

IN THE FRONT



Thermals to heat up VU
PAGE 8

FEATURES

Taking action for Darfur
PAGE 10

SPORTS

PAGE 12

WEATHER

Friday
44°/35°



Saturday
47°/36°

Sunday
46°/32°



INDEX

A&E.....	7
Upcoming.....	9
On the Menu.....	9
Features.....	10
Sports.....	12
Sports Columnist.....	12
Opinions.....	14
Frontline.....	14
Columnist.....	14
Viking Voices.....	15

Construction continues, sculpture to be moved

Facilities Management: minimal impacts should be expected as new center is built

Greg Applegate
THE WESTERN FRONT

Dirty shoes and cell phone conversations muffled by construction equipment should be the only impacts for students, faculty and staff walking on south campus as construction continues over the next few weeks.

Rick Benner, Western's assistant director of planning, design and construction said impacts should be minimal.

"Right now, I think most everything has been put in place as far as the impacts to the students," Benner said. "Pedestrian walkways and the vehicular changes have already been implemented. I don't foresee anything in the next few weeks other than the continuation of what they're doing right now."

Dawson Construction began working on the 120,000-square-foot Academic Instruction Facility (AIC) on Feb. 12. The AIC will have two wings connected by a sky bridge. One wing will have lecture halls, classrooms and computer labs and the other will provide areas for the psychology department and the communication sciences and disorders department.

Benner said Dawson Construction completed demolishing the tennis courts and the area where the Visitor Information Center used to be. He said the area will be used for the main access road for construction vehicles but



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Construction of the Academic Instruction Center, just outside the Communications Facility, began Feb. 12.

he doesn't expect a significant number of trucks to use it.

Dirt-crew foreman Erik Sleveland said trucks will drive directly into the fenced-off area and, if needed, a flagging crew will accompany larger trucks. He said he doesn't expect there to be significant impact for students or pedestrians on south campus.

Benner said they are still in the beginning stages and have started the prep work for the site so they can begin construction of the facility. He said Dawson Construction put

in temporary power, a parking area, a construction staging area and temporary storm water collection tanks to get the site ready to start the excavation process.

Sleveland said trucks will begin hauling in 40-foot trailers on Feb. 26. He expects two of the four trailers to be in place by the end of the week of Feb. 26. He said the trailers will be used for tool storage and as dry shacks for the crew.

On-site offices will be brought in for administrators overseeing the project and

superintendents from Dawson Construction.

He said the two wings of the AIC will be constructed simultaneously and expects the crew to peak at 100 members within the estimated 16-month construction period. Sleveland said the crew works 6 days per week from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sleveland said they are working on moving the abstract stairway, "Stadium Piece" north approximately 150 to 200 feet. He said the 50-foot-long

see **AIC** page 5 ▶

Helping deal with hardship

On-campus resources available for students seeking help coping with stress, anxiety

Andy Campbell
THE WESTERN FRONT

The death of a Western student Alex Pempe on Feb. 8 affected hundreds of people, as exemplified by the numerous comments in his Facebook group, "In Loving Memory: Alexander Pempe." In the wake of a tragedy, students attempting to reach out have multiple avenues of on- and off-campus help at Western.

Approximately 20 to 25 percent of Western students are currently feeling symptoms of stress, sadness or anxiety that negatively affect their academic work, said Dr. Emily Gibson, director of the Student Health Center.

She said the percentage is standard among American universities, but Western students have access to more free psychiatric services than any other demographic group in Bellingham.

"It's our job to determine if symptoms are caused by an illness or a physical

symptom related to mental health," Gibson said.

The health center offers a questionnaire on its Web site for students who don't know if they need psychiatric care. After the test measures the student's symptoms, it is sent directly to a psychiatric staff member, such as Gibson, for a same-day review.

"We know a lot of students access our services," Gibson said. "But sometimes there is a stigma to say 'I need help,' especially in men."

If the staff decides a student needs psychiatric assistance, they can be referred to a health center or counseling center professional for advice, or in some cases, medication.

Gibson said the health center follows more than 1,500 people on medication for mood disorders, including Attention

Deficit Disorder.

"We try to problem-solve before implementing medication," Gibson said. "But there are a large percentage of students who benefit greatly from their medication."

Western's Counseling Center offers self-help resources on its Web site, as well as an on-call social worker available at all times for emergencies, said Dr. Nancy Corbin, director of the Counseling Center.

Free, appointment-based services are available at the Counseling Center to students with life problems and emotional concerns. Specific hours for crisis appointments, and an emergency crisis line is available.

To help cope with depression triggered by the loss of a loved one, Dr. Toi Geil

see **SUICIDE** page 5 ▶

"Sometimes there is a stigma to say, 'I need help.'"

- Dr. Emily Gibson
director of the Student Health Center

>> News Briefs <<

Planetarium show shoots into the past Feb. 23

The last chance to see the spiral galaxy Andromeda and the ultra-bright Orion Nebula during "Winter Skies," a planetarium show, will be at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 23 in Haggard Hall 313. The show is \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public.

Students to perform for V-Day

Western students will take the stage to share their own stories and experiences in the "Vagina Memoirs," to raise awareness about V-Day, the campaign to end violence against women on a global scale. The performances will take place at 7 p.m. on Feb. 24 at the Fairhaven Public Library.

Donations will be accepted at the door with all proceeds going to Lummi Victims of Crime and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services.

ACLU representative to present on 'Net Neutrality'

Christina Brummond from the American Civil Liberties Union-Washington will present on current restrictions that hinder people's right to a free and open Internet at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27 in Communications 125. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Theatre Arts Chair to present as part of Turning Points lecture series

Department of Theatre Arts Chair Gregory Pulver will present "Feminism and Costume History" at 5:15 p.m. on March

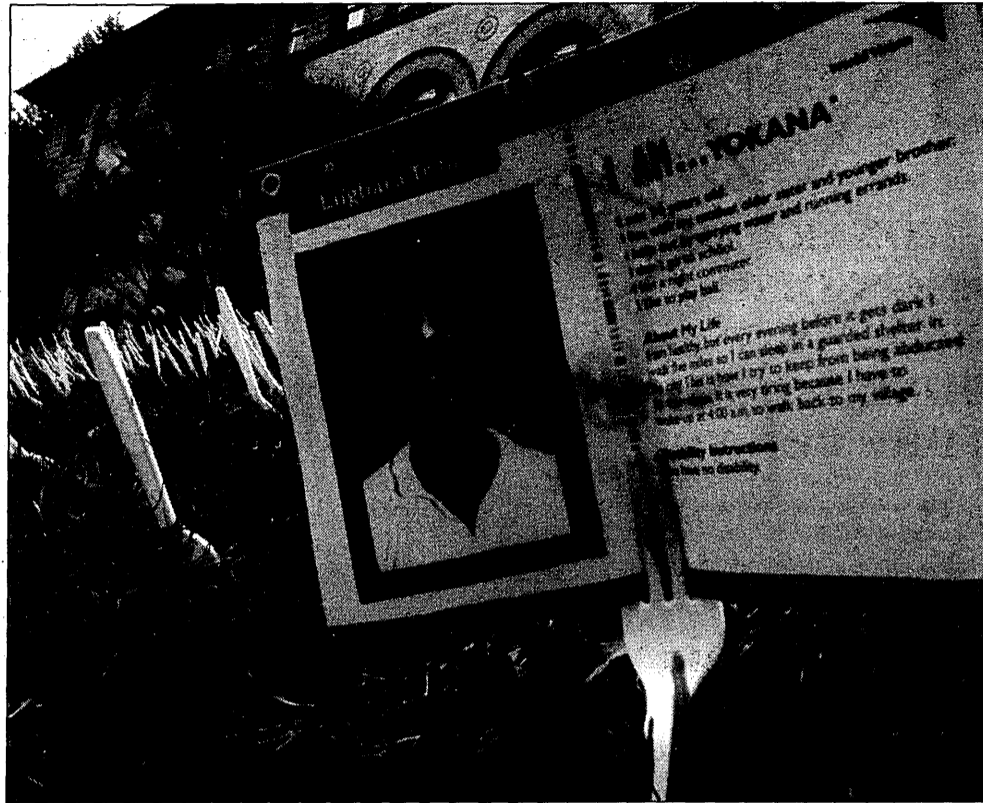


photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Forks sit in the lawn in front of Old Main on Feb. 22 as part of a promotion for the 30-Hour Famine. Each one of the 1,208 forks represents a child who dies every hour from preventable, hunger-related disease. As part of the 30-Hour Famine, 100 local participants will fast for 30 hours starting at noon on Feb. 23. Information compiled by Christian Saxton

7 in Communications Facility 110. The presentation is part of WWU's Turning Points Faculty lecture series and is free and open to the public.

Multipurpose Room. The celebration is free and open to the public.

Performances to honor National Women of Color Day

Western's Ethnic Student Center will honor National Women of Color Day with hip-hop and spoken word performances at 7 p.m. on March 1 in the Viking Union

Festival to showcase local jazz artists

The first Bellingham Bay Vocal Jazz Festival will be held at 7 p.m. on March 15 in Arnzten Hall 100. Tickets for the festival are \$7 for students and \$12 for the general public.

Compiled by Amanda Howe and The Western Front staff

Corrections

>In the News Briefs section on page 2 of the Feb. 16 edition, the STAND Darfur Benefit Concert is \$5 for Western students with a student I.D. and \$10 for general admission.

The Western Front regrets this and any other errors. Errors should be reported immediately to the Editor-in-chief at thewesternfronteditor@yahoo.com.

