss abortion this week.

Tuesday, May 22

GAP Training Session: Those interested in participating in the demonstration will learn how they can be involved.
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Miller Hall room 163

Wednesday, May 23

Genocide Awareness Project: The GAP display will be set up in Red Square. GAP participants will be present.
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Red Square

Abortion and GAP Debate: Western For Life club is mediating a debate on the GAP display and the issue of abortion.
7:00 p.m.
Miller Hall room 163

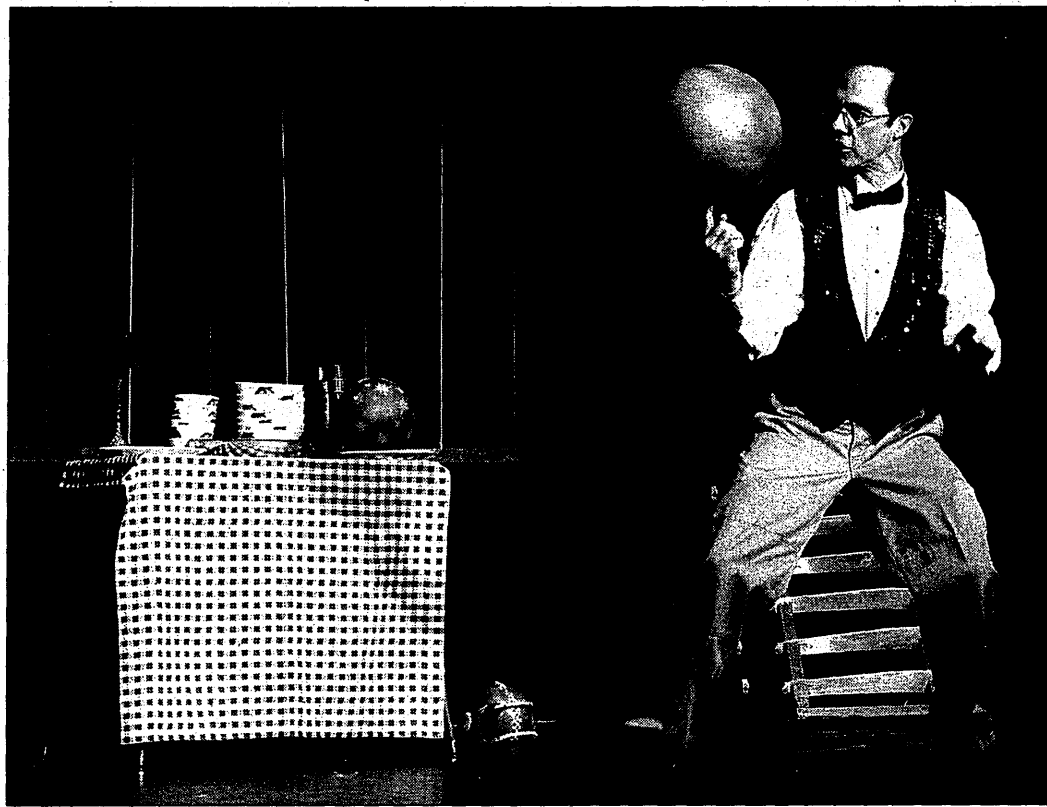
Thursday, May 24

Genocide Awareness Project: The GAP display will be set up in Red Square. GAP participants will be present.
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Red Square

"Reproductive Rights in America": Local Attorney Deborra Garrett will speak on the state of reproductive rights in America to kick off Western's American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) free speech week.
7:00 p.m.
Bond Hall room 105

Friday, May 25

'The Last Abortion Clinic' The ACLU is showing the Frontline documentary "The Last Abortion Clinic," discussing women's reproductive rights.
7:00 p.m.
Communications Facility 110



Comedy, juggling and juice

Balls, clubs, rings, knives and boxes were flying through the air at the Bellingham Juggling Club's third-annual festival at Western May 18 to 20. The show was a raunchy improvisation and skit show of talent: part comedy, part juggling and part juicing. After every skit or performance, the performer was given juice made on the side of the stage with a juicer.

Read more
online at westernfrontonline.com

photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Cops Box

>>News Briefs<<

Students in Service receives grant

The Western Students in Service will receive a \$360,000 grant from AmeriCorps that will provide students with a stipend in exchange for community service.

U.S. Sen Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., helped secure the grant.

The Students in Service program helps disadvantaged youth through mentoring, classroom support and after-school programs.

Students work between 300 and 900 hours of service, and receive vouchers they can use to cover tuition or student loans. The Western Students in Service program will distribute the funds to student volunteers at 31 Washington Campus Compact schools.

Banquet provides forum for discussion about hunger

Western's Circle K club is hosting a Hunger Banquet at 7 p.m. May 23 in Viking Union room 565. The event will serve as a forum to discuss food access, food wastefulness and local action to combat hunger.

Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$2 with Western ID and \$4 for the general public.

Outdoor Center Gear Grab May 24

The Western Outdoor Center hosts its annual Gear Grab event 5 a.m. through 8 p.m. May 24 at the Performing Arts Center Plaza. The event provides an opportunity for participants to buy, sell and trade athletic gear.

Those interested in selling gear should visit the Outdoor Center prior to the event to rent a table for \$10.

Film tackles genetic food laws

Students for Sustainable Food club will be presenting "Unnatural Selection," a film highlighting the inadequacies of laws concerning genetically modified organisms at 7 p.m. May 22 in Science, Mathematics and Technology Education room 150.

The event is free to attend and open to the public.

Compiled by Steven Dahl

WWU Official Announcements – PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is the first business day of the month. Announcements should be submitted to the Student Publications Council, 251 Communications Building, Bellingham, WA 98225. For more information, visit www.westernfrontonline.com. Announcements should be submitted to the Student Publications Council, 251 Communications Building, Bellingham, WA 98225. For more information, visit www.westernfrontonline.com.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT) will be given in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on June 4 and 11, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on May 31, June 7 and 14. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification, their student number, their Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in the exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes.

THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST schedule and sample topics may be found at www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.

THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT) is given by appointment only. To make an appointment, stop by OM 120 or call X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at test time. The test takes about 1½ hours. Preliminary scores are available immediately; official results are mailed within 15 days.

BIOLOGY. • Edith Widder (deep sea explorer and co-founder and director of the Ocean Research & Conservation Association) will give the inaugural Sundquist Lecture, "Secret Lights in the Sea: Explorations and Applications of Marine Bioluminescence," 7 p.m. May 23, AH 100. • Dan Roby (Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife, Oregon State University), "Seabird Science in the Political Hotseat: Tern and Cormorant Predation on Threatened Salmonids," 4 p.m. BI2 34.

WEST-B TEST. Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs must meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Test dates for the remainder of 2006-07 are May 12, July 14, Sept. 15, and Nov. 3. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance. To register, go to www.west.nesinc.com.

WEST-E PRAXIS. Washington state requires anyone seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement, now referred to as the WEST-E Praxis. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.

WEST-E (PRAXIS) TEST DATES for the remainder of 2006-07 are June 9, Aug. 4, Sept. 8, and Nov. 17. Register online at www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html.

FOR GROUP OFFERINGS AND WORKSHOPS AT THE COUNSELING CENTER this quarter, visit www.wvu.edu/chw/counseling. For more information call X/3164.

On-campus recruiting

For complete, updated information, see www.careers.wvu.edu or stop by Old Main 280. For complete and updated information, including new recruiting visits and deadlines, see www.careers.wvu.edu or stop by OM 280.

THE WESTERN FRONT

WesternFrontOnline.com

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The Western Front is published twice weekly in the fall, winter, and spring quarters and once a week in the summer session. 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 at 650-3161. Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

Seatbelt campaign changes focus

University Police sends out extra patrols to look for drivers not buckled up during nighttime

Andrea Dramer
THE WESTERN FRONT

Washington's nighttime drivers have become the focus of traffic officers in a statewide Click-it or Ticket campaign. Law enforcement agencies began ticketing unbuckled motorists May 21 and will continue the focus until June 3.

The campaign will be geared toward those who drive at night, said Julie Furlong, media consultant for the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC). Officers will still be ticketing during daylight hours but this specific program will be solely for night patrols. Studies show motorists are putting themselves at risk because they are not buckling up at night, she said.

"The goal is to save lives," she said. "Wearing a seatbelt can reduce the risk of a fatal accident by 45 percent and a critical injury accident by 50 percent."

Western's University Police (UP) has joined 77 other law enforcement agencies from across Washington state to participate in the new nighttime addition to the Washington Click-it or Ticket campaign.

