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A Western student mixes class and snowboarding.

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Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

ISSUE 11  
Volume 131

# The Western Front

Tuesday  
Oct. 26, 2004

## Candidates for U.S. Congress debate issues

By Marissa Harshman  
The Western Front

Candidates for the Second Congressional District of Washington discussed the Iraq war, homeland security, the economy, environmental issues and education at an Associated Students debate Oct. 25 in Fraser Hall.

The debate began with prewritten questions for the three candidates: U.S. Rep. Democrat Rick Larsen, Republican candidate Suzanne Sinclair and Libertarian candidate Bruce Guthrie. The debate ended with questions from the audience.

All three candidates were against reinstating the draft. Several congressmen proposed the Reinstatement Draft Bill, but Larsen said he does not support it because he thinks the draft is unnecessary. Guthrie agreed, calling it a form of slavery.

"We need a defensive military, not an offensive military," Guthrie said.

Guthrie said that by voting for the USA Patriot Act, Larsen supported an unconstitutional act. Guthrie said Larsen did not fulfill his oath to preserve the constitutional rights of citizens.

Larsen said that if he had broken his oath, he would be a traitor, according to Guthrie.

"I do my job every damn day," Larsen said.

Audience members noticed the back-and-forth blaming between Larsen and Guthrie.

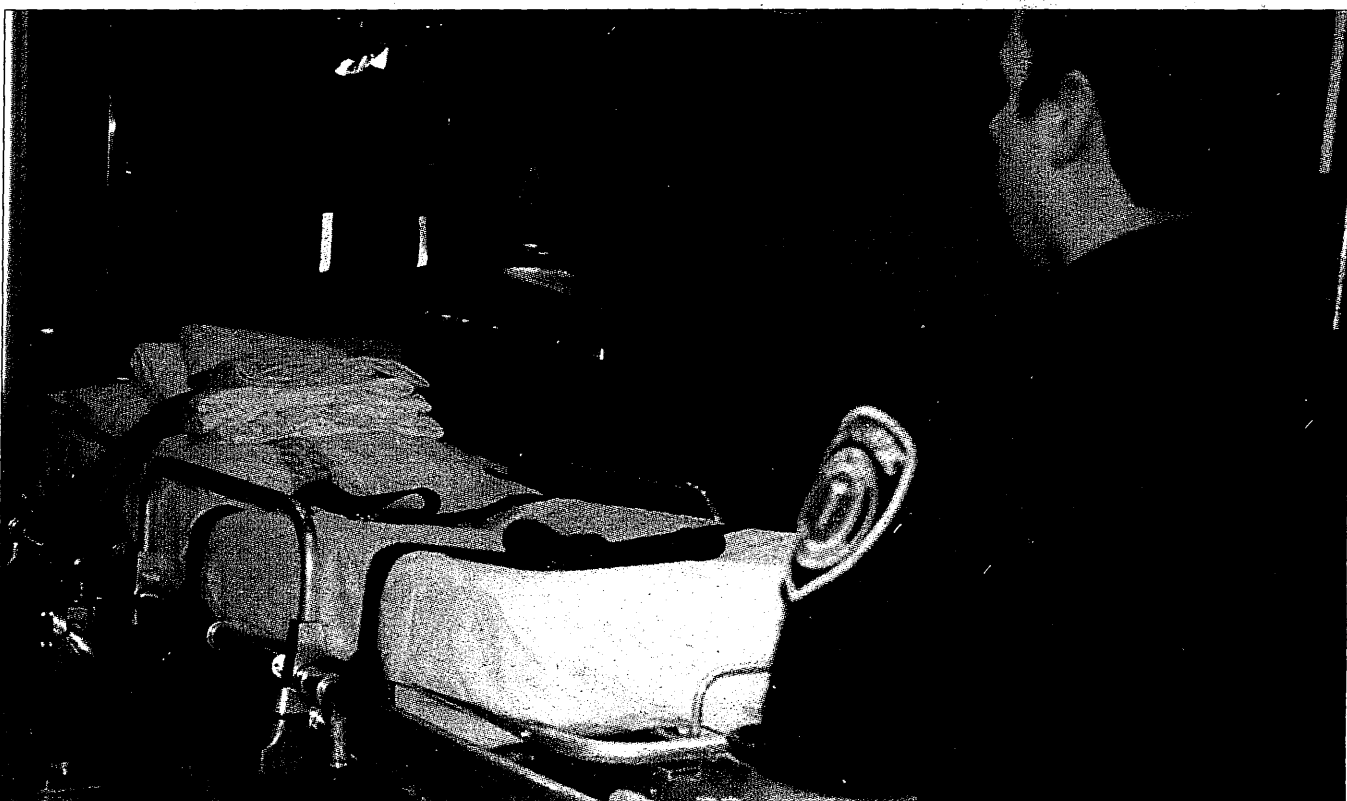
"There were a lot of accusations made," said Western junior Aaron Speer, who attended the debate.

Western junior Kathleen Barger said those accusations were inappropriate in such a setting.

"I didn't like the fighting between Rick Larsen

SEE Debate, PAGE 4

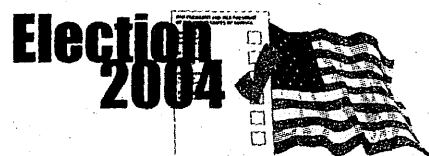
## EMS levy sparks debate



Chris Taylor/The Western Front

Shawn Linville, a first-year paramedic, loads a gurney into a Whatcom Medic One ambulance before going out for the day serving the north end of Whatcom County. Medic One ends services in 2006.

## Western students would benefit if levy passes, mayor says



By Laura McVicker  
The Western Front

The emergency-medical-services levy proposes a tax on Bellingham property owners, but it would ensure capable

medical services for Western students as well after Whatcom Medic One ends services in 2006.

"One of the locations that we provide regular service with our Medic One program is the university," Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson said. "People are injured more in athletic pursuits than perhaps any other single activity."

But Lynn Carpenter, former finance director for the city of Bellingham, a

member of the political action Committee of Public Safety, said the city already has enough money from its general fund to pay for an ambulance service.

"Revenues in the general fund are close to \$55 million, and EMS services cost approximately \$2 million," she said. "There is money for ambulance services. The city is using EMS as a means to raise

SEE EMS, PAGE 8

## Club informs about firearm safety

By Porfirio Pena  
The Western Front

Editor's Note: A Western Front cartoonist was interviewed for this story. He took no part in the editing process.

Members of a new Western club, Western Students for the Second Amendment, said they plan to educate students and community members about firearm safety and responsibility, club vice president Rachael Alyea said.

Western senior and club president Matt Haver said he founded the club to help clarify misconceptions about the Second Amendment and stereotypes people have about gun owners. The club also teaches students strategies for the future in order to teach their children, from a young age, to have a respect for the power of firearms. Members also visit gun ranges.



Chris Taylor/The Western Front

Rachael Alyea, vice president of Western Students for the Second Amendment club, takes aim at the Plantation Rifle Range.

"(The misconceptions) stem from the mainstream media highlighting gun-related crimes," Haver said. "They only dwell on the negative."

The club attempts to explain that gun owners do not fit into a stereotype that people often

SEE Club, PAGE 5

## State congressman promotes energy plan

By Tanya Rozeboom  
The Western Front

Solar panels and windmills will replace current energy sources in the United States if Jay Inslee, state Democratic representative of the first district, is able to put his energy plan into action.

Inslee spoke to approximately 35 Bellingham residents Monday at the Garden Street Family Center regarding his plan, the New Apollo Energy Project.

The project is a new energy policy that Inslee developed to solve several problems, including the American dependence on foreign oil and global warming, and to create millions of jobs by expanding the economy, Inslee said.

"We need to realize there is no silver bullet to solve our

challenges," he said.

The United States consumes 25 percent of the world's oil supply and owns only 3 percent of the world's known oil reserves, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Inslee said.

"To break this dependency on Middle East oil we can't drill our way out, there's nowhere to go," he said.

Inslee said the United States needs to focus less on oil and more on increasing the efficiency of U.S. automobiles.

"The easiest way to generate energy is to save it and use it efficiently," he said.

Another goal of the project is to create millions of new jobs by focusing on technology for new energy sources, Inslee said.

SEE Project, PAGE 5



# Campus Safety and Your Right to Know

Safety at WWU is a community-wide effort. Each of us accepts the challenge of living in a way that promotes health and well-being for ourselves and others.

The University provides services to assist in maintaining a safe, drug-free environment. All students and employees have a right to information on Western's policies and programs concerning campus safety, sexual misconduct, and alcohol and other drugs.

### In Brief

*In Brief* is Western's annual publication outlining safety-related policies and programs and other information required by law. It includes the Annual Security Report with:

- Statistics for the previous three years concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by WWU; and on public property within or adjacent to campus.
- Policies and procedures on crime prevention, reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters.
- Lists of educational programs and other services to help you stay informed about sexual misconduct, safety, alcohol, and other drugs.
- Details of support services and other resources for people who have experienced any type of violent crime or sexual misconduct or who are concerned about drug and alcohol use.

You can obtain a copy of *In Brief* by contacting the Office of Vice President for Student Affairs, Old Main 330F, MS 9016, (360) 650-3839. Or go to the following website: [www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/campus\\_safety.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/campus_safety.htm)

### WWU Alcohol Policy

Western Washington University is committed to an environment which is free of alcohol and other drug abuse for students, faculty and staff. It maintains this commitment in support of academic excellence, work performance, and quality of life as well as for the future well-being of all members of this community.

Western Washington University provides: (a) information about alcohol and other drugs and the reduction of associated risks; (b) appropriate intervention when alcohol or other drug use creates unwanted or unintended consequences; and (c) support for members of this community in reducing the risk of consequences associated with alcohol and other drug abuse.

Western Washington University will uphold state and federal laws pertaining to alcohol and other drug use. All students, faculty, and staff are required to comply with these laws. Action will be taken on any violation of state or federal law or University regulations concerning alcohol and other drugs which (a) occurs in or on property controlled or owned by Western Washington University; or (b) involves University business or activities; or (c) relates directly and materially to the fitness of staff or faculty members in their professional capacities.

*Western Washington University Policy Concerning Alcohol and Other Drugs, Approved by the Board of Trustees April 1999.*

### EDUCATIONAL SAFETY PROGRAMS

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG CONSULTATION AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES (ADCAS):** Staffed by a professional counselor and risk reduction specialist, ADCAS provides alcohol/drug assessments of use, risks and consequences, with personalized feedback designed to help students change their drinking/drug use patterns and outcomes. Also provides information on alcohol/drug related topics: support for friends, family, partners, and roommates impacted by the alcohol/drug use of others, current or past; and referral to campus and community support groups, counseling and treatment resources. Old Main 560C. Call 650-3643.

**NEW STUDENT SERVICES/ FAMILY OUTREACH:** Provides students with the Viking Tips student handbook and a web site containing important information regarding alcohol and other drug prevention; safe sexual behaviors; personal safety tips; how to contact University Police; and a directory of offices and resources. Viking Union 506. [www.nssfo.wvu.edu](http://www.nssfo.wvu.edu) Call 650-3846.

**PREVENTION AND WELLNESS SERVICES:** Staffed by professional health educators and Peer Health Student Leaders (Lifestyle Advisors), Prevention and Wellness Services offers education and prevention services on alcohol and drug prevention, relaxation, stress management, CPR/First Aid, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmittable diseases, sexual misconduct, men's health, violence prevention, women's empowerment, and how to become an "ally." Old Main 560. Call 650-2993. Every quarter, a variety of programs are offered, including *Will Act for Change*: Performance educators use the experiences and stories of students. Discussion and audience interaction are vital to the performances. Audience members are literally brought on stage to practice "what they would do" in real-life situations, dealing with issues such as sexual health, sexual assault, alcohol and drugs, racism, homophobia, classism, sexism, and how to be an ally.

**EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** Provides free, confidential professional assistance, assessments and referrals to help employees and their families resolve problems that affect their personal lives or job performance. Heath Promotion Network has offices in Bellingham and Burlington. For an appointment, call (360) 715-6565 or (800) 244-6142.

### ASSOCIATED STUDENTS PROGRAMS

**DRUG INFORMATION CENTER:** Provides students and the university community with drug education to increase community awareness of social, physical and economic implications of drug use and abuse. VU 517. Call: 650-6116.

**LEGAL INFORMATION CENTER:** Provides students with information about laws and can make referrals to attorneys and agencies off campus. Does not offer legal representation or advice. VU 512. 650-6111.

### Alcohol and Other Drug Health Risks

Category	Drug	Dependence Potential	Possible Effects	Complications
Alcohol	Beer, wine, liquor	Yes	Muscle relaxation, impaired motor control, memory and judgment; depression; intoxication.	Severe impairment of all physical and mental functions; high risk of choking or injury from falls or accidents, loss of consciousness; coma; death due to anesthesia of brain centers controlling breathing and heart rate.
Cannabis	Marijuana, pot, hashish, hashish oil	Yes	Altered sense of time and visual perception; euphoria; memory interference; reduced coordination and reflex response capacity.	Fatigue; reactions ranging from mild anxiety to panic and paranoia; confusion, disorientation; hallucinations and distortions of sense perceptions.
Enactogens	MDMA, Ecstasy, X, XTC	Yes, possible	Increased heart rate, blood pressure and body temperature; sense of energy and alertness; feelings of empathy and enhanced positive emotions, thirst, dry mouth, teeth clenching, muscle tension and cramping and possible nausea. After effects: headache, irritability, depression, anxiety; desire to be alone; and verbal and visual memory decrease up to 2 weeks.	Jitteriness, teeth clenching, dangerously high body temperature, hypertension, dehydration; confusion, sleep problems, anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations; permanent damage to parts of the brain critical to thought, memory and pleasure. At higher or repeated doses large temperature increase can be lethal.
Hallucinogens	LSD (acid), psilocybin, peyote, mescaline, many other natural and synthetic hallucinogens	Unknown	Altered sense of time, space and visual perception; disorientation; hallucinations; nausea; dilated pupils; cross sensory perceptions; dizziness; increased temperature, blood pressure and heart rate; sweating and chills.	Impaired judgment leading to impulsive actions; paranoia; rapid mood swings; "bad trip" -- fear, anxiety, paranoia, panic and hallucinations to match; exhaustion after use; depression; fears -- often of death, of one's mind not working right or flashbacks.
Narcotics Opiates	Heroin, codeine, morphine, opium, percodan, percocet, fentanyl	Yes	Euphoria; drowsiness; nausea; respiratory depression.	Shallow and slow breathing; dizziness; vomiting; sweating; convulsions; coma; possible death.
Nicotine	Cigarette, cigar, pipe smoking, chewing tobacco	Yes	Increased heart rate and blood pressure; irritation of eyes, nose and respiratory tract; shortness of breath; decreased sensitivity to taste; depression.	Increased risk of heart attack; cardiovascular disease; mouth, throat and lung cancer and other pulmonary diseases.
Sedatives	Barbiturates, tranquilizers, methaqualone, other depressants	Yes	Drowsiness; slurred speech; disorientation; impaired coordination.	Shallow respiration; weak and rapid pulse; coma; possible death from depression of central nervous system functions.
Steroids	Anabolic steroids	Yes	Acne; aggressive behavior; anger management problems; cholesterol imbalance; impotence; psychosis.	Aggressive behavior; rage; psychosis; reduced fertility; stroke; liver damage; increased cancer risk.
Stimulants	Amphetamines, cocaine, crack, speed, diet pills; many other natural and synthetic drugs	Yes	Increased alertness; increased pulse and blood pressure; euphoria; pupil dilation; insomnia; loss of appetite. Fatigue and some depression after effects wear off.	Agitation; irritability; dizziness; confusion; tactile or visual hallucinations; seizure; convulsion; stroke; possible death. After effects of exhaustion; depression.
"Club Drugs"	GHB, Rohypnol, Ketamine	Yes for some in this category	These drugs are often associated with sexual assaults due to their amnesia inducing and intoxication like effects. Partial or complete amnesia; intoxication effects similar to alcohol. Ketamine can create hallucinations.	Nausea, vomiting, impaired coordination, confusion, muscle spasms, blurred vision, dizziness, slurred speech, hallucinations, unconsciousness, amnesia, aggressive behavior, rapid mood swings.

