

TREATING WESTERN WELL



Trainers keep students, athletes active, healthy.

Sports, Page 15

CLEARLY CANADA

Broadcasters up north are not uptight like those in U.S.

Opinions, Page 18

TURPIN TIME AT BAYSIDE

Western alumnus runs local recording studio.

Accent, Page 11



Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington

ISSUE 17
VOLUME 128

The Western Front

FRIDAY
MARCH 12, 2004

Police arrest student protester

By Jenny Zuvela
The Western Front

Bellingham police arrested Western junior Marijka Stephens after she marched with approximately 60 students to downtown Bellingham Wednesday at 6 p.m. to protest recent rapes and break-ins in the neighborhoods near Western's campus.

She was part of the group that marched from Red Square to downtown and back, while holding signs, blowing whistles and chanting. Many people honked car horns and gave thumbs-up gestures to the marchers as they walked downtown.

"No more sexual attacks — stop rape in its tracks," the marchers yelled. "One, two three, four, we won't take this anymore. Five, six, seven, eight, stop the violence — stop the rape."

Two Bellingham police officers stopped Stephens in Red Square after the protest because she and another student had blocked traffic while holding a "March Against Rape" sign along the march's route. An officer arrested Stephens when she would not give her name and walked away.



Western students march past Old Main on Wednesday. The march was in protest of recent rapes near Western. Approximately 60 students participated in the demonstration.

The officers drove her to the downtown station and talked to her in the car for a couple of hours, she said. They then charged her with disorderly conduct and obstructing an officer and released her at approximately 9 p.m., Stephens said.

"They left me downtown and told me to walk home," Stephens said.

Police also issued a warning to Western sophomore Arnica Briody. During the last part of the march, at the corner of Chestnut and High streets, the two held a

Keith Bolling/The Western Front

sign and stood in the road to stop traffic so the marchers could safely cross, Briody said. An officer told them to move, but they did not, she said.

Briody said she organized the march a couple of days before

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 8

AS approves resolution for race training

By Zoe Fraley
The Western Front

Western's Associated Students board of directors unanimously passed a resolution Wednesday that promotes diversity and discrimination awareness through annual diversity training for the AS board.

Western junior Trey Avery said he originally wrote the resolution in response to the controversy surrounding Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Washington's nondiscrimination policy.

The Whatcom Community College AS board revoked its support of the organization at its Feb. 12 meeting. He said he realized diversity training would benefit Western and Whatcom.

"I love the fact that the AS board will be going to diversity training," said Jesse Moore, AS vice president of diversity and resolution cosponsor. "The better you are able to deal with different kinds of people, the more valuable you are as a student, an employee and a person."

SEE RESOLUTION, PAGE 8

Race disparity at Western representative of population



Editor's note: This is a news analysis and the last part of a six-part series examining race at Western.

By Jeremy Edwards
The Western Front

Nearly three out of every four Western students are white, according to the registrar's peak-enrollment report. Because of

this, some minority students label Western's student body of 12,493 as homogenous — a blizzard of white faces. They say they feel vulnerable, outnumbered, unwelcome or alone.

What they may not realize is that, if the state of Washington were a college, the percentage would be virtually the same.

In 2000, minorities, which included Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians and blacks, accounted for 18 percent of Washingtonians, or 1,049,151 people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Caucasians comprised 82 percent, or 4,821,390 people.

Washington is not nearly as racially diverse as some other states in the country, such as California.

California was home to many more minorities during the same year. At that time, minorities totaled 40.5 percent, or 13,718,017 people, of Californians, while Caucasians accounted for 59.5 percent, or 20,153,631 people, according to the bureau.

Western may never be as racially diverse as California, but it is attracting more minority students, albeit slowly. It has taken Western five years to increase the number of minority students by approximately 0.8 percent, from 13.4 percent to 14.2 percent, according to admissions statistics.

Associate professor of sociology Kyle Crowder said in a Feb. 3 Western Front article that minority students at Western probably feel isolated because they are so

few in number.

But most of these students keep silent.

"Race and ethnic issues are one of those heated dialogues," said Michael Vendiola, coordinator for the Ethnic Student Center, in the same article. "People are not open to dialogue because it might lead to conflict."

Silence, however, is the wrong approach to race issues, he said.

"Those subjects that are taboo and the whole idea of political correctness have been damaging to society," Vendiola said. "People internalize prejudice and start to say to me only what they think I want to hear."

Western senior Nicole Wells, a member of the Black Student Union, echoed Vendiola's thoughts on racial censorship.

SEE SERIES, PAGE 8

Local Republicans pledge support for Bush

By Rob Morrell
The Western Front

Elephants paraded Tuesday night at Shuksan Middle School in Bellingham as Republican party members conducted a gregarious precinct caucus while declaring their unanimous support for re-electing President George W. Bush.

The only opposition to Bush came in the form of a joke.

"Is there time to nominate Ralph Nader as the Republican candidate?" said a voice in the crowd.

While Bush's candidacy was never in doubt, the caucus presented an important opportunity for the GOP to rally for the president, said Bruce Ayers, chairman of the Whatcom County Republican Party.

"The caucus went well," he said. "There just was

not any of the hoopla that comes with a nomination."

Caucuses normally serve to allow party members to democratically choose their party's candidate. At precinct caucuses, party members meet and elect delegates to represent their choice for the presidential nomination at the county caucus. The entire process culminates with the party convention, in which delegates officially decide on the candidate.

Ayers said it was vital for Republicans to meet and express their support for Bush and his policies. He said Republicans were looking forward to mobilizing around Bush's platform on the economy and defense.

"Right now, the country is in very serious trouble with security and border control," Ayers said. "Bush is the only one willing to hold the world accountable

SEE GOP, PAGE 8



Ben Arnold/The Western Front
Dan Hansey, left, and Barret Nichols, right, attend the Republican caucus at Shuksan Middle School on Tuesday.

COPS BOX

University Police

March 9, 11:57 a.m.: UP attached a wheel lock to a car with outstanding citations in Parking Lot 12.

March 9, 1:28 p.m.: UP responded to Parks Hall, where a female slammed and severed her finger in a door.

March 9, 3:08 p.m.: UP issued infractions to two bikers riding on stairs and landscaping in front of the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

March 9, 3:47 p.m.: UP cited two males for riding bicycles on statues.

Bellingham Police

March 9, 3:40 p.m.: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious person yelling in front of the Bellingham Police Station.

March 9, 9:31 p.m.: Officers responded to a complaint of malicious mischief in the 1300 block of Railroad Avenue.

March 10, 9:29 a.m.: A woman reported that someone had stolen her yard decorations.

March 10, 3:24 p.m.: Officers contacted an individual for sitting and lying on the 1400 block of Railroad Avenue.

March 10, 5:30 p.m.: Officers responded to a complaint of forged checks on the 800 block of Lakeway Drive.

Compiled by Rob Morrell.

Viking Voices

Where are you going for spring break and why?

Compiled by Melena Eaton.



Jennifer Lynn
Sophomore, industrial design

I am going to Whistler to snowboard and then Oregon to surf because surfing and snowboarding are the two most fun things in the world.



Chuck Hudon
Sophomore, psychology

Back home to get applications for a summer job because I need some tuition money for next year.



Forest Menke-Thielman
Sophomore, geography

Working full time at Western's library because I need money and don't really want to go home.

AP Wire

news briefs

STATE NEWS

Seattle shooting kills one, sends three to hospital

One person is dead as a result of a shooting Monday in the South Park area of Seattle.

Seattle police spokesman Scott Moss said one person died at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle and three others are in serious condition.

Police are still looking for the shooter.

The gunman reportedly walked up to a group of people in front of a residence and shot four young men — reported to be in their teens and 20s.

Witnesses saw the gunman fleeing on foot.

NATIONAL NEWS

Powell, others to pay visit to Israel

Three officials in President George W. Bush's administration are flying to Israel Wednesday for the second time in less than a

month.

They will be speaking with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on his offer to withdraw from Gaza.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said the United States wants to gain a better understanding of the Israeli plans.

He said many questions still exist, such as how the Palestinian Authority would take control of Gaza, and whether Sharon would negotiate the terms with the Palestinians.

Powell will meet with the Israeli defense minister.

Lumber company settles lawsuit out of court

Weyerhaeuser will spend \$35 million to settle a Portland, Ore., lawsuit that four hardwood lumber mills filed against the company.

The lawsuit alleged Weyerhaeuser tried to monopolize the Northwest market for alder logs. Weyerhaeuser admitted no liability.

The mills are Westwood Lumber Company in Reedsport, Ore.,

Morton Alder Mill in Willamina, Ore., Cascade Hardwood in Chehalis and Alexander Lumber Mill in Onalaska.

The 2003 case is one of several antitrust lawsuits Weyerhaeuser has faced in relation to its practices in the alder market. Two other cases are scheduled to go to trial later this year.

The lawsuits follow a victory this past year by Ross-Simmons Hardwood Lumber in Longview. It won a \$78 million judgment in a federal antitrust lawsuit against Weyerhaeuser, which has said it will appeal that case.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. troops set to aid Haitian police

The effort by Haitian police to disarm rebel groups is about to receive a boost.

The U.S. Marines say they will begin helping disarm the rebels, in hopes of reducing the chance of violence.

All sides are threatening to resume the bloody fighting that

led to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's departure on Feb. 29.

Marine Colonel Charles Garganus also is calling on Haitians to let peacekeepers know who has weapons and to turn in their own arms.

Suicide bomber strikes Turkish Masonic lodge

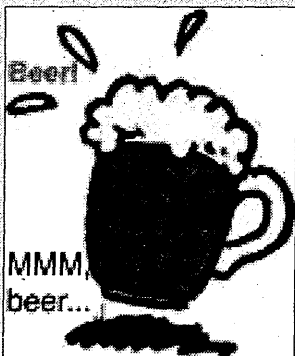
Turkish media reports blame a suicide bomber for an explosion at a building that houses a Masonic lodge in Istanbul.

According to reports, the blast killed two people and wounded five others. According to CNN-Turkey, a man entered the building and detonated a bomb.

Tuesday's assault comes months after four suicide bombers struck Istanbul. Bomb attacks against two synagogues, the British Consulate and a British bank left 62 people dead. Prosecutors have indicted 69 people suspected of belonging to a local al-Qaida cell.

Compiled by Lauren Fior.
AP Wire courtesy KUGS 89.3-FM.

The Western Front online
Be safe on spring break!



www.westernfrontonline.com

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

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in College Hall 07, or by phone to (360) 650-3161.

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

WWU Official Announcements

Deadline for announcements in this space is noon Friday for the Tuesday edition and noon Wednesday for the Friday edition. Announcements should be limited to 50 words, typewritten or legibly printed, and sent through campus mail to "Official Announcements," MS-9117, via fax to X/4343, or brought in person to Commissary 113F. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES HAS MOVED to Modular L7 located next to Environmental Health and Safety (old Public Safety Building) and the Outdoor Sculpture Stadium Piece. All contact information remains the same: phone X/3298, e-mail ipe@wwu.edu, Web site www.ac.wwu.edu/~ipewwu.

STUDENTS WHO EXPECT TO GRADUATE AT THE END OF SUMMER QUARTER must have a degree evaluation on file in the registrar's office, OM 230, by Friday, March 12. For information, call X/3240 or stop by OM 230.

LOT 14 G WILL BE RESERVED AT 7 A.M. SATURDAY, MARCH 13, for those attending the Northwest Regional National History Conference.

THE FOLLOWING LOTS ARE RESERVED FOR COMMENCEMENT ON MARCH 20: Lot 8G for the president's party; lot 10G for media services staff and the disabled and elderly; lot 14G for faculty and staff. A shuttle will run from lot 12A and the C lot on South College Drive across from Fairhaven College to lot 17G between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. or until there is no demand.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST (MPT). Registration not required. Students must bring photo identification, student number, Social Security number, and a No. 2 pencil. A \$15 fee is payable in exact amount at test time. Allow 90 minutes. Testing is in OM 120 at 9 a.m. March 18, and 3 p.m. March 15.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD has been extended to April 2. All faculty, staff, students, offices, departments and community members interactive with Western are eligible. Submit nominations to Pam Moore or Keeley Matthews, OM 450, MS-9033. For more information, call X/3547.

THE TUTORIAL AND ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER IS SEEKING a student with strong academic skills who enjoys working with people to be a study skills tutor 10 to 14 hours a week during spring quarter. Salary and other information is available in OM 387 or at www.wwu.edu/depts/tutorialcenter/employment.htm.

WEST-B. State-approved educator preparation program applicants and persons from other states seeking a Washington residency teaching certificate need a minimum passing score on basic skills assessment. Residency teaching certificate applicants who completed an educator preparation program outside Washington and have not passed WEST-B may be granted additional time. Testing: March 13, May 1. To register, see www.west.nesinc.com.

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE TO PREMED STUDENTS: A Whatcom County Medical Society Scholarship, and the Dr. Ralph and Mrs. Eleanor Rinne Scholarship. Application deadline for both is April 15. Application and a full description for each are available in the Academic Advising Center, OM 380.

SEVERAL SCHOLARSHIPS, RANGING FROM 1,000 to \$3,000, are offered by the Alumni Association board of directors; some are renewable. Preference may be given to children or grandchildren of Western alumni. To request an application or to get more information, call X/3353.

On-campus recruiting

To sign up for an interview or for more information, stop by OM 280 or call X/3240.

• Camp Sealth, April 14; • Enterprise Rent-A-Car, April 30; • Everett School District, April 20 and 29; • Mervyn's, April 30; • Newell Rubbermaid, April 14; • Walt Disney World, interviews for internships, April 13; • White River, Ariz., School District, K-12 teaching positions, April 14.

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- Viking Union
- WTA at Kappa
- WTA across from Buchanan towers
- And finally,

t b e College Store

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Employees giving away free books like they are candy



The folks down at the College Store are totally wacked. They will giving away \$1,000 worth of free books. On the first day of classes keep an eye out for small wooden tokens hidden all over campus.

While you are peacefully sleeping, these tokens will be carefully hidden. With a thousand out there chances are pretty good that you will find a couple. Hell, if you get up early enough you could find enough to get all your textbooks for free!

When asked why they are giving away money, The College Store

said, "Don't make me question it now, I already ordered the tokens!"

After being torn apart by the press pool for dodging the question, The College Store finally stated, "Well, it's fun, and somebody is going to get free textbooks, so why not?"

On the first day of classes make sure to wake up early and try to find some College Store cash!

What it means to be raped

Western officials examine the aftermath of rape and how to prevent the crime

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part story examining rape in the Western and Bellingham communities.

By Katie Scaief
The Western Front

Every victim recovers from rape in a different way and during a different amount of time, Western's Counseling Center director Nancy Corbin said.

"I want to help the victim come to make meaning (of the rape) in a way that will be healthy for her (or him)," Corbin said.

Because the healing process is not the same for every victim, no easy or single solution exists for victims attempting to return to a normal life. Instead, many factors contribute to the healing process. Believing the victim, helping him or her in practical ways and having patience are important for recovery, she said.

Recovering from rape

Approximately 85 percent to 90 percent of rape is date or acquaintance rape, said Sarah Rankin, Crime and Sexual Assault Services coordinator. For some people, acquaintance rape can be more traumatizing than stranger rape because the perpetrator is someone the victim once trusted, said Brian Pahl, Western's Men's Violence Prevention Project coordinator.

When people lose trust, especially through rape, they begin to question their own judgment, Corbin said. They want to know what they could have done to prevent the rape and what they can do to have more control of their lives, she said.

"There is going to be — and there should be — some anger to this," Corbin said.

The process of recovery for victims includes feeling powerful and capable in the end. It also involves placing the blame of the rape on the perpetrator, not the victim, Corbin said.

"It's not a linear process of recovery," Corbin said. "You go through a place of beginning to take control back and make some purposeful action."

Friends need to be supportive and help victims feel safe, such as walking with them at night or making sure they do not have to spend much time alone, Corbin said.

"I think the first thing is that they should believe the victim," Corbin said.

Sometimes the perpetrator is a friend of the victim and of the victim's friends. People do not want to believe that one of their friends is a rapist, so they question the victim's story, Corbin said.

Even if a person does not believe a friend has been raped, he or she should still listen and not ask accusatory questions, Rankin said. Understanding and directing the victim to support resources, such as CASAS, is more helpful, she said.

The victim needs to know that rape is not his or her fault, she said.

"When it comes to prevention, the only

SEE **Prevention**, PAGE 5



Illustration by Kellyn Ballard

The Western Front online
The Western Front will return April 2. Holla.
www.westernfrontonline.com

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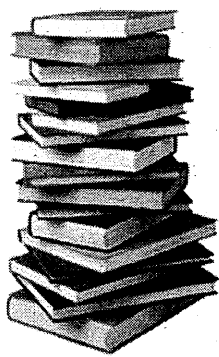
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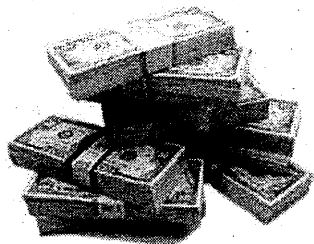
the College Store



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the College Store

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Sehome Village Mall

647-1000

Prevention: Stereotypes, stigmas contribute to sexual, violent crimes

Continued from Page 4

thing that can prevent rape is (the rapist) not doing it," Rankin said.

Ending sexual violence

An analogy of a stream helps explain society's reaction to sexual assault and rape, Rankin said.

People see women or men drowning in a stream, so they jump in and pull them out. Society continues to throw life preservers and send people into the stream to rescue them. But people are not asking what is upstream that initially is pushing these victims into the water.

"We need as a society to walk (upstream) and see how this is happening at all," Rankin said.

Society perpetuates stereotypes, Pahl said. These stereotypes reinforce the expectation that men should be powerful and in control and that women should be submissive and take care of men, he said.

"The reality is that women can change these things," Pahl said. "They can change what they wear and where they go, but violence against them won't stop."

Cultural messages portray men as highly sexual and women as managers of this sexual desire, Corbin said. This attitude blames women for being too sexy, going out at night or having a beer, but it does not blame men for seeking sex from uninterested women, she said.

"How ridiculous is it that we're constantly trying to restrict women's lives or restrict women's behavior, when in these situations, it is not women who are doing anything morally wrong or illegal?" Pahl said.

Pahl said Western society has traditionally blamed women for rape and sexual assault. He said some people argue that men are intrinsically violent and that women must avoid

violent outbursts in men.

"Most of us don't rape," Pahl said. "Most of us don't beat our partners. So I have a real problem with that argument."

Pahl said a number of factors contribute to violent behavior in men, including parental upbringing and societal pressures. For instance, males have few role models in the media who are non-violent, he said.

"Those messages cut a person off from a softer part of his humanity," Pahl said.

At a young age boys learn that crying is not OK, he said. Without room to experience certain emotions, some boys become angry, he said. Men eventually learn to bypass their initial emotions and resort to anger, which can lead to violence, Pahl said.

According to a 1997 study by the U.S. Department of Justice, approximately 99 percent of rape offenders are male.

Males are the primary perpetrators of violence, including rape, but they also are the primary victims of violent crimes including rape, Pahl said. Defying the violent standards of this culture would benefit both sexes, he said.

"We seem to have tolerance in our culture for a lot of subtle forms of violence," Pahl said.

While women can take certain precautions, such as learning self-defense moves, walking with friends and telling people where they are going and when they will be back, these measures are not capable of preventing rape, Rankin said. Likewise, failure to be as cautious as possible is neither a cause of nor an excuse for rape, she said.

"As a society, we need to place value on women for more than their looks and bodies, which we haven't even come close to doing," Rankin said.

Whatcom County funds AIDS education program

By Lee Fehrenbacher
The Western Front

The Whatcom County Council voted 6-0, with councilman Ward Nelson absent, to approve \$129,170 in funding for HIV and AIDS prevention and education services for prevention in the community.

"It's part of getting the message out that this problem does exist, it's everywhere and it's certainly here," councilman Sam Crawford said.

According to a Feb. 29 report by the Washington State Department of Health, 39 cases of HIV and 152 AIDS cases occurred in Whatcom County.

Janet Davis, community health manager for Whatcom County Health and Human Services, said the funds are federal and state grants provided yearly to the Region 3 AIDS Service Network Council, which distributes the funds throughout Whatcom County.

"What we don't know is the number of people who are HIV-positive because not everybody

has been tested," Davis said.

Davis said the money will go toward funding centers for educating and testing high-risk people, such as people who are sexually active with infected partners, men who have sex with men, men who have sex with injection drug users and injection-drug users.

One of the prevention programs provided to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS in Whatcom County is a needle-exchange program, Davis said.

Lisa Shoemaker, HIV and AIDS, STD, outreach and education programs coordinator for the WCHHS, said the number of people exchanging old needles for new ones has increased by approximately 100 people for the past two years. In 2003, she said they served 410 people and exchanged approximately 1.3 million needles.

"The push is to keep them as safe as possible and alive until we can help them get into treatment, thereby reducing the risk (of spreading disease) to them and the communities in which we share," Shoemaker said.

Pro-boating group drops anchor to compete with Motorboats Off!

By Jelena Washington
The Western Front

The debate to give boats free reign on Lake Whatcom continues as the Healthy Community Campaign strives to keep boats legal on Bellingham's only source of drinking water.

The Bellingham-based organization is working against the Motorboats Off! initiative, which aims to remove boats from the lake and is tentatively scheduled for the November ballot.

"We believe that boats on Lake Whatcom do not affect the drinking water enough to have them banned," said Betsy Brinson, co-chairwoman of the campaign.

Brinson said Bellingham officials should consider adding stormwater-runoff drains or rerouting traffic before entirely focusing on banning boats.

"When time is spent looking at boats, then we fail to look at other water-damage contributors, and that does not service the community," she said.

The Lake Whatcom Management program is planning stormwater runoff services for the lake, resources planner

Erika Stroebel said. The program members must first determine how to prevent pollution through rainwater draining into the lake and decide how to treat the polluted rainwater, she said.

Stroebel said the management program has no expected finish date.

Sharon Crozier, coordinator for the Motorboats Off! initiative, said removing boats is the first step in cleaning Bellingham's drinking-water source. Lake Whatcom serves more than 85,700 people.

Clare Fogelson, manager of the environmental resource division of public works in Bellingham, said the city is in the process of banning boats with carbureted two-stroke engines.

"Studies have shown that this type of engine is dumping 20- to 30-percent of unburned gasoline into the lake," he said.

Without motorboats, the quality of Lake Whatcom rescue services would decrease because boats are essential for rescue missions on the lake, Brinson said.

"Banning boats would also reduce recreation and diverts attention from the real issues of

quality drinking water, such as stormwater-runoff services," Brinson said.

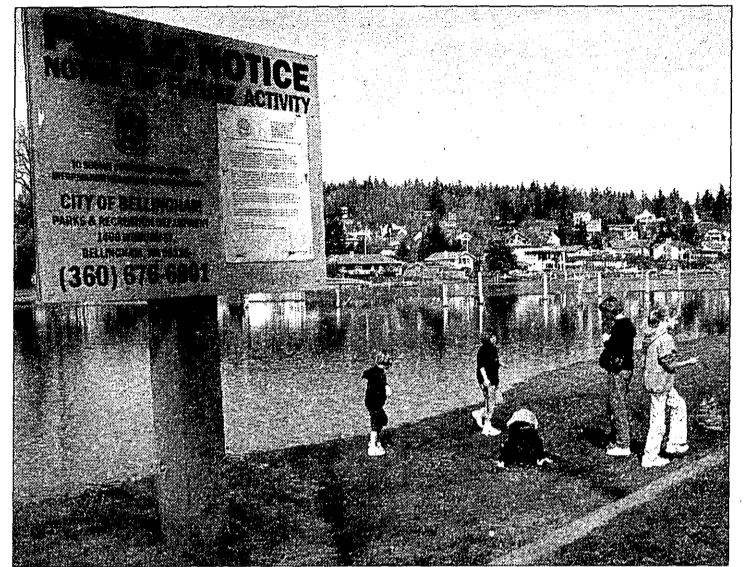
Crozier said developers and residents of Lake Whatcom have a fetish for fossil fuels and should consider the quality of drinking water instead of worrying about development and recreation.

Lake Whatcom is on the national list of endangered lakes and is on the verge of becoming non-drinkable, Crozier said.

"Five percent of the reservoir's pollution comes from boats, and when the lake is already in danger, something needs to be done," Crozier said.