Furlong explained officers from Western will work an additional 36 hours during the program to crackdown on drivers who fail to wear their seatbelts from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Drivers caught will be fined \$112.

Several factors contribute to nighttime accidents including darkness, drinking, recklessness, dangerous speeds, inattention and fatigue. Wearing a seatbelt can not only help protect drivers from their own recklessness but other drivers as well, said Jonna VanDyk, the WTSC protection program manager.

Every year approximately 40,000 seatbelt tickets are issued. Of those tickets only 10 percent are issued at night.

In the past officers have not watched for unbuckled motorists even though the same number of accidents occur at night.

Many motorists do not buckle up at night because they think it is too dark for officers to see the seatbelt, Furlong said.

The process to catch unbuckled drivers requires two officers. One officer stands in a well lit area where traffic slows. When the first officer sees an unbuckled driver he or she radios ahead to a second officer waiting in a car who pulls over the unbuckled driver.

The cost of a seatbelt ticket has risen from \$101 to \$112, Furlong said. VanDyk said the seatbelt fine will rise again to approximately \$120 in a few months.

UP Assistant Chief Dave Doughty said he hopes students who do not buckle up will learn from the campaign and change their habits.

UP will be providing extra night

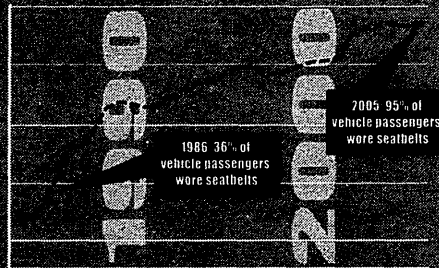
Seatbelts and collision fatalities

Seatbelt use in Washington state has risen dramatically since a 1986 law requiring their use. But the law was secondary, meaning officers could not pull over cars for passengers not wearing seatbelts. Officers could only cite people for not wearing seatbelts if they had been pulled over for another infraction.

In 2002, the Legislature enacted a primary seatbelt law, allowing officers to pull over and ticket people not wearing seatbelts.

Since both laws have been enacted, the vehicle fatality rate has dropped, although other factors may contribute, including airbags, vehicle safety and driver education.

source: WSDOT
graphic by Matt Gagne



patrols using grant money from the state. Compensation for additional hours will not come out of Western students' tuition, Doughty said.

At night, fewer cars are on the road than during the day, but the number of accidents is still high, Furlong said.

"Almost an equal number of deaths occur during the day as do at night, but traffic volumes plummet at night," Furlong said. "It is pretty alarming."

Lower traffic volumes increase the risk of being in a fatal accident at night by four times, VanDyk said.

Western junior Frank Mirabelli said he always wears his seatbelt. Mirabelli went on to say that he reminds other passengers to buckle up if he notices they are not wearing seatbelts.

"For the risk involved it's not a big deal to take two seconds to put it on," Mirabelli said.



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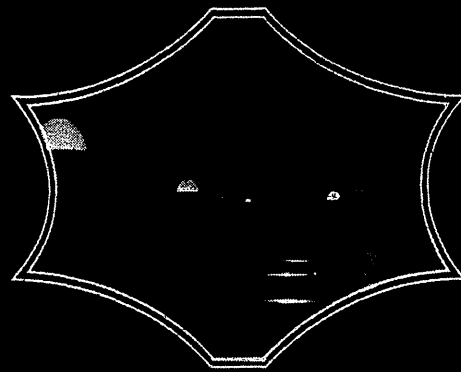
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Relay for Life brings a fun to a serious topic

► RELAY from 1

hours each. Etherington said he also had family members affected by cancer.

Despite the prospect of rain, Team Twilight members were not too distraught by the weather.

"I'd be here rain or shine," Dorch said.

Etherington was slightly less enthusiastic about the weather.

"Not gonna lie — it's a little annoying," Etherington said. "It's been nice all week."

The Pennies for Penny fundraiser, named in honor of Western faculty member Penny Britton, a three-time cancer survivor, raised over \$267 for this year's event.

As the sun began to shine, opening ceremonies started with Vice President of Student Affairs Eileen Coughlin, an eight-year survivor of breast cancer, speaking about the importance for cancer patients to have a team all the time, not just during Relay for Life.

The relay opened with a group of cancer survivors, including Coughlin, completing the initial lap, known as the survivor's lap, around the track. The Destiny's Child's song "Survivor" played

in the background.

Also participating in the survivor's lap was Sara Weir, Chair of the Political Science Department. Weir said she would be speaking in the evening at the Luminare Ceremony, which would honor those who have died from cancer.

Weir said the speech she planned to deliver would echo the theme of the entire relay event.

"My message will be a message of hope," Weir said.

Weir said she is a 45-year survivor of thyroid cancer, and said she was honored to be asked to participate and speak at the event.

"I was left without speech for 2 to 3 years after the surgery," Weir said. "So to be able to use my voice to make my living and speak tonight is great."

Coughlin said this was her second time speaking at Western's Relay for Life and her third time attending.

Weather was also not an issue for Coughlin.

"Because of the spirit, the sun is shining whether it is or it isn't," Coughlin said.

On a stage set up especially for the relay, live bands and an improvisation performance by the Upfront Theatre



photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Several Relay for Life participants dressed up for the occasion, bringing laughter to the event as they walked laps May 19. Organizers hoped to raise \$100,000 during the event, but only gathered \$46,772. The group is still accepting donations, however.

performed all day.

Etherington said he and other members of his team participated in "Mr. Relay," an event for male members of the teams to dress in drag and have some fun while entertaining the other participants.

For Rotter, Relay for Life is more than an event — it's a way to make a difference.

"Because I'm not a doctor I believe that this is the way I can help cure cancer," Rotter said.

Ancient waste delays Western's waterfront construction

Kelly Lemons
THE WESTERN FRONT

Relocation of the railroad and further development of the former Georgia-Pacific site is on hold due to the finding of possible evidence of ancient Native American remains.

It is too early to tell whether the shell midden — an archeological term for the day-to-day waste products of humans — discovered at the site is Native American, said Assistant Director of Public Works Tom Rosenberg to the Waterfront Advisory Committee May 16.

Shell midden can be natural or man made, Western anthropology instructor Todd Koetje said. Midden can be a primary indicator of a site's occupation, he said.

Preliminary borings that drilled

down into the soil for the Port of Bellingham's Environmental Impact Statement discovered the midden 15 feet below the ground surface, Rosenberg said.

The borings were taken along existing rail line the city intends to move. The city will need to continue boring and see how spread out the midden is, he said.

Rosenberg said relocating the rail line is the first step in developing the entire site — a site to which Western is planning to expand.

The city will have to wait and see how the midden discovery will affect the site. But most of the site is artificial fill, so the midden would not affect the whole development project, he said.

Federal regulations require the

project to stop and analyze the sand, shell and possible charcoal fragments discovered at the site, said Elizabeth Phinney, rail environmental manager from the Washington Department of Transportation (DOT).

It is also illegal to disturb an archeological site without permission from the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

Phinney said the rail line can be moved without disturbing the

shell midden. But other activities at the site, like buildings or bridges that require deeper foundations, will be re-evaluated if the shell midden turns out to be Native American.

"The city and port realize that the whole area could have more material," Phinney said.

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Western may use vegetable oil for energy

Steam plant capable of burning oil in generators

Kera Wanielista
THE WESTERN FRONT

The oil used to cook French fries, onion rings and other fried foods may also be able to heat Western.

Western's Office of Sustainability is researching ways to use waste vegetable oil as an alternate form of energy.

"This university is committed to taking responsibility for its local emission of greenhouse gasses in pursuit of a stable global climate," said Seth Vidaña coordinator of the Office of Sustainability.

Vidaña said waste oil, a by-product of vegetables used in cooking, is normally taken to a rendering plant where it is used in animal food after restaurants are done cooking with it.

But instead, the used oil could provide energy for Western.

"We want to take that and burn it," Vidaña said.

Last year Seattle entrepreneur Richard Lewis gave a presentation at Western about the use of waste vegetable oil as an energy source.

Lewis then approached Western with the idea to use the oil as the backup source of energy on campus rather than natural gas.

Vidaña said a member of the Associated Students Board of Directors, Stefan Kalb, had researched the possibility of Western using waste vegetable oil as a fuel. The Office of Sustainability took over the project and has been conducting

further research.

Paul Hughes, Western's steam plant chief engineer, said Western is capable of burning the oil in the steam plant because of similarities — such as viscosity — between waste vegetable oil and petroleum-based oil that Western currently uses as a back-up source for energy. The steam plant currently uses petroleum-based oil as the main source of energy.