- With many drugs a great danger is other substances being mixed with or substituted for what you think you are getting. Other substances range from the fairly benign, baby powder or baking soda, to a variety of cleaning products and other potentially lethal ingredients.
- Use of some drugs increases the potential for mixing with other drugs to enhance or counteract effects. This mixing particularly involves hallucinogens, stimulants and sedatives. Mixing drugs can have unpredictable and dangerous results. The best choice is to NOT mix.

**To report emergencies or crimes at WWU:**  
650-3911 or X/3911 from campus phones.  
To request safety escort: 650-3555.

**CASAS (Crime and Sexual Assault Services):**  
650-3700 (24-hour help line)

Assistance and support services (medical, academic, counseling, legal and police) for victims of violent crime and sexual assault.

### Standards of Conduct / Disciplinary Sanctions

Generally, possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on campus. The exceptions, for persons of legal drinking age only, are 1) events for which a banquet permit has been obtained—authorization can be obtained from the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs (Old Main 563; contact Linda Olson; 650-2926) in accordance with appropriate state laws, or 2) in private dwelling places. University Residences policy defines private dwelling places as individual residence rooms or apartments with the door closed. Individuals who violate WWU's regulations concerning alcohol and other drugs will be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, written reprimand, termination of employment, expulsion, or referral for prosecution.

### Legal Sanctions for Illegal Alcohol Use

As prescribed by state law, no person under 21 may acquire, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage, and it is illegal to sell alcohol without a permit. It is also unlawful for any person to provide alcoholic beverages to someone under 21. The punishment for a person convicted of violating any of the state laws described above may include imprisonment and/or fines. For full details, see: [www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODpenalties.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODpenalties.htm)

### Legal Sanctions for Illegal Sale, Manufacture, Delivery, and Possession of Controlled Substances\*

There are numerous state and federal statutes related to the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, and use of controlled substances. Legal sanctions may be imposed for both felony and misdemeanor convictions. Legal sanctions range from fines to multi-year prison terms to loss of financial aid. More severe penalties are provided for persons convicted of providing controlled substances to minors and for repeat offenders. For full details, see [www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODpenalties.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODpenalties.htm)

\*A partial list of drugs considered to be controlled substances in Washington State: Narcotics (opium and cocaine as well as all drugs extracted, derived, or synthesized from opium and cocaine, such as crack cocaine and heroin); marijuana; methamphetamine; barbiturates; and hallucinogenic substances (LSD, peyote, mescaline, psilocybin, PCP, THC, MDA, STP).

### Where to Find More Information

The University will follow established processes for violation of policies. For specific citations of those procedures, go to: [www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/policy\\_violation\\_procs/htm](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/policy_violation_procs/htm). For detailed information about local, state and federal drug and alcohol laws, see [www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODpenalties.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODpenalties.htm). For general information, see [www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODinfo.htm](http://www.wvu.edu/depts/vpsa/AODinfo.htm). Questions? Call Alcohol and Drug Consultation and Assessment Services at 650-3643.

**Off-Campus Resources** For a listing of off-campus alcohol and other drug related support groups, help lines and treatment options, contact Alcohol and Drug Consultation and Assessment Services at 650-3643.

# Debate: U.S. congressional candidates argue for and against federal, local education initiatives

Continued from Page 1

and Bruce Guthrie," she said. "I think it should have been left off stage."

The candidates also discussed Proposed Initiative 884, which, if passed, would help fund grades kindergarten through 12th grade and higher education.

"The dream of higher education is getting further out of reach for middle-class families," Larsen said.

Larsen said that while he does not think I-884 is the best way to help fund education, he supports the initiative. He said the best way to fulfill the commitment to education funding would be to support schools locally.

Guthrie said he agreed that supporting schools locally is the best solution.

"I think it is unconstitutional for the federal government to meddle in states' diverse efforts to provide education funding," Guthrie said.

The best way to fund education is by grassroots government, Guthrie said. The farther away taxpayer money is sent, the less money the state receives, he said.

The No Child Left Behind Act tries to find solutions to the problem with education funding without just giving more money to the system and hoping it will be solved, Sinclair said.

"Throwing more money at the problem isn't a solution," she said.

Because the Constitution does not mention education, Guthrie said, based on the 10th Amendment, the rights for funding schools should be reserved for the states, he said.

The Federal Pell Grant, which is awarded to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or a professional degree, does not offset funds with the rising cost of tuition, Larsen said.

The Pell Grant award has increased only 2 percent, whereas the cost of tuition has increased

14 to 18 percent depending on the university, Larsen said. He said that while President George W. Bush has promised resources for schools to implement changes, he has not provided funding in the budget for the reform.

Sinclair said she supports the No Child Left Behind Act and thinks the act tries to find positive outcomes.

"The act tries to say, 'OK, show us that you're making progress and we'll support it,'" Sinclair said.

But while Sinclair said she does not think the act is perfect, she supports what it intends to do for education.

"I don't know all of the issues around the funding, but I do know Washington state has received more money as a result of the No Child Left Behind Act," Sinclair said.

The debate provided insight about the candidates' positions on the various issues that concern voters, Barger said.

"I didn't know a lot about the candidates in this area, so I came to hear what they were all about," she said. "I think Rick

Larsen might have the best chance of winning, but I don't think all of his views best reflect mine."

The turnout was as high as anyone could expect with midterms approaching, said Peter Graves, Associated Students vice president for legislative affairs and organizer of the debate.

When Graves ran for his position last spring, he said he wanted to organize a congressional debate on campus.

AS President Rachel Zommick said the turnout showed her that more work needs to be done to make sure people go to the polls on Nov. 2 since not as many students were in attendance as she had hoped for.

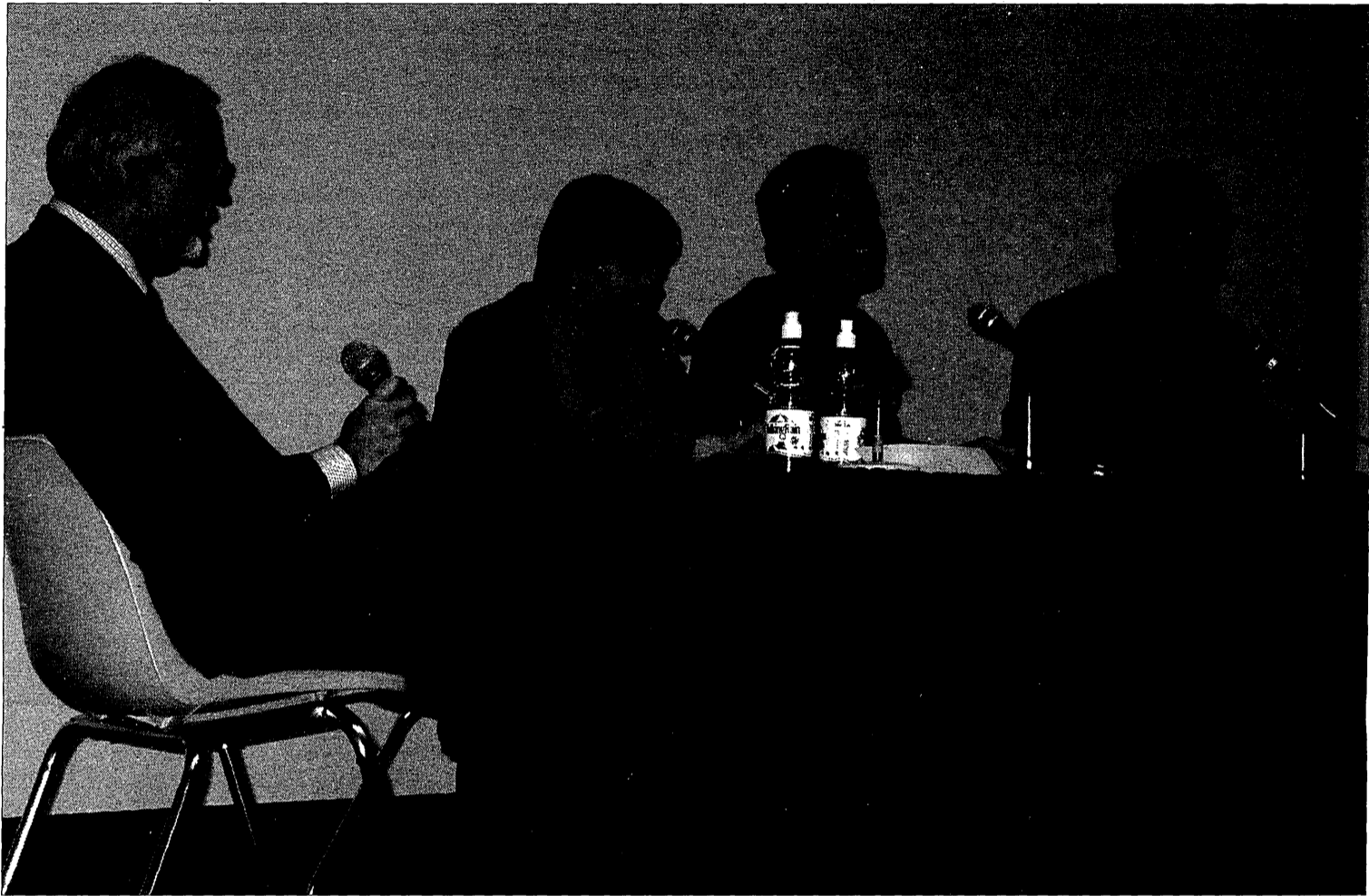
"As long as some students show up, it shows that there is an interest," Zommick said.

Larsen said that in an election where a woman's right to choose is at stake, every vote counts.

"Don't let anyone tell you your vote doesn't count," Larsen said. "That is the most irresponsible thing you can say in a representative government."

*'I do know Washington state has received more money as a result of the No Child Left Behind Act.'*

**Suzanne Sinclair**  
Republican candidate for U.S. Congress



Former Western political science professor Ken Hoover (left) moderates the debate between Republican Suzanne Sinclair, Libertarian Bruce Guthrie and incumbent U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, all candidates for the U.S. Congress. Tanya Rozeboom/The Western Front

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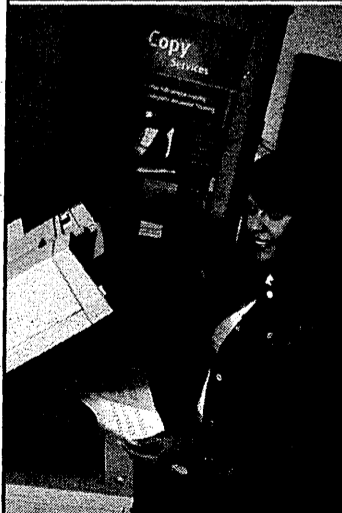
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## Club: New pro-gun club to spend money on local political campaigns

Continued from Page 1

associate with pro-gun clubs, Alyea said.

"People think of pro-Second Amendment people to be hicks from the South," she said. "That's why this club is important to help people realize there are people from other demographics that support it."

The Associated Students Board of Directors unanimously approved the club Oct. 11. While nobody challenged the group's application for membership, the board of directors did have safety questions in mind during the approval process, AS vice president for activities Matt Wood said.

The board developed several guidelines for the club's approval. Leaders have the right to revoke membership of anyone for safety reasons. The club must follow all state and federal firearm laws. Members can only shoot at a supervised and licensed shooting range, and they cannot spend AS money on firearms or ammunition. Members must purchase their own firearms and ammunition.

The club also will spend money on educational material such as pamphlets. It also can spend AS money on political campaigns, Wood said.

While many people have a negative view of gun ownership, it has advantages, Haver said.

Alyea said she believes that gun ownership can help increase safety for women because when properly trained to use a firearm, women may gain an advantage over an attacker.

Haver said the club also intends to become politically active in support of pro-gun candidates. He said the issue has become especially prominent now that the

assault-weapons ban that former President Bill Clinton's administration enacted in 1994 expired this September.

"When you take guns out of the hands of responsible citizens, all you are doing is putting them at risk," Haver said. "The weapons (the government is) trying to ban are the ones people use for hunting and personal protection."

Wood said the political stance of the club did not affect the approval process because, regardless of their stances on issues, the board members approve clubs based on their benefits to Western and its students.

"We have a lot of controversial clubs on campus," Wood said. "As long as they fall under AS standards, they can be approved."

Wood said the political stance of the club did not affect the approval process because, regardless of their stances on issues, the board members approve clubs based on their benefits to Western and its students.

"We have a lot of controversial clubs on campus," Wood said. "As long as they fall under AS standards, they can be approved."

*This club is important to help people realize there are people from other demographics that support (the Second Amendment).*

### Rachael Alyea

Western Students for the Second

## Project: Inslee says his project will create new jobs

Continued from Page 1

"We need to start preaching the gospel that energy efficiency is a job creator," he said.