The biggest debate stems from the chemical that companies use to make pesticides, rubber, dyes and detergents. Brinson said the Environmental Protection Agency sets a maximum contamination level for benzene, the pollutant found almost everywhere, such as downtown Bellingham air and in Lake Whatcom.

"Lake Whatcom has only 2 percent of the maximum level of benzene, and you cannot raise alarm over a chemical that is small and found everywhere in our environment," Brinson



Jelena Washington/The Western Front
Lynden resident Corrie Klos watches her children and their friends play near the sign warning potential swimmers of pollution at Bloedel-Donovan Park, which has been closed since July 31.

said. Downtown Bellingham air has almost 100-percent more benzene than Lake Whatcom, Brinson said.

Crozier said that if benzene were harmless, realtors and developers should agree to fully disclose benzene levels to new property owners.

Brinson said nothing is wrong

with the quality of Bellingham's drinking water while Crozier said citizens should start paying attention to the water quality.

Crozier said she has received some support for the initiative, but the difficult part is receiving the county's support. She said the initiative cannot continue without approval from the Whatcom County Council.

Shuttle network part of class's proposed transit solution

By Lauren Fior
The Western Front

The environmental studies campus planning studio class is finalizing a project that could help solve transportation problems on campus and benefit 68 percent of Western's student and faculty population.

The class presented its project on Wednesday to faculty members and staff from Western's Facilities Management department and Public Safety department. The students will present a report to the university's transportation committee with the final project plans, environmental studies professor Nick Zaferatos said.

If implemented, the project would require a transportation fee from students, faculty members and Western to create more transportation for Western. The funding will provide shuttles to create faster and more reliable transportation for students and faculty.

"The project includes encouraging public transit among students and faculty, route

changes for more convenience and policy changes within Whatcom Transportation Authority to allow the project to develop," said Ted Olsen, a Western senior and environmental studies student.

The project includes five new shuttle routes for areas with the highest student population density, Western senior Nick Bond said. The routes would include Sehome, Happy Valley and York neighborhoods, the Lettered Streets, Roosevelt, Puget and Alabama Hill neighborhoods, and Lincoln Street, where Western's new park-and-ride lots will open fall 2004.

The shuttles would run close to every 10 minutes throughout the day and would help during the busiest time of day on campus, which is approximately 11 a.m., said Seth Christian, a Western senior who is in the class.

According to the project outline, the cost to run the transportation plan would be \$22.66 a quarter for each student, including on-campus residents. This transportation fee would be added to students' quarterly

tuition payments. If faculty, staff and students contributed, the cost would be reduced to \$13.58 per person.

Western is looking into constructing a parking structure, Christian said. The structure would cost Western \$25 million for a 20-year period. If Western starts a shuttle service, it would cost \$25 million for 60 years, Christian said.

Jim Shaw, director of Public Safety at Western, said the WTA is aware of the need for increased transportation on Western's campus.

"Western is on the cusp of implementing something," Shaw said. "There is a demand for space we don't have."

At Western, a lot of people drive single-occupancy vehicles, and the goal is to make the campus more pedestrian-friendly, he said.

"(The project is) an expansion of public transit service to and from campus every 10 minutes to areas that are more populated," Zaferatos said.

Areas off campus such as Fairhaven and

Alabama Street could have increased transportation circulation.

The bus system needs to attract more people so they do not use their cars as much, Olsen said. Buses should also run later into the night to increase ridership.

Bond said another option would be to create an evening shuttle that would run until 3 a.m. He said this would help reduce drinking and driving in the area.

Christian said the WTA or Western would fund the project but would determine the amount later.

Each winter quarter, the environmental studies course chooses an environmental or social project to help improve Western's campus, Olsen said.

Western has been supportive of the ideas students came up with in the past, Zaferatos said.

If the university agrees with the project, it could become reality, he said.

"I hope the project will get the campus to be a better advocate for students' needs," Christian said.

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National study warns students about drinking internationally

By Kaitlin King
The Western Front

For many college students, spring break means sunshine, alcohol, partying and craziness. For others, however, it can result in arrest, injury or death.

As thousands of college students throughout the country leave for spring break in the coming weeks, the U.S. State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs is urging students to take precautions before departing to a foreign country.

The department released a report this past week that urged students to avoid reckless or disorderly behavior, unfamiliar locations, underage drinking, drinking to the point of extreme intoxication and any activity that could result in imprisonment.

"Students need to remember to play it safe in other countries and know the rules and laws of the country they are visiting," said Western junior Nathan Wolf, a peer adviser at Western's Legal Information Center.

In a May 1998 report in the Journal of American College

Health, authorities arrest approximately 2,500 Americans abroad each year, usually as the result of drugs or alcohol. Many of these arrests occur during spring break.

According to the study, more than 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are the victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape during spring break.

"Students really need to avoid high-risk times and know their limits," said Sarah Rankin, director of Western's Crime And Sexual Assault Services. "Sexual assaults are most likely to happen when people have been engaging in a lot of drugs or alcohol, and avoiding high-risk

times like those are really important in preventing something bad from happening."

The report surveyed 442 women and 341 men. It concluded that the average male drank 18 drinks a day

during his weeklong break, while the average female drank 10.

According to the report, of the men who consumed five or more drinks in a day and women who consumed four or more drinks, 58 percent had trouble with the police, 59 percent received injuries, 49 percent engaged in unplanned sex and 52 percent

engaged in unprotected sex.

"Drinking in moderation can help avoid so many problems that can occur over spring break," said Dr. Emily Gibson, director of Western's Student Health Center. "Being aware of how much you are drinking and not leaving drinks unattended are so important."

According to a 2003 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Prevention study, alcohol results in 1,400 deaths and 500,000 unintentional student injuries each year.

Western sophomore Vanessa Rosenberg said she will be traveling to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for spring break. Rosenberg said she also went to Mexico when she was 15, and she had no problem purchasing alcohol, even though the legal drinking age is 18.

"They really don't care about seeing ID or a drinking age," Rosenberg said. "As long as you can see over the bar, you are good to go."

According to a U.S. State Department report, when students get into legal trouble in spring-break destinations, American authorities cannot do much.

"Bottom line, limiting drinks to two to three per 24 hours can avoid so many problems that students often have after drinking way too much," Gibson said.

County Council shares in \$600,000 cash pot

Lee Fehrenbacher
The Western Front

The Bellingham YWCA provides free and low-income housing to a maximum of 36 women at a time, but YWCA executive director Julie Foster said the waiting list is much longer.

"There's probably 80 homeless women on the street at any one time that aren't being served on any day in Whatcom County," Foster said.

The Whatcom County Council voted 6-0 Tuesday to help community service organizations such as the YWCA fund programs for the homeless and low-income housing. For many organizations, the demand for housing assistance far outweighs the supply.

"We have a very long waiting list for our programs — last count I heard, it was about 3,000 people," said John Harmen, executive director and chief executive officer of Bellingham and Whatcom County Housing Authority.

Harmen said people may wait six months to five years for housing.

The council approved an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and its cities that directs the use of funds created through Substitute House Bill 2060.

Passed in 2002, the bill has so far resulted in approximately

\$600,000 from a \$10 surcharge on documents recorded through the Whatcom County Auditor's office, Whatcom County Councilman Sam Crawford said.

The agreement will provide for operation, retention and development of shelters and transitional and permanent housing.

"If an elderly person or somebody is at risk of losing their home because of code violations, there would be rehabilitation dollars available," said David Webster, executive director of Northwest Youth Services.

Whatcom County Deputy Administrator Dewey Desler said many people in the community have difficulty finding affordable housing, and the organizations built to support them are having difficulty providing that support because of federal budget cuts.

Webster said a significant portion of the homeless people in the county are youths and people with mental illnesses whom people have thrown out in the community without the basic skills to take care of themselves.

"Let's say you've spent most of your childhood as a foster child — once you turn 18, no matter how traumatic your childhood has been and how ready you are for the world, the state says, 'You're out,'" Webster said.

'As long as you can see over the bar, you are good to go.'

Vanessa Rosenberg
Western sophomore

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Resolution: Western supports mentoring program

Continued from Page 1

According to the resolution, states that attendance at an annual diversity-training workshop before school starts each fall will be part of the job description for members of the AS board of directors. It invited the Whatcom AS to participate in this training.

"We're trying to build more bridges and enrich our shared community in order to allow us to work together better," Moore said. "We want to ensure that people feel safe and supported."

Moore and Andrew Dawe, AS vice president of activities and resolution cosponsor, said they presented the resolution to the board with the idea that Whatcom and Western share a constituency and a community.

Regardless of what Whatcom's student council intended by revoking support of Big Brothers Big Sisters, some students felt alienated, Moore said. The students did not feel isolated necessarily by the council, but by the atmosphere the decision created, he said.

When Whatcom's AS revoked support for Big Brothers Big Sisters' Bowl for Kids' Sake event, approximately 300 students signed a petition requesting renewed support for the organization. Whatcom also provided a forum for students and community members to discuss concerns about the AS' decision.

"I think it's a great thing (Western's board) did by passing that," said Sara Moore, president of the Gay Straight Alliance at Whatcom. "In my eyes, it adds to

the credibility of the AS at Western."

A group of approximately 50 students met Wednesday at Whatcom to support the resolution and encourage Whatcom's involvement in diversity training.

Avery said he attended the protest and discussed the possibility of diversity training with the administration.

"The administration seemed to really be listening to us," Avery said. "If nothing else, I hope it empowers Whatcom students."

According to the resolution, Western's AS board supports Big Brothers Big Sisters' nondiscrimination policy and recognized the organization's work done throughout the community.

"I think it's great Western is trying to bridge things instead of everyone trying to shout over each other," said Paula French, coordinator of Bowl for Kids' Sake.

"Anytime we can draw our community toward peace and resolution is a great thing."

Dawe said the AS board is in the process of organizing its own team for Big Brothers Big Sisters' Community Day on May 1st, in which teams receive pledges to bowl and raise money for the organization.

"The point of Big Brothers Big Sisters is to support youth and give them good role models," Dawe said. "That's something Bellingham needs — something the entire country needs."

'We're trying to build more bridges and enrich our shared community in order to allow us to work together better.'

Jesse Moore

AS vice president for diversity

Protest: Leaders plan more rallies

Continued from Page 1

the event after talking with friends about the series of rapes that had happened in the area. The sexual assault that took place Feb. 23 on the 900 block of High Street happened one block away from her house, she said.

"I've heard a lot of different rumors — people giving different stories," she said. "No one was very aware that it happened. I don't think that's effective."

Western post-baccalaureate Carlos Hatfield, who used to volunteer at Whatcom Crisis Services, an organization that helps victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, joined the march. He said he was one of two male volunteers at the organization at the time.

"I really think that people should go out on the streets when some atrocity happens," Hatfield said.

Sarah Rankin, who worked at Whatcom Crisis Services before becoming the coordinator of Crime and Sexual Assault

Services at Western, said the break-ins and assaults have left students scared and unsure of what to do. She carried a "No Rape" sign in the march.

"So many students are coming to my office scared," Rankin said.

She said the march was a wonderful way for students to directly act against the violence.

Wednesday's march was the first of what Briody and her friends said they hope will become a monthly anti-rape march. Also, if a rape occurs near or on campus in the future, they want to march downtown to protest within 24 hours. Briody said that because of the short planning time for Wednesday's march, she did not obtain a permit for the protest. She said they will obtain permits for future marches, although they may have trouble getting one within 24 hours of a rape because of the short notice.

"(Rape) could happen at any time," Briody said. "This is a way to direct attention toward the subject."

Series: Western students, locals must discuss, face issues of race

Continued from Page 1

"The white students are afraid to say anything because they don't want to be labeled as ignorant or racist," she said.

Western senior Jesse Moore, the Associated Students vice president for diversity, implored students to talk about race or suffer the consequences of mounting cultural tension in a Feb. 25, 2003 Western Front column.

"Unless we get to hear what people really think without them feeling inhibited in their expression, we can never truly understand or identify our problems," Moore said. "We all need to listen and try to understand, even when we completely disagree with what is being said."

The Western Front's six-part series helped expose various race issues, and its editors encourage students and community members to talk about these issues. Are today's scholarships turning Caucasian males into a new "minority" group? Should

Western permit race, ethnicity and national origin to influence admission decisions? Western is roughly as racially diverse as the state of Washington, but is that enough?

From scholarships to dating, to crime to entertainment to jobs, race is an issue that surrounds all people. Everyone has a stake in this issue: Latinos, Caucasians, blacks, Asian Americans, American Indians and all other ethnicities. In the end, everyone belongs to one race: the human race.

So write letters to the editor. Sponsor forums and events about race. If anyone wants to say something, say it. Western may be a blizzard of white faces, but every face at Western has ears.

Speak up.

This concludes the race series. Previous parts can be found on www.westernfrontonline.com.

GOP: Whatcom GOP members elect caucus delegates

Continued from Page 1

(for security threats)."

Caucus delegate Marta Guevara said she agreed that the caucus was energizing, and she was looking forward to the campaign.

"It's exciting to follow a leader like Bush," she said. "He's brought integrity back to the White House, and he follows his words with action."

State Rep. Doug Erickson opened his home for a caucus in Ferndale and said support for Bush also was unflagging at his location.

"We had unanimous support for President Bush," he said. "People support the president because of his steady leadership. People also believe that President Bush has made America safe and more secure."

Guevara and Ayers both predicted that the health of the economy would be one of the crucial issues in

Bush's campaign.

"It's always going to be about taxes and the economy," Guevara said.

Ayers said Bush's tax platform should motivate people to elect him for a second term.

"(Bush's tax cuts) let people keep their money and spend their own money in their own way," Ayers said. "His tax-cuts were needed and necessary."

Guevara said she was pleased with the mixed turnout of familiar faces and new acquaintances and added that she was optimistic about her candidate's chances for reelection.

"The caucus was exciting because we're drawing in people who haven't been involved before," she said. "It's because the alternative is too frightening."

The GOP's national convention will start Aug. 30 in New York. The Democrats' convention will begin July 26 in Boston.

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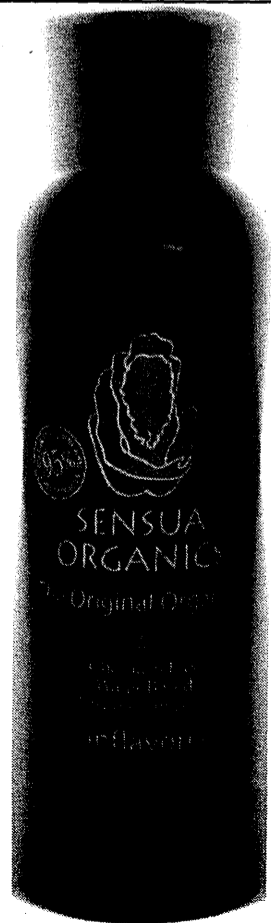
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March 12

Arts and crafts show

Viking Union 565; 650-3120; free

Western presents its 10th annual arts and crafts show, featuring various exhibits from Western staff. Show will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bellingham centennial exhibit

Whatcom Museum of History and Art; 676-6981; free

"Bellingham Centennial: Stories of Place and Community" exhibit at the Whatcom Museum, in honor of Bellingham's 100th birthday, allows community members to celebrate the occasion with jigsaw puzzles, a video, historic newspaper clips, entertainment and cloth-

ing from the early 1900s. Maps, photographs and artifacts are some of the items featured. The exhibit runs from noon to 5 p.m. through May.

One Act Theatre Festival

Bellingham Theatre Guild; 733-1811; \$4 per show or \$10 for festival pass

The Bellinghamster One Act Theatre Festival, coordinated by Sean Walbeck, is an open community festival. Come see local theater starting at 7 p.m. Festival passes are available at the Barkley Village ticket office, 2915 Newmarket St., Suite 104.

Celtic Fiddle Festival

The Leopold; 734-5269; Tickets \$20 for the general public and \$18 for members

Crossroad Productions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the awareness and promotion of the musical tradition of Celtic culture, presents The Celtic Fiddle Festival in the Leopold Crystal Ballroom. The event starts at 8 p.m.

March 13

Allied Arts member show

Allied Arts Gallery; 676-8548; free

This is a showing of artwork in various disciplines from members of Allied Arts. The gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through March 27.

March 15

Book reading

Village Books; 671-2626; free

"The Lunch Bunch," a group of retired Western faculty members, will read from their group book, "WWU As It Was," at Village Books. Authors include Don Brown, David Marsh, George Lamb, Al Nickelson, Irwin Sleznick, Harvey Gelder, Stewart Van Wongerden, Loren Webb and Jerry Flora. The reading starts at 7:30 p.m.

Compiled by Matt Hietala.

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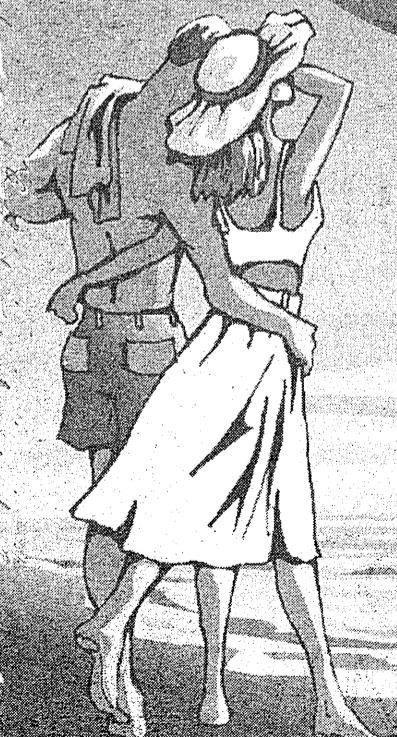
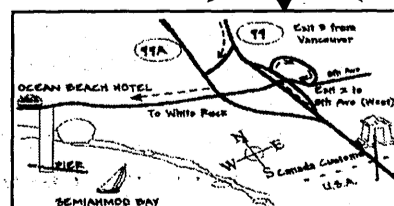
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Bellingham's best-kept secrets

Three reporters share their favorite, lesser-known hangouts

Doughy goodness on Electric Ave.

By Lauren Miller
The Western Front

Whether someone is craving a sweet breakfast or a late-night snack, a small doughnut shop in Bellingham will satisfy these cravings. Past a small residential neighborhood and between a thick group of trees and an Exxon station is Lafeen's Donuts & Ice Cream shop.

Immediately walking into Lafeen's, one can see the many choices the shop has to offer. Maple bars, turnovers, twists, bear claws and old-fashioned cake doughnuts tease customers behind a glass display. The sweet smell emanates from the variety of pastries fill the small store.

Western junior Matt Danielson said he visits Lafeen's about once a month and then



Lauren Miller/The Western Front
Old-fashioned doughnuts are one of the many pastries Lafeen's sells. Lafeen's also sells muffins, cookies and ice cream. Lafeen's bakes all the pastries fresh throughout the day.

recalls the first time his friends took him there.

"There was a lot of hype leading up to it," he said. "I remember my friend brought me a doughnut and said, 'We are going to Lafeen's next week.' Then when we went, the doughnuts were fresh out off the racks and warm in our hands."

Owner Shawn Samutn said the peak hour for Western students is after 9 p.m.

At 9:45 p.m., groups walk in and out, filling all the available seating. The bakery always has a slight murmur from customers and a buzz from machines. Business cards and fliers about Bellingham events line the walls.

"The bakery has been around since 1985," Samutn said. "We are the third owners and bought it in 1996 because it had a good financial report and a lot of customers."

Lafeen's provides other food, if people want to pull away from the doughnuts. A variety of ice cream and waffle cones are available. Lafeen's also offers frozen yogurt, cookies, muffins, sundaes and milkshakes.

All the doughnuts are affordable, with large pastries like pinwheels and bear claws for \$1.25, regular cake doughnuts for 50 cents and decorated doughnuts for 60 cents.

Some of Lafeen's more popular items include buttermilk bars, turnovers, fritters and doughnut holes, Samutn said.

Lafeen's doughnut holes lay in large numbers on a tray on the glass display. The ping-pong-ball-sized doughnut holes cost \$1 per dozen.

Lafeen's is located past Lakeway on 1466 Electric Ave. and open every day from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Lauren Miller/The Western Front
Shawn Samutn, one of the owners of Lafeen's Donuts & Ice Cream Shop, serves doughnut holes to a customer. The doughnut holes are priced a \$1 per dozen.

Local fashions in Railroad store

By Shanna Green
The Western Front

Although it has been located downtown for 10 years, many people do not know about the clothing shop Sojourn until they hear



Shanna Green/The Western Front
Sojourn store manager Michelle Millar uses steam to press the lining of a tutu skirt. Millar said the pink skirt will be a popular look for spring.

about it from other customers, store owner Peggy Platter said. Once they find out, she said, they often turn into loyal customers.

The appeal of Sojourn, located at 1317 Railroad Ave., is that it offers women's clothing and accessories that other stores in Bellingham do not carry, Bellingham resident Angela Walton said.

"You can't find things like this in the Bellis Fair Mall — it's unique," Walton said.

Platter said that what sets the store apart from other Bellingham clothing retailers is that she almost exclusively buys from small boutique lines and only purchases three or four of each item to make sure "everyone is not wearing the same thing."

Although the shop is smaller than some of the stores in malls, Platter said she keeps the selection fresh with new shipments arriving twice a week. Platter said she also tries to set the store apart from the mall by buying jewelry, hats, bags and clothing from local designers.

Walton said her favorite items in Sojourn is the jewelry, although the store has other great finds.

"The bags are really cool, and there's lots of cool hats," Walton said.

Platter said the store is ready for spring. For the season, she said bright colors still will be the most popular looks. Platter said pink will remain strong, and yellow and turquoise will be the new "it" colors.

A cozy cafe in Fairhaven



Lauren Fior/The Western Front
A group of customers eat by the window on a sunny day at Harris Avenue Cafe in Fairhaven.

By Lauren Fior
The Western Front

Harris Avenue Cafe in Fairhaven is a comfortable and cozy place to eat. Set in an old brick building, the small cafe offers some of the best breakfasts in town.

The cafe offers breakfast and lunch every day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Menu items vary from sandwiches to French toast.

One item not found at many restaurants is the \$4.25 cornmeal buttermilk pancake stack. The cafe also offers a BLT with avocado sandwich on focaccia bread, hamburgers, soup and salads.

"They have good, friendly service and a cozy atmosphere because of its small, intimate setting," Whatcom Community College sophomore Jessica Schwab said.

Schwab said she eats at the cafe three or four times a month.

"I like their soup and salad combo — it's a good portion for a good price, approximately \$6," Schwab said.

The Marxville is an omelet-style dish with eggs, green peppers, onion, sausage, pepper jack cheese, barbeque sauce, sour cream and approximately five cloves of garlic. For \$8.95, it comes with homegrown potatoes and toast.

A mix of recordings at Bayside

By Justin McCaughan
The Western Front

A blue door tucked in the side of an office building on North Forest Street serves as the entrance to Paul Turpin's world.

Turpin, the 36-year-old co-owner of Bayside Recording, spends most of his life in the professional recording studio on the other side of that door.

Bayside Recording is the biggest recording studio in Whatcom County and has recorded some of the most notable local bands and musicians, including The Barbed Wire Cutters, Korby Lenker and Idiot Pilot.

The music bug bit Turpin a long time ago. In first grade, he began taking private piano lessons. His enthusiasm for music grew as he pounded away at the keys of the piano in his Federal Way home. By seventh grade, he had taken an interest in music composition and desperately wanted to join the school band.

His parents gave him the choice of continuing his piano lessons or joining the band and taking trombone lessons. He chose the band.

"Band was much more social with all those cute clarinet players," he said.

He said he excelled as a student and as a musician, and his peers eventually elected him the president of his junior high school and later high school bands.

"I was convinced by my junior high experience that music was what I wanted to do with my life," Turpin said.

Second only to his love for music was his fascination with computers.

"Senior year of high school, I got a four-track (recorder), a drum machine and a synthesizer," Turpin said. "My interest in recording stemmed from my interest in technology."

Turpin knew he wanted to go to college to study music, but he debated whether to attend Western or Northwestern University in Illinois. He chose Western and began classes in the fall of 1985.

"I got into Northwestern academically, but I ended up choosing Western because they thought I was a great trombone player," he said. "Music was what I really wanted to study."

Turpin took the audio recording class at Fairhaven College during his freshman year and eventually became a lab assistant in the recording studio.