THE WESTERN FRONT

WesternFrontOnline.com

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The Western Front is published twice weekly in the fall, winter, and spring quarters and once a week in the summer session. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors. Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in CF 230 or by phone at 650-3161. Members of the Western community are entitled to a single free copy of each issue of The Western Front.

Cops Box

Campus Police

- Feb. 16, 9:20 p.m.: Police responded to a report of an intoxicated student passed out in a hallway at the Kappa dormitories.
- Feb. 17, 12:35 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a loud party at the Fairhaven Complex residence halls.
- Feb. 20, 8:10 p.m.: Police responded to a report of a stolen cell phone at the Wade King Student Recreation Center.
- Feb. 21, 5:18 a.m.: Police responded to a report of a transient who was reportedly sleeping in a bathroom at the Viking Union.

Bellingham Police

- Feb. 18, 11:00 p.m.: Police arrested a 39-year-old woman and a 40-year-old man on suspicion of theft of gasoline at the 3100 block of the Old Fairhaven Parkway.
- Feb. 19, 12:00 p.m.: Police responded to a report of possible fraud in the amount of over \$16,000 in an eBay car auction originating in Bellingham.
- Feb. 20, 6:07 a.m.: Police arrested a 50-year-old woman on suspicion of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.
- Feb. 21, 1:41 a.m.: Police arrested a 21-year-old man on suspicion of driving under the influence during a traffic stop on the 2600 block of Patton Street.

Compiled by Aaron Weinberg

WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

Deadline for announcements in this space is 10:00 a.m. on the day before the announcement. Announcements should be sent to FAX707@v.wa.edu. In the subject line, include the name of the announcement. Announcements should also be sent to: Official Announcements, 3190 Old Main, Bellingham, WA 98225. ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT Printed announcements will not be published.

- TESTING SCHEDULES** for winter quarter may be viewed at www.ac.wvu.edu/~assess/tc.htm.
- THE MATH PLACEMENT TEST** will be given in OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on Feb. 26, March 5, 12, and 19, and at 9 a.m. Thursdays on March 1, 8, and 15. Registration is not required. Students must bring picture identification, their student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A fee of \$15 is payable in the exact amount at time of testing. Allow 90 minutes.
- THE MILLER ANALOGIES TEST** is offered by appointment only. Make an appointment in person in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. A \$60 fee is payable at time of test. Test takes approximately 1 1/2 hours. Preliminary scores will be available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days.
- FACULTY ARE REMINDED THAT RESERVED PARKING SPACES** are available for their use after hours and weekends with a valid parking permit or bus pass, as posted in lots 10G, 17G and Parks Hall.
- TAKE A BREAK FROM WINTER**, explore summer at the Summer Session Fun Fair scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 26 in the VU Multipurpose Room. Faculty and staff are invited to exhibit their summer offerings. For exhibitor table reservations or fair details, contact Kathy Bailey at X/2841 or Kathy.Bailey@wwu.edu.
- COLOMBIAN CHEF TO VISIT WWU.** Executive chef Joaquin Suarez from Bogota, Colombia, will visit campus Feb. 26-March 2. He will present an "Authentic Colombian Lunch" in the Viking Union Market from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on Feb. 27, and a dinner, "Flavors of South America," at Fairhaven Commons from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. on March 1. Lunch costs \$4.99 and dinner \$ 10.35. For more information, call Lisa North at X/2970.
- WEST-B TEST.** Anyone applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs are required to meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit www.west.nesinc.com for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Remaining test dates for the current academic year are March 10, May 12, and July 14. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance.
- REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CAMPUS COMPACT CONFERENCE.** Friday, March 30, is the online deadline to register for the Western Region Campus Compact Consortium continuums of service conference, "Catching Waves: Using Engagement to Address Critical Issues." The conference will be April 12-14 in San Jose, Calif. To register, visit <http://www.acadweb.wvu.edu/campcomp/onlineereg.html>.
- DEPOSITS ARE DUE BEFORE APRIL 1 FOR PRIORITY CONSIDERATION** for "Rainforest Immersion and Conservation Action" in Costa Rica June 26-Aug. 3. Participants can earn 10 credits. Cost is \$4,000 plus airfare, with a \$100 nonrefundable deposit and another \$100 for nonresident students. For financial aid options and eligibility, call X/3470.
- WEST-E PRAXIS.** Washington state requires individuals seeking teacher certification and teachers seeking additional endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment in the chosen endorsement area. The state has chosen specific Praxis II series tests to meet this requirement, now referred to as the WEST-E Praxis. Visit www.ets.org/praxis/prxwa.html for a description and online registration information. Registration bulletins are also available in MH 216.
- FOR GROUP OFFERINGS AND WORKSHOPS AT THE COUNSELING CENTER** this quarter, visit www.wvu.edu/chw/counseling. For more information call X/3164.

On-campus recruiting

For complete, updated information, see www.careers.wvu.edu or stop by Old Main 280.

□ FEB. 23: • Apex Systems, Inc.; □ FEB. 26: • Washington Mutual Bank; □ MARCH 1: • Aerotek, Inc.; □ MARCH 8: • Fund for Public Interest Research; □ MARCH 8-9: • Microsoft Corp.

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Student, university committees seek members

Aaron Weinberg
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western alumna and Parking Appeals Board member Mimi Gentry said she recalled a story about a woman who received a parking ticket behind Arntzen Hall. Gentry said the woman had paid the wrong amount at the pay boxes because she was too short to see how much the parking meters cost.

The Parking Appeals Board is one of several university committees Western students can join. Many committees, such as the Academic Coordinating Commission and the General Education Requirement Committee have spots available for students to serve alongside

Western faculty and staff.

Gentry said one of her duties was to decide if this woman should pay her parking violation or if the board should waive it. She said she was initially skeptical after hearing about the woman's situation.

"This lady better be freaking short," Gentry said, recalling her thoughts prior to seeing the woman.

All doubts disappeared when the woman arrived at the meeting, standing just taller than 4 feet, with a photograph of her standing next to the parking meter towering two feet above her.

"I thought it was a really great excuse," Gentry said. "It was definitely

the best one we ever heard."

A list of university committees can be found on the Associated Students Web site.

The committees deal with a variety of issues, some of which include advising the Whatcom Transportation Authority, operating the Sehome Hill arboretum and updating and creating university emergency response plans.

Sanders said it's important for students to serve on these committees with faculty and staff.

"I think students bring a perspective to these committees that faculty members will sometimes take for granted or overlook," Sanders said. "As students, we have a better idea of campus cultures and what the campus needs."

In the Academic Coordinating Commission, students can voice these types of concerns when the committee makes decisions regarding Western's curriculum.

For instance, students know there isn't much of a difference between four- and five-credit classes and the workloads are practically the same, Sanders said.

Steven Dillman, a Western engineering technology professor, said he used to serve on the Parking Appeals Board, and said students have just as much voice as faculty and staff members.

"From my experience, everyone listens to everyone," Dillman said.

Genevieve Heater, administrator for the Parking Appeals Board, said it's

important to have students review parking tickets because it's closer to a jury of peers.

"I would say that 90 percent of the people appealing are students," Heater said.

Students should serve on committees because they gain valuable leadership experience, which gives students an advantage when applying for jobs, Sanders said.

After spending two and a half years on the Parking Appeals Board, Gentry said she thinks it probably looks good on an application, but for her it was more than just a way to beef up her resume. After receiving many parking tickets she thought were unwarranted, Gentry decided to take action.

"I was going to get into the system and change things," Gentry said.

At the time, Gentry was the only student serving on the board, but she said she liked how the other board members let her control the decisions at the meetings.

Gentry describes her time on the board as being a blast, and said she thinks any other student looking to make an impact on Western should look into joining a committee.

To join a committee, students can print out an application on the Associated Students Web site and turn it in at Viking Union room 504 or pick up an application there. The applications go to Associated Students Vice President James Sanders, who reviews them and appoints the students.

Want to join a committee?

The following committees currently have openings:

Associated Students Committees

Administrative Services Council
AS Bookstore Advisory Group
AS Election Board
AS KVIK Task Force
AS Promotions Committee
AS Publicity Center Committee

University Committees

Academic Coordinating Commission
Campus Dining Committee
Committee On The Assessment Of

Teaching & Learning
Departmentally Related Activities
Committee (DRAC)
Discrimination Complaint Review
Committee
Gay, Lesbian, And Bisexual Concerns
Committee
Student Publications Council
Student Rights And Responsibilities
Committee
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Council