Hughes said burning the used vegetable oil would not be an inconvenience for the steam plant.

"We're allowed to burn 750,000 gallons [of black oil] a year," Hughes said. "The fact is we burn close to zero."

Hughes said the used vegetable oil would account for nearly half of the university's yearly allowance of oil burning.

"It's not necessarily green energy, but a greener form of energy than most," said Al Wheeler, steam plant assistant chief engineer.

Vidaña said the university was not yet able to burn the used oil because they are waiting on approval from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. He said tests must still be conducted on the used oil to measure levels of emissions.

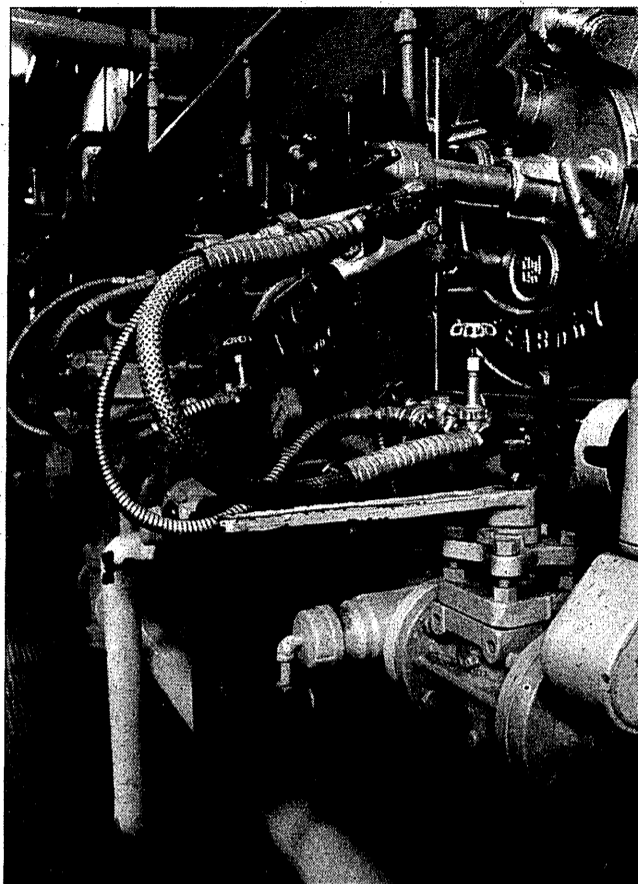
"We know what we need to test for; we know how much its going to cost," Vidaña said. "Now what it comes down to is figuring out who will pay for the tests."

Hughes said Western would not be

What smells like French fries?

Western's steam plant may begin burning waste vegetable oil from restaurants in this generator to produce energy. Restaurants currently have to pay to have the used oil removed. Burning the oil could provide an easier way to dispose of the oil and reduce Western's reliance on natural gas.

photo by Justin Steyer
THE WESTERN FRONT



paying for the tests. But there are 400 gallons of used oil waiting at the steam plant to be tested, he said.

"There's a lot of people who want to see this happen because of economic reasons," Hughes said.

Hughes said local restaurants already pay to have their used vegetable oil taken away, and it would be economical to have

it used as a source of energy. Hughes and Vidaña said the used oil would also save the university money by reducing the amount of natural gas the university would need to buy.

"It's kind of a win-win situation for the university," Wheeler said. "You take something out of nothing and turn it into something good."

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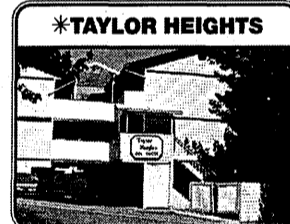
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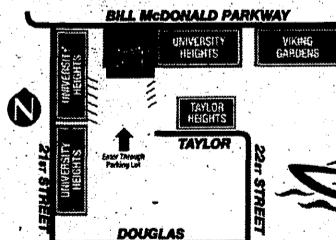
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Construction marches on for Western's newest building

South campus Academic Instructional Center remains on schedule as spring quarter comes to a close

Kera Waniellista
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Academic Instructional Center (AIC), Western's solution to the problem of classroom overcrowding, became one level closer to completion as Dawson Construction began work on the second floor of the AIC's west building.

Western Construction Project Manager Dale Krause said the AIC is proceeding without a flaw.

"We have not encountered any problems that are significant enough to affect schedule or budget," said Krause.

As far as noise goes, Krause said he has not received any complaints from students or staff. Krause said the only process that would have made a significant amount of noise was the pounding coming from geopiers, which were installed during the past few months. The geopiers help increase the stability to the foundation of the building.

Krause said the geopiers were installed by drilling a hole in the ground below the foundation of the building until the drill met bedrock. They then installed crushed rock in lifts of one to one and a half feet, consolidating the gravel until it was level with the foundation of the building. "The campus community has been very tolerant of the inconvenience thus far," Krause said. "It has been very appreciated."

Western junior Molly LaFerriere said she has heard noise coming from the construction site but hasn't been disturbed by it.

"One day they were making pretty horrible sounds," LaFerriere said. "But I'm not too bothered about it."

LaFerriere said she is excited to see what the AIC will look like when completed. Her only complaint is she will graduate before she can make use of the building. She said the new building will be a useful addition to campus, especially for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), which is located in the basement of Parks Hall.

"I wish it would be done sooner, because I'm in the CSD and it's cramped in Parks," LaFerriere said.

Dawson Construction Job Superintendent Dick



photo by Justin Steyer THE WESTERN FRONT

Dick O'Bryan, the project superintendent for the Academic Instructional Center, gives his vision for the building process. The building, despite initial setbacks before construction, is on schedule to be completed in July 2008.

O'Bryan said he has 46 builders working from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. six days a week on the new buildings.

O'Bryan said the east building will be mostly classrooms and offices while the west building will be mostly lecture halls. O'Bryan said the west building will be more decorative than the east, with curved walls and high ceilings in the lecture halls.

"They're both going to be beautiful additions to the college," O'Bryan said.

The path leading past the Communications Facility toward Fairhaven will be extended to make a circle around "Stadium Piece," the large stairway sculpture, and then lead to the south campus residences under the sky-bridge connecting the two buildings, O'Bryan said.

"You can see the campus moving towards this

direction," O'Bryan said, referencing the new additions to the south end of campus since 2003: the Wade King Student Recreation Center and the Communications Facility.

Western junior Alex Bond said he thinks the new additions to campus are important.

"It seems like with more people coming to Western, it's going to be necessary to build more buildings," Bond said. "They're going to have to buy more land eventually."

Krause said substantial construction completion is scheduled for July 2008. However, he was not sure if the AIC would be open for students until January 2009. The months between will be spent setting up classrooms and moving furniture into offices.

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Event brings more than cars to Western

► LOWRIDERS from 1

category for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, said Western freshman Laura Bohorquez, a member of M.E.Ch.A.

The main purpose of having the show at Western each year is to bring the lowrider culture to Bellingham and break down the negative stereotype that the people involved are affiliated with gangs, said Maribel Galvan, co-chair for M.E.Ch.A.

"We want to bring a more positive attitude about lowriders," she said.

The car show was a family event for many of the participants. Jeannie Ward, who traveled from Puyallup, Wash., said working on bikes is an opportunity for her family to work together. Ward and her family built two bikes, one for each of her children.

Some participants rebuild and show cars as way to express themselves. Ronny Acosta, Vancouver, Wash., said he likes to see individuals' expression through their cars. Participants show their unique style through paint, design and presentation.

Many of these expressive factors are considered when judging the vehicles. Western freshman Abraham Rodriguez, one of the six judges at the competition,

said judges are taught to evaluate the display of the vehicle including paint, wheels, accessories, interior and exterior. The winner of the competition wins the title "best in show," \$250 and the largest trophy. The winner of best bike receives \$100.

As the rain continued to drizzle, many participants tried to keep their cars looking their best. Kevin Mills of Mount Vernon used a squeegee to clear off the excess water so viewers could see the quality of the paint job.

"I'm trying to keep the car dry, but not having too much success with that right now," Mills said at the show.

Though Galvan said she predicted a low turn out on account of the rain, more than 80 participants rolled into Red Square, matching the number expected for a day of more pleasant weather.

"We had more cars than we did last year, which was amazing because the weather wasn't up to par," said Luis Ibarra, M.E.Ch.A budget authority.

Other contests were incorporated in the show, including watermelon and jalapeno eating contests and a baile dance contest. Winners of the competitions received prizes including a stereo, Walkman and a DVD player, Galvan said.

The contest that awarded the largest cash prize was the hopper contest.