He earned two bachelor's degrees in musical performance and composition from Western.

He joined a cover band his freshman year and the local reggae band Jumbalassy during his sophomore year. He was a Jumbalassy member for almost 13 years.

Turpin struggled to balance the amount of time he dedicated to music and school with the amount of time he

spent working his part-time job.

"It was basically four days a week in the band, three days at work and five days a week at school," Turpin said. "It was really rough. I wasn't getting any sleep."

Although he was already incredibly busy, Turpin took on the job of recording and mixing his band's first record.

"I got into recording largely because I needed a way to record my own band," he said. "I didn't like the choices of recording studios in Bellingham. I wanted something better."

In 1995, Turpin moved into a house on Bayside Place with a large garage.

"We built a soundproof room within my garage and put the control room in my third bedroom," he said.

Slowly, other musicians in the Bellingham area began showing interest in recording in Turpin's garage.

"It was a slow progression," he said. "Suddenly, I realized I had a recording business."

Turpin's recording studio has the name Bayside Recording because of the street on which it was located.

"It's not a very creative name, but it has ring to it," he said.

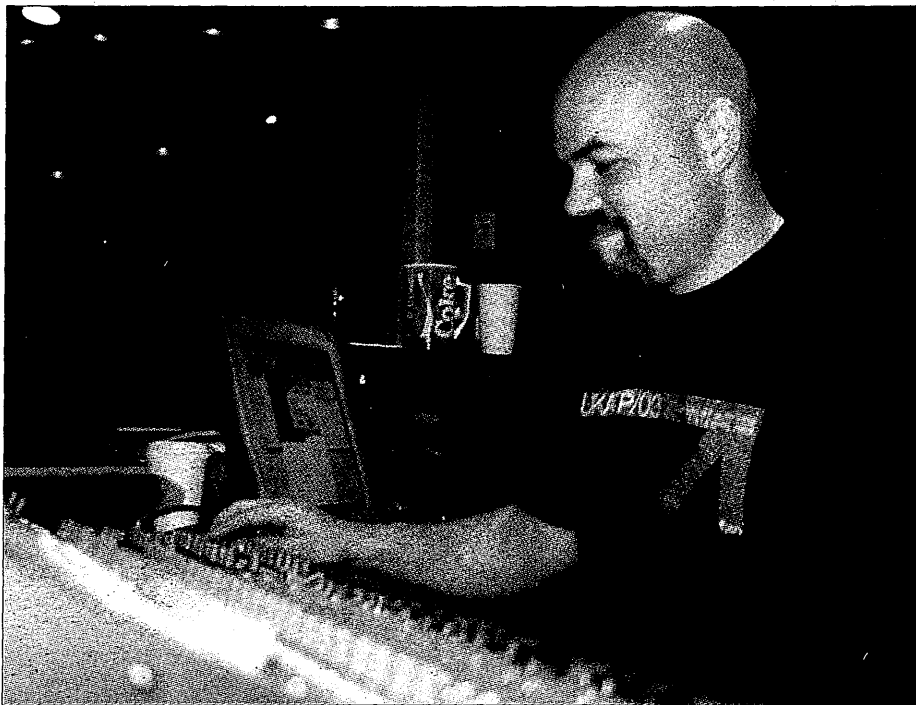
The business eventually grew so big that Turpin and his business partner decided it was time to move the studio out of their home.

"The control room was right next to my bedroom, and I couldn't sleep," Turpin said. "Also, whenever I wanted to relax, there would always be a band in the house."

Turpin and his business partner took out a loan and located the building where their studio is now. They hired an architect to design a studio with two recording rooms, each one recording to a different soundboard and able to work completely independently of the other.

Turpin has been in his new studio for more than three years and loves his work.

"I like that it can be completely different every day," he said. "In a lot of ways, you become a creative part of every band you work with. You get intimately involved in their creative process."



Amanda Woolley/The Western Front

Paul Turpin works on his mixing board in the main studio at Bayside Recording. Turpin spent many sleepless nights at mixing boards.

Lenker has worked with Bayside Recording before, and recently recorded his "The Ghost of Whiteboy" album with Turpin.

"For me, he's gone above and beyond the call of duty," Lenker said. "He's taken a personal interest in the quality of my music."

Lenker said he has never seen a higher work ethic in a sound engineer and considers Bellingham lucky to have an engineer like Turpin.

"I think he's Bellingham's best engineer, hands down," he said. "We spent almost 26 hours in the studio at one point when we were mixing and mastering 'The Ghost of Whiteboy.' You can't exactly expect an engineer to do that, but Paul did."

Turpin said he enjoys experiencing a wide diversity of music and people.

"We deal directly with artists all of the time," he said. "It's neat to see young artists at the beginning of their career."

Daniel Anderson, guitarist for the Bellingham band Idol Pilot, said his group has been working with Turpin for four years.

"The thing that makes him different from other recorders is that he really cares about the band and what the band wants," Anderson said. "He really cares about what he's doing in a legitimate way."

Peter Miller, director of the Audio Institute of America, trains aspiring sound engineers and has been working with engineers in the music industry for decades.

"There's a big difference between listening to music and hearing music," Miller said. "Great engineers think about the effect they want before they touch a knob."

Lenker said he is amazed at Turpin's ability to accurately record sound.

"Paul has a lot of experience recording and making sounds," he said. "One of the jobs of a good engineer is to know how to reproduce the sound of an actual instrument, to make a sax sound like a sax, to make a guitar sound like a guitar. Paul does that incredibly well."

Turpin said he is proud of his studio and has accomplished every major goal he has had in his life so far.

"I've never given myself any alternatives that would lead me away from my goals," Turpin said.

He hopes his client base will continue to grow as Bayside Recording does, but he is pleased.

"I'm happy at the point I'm at right now," he said. "Your highest goal should be to be happy today."

Turpin credits much of his success thus far to his people skills.

"Having good people skills is important as a recorder," Turpin said. "You need to understand what the band is going through. You need to know what it's like to be in a band."



Amanda Woolley/The Western Front

Paul Turpin works on his computer, mixing music with a program.

In your words

In your opinion, what musician's death was the most premature and tragic?



Anders Conbere
Junior, math

John Lennon's death was because it wasn't his intention to kill himself. He had the intention of producing a lifetime full of music. ”



Tonya Hladik
Junior, French

Janis Joplin because she was a very dramatic and powerful voice of the '60s. She gave something new to music and had such a tragic life. ”



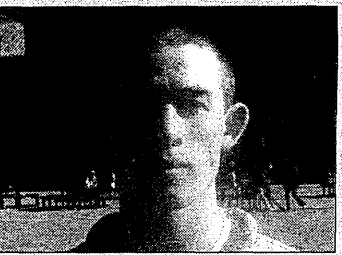
Gil Amundsen
Junior, psychology

Kurt Cobain because he was just getting started with his music. His best album was the last one that came out. ”



Adam Plesha
Junior, English

Bradley Nowell because his music was really cool for the time. He took a lot of it from reggae culture, and the messages from his music was really positive. ”



Chris Vaoeri
Junior, history of social studies

Cliff Burton, the bassist for Metallica, because he was badass. From his death on, Metallica's music wasn't as good. ”



Cat Nguyen
Sophomore, pre-physical therapy

Tupac because his music was really influential. His style was like no other. ”

Compiled by Gil Ventura.

Bellingham needs more all-ages venues



Aaron Apple

Commentary

hard to fill.

That leaves the Fairhaven Auditorium, which no longer is allowing groups to use the room for shows.

The Underground Coffee House also plays host to shows every week or so, but to play there, bands must keep the sound under a certain decibel level, which prevents heavy rocking out. The coffeehouse still puts on fun, memorable shows though, especially Kind of Like Spitting's acoustic performance and Anna Oxygen.

Plenty of bars and clubs are available for bands to play at in Bellingham. But many bands do not enjoy playing at smoke-filled bars, where much of the time, people pay more attention to their drinks than the music.

Also, younger fans are excluded from these shows, limiting the band's potential audience. Some bands might have more fun playing to a younger, more enthusiastic crowd that actually moves to the music, rather than standing with their arms crossed or their hands in their pockets.

Groups have too difficult of a time sponsoring shows on Western's campus. The school should be working with groups, not against them, to make shows happen. Western needs to have more than two possible places on campus where rock concerts take place.

Western has better shows on its campus than any other university in Washington. Often, if a large band like The Promise Ring tours the country, Western is the only university on its agenda. This trend needs to continue, not be discouraged because of the lack of venues.

Some might say Bellingham is the next Seattle, with its all-ages music scene and larger touring bands, like The Jealous Sound, The Red Light Sting, Death Cab for Cutie and The Lawrence Arms, who all have recently played here for all-ages audiences.

The all-ages scene in Bellingham has tremendously grown in the past years and is showing no signs of slowing down. A few years ago, the only place where minors could see a show was downtown at the Showoff Gallery and the occasional Associated Students Productions Pop Music show at Western.

Bellingham now has a few more venues, people dedicated to making the scene stronger and many talented bands. The only factor that seems to be missing from a perfect scene is a permanent all-ages venue downtown. The Give A Fuck Church puts on approximately three all-ages shows a month, but that is not enough to accommodate the growth of audiences and bands.

The ASP Pop Music club brings bigger touring acts to campus and pairs them with local openers.

Loa Records plays host to free concerts anywhere on campus that it can, mostly with local bands. These clubs are facing a lack-of-space problem. The Viking Union Multipurpose Room gets quickly booked, and because the room is so big, it is

The Western Front online

www.westernfrontonline.com

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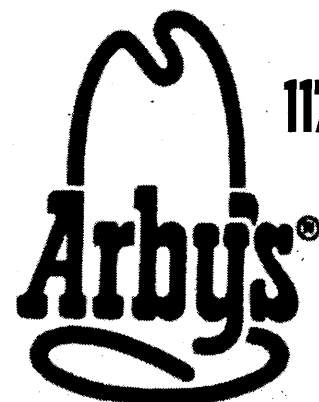
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Lip-syncing to greatness

By Shanna Green
The Western Front

From Britney Spears' rendition of Joan Jett's "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" to bad movie clichés and tourists, the images of karaoke abound. Most of them, however,



Shanna Green/ The Western Front Western senior Sammy White, left, performs karaoke with Western senior Sean Frisch. The two sang songs by artists ranging from Pearl Jam to the Backstreet Boys.

do not involve Western students. Spend a few nights at some of the Bellingham bars that offer karaoke, though, and all that could change.

Bars and restaurants, such as the Fairhaven Pub & Martini Bar, have karaoke nights that are so popular some students attend every week, karaoke host Jody Hunter said.

Hunter, who organizes karaoke night for The Royal and the Fairhaven, recognized regulars sitting in the bar.

"They're fun," she said as she pointed to a table of four men. "And he comes every week; but he never sings," she said of another guy.

Still, even if someone is a regular, it does not necessarily mean he or she is a great singer, Hunter said.

"It's not a talent show," Hunter said. "The Fairhaven one is really fun."

Hunter said she has had a lot of fun and listened to some interesting performances as a karaoke host.

"No matter how many times I think I've found the worst singer, there's always someone worse," Hunter said.

The first group Hunter pointed out was comprised of Western seniors Sean Frisch, Eric Hyatt, Brian Johnson and Sammy White. Hyatt said the group has performed at the Fairhaven every Wednesday since finding out about karaoke night in September.

Hunter said that since many of the regulars want to sing the same songs every week, she encourages them to try new material.

White said the men have a solid routine,

but they do not always perform the same songs.

"We do at least one boy band, some AC/DC, 'Labamba' — the Spanish version — and '80s rock," White said.

Frisch was the first in the group to perform, and as he took the stage, the rest laughed.

"He thinks he's doing Garth Brook's 'The Dance,'" Hyatt said. "But it's Chumbawamba."

After finishing his surprise rendition of "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba, Frisch said it was not the first time his friends had switched songs on him.

At another table, Western senior Ralph Smith, Bellingham resident Shawn Bair and Whatcom Community College senior Bunny Bristow waited for their turns to perform.

Smith said he began performing karaoke with his friends approximately three months ago and regularly has come to the Fairhaven on Wednesday nights.

"It's addictive," Smith said. "Now I want to do, like, five or six songs a night."

Bristow said he was with Smith the first time they performed. Bristow said they and their friends decided to sing "I Want It That Way" by the Backstreet Boys after getting drunk. Ever since, Bristow said the song has become a favorite that they perform regularly.

Since he has karaoke on his PlayStation, Bristow said sometimes they get together and practice their songs.

Western senior Kristin Bailey, who came with Bristow and Smith, said she

Karaoke: Where to go in Bellingham

The Royal
9 p.m. Monday
208 E. Holly St.
738-3701

Fairhaven Pub & Martini Bar
9 p.m. Wednesday
1114 Harris Ave.
671-6745

Glynn's Shamrock Pub
9 p.m. Monday and Saturday
5309 Meridian St.
398-1702

La Pinata Mexican Restaurant
9 p.m. Friday and Saturday
1317 Commercial St.
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had never performed before and was unsure whether she was going to sing. Although she has sung in choirs before, Bailey said karaoke is not quite the same.

"I'm really nervous about trying to sing in front of people," Bailey said.

Eventually, though, her friends persuaded her to perform with them, and she sang a song by the Mamas & the Papas.

After the song was over, Bailey left the stage, but her friends remained to sing the karaoke classic "Baby Got Back," by Sir Mix-A-Lot.

STUDENTS / FACULTY / STAFF



Thank you for participating in the WWU Daytime shuttle Pilot Project.

Dear WWU Students, Faculty & Staff,

Response to the shuttle pilot has been overwhelmingly positive. It's evident that WWU community members support change from a personal automobile-dominated transportation system to a more sustainable model.

During Spring Quarter, WWU Administration will compile survey data, comments and support for the shuttle test project and determine the logistics and funding necessary to implement a permanent campus shuttle.

You are invited to continue to support the shuttle project through completing and mailing in a survey, available at www.ps.wvu.edu, and/or emailing your suggestions to parking@wwu.edu.

The Western Evening Student Transit shuttle, currently operated by Airporter shuttle under contract to University Residences, will continue to operate from 7pm until mid night, 7 days a week.

WWU is proud to promote sustainable transportation as part of the Alternative Transportation Program, and looks forward to implementing a permanent Daytime Campus Shuttle in the future.

Sincerely,
WWU Parking & Transportation Services
Alternative Transportation Program



The last day of operation for the WWU Daytime Shuttle Pilot will be Friday March 19, 2004.

If you have questions please contact us at 650-2945 or email at parking@wwu.edu



SPORTS

MEN'S GOLF

Western places ninth among 19

Western could not improve its second-round ninth-place standing Tuesday at the Southern California Intercollegiate Championship in San Diego.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Western wins Chico State invite

The Vikings overcame a three-stroke deficit to win the Chico State University Invitational Tournament by one stroke Tuesday in Chico, Calif.

SOFTBALL

Central pitches Western shutout

Western lost its first Great Northwest Athletic Conference contest 1-0 to Central Washington University on Thursday in Ellensburg.

Four Vikes receive regional honors



Grant Dykstra

Jason Burrell

Ryan Diggs



Tessa DeBoer

Sports information directors from 24 schools voted four Viking basketball players to the Daktronics, Inc. NCAA Division II West Region all-star team. Women's senior forward Tessa DeBoer was named to the second team, as was men's sophomore forward Grant Dykstra. Two men's guards, senior Jason Burrell and sophomore Ryan Diggs, received honorable mention.

Information courtesy of the Athletic Department. Infographic by Matt DeVeau.

Club tennis swings nationals

By Jelena Washington
The Western Front

A roster of eight Western students flew to Daytona Beach, Fla., Wednesday for the non-varsity USA Team Tennis National Campus Championships, which conclude Saturday.

Western's men's and women's club tennis teams dropped two matches in Thursday's pool play, losing to the University of Colorado and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

"In terms of the competition, I'd say we are middle of the road," Western senior player coach Allison Ilgenfritz said. "Coming from Western, we don't have access to courts and nice weather like the southern schools do."

Western will begin Friday's games at 8 a.m. against the University of Michigan and at 10:30 a.m. against the University of Delaware.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association, which is the governing body for collegiate tennis in the United States, designed the tournament to promote tennis at colleges throughout the country, said Casey Angle, a member of the association.

"People are giving up tennis after high school, and we hope this will prevent that from happening and keep people playing," Angle said.

The United States has 300,000 high school tennis players but only 25,000 college players, he said.

Three organizations sponsor the tournament: The ITA, the U.S. Tennis Association, which deals with tennis at all levels of play, and the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association, which handles all non-varsity and intramural sports in the country, Angle said.

The tournament began its fifth year and played host to an all-time high of 33 schools from 22 states, said Joe Resgado, USTA board of directors member.

"When the tournament started five years ago, there was only 10 teams participating, but now we have tripled that number," Angle said. "Western has been a participant all of those five years."

Entry into the tournament has been open to any school willing to send a team, but the associations hope to establish qualifying regional tournaments in the near future, Angle said.

The USTA sponsors four regional tournaments in which teams have the chance to receive additional funding for the national tournament, Angle said.

The level of competition is high, but the skill level varies, Angle said.

"Most of the participants could have played at the college level but for some reason chose not to," he said.

Resgado said that because the size of the tournament has been increasing every year, the facilities soon will not be able to account for more teams.

"We have been considering an East and West national championship for the two different coasts," Resgado said. "We like to hold a tournament at Daytona again and maybe another in southern California."

The tournament is designed not only to promote tennis, but also for students to enjoy a vacation in a fun city, Resgado said.

"We like to keep the tournament as exciting as possible, and the students like it because it is spring break time in Daytona right now," he said.

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LEARN TO LIVE A LITTLE

Trainers treat everything from sprains to split faces

By Chris Taylor
The Western Front

The Western women's basketball team suffered many injuries this season, such as season-ending ACL tears, a stress fracture and a strained knee. Without the help of Western athletic trainers, assistant coach Kim Bergsma said the Vikings might not have been healthy enough to qualify for the regional tournament.

While Western students may have seen these trainers at sporting events on campus, or working in the hallway of Carver Gym, many have no idea who these trainers are or what they do.

"I put on many faces throughout the day," staff athletic trainer Julie Weisgerber said. "I work with personal issues with athletes, talk to coaches and do whatever I can to get athletes back into practice or games."

Weisgerber, who is one of the three varsity-sport athletic trainers at Western, is in her second year as a trainer. She is the trainer for volleyball, women's basketball, golf and cheer. She has to be at all volleyball and basketball practices and games, which includes away games, and she said she helps with golf and cheer when she can.

Weisgerber said her job, like all athletic trainers' jobs, is to treat and assess injuries and to apply the best treatment for the individual athlete.

These treatments might involve an ice bath or muscle-strengthening and rehabilitation techniques, such as electrical-stim treatment or ultrasound, Weisgerber said.

"I have dealt with females who had eating disorders and athletes who had issues from surgery and got frustrated with the long-term rehabilitation," Weisgerber said.

Head athletic trainer Lonnie Lyon said a basketball player who split his face open on the steel footing of the bleachers while diving after a loose ball suffered the most gruesome injury he has ever seen.

Lyon has been an athletic trainer at Western for six

years and handles the football, men's basketball and both crew teams. He said he travels with the football and basketball teams and attends practices and games.

Lyon said fall quarter is his busiest time because he has to help the football team at the same time he has to help the basketball team, which begins its season at the end of fall.

Lyon said that since trainers see athletes at their best and worse, they try to maintain a positive atmosphere.

"We try to make the training room a place where they can feel comfortable," Lyon said. "We use humor for an

He said that correctly evaluating an injury is challenging. "If you come up with the wrong decision, you can further injure the athlete, or being too conservative means that the athlete doesn't play when they could," Lyon said.

After tearing his own ACL in high school, staff athletic trainer Masa Migita said he became interested in athletic injuries.

In his first year at Western, Migita handles training for men's and women's soccer, track and cross country.

"The older kids that I work with have such a positive attitude towards getting healthier and getting back to their top performance," Migita said.

In most cases, each varsity athletic trainer is able to treat an injured athlete. The trainers, however, refer serious injuries, such as broken bones or injuries that need stitches, to team physician Dr. Warren Howe.

Western's athletic trainers also assist students. All Western students have access to rehabilitation from student athletic trainer Lori deKubber. DeKubber went to school at Western in the '80s and was a former Western assistant women's basketball coach from '91 to '98.

"I do not do any prevention care or on-field assessment of injuries," deKubber said. "I see students after they have seen the doctor, so the only thing I do is rehabilitation."

DeKubber said she sees injuries that are not always sports-related.

"Mostly I see upper trap (neck and shoulder) tension from over-studying on the computer," deKubber said. "I also see a lot of injuries due to inactivity, where a person is not used to doing a certain activity which they might do for the first time."

DeKubber, who works part time on weekday mornings, said that during a student's first visit, she completes a full evaluation and establishes a rehabilitation program.

"I teach them things they can do at home," deKubber said. "They should feel like they have some control over their rehabilitation and are getting better."



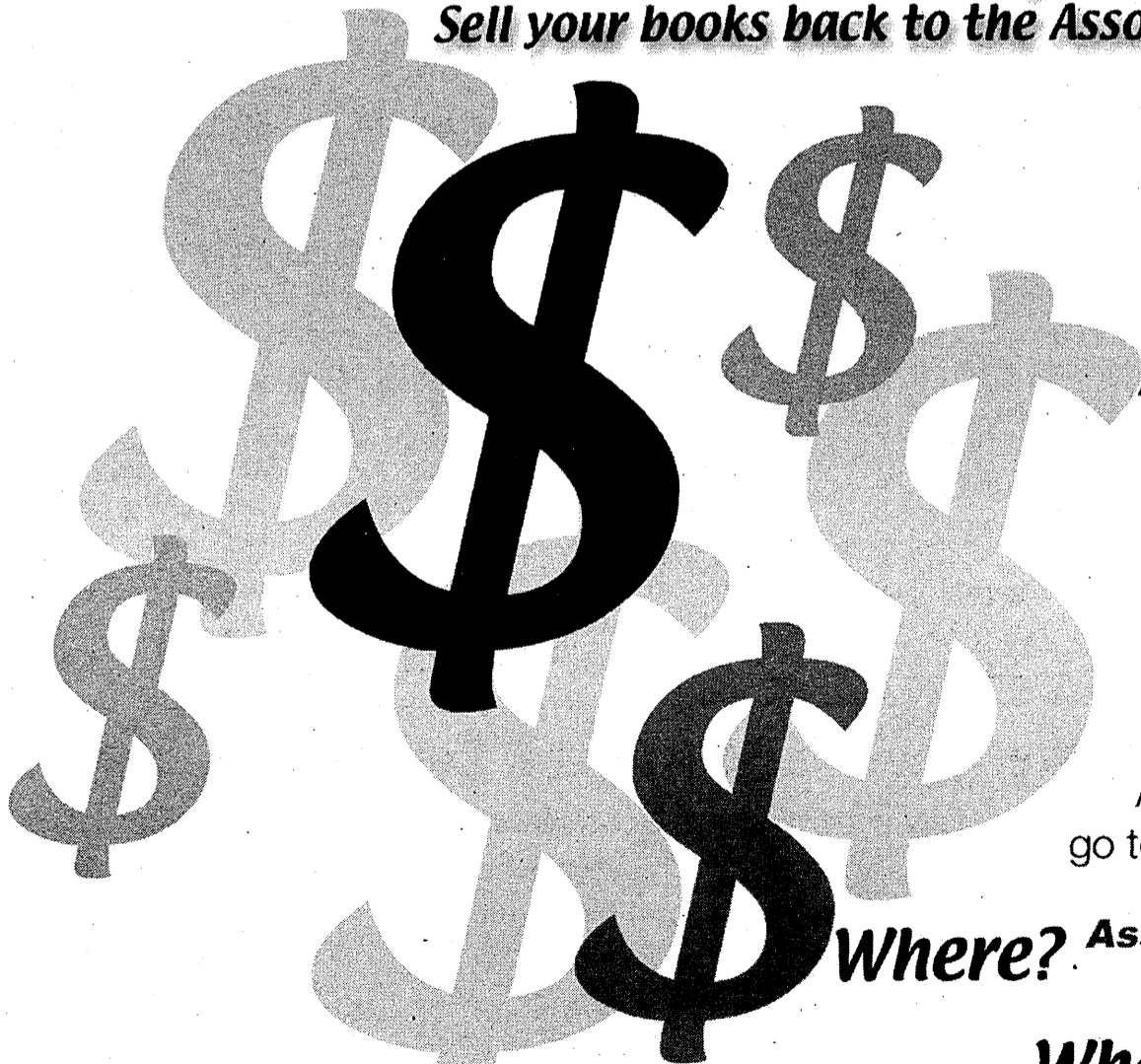
Chris Taylor/The Western Front

Western staff athletic trainer Masa Migita applies ice to a frustrated Ben Dragavon, Western sophomore and men's soccer goalkeeper. Dragavon strained his knee Thursday during practice.

icebreaker or for a comforting tool to help athletes in their dealing with their injuries but at the same time help them with their needs so they feel confident getting back to activity."