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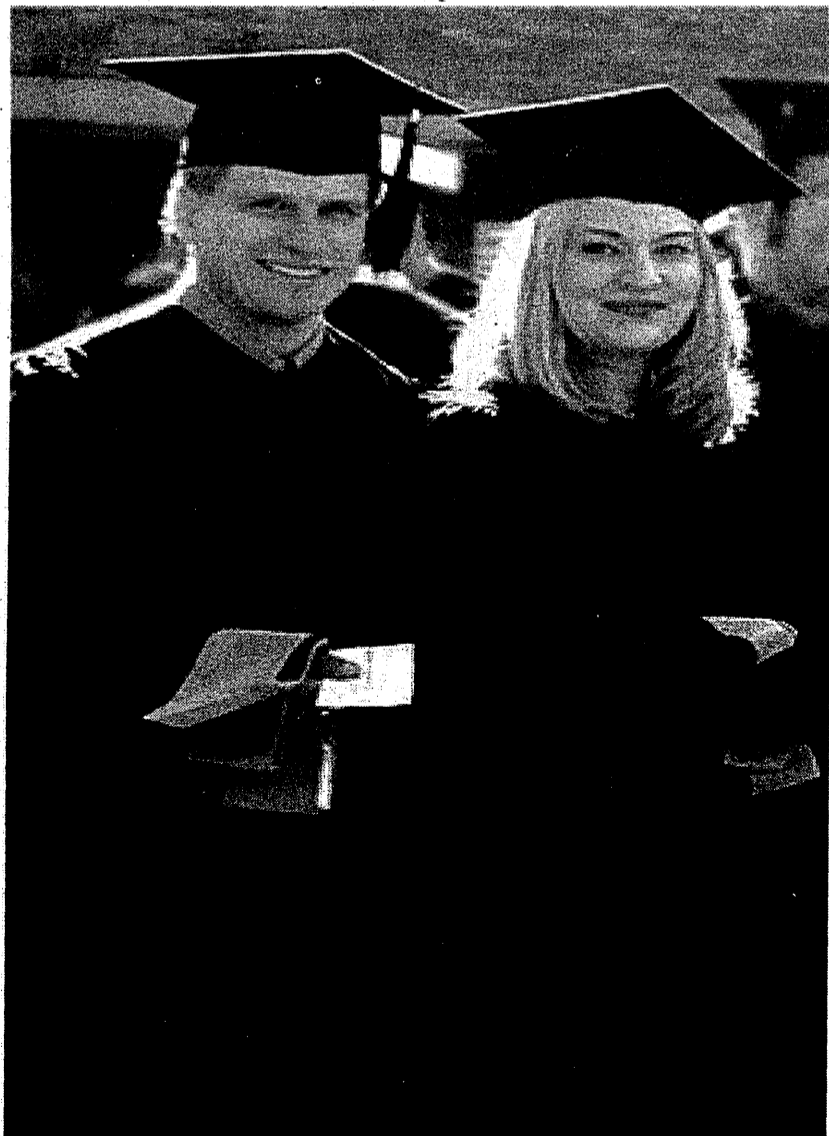
OPEN HOUSE & Information Session

February 27, 2007
6:00 p.m.

WWU Campus, Parks Hall, Room 441
Info 360-650-3898 or mba@wwu.edu
www.cbe.wwu.edu/mba



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Other sculptures to remain near construction site

► AIC from 1

sculpture will be jacked up on steel beams then placed on four dollies and pulled by a bulldozer to the dugout section just north of its current location.

Tim Wynn, Western's Facilities Management Director said moving the artwork isn't difficult and should only take about a day to move if

everything goes smoothly.

"Once it's in position, [we want to make sure] it accomplishes the artistic goals of the artist," Wynn said. "So we can't mess up the sculpture and say, 'hey here's your sculpture back.'"

The other two nearby pieces of art, the "Stone Enclosure: Rock Rings," and the untitled steaming rocks just south of the Communications

Facility within the fenced-off area will not be moved.

Both Benner and Wynn said they appreciate the Western community for its cooperation.

"We appreciate the students, faculty and staff," Benner said. "I know it's an inconvenience but we appreciate their willingness to work with us to get it going."

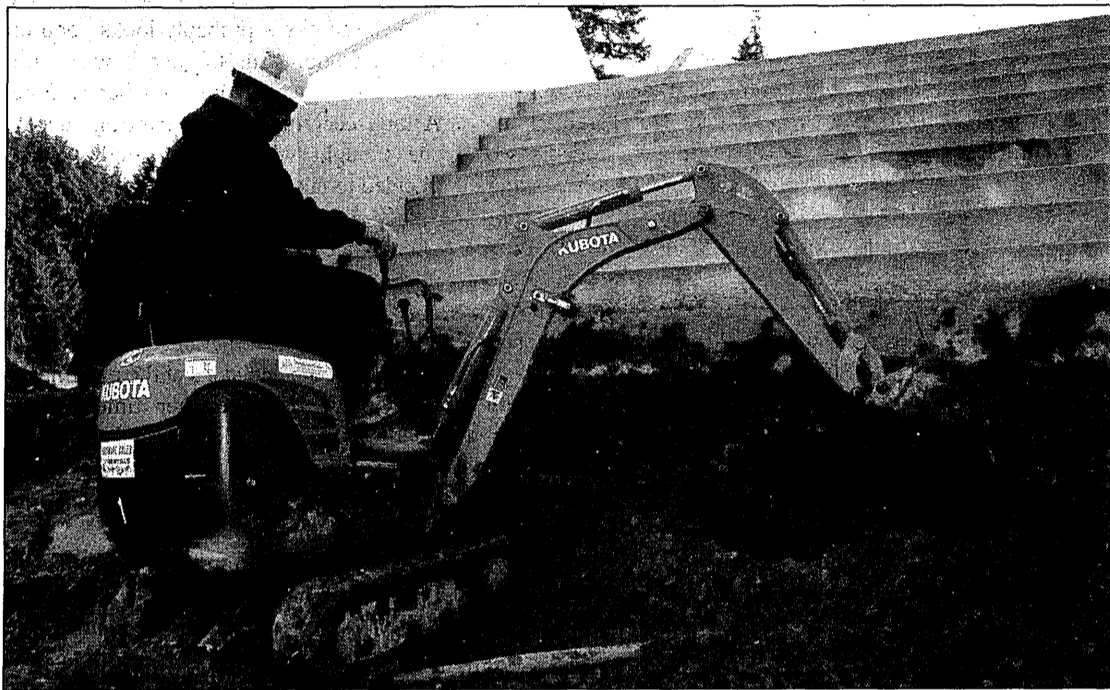


photo by Justin Steyer THE WESTERN FRONT

Travis Galbraith, Dawson Construction employee digs out the base of "Stadium Piece" to prepare for the sculpture to be moved a few hundred feet away on the south campus construction site.

Support groups available through counseling and health center

► SUICIDE from 1

and Dr. Maria Bakht from the Counseling Center started the Grief and Loss Group on Feb. 8.

Geil said the group is open only to students who sign up through the Counseling Center. It meets Thursdays from 3

to 4:20 p.m. until March 1, and additional group services are available to students who request them.

The St. Joseph Emergency Room also has social workers on call 24 hours per day, regardless of a student's insurance or the cost of care.

Orixis help

Western Counseling Center
360-650-3164

Counseling Center Crisis Hotline
1-800-584-3578

Western Student Health Center
360-650-3400

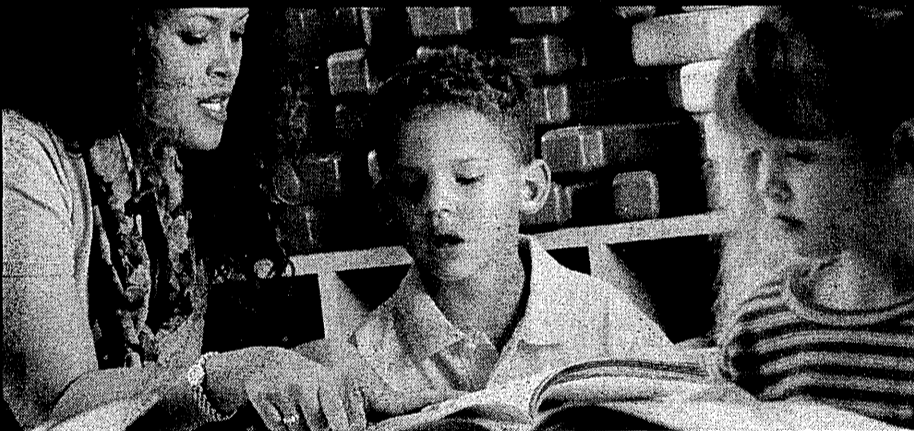
Student Health Center after-hours nurse
1-800-607-5501

St. Joseph Hospital 24-hour social worker service
360-754-5400

Student Health Center diagnosis questionnaire
<https://www.patientcenter.com/wwu/interview/welcome2.asp>

Compiled by Andy Campbell

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Archbishop to visit Catholic Campus Ministry

Alexander Brunett will take part in Sunday Mass and bless new ministry location

COLIN SIMPSON
THE WESTERN FRONT

Archbishop Alexander Brunett of the Archdiocese of Seattle will visit Bellingham on Feb. 25 to observe the Catholic Campus Ministry's (CCM) Newman Center on North Garden Street.

Archbishop Brunett will bless the new location, which has been under major renovations since it moved from the Shalom Center last summer, said campus Minister Rachael Becker.

Archbishop Brunett, who is the pope's representative for all of Western Washington, will also take part in the 6:30 p.m. Sunday Mass service in the Viking Union's Multipurpose Room.

Becker said the Archbishop's visit comes at a perfect time, as CCM's largest retreat of the year, Search Weekend Retreat, will end with the Sunday Mass service.

"It's the first time [the Archbishop] will have ever celebrated Mass with the students [at Western]," Becker said. "I

hope that he will see the vibrant ministry that we have created."

In addition to the move from the Shalom Center to the Newman Center, the CCM has developed a 10-year plan to create a more accommodating and permanent place for worship, instead of using the Viking Union every week. The CCM plans to expand the Newman Center by purchasing the land around the center, Becker said.

"It may be where we're at now, or somewhere else depending on where property becomes available for what we need," Becker said.

Youth ministry is important on campuses because students need the opportunity to experience their faith, especially when they are away from home, said Greg Magnoni, Archdiocese of Seattle spokesman.

"It's a resource for the entire archdioceses," Magnoni said. "We were just really happy that we were able to find this new property so we could keep

the Newman Center."