The United States is letting other countries take the lead in developing and manufacturing clean-energy technologies, Inslee said.

"We are giving up the primacy of new technology to other countries, and it's a huge mistake," he said.

"We need to become exporters of energy technology — better than China."

Bellingham resident Sharon Monteiro said the project seems practical, and every American should support the issues Inslee addressed.

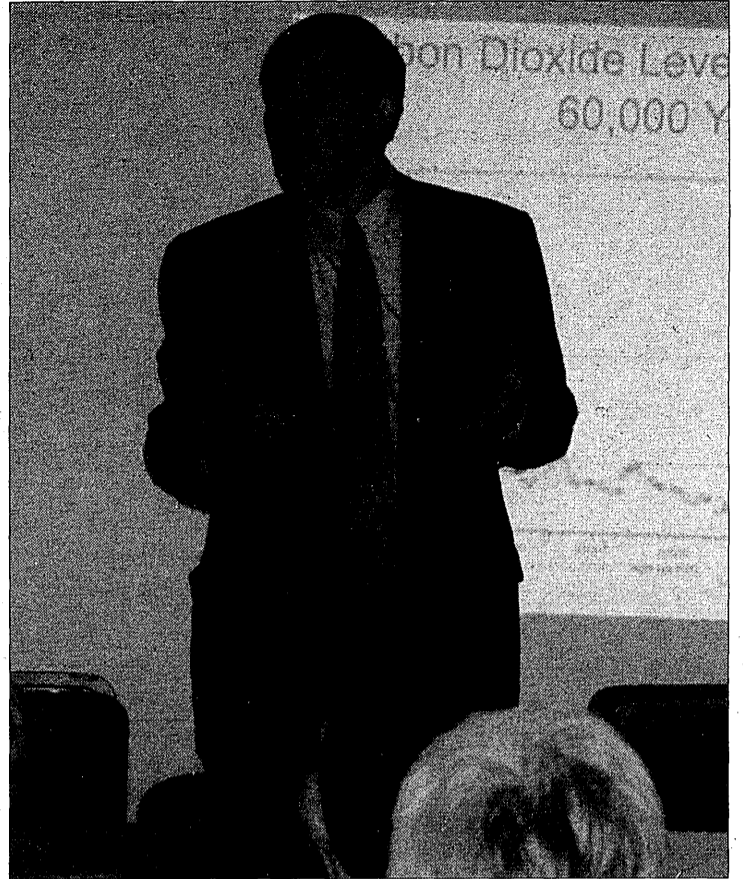
"(The) Apollo moon program got a man on the moon in less than a decade," Monteiro said. "I think (this project) is very realistic."

Inslee said the project addresses the issue of global warming by promoting cleaner energy sources, such as solar panels, windmills and dams.

In order to make new energy sources a reality, the United States needs to be a large, significantly funded research and development team, he said.

"(People need) to recognize the need to experiment and sometimes fail because not every energy we do will work," Inslee said.

The goal of the project is to meet 20 percent of the country's electricity needs from renewable sources by the year 2020, he said.



Chris Taylor/The Western Front

**U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee speaks to Bellingham residents Monday night about the energy plan he developed.**

Chris McCullough, Inslee's congressional campaign manager, said the project is long-term and will take five to 10 years to put into action.

He said he is still optimistic even though the outcome of the project is dependent upon who is in the White House.

"(The project) is realistic because it makes sense to people,

and it doesn't matter what party you are with," McCullough said.

Joe Inslee, a Western senior and son of the congressman, said his dad's job never stops.

"(It's a) job he brings home to the dinner table," Joe Inslee said. "It's fun, though, because on Sundays we'll sit around the table and argue issues."

### GETTING OUT

#### FEEL THE DOOR HANDLE

- If the handle is hot, don't open it.
- Go to a window and call for help.
- If the handle is NOT hot, open cautiously.
- Check for smoke or fire before going out

#### GET OUT OF THE BUILDING BEFORE PHONING FOR HELP

- Don't take time to phone before leaving.
- Get out and find a phone.

#### PULL THE FIRE ALARM ON YOUR WAY OUT

#### DON'T LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE OR GATHER STUFF

- Knock on doors as you leave
- Yell "FIRE" as you leave
- Don't hesitate or stray from your path.

#### CRAWL LOW TO THE FLOOR

- Thick smoke can make it impossible to see
- Toxic chemicals in smoke can be deadly in minutes

#### CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU

- Keep the fire from spreading.
- Protect your possessions from fire and smoke damage.

#### GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION

- **YELL and SCREAM!**
- Hang a sheet from a window.
- Stay low. There is less smoke and toxic gas close to the floor.
- **WAIT**, never panic or jump.

# Fire Safety for Your Life



This is a resident's room in Mathes Hall after the November 1997 fire. NO ONE was injured. EVERYONE got out immediately. Learn what to do. Save your own life!

### FIRE

- 1) Notify persons in the area
- 2) Evacuate the building.
- 3) Pull the nearest fire alarm or call 911 from a safe place.
- 4) Use a fire extinguisher, if trained.
- 5) Close doors and windows.
- 6) Assemble in a safe place.
- 7) Meet and inform responders.
- 8) Provide assistance.

### CLOTHING FIRE

"STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

**Fire/Medical Aid/Police 911**  
**University Police 3911**  
**CASAS 650-3700**

(Confidential support following sexual assault or other violent crime)  
**Chemical Emergency 650-3064**

### PREVENTION - PROTECTION

- Take responsibility for protecting your life.
- Take trash outside.
- Never overload electrical outlets.
- Use power strips plugged directly into outlets.
- Keep space heaters and halogen lamps AWAY from flammables — clothing or paper.
- Put out candles when unattended (**NOT** allowed in residence halls).
- Put out incense when unattended.
- Extinguish smoking materials.
- NEVER smoke in bed or if tired.

### CHECK SMOKE ALARMS

- In off-campus housing, install new batteries every quarter.
- In residence halls, smoke alarms don't need batteries.

### PLAN ESCAPE ROUTES

- Know where all exits are located in your building — KNOW 2 EXITS from where you sleep.
- Practice your plan.
- Tell your roommates about your plan.

# ESC conference celebrates diversity, promotes voting

By Cara Shaw  
The Western Front

For students like Western freshman Anthony Thach, who is of Cambodian descent, affirming a strong identity is important for connecting to one's cultural heritage. For people to be proud of their ethnicity and culture, they need to be able to establish themselves in a larger community, in which they feel free and proud to be themselves, he said.

"It is important to be around a group you can identify yourself with," Thach said. "It is also important to realize there are differences between us."

Thach established and celebrated his identity with more than 200 Western students this past weekend at the 14th annual Ethnic Student Center Conference.

"I believe in having a strong identity because when you are proud of who you are, I can be proud of who I am," said Pat Fabiano, director of Prevention and Wellness Services and a guest speaker at the conference.

ABC — or affirming identity, building a community and cultivating leadership — was this year's theme for the conference. In the most basic sense, students were able to explore who they are, who their community is and how to effectively communicate with people from different backgrounds, said Stephany Hazelrigg, a Western graduate student and ESC intern.

Whether a person is of color or an ally of a person of color, the students learned how to be who they are and validate that identity, Hazelrigg said.

"The conference taught me there is diversity within diversity," Thach said. "The only way to eliminate stereotypes is to learn about each other's differences."

In order to learn about those differences, Fabiano led the students in what she called an educational and inspiring workshop, which was one of the main events of the weekend.

"This is an anecdote to knit the world back together again," Fabiano said, speaking of her exercise.

Fabiano challenged the students to claim their identities and to be proud of who they are. Fabiano asked students to stand in front of their peers if they considered themselves part of a certain community.

One by one, Fabiano would call out a characteristic. Students claimed their

identities through such categories as family status, religion, social status, racial background, sexual orientation, gender and voting preference.

Thach said he stood in front of his peers to claim his identity as the youngest child in his family, as a man proud of Cambodian ethnicity.

As students rose for each category, those who did not belong to it filled the room with applause and stomped the ground with their feet.

Western junior Steve Moses, who also participated in the exercise, said the biggest theme he saw through the weekend was acceptance and the appreciation of diversity, which the exercise reflected.

"Ethnicity is ultimately how a person defines their culture and who they are," Moses said. "Whether it is race or upbringing, it is what they identify themselves with."

Fabiano said the exercise also focused on establishing a sense of community. By seeing others who stood for the same category, students could look around the room and establish a connection with other students, she said.

"It made me feel good to see there are other people like me on campus that face the same issues I do and that I can relate to," Thach said.

Students have individual bodies, but they have a larger body that is their community, Fabiano said.

Fabiano led students in another exercise through which they could share the identities they had just established. Students broke into caucuses they personally belonged



Cara Shaw/The Western Front  
Western junior Nathan Cox, senior Calvin Sessions and sophomores Justin Jones and Jesse Fuentes work together to write a song that expresses cultural diversity during a workshop the Blue Scholars presented.

to, including environmentalists, blacks, feminists, Middle Easterners, Muslims, women and non-citizens.

Each group talked about what prejudices it faces every day. Fabiano asked each caucus to speak to the audience about its specific community. The members explained what they wanted people to know about their group. Groups were then able to express what they never wanted to hear people say about their group.

Thach joined the caucus of students raised by single parents. Thach said he and his group wanted people to know single-parent households could be just as strong as two-parent households.

Moses said he broadened his knowledge of the prejudices each group faces. He said he learned each group's preferred and what terminology is not acceptable.

Hazelrigg said students should have left

the conference feeling united, educated and ready to share their knowledge with their families and friends. Students will have learned the necessary skills to effectively communicate despite differences, she said.

Hazelrigg said this year's turnout is the largest the conference has ever had. She said the ESC had to create a waiting list for students who wanted to attend the conference and that some students were unable to attend.

The conference is just the beginning of a year of ESC activities and opportunities for students to share and learn about different cultures and ethnicities, Hazelrigg said.

Throughout the conference, students expressed the desire to see students of all races, cultures and ethnicities participate in ESC activities so that all students can learn to affirm their identities, build communities and cultivate leadership.

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# Secretary of state speaks on importance of young voters

By Elana Bean  
The Western Front

In an election season filled with close races, Washington state is no different from the presidential election, Secretary of State Sam Reed said in a public forum Monday at Whatcom Community College.

The lecture was part of a promotion encouraging community members and students to learn more about events in the Washington state government.

"A lot of these are new voters, and they need to know how to vote," he said.

Reed discussed the upcoming state elections and mentioned the diversity of the candidates running for the gubernatorial and attorney general positions.

Reed said the legislative races are competitive, and elections in a single district could change the majority party in the Washington State Legislature.

"This is clearly going to be a watershed election," Reed said.

Reed spoke about his duties as secretary of state and highlighted the importance of young people voting.

"We are trying to get young people to register to vote when they turn 18," Reed said.

Reed said the election schedule and voter and candidate information is available to students through the county auditor's Web site.

Whatcom Community College sophomore Joel Nelson attended the event to hear a balanced political discussion.

"I think it's important to talk about

voting," Nelson said. "I really appreciate that it was a nonpartisan event."

Reed briefly discussed the 2000 presidential elections and noted the importance of a good ballot-handling system.

"If you get down to a handful of votes separating candidates, there are going to be problems," Reed said. "We have a few races that will be quite close."

A recent KING-TV poll showed current Insurance Commissioner Deborah Senn leading King County Councilman Rob McKenna by 5 percentage points in the race for state attorney general.

In the race for governor, Democrat Attorney General Christine Gregoire is at 49 percent, as opposed to 43 percent for Republican Dino Rossi, a former state senator, in an Ipsos-Public Affairs poll taken Sept. 17-20.

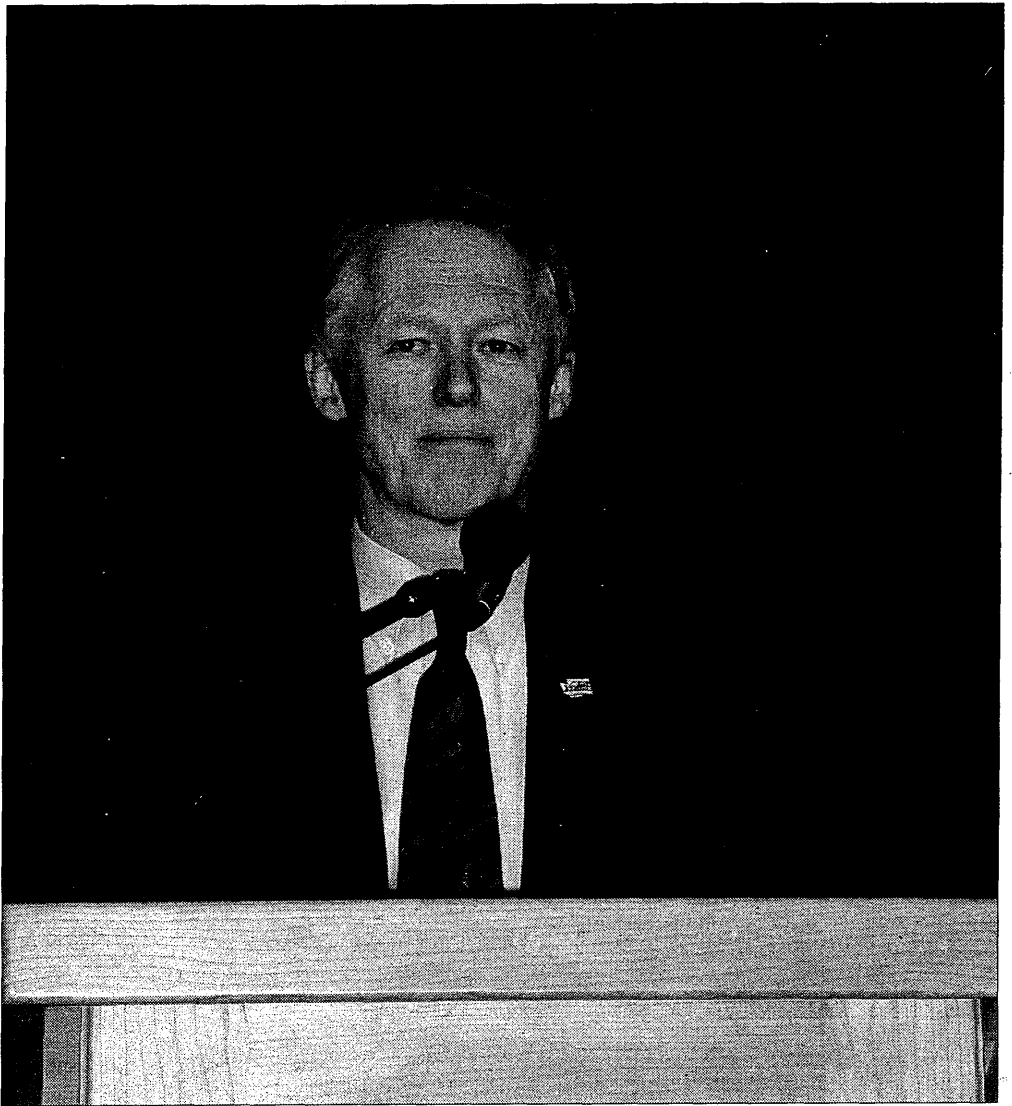
Reed reassured the audience that elections would go smoothly by discussing the system of rules and laws that are in effect in Washington state.