The hopper contest measures how high a car can 'jump' or 'bounce' with hydraulic pumps, Ibarra said. Cars that jump are often built specifically for this competition. Some low rider cars do not enter because jumping the car can cause damage. The winner jumped 57 inches and won \$400.

Everyone was welcome to be part of car show and participate in the festivities. Those who came to the show, such as Western junior Chris Cavazos, spent time viewing cars, dancing and eating tacos from a taco stand.

Car clubs from all over the state were invited to the show with some registering from as far as Vancouver, British Columbia, California and Oregon.

Vehicles registering the day of gained a spot on a first come first serve basis, Galvan said. The entry fee was \$25 for cars and trucks and \$15 for bikes. The entry money was used to pay for prizes and different costs of the show such as T-shirts, trophies and the cost to use Red Square, Ibarra said.

One of the trucks displayed at the car show was a tow truck owned by Clint Sihata from Richmond, British Columbia. The tow-truck rebuilt by Sihata has competed in more than 100 shows and has won 44 trophies.

"Most cars only win around 20 trophies," Sihata Said. "My truck has already doubled that."

The tow truck has also appeared in five magazines, Sihata said he shows his car in Canada and Washington but does not often travel further than that. Many

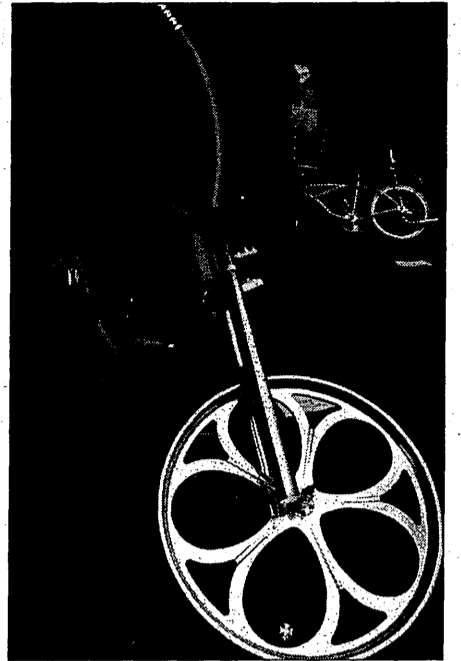


photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Cars were not the only lowriders on display May 20 in Red Square. Lowrider bicycles were also on display.

of Sihata's trophies have come from competing in the United States.

With all the different car styles, there were many cars that could have taken the title, "best in show," Ibarra said.

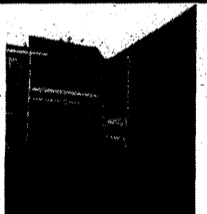
In the end, the winner of "best in show" was a car called "Poison Ivy" owned by Steve Vogel.

"For Steve [Vogel] working on his car is not just a hobby. Steve lives the lowrider lifestyle," Ibarra said. "You could tell he put his sweat and tears and blood into his car."

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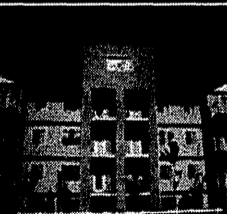
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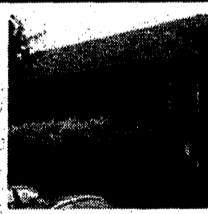


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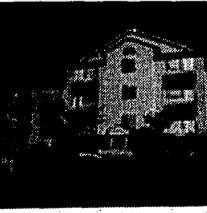
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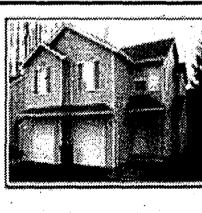
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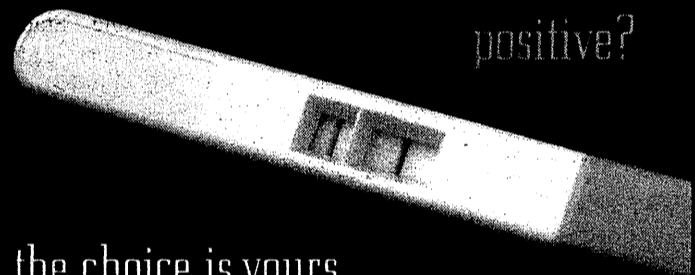


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Immersed in

Sarah Gordon
THE WESTERN FRONT

While living in the poverty-stricken streets of a shantytown in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Western senior Jocelyn Edelstein had the most trouble getting used to the violent gunfire throughout the streets.

"Nothing was what I expected," Edelstein said. "It shattered my images of everything. It was like a video game, basically on repeat."

For seven months Edelstein lived with a family of six people in a one-bedroom house constructed of bricks, concrete and a tin roof which blew off once during a windy day. She lived in a favela, or housing developed without government supervision or aid, which was often the battleground of the police and the drug traffickers who controlled the community. Gun use and availability in Rio de Janeiro is widely accepted by the people, she said.

Edelstein used her Fairhaven concentration in dance and cultural studies with a focus in hip-hop dancing to connect with the community of Rio de Janeiro. The experience was part of her Adventure Learning Grant project that gave her a year and \$15,000 to study the culture and community of Rio de Janeiro and Brazil firsthand.

She was one of three Western students to receive the grant in December 2004.

Edelstein will share her story of Rio de Janeiro with the public in her speech "Rio de Janeiro's Dirty Business: Understanding the Drug Traffic and its Effect on the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil" at noon May 23 in the Fairhaven College Auditorium.

She said the speech will include her host family's perspective as well as other members within the community on the infrastructure of favelas and the drug trafficking system.

"It's in their terms and it's not something you can find in a book,"



photo courtesy of Jocelyn Edelstein

Western senior Jocelyn Edelstein spent seven months in Rio de Janeiro on an Adventure Learning Grant to study the culture and community.



Looking at Rio de Janeiro's Symbol, Christ the Redeemer, Edelstein spread her arms to feel

Edelstein said. "I like talking about it for that reason, and I feel like I have their own personal voices interwoven with mine."

Adventure Learning Grant coordinator Kathryn Anderson said Edelstein gave her presentation in the fall with photographs and poetry about the trip.

"It was a wonderfully compelling presentation," Anderson said. "I think people will be very excited and inspired with what she has to say [in the forum]."

Shirley Osterhaus, Fairhaven lecturer and coordinator of the World Issues Forum said when students travel abroad to learn about a specific culture, they should find a way to connect to the community as Edelstein did with her hip-hop dancing.

"She didn't just come in there and do her own thing," Osterhaus said. "She connected with what was already there: the dancing."

Fairhaven professor Dana Jack, who has Edelstein in her senior seminar class, said she believes people will be impressed by Edelstein's presentation.

"They will find it exciting and inspiring to take such an initiative as she did," Jack said. "[The video] shows love in motion, a deep connection between cultures and a lot of warmth. You feel hopeful about the way people are coping with extreme poverty."

When she heard gunfire outside of the house, Edelstein said she used humor and trust in the family she was living with to cope with her fear. She said she tried to participate in the family's jokes made about the gunfire.

"I didn't know what else to do. I just had to trust that everything would be okay," she said.

Edelstein said she recalled the police's multi-weaponry tanks, with numerous

"I feel like I have their own personal voices interwoven with mine."

- Jocelyn Edelstein,
Western senior

Rio de Janeiro



photo courtesy of Jocelyn Edelstein

el the Brazilian air.

weapons firing from different sides, entering the favela to shoot at the drug traffickers. "It made a horrific noise, the most obliterating sound I've ever heard," she said. "[The family] was capable of continuing a conversation and going about what they were doing when it would start, but I would just stop."

Edelstein hadn't originally planned to live in a favela for her project, but in national volunteer housing. She went to Brazil to visit a location with a rich dance and musical culture, she said.

When she arrived in Brazil September 2005, Edelstein spent three months living in an international volunteer house for a nonprofit organization called Iko Poran, which assigned her to the Ballet de-Santa Teresa. There she taught hip-hop dancing classes to mothers and their children, and befriended a woman named Val who was in the class.

After becoming close friends with Val and traveling around Brazil for two months, Edelstein was invited to live with her and her host family in the Valet favela, she said. While living with the family, she conducted interviews and taped footage of the household and the hip-hop dancing community she became a part of.

Edelstein said she was accepted into the community as she drew the interest of some Brazilian hip-hop dancers. She said the community studied the dance as an art form coming from the U.S. culture, and the dancers were fascinated that she was from the United States. The dancers took the dance and added a twist with a South American influence for style, she said.

Edelstein said she felt the dancers and family within the community were her teachers as well, and they became a group of close friends who considered each other family.