Archbishop Brunett helped provide resources for the development of the Newman Center, which filled a tremendous need for the students, Magnoni said.

Brunett, born in Detroit, Mich., filled numerous clergy positions around Michigan until 1994 when Pope John Paul II named him Bishop of Helena, Mont.

In 1997 the pope named Brunett Archbishop of Seattle, a position which leads the archdiocese spanning from Blaine to Vancouver, Wash.

He has also served on numerous committees on international and religious relations, as well as co-creating the Ecumenical Institute for Jewish-Christian Studies.

Along with Brunett, attending the Mass will be Father Nguyen of Sacred Heart Church, Father Frank Schuster of the Church of the Assumption and Father Paul Magnano, the Vicar for Clergy for the Archdiocese of Seattle.



photo courtesy of the Archdiocese of Seattle

Archbishop Alexander Brunett will be coming to Western on Feb. 25. Brunett was named Archbishop of Western Washington in 1997 and this will be his first trip to Western.

Six minor in possession citations issued in Sigma residence

Nathan Seaburg
THE WESTERN FRONT

Six people, including four Western students, were issued minor in possession citations in the Sigma residence in the Ridgeway Complex in the early hours of Feb. 19 after police discovered a keg hidden in one of the resident's closets, said Sgt. David Garcia of the University Police.

Western students Joey Barbitto and Zach Mesmer were among those who were issued citations.

"We found the keg sitting next to a tree down on High Street," Barbitto said. "So we

brought it back [to the dorm]. It seemed logical at the time."

The students were spotted bringing the keg into the dorm by a green coat, who reported the incident to University Police, Garcia said.

"We just found an empty keg, brought it back and got busted for it."

- Joey Barbitto
Western student

Officers Joseph Alexander and Chris Davis responded quickly to the call, knocking on the door of Sigma 420 just

minutes after the students brought the keg in, Garcia said.

"All I heard was a knock pretty much right after we came in," Barbitto said. "I wouldn't have answered the door if I knew it was a cop."

Police arrested six of the students in the room, taking their information, administering sobriety tests and even handcuffing a student after he provided a false name. All were released at the scene after the police gave them their citations.

The police did find other containers of alcohol in the dorm other than the keg, Garcia said.

Mesmer said he feels guilty for the students who got caught in the situation.

"I feel ashamed for the people that didn't actually do anything," he said. "Some of the people who got MIP's were just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The possession of alcohol by minors in the dorms is a persistent problem, said Michael Sledge, Western Residence Life judicial officer.

"Our policy says that if you are a minor, have alcohol in your possession or in your body, then you are in violation," he said. "We have a blanket ban

on kegs regardless of age."

In addition to the MIP, students may face disciplinary action from the university, Sledge said. Residence Life takes many factors, including the quantity of alcohol and the resident's intent, into account when discussing university action, he said.

"We weren't trying to have a party," Barbitto said. "We just found an empty keg, brought it back and got busted for it."

When asked if the students were drinking the night they were issued their citations, both Barbitto and Mesmer declined to comment.

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Brenda Beehler
THE WESTERN FRONT

Dozens of people in the audience exploded in laughter Sunday night as the all-female cast of "The Vagina Monologues" imitated orgasms on stage. Dressed in everything from black short skirts and stilettos to Converse sneakers, the women swaggered, shook, cried and smiled their way through the two-hour performance.

Approximately a thousand people attended the monologues, which were performed by Western students and one community member Feb. 16 through 18 at the Performing Arts Center. Proceeds from the monologues will benefit Lummi Victims of Crime, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services and women in conflict zones all over the world.

Cast member and Western sophomore Melanie Estes entertained the audience as she paced like a lion across the stage performing a piece titled, "My Angry Vagina." She said she related to the play's themes and found cast mates to be a comfort and the experience therapeutic.

"The audience gave me chills at some points 'cause I could see some of the women; I could hear them," Estes said. "Just hearing their empathy and knowing that they're making a connection somewhere in their head."

Activist and writer Eve Ensler wrote the monologues in 1996 based on more than 200 interviews she conducted with women of every age and background regarding their vaginas.

Some of the monologues are biographical, while others are a composite of many women's stories. Since then, Ensler's play has been re-enacted around the world, from Israel to Kenya to Bellingham, with a majority of the performances being held on college campuses.

The monologues cover topics such as women who love other women, men who worship vaginas, transgendered women's journeys, childbirth, periods, genital mutilation and what vaginas would say if they could speak.

Estes, a self-declared feminist and peer counselor through Women's Empowerment And Violence Education (WEAVE) said she realized the importance of the play's message after she saw half the monologues last year and grappled with women's issues in her own life.

"Going into 'The Vagina Monologues' and joining WEAVE and starting to read feminists' books and starting to read theories basically saved my life," she said. "And so I was like, 'This needs to save other women's lives.'"

The Associated Students Women's Center sponsored "The Vagina Monologues." Jessica Tracey and Rhiannon

Trozzi Andreini, the center's co-coordinators and play co-directors, said they assigned the monologues to the cast to help the women grow personally.

"It was amazing to see what the monologues did for different people," Tracey said.

Western juniors Kristy Diepenheim and Stacey Kamada attended the performance and said they enjoyed the play because it was supportive of women and allows women to express themselves.

"It's a place where women can say anything and do anything," Kamada said.

Diepenheim, who has seen the monologues performed before, said she was impressed by the cast and its presentation of the material.

"I think it's a really admirable thing that they do," she said.

The audience seemed to agree. At the end of the final performance Sunday night the crowd stood and cheered as the cast clapped right along with them.

Throughout this week women will also be performing their own monologues as "The Vagina Memoirs." The memoirs will take place at 7 p.m. from Feb. 20 through 24.

Friday's performance will be held at the Fairhaven Public Library and Saturday's at the YWCA Ballroom on N. Forest Street.

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MENU

Entrée

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Dessert

Rice Pudding
Fountain Beverage

Plato Principal

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Postre

Arroz con Leche
Bebida Soda Pozo

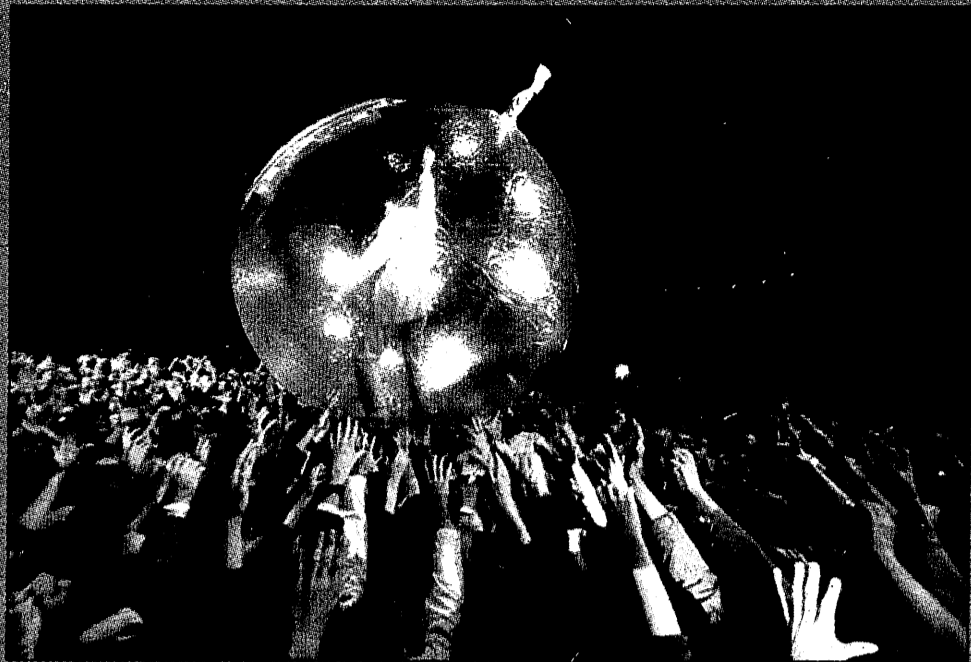


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Sasquatch! Music Festival comes out of hibernation



The Flaming Lips front man Wayne Coyne cruises the crowd in his infamous hamster ball at last year's Sasquatch! Music Festival at The Gorge Amphitheatre.

Annual Memorial Day weekend festival announces 2007 line-up with two days of acts, old and new

Sasquatch! Music Festival

May 26 through 27
The Gorge Amphitheatre
George, Wash.

Tickets on sale starting March 3:
March 3 through 4: \$55 / day
March 5 through May 20: \$65 / day
May 21 through 27: \$75 / day

Camping @ The Gorge:
\$40 per vehicle / day

The 5th-annual Sasquatch! Music Festival line-up was announced Feb. 20. Each year the Memorial Day weekend festival showcases what the Pacific Northwest music scene has to offer, along with help from notable big name national acts. The event spans two days, three stages, and is illuminated by the backdrop of the Columbia River Gorge.

In the past few years the festival has played host to acts such as *Incubus*, *Dead & Company*, *Grass*, *The Grifters*, *Queens of the Stone Age*, *Lucy Liu*, *The Pines*, *The Roots*, *Beard of Lions*, *Clay Aiken*, *Say Hello to the Family*, *The Roots*, *Clay Aiken*, *TV on the Radio*, *Phish*, *Neil Young* and *Neil Young*.

Western Front's who are sponsoring the festival have named one of Western Front's Production Pop Music's shows this year of year have a special chance to catch some of the acts who have performed on campus in the past few months at this year's Sasquatch! Music Festival.