He said election officials are required to complete special training and are subject to reviews by his office every year.

"Overall, we're in very, very good shape in the state of Washington," Reed said.

Reed answered questions from the audience members after his speech and spoke more on the importance of getting involved with politics and local government.

"I encourage each of you to take an active interest in politics," Reed said. "Start at a local level, get some experience and then you can move up."



Elana Bean/The Western Front  
Secretary of State Sam Reed speaks on Monday at a forum at Whatcom Community College. Reed discussed state elections, candidate diversity and the importance of college-aged voters.



# WITCHES, BATS AND ALL THAT!

## A WILD HALLOWEEN WEEKEND...

<p><b>Friday, October 29th</b> <b>Hell's Belles</b> Woman who rock - An AC/DC Tribute</p> <p><b>Saturday, October 30th and Halloween Sunday Night</b> <b>The Afrodesiacs</b> Two Halloween Costume Balls featuring the Northwest's most popular Disco Band.</p> <p><small>No comedy this Sunday only. Coming November 7, 14 &amp; 21</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The 25th Annual Seattle International Comedy Competition</b></p> <p><b>THE FAIRHAVEN</b> Pub &amp; Martini Bar Live Music &amp; Spirits in Old Fairhaven 1114 Harris Avenue - 671-6745 <a href="http://www.fairhavenpub.com">www.fairhavenpub.com</a></p>	<p><b>Friday, October 29th</b> <b>A Pimp &amp; Ho Party</b> Featuring <b>2 Live Crew</b> <b>Saturday, October 30th and Halloween Night</b> <b>\$1,800</b> In Cash Prizes for the best costumes at our Gala Costume Balls.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Bellinghams Hottest Nightspot since 1994 <b>208 E. HOLLY - 738-3701</b> <b>Open 6 p.m.</b> <a href="http://www.theroyal.biz">www.theroyal.biz</a></p> </div>	<p><b>Friday &amp; Saturday, October 29th &amp; 30th</b> <b>Hot Rod Horse</b></p> <p><b>Sunday, Halloween Night</b> <b>A Gala Costume Ball</b> <b>Tony and The Tigers</b></p> <p><small>No comedy this Sunday only.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The New</i> <b>Main St.</b> Bar &amp; Grill 2005 Main St. - Ferndale, WA (Formerly the Pioneer Restaurant &amp; Lounge) <b>360-312-9162</b> <a href="http://www.main-street-pub.com">www.main-street-pub.com</a></p>
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# Features

## Strange Days

### Company offers 'space memorial service' for those who will pay

People interested in an out-of-this-world experience have the opportunity to have a space memorial service with their ashes blasted into space.

Space Services Inc. will place a gram of a person's ashes in an aluminum capsule the size of four dimes stacked together, attach it to a rocket and send it into space. The service costs \$995. A lipstick-sized container holding seven grams of ashes can be sent into space for an additional \$4,300.

"Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry, who orbited Earth for six years after his death in 1991, is the most famous client of Space Services.

In 1997, Space Services conducted its first "space funeral flight." The company sent Roddenberry's ashes and those of 23 participants, including a 4-year-old boy's whose parents worked for NASA, into space.

In each flight, Charlie Chafer, chief executive officer of the Houston-based firm, and his eight-person team place the ash-filled capsules in a tube and attach them inside a rocket scheduled to send a satellite

into space. When the rocket is in orbit, the satellite takes off from the rocket's "last stage," and the satellite continues to circle the earth with the capsule inside.

The capsule has the capability to stay in orbit between 10 and several hundred years before falling and vaporizing like a shooting star.

Chafer said he has seen an increase in business as cremation has grown in popularity throughout the country and internationally.

Approximately 28 percent of Americans chose cremation over traditional burial in 2002 and by 2025, that percent is expected to grow to almost 43, according to the Cremation Association of North America.

### Computer fix-it man exchanges services for sex

A man in New York City is offering sex in exchange for work.

The 34-year-old systems engineer goes by the name of "Ray Digerati." He will fix computers in exchange for sex.

Digerati said he came up with the idea while helping a female friend, and he wondered if he could get sex in exchange for his work.

He then posted ads for his service on

www.craigslist.com, and he said he received an overwhelming response.

Digerati said he lets the client decide the payment amount, but he said one orgasm for every two hours of work is a fair trade.

Digerati said he would not exchange work for sex with male clients. He said they will pay him money.

### Woman advertises for husband on a billboard

A Chinese woman in Australia placed an advertisement on a billboard outside a cinema in Sydney's eastern suburbs asking for a husband.

The large headline on the billboard reads, "Husband Wanted" and lists requirements, such as age up to 45, good health, non-smoker and drinker, Caucasian, solid financial background and a good sense of humor.

Zhou spent \$5,000 on the billboard advertisement.

Zhou said she described herself on the billboard as a beautiful and intelligent woman seeking a dream family with a fabulous partner.

Zhou's search for love has not received any replies so far.

### Contest offers a behind the scenes look of a pornographic movie

A new contest will give people who are curious about what goes on during a pornographic shoot the chance to see the making of a porn movie.

An adult-film company called Acid Rain Productions is asking fans to log on to wantedlist.com and register to win a chance to be an observer during the making of a porn flick.

Producer Mitchell Spinelli said the sex scenes get pretty hot because the actresses are doing stuff that a wife or girlfriend usually will not do. But he said the film shoots are also like most other film shoots and can be pretty slow because they spend lots of time getting the lights right.

Spinelli said he hopes the contest will help take away a lot of myths about the making of porn films, including that the cast members are doing drugs in the bathroom before the scenes or that actresses have to have guns forced to their heads in order to have sex on camera.

Compiled by Timory Wilson.

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# A ghost-hunting we will go



By Krissy Gochnour  
The Western Front

On a warm August night, ghost hunters Sherry Mulholland, Linda Goldston, Ana Melzark and four other women dressed in dark clothes and comfortable shoes parked their cars in the lot of the Bayview Cemetery off Lakeway Drive. Bringing temperature gauges, dousing rods, 35 mm cameras, a camcorder and a voice recorder, the women got out of their cars and faced the graveyard.

A mixture of excitement and fear filled their veins as they gathered together in a spiritual circle with intentions of opening the lines of communication with the spirit world.

They entered the cemetery.

A breeze smelling of roses soon filled their lungs as the women walked along a dirt trail toward the heart of the graveyard, searching wildly to find a grave with freshly placed flowers.

The temperature gauges detected the breeze, with readings dropping below the normal 70-degree temperatures. No explanation could justify the scent, but an overwhelming feeling of serenity calmed any lingering fears as the women pressed on with their investigation.

Once inside the cemetery, two women worked their way toward the north end to further investigate the breeze. Mulholland, Goldston, Melzark and two others continued on, walking along a paved road toward "Angel Eyes" and the "Deathbed," two monuments made notorious by urban legends.

Suddenly, they heard yelling coming from the two investigators who had stayed

north. They shouted that they had seen something running through the woods into the graveyard. Immediately thinking it was someone trying to contaminate the investigation, the investigators quickly turned on their flashlights.

The form, a shadow described as a hunched-over, 5-foot-4-inch male, appeared again, this time running toward the women standing near "Angel Eyes." His feet quickly moved along the cemetery road, but no footsteps were heard.

The shadow ran across the pavement and ducked behind "Angel Eyes." All seven women searched the area frantically, illuminating the grounds along the monument with their flashlights.

They saw nothing.

Some say the Bayview Cemetery is haunted. Mulholland, Goldston and Melzark said they know it is.

The three women are a group of members of approximately 45 ghost investigators called Bellingham Observers of the Odd and Obscure.

B000, which Mulholland founded in 2001, began as a group of people trying to prove spiritual life after death. Now an established common-interest group, B000 is an organization dedicated to researching and investigating paranormal activity.

"Interestingly enough, most of the people in this group have actually been doing this for years and didn't really know what they were doing until they met Sherry," Melzark said. "We didn't know what we were looking at or seeing. Sherry kind of defined that for us."

Capturing large cell-like images, known as orbs, in photographs during investigations

have fueled the members of B000 that spiritual existence is real.

"I will feel an energy," Goldston said. "I feel that someone is there. If you are sitting in a room and someone walks up behind you, you can just tell when someone is there. That is what I feel. So I will turn around and take a picture and bing, it's there."

Orbs are theorized as being formed by spirits as a means of travel, Mulholland said. Traveling this way is easier than taking human form. That way spirits can travel together, she said.

Spheres of light are not the only paranormal activities that members have experienced as a lot of energies cannot be seen with the naked eye, she said.

They have detected voices in recordings during several investigations in the form of short sentences or comments, Mulholland said.

"When we cannot hear it physically, it will show up on the tape recorder," she said. "We do not hear long sentences because it is very hard to come up with the energy needed to actually make that contact — to cross over."

An important aspect in the investigations B000 perform is research, Goldston said. One person, usually Mulholland, will explore the history of the location they are going to investigate. The remainder of the group is not allowed to know anything pertaining to the matter. The group conducts its investigation and debriefs off-site immediately afterward.

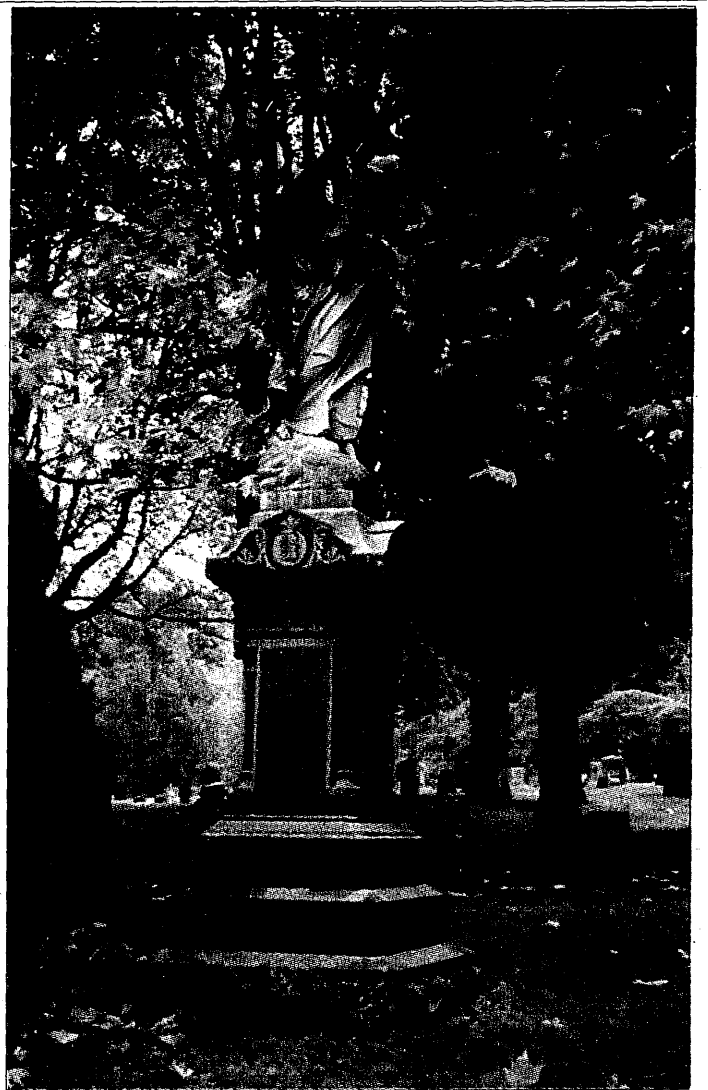
"We take our impressions, our feelings, whatever we heard, and we will staff later to share our experiences," she said. "We put the information together. The facts are given to us, and it is amazing how our experiences match up with the research without knowing anything."

Mulholland said she tries not to let anyone know what to expect throughout the investigations.

"We want their information to be the real thing," she said.

Melzark said having no prior knowledge before the investigation can be rewarding, referring to her first ghost hunt in July at a Bellingham museum that did not grant permission to release its name. There, she successfully identified the initials of two men who had been noted in historical text as former employees. Her experience was a remarkable one as she described receiving a ghostly shoeshine.

"It started out as my feet getting really cold," she said. "I wasn't really sure what it was. I felt a breeze going across my shoes. Later when we were told the history of the museum, it was very possible that there was a shoe shiner there. When we got the pictures



Krissy Gochnour/The Western Front

The "Angel Eyes" monument in Bayview Cemetery is a highly active area of odd behavior, according to B000.

back, there was a nice bright orb just about the level that my feet were, traveling across the floor. Coincidence? Maybe."

B000 is attempting to receive permission to enter a few of Bellingham's historic buildings that once acted as bars and brothels, she said.

The group does not conduct investigations unless the owner of the building releases permission, Mulholland said.

Opening a line of communication with spirits and leaving the scene is disrespectful, she said. B000 does not do any paranormal investigations without permission.

Bellingham's historic buildings and intense history make it a haven for hauntings, Melzark said.

The Mount Baker Theatre is high on B000's most-haunted list. An investigation in 2002 resulted in experiences with ghostly actors and stage crew, she said. The most famous was "Judy," a ghost named after one of the most famous actresses to grace the stage, Judy Garland. Rumor has it that she haunts projectionists by calling out their names, and a B000 investigator claimed to see her in form. The B000 investigator also reported cold spots in areas of the theater.

Bayview Cemetery also is eminent on B000's list of haunted hotspots, Goldston said. The "Deathbed" is a monument rumored to be cursed by a woman from historical times who was executed on suspicion of being a witch. Legend has it that lying upon the monument will expedite a person's death, Mulholland said.

The gravestone, nicknamed "Angel Eyes," is the second most notoriously haunted location at Bayview.

Reports of a ghostly figure lurking around the stone monument have allegedly been confirmed by B000's August investigation.

Mulholland said B000 is anticipating starting a Bellingham Ghost Tour. The tour will emphasize on the various haunted structures in the city.