"Ironically, I was teaching classes but they were really training me and allowing me to witness how they dance outside of the context of an academy or a classroom," she said. "I feel like we've left a mark on each other, and I feel like we've become each other's family. I think I will go back to Rio the rest of my life again and again, just anything to connect with the people I love there."

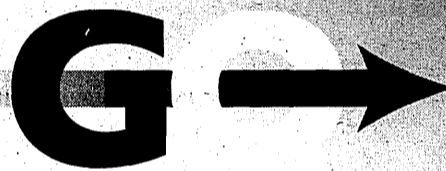
"Rio de Janeiro's Dirty Business: Understanding the Drug Traffic and Its Effect on on the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro Brazil"

Jocelyn Edelstein

Noon

May 23

Fairhaven College Auditorium
Part of the World Issues Forum



Zuanich Point Park

photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

Morgan Remenar
THE WESTERN FRONT

Warm weather finally arrived in Bellingham long enough to convince residents it may be here to stay. For many people, that means putting down the television remote or skipping a trip to the mall to enjoy what nature offers.

Zuanich Point Park, located on Squalicum Harbor Road near Bellingham Bay, accommodates all ages. Benches and picnic tables fill the park for people to sit and chat or students to study while others run around the 2.5-acre lawn flying kites.

A paved trail extends around Squalicum Harbor from the Hotel Bellwether to the park. The trail provides a safe environment for jogging, walking, biking and rollerblading, some of the most common activities among park-goers.

The park is home to the Fisherman's Memorial, a monument for those who lost their lives at sea. Each year community members hold a celebration to honor previously lost lives and add new names to the plaques.

Whatever your reason for visiting Zuanich Point Park, it is wise to bring along a jacket to keep warm in the often-chilly breeze. Like all state parks, Zuanich Point Park welcomes visitors from dawn until dusk every day.

MAKING USE OF THE UNUSABLE

Western students construct products with non-recyclable materials

Katie Dreke
THE WESTERN FRONT

A garden hose is seldom used for anything but watering the garden. And generally, no one knows what to do with an old key. But rather than tossing these items out, Western's industrial design students are finding ways to reuse products that aren't recyclable.

As it turns out, the inside of a hose, after being cut down and manipulated, works for scrubbing dishes. And an old key, after being melted and shaped, is useful as a bottle opener.

For the past three years, students in Western's industrial design program have been creating marketable products from non-recyclable materials as part of the ongoing Zero Waste project.

Arunas Oslapas, industrial design program coordinator and associate professor at Western, said the goal of Zero Waste is to turn trash into products.

Landfills are filling with items that can not be recycled such as a mattress absorbing water in the bottom of a landfill, he said.

"We've done a lot of things to our Earth," Oslapas said. "We have to rethink everything we do. We have to come up with new ways of manufacturing resources that we've been given."

This year's project is called Re Made and it is a requirement of all Western juniors in the industrial design program.

The students must create what the program calls eco-products by reusing materials that cannot be recycled or that take a large amount of energy to reproduce. They then sell their items through the Whatcom Museum of History and Art gift shop.

The 12 participating students keep 60 percent of the profits and the other 40 percent goes to the museum.

Oslapas said this project teaches the students about marketing a product, as well as learning the importance of keeping non-recyclable products circulating – also known as sustainability.

Industrial design students such as Western senior

Sarah Owen, a junior in the program, are committed to keeping non-recyclable products in existence even after this project is finished.

"Sustainability is a hot topic right now in design," Owen said. "Even though [this project] was on a small scale – we made small novelty items – it's a step in the right direction."

Owen, who is also a sustainable design minor, a new minor offered through Huxley College of the Environment, created Monster Sinks: tape dispensers made from the aluminum heat sinks in computers.

Heat sinks absorb heat from other objects in electronic devices; in this case it prevents the computer from overheating.

Although aluminum can be melted down and reused, it takes a large amount of energy to do so, Owen said. She said the point of a sustainable design is to take away from the product, not to add to it.

"Sustainability needs to be really pushed by designers," she said. "It is definitely going to be the future."

Jensen Bröns, Whatcom Museum shop manager and buyer, said she believes the collaboration between Western's program and the museum is valuable for the industrial design students as well as the Bellingham community.

"I think it's really important these students have an opportunity to come to an operating professional arts organization and see how things are run," Bröns said. "And it's an opportunity for the community to have more awareness about environmentally friendly products."

She said she has enjoyed watching the program grow for the past three years as students have gone from making eight copies of their eco-products the first year of the project to 20 copies this year and often selling out of their products.

"The students are so unbelievably creative in their design and material use and marketing," Bröns said.

"We've done a lot of things to our Earth. We have to rethink everything we do. We have to come up with new ways of manufacturing resources that we've been given."

- Arunas Oslapas,
industrial design program
coordinator

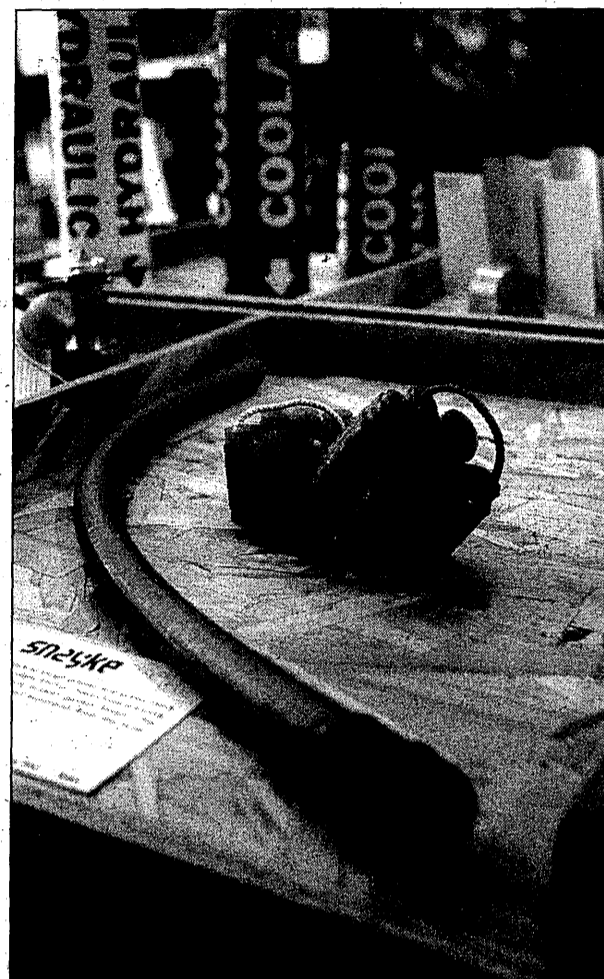


photo by Jon Bergman THE WESTERN FRONT

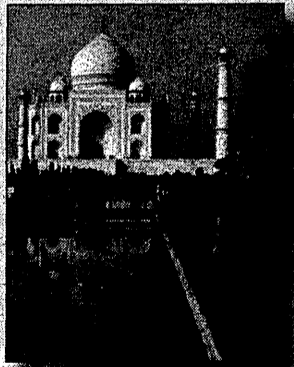
The "Snayke Scrubs" by Emily Flax, are pot scrubbers made by turning a garden hose inside out.

She said the students collectively do all the work for the project including writing a press release, designing a poster and building a display box for their products. Each student created a label for their individual product as well, she said.

Owen's and other industrial design students' eco-products went on sale at the Whatcom Museum gift shop on May 8 and will continue to be available for purchase through May 27.

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From print to gallery

Jeopardy hosts first exhibit to showcase published art, photography

Morgan Remenar
THE WESTERN FRONT

A young boy sits, staring out a window in India, unaware anyone is watching him. A mobster pulls a gun from his suit jacket, eyes fixed upon the red-headed woman to his right. An infant peers through the hand covering his face.

These are examples of artwork published in Western's Jeopardy Magazine, a literary arts journal, and will also be displayed in the magazine's first-annual art exhibit, May 21 to 25, in the B-Gallery inside Western's Fine Arts Complex.

Artists whose work is published in this year's magazine are eligible to participate in the exhibit, said Western senior Julia McDermott, Jeopardy Magazine associate editor and art coordinator.

"My goal is to make sure the Western community sees the artwork how it's meant to be seen," McDermott said. "Yeah, it is showcased in the magazine, but it doesn't really compare to seeing it in person."

Samara Steele, the magazine's editor-in-chief, said Jeopardy Magazine has been in production for 43 years, but art did not become a standard feature until the magazine became an internal publication in 2004.