This year's festival features a mix of old and new acts, from the likes of The Roots to the touching Sunday line-up that includes some of the best acts in the scene and late 60's psychedelic revivalist The Dandy Warhols.

Organizers say this is only the preliminary line-up, and more acts are to be announced in the coming weeks.

2007 Sasquatch! Festival Line-Up

Saturday, May 26

Bjork || The Arcade Fire || Manu Chao and Radio Bemba Sound System || M.I.A. || Citizen Cope || Neko Case* || The Hold Steady || Ghostland Observatory || Grizzly Bear || Electrelane || Two Gallants || Loney Dear || The Slip || The Thermals* || The Blow || Aqueduct* || Viva Voce || Gabriel Teodros*

Sunday, May 27

Beastie Boys || Interpol || Michael Franti & Spearhead || Spoon || Ozomatli || Bad Brains || The Dandy Warhols || The Black Angels || Tokyo Police Club || Money Mark || Mirah || St. Vincent || Jesse Sykes & The Sweet Hereafter || Common Market* || Smoosh || The Hello Sequence || Minus The Bear*

* - Have played at Western this year.

Compiled by Western Front staff



The Thermals, from left to right: Kathy Foster, Jordan Hudson and Hutch Harris. The Thermals released their latest album, 'The Body, The Blood, The Machine,' in August. The band will play tonight at the Viking Union Multipurpose Room with Seattle band The Divorce.

It's h

In the past year into politics, cri

Andrew Lawrence
THE WESTERN FRONT

Picture a band that turned down \$50,000 from the Hummer company to have one of their songs appear in a commercial, and whose latest album, produced by a member of the band Fugazi, envisions a future America ruled with an iron fist by ultra-conservative organizations.

By that description, the phrase "loud hyper-pop" might not seem applicable, but that's precisely how bassist Kathy Foster describes The Thermals sound.

Fresh off the success of their critically acclaimed third album, "The Body, The Blood, The Machine," Portland, Ore.'s The Thermals bring their brand of post-something rock to campus at 7 p.m. on Feb. 23 in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room along with openers The Divorce, The Blow and Screaming Club.

While making an upbeat, catchy and danceable album that envisions the United States of the near future as a fascist Christian dystopia might not have been an easy project, it also wasn't one that was planned from the start, said Foster.

"It wasn't a conscious decision at first, it just kind of ended up that way," she said.

The album gained inclusion on numerous "best of 2006" lists, including the Onion's A.V. Club, Spin Magazine, National Public Radio and online tastemakers Pitchfork. Since its release last August, the album has sold more than 12,000 copies, said Joan Hiller of Sub Pop Records.

She said the label will also be releasing the band's next

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album,"
The
Canty, d



photo courtesy of Sub-Pop Records

ased its third album "The Body, The Blood, The Machine" in 2006, and garnered critical acclaim from media outlets across the board. The Portland, Ore., Olympia's Scream Club and Anacortes', The Oregon Donor.

eating up

, The Thermals have stumbled critical acclaim and now Western

which Foster says will be quite different than the last one, in the lyrics end of things. At this point we're thinking that it won't have any political in it," Foster said. "The theme of this record has been a cal point of the record, but we're also fine with people ng into the lyrics and just enjoying the music. We want the next record more broad, 'cause a theme like this can alienate people."

The Thermals
 W/ The Divorce, The Oregon Donor,
 Scream Club
 7 p.m. Feb. 23
 Viking Union Multipurpose Room
 \$8 students / \$10 general admission

ile their last album, 2004's "Fuckin' A" was consciously and affected, "The Body, The Blood, The Machine" more natural, Foster said. e didn't try to make it as scratchy or trashy as the last she said. "We really wanted it to be bigger and louder." album also benefits from the help of producer Brendan drummer for the punk band Fugazi. Foster said the band

first met Canty when they recorded a song for Canty's Burn To Shine DVD series, in which local bands in different cities across the country spend a day playing music in a house the day before the fire department burns it down.

"We came to the studio pretty much with everything worked out," Foster said. "He just really wanted us to make the record we wanted; he didn't have his own agenda."

This latest tour, which includes 30 shows in less than two months, is their first headlining tour in the United States in several years, Foster said.

Their last tour, a European jaunt in November and December of last year, took them from Ireland to Croatia and many points between, she said. This was their sixth tour of Europe, and it garnered a great response.

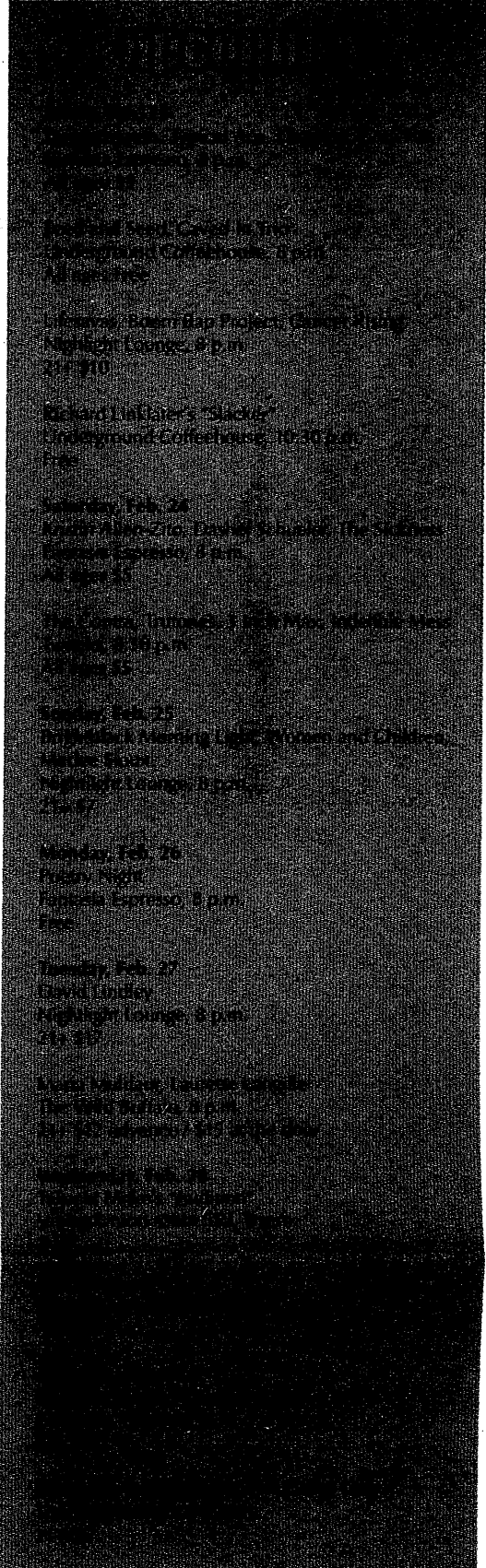
"Our music does pretty well over there; at least it caught on quicker over there," she said. "Now I think the U.S. is kind of playing catch-up."

She said the biggest difference between touring in the United States and Europe is the crowds.

"Sometimes people in the U.S. can be more reserved," she said. "There are places in the U.S. where people let loose, but it happens more often when we're in Europe."

The band will also perform on May 26 at the Sasquatch! Music Festival, which also includes Bjork, The Beastie Boys, The Hold Steady, Bad Brains, The Arcade Fire, Interpol and M.I.A.

Tickets for Friday's show are \$8 for Western students and \$10 general admission.



Meals on Wheels ON THE MENU

- 1) **Tacos Tecalitlan #2** - a chrome-paneled GMC truck that offers tacos, burritos and tortas. They charge \$1.25 for a taco with choice of meat, onion and cilantro, and \$3 for a torta or burrito with choice of meat, jalapeno, avocado and cabbage. Steak, pork, tongue, cheek or brain is the meat option. Located at the gravel parking lot on the Northwest corner of Smith and Guide Meridian.
- 2) **Super Marios** - serves Salvadorian food out of a white GMC Kurbmaster truck. In addition to tacos, tortas and burritos, they offer taquitos, sweet corn tamales and papusa, a corn tortilla filled with bean, cheese and pork. At \$7.50, chicken fajitas are the most expensive item on the menu. Their meat selection includes chicken, steak, pork and tongue. Located at the S.W. corner of N Forest Street and E Champion Street.
- 3) **Great Northern Subs & Espresso** - serves six-inch and foot-long submarine sandwiches and soup. They offer 16 different subs. Prices vary form \$3 to \$6 for a sub and \$2 for chips and a drink. Six tables and a furnace line the wall of the red rail road box car. Mill Ave and 12th St.
- 4) **Jacci's Fish & Chips** - serves fish and chips out of a red Regent double-decker bus in Fairhaven. They offer halibut, cod and salmon for their two-piece, three-piece, or four-piece plates. They sell clam chowder they claim uses organic vegetable and local clams and has no bacon or chicken broth. 1020 Harris Ave.

Compiled by Kelly Lemons

STANDING UP FOR DARFUR

Kyra Low
THE WESTERN FRONT

Ten Western students sit around a rectangular table, juggling ideas back and forth and tossing questions around. All are there for the same purpose: to speak up and raise money for those afflicted by the civil conflict that began in 2003 in the Darfur region of Sudan in Northern Africa. These members of the Western chapter of Students Taking Action Now for Darfur (STAND) meet every Tuesday night on campus.

The group speaks out about the conflict in Darfur by tabling, writing letters to Congress and holding benefit events, said Mackenzie Miller, STAND co-founder and Western junior.

"The goal is to educate the community and campus about the humanitarian crisis that is going on," Miller said. "So many people don't even know about Darfur."