"Anyone can see and hear these things if they want to," she said. "They just need to allow it to happen. Spirits do not discriminate. Things are going on, you just have to look for it. Anyone can capture orbs on a camera. If you encourage these spirits, most times they will welcome you."

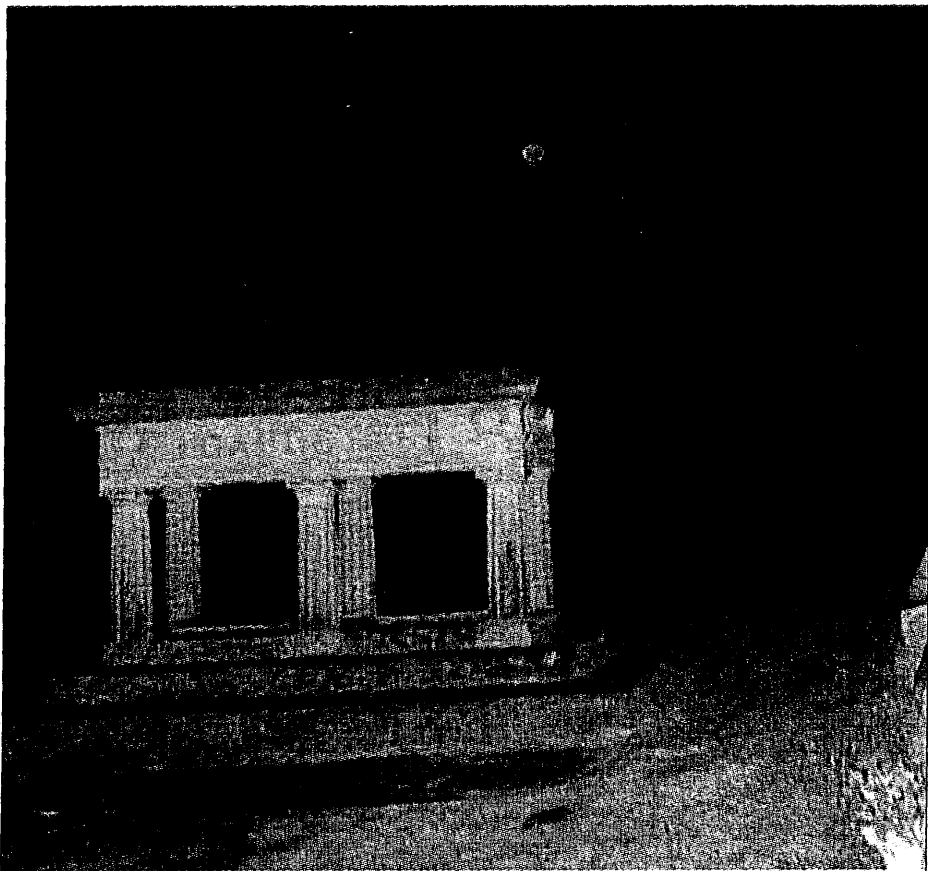


Photo courtesy of Bellingham Observers of the Odd and Obscure  
"Orbs" float around the "Deathbed" monument in Bayview Cemetery in July. Orbs are only visible on film, B000 founder Sherry Mulholland said.

# BARN OF TERROR



*The Lynden Fairgrounds is home to the haunted house for all-ages Halloween fun*

By Mari Bergstrom  
The Western Front

Even if blood-spattered rubber masks and vampire coffins are no longer frightening, braving the Barn of Terror Haunted House at the Lynden Fairgrounds is entertaining, charitable and potentially profitable as Halloween quickly approaches.

The 7,000-square-foot haunted house, sponsored by You Call the Shots Espresso, is composed of nine rooms, each connected by pitch-black mazes. Actors dressed as vampires and mimes hide in dark corners, waiting for the opportunity to catch people off guard.

The amount of effort put into making the barn was evident through the different rooms, which ranged from a jungle to a graveyard. Strobe lights and fog were disorienting but added to the ghostly presence throughout the haunted house.

Traveling between rooms was only possible by a guiding hand, as the passageways were entirely dark. The barn was full of detail to try to scare all that entered it.

The creative outcome of the barn took roughly two-and-a-half weeks to organize, approximately 250 hours, with eight to 10 volunteers working each night, event coordinator Casey Gunderson said.

Western senior Sarah Forney said she had the opportunity to work behind the scenes at the barn as one of the actors. She said seeing the reaction on people's faces after jumping out and scaring them was comical.

"The best is when you scare a father or big bulky men," she said.

Bellingham resident Corey Lincoln brought his family to the barn Oct. 15.

"As an adult, it is a little predictable, but it is great for little kids," Lincoln said.

His 8-year-old son, William, said he screamed when people jumped out from the dark corners.

"It is definitely not demonic or evil, but it is really suspenseful for even me because the actors jump out in different places," Gunderson said. "You may think it is not scary, but it is."

She also said the barn has been known to make people cry.

Besides providing entertainment, the barn also supported important charities, such as Blue Skies for Children and Whatcom County food banks.

Blue Skies for Children is dedicated to providing help to homeless, low-income and foster children in Whatcom County, Gunderson said.

"All the proceeds from \$1 raffle tickets will go directly to Blue Skies for Children," Gunderson said. "We are trying to raise \$5,000 for the charity."

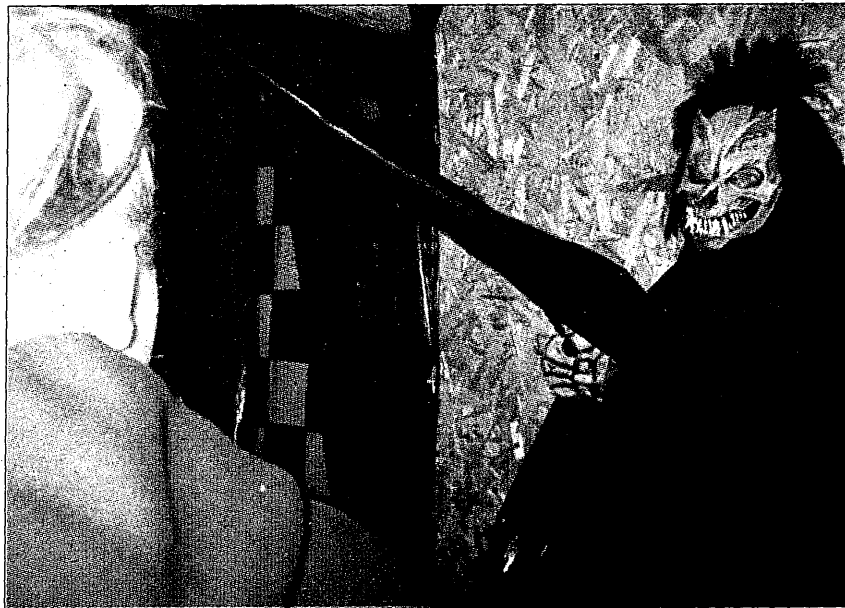
Not only does buying a raffle ticket help children in need, it also provides a chance to win prizes from the coffin of goodies, which includes more than \$2,000 in prizes, Forney said.

If the \$7 admission to the barn is too expensive, bringing a can of food will not only knock \$1 off the price, but also aid the Whatcom County Food Bank, Gunderson said.

In addition to the haunted house, face painting and a pumpkin-carving contest provide entertainment children will enjoy, she said.

"We are trying to get the community involved and make it so people want to come back every year," Gunderson said.

She said she is expecting approximately 10,000 people to attend the haunted house this year. It is open Oct. 27 through Oct. 31 at 2 p.m. each day.



Mari Bergstrom/The Western Front  
Event coordinator Clark Goff stands in costume at the entrance to The Barn of Terror Haunted House and greets entrants.

## Local filmmaker speaks at Fairhaven Library

By Laura Greaby  
The Western Front

Working on the movie "Star Wars" and creating documentaries are only a couple of things Larry Green has done during his career. His stories came to life in the basement of the Fairhaven Public Library on a windy Thursday evening. Approximately 12 people who belong to the Whatcom Communications Association came to hear him speak.

Green, a movie producer and Bellingham resident, talked on Oct. 21 about how the influences from his past affected his choice to produce the movie "The Witches of Fairhaven."

Green came up with the story idea and said he hopes to film the movie in Whatcom County.

"Fairhaven is an untapped movie background with amazing outdoor locations," he said.

Real-life ghost stories influenced him in the supernatural ideas for the movie plot, Green said. When he was 5, he said his family moved to Hartford, Conn., where he lived in an old house, which was once the home of a sea captain. On boats like the one the sea captain lived on, doors are always kept shut, so if the boat floods, it would stop at the next closed door and not sink the boat, Green said. As legend has it, the sea captain followed this rule in his own house, too.

Green was playing outside the door of his parents' room while they were inside with the door ajar. After awhile, they heard angry footsteps coming up the stairs. His mom assumed it was the neighbors until the steps came closer and Green and his parents could not see anybody. An invisible force closed and reopened the bedroom door between Green and his parents, Green said.

He said they thought this was the ghost of the old sea captain who was angry that a door was kept open in his house.

"I have seen ghosts; I think they exist and hope there will someday be a scientific explanation," Green said.

"The Witches of Fairhaven" will have a dark story and will contain historical characters who Green said have always intrigued him.

"The Witches of Fairhaven" will not be Harry Potter. It is supposed to give you goose bumps," Green said. "It will not shy away from talking about the darkness in life."

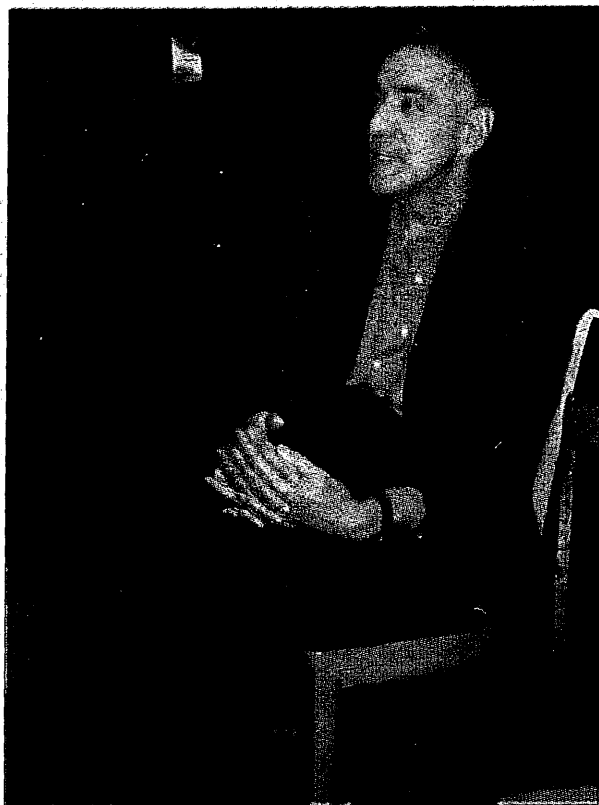
The most important part of a movie is the script, Green

said.

"No matter how good your actors are, it all comes back to the quality of the script," he said.

Green said he got into the film business in his early 20s when he moved to Los Angeles. Green, who was unemployed at the time, a person approached Green from a film studio and asked him if he would be interested in an office position. Two days later, he had a message from filmmaker George Lucas, who had just received funding for a big science-fiction movie. The movie turned out to be "Star Wars."

Although Green had a bare resume, Lucas' company, Lucasfilm hired Green to work in its production office doing merchandising sales during the filming of the first "Star



Laura Greaby/The Western Front  
Filmmaker Larry Green lectures on Oct. 22 to a group in the Fairhaven Library.

Wars" movie.

"Lucas and I hit it off from the start. I made him laugh, which is why I think he kept me around," Green said.

Green worked in the production office directly across from Universal Studios. Mark Hamill, or Luke Skywalker, as he is famously known, was one of the only actors who visited the production office. The two were roughly the same age and soon became friends, Green said.

"We used to go to a local deli to eat lunch and try to pick up chicks," he said. "But even right after the movie came out, they never believed they were near Luke Skywalker, and we were unsuccessful."

Green worked on the sequel "Star Wars: Episode V — The Empire Strikes Back."

Soon after, Green landed a job creating a poster to advertise Sylvester Stallone's movie "Rocky III." The poster was a successful venture for Green, so with advice from Stallone, he said he decided to start his own production company in the early '80s called Larry Green Productions, he said.

"It is harder than it looks to start a production company," Green said. "I started out doing a few things for HBO and other odds-and-ends jobs."

Many successful ventures came out of this time, including producing the documentary "Superstar — The Life and Times of Andy Warhol," which won the Silver Plaque for documentary excellence at the Chicago Film Festival in 1991, Green said.

Irvin Kershner, who also directed movies such as "The Empire Strikes Back," will direct "The Witches of Fairhaven." The movie will begin production in fall 2005, Green said.

Sandy Slover, who works at the extended education office at Western, was an audience member at the speech.

"He's an excellent oral storyteller who keeps his audience entertained, seemingly without effort," Slover said. "Larry is the king of the lucky break, having fallen into a film career by accident when he met the right person at the right time at a Hollywood party. Those parties are where much of the real business and deal-making of Hollywood occurs — it's not just a myth."

The Whatcom Communication Association sponsored the event. The organization works to promote excellence in communication, said Elisa Classen, organizing committee member of the association.

# Disc jockey daze

*The student-run radio station KUGS gives students an opportunity to get on-air*

**By Elana Bean**  
The Western Front

It plays in the car, in the shower and at parties. The radio is always in the background, available but not exciting. Radio is something to fall back on when one cannot choose the music.

At KUGS, Western's community radio station, radio is not just background music, but a place for students to get practical radio experience.

Western senior Kara Thies said she has been a disc jockey for KUGS since last year. Thies said she became interested in radio at Green River Community College, and when she came to Western, she was determined to continue working in radio.

Thies said she liked the way that KUGS is organized because it never feels too haphazard. KUGS was voted the best radio station in Bellingham by Bellingham Weekly last year as well.

Thies works on a program called Music for the Masses, which airs weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. She said she loves doing radio because of the atmosphere and people with whom she works.

"It's so much fun," Thies said. "You get to listen to so much music and hang out with awesome people."

She said that she feels community radio is a worthy cause and that is why she likes to work at KUGS.

"I started last year as a newsreader, and spring quarter last year I got Music for the Masses," Thies said.

She said becoming a DJ at KUGS is not difficult.

"It's just a matter of taking initiative and talking to people and finding out what you can do," Thies said.