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Steroids juice dry game



Matt Hietala

COMMENTARY

President George W. Bush, the U.S. Senate and the baseball world are in an uproar about steroid use in MLB.

Give it up, fellas, it is not that big of a deal.

Steroid use in baseball does not harm Joe Baseball Fan on the couch. Steroids do not hurt anyone but the players who take them. They also make the game more exhilarating.

Today's superstars are men who put up numbers bigger than their massive biceps and bulging foreheads.

As the old Nike commercial pointed out, "Chicks dig the long ball."

Everyone does. Fans today would rather see deep, upper-deck dingers than sacrifice bunts and hit-and-runs. They want to see Barry Bonds, a player who is at the center of the allegations, airmail his record-breaking 756th home run into McCovey Cove in San Francisco.

Baseball purists argue that these games featuring beefed-up ball players who jack 60 home runs a season are not the way baseball was meant to be played.

Well if that is the case, playing in tiny, Cracker Jack-box stadiums that cause statistics to swell

is not the way the game was meant to be played, either.

Neither is expansion, which leads to pitching matchups between superstar sluggers and pimple-faced youngsters who instead should be bagging groceries part time.

Times change, including in baseball. These purists do not argue that black and Hispanic players should not be playing, though they did not play in the times these old-timers covet.

While steroids are illegal, baseball players clearly are not ordinary citizens. Real people do not make millions and millions of dollars. Real people do not have warehouses full of expensive cars. Real people do not handpick which celebrities they are going to date.

Baseball players, however, do. At least those who are superstars.

Clearly not every athlete uses the juice. Some of these moguls simply train hard. These players are the ones who do not break down but sustain long careers. Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco, both admitted "roid ragers" who won league MLB's Most Valuable Player awards, each suffered injury after injury could not finish their once-productive careers.

No one can argue against the negative effects steroids have on a person's health. Steroids have been proven to cause adverse, long-term health effects, ranging from heart disease to the inability to produce testosterone.

It can even cause premature

death, like it did to former NFL star Lyle Alzado, who died at 43 in '92 from a rare form of brain cancer that his admitted steroid abuse in the '80s induced.

Players know the risk they take when they plunge the syringe into their backside, just as Alzado did. They know the effects it can have on their games, too.

It can move them from the minors to the majors, from mediocrity to stardom.

MLB Commissioner Bud Selig and his baseball cronies clearly are not too concerned with the problem.

A player has to fail a handful of tests before suspension and public acknowledgement.

Under baseball's current testing rules, a player has to fail five drug tests before baseball forces him to sit out a year. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, which tests Olympic athletes, mandates an automatic one-year suspension upon a positive drug test. Considering its policy, it is pretty clear which group cares more about drug use.

Selig may make token public statements about doping, but if he actually cared, he would toughen the policy.

If the Sen. John McCain-led uproar continues and the Senate takes action, the league will have to institute stricter policy regarding steroid usage.

Until then, players ought to keep their waistband loose and a butt cheek wiped clean for sanitary steroid injections — and keep the homers coming.

Vikings No. 4 seed in regional tourney

By Caitlin Unsell
The Western Front

Riding a six-game winning streak, the Western women's basketball team will head to the NCAA Division II National Championships today for the seventh consecutive year, this time as the No. 4 seed.

Western, 20-7 overall, plays No. 5 seed Sonoma State University at Seattle Pacific University's Royal Brougham Pavilion.

"We know SPU like we know our own (gym)," interim head coach Sara Nichols said. "We are very comfortable there."

The semifinals are Saturday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., and the championship game is at 7 p.m. on Monday. Western is 9-5 on the road this season.

The winner will earn a trip to the Elite Eight at St. Joseph, Mo., on March 24, 25 and 27.

"Talent is nothing at this point," Nichols said. "The difference is confidence in your attitude."

Western has not lost in its past six meetings with Sonoma State. They last met in the 2002 regional semifinals in a 71-60 Western win.

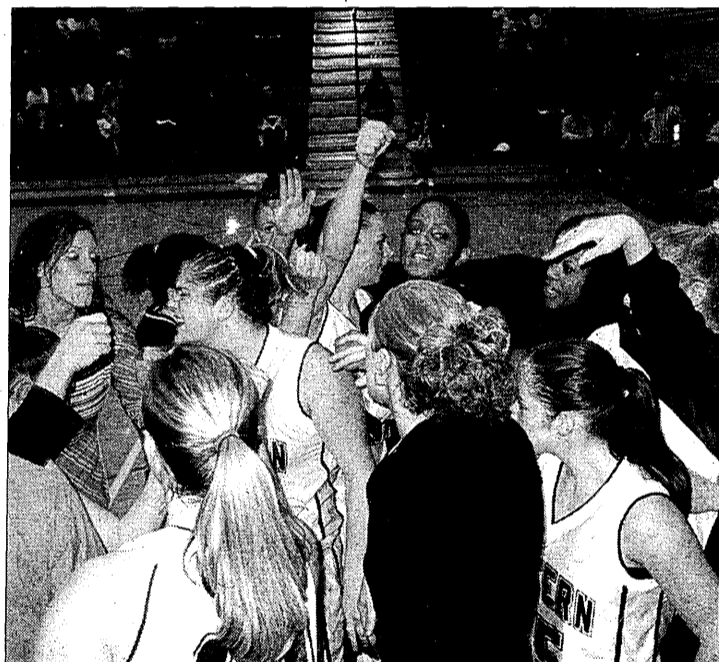
"I haven't even brought up our winning streak against Sonoma," Nichols said. "We are trying to just focus on ourselves and not the other team."

Both teams' leading scorers are a center and a forward. Western senior forward Tessa DeBoer and senior center Jenn McGillivray collectively have scored more than 2,500 points during their four-year careers.

Sonoma junior forward Tara Whiteside and junior center Jessica Jones each average 11 points per game this season.

After losing starting junior guard Kelly Colard and reserve freshman forward Krystal Robinson with torn ACLs, Western will head to finals with a shallow bench.

"Nobody is hurting right now, and if they are, they're not allowed to say it," Nichols said.



Ben Arnold/The Western Front

The Western women's basketball team huddles after a timeout Jan. 22 in Carver Gym.

Campus rec offers bracket challenge

By Cailin Long
The Western Front

Get ready for madness.

March 14 is bracket Sunday, and Western students have until 5 p.m. on March 17 to map the path that the 64 NCAA Division I men's basketball teams competing for the National Championship will take. In addition to this quarter's intramural sports, campus recreation is offering a March Madness Bracket Challenge for the first time, said Jeff Crane, Western intramural and sport club coordinator.

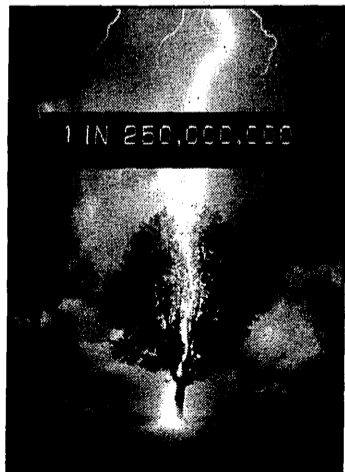
"We want to offer different opportunities to people who normally wouldn't participate in sports," Crane said.

Students choose the winners of each of the 61 games that comprise the bracket and earn points for each win they correctly predict. The NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championships begin March 18 and end April 5 in San Antonio.

"To see your team try to make it all the way is what makes March Madness fun," Western sophomore Greg McGee said.

Students can fill out as many brackets as they like. Each bracket costs \$1. The student with the most points and the student with the least points each win an intramural T-shirt.

"It's more than just the prize," Western junior Matt Berendsen said. "It's the competition against other people that makes bracket challenges worthwhile."



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Spring Break Parking

Valid parking permits or Viking Xpress passes will be required to park during Spring break, March 22 through March 28, 2004. Vehicles displaying a current permit or Xpress pass may be parked in any lot with the exception of: 6V, 8G, 10G, 11G, 17G (due to construction), 23V, 25G, 29G, Parks, CBS or ET.

Lots that may be parked in with a Valid WWU permit or Viking Xpress Pass are: 7G, 5G, 14G, 19G, 22G, 24G, 32G, 33G, 12A, C and all R lots. Permit holders will need to move back to their assigned lots starting March 29. Regular parking regulations will be enforced starting Monday, March 29.

Those who do not have a current permit may purchase a temporary permit for the break at Parking Services, 7:30 am - 5:00 pm, M-F, or use the meters or pay-box in 6V all day/night, (other G lots after hours). Meter and 6V paybox will be required. For information call 650-2945, or 650-3555 after hours.

OPINIONS

Students should be smart about spring break



Caitlin Unsell

COMMENTARY

As T-shirts begin to replace down jackets and the stress of finals sinks in once again, many Western students are fantasizing about the week ahead.

Famous for binge drinking, sun tanning and actual girls gone wild spring break essentially is the perfect excuse for the MTV generation to party, but it does not provide the rest and relaxation students need to make it through spring quarter.

One way to improve the quality of any vacation is to take advice seriously. The following tips may reduce pain, suffering and embarrassment.

Everyone needs to let loose, but spring break is only 10 days,

and calculating recovery time into vacation dates is crucial to post-spring-break demeanor.

Whether the destination is Mexico, Las Vegas or on mom's couch where you can live vicariously through MTV, do not neglect your body. Drinking is fine, but know when to stop and, more importantly, drink water after — or even with — alcohol.

Water is key. Nothing is worse than spending a day in paradise hugging the toilet. But think twice about the tap water in Mexico and other less-developed countries. This includes ice, lettuce and anything rinsed in water.

Just because alcohol or food is cheap does not mean it is a wise purchase. For example, \$1 margaritas in Vegas and hot dogs in Mexico should raise a red flag. They might taste great, but ignoring the recurring drunken voices and walking past the vendor is the best choice.

Hangovers are virtually

unavoidable during spring break, so partiers can downgrade the torture by stocking a Costco-sized aspirin bottle prior to departure. Plan on two at night and two in the morning along with Gatorade or another beverage that contains electrolytes.

If an automobile is the chosen mode of transportation, make sure to change the oil and take care of other long-neglected issues, along with any other affordable maintenance.

People like to eat lobsters, not look like them, so wear sunscreen, and remember that although the bottle may say waterproof, it does not mean it will be after 10 dips in the pool. Reapply every couple of hours and be sure to cover those hard-to-reach back regions along with the often-forgotten ears. If time allows, hit the tanning bed prior to spring break. Tanning could prevent severe first-day burns that have the potential to destroy

any plans of coming home with a tan.

Do not forget to deal with the stinky, dry and neglected parts below. They are feet, and they most likely need some help. So before hitting the pool, take a peek. If they look anything like a hobbit's — and don't lie — get some help. The \$20 it costs for a pedicure will be worth avoiding the embarrassment.

One's own body should not be the only concern. Keep in mind that even Jack Osbourne looks attractive after a few drinks. With a little help from nightclub lighting, people could mistake him for Brad Pitt. Avoid morning-after trauma by second-guessing potential overnight company.

On that same note, giving out a phony cell phone number could help avoid annoying, unwanted phone calls during the first week of classes from that one guy from the bar.

Gum and deodorant are two

items that should be on hand at all times. Both will be extremely beneficial in avoiding unattractive smells and unwanted glares.

Of all the preparation, the most important aspect may be planning for the unexpected.

Cars break, cash gets stolen, and everything costs more than expected, so bring an emergency credit card or something of the sort. This may prevent a phone call to the parents that would more than likely result in a serious argument ending with "I told you so."

Most importantly, be sure to leave a day or two for recovery. Nothing is worse than coming home with a suitcase full of dirty clothes, a hangover and no money, and then going right back to school.

So until spring break is twice as long, leave one week for partying and one for sleeping, have fun, be smart and try to not forget everything from winter quarter.

Employers need to lighten up, stress recreation and leisure



Chris Taylor

COMMENTARY

The stressed working conditions Americans experience every day have taken a toll on today's society by increasing health problems, affecting family

life and damaging people's overall happiness.

Americans today tick their lives away, never stopping to relax and enjoy life from their fast-paced lifestyles. According to the U.S. Human Resource Guide, American workers take the fewest annual vacation days in the industrialized world. One in six U.S. employees is unable to use his or her entitled vacation days because of overwork.

This fast-paced lifestyle that many Americans live has created many health concerns. The main concern is stress. People become overwhelmed with the responsibilities that work demands of them, which results in negative effects on their bodies.

Increased stress has become the cause of many heart problems every year, according to the American Heart Association Web site.

"More and more evidence suggests a relationship between the risk of cardiovascular disease and environmental and psychosocial factors. These factors include job strain, social isolation and personality traits," the site said.

The tolls of too many hours at the office not only affect one's body, but family life as well. Working parents seem to be putting in more hours, and parents are dropping children off at

day cares earlier and picking them up later than ever before, according to a documentary reported by KIRO Channel 7 titled "The Overworked American." It also said 80 percent of Americans wished they could spend more time with their children. The fact that children are not spending time with their parents means other influences, such as television, are affecting their growth processes. If this is the case, then Americans should not work as much and spend more time with their children so they can give them guidance.

The fact that Americans are overworked means that not only do they have less time to take care of their children and bodies, but they do not have time to enrich themselves with the benefits of recreation and leisure. Spending time each day to take part in a leisure or recreational

activity, such as playing the guitar, talking with a friend or going for a run, clears a person's mind and ultimately leaves the individual happy. The teachings of Greek philosopher Aristotle's Book VII of Politics show the importance of leisure: "The first principle of all (good) action is leisure. Both (work and leisure) are required, but leisure is better than occupation and is its end."

Here is a man who lived many years ago, and even he knew that leisure was the most important factor in benefiting one's soul.

With Americans clocking in so many hours, they produce many products and services, but the reality is that Americans do not need most of the stuff that they consume.

The solution lies in institutionalizing a shorter work week

SEE Leisure, PAGE 19



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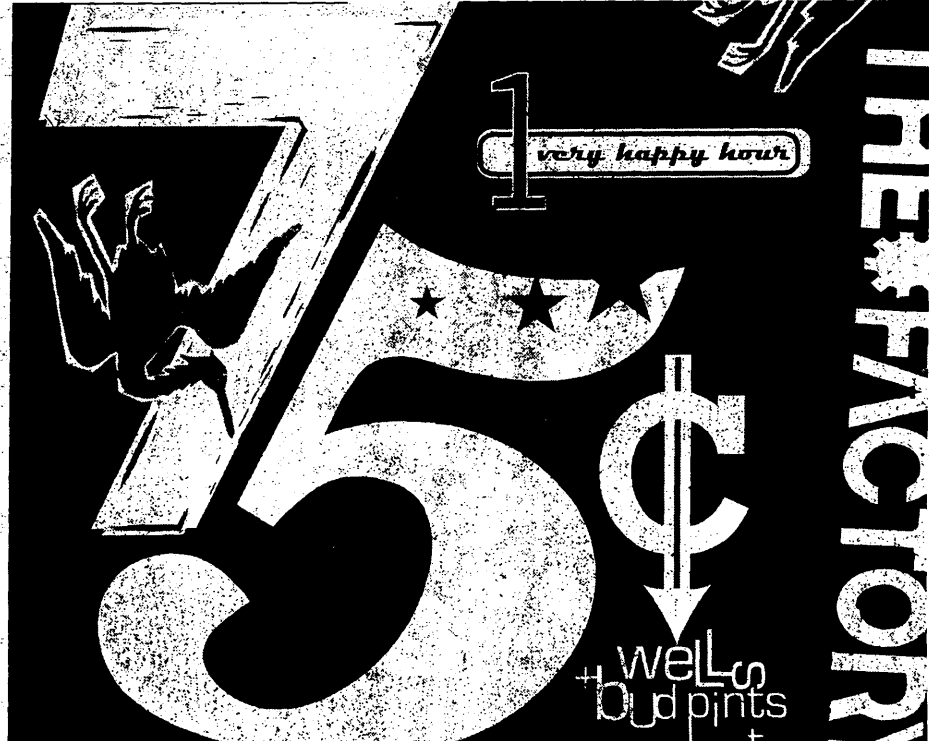
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Frontline

DUI checks on Lakeway are necessary to ensure the safety of drivers

Drive hammered, get nailed.

That is what the Washington State Patrol would like people to believe. A Bellingham lawyer recently filed a court motion to dismiss a driving-under-the-influence case, which could affect more than 100 people who received DUIs. Officers pulled them over for taking an illegal right turn, not driving drunk.

Driving under the influence is wrong, regardless of the reason for which a person is caught.

It should not matter why a person is pulled over. If he or she is drunk, on drugs or otherwise intoxicated, that person should suffer the consequences.

The lawyer's argument is that the right turn in question, from Ellis Street onto Lakeway Drive, is impossible to execute legally. City engineers have stated that the turn is difficult to make.

According to an e-mail from Bellingham traffic operations engineer Steve Haugen, "It is difficult to stay in the curb lane because the radius of the SE curb return is small."

This means the turn is almost impossible to make unless a person is starting from a stop.

A DUI is still a DUI, regardless of why a person arouses suspicion. According to the Washington State Patrol's 2002 annual report, troopers arrested 18,513 drivers for DUI infractions. This was a 26.6 percent increase from the 14,617 arrests in 2001. This is a small portion of the state's 4.3 million licensed drivers but still is a group of people that exceeds Western's enrollment by approximately 5,000.

In 2002, 17,419 people died in the United States in crashes involving alcohol, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data. In Washington state, 281 people died in alcohol-related accidents, representing 43 percent of the 649 people killed on Washington's roadways, according to the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Web site.

If a person is not drunk, five minutes of chatting with an officer is a small price to pay, compared to the costs of an alcohol-related fatality.

Perhaps Washington's drivers need a reality check. In 2002, the State Patrol contacted 77-percent more people for driving aggressively than in 2001, according to the WSP.

This unofficial sobriety checkpoint serves a purpose and serves it well. The lawsuit alleges that state troopers routinely stake out the intersection. The resulting citations that they issue, however, are worth the risk of getting caught making an illegal right turn.

Some say sobriety checkpoints violate civil liberties. But it is impossible to argue that removing drunk drivers from the road is a bad thing.

The solution merely is not to drive drunk. Call a cab, call a friend or call a parent for a ride. At least this way, getting pulled over will not be a problem.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Jeremy Edwards, Josh Dumond, Mugs Scherer, Cari Lyle, Jenny Zuvela, Ben Arnold, Eric Berto, Keith Bolling, Justin McCaughan and Jenny Maag.

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And we quote:

"How's your wife and my kids?"

— Haywood from "Major League"



Canadian broadcasts epitomize freedom



Wolfgang Deerkop

ON THE ROCKS

Let me be the first to say, congratulations to all of you who are graduating. Keep on trucking to those of you who made it through the quarter, and good luck to the rest of you who flunked and/or dropped out during winter quarter.

It is a good thing that you went to Math 102 at least once a week because math will come in handy as you spend the remainder of your life counting the number of pickles that go on a Big Mac.

Unfortunately for most Western alumni, graduation means leaving friends and family in Bellingham and moving out

into the "real" world. No more romantic walks along Clayton Beach, no more trips to Mount Baker after class and no more Canadian radio and television.

That's right — once you move away from Bellingham, you will not be able to take advantage of the unedited, unadulterated and profanity-laced broadcasts that filter down to Whatcom County from the great white North.

If you are unaware of the wondrous broadcasts that go out across the public airways in Canada, you should check them out. Using only an antenna, you can receive everything from "The Simpsons" and "Survivor" to soft-core porn and music videos. The Canadian government trusts its citizens' judgment enough to include the violence, sex and other graphic content in mainstream movies for free.

If only Americans could be so lucky.

Public airways in the United States have gained an aura of sacred piety usually reserved for the Virgin Mary. Although the majority of Americans use crude and sexually explicit language every day, we are not allowed to hear it coming from the radio or on network television.

The U.S. government should realize that 90 percent of the music distributed in the United States contains words that cannot be spoken on the radio, and laws concerning obscenity should evolve with the passing years.

Television is even more of a joke. Cable television has eclipsed network programming. Every character on "Sex in the City" says "fuck" at least 15 times during every episode, usually while engaging in

SEE Broadcast, PAGE 19

Government should stop media merger madness



Jelena Washington

COMMENTARY

People should consider themselves lucky for now because The Walt Disney Co. has refused the \$54 million takeover bid Comcast threw at it. Comcast owning Disney is a distant dream, since Comcast's stock dropped below the price of Disney's.

The government has a responsibility to prevent this type of a giant media merger from occurring and from a small number of firms controlling almost all the media within the United States. The government should not be relaxing these restrictions, but

tightening them.

Corporations have begun a disastrous trend of conglomerating into one monstrous company in an attempt to save money and eliminate the competition.

If, for some reason, Comcast does take over Disney, then the combined giant media company would not only own some of the television stations and most of the movies people watch but also the service that provides those movies and television stations.

Six parent firms control almost every media outlet in the United States: General Electric Co., Viacom International Inc., Disney, Bertelsmann Media Worldwide, Time Warner and News Corp. Ltd.

The idea of media pluralism — the ability to receive diverse opinions through media — becomes obsolete. Instead of

each newspaper or radio station developing its own style, cheaper and easier mass production tempt the corporation.

The number of newspapers within each metropolitan city in the United States has been decreasing since the early 1900s. Now, instead of several daily newspapers, most large cities have only one large daily paper.

When a city has only one main source of information, the chance to hear different views becomes more difficult. Even though journalists are supposed to be objective, being 100-percent objective all the time is nearly impossible.

Free speech is becoming less of what a journalist or editor is allowed to say on his or her own will and more of what a

SEE Media, PAGE 19

Broadcast: Censorship must stop

Continued from Page 18

graphic sex scenes with multiple partners, toys and small furry rodents.

The government should get with the times and realize that 21st-century Americans want, and are willing to pay for, obscene, violent and sexually gratuitous entertainment.

The government should accept this simple fact and stop enforcing moral ideals that are centered on the belief that America is a nation of demure and sheltered clones who blush at the words "vagina" or "penis."

Who cares if a 38-year-old has been exposed a little lump of her

flesh on the public airways? You can see more than that walking from The Royal to The Pita Pit any day of the week.

So remember, before you graduate, take a little time to appreciate all of Bellingham's benefits. Hike Chuckanut Mountain, kayak through the San Juan Islands, get freaky at the bars, or simply relax and watch old reruns of "The Rockford Files" beamed down for free from B.C.

Before long, you will be stuck in some Midwestern town where the only entertainment comes from over-edited movies on Comedy Central and the mouths of foul-mouthed delinquents loitering like hoodlums outside the local mini mart.

'Who cares if a 38-year-old has been exposed a little lump of her flesh on the public airways?'

Media: Concentrated ownership hurts free speech

Continued from Page 18

corporation will allow that journalist or editor to say. The idea of newsworthy information and investigative journalism is skewed when one company owns a plethora of media.

For example, Disney owns numerous television stations, radio stations, publishing companies and film-production companies along with Sid R. Bass, a crude petroleum and natural gas production company.

Disney, which owns television stations such as ABC and ESPN, now runs the risk of putting money before quality journalism. It is more likely to squash stories that may harm crude petroleum production for fear of losing money.

When corporations become giants, it makes the chance of the average citizen starting a

business in the media field almost impossible. Corporations own not only the television stations Americans watch, but the production companies that make the movies and the movie theaters that play those movies.

Independent movies will have less of a chance to receive airplay at movie theaters or on television since a corporation could play only its own movies and make money while saving money at the same time.

These mergers may result in lower prices and quality service because companies can provide better service for cheaper prices since they have competition.

Although Comcast failed to take over Disney, its bid for AT&T was successful. According to a recent article in The New York Times, market research analysts said the merger will result in better, more dependable service. The

analysts said the combined company could save an estimated \$2 million to \$3 million a year beginning in 2006.