Becoming internal means only

Western students, staff, faculty and alumni are eligible to submit their artwork for publication, Steele said.

The magazine editors view the exhibit as being the art equivalent of the public readings for writers, she said.

McDermott said she hopes the exhibit will interest more artists in the magazine.

"We are always looking for a variety of things," McDermott said. "I hope the exhibit gives the art community a little more incentive to submit to Jeopardy."

She said more art submissions increase the variety of artwork and enable the magazine to better represent the talent in Western's community. McDermott said approximately 220 of the 950 magazine submissions were art. Jeopardy Magazine will feature 32 art pieces by 18 artists this year.

Western senior Mark Iozzi said Jeopardy Magazine has featured his work for four years. He said he thinks the magazine offers an accessible medium for students to expose their work, both in print and now on display.

"In my experience you never know what certain people are going to like," Iozzi said. "I had to learn not to sell myself short. I found that out when [the magazine editors selected] some pictures I hadn't realized what somebody else might see in them. It gave me an opportunity to see my work in a different way."

Iozzi said this is the first time his

photography will be on display in a gallery and is excited for the opportunity to share his artwork through a new outlet.

"I'm really looking at the gallery show as just being a lot of fun," Iozzi said. "It makes me more nervous to be published in a book that a whole bunch of people are going to be looking at."

Iozzi said he was initially skeptical about submitting his work to the magazine because he has no formal education in art. He said he thinks Jeopardy Magazine offers artists an opportunity for exposure they may never have gotten otherwise.

McDermott said she thinks the exhibit is a way of letting the art department and the art community know the magazine stands behind its artists as much as it does its writers.

"There's always literary readings going on for Jeopardy throughout the year," McDermott said. "I noticed they never really bothered to have a special showcase for the artwork. We think it's just as important as the written work so we want to make sure we bring it to the foreground a little more this year."



art courtesy of Richard Olmsted

Jeopardy Magazine's art exhibit will feature Western senior Richard Olmsted's "In the Land of the Blind." The show will run May 21 to 25 in Western's B-Gallery.

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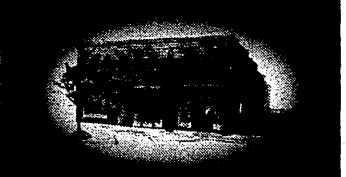
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photo courtesy of Western Athletics Department

Western sophomore Heidi Dimmitt will compete in the women's 400-meter hurdles at the NCAA Division II National Championships May 24 to 26 in Charlotte, N.C.

Western track and field to send four athletes to nationals

Steven Dahl
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western track and field team will send four athletes to the NCAA Division II National Championships May 24 to 26 in Charlotte, N.C.

Senior Sam Brancheau will compete in the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase, sophomore Anthony Tomsich in the men's 1,500 meters, sophomore Heidi Dimmitt in the women's 400-meter hurdles and freshman Monika Gruszecki in the women's javelin.

To qualify for nationals, an athlete must meet a provisional mark, as well as be one of the top 16 contenders in the event, said Western track and field head coach Kelven "Pee Wee" Halsell.

However, it is not uncommon for exceptions to be made and more than 16 people to be invited to compete at nationals, he said.

"By far, this year we have had

more provisional marks than any year since we became a Division II school [in 1998]," Halsell said.

The 21st annual Seattle Pacific University Ken Foreman Invitational May 12 was the last chance for athletes to reach the provisional mark and qualify for nationals.

Dimmitt placed first in the women's 400 hurdles at the meet with a time of 1:02.01, beating her personal record by .92 seconds and achieving the 15th seed in the division, securing a spot for nationals.

"I tried not to think about it too much," Dimmitt said about having to wait three days to find out if she made it to nationals. "But when I found out I was going, I got really excited."

This will be the first trip to nationals for all four Vikings.

Last year, Western sent two competitors to nationals. Jessica Telleria placed 10th in the women's discus and Clara Cook placed 6th in the women's high jump.

Assistant coach leaves football team after 14 years

Jeff Richards
THE WESTERN FRONT

After 14 years at Western, Eric Tripp, the football team's longest-tenured coach, is leaving to become the athletic director for Meridian High School in Laurel, Wash.

Tripp most recently served as the team's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He was also the strength coach for the entire athletic department at Western, working with every athlete at the school.

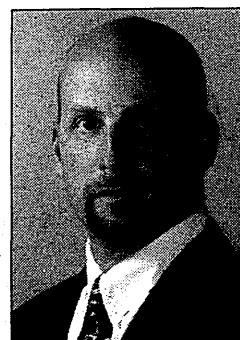


photo courtesy of Western Athletics Department

Eric Tripp

"I saw it as an opportunity to do something different in my career and a chance for a little bit more advancement," Tripp said.

The news was delivered to the team at a meeting before the annual Blue-Silver Game May 12.

"We find out Saturday morning

see **TRIPP** page 13 ▶

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Team begins search for new offensive coordinator

► **TRIPP** from 12

before the scrimmage pretty abruptly and shockingly, and it caught us all off guard," junior quarterback Adam Perry said. "I think it definitely affected most of the offense and especially the quarterbacks."

Sophomore running back Craig Garner said Tripp improved team speed and strength through workout programs.

"He played a big part in the entire program," Garner said. "It's just another obstacle for us to get over and help us come close as a team."

Perry said the players still don't know whether the team will keep the current offensive system.

"It's definitely something we're going to have to overcome," Perry said. "It's going to take a lot of leadership from a lot of players for us to get through this, but I think we'll overcome it."

Head coach Robin Ross said the team will conduct a national search, while two assistants on the

"I've really bled blue and silver."

- Eric Tripp, former Western football offensive coordinator, strength and conditioning coach

current staff will have an opportunity to interview for the position — offensive line coach Zach Tinker and running backs coach Kefense Hynson.

Ross said he does not envision drastic changes for the program.

"I think offenses and defenses are always evolving," Ross said. "With a new person coming in, it will be a little different but it's not going to be reinventing."

Tripp began his stint at Western as the tight ends coach, before shifting to wide receivers for the next 12 years. He has spent the last two seasons as offensive coordinator.

Tripp, a 1989 graduate of Western, received a bachelor's degree in education.

He said the aspect of his job he will miss most is the relationships he developed with the players.

"I've really bled blue and silver," Tripp said. "It was the hardest decision I've ever made because I like my job here."

Western hosts national water-ski tournament in Blaine

Ben Small
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western region placed first at the National Collegiate Water Ski Association's All-Stars tournament May 19 and 20, hosted by the Western water-ski team at Borderline Lake in Blaine.

More than 150 water-skiers from the United States participated in the tournament and were split into one of four regions.

The Western region team, which included schools from Arizona, Washington, California and Oregon, dominated the tournament with a score of 11,010 points, almost 4,000 points more than the next best region.

The Midwest region won last years All-Stars tournament and finished in second place this year with a score of 7,020.

Each region's score was determined by the slalom, jump, and trick events. Points in the slalom were determined by factors including speed, line length, and the number of buoys passed out of six. The trick event allowed skiers 20 seconds to perform as many tricks as possible, with each trick worth a certain amount of points. In the jump event, points were based on the distance the skier jumped, only if the skier stuck the landing.

Western sophomore Aly Howisey, the only representative from Western's

water-ski team to compete at the tournament, tied for 12th place in the women's slalom May 19.

Western junior and team public relations representative Per Pettersson said the Western region had been excited to claim first place in the tournament, because the Western region placed second to the Midwest the previous year.

Western sophomore and team captain Kyle Foley said the tournament was a success and that USA Water Ski representatives told him the tournament was the best collegiate water-ski tournament they had seen.

"That really meant a lot for our team," Foley said. "We put a lot of time and effort into hosting [the tournament]

and it went excellent."

Foley said the night jump event was the highlight of the tournament. The competitors started their first jumps under stadium lights at approximately 8:30 p.m. while the crowd cheered from the shore. The event concluded at 1:30 a.m. with Arizona State University senior Kole Magnowski jumping 201 feet to win the competition.

The Outdoor Channel recorded the event and will produce two shows, one focusing on the night jump and the other covering the rest of the tournament. The night jump will air on the Outdoor Channel June 18 at 11:30 p.m. and the rest of the tournament will air June 11 at 11:30 p.m.