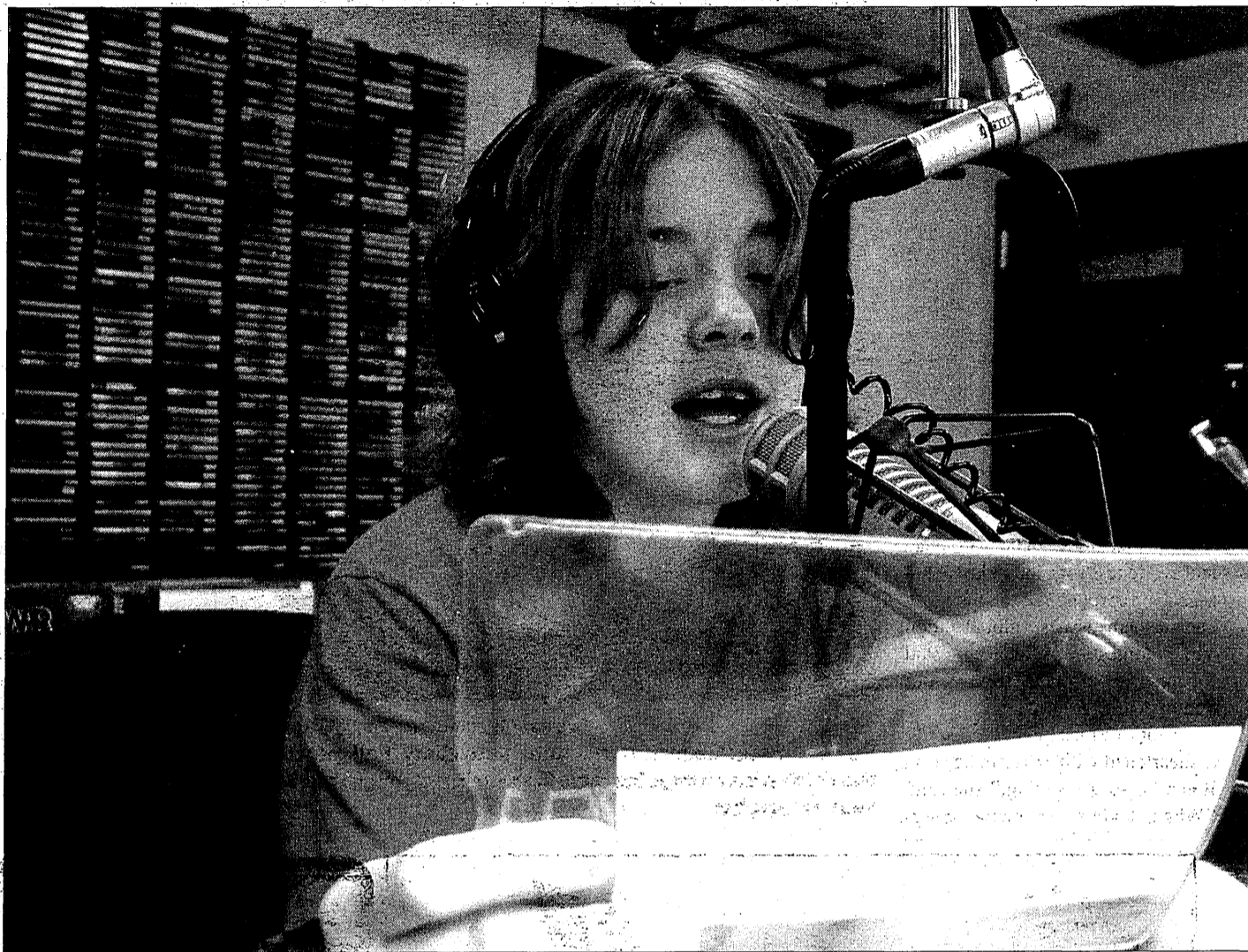
Thies said she completed all the on-air requirements last year.

To become a DJ, a student must first fill out a volunteer application, general manager Jaime Hoover said.

Program director David Kennedy said he reviews the applications and hires volunteers once a quarter.

After the applicant Kennedy accepts the applicant, he or she starts as a newsreader. Newsreaders collect information and news briefs from The Associated Press wire and read them during breaks of programming, Hoover said.

Western freshman Sean Daeley is a newsreader for KUGS. He said he does radio for fun but considers it a career possibility.



Elana Bean/The Western Front

**Kara Thies, a Western senior and KUGS disc jockey, reads an announcement during the show, Music for the Masses, on Oct. 14 in the KUGS studio in the Viking Union.**

He said newsreading is not difficult and does not take too much practice.

"If you have any acting experience, it helps," Daeley said.

Once a student becomes familiar with being on-air, then board operation training begins. This teaches new DJs how to operate the control board and program music selections, Hoover said.

Students receive an operator proficiency test at the beginning of each quarter, which all students who wish to be a DJ must take and pass, Hoover said.

Hoover said the main thing the managers

consider in a volunteer is whether the volunteer will show up. Many times students fill out their schedules but are not available when called to fill in. This eliminates people who are not truly interested, she said.

Once a student is qualified to work the control board and has passed the operator proficiency test, all that remains is for an open spot. Usually students start as Music for the Masses DJs and work their way into specialty programs as they gain experience, Hoover said.

"Stations like KUGS aren't full-time stations," Hoover said. "That's why we have a real mix of stuff going on."

Students must write a proposal to do a

specialty show, Hoover said.

"There are a lot of ways to pull academics in with radio shows," Hoover said.

In addition to being a DJ, other opportunities are available for students to be involved with KUGS, Hoover said. KUGS has eight student managers who handle all aspects of radio-station business, Hoover said.

Working at KUGS gives students a chance to learn about music they have never experienced before, Hoover said.

"We have music here before it hits the street," Hoover said.

Music labels, independent promoters and bands all send music to the station, Hoover said.

"We are the only locally owned station in Bellingham," Hoover said.

*It's so much fun. You get to listen to so much music and hang out with awesome people.*

**Kara Thies**  
KUGS DJ and Western senior

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**MADNESS**

# RADICAL CHEERLEADING

*Bellingham group uses pep to make a political statement*

By Crystal Oberholtzer  
The Western Front

At last academic year's Take Back the Night rally, the radical cheerleaders surprised the audience at the anti-violence gathering by lifting eight matching pleated skirts to reveal sewn-on pink feather boa "bushes" during their "my bush for president" cheer.

"(Radical cheerleading) is about taking the art form of cheerleading and converting it and making it meaningful," said Cara Pierson, Western junior and radical cheerleader. "Instead of using it to just go 'rah, rah' for some football team or serving as a sex object, we're trying to get people fired up about things that really matter, about social issues and whatever it is that needs to be brought to the surface."

The Bellingham radical cheerleaders focus on anti-violence and awareness for issues like sexual assault, reproductive rights, gay and lesbian issues, globalization and domestic violence, said Jasmine Sheldon, Western junior and radical cheerleader.

"A lot of times people get really disheartened with activism because it can be so depressing," she said. "When there's so many things

going on and you want to make so many changes, it's really hard. So radical cheerleading is a way to get really excited about activism for us

and then also to get other people really excited about it."

The radical cheerleaders are not affiliated with Western because

they want to let people outside of the school be involved in the act, Pierson said.

Misty Fall, who does not attend Western but is considering attending winter quarter, said she started the Bellingham Radical Cheerleaders with a group of friends three years ago because it sounded like a fun way to be active in the community.

"Seeing us makes people stop to watch, then they start listening to what we're saying and they're like, 'oh, my god, did they just say fuck?'" said Cassandra Kuestermeyer Western sophomore and radical cheerleader.

The radical cheerleaders take over the majority of the Fairhaven College lounge for a few hours each week to practice. They learn and improve on cheers while unsuspecting students walk by.

Kuestermeyer said she always gets a positive response to performances but said most of the routines have been performed in safe environments, such as Take Back the Night. She said that although some people do not necessarily agree with some of the messages in the cheers, the shock of their performances may stun those who disagree into contemplating what the cheerleaders have to say.

Kuestermeyer laughed

readily when she talked about performances, but it was obvious she is serious about the message of empowerment she is trying to convey.

"We're not out there to look good; we're there to make a statement," Pierson said.

The radical cheerleaders perform mainly on Western's campus. They took their act off campus last year for the closing of an exhibit at the Hand to Mouth Gallery, and hope to venture into the Bellingham community more this year, Pierson said.

The squad is composed of eight to 13 women, with six veteran cheerleaders back for another year. The number of cheerleaders performing varies depending on each individual's schedule, Fall said.

Some of the cheers the group comes up with are too aggressive for Bellingham, so the cheerleaders change them to fit a nonviolent style. One cheer suggested chanting "attack, attack," which the cheerleaders felt was overly aggressive. So they decided to change "attack" to "fight back" and made the cheer work for them.

"We don't want to fight violence with violence," Sheldon said. "That's definitely not our style."



Crystal Oberholtzer/The Western Front  
Radical cheerleaders Hana Kato and Misty Fall practice in the Fairhaven lounge for their first performance of the school year in October.

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### Women's soccer

Western scores two against Grand Canyon

Vikings	2	Western freshman forward Anna Smits recorded two assists as Western earned its second-straight shutout.
'Lopes	0	

### Football

Western shuts out Western Oregon University

Wolves	0	Western senior quarterback Steve Nichols threw for 215 yards and four touchdowns. He completed 15 of 23 pass attempts.
Vikings	49	

### Football

Western senior punter/place-kicker Michael Koenen and junior wide receiver Andy Olson earned conference player-of-the-week honors for their performances Saturday. Koenen averaged 54 yards per punt, and Olson caught six passes for 89 yards and two touchdowns.

## Men's soccer snaps three-game skid

Western's shutout against Grand Canyon keeps playoff hopes alive

By Nick Schmidt  
The Western Front

The Western men's soccer team snapped a three-game losing streak Monday in a shutout win against Grand Canyon University at Mount Vernon High School.

Western had a 16-to-8 advantage in shots taken, scoring twice, and Western junior goalkeeper Ben Dragavon recorded his 17th career shutout with two saves. With the 2-0 win, Western improved to 11-5-0 on the season.

Western managed the win despite playing without its leading scorer, Western senior forward Ryan Hopp. Hopp was ineligible to play because he received his fifth yellow card Oct. 16 in Western's game against Seattle Pacific University. According to Great Northwest Athletic Conference rules, a player must serve a one-game suspension after receiving a five yellow cards.

"It is always hard to lose your leading scorer, but I'm confident that our other players are going to step up and come through," head coach Travis Connell said before the game.

After ending the first half with no score, Western scored twice in the second half.

"It could have been easy to get frustrated after the first half, but it didn't rattle us, and we stuck with our game plan," Connell said.

Western senior midfielder David Schlesinger scored Western's first goal in the 59th minute with Western freshmen forwards Nick Webb and Zach Bauling getting credit for the assist.

Three minutes later Western found the back of the net again. With an assist by Western senior midfielder Jeff Lane, Bauling knocked the ball in from 25 yards out.

"We stuck with our game plan, they wore out, and we put it past them," Dragavon said. "Getting a shutout is just an added bonus to winning. It is against teams like this that when you get a shutout, you know you did your job."

With the shutout, Dragavon also

extended his school career shutout record to 16 and his season total to five.

Western will finish the season with four games during the next seven days.

"Hell week," as Dragavon called it, will start at 7 p.m. on Oct. 30 at home against The Evergreen State College. The men's season concludes a week later at home at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 against NCAA Division II No. 1 ranked Seattle University.

### Ben Dragavon

Western junior goalkeeper

*'Getting the shutout is just an added bonus to winning. It is against teams like this that when you get a shutout, you know you did your job.'*

"I think we play better in those situations, one challenge after another, I'm looking forward to it and hopefully with good results," Connell said.

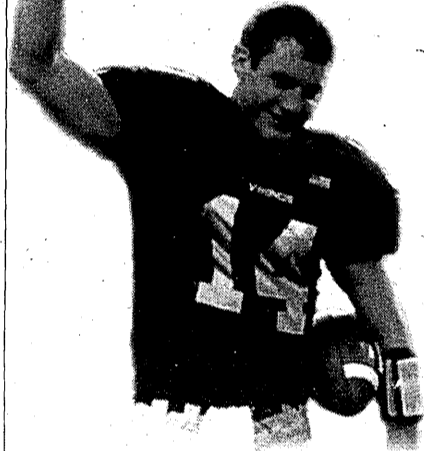
Connell said he was waiting to get Hopp back but was more than pleased with Bauling's performance in the game.

Connell said that if Western can win all its remaining scheduled games, its final game's result against Seattle University could have a huge bearing on the team's playoff hopes.

## Senior moment

The Western football team's game Saturday against Western Oregon University was the final home game for eight Viking seniors. They are...

- Rick Carte - TE, Juneau, Alaska
- Jason Day - OT, Tonasket
- Todd Gowing - OG, Kirkland
- Michael Koenen - K/P, Ferndale
- James Laurence - WR, Kent
- Steve Nichols - QB, Stevenson
- Sean O'Hara - CB, Pleasant Hill, Calif.
- Rob White - SS, Woodinville



Steve Nichols

Infographic by Matt DeVeau.

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# Western and UW wakeboarders compete at Bow Lake

By Krissy Gochnour  
The Western Front

The University of Washington wakeboarding club showed no competition to Western Sunday as the two teams came together at Bow Lake in Alger to compete against each other for the first time ever.

With Red Bulls in one hand and hamburgers in the other, approximately 75 spectators stood along the banks of the lake to support both teams.

Red Bull officials said they sponsored the competition for recreational purposes because the University of Washington does not have an established wakeboarding team.

"The event was an idea that Red Bull put together because there

aren't organized wakeboarding competitions in this area," said Peter Moran, Red Bull marketing manager for the Western Washington region. "We decided to create one."

Linnzi Baxter, Red Bull brand representative for Western, and Aaron Hersey, Red Bull brand representative for the University of Washington, conjured up the idea as a way to bring wakeboarders from both universities together.

"We decided to get together and compete," Hersey said. "The University of Washington doesn't have a wakeboarding team, so I just put one together. It's all about

having fun today anyway." With five riders representing each side, the competition had three separate heats.

*'Competition isn't my main aspect to wakeboarding. It's just cool to get out there to win the recognition.'*

**Nick Ennen**  
Western junior wakeboarder

Each rider was allowed five minutes to execute as many stunts as possible to obtain the highest score.

One member from each team judged the performances of the riders, and scores were displayed with large white cards ranging from one to 10.

Featured riders for Western were nationally known professional wakeboarding brothers Nick and Mike Ennen, whose performances clearly stood out from the others, Moran said.