This seemingly good idea goes bad when one realizes the company will save money through massive layoffs because of overlapping jobs within the two companies.

AT&T, which is based in Redmond, will have to lay off thousands of Washington workers, hurting the state's ever-struggling economy — all for better cell phone service.

As a solution to this ongoing problem, the government should put more restrictions on how many companies and media outlets it allows one company to own.

Corporations should be able to own media in only one category such as television or radio independent companies then might have a chance at surviving.

Leisure: Shorter work week would benefit health of American workers

Continued from Page 17

and educating employees about the advantages that recreation and leisure will bring to their lives. If the government enacted a standard 30- or 35-hour work week into law, Americans

would have more free time. The economy already produces more than enough goods and services for people to survive, so if Americans slowed down and took a break, many problems of overstressed individuals would cease.

The Western Front online

"You know where the bassmonster lives? He lives in the bass forest."

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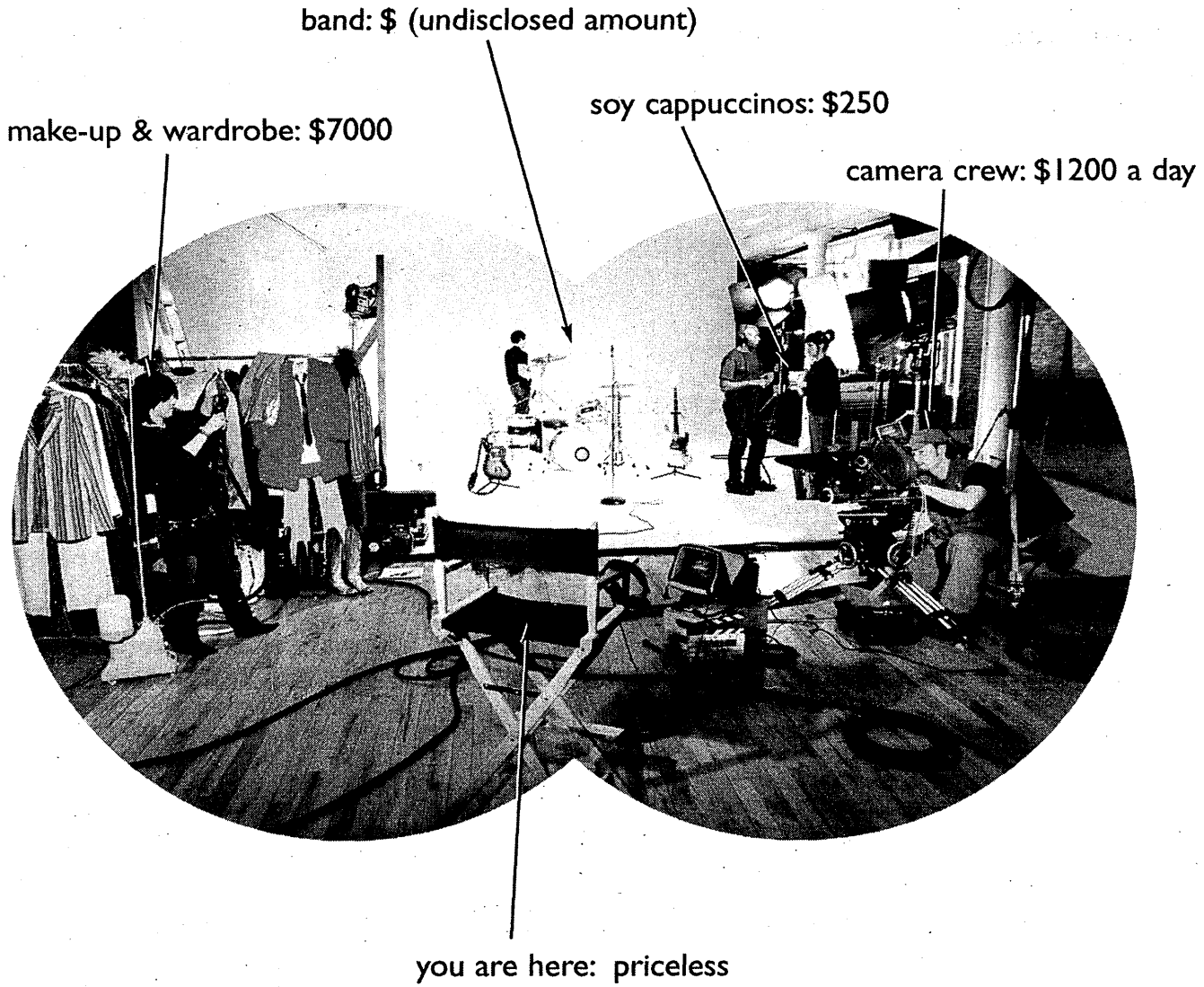
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Judging: Winner selection for this Contest will occur in two phases. **Semifinalist Selection:** A total of (40) Semifinalists will be selected in accordance with the following Entry Periods, each Entry Period beginning at 12:00:01PM CT and ending at 8:59:59AM CT respectively: (1) Entry Period #1 Semifinalists: 2/8/04-3/1/04; (16) Entry Period #2 Semifinalists: 3/04-3/2/04 and (16) Entry Period #3 Semifinalists: 3/24-4/15/04. Entries received during one Entry Period will not carry forward to subsequent Entry Periods. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges ("Judges") supervised by PST (an independent judging organization whose decisions will be final and binding in all matters relating to this Contest) based on the following criteria: 1) Originality: 0-30 points; 2) Creativity/Originality: 0-30 points; 3) Relevance to Theme: 0-30 points. In the event of a tie, the entrant with the highest score in Originality will be declared the potential Semifinalist. If a tie still exists, from among the remaining pool of tied entrants, the entrant with the highest score in Creativity/Originality will be declared the potential Semifinalist, and so forth. Tiebreakers will continue backwards in this manner until the tie is broken. **Finalist Selection:** A total of (16) Finalists will be selected from the (40) Semifinalist video entries submitted. Video entries will be judged based on the following criteria: 1) Presence On-Screen: 0-40 points; 2) Creative Execution: 0-30 points; and 3) Originality: 0-30 points. In the event of a tie, the entrant with the highest score in Presence On-Screen will be declared the potential Finalist, and so forth. Tiebreakers will continue backwards in this manner until the tie among the remaining tied entrants is broken. Finalists will be selected by judges on or about 5/24/04 and will be notified by telephone and/or mail. If any Finalist notification letter is returned as undeliverable, a runner-up may be selected. Each Semifinalist will be required to submit the following materials to a specified address within (4) days of issuance of notification: 1) Executed Affidavit of Eligibility, Liability Release and (where applicable) Publicity Release; 2) Current college/university transcript (showing that he/she is in good academic standing as defined by his/her respective college/university at time of notification); 3) A video of no more than (2) minutes in length featuring Semifinalist (no third parties, footage and/or music from any other source) addressing the following question: *Tell us about your favorite music video, what you like best about it and why?* The video must be: a) On a 1/2 inch VHS-formatted videotape; b) Neatly labeled with the entrant's complete name; and c) In English and cannot have been previously screened or publicly viewed. Entrant is responsible for properly protecting videotape for mailing. Noncompliance with any of the foregoing may result in disqualification and awarding of prize to the runner-up. **Prizes:** (16) Semifinalists will receive a \$100 MasterCard Gift Card (Approximate Retail Value "ARV" \$100). (16) Finalists will receive a \$1,000 MasterCard Gift Card (ARV \$1,000). (16) Finalists will receive a \$1,000 MasterCard Gift Card (ARV \$1,000). Limit one prize per person, family, or household. Total ARV of all prizes \$100,000. Prize details not specifically set forth herein are at Sponsor's sole discretion. Exact dates of internship subject to change at Sponsor's sole discretion. Internship attendance is mandatory and Finalists must comply with all MasterCard rules and regulations relating to their participation in the internship. 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The Native Sun

Western Washington University

Bellingham, Washington

Thirty years later and still struggling

Boldt decision leads in unexpected directions

BEN ARNOLD
The Native Sun

Vincent Jameson, a Lummi Nation tribal member, still fishes for salmon, but only once or twice a week — a far cry from his days of fishing in Alaska during a time when the Lummi was one of the largest fishing tribes in the United States.

"When (tribal members are) going out to fish, we do that because that's how we were raised," he said. "It's just like a farmer, ya know? You get up early every day because you need to milk the cows. It becomes part of what you do to survive."

Fishing to survive for Indian tribes in Washington has meant more than being on the water and bringing in the catch, Jameson said. It has meant a long struggle to regain the rights promised by past treaties with the U.S. government.

Then U.S. District Court judge George Boldt's decision on Feb. 12, 1974 — which gave the rights of half the salmon catch in Washington waters to American Indian tribes — shook the fishing industry's foundation, and it turned a way of life that defined the Pacific Northwest inside out.

The case also affirmed that American Indian treaty rights superceded any other law.

"Up until now, or up until a few years ago, the Boldt decision namely was focused on the dividing of the fish that was harvested between the state and the tribes," said Bill Robinson, the assistant regional administrator of the Northwest region of the National Marine Fisheries Service. "In the future, the tribes are likely to use the Boldt decision as a legal basis to either further litigation and negotiation or persuasion through the courts to force



Ben Arnold/The Native Sun

Lummi fishermen Avery Revey and Rook Tapuro prepare their boat for shrimp fishing at the Lummi dry dock. Shrimp is just one resource that subsequent court cases of the Boldt decision have secured for American Indians.

(Washington), for example, to protect habitat," he said.

Henry Cagey, former chairman of the Lummi and its current economic director, said this aspect of the Boldt decision is important because if the fish population is decimated due to habitat loss, securing half the catch is meaningless.

"There wasn't much thought on habitat in the 1970s and 1980s," he said. "Now there is. We've seen entire runs die out

because of habitat degradation."

In the coming years, the Lummi will argue that without protecting habitats in addition to managing the fish, the state of Washington will not be holding to its responsibility outlined in the Boldt decision, Cagey said.

Jeff Shaw, the north sound information officer for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, said the single biggest reason for the gutting of the fishing industry

is the loss and destruction of fish habitats.

"The importance of habitat cannot be overstated for salmon," Shaw said. "Ecology is a holistic system, and the less room you have for bugs and birds, it's inevitably going to affect salmon because salmon eat the bugs and birds eat the salmon."

Robinson said he agrees, and that habi-

SEE **Boldt**, PAGE 8

Letter from the editor

The Native Sun is an insert to the Western Front that examines the present, past and future of American Indians in Whatcom County. It is a project of the advanced reporting class at Western Washington University. This project could not have been completed without the help of the Lummi and Nooksack Indians and we are grateful for their cooperation.

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— Covering the Indians isn't easy **Page 11**

Lummi challenge 2000 U.S. Census

ABIAH WEAVER
The Native Sun

Every ten years, Lummi tribal member Diana Phair awaits a knock at her door that could bring thousands of dollars in federal funding to the tribe. In 2000, however, that opportunity did not come.

While the U.S. Census Bureau regards the 2000 census as the most accurate in history, it missed nearly half of the Lummi tribal members in its last official count.

Similar shortcomings have prompted scores of tribes, including the Lummi Nation, to challenge the bureau's count by conducting their own surveys — an option the Lummi tribe says is crucial to securing funds desperately needed for housing, health care and education.

The official census, conducted every 10 years, helps the federal government decide how to allocate nearly \$200 billion to cities, states and sovereign Indian nations for Medicaid, foster care, block housing grants and social service programs.

"The socioeconomic hardships that Indian tribes face increases their reliance on federal assistance programs," said Gloria O'Neil, member of the Census Bureau's Advisory Committee on the American Indian and Alaska Native Populations. "A significant portion of federal aid to the tribes is based on

the census, and the tribes have a big stake in their accuracy."

With the decline of the fishing industry, the Lummi tribe has increasingly relied on state and federal grants to meet the needs of its members and stimulate economic growth.

Two years ago, the tribe applied for the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Grant that would have produced several new funding sources to the tribe, Lummi Grants Director Justin Finkbonner said.

But because of an inaccurate representation of income on the reservation, the tribe lost thousands of dollars in potential funding and a critical opportunity to re-stimulate its economy.

"The non-Indians that live on the reservation made us look rich," Finkbonner said. "Based on the census information, we were disqualified. The census doesn't distinguish between non-Indians and Indians (living on the reservation), and that alone jeopardizes our grant process."

With the pile of grant denials and disqualifications mounting, the Lummi tribe decided it could no longer afford to rely on census information.

"We realized that the federal census wasn't helping us," said Tamera Thompson, Lummi statistic data entry specialist. "We were being

shorted funding, and, as a tribe, weren't getting the information about housing, employment and planning that we wanted, so we decided to do our own survey."

Between October 2002 and September 2003, 25 Lummi tribal members, including Thompson, gathered information from the 4,035 enrolled members as part of Lummi Census 2003, a project that cost the tribe approximately \$100,000.

"The housing department paid most of the wages because they had the biggest stake in the project," she said. "Housing is one of the biggest issues on the reservation, and one of the areas where the federal census failed to give us accurate information about the community and the people's needs."

Nearly 800 tribal members receive some form of housing assistance, and the waiting list for tribal housing is growing each day, said Phair, who is also the Lummi Housing Authority director. And for the 150 families currently bearing the nine-month wait, the list is too long.

Lummi tribal member Skyler Revey, 20, said his family waited 16 years before the tribe offered them a home on the reservation.

"We were trying to get in this house for as long as I've been alive," he said. "We

SEE **Census**, PAGE 9

Water-right agreement ends decade of dispute

BY PETER LOURAS
The Native Sun

Paul Tanner moved to the Lummi reservation two years ago and has never taken a sip of water from his faucet. It is not because the water is unsanitary, or that the tribal member is unwilling to pay appropriate costs, but rather, nobody has been willing to provide him with water.

"I have a cousin who lives down a way, and he lets me fill some two-gallon cans right now," Tanner said. "Actually, I save all the water I can from the trailer's run-off and use that for flushing the toilets and stuff. It's been a hassle, you know, getting it so far away."

Since the early '90s, tribal and non-tribal residents on the Lummi reservation have disputed the water rights for Lake Terrell Road, where 35 residents, including Tanner, now live. The situation has escalated the past two years into the threat of a lawsuit, and halted the development and water provision for more than 600 property owners.

"If it was just a water issue, I think this could have all been settled 10 years ago," said Dennis Beeman, president of the Sandy Point Improvement Company, the development company that provides water to Lake Terrell Road. "Actually this thing is not about water, anyhow. This is about control."

In response to a Feb. 3 deadline by the SPIC to terminate the roadway's water supply, the Lummi Nation has signed an agreement to have their own system running by the year 2005, an estimated \$1 million project.

Lummi legal counsel Judy Bush said the Lummi Nation came to an interim agreement not to file legal action within the next year if the SPIC allowed the tribe time to install pipeline connections to existing substations.

"(The Lummi) think we should be able to buy water from whoever we want, if we want," Bush said. "But we no longer need Sandy Point water. We will build our own water lines when we receive the funding."

According to a project narrative compiled by the Lummi Natural Resources office, the Lummi has already committed at least \$235,811 to the project, and the Indian Health Service has made a financial contribution of \$50,000 in emergency funds.

The \$235,811 was split between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Lummi Business Council and Economic Development Department for site acquisition, preparation and development of two test wells for water supply, said Jeremy Freimund, the Lummi Water Resource manager.

Still, with an estimated project to design and construct facilities reaching more than \$1 million, the Lummi Nation is forced to request nearly \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development to pay remaining costs.

"(The Lummi) have heard verbally from the USDA that the project will be funded," Freimund said. "The requested funding is to design and build the project so that it also includes storage for pressure and fire flow."

In the summer of 2003, however, the USDA-Rural Development turned down an application for \$375,000 submitted by the Lummi Water District for a stripped down version of the water system.

"They determined that the proposed project was not eligible for funding under their emergency program," Freimund said. "My recollection is that the USDA honchos back East did not consider it to be a big enough emergency relative to the other emergencies that they were trying to fund: communities with absolutely no water supply versus a community that had a water supply but was just threatened with a unilateral termination."

The dispute about water rights began in 1992, when the tribe built the "Verne Johnson, Jr." well, which provided high quality water to a nearby salmon hatchery. The well was within close proximity of another operated by the SPIC. Both parties soon accused the other of stealing "their" water.

"The Lummi Nation noted that water levels were dropping in the hatchery well and notified the SPIC," stated the Water District project narrative. "Rather than responding to the Lummi Nation, the SPIC issued a notice to its customers and the public claiming that tribal over-pumping had drawn down the wells."

The Lummi argued that "senior water rights" guaranteed the groundwater, while the SPIC claimed state water rights gave them jurisdiction.

"They said they were pumping it into a hatchery," Beeman said. "Well ask yourself, 'Which is more important: a hatchery or a residence, that they threaten life to because they let the wells go dry?'"

Negotiations aimed at resolving the water rights conflicts halted when residents of the Sandy Point Peninsula supported a budget-rider proposed by former Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., named Section 115 of the Interior Act, that threatened termination of tribal funding if the Lummi took any action against non-Indian rights.

"We had to get Slade Gorton, the senator at the time, to put a stop to it by threatening to shut off their funding," Beeman said. "He went to the Senate because they can make these decisions about tribes, and they are the ones who issue tribal funding. He was threatening to withhold certain fundings from the tribe if they did not quit pumping the well dry, and the tribe backed off."

Former Whatcom County Council Chairwoman Marlene Dawson, a resident of Sandy Point and a main activist in the dispute, said she was in support of Gorton's actions at the time.

"It's expensive for individual property owners to go to court," Dawson said. "(The Lummi tribe) said they wouldn't discriminate the water code. Well, as soon as they got the water, they discriminated against it. Do you know of any other group in the United States that would get a municipal water supply and discriminate with it?"

Tribal members said the action was a continuation of previous sentiments.

"It was a campaign to get out of selling water to the Lummi," Bush said. "There's no simple answer to how we got here and what's to come, though. It's a difficult subject to tackle."

By the beginning of 1998, the Lummi, federal and state governments, Whatcom County, and property owners reached an agreement to acquire water rights outside the reservation, in hopes of leaving groundwater for tribal use.

"This agreement assures future generations of Lummi that water will be there when they need it," said Henry Cagey, chairman of the Lummi Indian Business Council at the time, in a Jan. 30, 1998 Seattle Daily Journal article. "There are no losers in this agreement. Our non-Indian neighbors are assured of water as well. Everyone wins."

But the victory was short-lived. The two parties argued over the fine print of a 1997 SPIC Company Water System Plan submitted to the Washington Department of Health and dropped the agreement.

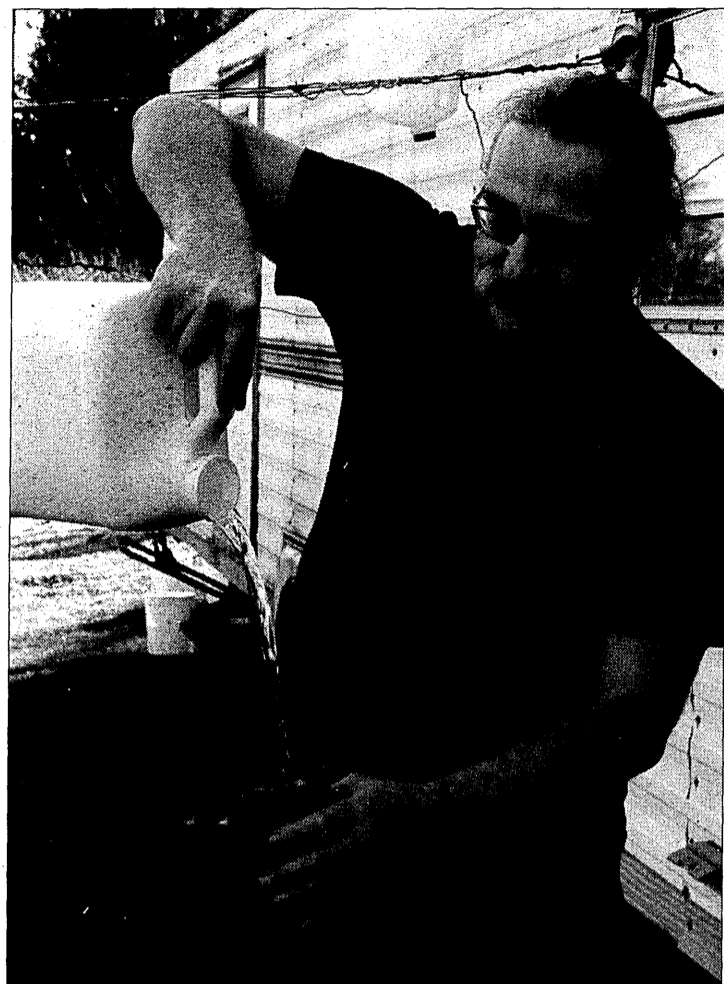
"At the time, the tribe could have had a federally-funded, complete water system that would have produced 5 or 6 million gallons of water a day for the tribe, and they turned it down," Beeman said. "If they would have accepted the water plan, the regulations and all that went along with it, they would lose control and not be able to stop land owners from being able to control the waterline on the reservation."

The Water District Project Plan attributed opposition to the expansion because it was "inappropriate and illegal." It stated that homes along the Lake Terrell Road were included in a 1983 version of the SPIC WSP, but Lummi claimed they were not in the proposed expansion.

Issues remained out of the spotlight for the few years, while representatives battled minute details with the state and the Whatcom County Council creating a water moratorium to limit water connections on the Lummi reservation.

In the summer of 2002, the Lummi Planning Department issued a conditional land use permit, authorizing a water connection to a resident along Lake Terrell Road. That resident was Paul Tanner.

"We're getting ready to hook up to the meter, and they



Justin McCaughan/ The Native Sun

Lummi resident Paul Tanner pours a glass of water from a plastic bottle, an inconvenience while living among water right disputes between tribal and non-tribal residents.

decided they would flush the line," Tanner said. "A couple of weeks later, we got a letter that informed us that we're not allowed to have that hooked-up, and never really been hooked up. Sandy Point said, 'No. We won't let you do that.'"

The SPIC stated that the water connection must cease and desist because it owns the line to the property and serves water by a Washington State water right that does not allow more connections.

"We had no choice but to threaten to turn members off," Beeman said. "See the problem is that Sandy Point is a state water right, and we have to fulfill certain things because we are state water. We follow the state laws and all the state RCWs (Revised Code of Washington). That means we have to be able to scrutinize our water system, check water regulations and make sure they're followed. If we didn't do something, we could lose our state water right."

Debating a 1973 Transfer Agreement signed by the Lummi, SPIC and the Indian Health Service, both parties have bantered on the issue through representatives and lawyers, drawing the only conclusion this year.

"There are lots on both sides that people would like to build on, but haven't been able to for 10 years," Beeman said. "I wish we could have sat down, no lawyers, just the Lummi and us, and talk. When lawyers are involved, nothing gets solved. That would be a first."

While recent developments appear to bring an end to more than a decade of conflict, the residents directly affected remain skeptical.

"I mean, the chair of Sandy Point thinks, 'Oh, this is great. The tribe is going to get all this federal funding,'" Dawson said. "But, even within the communities, this isn't going to solve anything."

With deadlines to terminate water service pushed to Jan. 3, 2005, the tribal residents along Lake Terrell Road and non-tribal residents at Sandy Point have no choice but to wait.

"There's basically nothing else to do but wait," Tanner said. "We think this is right. They think that is right. What's right? I guess we're just prone to argue."

Lummi reservation water right timeline

Recent actions between the Lummi Nation and Sandy Point Improvement Company

Summer, 2002: Paul Tanner tries to connect water along Lake Terrell Road.

Winter, 2002: SPIC considers confrontations sufficient grounds to void 1973 agreement.

Summer, 2003: Lummi policy and staff team receives \$50,000 in grants from IHS.

Fall, 2003: Lummi Water District denied \$375,000 application to USDA-Rural.

Winter, 2003: Halt debate through \$1 million project for 2004.

Source: Lummi Water District, SPIC. Infographic by Matt DeVeau.

Battling over sacred ground

Encroaching development disturbs burial sites

BY KELSEYANNE JOHNSON
The Native Sun

Five years ago, Blaine began constructing a new wastewater treatment plant on the Semiahmoo Spit.

But, when Sarah Campbell, Western associate professor of archaeology, visited the construction site shortly after the project began, it was deserted.