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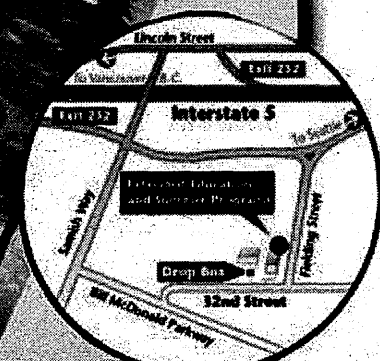
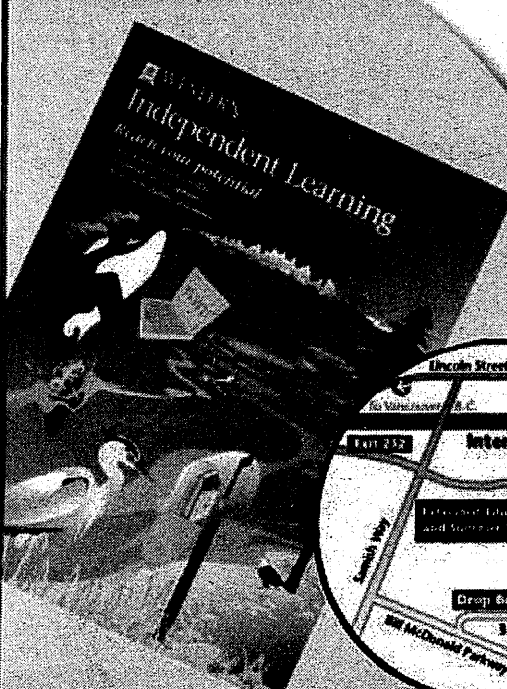
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



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Inciting controversy

'Genocide' display hinders discussion with aggressive setup

Student clubs have the right to invite speakers and organizations to campus, even those that are controversial, such as the Genocide Awareness Project (GAP).

GAP is coming to Western May 23 and 24, to display a presentation protesting abortion by drawing parallels between the practices of abortion and genocide, including graphic images of aborted fetuses, Holocaust victims and lynching.

The Associated Students (AS) club Western for Life invited the project to campus.

Although clubs should and do have a right to invite all types of events to campus, GAP is set up in a way that provokes violence, discourages discussion and isolates all those who have an opinion on either abortion or the display's presence.

Encouraging free speech at an academic institution is crucial.

Students are here to learn, be challenged and grow as intellectuals. GAP's topic of choice could potentially supplement this learning process, but the way it's set up deters any quality engagement.

When GAP visited campus May 2006, University Police (UP) placed a metal fence around the display, in the center of Red Square. Only a few GAP presenters were behind the fence to explain the display.

The physical setup clearly places GAP's display in a way that creates conflict instead of valuable discussion about people's perceptions of comparing genocide and abortion.

The large images practically force passersby to look at the display considering the size of the signs and GAP's central location in Red Square.

UP officers were not present the first day, but patrolled the area the second day last year in response to intense reactions the day before. UP officers will be present both days this year.

Although police presence does minimize chances of violence occurring, it also adds to the barrier of communication already created by the fence.

GAP's clear purpose is to persuade, rather than inform, those who see the display. GAP may or may not have a well-researched stance on abortion, but one would never know or want to engage in conversation to discuss it because of its aggressive setup.

Passersby have two affective options when encountering any type of forceful presentation, such as GAP: counter-protest or ignore it. Both of these actions help make the display's message less effective.

Counter-protesting, whether holding signs right at the site or speaking out at counter-protest events, would demonstrate onlookers' opposing views and show GAP's organizers their discontent with

frontline

Frontline editorials reflect the opinion of the editorial board and not the staff or advertisers of The Western Front.

the images.

Ignoring the display could also send a strong message to the organizers by clearing showing onlookers' discontent. The Facebook event titled,

"Ignore the Genocide Awareness Project," for instance, already has more than 700 confirmed attendees.

Whether you choose to counter-protest or ignore the display, don't claim they shouldn't be here. A college campus is a breeding ground for controversy, discussion and otherwise vigorous intellectual interaction.

To ensure you're making the most out of GAP's display, interact with proactive measures instead of merely being reactive.

In lieu of simply holding protest signs, attend the counter-events surrounding the issue, which includes forums, discussions and even a concert.

Seek out the few GAP presenters behind the fence and engage in a conversation with them about the issue.

You may not change their minds any more than they will yours, but the direct interaction could help bring a sense of

personal closure on such a sensitive topic.

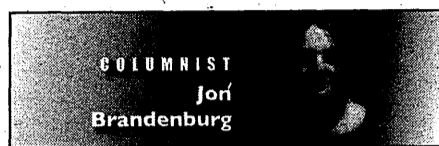
You can't change the fact that GAP is coming to campus, but you can change the way you process the display. Counter-protest it, ignore it or agree with it.

After all, that's the whole point of free speech: to inspire action regardless of the opposing viewpoints.

The editorial board is comprised of Editor-in-Chief Jessica Harbert, Managing Editor Taylor Scaggs, Opinion Editor Amy Harder, advertising representative Kim Higginbotham and student-at-large Western senior Zach Frazier.

"Whether you choose to counter-protest or ignore the display, don't claim it shouldn't be here."

Superficial humanitarians care, protest for frivolous reasons



On May 15, we could have changed the world.

Together we all could have stood up strong and said, "Enough," to the malevolent forces of "Big Oil" and participated in Gas Boycott Day, refusing to purchase any of the companies' sweet, sweet crude.

One day of oil abstinence could have cost oil companies \$2.2 billion. We could have finally made a difference...

Or not. In actuality, one day of boycotting gasoline wouldn't have done Bo-Diddlely-squat.

All it means is everyone would have bought their automotive lifeblood a day before or a day after.

Oil companies wouldn't have lost \$2.2 billion; they would have just received it on a different day.

I didn't participate in the Gas Boycott Day because I need gas. I didn't participate in April's "30 Hour Famine," a World Vision fundraiser in support for aid across the world, because I live in a country of plenty and I don't see the sense in letting my tummy gurgle if it doesn't need to.

I don't go to rallies, protests or fundraising galas. My life isn't consumed by the tragedies in Darfur.

I'm the kind of person who says nothing until "They" finally come for me.

I am part of the problem. The reason I am this way is because my mind is simple: there are people who care and people, like me, who don't, and then there are people who — for lack of a better term — "half-ass it."

I have the utmost respect for anyone who is willing to devote his- or herself to a cause. These people are the rabble-

rousers, the trailblazers, people who sacrifice in order to create betterment and devote their lives to a single cause or idea.

These people are the future Caesar Chavez, the Martin Luther King Jr.s, heck, even the future Spartacus.

My issue is with the people who pretend to care; the folks who are only humanitarians in a social aspect: the college junior who holds a protest sign to win the affection of a girl or the freshman who blindly follows the ideals instilled by a professor.

I can't tolerate the people who protest just because everyone else does, the anti-establishment drones who only differ from the establishment drones because they have different bumper stickers.

I have no respect for the people who attend galas so they can network or who donate to receive tax breaks.

The sad thing is in my life I have seen more of the people who pretend to care than those who actually do.

The reason I don't devote myself to a cause is because I can't do it. I'm too distracted by the wonderful things in my life to focus on the bad in everyone else's.

I am the ideal American: malleable, unquestioning of policy and convinced of my own independence.

I'm not cynical — okay maybe I am a little cynical, but I still think that if there is any real hope for the world, it can be found in a collegiate setting like ours.

This is a breeding ground for intelligent discourse, where our independent minds can learn all about the world and see its faults and glories. This is a place where we can learn to care, to become selfless, to not just half-save the world.

The world needs people who are the complete opposite of me.

"My issue is with the people who pretend to care; the folks who are only humanitarians in a social aspect."

POLLSTER
Are you planning to ignore the Genocide Awareness Project on May 23 and May 24?

A. Yes
B. No

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Results from last POLLSTER
How could Dining Services improve food options on campus?

A. Improve the food quality - 27%
B. Offer other fast food chains, such as Taco Time - 18%
C. Decrease prices - 18%
D. Be open later - 36%



Cartoon by Zach Wise THE WESTERN FRONT

Letters to the Editor

Group misuses 'genocide' term, influences students

I would like to start by saying that I am 100 percent in favor of free speech, so long as that speech is not intended to incite violence. With that said, free speech is a right for some, and a responsibility for others.

When a group chooses to use a concept out of context (incorrectly), persons who are aware have an obligation to the uninformed to speak up.

On May 23rd and 24th, a group calling themselves the Genocide Awareness Project plans to visit Western and blatantly misuse the concept of genocide, defined explicitly by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, to further their political agenda.

I do not believe that the project should

be censored, even though their displays of murder victims are rather offensive.

I do believe that we as a community, aware of this misrepresentation of the most heinous violation of human rights, need to speak up.