"Competition isn't my main aspect to wakeboarding," Western junior Nick Ennen said. "It's just cool to get out there to win the recognition."

The Ennen brothers compete in the professional tour. Western senior Mike Ennen recently placed fifth in the 2004 Summer X-Games.

"Today is just for fun," he said. "I get to relax, ride with friends and enjoy a collegiate competition between two universities."

Bow Lake is an approximately 2,000-foot-long, privately owned, man-made lake that caters to wakeboarding and water-skiing enthusiasts.

Mostly used as a bed-and-breakfast resort for those wanting private water-ski or wakeboarding lessons, property manager Micah Ping said he agreed to help play



Krissy Gochnour/The Western Front  
Western senior and professional wakeboarder Bret van den Heuvel successfully executes a method back roll Sunday at Bow Lake in Alger.

host to the event when he heard about the idea of the competition.

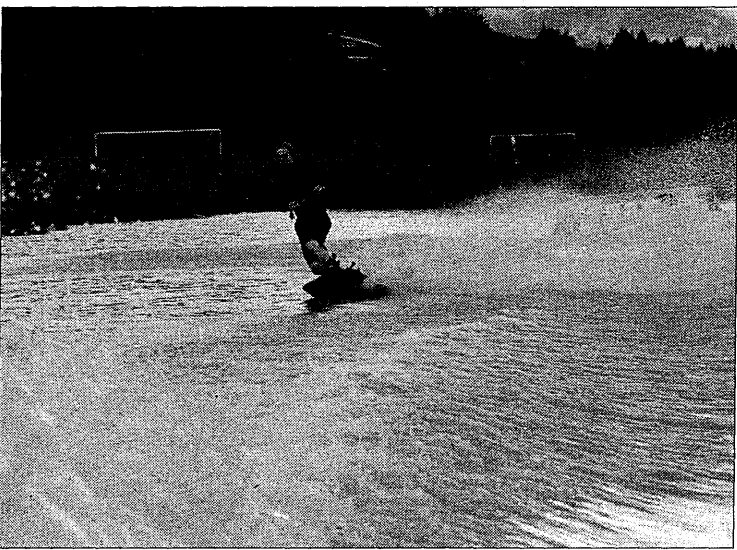
"Linnzi (Baxter) and Mike Ennen just called and asked," he said. "I thought it was a great idea. It's a good way to come out and have fun and to get wakeboarders from the University of Washington up here to have fun, too. It's nothing serious."

Ping, a former captain of Western's 2002 Water Ski Team,

drove a 2004 Supra Launch SSV boat for the competitors, with an estimated two tons of weight bogging it down to create a larger wake.

A collective barbecue followed the competition, which further emphasized the lack of rivalry between the two universities.

Plans for future competitions between Western and the University of Washington remain undecided.



Krissy Gochnour/The Western Front

Nick Ennen, a Western senior and professional wakeboarder, rides outside the wake at Sunday's competition against the University of Washington at Bow Lake in Alger.



## Looking for an Opportunity to Make a Difference?

CIA's Directorate of Intelligence is seeking candidates for Analyst Positions.

Representatives from CIA's analytical arm, the Directorate of Intelligence, will be interviewing for analyst positions in Seattle during the week of January 10th. Analysts work on the forefront of protecting national security, quickly assessing how rapidly changing international developments will impact US interests at home and abroad. They use information from classified and unclassified sources from around the world to develop and provide the reliable intelligence that is essential for US policymakers to make informed decisions. The DI is hiring for the following positions:

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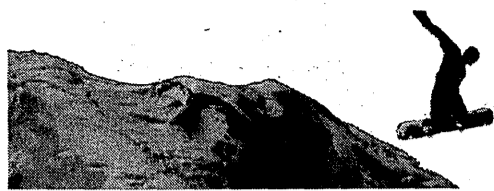
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# 'MOUNTAIN FRESH'

*Snowboarding is no longer just an extra-curricular activity for Western students*

By Ruth Wetzel  
The Western Front

Snowboarding companies look for athletes who excel at competitions at an early age, and when they decide to endorse someone, they offer sweet benefits, Western senior David Goto said.

Various snowboarding sponsors have endorsed three talented students at Western, and one of them, Western senior John Laing, managed to incorporate his snowboarding talent into his education.

Laing, a professional snowboarder who has been sponsored since he was 12, rides for K2 snowboards. He said he has used his classes, from technology to communication, to work on the business aspect of snowboarding. He puts his writing skills to use as the editor of the Bellingham magazine Frequency: The Snowboarder's Journal.

"I have been working with Frequency on editorial in the magazine and also directing a video journal," Laing said.

Laing also directed and produced a snowboarding documentary film as an internship project through the communication department. He said the focus of his film is to show the snowboard riding itself rather than to show who is riding, which is an important distinction he made between his film and the majority of other snowboarding films. Although he does not emphasize the tricks often used for shock value, the video includes many difficult skills, such as table tops and free style with big air.

Laing said he communicated with co-workers and outsiders on the project. The completed film will be shown Thursday at the Mount Baker Theatre.

Goto said that although he does not intend to snowboard professionally, he is serious about the sport. Goto said he juggles school and snowboarding by taking a lighter class schedule winter quarter. Western senior Ralph Backstrom said he agrees with Goto's strategy.

"I take Tuesday and Thursday classes. Then you can have a four-day weekend," Backstrom said, referring to winter quarter.

Snowboarding is only a winter sport at Mount Baker, about 31 miles east of Bellingham, but Backstrom said Mount Hood, Ore. and Whistler, BC are open the rest of the year.

Because snow is slushy during the summer, it is ideal for doing tricks, Goto said. Laing filmed part of his movie at Mount Hood this past summer with help from his partner on the project, Western senior Jeremy Dubs.

"I organized the film by keeping communication open with many filmers and media-related sponsors, such as Burton, Ride and Lib Tech," Laing said.

Backstrom, 22, who had a sponsor from the time he was 14 until he was 19, said that when athletes have a contract with a company, they lose a lot of freedom. Companies have expectations of snowboarders they sponsor, from doing a number of competitions a year to going with a photographer to film video parts, he said.

But Laing said his sponsors helped him make it to certain travel locations in order to shoot his film.

He said the project involved a good amount of traveling for the purpose of meeting with certain athletes and filming them in their riding environment. He worked with riders from Japan and Europe, as well as local riders.

Laing said the film was unorganized at first but came together the more they worked on it.

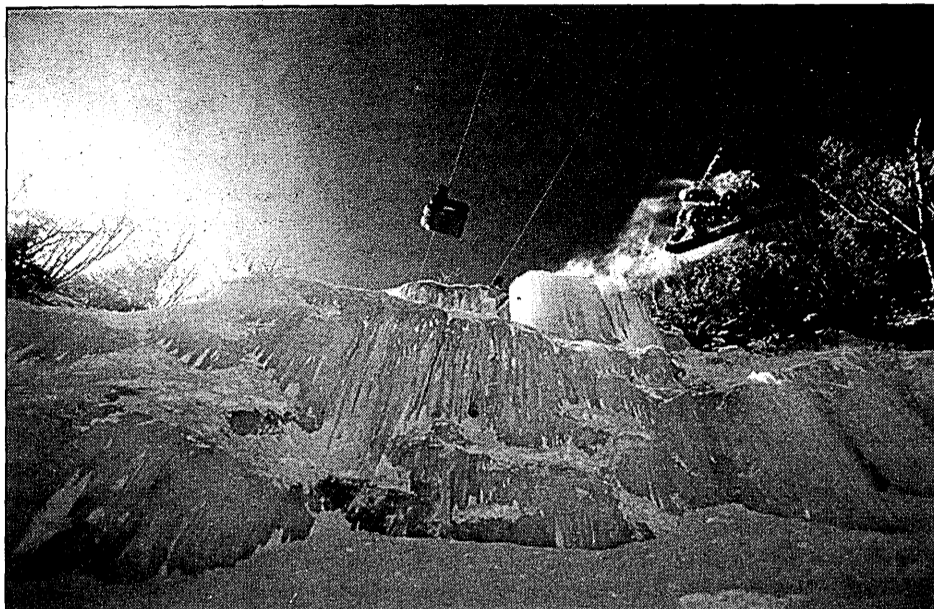
"As we started to look at more shots, the film created itself," Laing said.

Soon their ideas became a reality.

"The kind of stuff we're doing is kind of nuts," Goto said, elaborating on some of the tricks slushy snow allows snowboarders to perform.

They do tricks such as 70-foot tabletops, which involve a combination of steep drop-offs and free falling, Goto said.

Laing said it is important to him to show, through his film, that people can have major



accomplishments while being in school. He said he accomplished an educational goal in organizing a full production of the video.

"It is pretty hard work between collecting footage, organizing the footage and editing," Laing said.

He also said producing the video is only one area of work the project involved.

"It was hard to storyboard the shots and make them relevant to the video-journal format," Laing said.

He said he had so many shots from different filmers it was difficult to place them since not all the footage came from his filming.

Although the excitement of filming is over for the moment, anyone with an affinity for the outdoors can be part of the snowboarding scene in Bellingham, Laing said. Backstrom said students can get involved through the Outdoor Center on campus or by going to Mount Baker on their own.

He said students should avoid weekends, though, since Mount Baker is crowded with "weekend warriors." Backstrom said getting snowboarding sponsorship is mostly about knowing contacts. Just going out and doing what they do, however, is how some people meet their sponsors he said.

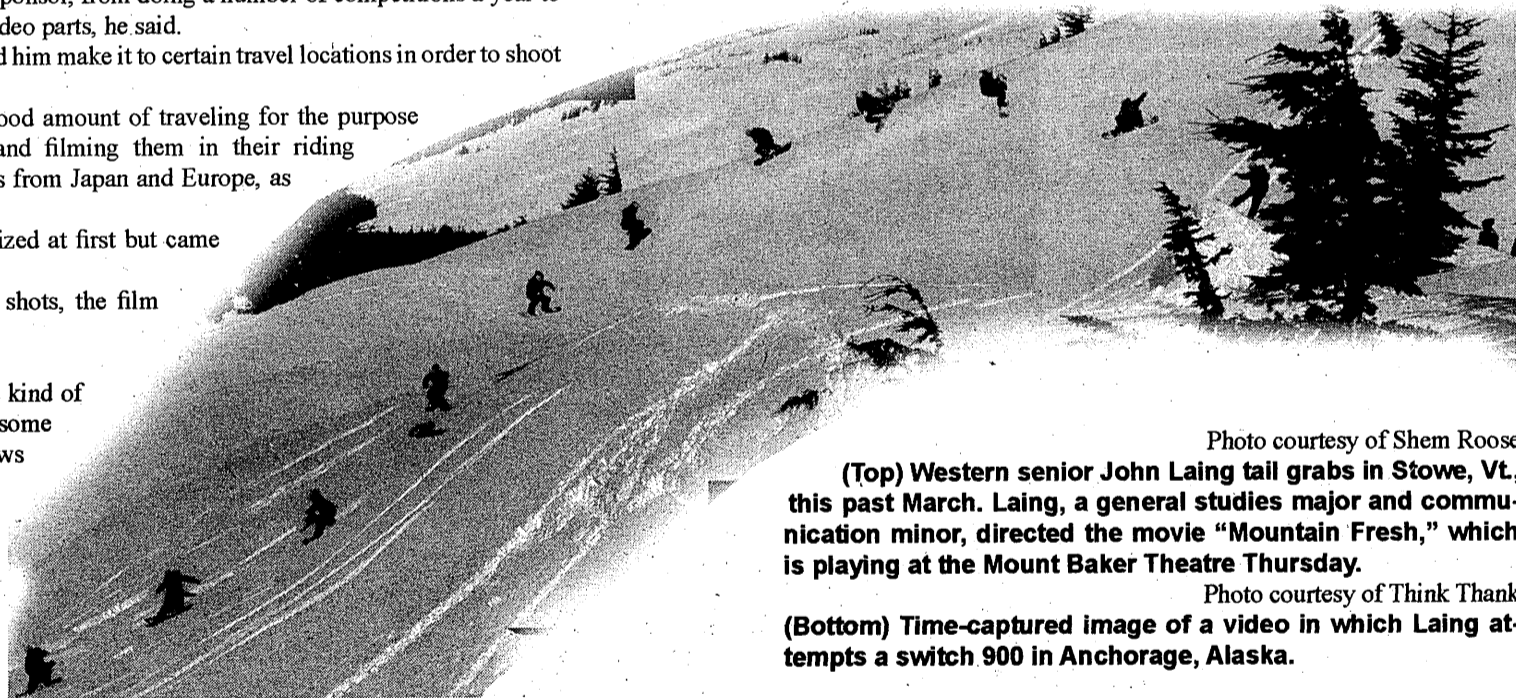


Photo courtesy of Shem Roose  
**(Top) Western senior John Laing tail grabs in Stowe, Vt., this past March. Laing, a general studies major and communication minor, directed the movie "Mountain Fresh," which is playing at the Mount Baker Theatre Thursday.**

Photo courtesy of Think Thank  
**(Bottom) Time-captured image of a video in which Laing attempts a switch 900 in Anchorage, Alaska.**

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## In Depth:

## Should Bellingham voters pass the EMS levy?



### Money could come from within

### Funding necessary to offset growth



**Tera Randall**

COMMENTARY

The lack of money available to fund emergency-medical services within the Bellingham Fire Department can be procured by reorganizing the department's finance system, not by increasing taxes.

The Bellingham City Council is proposing the Bellingham Medic One Levy to increase property taxes in Bellingham by up to 12 percent over six years. The levy will fund the under-budgeted EMS program, according to an Oct. 12 Bellingham Herald article.

The tax is ambiguous, with rates that could fluctuate annually through City Council votes. The tax gives the council the ability to increase or decrease the percentage taxed. This takes away taxpayers' freedom and gives all the power to a group of people who cannot budget money efficiently.

In spring and summer, the Bellingham Fire Department hired the Matrix Consulting Group to assess its budget shortfall.

Through an extensive analysis, the team came up with the obvious conclusion to the lack of money: The revenues need to better reflect actual costs, according to the city of Bellingham's Web site. But the council chooses to defy the obvious answer by proposing a tax.

The Matrix Consulting Group noted in its evaluation that many other cities' fees for permits, plan reviews and inspections cost more than those of Bellingham's prices by several fold, according to the city of Bellingham's Web site.

The consultants showed in their reports that if the fire department were to change its financing in ways similar to the departments

in cities such as Olympia and Seattle, it would be able to create the needed revenue to support the EMS. Again, the levy is only providing unnecessary money for the council to play with.