Equipment remained where the workers had left it. Three mounds of dirt lay near a large hole approximately 100 feet wide and 18 feet deep. A backhoe was left on top of one mound, its bucket half filled with dirt. Sticking out of the dirt was a human bone.

"They were caught in the act that they were still digging and finding remains," said Campbell, who visited the site at the Lummi Nation's request.

Construction halted in 1999 after the discovery of human remains in an American Indian burial ground beneath the site. Today, the construction equipment is gone and replaced with a large, black tarpaulin that covers the gaping hole. The existing wastewater treatment plant thrums, producing a stench that permeates beyond the fence enclosing the site.

The Lummi and the archaeology consultation firm Golder Associates, await a decision by the Seattle District Court on May 3 for damages rendered when construction workers disturbed the burial ground, Lummi Nation attorney Judy Bush said.

Before construction stopped, human remains such as bones and bone fragments were removed from the site, while Golder's hired archaeologist Gordon Tucker's monitored the site. In some cases, remains were retrieved, but in others, they were lost forever.

"I think the whole purpose of the case, the only way to get the point across, is to hurt them in the pocketbook," said Laverne Lane-Oreiro, one of the original plaintiffs.

The Lummi sued the city of Blaine after it halted construction. The suit was settled outside of court, and the Lummis received \$1.25 million dollars, Blaine City manager Gary Tomsic said.

"We were the ones paying the bills, and Golder was working for us," Tomsic said.

The Lummi used the money for recovery efforts at the burial site where the city of Blaine is helping the Lummi, Tomsic said.

He said city officials were angry and disappointed when they found out about Tucker's actions. The city and its insurance company are also suing Golder.

The Semiahmoo burial ground is one example of the growing problem of expansion projects disturbing and desecrating American Indian burial grounds in Washington state and across the country. More land is being developed and the problem of burials being disturbed is getting worse, Campbell said.

"Now cities are growing and taking over established cemeteries and taking over more and more," said Andrea MacDonald, chairwoman for the Washington State Cemetery Association.

In Washington state, people have disturbed burial grounds in Point Roberts, the Tulalip reservation and, more recently, in Port Angeles, where a Department of Transportation project unearthed burial remains.

"It happens regularly because there were so many Native American tribes here," MacDonald said.

Many American Indian burial grounds are unmarked, and their existence is not always known. At Semiahmoo, the same burial ground was disturbed in the '70s. Golder Associates sent Tucker to monitor



A fence guards the graves of Lummi Nation ancestors on the Semiahmoo Spit. Construction crews disturbed the burial ground when Blaine began building a new wastewater treatment plant in 1999.

Kelseyanne Johnson/ The Native Sun

the site in case workers discovered more remains.

Golder's responsibility was to notify the Lummis of any remains found. Tucker notified the Lummi once when workers uncovered a human remain, but did not notify the tribe of the other approximately 50 human remains Tucker witnessed being unearthed, according to the 2002 summary judgment on the case.

Semiahmoo is one of the largest burial disturbances, with respect to the number of burial grounds located on the site, Campbell said.

The entire burial ground could cover most of the spit with thousands of burials, said Alyson Rollins, a physical anthropologist for the Lummi Nation. The burial ground dates back approximately 4,000 years, Campbell said. The recovery team has found approximately one hundred burials, and it is not even halfway done, Rollins said.

"There's no way to ever know (the number of burials) because you don't want to dig them up and count them," she said.

Campbell said estimating how many burials are located on the site is difficult because, in some cases, only bone fragments remain because so much of the dirt was displaced.

"We're not talking about a hundred whole bodies. We're talking about thousands and thousands of bones," she said. "A single person could be represented by thousands of bones."

Sub-contractors took truckloads of dirt from the burial site which were used to patch roads and spread over acreage in Whatcom County before construction stopped.

This process destroyed some remains when they were ground up and used to patch a driveway.

"Some (bones) got really crunched up, but not all of it did, and that's what's really amazing," Campbell said.

On a piece of property in Blaine, the owner used dirt containing remains as fill and spread out over five acres, Campbell said.

Tucker displaced other bones when he packed all the remains that were collected since the beginning of construction into his pickup truck and drove them to his office in Denver, according to the 2002 summary judgment on the case.

The bones have since been brought back from Colorado, and the Register for Professional Archaeologists expelled Tucker in 2003.

The day after Tucker left, Lummi Cultural Director Al Scott Johnnie came to the site and spoke with the new archaeologist, who was in the process of exhuming another grave, and ascertained that this was not the first remain that was discovered, according to the 2002 summary judgment. Blaine halted construction shortly after.

Lane-Oreiro visited the site after the remains were uncovered. She said she was appalled that Golder did not tell Blaine to halt construction sooner because of all the physical evidence of human remains on the site.

"You could see skeletal remains. Skulls. Bones. Everywhere," she said.

According to the Revised Code of Washington, it is a felony to remove remains from an archaeological site without a permit. To pursue their own recovery effort, the Lummi have to

obtain a permit.

Campbell said certain laws have always existed to protect American Indian burial grounds, but in recent years they have become more specific and enforceable. Development of American Indian burial grounds is still an issue, but grave robbing and looting graves has decreased over the years, Campbell said.

"People used to go out and dig (bones) up for fun, and that's not happening so much anymore," she said.

In 1978, Congress passed the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which was intended to insure the protection of religious American Indian artifacts. But the law lacked the strength to adequately protect sites, so President Clinton signed the American Indian Sacred Site Order. This protected land under federal jurisdiction.

Federal laws, however, still protect federal land from being disturbed, and state laws protect state land, Campbell said. Protection is lacking for private property in many states. Washington was one of the first states to address the problem.

The American Indians Graves and Records Act, RCW 27.44, provides further state protection of American Indian burial grounds and states it is a crime to disturb archaeological materials, Campbell said.

In 2002, Representative Nick Rahall, D-W. Va., sponsored the Native Americans Sacred Land Act, which will add teeth to other federal laws, Rahall wrote in an April 29, 2002, Indian Country article.

For Lane-Oreiro, the fight surrounding Semiahmoo is a step toward insuring that other sites will not be disturbed.

"I think we have an obligation to protect all of those grave sites," she said.

'You could see skeletal remains. Skulls. Bones. Everywhere.'

Laverne Lane-Oreiro

Plaintiff in the Lummi Nation vs. Golder Associates

Disease continues to cause fear in American Indian families

IAN ALEXANDER
The Native Sun

For Marge Phair the fear of diabetes is always in her mind.

"What a lot of people don't know is that they call it the silent killer," said Phair, a community health assistant for the Diabetes Prevention Program. "You don't know you have it, and when you do find out the damage is already done."

Increased diagnosis of diabetes among Lummi tribal members suggests they are no longer afraid to be screened for the disease. But for those diagnosed, fear of the physical and psychological repercussions of the disease lingers.

Pat Rasch, director of the Diabetes Program for the Lummi Nation, said she has seen diagnosis of diabetes cases increase significantly in her 13 years with the Lummi program.

"I think it has been increasing because of enrolled members are getting more information (about the disease)," Rasch said.

Phair is a diagnosed pre-diabetic. She has high blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure. Her fears of the disease come from watching her aunt, uncle, cousins and other family members suffer the disease, she said.

"If I can prevent it now, I want to do it now before I can get anything," she said.

From the forms of treatment to the direct side effects, diabetics have a lot to think about when controlling their disease.

"I think there is a fear that their health is declining, and that they think they're getting close to terminal," she said. "People are thinking if they go from the pill to injections, that it's a worse prognosis for them."

Many tribal members prefer oral treatments because they do not want to take the sometimes painful insulin injections in the stomach or the leg, she said. Oral

treatments, however, were not without its own side effects, including, weight gain, and upset stomach.

"I know diagnosed diabetics are afraid of insulin, and the insulin would be better because it can control the blood sugar bet-

■ Type 1 Diabetes

■ Previously known as juvenile diabetes

■ Body fails to produce insulin

■ Type 2 Diabetes

■ Most common form

■ Common causes include obesity and sedentary lifestyle

ter," Rasch said. "Lots of people think they're bad or they've done something wrong, if the blood sugar doesn't come down with the pill."

Rasch, a Type 2 diabetic since 1983, said she prefers insulin injections to the pill.

"I believe insulin is better because it's a hormone, and there is such a fast action," she said.

But fears of the disease go beyond how it will be treated.

Others dread how the disease will limit the foods they can eat, Rasch said.

Diabetics must limit fat, salt and sugar intake in their diets in order to prevent other diseases, such as heart disease and high blood pressure.

The American Diabetes Association recommends diabetics reduce their fast foods and desserts from their diets, and

depression have been linked on the reservation.

"There are people who say, 'I've had [diabetes] so long it doesn't matter,'" she said. "The ones who pay more attention are the ones who are most recently diagnosed, and the first question people ask is, 'What can I eat?' People are almost afraid to eat."

Approximately 107,000, or 14 percent, of American Indians and Alaskan Natives receiving treatment from Indian Health Services are diabetics, according to the ADA.

According to the ADA, 18.2 million people living in the United States have diabetes.

Rasch said for those at risk of the disease, screening often is key to preventing some of the disease's physical side effects.

According to the ADA, diabetics are 15 to 40 times more likely to require non-traumatic lower limb amputations than non-diabetics and Native American diabetics are three to four times more

likely to have amputations than the non-Native American diabetics.

Rasch said each year the Lummi Nation receives approximately \$227,000 from IHS for diabetes treatment, compared to just \$58,000 six years ago as a result of increased cases. She said the tribe uses the funds to contact outside services, such as podiatrists, to help treat diabetic tribal members.

Dale Nachreiner, a health planner and health policy analyst for the Lummi tribe, said one of the most difficult problems diabetics face is the disease's affect on daily life.

"The point is (diabetes is) a lifestyle change and won't happen over night," he said.

Phair said the ease of fast and store bought food contributed to her weight problem and in turn her diabetes.

"Ten years ago, I didn't weigh as much as I do now and we used to go fishing and go clam picking on the beach," she said. "I got easier to go into town and buy something I wanted to eat," she said. "It was just a change of lifestyle and I stopped fishing."

Laverne Lane-Oreiro, director of the Lummi Indian Family Enrichment center, said high rates of obesity and change in native diet has contributed to increased numbers of diabetes cases among

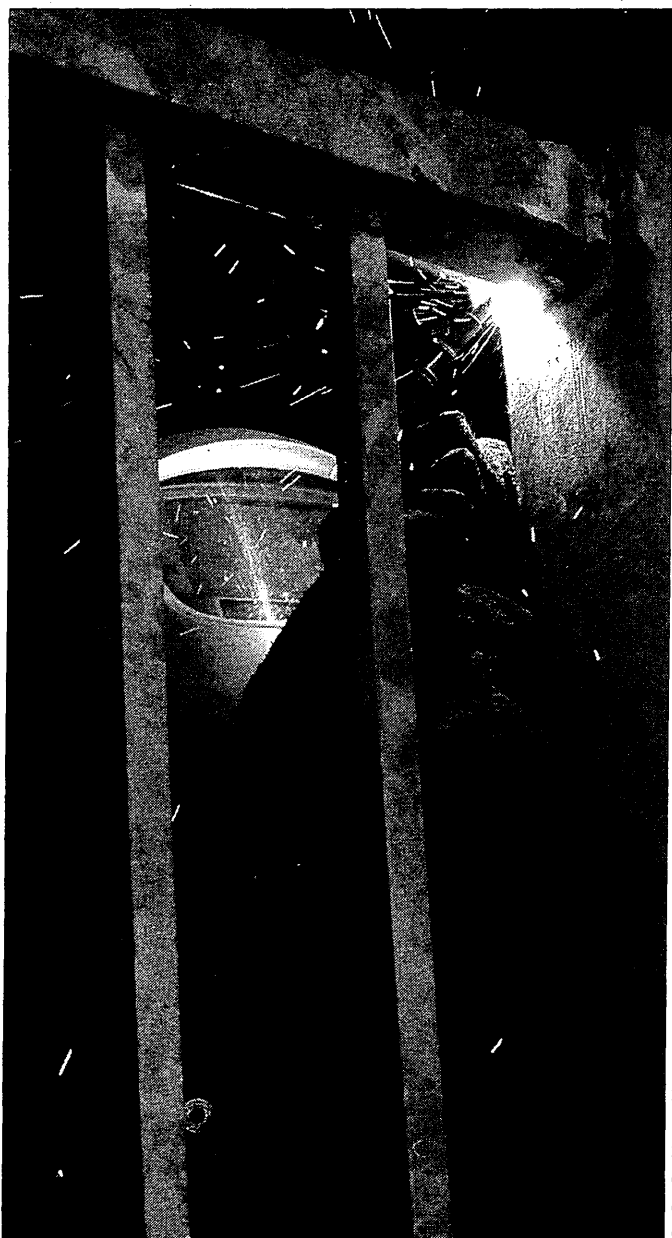
SEE Diabetes, PAGE 12

"The point is (diabetes is) a lifestyle change and won't happen overnight."

Dale Nachreiner

Health planner and health policy analyst

Expansion projects change shape of Lummi Reservation



Tara Nelson/The Native Sun

Aaron Hanson, 27, of Westweld Corporation welds a galvanized rail outside of Silver Reef Casino.

CHRISTOPHER A. SMITH
The Native Sun

Three years ago, the corner at Haxton and Slater roads was as anonymous as an area could be. More than three miles off I-5, the corners of the intersection were nothing but tall grasses and seldom used baseball fields. Its only significance was because people had to turn there to get to the majority of the Lummi reservation.

Now, the corner has long grasses, little used baseball fields and big billboards with the constantly flashing lights, people laughing, and a large parking lot.

What a difference a casino makes. When the Silver Reef casino opened on April 7, 2002, it became the center point of what are now known as the Lummi expansion projects.

The original casino plans were just the beginning of the expansion projects, which are still in the works. The grander plans include a hotel built off the casino, which is in the early stages of planning, as well as the possibility of more restaurants and strip malls.

Aaron Thomas, the Lummi Nation media relations director, said the tribe had not set plans for 2004 and could not speak about details, but that details should come out soon.

In the meantime, the casino will receive a belated two-year anniversary present on April 30. The opening of the first step in the expansion of the casino will include an event center, new slot machines and a steak house to accommodate the thriving casino business.

"It has surpassed our wildest expectations," Eric Larsen, who

serves as the Marketing Director at the casino, said of the casino project "The initial casino has been a great success, the expansion is on time, on budget. It is definitely going to help add to the casino and in turn to the tribe."

The Lummi reservation is going through massive changes. On the west side of the reservation, a new K-12 school is being built and is set to open in September.

On the east side, the casino expansion, with ground breaking for a possible five-story hotel next to the expansion as early as next year, Larsen said.

"A lot of that would be dictated by how well this expansion works out for us," Larsen said about when the hotel will break. "Hotels and casinos have always gone hand and hand. There is a lot of reasons to do it, so one thing we are doing is doing baby steps along the way."

Larsen said the casino has to use baby steps because it has almost been too successful.

"What happens now is that on a Friday and Saturday night, starting at 6 (p.m.) and going until 10 (p.m.), the slots are so packed that you can't find a machine to play if you want," Larsen said. "If you are a guest, that is not what you come for. It is not good guest service. It's not very good guest experience. The expansion is to alleviate that pressure."

The expansion plans have a trickle down effect when it comes to the Lummi Nation. The economy is certainly getting a boost, and these new buildings also creates new jobs.

Larsen said of the 313 employees at the casino, 36 percent of them are of Lummi descent.

After the expansion, Larsen esti-

mates the casino will have 370 employees.

"What we try to do and what we are chartered by the management committee to do is to hire the greatest number of qualified Lummis that we can," Larsen said. "If there is a position that is open, we always try to find a ... Lummi candidate. If there is no qualified Lummi candidate, then we go towards other tribes, and then everybody else, so there is definitely a hiring preference."

Althea Wilson-Homes, 40, is one of the Lummis who works at the casino. She used to work at the Lummi Casino, a failed casino located on the east side of the reservation that shut down in the mid-1990s.

"When this casino opened up we were all very excited," Wilson-Homes, who lives on the Lummi Reservation, said of the tribe. "We saw the Tulalip go boom, and the Swinomish went boom, and the Nooksack already had a casino so we were just standing around."

Wilson-Homes said this casino is a much better working environment than the previous casino and other jobs at the reservation.

"I love my job. I'm surprised they pay people to do what I do," she said. "They do whatever it takes to make you the best employee and I am pretty amazed. I come to work and I am happy."

The trickle down effect starts well before people get hired for full-time jobs. First, all the buildings need to be constructed.

Ronald Finkbonner, who works at the Lummi Employment and Training Center, has the job of finding construction work for Lummis.

"It's been big time," Finkbonner

SEE Expansion, PAGE 12

Questioning thy neighbor

County residents blame others for community's prejudice against local American Indian tribes

ABIAH WEAVER AND
CHRISTOPHER A. SMITH
The Native Sun

In a survey conducted by a Western reporting class examining various economic and social issues involving American Indians and Whatcom County residents, many respondents struggled to accept that relations between the two groups are amicable.

While 77 of the 142 Whatcom County residents surveyed — or 54 percent — reported that they have a positive or very positive attitude toward Native Americans, 27 percent said the general public has a negative or very negative attitude toward American Indians.

Despite rating their own feelings higher, many Whatcom County residents insist American Indians are not well liked by the general population.

"Even though most people said they have positive or neutral feelings, I know I am in the minority group in my (positive) opinion (of American Indians)," said Bellingham resident Steven Fanning, 47, who was reinterviewed after the poll. "Most people won't ever say that they personally don't like (American Indians), but they will admit that they probably know more peo-

ple who have negative feelings toward (Indians) than positive ones."

If negative feelings still exist, Bellingham resident Myra Smith said they are unfounded.

"I think that there are misunderstandings that they are lazy, when actually their culture is just different," Smith, 34, said. "They just have a more laid-back culture."

Fanning agreed that the problem may be cultural.

"From the comments (people I know make), I can see that they have a negative opinion of Native Americans," Fanning said. "They don't think (American Indians) should receive the benefits that they do, like special privileges, hunting and fishing rights and payments from the government because they don't pay taxes. (Non-Indians) just think that (American Indians) don't fit in or belong in our society. They think if (American Indians) are going to keep their cultural beliefs and values, they shouldn't be a part of this community. I don't think that way though."

Fanning's response to the different survey results does not surprise Western associate sociology professor Kyle Crowder. When people are asked to rate an aspect of their character, they tend to choose the option that

would make them look more attractive to an outsider, he said.

"No one is going to admit that they are prejudiced," Crowder said. "We'd all like to believe that we are more open minded than the people are around us. They are just going to blame the problem on someone else."

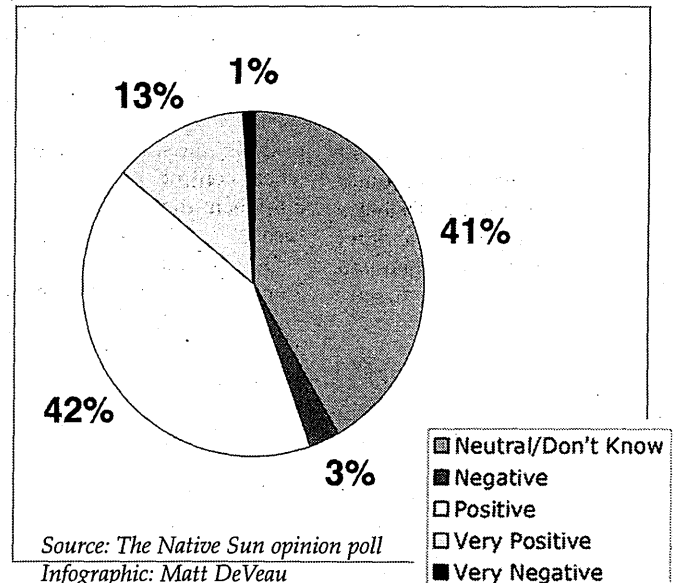
Lynden resident Gordon Falconer said he does believe that problems exist between American Indians and non-tribal members, and that the major problem is an economical one.

"I think the fact that they have been somewhat below the norm in their standard of living and the things that they have experienced because of their culture, and because some of them have become alcoholic, that people have a negative attitude towards them," Falconer, 72, said. "They tend to take more menial jobs. That may be why people look down on them."

Falconer said it is harder for American Indians to take a job that carries more prestige with it, but it is still possible.

"Some of the (Lummi) I have met are very articulate too," he said. "I don't look down on them. I wish they would see some of the opportunities that are there, and that there were more opportunities to raise their standard of living and become more in the mainstream."

How would you rate your own attitude toward American Indians in Whatcom County?



One reason some people felt a negative attitude exists among non-Indians toward the Lummi is the perceived increase in drug use.

Nearly 44 percent of respondents who answered if Whatcom County has a drug problem, believed the problem was at least somewhat severe.

But when the same question as posed to what they thought about drug abuse on the Lummi Reservation, the number jumped to 54 percent.

"I think that people think that there are alcohol and drug problems," Falconer said. "I think so much of it goes back to their environment in where they are raised, and that I think the ones

that are raised in good environments become better (members of society)."

Because of the drug problem at the Lummi Reservation, the tribal council has banished convicted drug dealers from the reservation and tribe.

This unique measure was widely accepted as an effective form of punishment by those surveyed. While 37 percent of the respondents who answered the question slightly supported banishment, an additional 27 percent strongly supported the method.

Not everyone, however, believed in the measure.

Bellingham resident Kat

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 12

Political involvement empowers American Indian communities

WOLFGANG DEERKOP
The Native Sun

Voter apathy is national phenomenon, but few communities have combated it with the same conviction as the Lummi Nation.

Through its "Rock the Rez Vote" program the tribe funds television advertisements aimed at encouraging tribal youth to vote. Lummi tribal members place calls to remind Lummi citizens to vote on federal, state and national election day, and throws a free banquet for tribal members on election night, said Aaron Thomas, director of media relations for the Lummi tribe.

"We pride ourselves on using our constitutional right to vote," he said. "We are very curious to hear from whoever is running, and if they are for the Lummi Nation, we will support them."

Lummi tribal members joined American Indians across Washington state in their support of Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., in her 2000 bid against Slade Gorton, an 18-year senatorial veteran and infamous opponent of American Indian rights.

"Gorton had a long record of animosity toward tribes, including trying to repeal treaties, taking away land and restricting the use of federal funds," said Russ Lehman, managing director of the First American Education Project, a non-profit organization based in Olympia. The FAEP aired negative television ads against Gorton and helped organize American Indian voters during the election.

According to a January 2003 study published by The Evergreen State College and the Native American Applied Research Institute, 9,280 Native Americans voted for the first time during the 2000 senatorial election.

The American Indian vote was impor-

tant because Cantwell defeated Gorton by only 2,200 votes.

"What we want the moral of that story to be is that if you take on Indian voters for that long, there will be a price to pay," Lehman said. "(Indians) can play in this process as well."

American Indian voters have traditionally supported democrats because of their environmental, social and political viewpoints, and this trend will likely continue during the upcoming presidential elections, Lehman said.

"Ecological issues are very important especially here in the Northwest," Lehman said. "Of course, you can't paint with too broad a brush, but with this current administration, I think that tribes will support whoever the democratic candidate is."

Although tribal members have typically voted for democratic candidates, the recent upswing in political involvement has changed the trend, Thomas said.

"Typically it has been along party lines, but if you are for Indians, we are going to be for you," he said.

One of the most influential factors in the rise of political activity is the massive revenues that some tribes have gained through American Indian casinos. These revenues have helped tribes to amass political coffers that rival those of major corporations.

During 2002, the Auburn based Muckleshoot Tribe, which owns the largest casino in the state, donated \$68,275 to 80 Republican and Democratic candidates. This makes them the 20th largest contributor to legislative candidates dur-

ing 2002, higher than Boeing or Weyerhaeuser Inc., according to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, a state agency that tracks campaign contributions.

"Before, (political activity) was low-key; just doing the best we could with what we had," said John McCoy, D-Wash., former tribal lobbyist and Tulalip tribal member. "But, now, the tribes that have gaming operations are the tribes that are politically active."

Although only 217 of the 542 federally recognized tribes in 2002 had gaming operations, their 330 tribal casinos grossed \$14.5 billion. This figure represents 21 percent of all gambling revenues in the United States, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission, the federal regulatory agency that oversees gaming on tribal lands.