From surveys I have conducted recently on campus, I have found that some students have had their understanding of genocide shaped by the project's displays, and it is precisely this kind of activity that trivializes genocide and disrespects its victims. This is exploitation. I for one will not sit idly by.

-Andrew Holcom,
Western graduate student

Universal bus pass punishes C lot pass holders

Last month, 10 percent of Western students decided that we should all pay an extra \$75 per year to get a \$90 bus pass.

Knowing full well that very few students actually vote in Associated Students elections, and that the ones who do accept every initiative that gets put on the ballot, our student government created a new tax that effectively punishes every C lot pass holder.

Perhaps a universal bus pass is part of the solution to Western's transportation needs, but it is definitely not the whole solution.

This fee could have been improved in many ways to benefit all students, perhaps by creating more parking spots on campus to accommodate the growing student population, restoring the daytime shuttle, or maybe by finally paving the C lots.

None of the ideas mentioned above were considered for this transportation fee because they would have provided a benefit to student drivers who choose to use the C lots.

The authors of this fee only want to see personal vehicle parking removed from Western altogether, forcing students who need to drive to school to use the park and ride, whose bus service is slow and infrequent past 5 p.m.

Wanting to save the environment is a very good thing, but moving Western's parking problem to the park and ride and using buses to get students to school doesn't seem to help the environment.

It only makes things worse by adding bus emissions to the air on top of unchanged student car emissions.

-Pedro Huitema,
Western senior



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WWU's Sexual Misconduct Policy

It is the policy of Western Washington University to provide an environment in which students, staff, and faculty can work, live, and study free from all types of sexual misconduct. The range of sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, sexual coercion, sexual assault, and rape. The University will act to prevent and eliminate such behavior. Individuals who engage in such behavior will be subject to sanctions, including written reprimand, suspension, or expulsion.

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Marriage unjustly favored over other partnerships

Guest Column

Washington State governor Chris Gregoire signed a bill April 21 to create a domestic partnership registry and provides for hospital visitation and inheritance rights.

The bill, a small step forward for queer rights, allows for state-recognized same-sex domestic partnerships with a portion of the benefits allotted to federally recognized heterosexual marriages.

Passing a bill for domestic partnership is like putting a bandage over a hole in your arm. The bandage covers the wound, although it's not quite as good as skin. It looks prettier, although it is still awkward and in the end you still have a hole in your arm.

For Washington state, and the rest of the United States for that matter, the hole is inequity in marriage rights.

The problem isn't whether gay people should be able to get married, adopt children and live in the suburbs together;

the real problem is marriage as an institution.

The Legislature's decision to legalize domestic partnership ensured minimal legitimization of same-sex partnerships.

Aside from giving a legal label to gay couplings, the decision doesn't provide equality to those who opt for the certificate.

There are 400 state rights and more than 1,000 federal rights or obligations that will not be provided for by domestic partnerships that are provided for heterosexual marriages.

Not only are same-sex couples not receiving the same title as heterosexual couples, they are not receiving the same rights.

Anyone can independently and legally create contracts that could imitate the rights of legitimized marriage, but this would cost significantly more money for the people involved and would not provide all of the same protections of



Hall

marriage.

The real question though, is: why does one form of social and religious commitment have so many benefits in the first place?

Institutionalized marriage favors Euro-centric, patriarchal, heterosexual, middle- to upper-class ideals on romantic partnership. U.S. marriage law just supports white, Judeo-Christian or secular heterosexual partnerships, which, while being a large portion of the United States doesn't, by any means, represent all of the United States.

Just because all of our presidents to date have been white Christian males does not mean that the constitution only protects the rights of white Christian males.

The "pursuit of happiness" is listed as an inalienable right in the Declaration of Independence, and the freedom of religion and expression is ensured by the First Amendment for all people.

The pursuit of love and romantic

expression through religious and religious choices should be protected as well. Marriage as an institution ordained by the government is favoring a specific manifestation of a religious tradition, i.e. one man, one woman in holy matrimony — or in secular government-ordained matrimony at least.

When it comes down to it, marriage is a religious or moral decision, so all forms of marriage, including gay marriage, should be protected.

Quite frankly, I don't want the government giving me any freebies for hitching up with tall, dark and handsome. I just want the federal legislature and constitution to protect my right to whatever form of partnership I choose.

-Casey Hall is a Western sophomore studying public relations and French.

Editor's note: Hall wrote this column separate from his position as program coordinator for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance on Western's campus.

wiking voices

What ice cream flavor best represents your personality?

Compiled by Maureen Tinney



Sean Killian JUNIOR

"I'm like French vanilla. Everyone likes me and no one hates me, but people tend to pass me by."



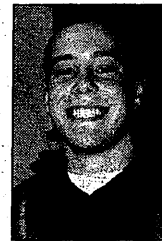
Taylor Stockton SENIOR

"I'm like rocky road. I can be smooth, but rough if necessary."



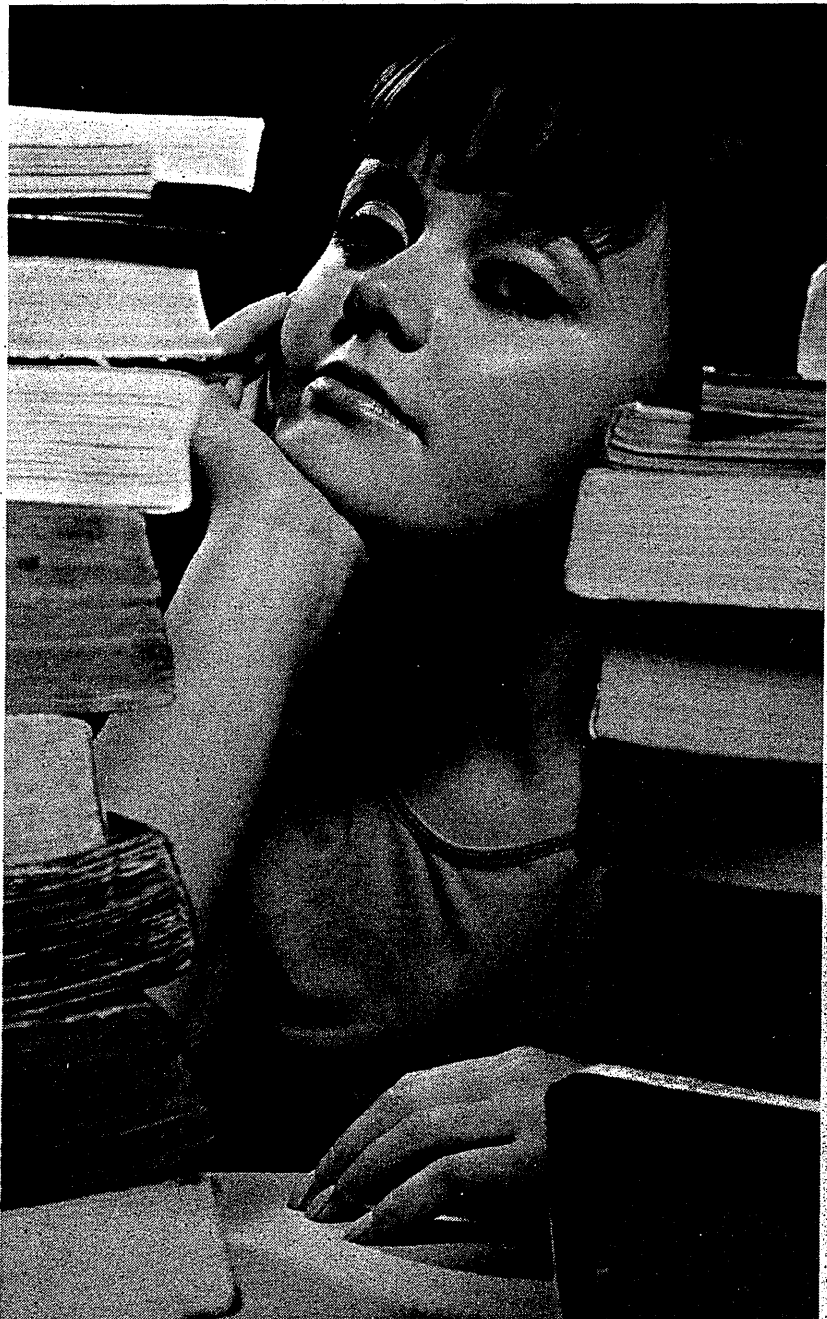
Kelly Kasner SENIOR

"I would be a sno-cone. I love them and they remind me of summer."



Kyle Maltz FRESHMAN

"Peanut butter ice cream. It's really good, and I'm hella good."



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