According to the city of Bellingham's Web site, the city has implemented some of the consulting group's suggestions, but many need further research or cannot be introduced at this time. Instead of implementing changes that are proven to work, the city is asking for more money to mismanage.

If the levy does not pass, the property taxes will still be likely to increase by 1 percent, which is the minimum tax increase allowed without voter approval by the statewide 2001 Initiative 747, according to an Oct. 7 Bellingham Weekly article.

*'The city wants to collect excess money from the taxpayers, yet it ignores professional advice and makes no effort toward an alternative solution.'*

The city wants to collect excess money from the taxpayers, yet it ignores professional advice and makes no effort toward an alternative solution. Clearly this is not a solution to the budget problem.

The idea behind the levy is beneficial because the EMS does need money to thrive, but a tax raise is unnecessary. EMS can produce the money through better management\* of funds by implementing customer fees closer to the true cost of service.

If the levy were to pass, the maximum increase of property taxes would be 35 cents for every \$1,000. Supporters of the levy say the actual increase is unsubstantial; nonetheless, it is unnecessary. The Matrix study shows that the money needed for medical supplies could be raised within the fire department.

A variety of other funding options are available to cover the Bellingham Medic One services besides an increase to the Bellingham property tax.

The city is using the levy as a scapegoat for the real issue — its lack of effective money management.



**Michael Murray**

COMMENTARY

Voting on Nov. 2 will determine important issues throughout the county. But the Bellingham Medic One Levy is one of the most important debates in Bellingham.

The 2004 emergency-medical-services levy is a necessary provision for the future of the area.

The levy proposes a property tax of up to 35 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value and would be in place for six years.

Bellingham needs to pass this levy so the existing EMS will be able to continue to function and to add a new unit to serve the county's needs. Bellingham is a growing community with a strong growth rate, but the current allocation of funds is insufficient compared to the needs of the people.

TriData Corp. of Arlington, Va., created the Whatcom County EMS Strategic plan in 2002. To fix the program's chronic cost overruns, the plan called for a six-year levy to be on the ballot on or before November 2003.

The levy failed. According to the plan, "The levy has to be on the ballot no later than November 2003, which is the amount of time the county can continue its current payment to the EMS system."

Since the 2003 levy failed, the EMS program has continued to function from the city's general fund, as it has for the past 30 years, according to the Oct. 9 Bellingham Herald Campaign Notebook.

But according to an Oct. 12 Bellingham Herald article, the Bellingham budget could face a \$2.9 million deficit. The new levy could raise \$1.6 million solely for EMS. That is \$1.6 million that does not need to come from the general fund and could be used in other areas, such as education or law enforcement.

The levy would allow EMS to add another unit to the group and to assist people in remote areas faster. According to the 2002 strategic plan, a 35 cent levy would create a new Medic One unit and give the EMS funding to improve services with more sophisticated equipment.

According to the 2004 Population Trends from the Washington State Office of Financial Management, the 2000 census estimated that Whatcom County would have a growth of 10,474 people by 2004. With a natural increase of 2,850 people per year, expectations for the current EMS to keep up without any funding increase is unrealistic.

In 2000, the Bellingham population was 67,171. Bellingham's population is now estimated at 71,080, an increase of 3,909 in four years. With the current budget issues, it appears the funding increases will not be able to be taken from the general fund.

Tax increases are never a popular choice, simply because people do not like to pay more for anything. But the EMS levy provides a life-saving service to the entire Bellingham community.

A 12 percent increase seems like a lot of money, but according to the city of Bellingham's Web site, Bellingham has the lowest property taxes in Whatcom County. The levy only applies to the city portion of the property-tax bill, which is only a quarter of the total tax bill for property owners in Bellingham.

The system does not have anything wrong with it, and it could probably function for another year or two without terminating service. But a smarter decision would be to correct the problem and make the adequate changes now. That means the 2004 EMS levy is necessary.

The EMS serves the county well. To continue that service, the 2004 levy is an important part of the Nov. 2 vote. Passing the levy means a small increase in property taxes for some property owners, but a huge increase in EMS service for everyone.

*'Tax increases are never a popular choice ... But the EMS levy provides a life-saving service to the entire Bellingham community.'*



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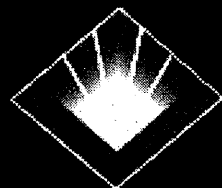
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## Frontline

### Environment should be just as much of an issue in the presidential election as terrorism or the economy

This election season has been one of the most galvanizing in history. It has sparked debates on stem-cell research, gay marriage and even the Vietnam War. Though national security and economic recovery have been ubiquitous topics in the news, the one truly all-encompassing issue of this and all other elections is being almost entirely neglected — the environment.

Issues related to the economy and national defense have taken center stage in this election. Twenty-nine percent of those questioned in an April 2003 Pew Research Center for the People and Press poll said issues of national defense were the most important problems facing the country. The candidates should reflect public interest and address terrorism and security, but the focus should be more proportional to the threat. According to an Oct. 29, 2003 CNN.com article, 2,792 people died in the World Trade Center, and an Oct. 25 CNN report stated that 1,109 U.S. troops have died in Iraq. Though these deaths are important, if the health of the environment is not maintained, it could result in the decimation of all human, plant and animal life.

Environmental safety is a world issue, and U.S. environmental policy sets a poor example for industrial nations and developing economies throughout the world. The March 2001 rejection of the Kyoto Protocol will have harmful consequences for years to come in forming and enforcing emissions rules and environmental policy. If the environment were a focal point of the campaigns, the candidates would feel pressure to take a firm stance as well as make plans for the future.

Though environmental records may not influence which candidate voters choose, the information should be more widely available. According to the Sierra Club's Web site, the Bush administration has committed 300 "crimes against nature" through its policies. These policies include the proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling and billion-dollar cuts in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and his running mate, John Edwards, on the other hand, have consistently approved legislation that protects the environment, according to the Sierra Club Web site.

Despite the importance of environmental issues, terrorism is still a looming threat that can strike at any time. The candidates must address the issue forcefully in order to assuage people's fears of another attack, either on American soil or abroad.

Just because the threat of environmental decay is more subtle, however, it does not mean it should be swept to the side. The United States' rejection of the Kyoto Protocol, increasingly lax standards on emissions and the constant favoring of corporate interests over environmental concerns are small steps toward the destruction of the environment. A terrorist attack, though devastating, can have a recovery, but environmental disaster is not easy to turn around. Like a train on a broken track, it will take time to slow the disastrous effects of faulty environmental policies, and reversing them is a tremendous challenge. The issue should be discussed, not avoided, before the change becomes impossible.

*Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Matt DeVeau, Cari Lyle, Mugs Scherer, Kaitlin King, Jelena Washington, Chris Taylor, Anna Sowa, David Wray, Zoe Fraley, Amanda Woolley, Travis Sherer, Caleb Heeringa, Aaron Apple, Lauren Miller and Jessica Evans.*

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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

*"I'm going out to let my real talent show. Personally, I'd never lip-synch. It's just not me."*

*—pop star Ashlee Simpson*

*—pop star Ashlee Simpson*



## Indecency not just FCC's problem



**Kara Johnson**

COMMENTARY

When strippers took off their clothes on the Fox reality series "Married by America," they caught more than the bachelors' eyes — they caught the Federal Communications Commission's attention as well.

The United States needs to take ownership of the way its society is depicted on reality television. The commission is taking action to control the filth on television, but this should be a priority for every American — not to mention television networks.

After receiving 159 complaints, the commission fined 169 Fox affiliate television stations \$7,000

each, for a total of nearly \$1.2 million, on indecency charges for an episode of "Married" that aired on April 7, 2003, according to an Oct. 12 Washington Post article.

It seems like a small price to pay for the integrity of the country.

The episode depicted male and female strippers giving lap dances and men licking whipped cream off their bodies at Las Vegas bachelor parties.

Every generation seems to grow up faster than the next. This, in part, is because of the availability of "adult" images on television and the Internet. Especially with the new phenomena of reality television, America is bombarded with real-life images of sex, profanity and violence simply by turning on the television.

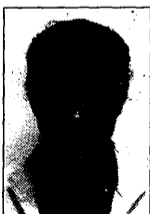
The commission has tried to limit children's accessibility to these images by prohibiting stations from airing shows with explicit sexuality

from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., hours when children are likely to be watching, according to federal law and an Oct. 13 Fox News article titled "Fox Disagrees With \$1.2 Million FCC Indecency Fine." Still, stations are pushing the limits. Fox aired the episode in question at 8 p.m. and 9 p.m., depending on the city.

The commission's decency guidelines are lenient, so networks have no reason not to comply. Even when profane language is bleeped out, it is not hard to figure out what someone said. According to the commission, even after Fox's editing and electronically obscured nudity, the sexual nature of the scenes on "Married" was inescapable. Though the nudity was pixilated, a child would have known that sexual activity was shown, according to the same Fox News article. The public should

SEE FOX, PAGE 19

## Freak dancing a modern twist



**Mary Andom**

COMMENTARY

Rap music pulsed in the background as one girl had her legs hanging in the air while a boy thrust her from behind. Another girl swiveled her hips and grinded on a guy whom she had never met. It is homecoming, and these 15-, 16-, 17-year-olds are having a good time. They are freak dancing, bumping and grinding, doing the nasty. This new dance craze is making parents, school officials and conservatives freak out.

And what may seem like harmless and innocent dancing to teenagers has become a moral battle in middle schools and high schools throughout the nation.

Putting restrictions on freak

dancing is denying students their freedom of expression.

Kamiak High School in Mukilteo is the latest school to put a ban on freak dancing. According to an Oct. 16 Seattle Times article, Kamiak Principal Keith Rittel threatened to cancel homecoming if any students participated in provocative dance moves. Kamiak students protested the ban by organizing an alternative dance in which they could dance freely. According to a Feb. 2001 Washington Post article, the principal of Yorktown High School in Arlington, Va., allowed a homecoming dance only after the student government made students sign contracts to "stay classy." School officials in Bend, Ore., have equated freak dancing to having sex with clothes on, according to a March 17, 2004 Associated Press article.

But negative reactions to dancing are nothing new. For centuries, risqué dance has been on the

forefront of societal consciousness. In the 1800s, pastors condemned dancing as evil because of the immorality and vices of physical contact. In the 1950s, many adults condemned Chubby Checker and "the Twist." Parents of these generations were concerned by the rebellious behavior of teenagers. Prohibiting dance was a way to reinforce morality.

Freak dancing became popular with the MTV generation through emergence of hip-hop, which has swept through dance clubs and school dances everywhere. Any 13- or 14-year-old watching a Christina Aguilera music video will emulate her, her scantily clad outfits and provocative dance moves. The reality is that the United States is a hyper-sexualized society, where young people are force-fed sex every time they turn on the television. Teens are taught in some schools

SEE DANCING, PAGE 19



## Letters to the editor

### Commentaries disparage women's issues

We are writing to address a disturbing trend that has recently emerged at The Western Front. Within three days of each other, the "Opinions" section featured two pieces that refer to women and women's issues as "unimportant."

The first appeared on Oct. 5 and was titled "Prostitution victimless, unimportant." Our objection lies in the assertion that prostitution is victimless because it is consensual.

The author is tragically mistaken. A report published in 1998 in Women & Health Magazine found that 82 percent of prostitutes had been physically assaulted while working; 68 percent had been raped. Numerous other studies document physical and sexual violence from both clients and pimps. In many cases, these women were victims of similar violence as children and have, in fact, been victims all of their lives. For this reason, we cannot accept the claim that prostitution is "victimless and unimportant." The second ran on Oct. 8 and

carried the headline "First ladies overrated, unimportant, overblown." Incidentally, this commentary was authored by the same individual and refers to presidents' wives as "nothing more than pawns."

These statements minimize women and convey subtle misogynistic overtones. We recognize the journalistic tradition of modest sensationalism as well as the editorial disclaimer, but we believe that neither one removes the expectation of and need for accountability. This apparent disregard for women conveys the wrong message to the students on our campus and undermines the valued atmosphere of equality.

—Erik Frank and Andrew Bruch,  
Western Men Against Violence

### Debate shows political stereotypes

Does "promoting diversity" on Western's campus merely perpetuate stereotypes of minorities?

I attended a lively debate at Western on Oct. 14. Carol Moseley

Braun, a liberal, black former U.S. senator, debated conservative columnist John Podhoretz. During the question period, Braun, who had made a primary run for president, was asked whether she thought the United States was ready for a black female president. She gracefully skirted the race issue and talked about being a female politician. She said that the chief impediment was campaign fund raising. Her remarks were received warmly by the audience.

Podhoretz's reply was short—he said, "Yes — Condi Rice in '08!" That response was greeted with jeering and boos from the largely student audience, who had been polite through most of the debate.

National-security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, a black woman, is an accomplished policy adviser and a powerful figure in the Bush administration. It seems that "respect for diversity" at Western does not extend to diversity of ideas, opinions, or politics. Apparently, blacks who stray off the liberal plantation are not extended the same good will as those who fit comfortably within the black liberal stereotype. I think

any minority students in attendance received a powerful message from the audience reaction.

—Jean Freestone,  
Western alumna

### Article misrepresents merits of instant runoff voting

A recent story that painted a glowing picture of instant runoff voting ("Initiative could eliminate primary system," Oct. 5, 2004) does your readers a disservice. By merely quoting people without actually investigating this voting method, most readers will remain unaware of its serious shortcomings. Instant runoff voting seems to be a way in which "people who support third-party candidates may have less fear of losing their vote because they have a secondary choice." However, this fear is illusory.

Instant runoff voting is, in terms of its effects, exactly like the current system, as long as minor parties cannot possibly win. Once a minor party is really competitive, IRV suffers the same spoiler effects as our current system.

A brief example: say I prefer the

Green Party candidate, then the Democrat, then the Republican. In today's system, I might be afraid to vote for the Green in fear of causing the Republican to win. In IRV, I would rank the candidates in order of preference, and assuming the Green gets eliminated, then my vote is for the Democrat (in effect, the same rational vote I would make in our current system). However, say the Greens are doing very well, and the Democrat gets eliminated first. Then all the Democrat votes get transferred to the No. 2 ballot choices.

Unless all of these go to the Green candidate, the Republican might win. So my vote for the Green will have helped the Republican to win! Had I voted Democrat-Green-Republican, the Democrat would have won. So I should have voted defensively for the Democrat, for the lesser of two evils, just exactly as in today's system.

I encourage people to educate themselves about alternate voting methods that can improve our society.

—Dave Hirsch, Western  
assistant geology professor

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running the  
latest software.*



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