These tribal revenues have helped fund political action as well as social services and infrastructure on reservations. In 1997, American Indian gaming operations donated \$1,750 to national political organizations, but by 2002, this number had skyrocketed to more than \$6.7 million.

As of Nov. 3, 2003, tribal gaming interests had already contributed more than \$1.8 million to national political parties, according to The Center for Responsive Politics, a political lobbying watchdog group.

"It has been a pretty rapid ascent for one single industry for such a short time," said Sheila Krumholz, research director at the center. "In the 1980s, (American Indians) basically took the attitude that

"What we want the moral of that story to be is that if you take on Indian voters for that long, there will be a price to pay."

Russ Lehman

Managing Director of the First American Education Project

they didn't need the government. But when Washington started getting in their business through regulation, they did an about-face and started creating Washington operations."

The primary reason for the increase in political lobbying is from tribes that are pooling their resources, McCoy said.

"We have gotten smarter and started working together," he said.

McCoy's 2002 campaign benefited from this political unity. According to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, McCoy received \$12,425 from 15 tribes and tribal gaming associations.

Although these tribal funds represent a small percentage of the approximately \$160,000 McCoy received during his campaign, a wide coalition of tribes from Washington, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Nebraska helped finance his campaign.

Lehman credits this wide-spread support to a sense of community among American Indians as well as an expectation among minority groups that other members of that group will be sympathetic to their needs.

"It's the same with any minority," Lehman said. "Gov. Gary Locke got money from Chinese Americans all over the United States. It is very important to minority groups that they be represented in legislative bodies. That is why John McCoy got money."

The proliferation of political lobbying by American Indian gaming interests in California was one of the centerpieces of the state's 2003 recall election. Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger denounced former Gov. Gray Davis for allowing California tribes to legally operate tribal

SEE POLITICS, PAGE 12

Failing fishing industry prompts workers to

TARA NELSON
The Native Sun

When Mike Solomon recalled his earlier fishing days, he said he'll miss the money he used to make the most. Two years ago, Solomon's boat was repossessed by his bank when revenues from his catch could no longer make the payments.

But Solomon is far from alone. Approximately 90 percent of Lummi fishers have been dislocated due to a decline in salmon runs and increased competition from farmed salmon, said Gordon Adams, a former dislocated fisher and co-founder of the Dislocated Fishers' Board, an organization created to help dislocated fishers re-enter the job market.

Some fishers, like Solomon, have managed to retrain themselves for new careers, but others have fallen into a cycle of drug dealing and addiction in an attempt to recover lost income or self-medicate from a loss of tradition.

A shrinking industry

Adams said the number of purse-seining boats, which use circular nets, weighted at the bottom, have shrunk from 48 in 2003 to three or four

today. The ramifications of the decreasing number of boats, however, are even larger, he said.

"When you see one boat gone, that's not just one person, but five families that are affected because there are about five crew members on each boat," he said. "That is a huge impact."

Solomon is currently in the process of being retrained in a variety of areas. After one year in the dislocated workers program he is already on his way to an apprentice position in cabinet making. He is also learning new computer skills.

"I'll never be a computer programmer," he said, laughing. "But at least I'll know what my kids are talking about!"

A sense of loss

Ray Hite, a drug and alcohol-abuse counselor for the Lummi Health Center, said although the decline in annual salmon runs have hurt both native and non-native people, it has had a particularly devastating impact on the Lummi Nation. He said this is because their traditional economic bases are rooted in natural resources and their cultural traditions involve living close to the land.

"It has really made a big impact on the Lummis because they feel disconnected," Hite said. "It's a loss of tradition."

Hite said he has seen the number of people struggling with addictions double then triple, then go off the chart in recent decades. While he said he does not know for sure, he speculates that the collapse of the fishing industry and the subsequent loss of a traditional way of life may contribute to people falling into a cycle of selling and eventually abusing drugs.

"I don't know if it's the primary reason, but I would imagine some of them would say, 'Why not try drugs or sell drugs?'" Hite said. "When your environment and livelihood is gone, what's the next step?"

Why are fishing runs declining?

Jeff Shaw, North Sound information officer for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, said the fishing stocks have dwindled as a result of lost or degraded salmon habitat from development and pollution from industry.

Shaw said that while he was not able to establish a connection between loss of salmon habitat and the increase in drug abuse, the loss of salmon runs has had a tremendous impact on the Lummi Nation. The loss has also affected other tribes who have depended on the runs for centuries as a way to maintain a traditional way of life.

"As fish lose habitat, the runs decline, and when the runs decline, tribal fishermen are not able to make a living," he said. "This is an ancient culture that is based on fishing, and people are trying to continue to live their culture through emerging fisheries like shellfish as salmon runs decline."

Exploring new markets

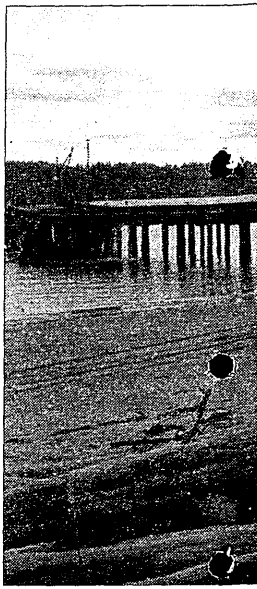
Shaw said other displaced fishers are trying to shift into the non-traditional fisheries such as crab, moon snails (popular in Asian markets), sea urchins, sea cucumbers and shellfish. Many are also shifting into non-traditional occupations.

Many, however, are still desperately trying to hold on to a trade that often barely breaks even.

Vincent Jameson, project coordinator for the Dislocated Fisher's Program, said that even though market prices for wild salmon have dropped considerably — 70 percent — some fishers would just rather scrape by than change careers.

"We got to the point where we analyzed the amount the fishermen were making per hour and it averaged out to \$1.25," Jameson said. "At that point, we applied for the National Emergency Grant."

Even Solomon admitted his ties to the sea were stronger than the pull of money.



A boat rests on the sand, an uncommon sight,

"If I had my boat, I'd say, 'Back in the 1970s, until they got too old, I thought would never end."

A problem of 'e'

Meanwhile, the tribe is what to do about a drug Police Chief Gary Jameson's proportions."

He said the problem dealers wait for fishers and in with their catch and a fisher's money never really.

"It's huge," Jameson said. "The problem has been epidemic. Our calls are drug or alcohol."

Hite said many clam-become addicted to pharmaceuticals being prescribed prescription chronic back pains associated with bending and stooping of the back.

Lummi council members inherent part of the drug industry's economic structure, a reservation are at a subse-

"In the mainstream (so available that are not available), he said. "When we sober up our job; we go back to unemployment and minimal medi-



Tara Nelson/The Native Sun

An abandoned boat is one example of the effects the loss of salmon runs has had on the Lummi Nation, as well as other tribes, who have depended on the runs for centuries to maintain a traditional way of life.

Reformed welfare program limits drug dealers, but a

JOSH DUMOND
The Native Sun

For two months in 1991, Lummi tribal member Kent Johnson directly received a monthly check of \$100 in government welfare general assistance from the Lummi Nation because he was unemployed.

Thirteen years later, Johnson does not receive GA, but even if he did, he would no longer receive a direct check.

In addition to the tribal council's recent decision to banish tribal members who are caught dealing drugs, the Lummi Business Council is doing something few other tribes are doing to fight the growing problem of drug and alcohol abuse.

The tribe gives unemployed members who qualify vouchers to buy groceries and pay bills instead of providing a monthly check, which is producing mixed results.

"I'm sure it helps cut a little bit of the drug use, but you can't cut off every bad apple," Johnson said. "I'm sure someone is always trying to abuse it some way or another."

In January 2002, concerned members of the Lummi community approached the council to report that a tribal member in his early 20s who was receiving GA had overdosed, said Aaron Thomas, the Lummi's director of media relations. Lummi Chairman Darrell Hillaire pulled together all the department directors within the tribe to

discuss and solve the problem, he said.

"The community had had enough," Thomas said. "This drug problem has affected every single family here on the Lummi Nation."

Thomas said the voucher system has made dealers less likely to sell drugs on the Lummi Reservation.

"It has made another roadblock for drug dealers to make money off addicted tribal members," Thomas said. "When you reduce the market, it causes (dealers) to think: 'I can't (sell) here. I have to go somewhere else.'"

Lummi Police Chief Gary James said he agreed that the voucher system makes it harder for dealers, but tribal members receiving GA still use the reformed program to buy drugs and alcohol.

"They go down and get the vouchers and sell it for less than what it's worth," James said.

James said the problem is not limited to the Lummi Nation. He said similar problems occur within welfare programs at the state level.

"They do the same thing," James said. "People will sell food stamps and buy other things like drugs and alcohol."

Ken Reinfeld, senior policy-program analyst of the office of self-governance, said the Lummi tribe is one of only a few that use a voucher system in the United States. Most tribes stick to the check system because

members prefer the funds and view a voucher system as a last resort, he said.

"There are some tribes doing the same thing as Lummi but not a majority," Reinfeld said. "I don't see any movement toward that. Those who want to do that have done it already."

In the fiscal year of 2003, the Lummi received a total of \$621,662 for GA from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Reinfeld said. This is only a fraction of the estimated \$64 million the Federal Government allocated to tribes with approved GA programs throughout the United States in that year, according to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Karyl Jefferson, executive director of the Lummi Employment Training Center, said the tribe directly pays bills for members on GA and gives them credit to buy food at grocery stores such as Cost Cutter. She said GA money is restricted to providing essential needs such as shelter, food, clothing and utilities.

"Basically, what we have done is have people bring in bills and rent charges," Jefferson said. "Instead of giving them cash, we are writing the checks to pay those bills."

Jefferson said the Lummi has 50 to 100 members on GA each month, and each receives an average of \$349 per month. For individuals to be eligible, Jefferson said they

must not have any source of income and must be actively searching for a job through the Lummi's job rehabilitation program.

According to the catalogue, eligible applicants include American Indians who are members of a federally recognized tribe and live on or near a federally recognized Indian reservation. GA applicants and recipients must provide evidence of monthly efforts to obtain employment in accordance with his or her vocational rehabilitation program.

If the person does not provide ample evidence, he or she cannot receive GA. The catalogue did not list provisions for those with substance abuse problems.

Jefferson said substance abuse makes it difficult for members to be successful in the vocational rehabilitation program. She said members deal with their substance abuse through tribal programs while they are in the job-searching process.

"You can't find employment if you have a substance abuse problem," Jefferson said. "For many, we get them a job and the substance abuse problem prevents them from (keeping it)."

Lummi tribal member Candice Tait said her cousin sold a \$200 voucher for half its value three weeks ago and then spent the money on alcohol.

"They had him doing the job search and alcohol classes, but he was showing up

new jobs — drugs



Tara Nelson/The Native Sun

ore next to the Lummi Island ferry dock. Stranded boats are not as many fishers can no longer afford to pay for mooring.

ll be fishing," Solomon Sherman wouldn't quit as a way of life that we but it sure did."

ic proportions'

struggling to figure out problem, which Lummi said has reached "epic

as gotten so bad that clam diggers to come offer drugs, so with the nes their family.

"The Oxycontin problem for than 50 percent of ol related."

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Perry Adams said an problem is the communi- dent people on the Lummi uent disadvantage.

ety) there are resources ilable on reservations," up, we don't go back to employment, lower edu- al coverage."

Jameson said he sees an average of 35 dislocated fishers visiting his office per week, in addition to the 260 that are already in the program, which is funded by an emergency displaced workers grant provided by the U.S. Department of Labor.

He said most are seeking retraining in areas such as commercial diving, heavy equipment operations and construction, as well as early childhood development specialists and university degrees. The program also helps with basic household expenses during their transition. The program, however, is designed to terminate this December.

Adams said the Economic Development Taskforce is also in the process of an \$11 million expansion of the Silver Reef Casino, a K-12 school and a possible hotel on Slater Road. The group is also looking into the possibility of developing a marina and restaurant as well as the redevelopment of various properties at Gooseberry Point, he said.

But, even in the midst of growth, Adams said there is still much progress to be made.

"We're still economically stressed," he said.

Jameson said he hopes they can train most of the workers before the program ends Dec. 31, but transitioning former fisherman into new careers in such a short time is extremely difficult. Many, he said, had not even graduated high school before they began fishing at a young age.

"Our purpose is to retrain tribal fishermen and get them into entry-level positions within two years of training," he said. "A lot of kids go to

Lummi turns to banishment in order to curb drug abuse

TARA NELSON
The Native Sun

The Lummi Nation has recently reinstated disenrollment and banishment efforts to discourage drug abuse on the reservation.

The Lummi have revived these age-old practices as a last resort to deal with drug-distribution problems, which some say have reached epic proportions.

Traditionally, banishment was used only on members who repeated a variety of offenses, and only recently has the practice

been applied to drug trafficking crimes.

Aaron Thomas, director of media relations for the Lummi Nation, said that while many people feel these actions are too harsh, they need to consider the wider effects of drug trafficking on the community.

"The council wants to rid the Lummi Nation of those who are knowingly selling harmful and illegal drugs to our addicted community members," he said. "When you see the effects that drugs have on our people, when

is it enough? Where do we draw the line?"

The tribe has experienced six drug-related deaths in the past two years, including 15-month-old Tanisha Roselee Noland, who picked up a prescription Oxycontin pill off the floor and swallowed it.

Currently, the Lummi Nation has banished or disenrolled four members from visiting the reservation for drug-related offenses. This includes a revocation of all tribal rights, including fishing licenses and medical assistance. Another 30, however, are said to be in the process of review for drug distribution or related offenses.

The practice has also drawn mixed reviews from the community, sometimes pitting families against one another in a community so small, a neighbor is often a relative.

Even council members are of mixed opinions. Some, such as Tribal Councilman Perry Adams, who originally voted for the banishment and disenrollment practices, said the punishments are too harsh and need revision.

"In a sense, I think we have it backwards," Adams said. "If you're banished, at least you should be able to have medical care and fishing rights."

But other tribal officials are losing patience.

Danita Washington, director for the Youth Education and Social Services program, said the Lummi tribe needs to be thinking about the long-term effects of banishment.

"What is Lummi going to look like in 50 or 100 years?" she said. "We need to be thinking about it."

Meet Patricia Fawcett

Fawcett and her family make most of life despite banishment from the Lummi Nation

TARA NELSON
The Native Sun

When Patricia Fawcett was released from prison, it should have been the best day of her life. But it was also the day she was disenrolled from the Lummi Nation under a revised banishment policy aimed at reducing drug trafficking.

Fawcett, along with four other family members, had been involved in a family drug operation in the '80s that earned some of them prison terms and ultimately cost them their tribal memberships.

"When I got out, they disenrolled me; They didn't help me," she said. "I got nothing."

But Fawcett, who had been charged with intent to deliver and carrying a weapon, has since turned her life around.

Today, Fawcett is a cook at Seattle Thunderbird Alcohol Treatment Center, a branch of the Seattle Indian Health Board. She said she has been clean for 12 years.

She pauses just as her giggling, 2-year-old grandson, Ernie, runs into the room and pounces on her. She also has custody of her two grandsons, ages 2 and 10, something that would have been impossible in the past, she said. And just in time, she said, as the children had been on their way to a foster home.

"When I got out of prison (in 1993), I had lost my kids, my house—everything and it wasn't worth it," she said. "Drugs are not worth it."

abuse remains widespread

"junk," Tait said. "He is using them and then showing off in front of them what he is getting away with. There are a lot of people who are homeless, who cannot even get on GA because of what he and other people are doing."

Tait said her cousin is one of many people who abuse the GA program and that it is a common occurrence on the reservation. She said tribal leaders should take action to improve the program.

"Instead of going to drug and alcohol class while they are on GA, they should have to complete these classes as a requirement before being on the program," Tait said. "There's a lot of programs for people who are addicted. It's just that no one uses them."

According to a 2002 report titled "The Evaluation of the Tribal Welfare-to-Work Grants Program: Initial Implementation Findings," tribes make counseling and treatment available, but they struggle to get participants connected with the available services. Many individuals with serious substance-abuse problems are in denial about the extent of their addictions and resist seeking or accepting help, and, as a result, many cannot keep their jobs, according to the report.

At the time of GA reform, substance abuse was such a problem that council members created a program called Community Mobilization Against Drugs,

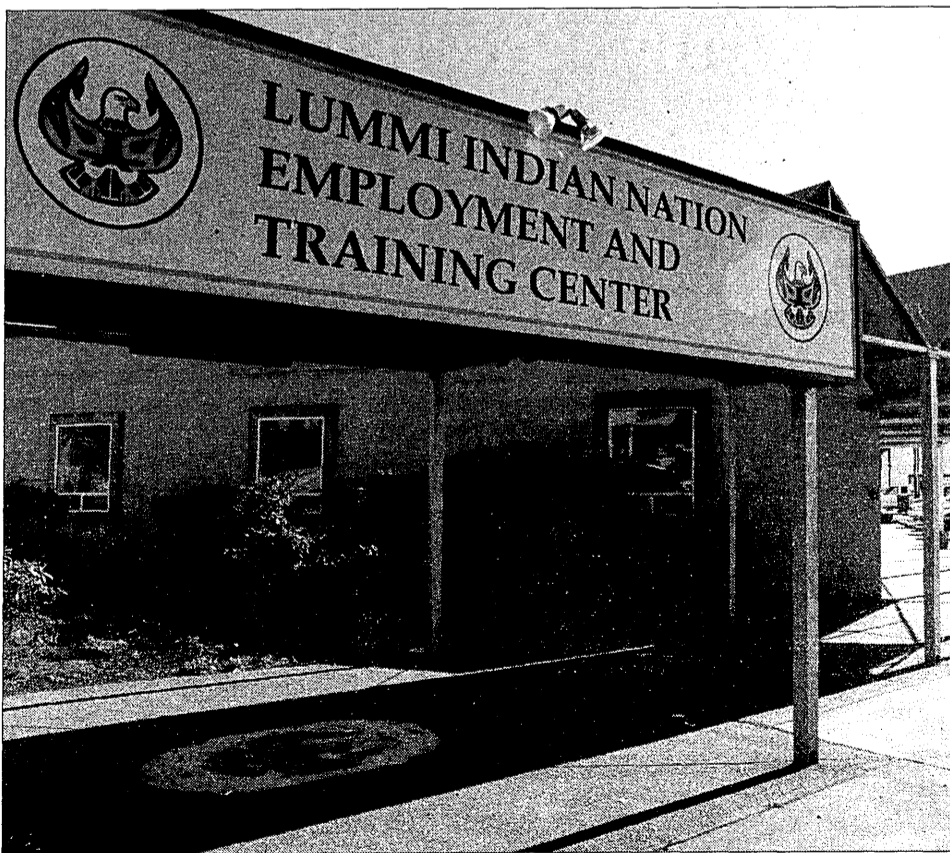
Thomas said. Under the program, tribal council members, health officials and law enforcement officers communicate regularly with other law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, Indian Health Services, hospitals and pharmacies. In 2003, CMAD received a \$3 million grant from the Department of Justice, and the Lummi tribe set up cameras in the McKenzie neighborhood to document and discourage drug activity, he said.

Thomas said tribal members were overwhelmed because the council members reformed the GA program and established CMAD within a period of six months.

"People were dying and were in hospitals," Thomas said. "We had to move fast. Just being on general assistance was very demeaning to people."

James said the reformed GA program is better because people no longer have drug dealers waiting for them in the parking lot after they receive GA checks. He said the connection between the GA program and substance abuse is inevitable because no program is perfect.

"It's a lot better system than giving straight checks," James said. "No matter what system you use, they are always going to be capable of buying drugs and alcohol with GA. There is a percentage of people who do the right thing, but unfortunately, there is also a percentage who use the program to get their alcohol or drug fix."



Ben Arnold/The Native Sun

The Lummi Nation Employment and Training Center. In 2003, the Lummi received a total of \$621,662 for general assistance from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior. This is only a fraction of the estimated \$64 million the Federal Government allocated to tribes with approved GA programs throughout the United States in that year, according to the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

Boldt: Fishing communities look for common ground

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that is at the top of a list of issues the fishing industry must face in the coming years.

"Catches have declined dramatically. They're nowhere near where they were 20 years ago, and there are three factors for that," he said. "(The first) one is the habitat degradation and loss of productivity in streams that has reduced the amount of salmon that are being produced in Puget Sound now."

Shaw said issues such as urban sprawl, an encroachment of farming on wetlands and the historic removal of large logjams on local waterways are the main culprits.

There used to be one- to two-mile-long logjams along the rivers and creeks in Whatcom County that provided protection from predators for the salmon runs. But white settlers removed them in order to utilize the rivers and streams for moving cut trees for the logging industry, Shaw said.

The Snohomish, Skagit and Whatcom wetlands also have been intensely settled by farmers, Shaw said. This has compounded the fishing problems.

"Cows are really detrimental to salmon," Shaw said. "They eat native grasses, which hold up riverbanks, which stop erosion, which can smother salmon eggs."

The lower wetlands of river systems also provide an area for salmon feeding and rearing, activities the fish cannot do if the estuaries are crowded with farms, Shaw said. With civilization encroaching

more on wildlife habitat of all kinds, degradation is bound to occur.

"The fishing industry just hasn't been so good because of the (effects) development of communities and suburban communities (have)," Robinson said. "The extension of civilization of the Puget Sound has eaten up a lot of watershed that provided clean water, and cold water, and good gravel and shade for the salmon. We blacktop over a lot of it."

Habitat is such a concern because without an improvement, the fish numbers will remain stagnant, Shaw said.

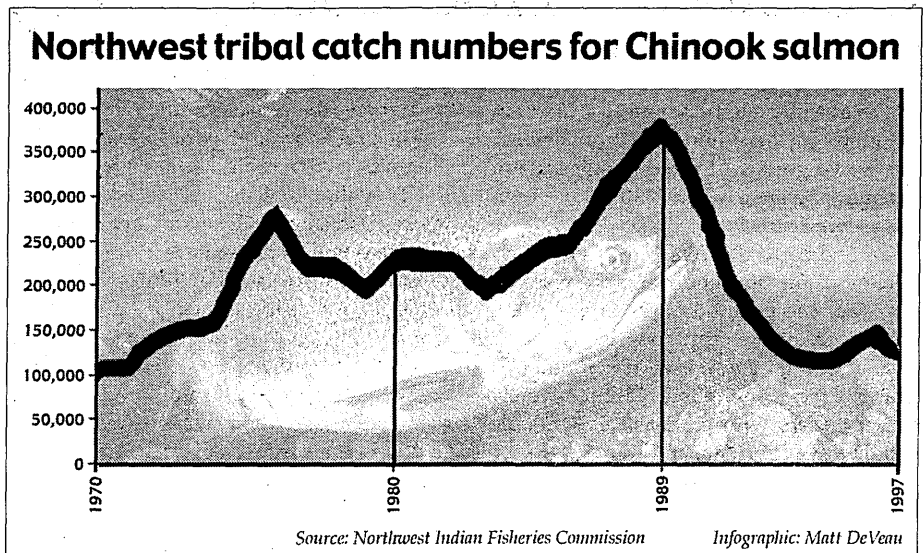
"In that respect, the Indians are the best friend to those who want to protect the environment and habitat," said Alvin Ziontz, a retired lawyer who argued before judge Boldt in 1974 for the Lummi, Mackaw and Quinault tribes. "Indians' treaty rights, as enforced by (the Boldt decision) provide those concerned with the environment a real guardian (in the tribes)."

The initial fervor between Indian and non-Indian fishers after the Boldt decision was intense, Jameson said, but it became easier to deal with when people realized that, due to habitat loss, they had a common interest.

"Now everybody realized that everyone was in the same boat," he said.

Even still, with disagreements over fishing rights, the legal legacy of the Boldt decision remains, Ziontz said.

In 1999, Ziontz' former firm argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians, stating that under an 1837 treaty



with the United States, the state of Minnesota did not have the right to impose fishing, hunting and gathering regulations.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Mille Lacs Band, and in the decision said the treaty rights of 1837 "could not be extinguished."

"In doing that, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the validity of the Boldt decision," Ziontz said.

In 1994, U.S. District Court judge Edward Rafeedie echoed the words of George Boldt's decision when he extended the 50-50 cut of salmon to include shellfish, Shaw said.

Since 1974, courts have extended the Boldt decision's philosophy — co-managing natural resources — to many different resources other than salmon such as black cod and halibut, as well as the shellfish awarded in the Rafeedie decision, Shaw said.