This quarter, STAND's main fundraising event is a benefit concert featuring local bands No-Fi Soul Rebellion, the Love Lights and Yes, oh Yes. The event will take place at 8 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room. Tickets cost \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission.

Proceeds from the concert will go to AmeriCares, which sends medical supplies to its teams in Darfur and humanitarian organizations Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee. For every \$100 AmeriCares receives, it donates \$3,000 in supplies, said Sheila Robinson, Western senior and club co-founder.

As a cultural anthropology major, STAND member and Western junior Lacey Rojas said she has always been interested in making a difference.

"Nowadays a global something happening to someone somewhere affects everyone," Rojas said. "There aren't really any walls anymore."

The U.S. government labeled the conflict a genocide in 2005, but the United Nations (UN) has not given the crisis the official title of genocide. The UN, however, has acknowledged that war crimes, such as the destruction of buildings, have been used for ethnic cleansing in the area, according to the UN's Web site.

"Since February 2003 the Sudanese government and government-sponsored military Janjaweed have been targeting the indigenous population through murder, organized starvation, rape and displacement," Robinson said. "More than 450,000 have died so far, hundreds die each day. Two and a half million have been forced to flee their homes and 3.5 million are dependent on aid."

The UN has cited the death toll at more than 200,000 people, with more than 2 million Sudanese displaced and approximately 4 million dependent on aid, according to the UN's Web site.

No agency has claimed to know the exact death toll in the Darfur region, many citing the lack of access to much of the area.

The first of the student chapters of STAND originated at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. in 2004, a year after the Darfur conflict began. The national organization came together in 2005. Now, chapters exist at more than 600 universities and high schools, Robinson said.

"It started for Darfur, but now it's anti-genocide," Robinson said.



photo courtesy of Sheila Robinson
STAND members Western junior Mackenzie Miller (left) and Western senior Sheila Robinson (right) sit with performer Alexander "Alexipharmic" Hallett (middle) at a Darfur benefit concert at The Nightlight Lounge on Jan. 26.

The club at Western began fall quarter when Robinson took a war and human rights class and wrote a paper on Darfur.

While researching for her paper, Robinson came across the national group of the same name and discovered Western didn't have a chapter.

Members of the group feel the international community hasn't responded enough to help in Darfur, Miller said.

"It's appalling to see that the international community is doing nothing at all," Miller said. "As students, we're one of the bigger groups of activists in history."

Milestones in the Darfur Conflict

March 2003	January 2004	March 2004	August 2004	September 2004	January 2005	December 2006
Fighting erupts in the Darfur region of Sudan in Northern Africa.	UN estimates 18,000 refugees escape to Chad during the week of Jan. 23.	UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Mukesh Kapila, compares Darfur situation to the Rwandan genocide of 1994.	UN estimates 1.2 million Sudanese are displaced.	The World Health Organization finds more than 200 displaced Sudanese in Darfur die every day.	Sudan government and southern rebels sign a peace deal, which ends the 21-year civil war with the south.	Sudan agrees to allow UN peacekeeping troops to occupy Darfur.

Information compiled from United Nations Web site and reports

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Group seeks to strengthen student-community ties

Sarah Mason
THE WESTERN FRONT

Between classes and homework, Western senior Elliott Smith said he hopes to improve campus relationships with the community.

He works on neighborhood projects, such as parking and rezoning issues, as a member of the York Neighborhood Association, a group of neighborhood members who gather to discuss ways of improving the area.

As the youngest member of the association, Smith serves as his neighborhood's representative to Western's Campus Community Coalition, a group which works to improve campus and community relationships.

"I've always had a passion for local politics," Smith said. "[A passion] which I don't think I share with many other students."

Smith works with locals who are equally passionate about the community, from business owners to the Bellingham Police Department, to solve common problems, such as loud parties.

Campus Community Coalition coordinator Lara Welker said the organization's goal is to build relationships between local residents, including students, business operators and police.

"We try to bring all these three groups together because they each have



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

The York Neighborhood Association meets at Nelson's Market Feb. 21. Western senior Elliott Smith represents the association at Campus Community Coalition meetings.

a say on how well the community will function," Welker said.

Western's coalition is organized into three branches: enforcement, which works to make police patrols more efficient around Bellingham; Late Night at WWU, which offers non-alcohol-related on-campus activities for students; and Neighborhoods Engaging with Students, which aims to educate and integrate students into their neighborhoods, Welker said.

Each coalition meeting allows members, such as Lt. Steve Felmley of the Bellingham Police Department, to discuss issues of concern.

Felmley said he appreciates the opportunity to communicate face-to-face with students and other residents to create a more understanding relationship between community members and the police department.

He said many students perceive the police as a threat — always searching

the streets in the "Party Bus" for parties to break up.

"It was never meant to be that way," Lt. Felmley said. "I understand students have probably been studying all week and they just want to let their hair down."

Brian Weller, owner of local bar the Beaver Inn, said he was happy for a chance to voice his opinions during the coalition meeting and create a more personal relationship with the community in which he works and lives.

"Most of my [coalition membership] has been spent addressing the idea that as a business owner I don't care about the community," Weller said. "What people need to understand is that people who own businesses have the same concerns other people in society have."

Weller said his and other business operators' main objective is not just to make a profit, but to keep the community safe by strictly following liquor laws, such as not serving to minors and not over-serving customers.

Though the coalition gives members the opportunity to participate in the community outside Western, Smith said membership with the coalition isn't necessary in order to be part of one's community.

"The number one thing that anyone can do to be a good neighbor is simply to get out there and introduce yourself," Smith said. "It can make a world of a difference."

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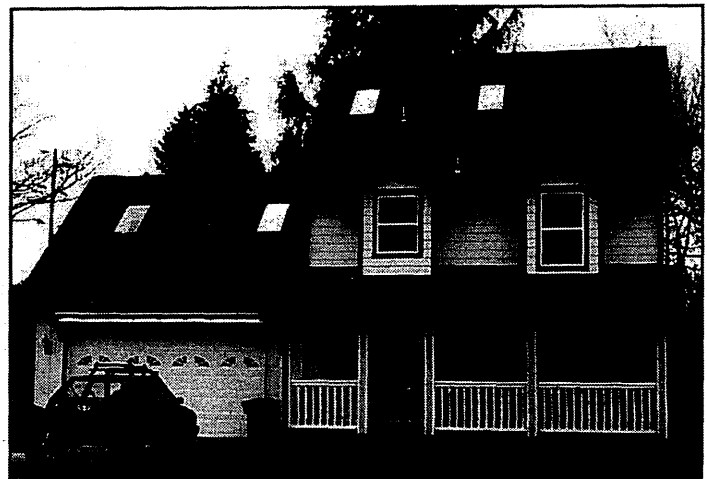
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Vikings snap 7-game losing streak



photo by Mark Malijan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western freshman guard Harold McAllister (right) drives to the basket in a 93-82 victory over Northwest Nazarene University Thursday night on Haggen Court in Carver Gym. McAllister had career-highs of 17 points and 11 assists. The Western men broke their 7-game losing streak and improved to 10-13 overall, 4-9 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

NBA All-Star Game needs serious makeover



COLUMNIST
Brady Henderson

I've had it with the NBA All-Star Game.

Some of the best athletes in the world couldn't put together 48 minutes of legitimate, exciting basketball. What should have been a competitive exhibition between the league's top players, instead made me wonder if watching NASCAR's Daytona 500 would have been more intriguing.

The Western Conference All-Stars beat the Eastern Conference All-Stars Sunday 153-132 to continue the trend of horrendous NBA All-Star Games.

The 285 combined points testify to the complete absence of anything resembling defense. Sliding out of the way to avoid getting dunked on isn't basketball. Neither is neglecting to hustle for a rebound or to put a hand up to contest a jump-shot.

That's what has become of the all-star game and for some reason the league seems to think it's entertaining.

It's a joke. The NBA needs to take drastic measures to make its all-star game more competitive.

Instead of pitting conference against conference, the NBA All-Star Game should feature the league's best foreign-born players taking on the top players from the United States.

NBA players show little concern for the outcome of the all-star game, but representing their country would give them more incentive to win.

Foreign-born players such as Steve Nash, Tony Parker, Mehmet Okur, Dirk Nowitzki and Yao Ming could compete with any starting five players an American-born team could put together.

Another option for the NBA would

Western softball boasts pitching, team chemistry

Greg Applegate
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western softball team will rely on their senior pitchers and offense to be the foundation for the 2007 season, said Western head softball coach Lonnie Hicks.

Hicks said this year's added offense should improve the much-needed run support, as Western only averaged 3.5 runs per game last season. He said he is counting on every player to contribute, regardless of experience, for the program to be successful this season.

"We finally have most of the things in place to get us on top of the [conference]," Hicks said. "I think our pitching is going to be our backbone and if our offense continues to improve the way they've already shown, we should have an outstanding year."

At the first tournament of the year,

the Lead-off Classic in Phoenix, Ariz. Feb. 15-17, the Vikings showed-off their improved offense with 57 hits in the tournament.

Western freshman catcher Hannah Becker hit Western's first and only home run of the season so far. Junior catcher Liza Teichler led the team with 11 hits and 3 RBIs. Senior outfielder Misty Britt had 10 hits, including two triples.

Senior pitcher Jackie Quint won three of the four games she pitched in, including a shutout against Emporia State University from Kansas, who is ranked No. 3 nationally in Division II. She struck out 16 batters, giving up 10 earned runs and only three walks in 21 innings.

Quint said the chemistry of the team has improved and said her team has a good chance of winning the Great Northwest Athletic Conference

(GNAC) title.

"I think the attitude has changed this year from last because we have a bunch of girls who just want to go out there and do whatever it takes to win," Quint said. "We're playing to win, not playing to not lose."

The Vikings lost 16 of their first 23 games last season but finished third in the GNAC with a 12-12 conference record. Western is ranked No. 3 in the pre-season coaches poll — the same position they finished in last season. But, had a chance to open the season on a different note in Phoenix.

The Vikings went 4-3, placing 4th out of 28 teams. The team went 3-1 in bracket play and qualified for the Silver Bracket championship game, which is second highest of four brackets.

see **SOFTBALL** page 13 ▶

see **HENDERSON** page 13 ▶

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Men's track and field narrowly misses GNAC championship

Men finish second, women fourth

Casey Gainor
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western head track and field coach Pee Wee Halsell said he felt a combination of pride and disappointment after his team's performance in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Indoor Track and Field Championships on Monday in Nampa, Idaho.

The men's team finished second with 166 points — five and a half points behind champion Central Washington University. The Western women had their best-ever finish, scoring 87 points and placing fourth out of seven teams.

"It's always a disappointment when you don't win first," Halsell said. "But we were 20-point underdogs in the men and got within five and a half points. In my estimation we had a great meet."

The Western men had three individuals win GNAC event championships including freshman Michael Dean, who won two.

Dean was named the meet's outstanding male performer, winning both the 200 and 400-meter sprints. He also set a meet record in the 60-meter with a time of 7.06 seconds in his preliminary race — he finished eighth overall in the finals.

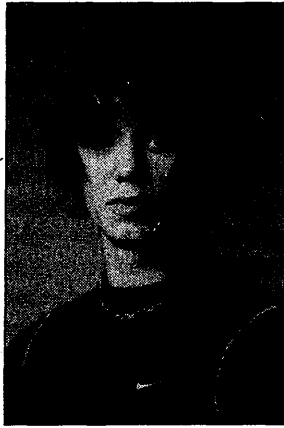
He won the 200 in 22.42 seconds and the 400 in 49.95. Western senior Sam Brancheau and Western sophomore Tony Tomsich finished first and second in the 1600. Brancheau won the event in 4:16.90 and also finished second in the 800.

Western senior Tyler Thornbrue won his first conference title in the pole vault with a height of 15-foot-10-inches. Western swept the top three places in the event with junior Brian Lucke in second and senior Hunter Verner finishing third.

Thornbrue said he was excited about the win, but still has room for improvement.

"Earlier this season I started

reworking my technique from the ground up and I just have the top end of that left," he said. "Overall I was happy. Obviously I'd like to go higher, but I'm definitely happy to take my first conference title — you can't complain with that."



Michael Dean
Western freshman sprinter

Thornbrue is a provisional qualifier for the national meet — the top 12 provisional qualifiers are selected to compete at nationals — and will have a final shot at improving his qualifying mark at Saturday's Last Chance Meet at Seattle Pacific University.

"Tyler is vaulting real well," Halsell said. "He had some really good attempts at a height that I'd feel really confident about him going on to nationals with."

As the team's stand, Thornbrue would probably be the only Western competitor moving on to the national meet, Halsell said. It would be his third consecutive year qualifying.

The Western women had two individual winners with senior Kim Bascom and sophomore Heidi Dimmitt.

Bascom won both the triple jump and the long jump.

She entered the meet as the favorite to win the triple jump, but not in the long jump.

"She had such a tremendous meet," he said. "Not being favored and coming out with a win is a really cool thing to see."

Bascom jumped 18-3 3/4 to take top honors in the long jump and 37-9 1/4 to win the triple. She is now a provisional qualifier in both events.

"Two wins was great," Bascom said. "It was nice to be able to do well. We were hoping that I could win both so that we could get the points for the team."

Dimmitt won the 400-meter in a time of 59.11 seconds.

Halsell said he will select a handful of his top competitors, including Bascom, Thornbrue and Dean to compete in Saturday's Last Chance Meet.

He said Thornbrue, Bascom and Western sophomore high jumper Clara Cook have the best chances of advancing to nationals on March 10 in Boston, Mass.

Unearned runs hurt Vikings

► **SOFTBALL** from 12

In a come-from-behind win on Feb. 16 over Cameron University of Lawton, Okla., Western won 4-2 in the first round. In the same day, the Vikings defeated rival Seattle University, ranked No. 22 nationally, 3-2 in the quarterfinals of the Silver Bracket.

They continued their winning streak on Feb. 17 by defeating Southeastern Oklahoma State University 10-6 and advancing into the Silver Bracket championship game.

Later that day in the championship game, Western lost to Hawaii Hilo University 10-3. Freshman catcher Hannah Becker said fatigue contributed to the loss in championship game.

"I was worn out," she said. "All our hearts were in it but our bodies were just giving out."

Quint said she expects Seattle University to be the toughest competition in the GNAC. After defeating Seattle University in the Lead-Off Classic, she said she's confident in Western's chances

of winning the conference title.

"Seattle U has had pretty tough teams the past couple years," Quint said. "We'll be the top team in our conference for sure."

Fourteen players are on the softball team with only players being seniors. Three of those seniors make up the core of the pitching staff. Half of the team is comprised of underclassman, but Becker said inexperience isn't a factor.

She said the team has been practicing five days per week, aside from a few breaks, since September.

"Because we mesh so well, I don't think inexperience will be a factor at all," Becker said. "We have that unspoken language on the field. Me being a catcher, I got a second baseman who understands when I'm going to throw it and when I'm not. It's surprising we developed with just practicing for a couple months."

Western's next game is at 11 a.m. on March 1 at the Central Washington Invitational in Richland against Saint Martin's University.

Henderson: Scale back all-star festivities

► **HENDERSON** from 12

be to award home-court advantage in the finals to the team from the conference that won that year's all-star game, much like Major League Baseball has done since 2003.

That rule has come with its share of criticism, but at least baseball all-star games are exciting. Since 2003, MLB All-Star games have been decided by an average of 2.25 runs compared to 3.5 runs from 1998-2001.

The American League won last year 3-2 after Texas Rangers shortstop Michael Young legged out what proved to be the game-winning triple in the top of the ninth inning.

With more on the line, such dramatic finishes might play out in NBA all-star games as well.

Reducing the number of events during all-star weekend would also make the game more exciting.

The all-star game should be the main event, but with all the unnecessary

fanfare of all-star weekend, it has almost become an afterthought.

The Skills Challenge should be the first to go. Sure, dribbling and passing are essential in basketball, but a contest based on fundamentals isn't fun to watch. In fact, it's painfully boring.

I wonder if the genius who thought of this brilliant idea is lobbying for a bunting contest during the MLB All-Star Game or a handoff competition during the NFL Pro-Bowl.

The dunk contest and three-point shootout are fan favorites, but the majority of events during all-star weekend are a waste of the fans' time and players' energy.

Scaling back all-star weekend would be less of a strain on the players, allowing them to focus more on the game. As much as I want to bash these all-stars for dogging it during the game, I can see why they might seem burned out.

The NBA needs to completely overhaul its all-star weekend. Otherwise, I'm watching NASCAR next year.

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Large corporate store ban step in right direction

Bellingham thrives on its local economy. It is because of this principle that the Bellingham City Council voted on Feb. 6 to ensure no large retail stores more than 90,000 sq. feet are not to be built within the city.

The vote was in response to Wal-Mart inquiring about building a Supercenter within the city.

Even Ferndale has taken a preemptive strike in preventing large corporate stores from being built within its city limits. On Feb. 21, Ferndale enacted a temporary six-month ban on large stores over 90,000 sq. feet in the city.

The Bellingham City Council made the right choice; they have realized the importance of supporting the local economy.

Large corporate chains are everywhere. It's especially hard to ignore the sprawl between Bellingham

and Seattle. The entire drive is full of Costcos and Wal-Marts. Locally owned shops are nowhere to be found.

Bellingham already has many grocery store options. Adding another large store would only over-crowd the food supplier market, which would shut down smaller locally owned businesses.

The Wal-Mart Supercenter could offer a large organic produce selection. The city already has a Trader Joe's in the works though, which has a large organic food selection.

Wal-Mart has deep financial pockets, and are thus able to undercut other businesses. This is a reason why the company has grown into the corporate powerhouse it is today.

frontline

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

Adding another Wal-Mart would hurt the local economy. Customer business from the local establishments would likely move to Wal-Mart, due to the low prices.

As citizens of Bellingham, we need to stimulate our own economy. Adding more corporate chains would ruin the small community feel of Bellingham.

We cherish downtown Bellingham and the Fairhaven District. They symbolize what Bellingham means for many residents.

Encouraging a monopoly would offset the balance. Bellingham could be full of Costcos, Wal-Marts and Targets as far as the eye could see, instead of small locally owned boutiques if we continue to allow these large stores to develop.

While having a Wal-Mart Supercenter would provide a cheap and convenient

source of groceries and supplies, that shouldn't take priority. By spending the little bit of extra money at local stores, we will support the local economy instead of an international corporation. Locally owned places such as Bargainica, offer discounted organic and natural foods.

The Wal-Mart would supply more jobs. Though with more jobs, more residents will come, meaning more development. This, in turn, would create urban sprawl, which is an obstacle the city has been trying to avoid.

Sprawl would create more traffic, which is something this city does not need. Meridian Street and the Sunset area are already prone to sprawl, efforts need to be taken to minimize this.

For any college student with no means of transportation, sprawl is a problem. Buses are a foreign idea for many students

see **WAL-MART** page 15 ▶

Technology dependence stunts our generation's growth

COLUMNIST
Mary Andom

I have a daily routine like most college students. I check my Facebook, MyWestern, MySpace, Yahoo and Hotmail accounts about every hour.

Technology rules my life. From the time I wake up in the morning until the time I go to sleep I'm either plugged into or wired to a device that constantly rings, dings or tells me how to live.

Yes, this habit is time-consuming and a little obsessive, but I measure my social worth by how many calls, MySpace messages and e-mails I receive a day.

If I don't receive messages or calls I feel unappreciated and that my relationships will dissolve.

We count on machines to do many of our daily tasks so when these devices fail, we feel helpless and disconnected from the millions of people we are connected with.

Even a term for this technologically dependent behavior exists, called Technosis. Michelle M. Weil, Ph.D. and Larry D. Rosen, Ph.D. say on their Web site that our growing dependence on technology makes us less sensitive to our own needs and we risk losing our identity.

Technology helps us think it's okay to disrupt others and ignore our surroundings.

It's annoying to be sitting in the library and I hear Yung Joc's "It's Goin Down" ring tone disturbing the peace or when I'm having a conversation with someone and they pick up their cell phone.

Every now and then I want to pop this technology

bubble we all live in.

It's hard for me to remember life before the inception of text-messaging, instant messenger and social-networking portals. How did we live, communicate and socialize?

Forget your style of clothes. Coolness is now measured by how many technological gadgets you have, how many friends you can acquire on MySpace and the comments posted on your page.

We are a generation that is more than just technologically savvy — we are the "hey, look at me," generation.

In a quest to constantly express ourselves, young people today have succumbed to flashy MySpace pages,

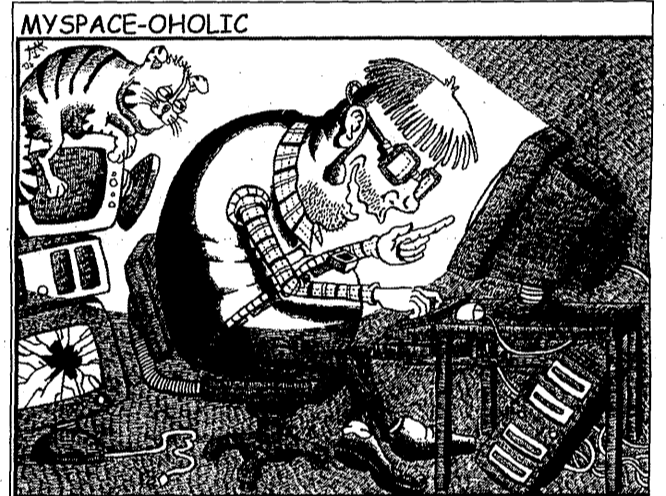
"Young people today have succumbed to flashy MySpace pages, customized ring tones and platinum-teeth grills."

customized ring tones and platinum-teeth grills.

The Internet has become a place where young people can gain instant stardom by posting videos on YouTube, launching their bands on MySpace or creating profiles with modeling photos.

A Pew Internet and American Life survey found 54 percent of 18- to 25-year-olds have used social networking sites, such as MySpace or Facebook and 44 percent have created profiles featuring photos, hobbies or interests.

We have become more disconnected from daily interaction and disillusioned by the concept of being connected to everyone.



Cartoon by Tristan Hobson THE WESTERN FRONT

The majority of my 226 friends on the site are just acquaintances or even perfect strangers. I can rate my friends according to how much I like them with the "Top 8" feature.

These arbitrary measures of friendship coupled with our obsession to be noticed on the Internet are a harmful combination.

We are given an illusion of real relationships where the person behind the computer screen is not always what when he or she appear.

Who knows, 10 years from now MySpace could be a thing of the past, just like pagers, CD players and e-mail? I wonder what new technological advances will carry us to the next wave of social interaction. Probably when I am 30 years old, there will be a time in which I will have to abandon my MySpace page and start making real relationships.

POLLSTER

What do you think of the large store ban?

- A. It will hurt the economy with fewer jobs
- B. It will help Bellingham's community feel
- C. I don't think it directly affects me
- D. What ban?

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Results from last POLLSTER

- | | |
|--|---|
| What do you think about the new south campus building not being green? | A. I could care less- 14% |
| | B. I trust the university's decision- 31% |
| | C. I think it goes against Western's environmental goals- 48% |
| | D. What's green? 7% |

Letters to Editor

Response to animal testing column

I would like to commend Rebecca McDow for her excellent guest column in the Western Front (Feb. 13) titled "Realities of animal testing are cruel." She cited a disturbing experiment at Columbia University where the left eyes were cut out of baboons to induce strokes.

Unfortunately one does not need to travel all the way

to Columbia University to find egregious examples of animal cruelty. Similar abuses happen right here on WWU's campus. For decades the psychology department has performed barbaric experiments on monkeys and other animals in the basement of Miller Hall.

The justification for these experiments is that they improve our understanding of human physiology. Perhaps they do. Nazi experiments on Jews were probably even more effective since Jews are human, thus eliminating the need to make the giant leap of interpreting results

across species. However there is no more ethical justification for experimenting on animals than on people. Just as history has rightly condemned the Nazis it will someday condemn people and institutions that experiment on animals.

Unfortunately WWU has just started construction on a new multi-million dollar animal testing lab in the AIC, thus continuing its legacy of animal cruelty in the name of science.

-J. Christopher Sandvig,
Western decision sciences professor

Animal testing saves lives

Guest Column

The guest column written by Ms. McDow in the February 13 edition of the Western Front had several inaccuracies, distortions and misunderstandings of animal testing.

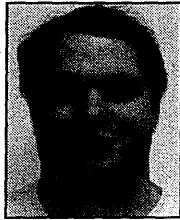
The entire basis of the column, that all scientists using animals for testing are engaged in "nothing more than torture" is nothing short of silly. First, most animals tested on by research scientists are simple organisms with limited neurological systems and are widely considered to not feel pain. Nearly all of those scientists who do perform experiments on "higher" animals are deeply concerned about the pain management and survival of their test subjects.

The only example of animal testing given in the column was a study done six years ago by a scientist who was working hard to aid patients who are afflicted by moyamoya disease, which causes strokes is nearly all its patients. Several groups reviewed the

research by this doctor, and none of them found any serious violations or acts of animal cruelty.

Ms. McDow also claimed the animals were given "inadequate pain relief and just thrown into their cold concrete cages, unable to eat, drink or even raise their head." There are several inaccuracies in this sentence alone. Only one monkey in the study was unable to eat, drink or raise its head. Not all of them. Additionally, the pain relief the monkeys were given was nearly 20 times the amount given for normal animal surgeries, and the medication was similar to morphine, just as human eye removal patients are given.

The method that this doctor uses, called a quadruple bypass surgery, has saved thousands of lives, and was perfected on dogs and other animals. Included in one of the lives saved is former President Bill Clinton. The patients and family of patients who worked with the



Valz

baboon researcher did not describe him as a torturer or an evil scientist, but rather as a skilled and brilliant doctor who was "kind and caring," according to an article in Newsday.

Ms. McDow claimed that it's a lie that animal tests "are scientifically sound" and "benefit humanity." Just a brief consideration of the things that have been accomplished through animal testing shows its validity and value: cures for smallpox, polio, rabies, tetanus and rubella. Additionally, patients with diseases such as diabetes, malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, stroke, heart disease and AIDS have had their quality of life improve because of animal research. Often animal research is the only alternative available given the high cost of human tissues, the need for living organisms to confirm diagnoses, and the currently limited availability of stem cell lines.

Some animal research is even conducted to help the

quality of life for the species that are researched. Animal research is used to help prevent endangered species from going extinct.

Should cosmetic testing on animals be limited? Absolutely. Vanity is no reason to injure another animal, be it rodent, bird, rabbit, or even sea anemone. But to categorize all scientists as vile "torturers" is neither truthful, nor productive to her cause.

In response to the final statement in the column that people should be aware of what's going on in laboratories and that animal testing should be limited, Ms. McDow is absolutely correct. In fact, if more people were aware of what actually happens in most laboratories, they would feel exactly opposite of Ms. McDow. They would understand the empathy that most researchers feel for their animals, and the concern they have with their wellbeing.

-J. Henry Valz is the Science Editor for The Planet Magazine

viking voices

How has MySpace influenced our generation?



Julie Filer
FRESHMAN

"MySpace is breaking down communication in a serious way. Instead of going on dates or having conversations, people are using MySpace."



Andrew Kvalheim
FRESHMAN

"MySpace is reinforcing all those frivolous, immature and superficial values and at the same time, getting a lot of kids that wouldn't be otherwise be interested in computer programming a chance to get involved."



Adam Pickrell
JUNIOR

"MySpace connects people, but it wastes time in a lot of ways. It's good because it connects people who don't get to see each other very often."

Compiled by Jaimie Fife

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Support local businesses

► WAL-MART from 14

who grew up in suburban areas. When looking at colleges, students want everything within proximity. Urban sprawl goes completely against this idea.

Instead of supporting international chains, we should be supporting local chains such as Hagen and Bob's Burger and Brew. These establishments have

our community interest at heart, where as a large corporation barely reflects its community. By supporting our local chains, we will support our community.

As a community, we should avoid large corporate stores and stay loyal to our locally owned businesses.

The cardinal rule of any community is to be a good neighbor — let's take this motto to heart.

Classifieds

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