Ziontz said that in the Midwest, resource rights for tribes have extended to include game such as deer and elk, which originated with the Boldt decision's shift in ideals concerning resource allocation and management.

Because of the resource decline in the past 30 years, fishers have needed to take advantage of other available resources not yet tapped and diversify in order to make a living, Lummi fisherman Vernon Lane Jr. said.

"In the last six or seven years, crab has been the real moneymaker for me," he said.

Lane, who has been fishing for the past 40 years, is one of few Lummi fishers still making enough profit to stay full-time.

"I still make a decent living off it," Lane said. "I've been fortunate to keep up with the different trends. You have to adapt to the different fisheries."

Adapting is something that Lane has done well. Lane fishes approximately nine months out of the year, catching everything from salmon, when the runs are fruitful enough, to halibut, prawns and crab.

For most Lummi fishers, however, life on the water has been more tumultuous.

Cagey said many of the Lummi fishers are bankrupt due to the costs associated with fishing.

Merle Jefferson, the director of natural resources for the Lummi, said it is too expensive to store boats in the harbor, including the expensive-to-run purse seiners that historically have brought in large catches for both the Lummi and non-Indian fishers.

"(Lummi) used to have a dozen or so purse seiners; now we just have two or three," Jefferson said. "Salmon is at kind of a crisis right now, with Chinook being on the endangered species list."

At its height, the Lummi was the largest fishing tribe in Western Washington.

From 1960 to 1980 the Lummi catch for all salmon species rose from approximately 25,000 to 500,000.

In 1985, according to the annual reports of what is now the Washington State

Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Lummi salmon catch brought in approximately 2.62 million fish, when all other tribes in the nation brought in a combined 2.81 million.

The decline has been staggering.

According to a Chinook salmon technical committee report released by the Pacific Salmon Commission, the combined 1975 American Indian and non-Indian catch of Chinook salmon in the Strait of Juan de Fuca was 95,481. That number reached a peak of 127,000 in 1990 but fell to 2,642 in 2000.

Other species also have declined at an exponential rate. The Washington sockeye, what many fishers call the "money fish of the area," have dropped from a catch totaling approximately 11 million pounds in 1977, to just 3 million pounds in 2002, according to landing queries from the Fisheries Statistics and Economics Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

According to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Washington tribal catch numbers for Chinook, Coho and chum salmon all steadily increased from 1970 until 1987, when the catches started to decline.

In 1987, the tribal catch for Chinook salmon was approximately 370,000, whereas in 1997, the number was closer to 100,000. For Coho salmon, the difference was even bigger. The tribes brought in nearly 1.3 million fish in 1987, but approximately just 150,000 in 1997.

Tribal fishers were not the only ones who felt the effect of a diminishing resource.

"It was going strong until about 1985," Martin Tomich said, a Bellingham fisherman with more than 50 years experience under his belt. "They ain't rollin' now, and the prices went so bad for 2000 we had to fill out some paperwork for government subsidies."

Because retailers want to make the most money, they will try to purchase the product for the least amount they can, giving fishers a meager income, Tomich said.

Many things govern the fishing industry, he said, such as variances in the salmon run sizes, prices on the market, the declining state of habitat and the Boldt decision.

"It's a fight for your rights, more or less, the Boldt decision," Tomich said.

American Indian and non-Indian fishers did have some animosity toward each other at the time, Tomich said.

Cagey described it in one word: tension. "We just went to court and tried to beat it," Tomich said. "We didn't mind equal rights. There were a lot of Indians who were friends of mine who were fishing with whites before the Boldt decision."

American Indians' struggle to regain their fishing rights has been a long and hard road, Cagey said.

"It's always been my opinion that it took 150 years to screw it all up, and it's going to take another 150 to clean it up," he said. "The Boldt decision allowed us to begin heading in that direction."



Ben Arnold/The Native Sun

After more than 50 years of fishing, Bellingham resident Martin Tomich is preparing his purse-seiner for sale. Soon, the Valiant Lady will be in the hands of her new owner in Quebec, Canada.

Census: Tribe uses survey to ease housing problems

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had to live in a two-bedroom apartment in Ferndale until the house was (available). But we've got about three families living here now because we can't all get our own places right now."

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 89 percent of the households on the reservation had one person or less to every livable room. After completing its own census, however, the Lummi tribe found that nearly 300 Lummi households are severely overcrowded with at least five people residing in each room.

Taking into consideration American Indians' unique dependence on federal assistance, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act gives tribes the opportunity to challenge the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's decisions on grant applications and consequently the federal census results, Phair said.

"When (the numbers) aren't right, we have to go through extensive challenges to prove that we have the need," she said. "It was important to us to ask these questions and get accurate answers so we can challenge (the 2000 census numbers) in June."

As part of an annual review process, the Lummi will present its current housing and income statistics to HUD to show an increased need to receive more funding next year.

Since the publication of the federal census in 2002, more than 100 tribes, including several in Washington, have conducted their own censuses, with 39 resulting in official adjustments of census numbers. Of those tribes, all have secured more federal funds by proving significant discrepancies in population and socioeconomic information.

In an effort to appease the budding complaints of inaccuracies, the Census Bureau offered tribal governments the opportunity to contest the 2000 census results through the Count Question Resolution program between July 2001 and September 2003. But as the deadline passed, many tribal governments still did not even know about the bureau's option.

"What's that?" Thompson said of the bureau's CQR program. "We didn't even know about that. I suppose that is just another example of the miscommunication between the tribes and the government."

While some tribes accepted the bureau's attempt at redemption, most opted to conduct their own surveys, said Roger Johnson, U.S. Census Bureau statistician.

"Some groups have a lot of distrust in the government, and they wanted to do it themselves," he said. "But in order to make it official, we would have to be the ones doing the work."

Even if the Lummis would have known about the program, Thompson said, they would not have participated because of the bureau's disappointing effort in 2000.

"There was a massive effort before the 2000 census by the government to get the Indians involved in the census," Kamkoff

said. "But when the time came, nothing happened. I had people calling me asking me where (the census takers) were."

The problem was that the bureau's ambition was not backed by action, Phair said.

"They didn't talk to me," she said. "They hit my dad's house next door, but for whatever reason they missed me."

On many occasions, volunteers responsible for surveying the reservation would come to the Lummi Enrollment office for information rather than contact the members directly, Kamkoff said.

"I had a case where a taker was afraid of a dog in the yard, so they came to me and asked me questions about that family," she said. "One time, a young girl came to my office to get information because she was afraid to visit a house because there were a bunch of guys hanging around outside."

While American Indians blame the Census Bureau's lack of effort for the undercount, the government claims the tribes' lack of participation contributed to the discrepancies.

"Indian reservations pose a number of problems for census takers," said Claudette Bennett, U.S. Census Bureau racial statistician. "They are located in rural, hard-to-get-to places. The households are always changing, and there is a significant distrust in any activity by the government on reservations. Many people just didn't even open their doors."

As a result, she said, the official count of American Indians proved to have the highest percentage of error for any minority group in the nation. The bureau estimates it missed 4 percent of all American Indians in Washington state.

And while more than 3,000 tribal members live on the Lummi reservation, the census bureau recorded only 2,240, amounting to a 27-percent margin of error for the Lummi tribe.

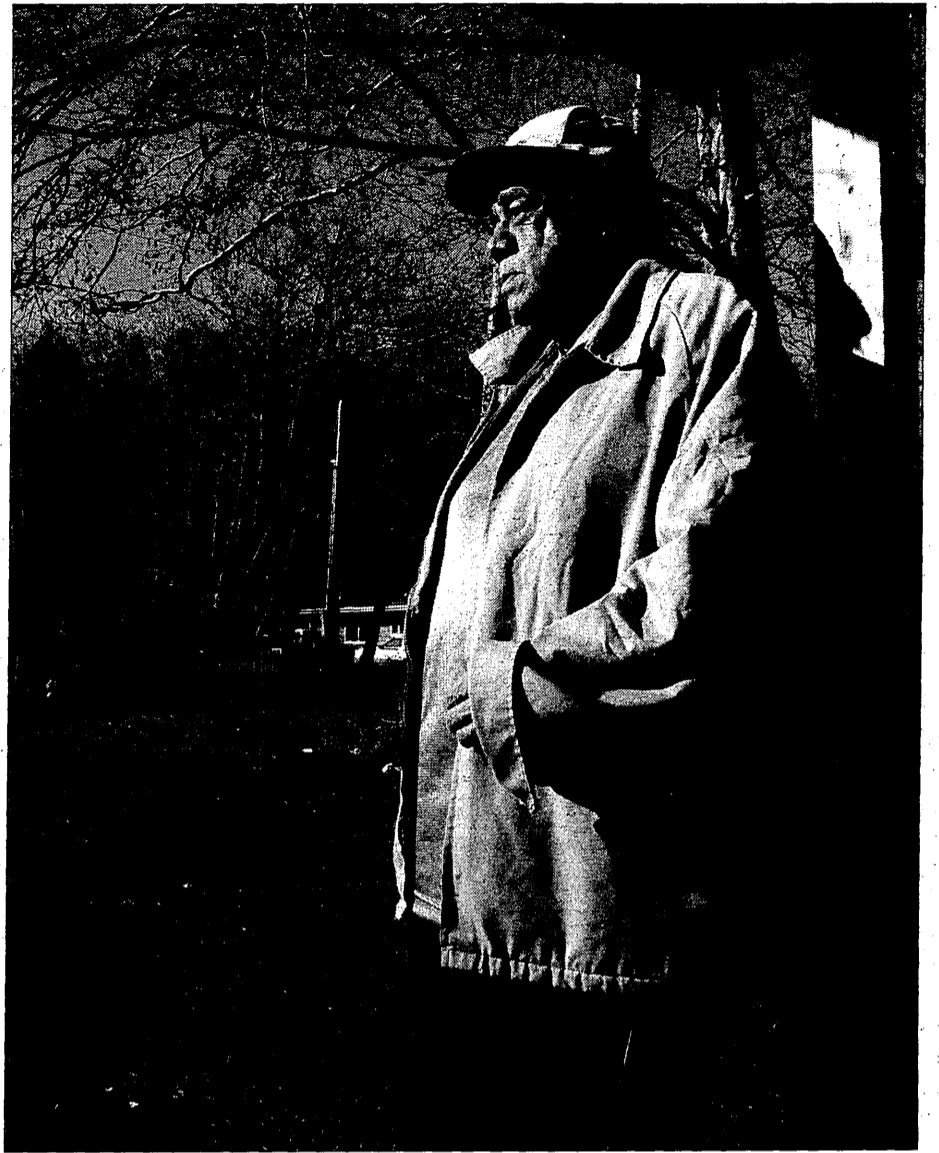
Although she does not want to justify the flaws in the federal census, Kamkoff said she sympathizes with the challenges the census takers experienced while working with tribal populations.

"To be honest, we couldn't even identify everyone in our system (during Lummi Census 2003)," she said. "People move a lot. And people will run away and slam the door in their face. We had the same problems as the (federal) surveyors."

Approximately 15 percent of enrolled members did not respond to the Lummi census despite numerous attempts by the tribal census takers.

Although the Lummi census resembles the bureau's own survey, six pages of multiple-choice questions concerning housing status, educational level, family composition and employment status, the tribe was able to relate better to the members, Kamkoff said.

"We know how to talk to (the tribal members), and how to access their information," she said. "The census people from the government didn't know how to do that because they weren't trained to deal with tribal populations properly."



Abiah Weaver/The Native Sun

Lummi tribal member Gilbert Galler rests against his uncle's fence, trying to remember when the federal government visited the reservation in 2000 to take the census. "I've lived in that house over there forever," he says as he points next door. "I don't remember them ever coming out here, and most of the neighbors will probably tell you the same thing." The Lummi Nation claims that nearly half of its 4,035 members were missed in the 2000 U.S. Census.

With more than 560 tribes and 2.1 million American Indians in the United States, it is important to maintain an accurate count to ensure a large portion of the population is not ignored, Kamkoff said.

But because the American Indian population is growing and changing at the fastest rate among minority groups, it is even difficult for the Lummis to meet that expectation, she admitted.

"In 1997, we started looking into doing our own census," Kamkoff said. "And just as all the information was finally computed, the casino closed down. It created more need and — bam! All of sudden we had old information. It must be like that every day on the national level."

Despite the cost and the struggle to predict and respond to changing information, Kamkoff said she was pleased with the outcome of the project.

"Beyond the fact that we actually reached more people, our survey was more successful (than the 2000 census) in that it was more in-depth and really got at the needs of the people," she said.

With a permanent system now in place, the tribe expects to conduct its census every five years, Finkbonner said. The

individual departments, however, will be able to update the information annually to assess the growing population's needs.

With six years remaining until the next federal census, some tribes are worried they will have to rely on the 2000 census data because they cannot afford to conduct their own surveys, O'Neil said.

"Indians have always been at a significant disadvantage when it comes to the census," O'Neil said. "Statistically, minorities have a greater need for federal assistance, but minorities are also the ones overlooked and undercounted more by the census. The census has a powerful effect on Indians, and we should do everything we can to make sure we get an accurate count in 2010."

With three months remaining until the Lummi Housing Authority submits its census findings to HUD, the Lummi Nation is anxious to see if its census will help secure more funding.

"We haven't really seen the impact yet," Phair said. "Right now we are using older data. We will have to wait until the new data on homelessness and overcrowding is presented in June to see if our need is verified."

"They didn't talk to me. They hit my dad's house next door, but for whatever reason they missed me."

Diana Phair
Lummi Tribal Member

Meet Skyler Revey

Young Lummi tribal member struggling to find room in a crowded house

ABIAH WEAVER
The Native Sun

Mid-afternoon rain showers are what Lummi Nation resident Skyler Revey will miss the most when he leaves the Lummi Reservation to pursue a college education in Arizona this spring.

He won't miss the small, three-bedroom house that he shares with eight other people.

He won't miss splitting all of the household expenses with his mom, a teacher's aide at the Lummi Tribal School. He won't miss working infrequent odd jobs for minimal, under-the-table pay. And he won't miss hanging out with his friends on the reservation, who have not yet grown out of their "wild ways."

Skyler, 20, has to make a future for himself — and for his nephew Jaylyn.

Skyler has temporary custody of his sister's son while she tries to "find herself." Proud to have the responsibility, Skyler is seeking permanent custody of the precocious 1-year-old.

He acts like an experienced dad, even though he does not have any children of his own. He pays for Jaylyn's diapers, watches cartoons with him every morning, teaches him how to shoot hoops in the driveway and scolds him for throwing his toys.

He wears his hair long as a personal choice, not a sign of his Lummi heritage. Before he moved to the reservation, he never even thought about his bloodline — and he still is not sure what it is.

He is not particularly close to his family. And even though they have been trying to move to the reservation since he was born, he cannot wait to move away.



Dam removal clouds future of fish

Proposal would help 'threatened' Chinook and threaten kokanee

Aaron Managhan
The Native Sun

A proposal designed to further protect salmon along the Middle Fork of the Nooksack River may do more than just save the fish.

The proposal will replace the current diversion dam with a structure designed to help the endangered Chinook salmon by allowing access to 25 miles of additional upstream habitat. But in doing so, the Chinook will be accessing waters they have not in decades.

This access could put the fate of Lake Whatcom's fish populations in jeopardy, especially the lake's kokanee salmon.

The diversion dam, operated by the city of Bellingham, taps water from the Nooksack, sending it through nine miles of pipeline into Anderson Creek, which feeds Mirror Lake, eventually draining into Lake Whatcom.

But with the change, the water would flow additional diseases that, while not harmful to humans, could devastate the kokanee population in the lake. The kokanee are vital, not only to the state, but also to hatcheries in California and Idaho, where some of the fish are distributed.

With the possibility of opening new habitat to an endangered species on one hand, and the fate of the state's most productive kokanee hatchery on the other, it is clear one party will be left unsatisfied.

"There's a little twist here that's created a fair amount of other discussion," said Chuck Phillips, Region Four Fish Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. "The twist is this: the water going into Lake Whatcom is in a completely different watershed. With water running into a different watershed, this creates unique problems for fish that also go in that direction. Fish have as many diseases as humans. The issue with anadromous fish is that some of those diseases are very serious."

Dam Removal

The proposal, drafted by the city of Bellingham, the WDFW, the Lummi Nation and the Nooksack Tribe, calls for three pairs of concrete and steel structures to be built in the river. These structures would bottleneck the river to a width of approximately 25 feet creating washouts, or deep pools, that would collect water for the diversion.

The structures are designed to protect juvenile and adult salmon that might be in the diverted water by collecting fish, as well as debris, and re-routing them back into the river.

Dick McKinley, Bellingham Public Works Director, said by drawing water out of the sides of the washouts, less water pressure is placed on fish that get caught.

"We want to do what's best for the environment and still be able to draw water," he said. "How do we balance these two? We need to take advantage of the stream. In essence, we create three swim holes. We let the power of the river create the holes, and we'll draw water from that."

Costs for fish ladder designs are too expensive, Bill McCourt, Bellingham Public Works Operations Superintendent, said, making dam removal the clear choice.

McCourt said a fish ladder design would cost between \$6 and \$9 million, with dam repairs adding \$2 million more. Dam removal will cost \$8 million.

Depending on its future budget, the Army Corps of Engineers has tentatively committed \$5 million to the project, McKinley said. Gov. Gary Locke said that

another \$1.6 million will be allocated for the project in the state's 2004 budget request. The remaining \$1.4 million would be paid for by the city, either through state or federal grants or from the city's capital reserves.

The Virus

Larry Sisson, manager of the state's Lake Whatcom Hatchery, said the hatchery would be severely impacted if the river salmon are allowed access upstream.

"The big difference is a contaminant versus a virus," he said. "Contaminants aren't good, but a lot of fish are able to escape them. This is due to things like lake depth and flushing. But a virus, they can't escape that. There's nothing we can do with that. There's no vaccine; nothing. It's death."

The pathogen, Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis Virus, causes fish infected with the disease to become lethargic. Eventually, the fish stop moving completely, drift downstream and die. The disease is transmitted through direct contact with an infected fish, ingestion of infected tissue or feces, or from an infected water source. The latter poses the greatest threat to Lake Whatcom fish.

WDFW pathologist Jed Varney said other diseases, such as bacterial kidney disease, would also be transmitted, further threatening the lake fish. BKD forces an immune system response so great that it can cause kidney failure.

The kokanee in Lake Whatcom are the only disease-free population in the state, Sisson said.

This status makes Lake Whatcom Hatchery the most relied upon hatchery in the state, with an estimated 13.1 million eggs set for distribution in 2004. Of those, 4.5 million are planned for Lake Whatcom and 950,000 for the Bellingham hatchery, according to the 2004 Draft Brood Document released by the WDFW. The document records fish egg takes and releases from each hatchery. More than 5.2 million eggs will go to California and Idaho.

Varney said tests on the Lake Whatcom kokanee population showed a severe impact to the fish. He said a strain of IHNV from kokanee salmon in Baker Lake were injected into the Lake Whatcom kokanee.

"In the Lake Whatcom kokanee, the Baker (IHNV) strain is almost 100 percent fatal," he said. "And it seems to get infected much faster. It's like anything else, the young and old are the most susceptible. (From) our experiment, I think if IHNV were in Lake Whatcom, you're definitely going to end up with a lot of dead kokanee."

Varney said in the study, hatchlings had a survival rate of 10 percent, while yearlings maintained a 30- to 40- percent survival rate. Although some will survive, the kokanee will lose their disease-free status.

But by losing their disease-free status, the fish would no longer be shipped regionally, thus impacting not only the hatchery program within the state, but the hatcheries themselves.

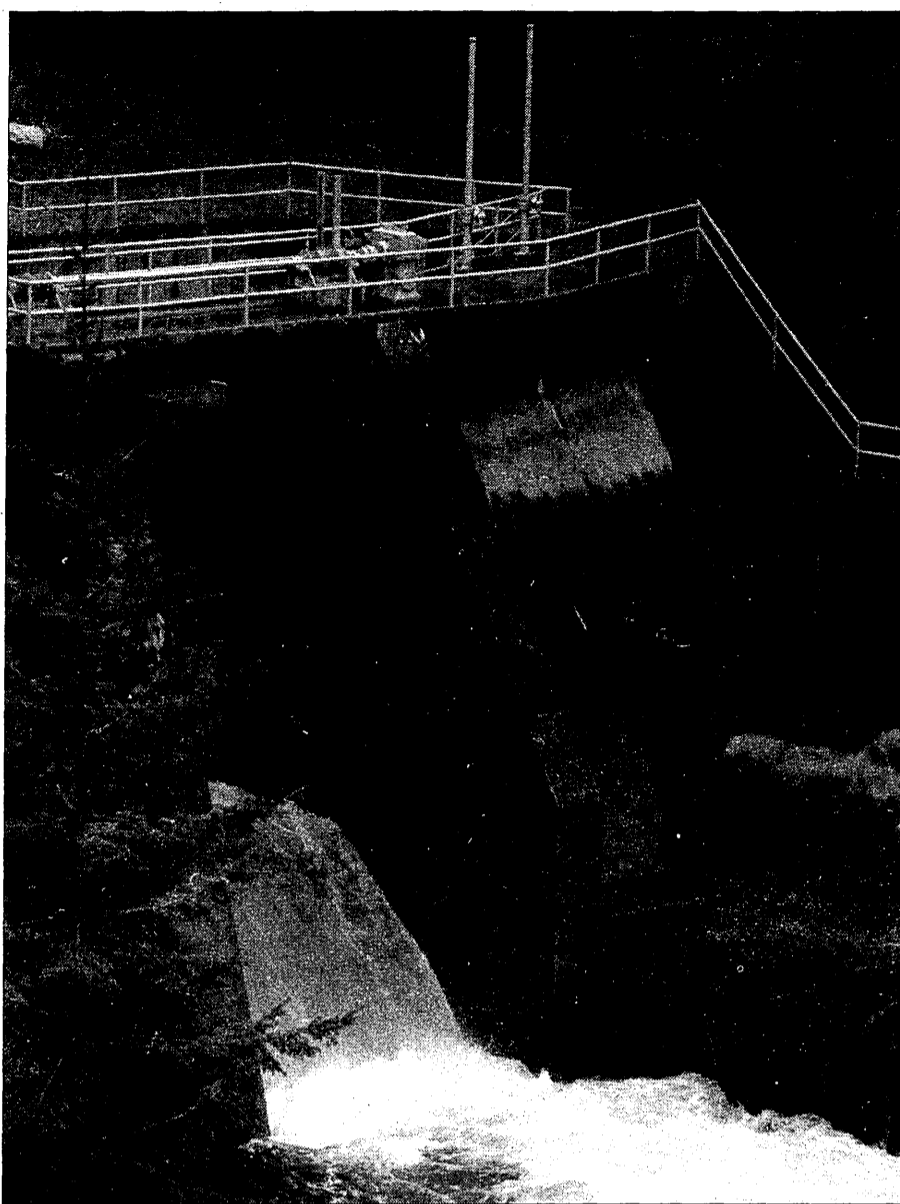
"It's also going to have an impact on the fish and hatchery," Varney said. "So (the Lake Whatcom Hatchery) will be more or less gone if (the proposed plan) goes in. It would probably close Bellingham Hatchery."

Weighing Impacts

Bellingham officials have not been unsympathetic to the hatchery dilemma. But after exhausting all other options, McKinley said dam removal is the best alternative.

"The fact of the matter is that pre-1960, there was no dam," he said. "This proposal is better than building a fish ladder. Anyway (we can) minimize the concerns for (WDFW), we will. Their bosses say 'we want to do this.'"

The city of Bellingham is very enthusiastic about the project and its potential to not only revitalize Chinook populations, but also to



Aaron Managhan/ The Native Sun

The Bellingham Diversion Dam was built on the Nooksack in 1962. It will now be removed to open up additional habitat to the Chinook salmon.

maintain the city's water needs, McKinley said.

"I want (the public) to be as excited as we are," he said. "This is a great historic opportunity. It's a great standard for where we're at in coexisting with other species, and it's a great example of stewardship."

Phillips said WDFW has also tried to take an equal approach to both sides.

"We're co-cooperatives on both issues," he said. "We're providing the best information we have on the resources, whether that's Lake Whatcom fish or Nooksack fish. We're trying to come up with ways to protect both goals."

Sisson said a similar proposal was denied when made in 1994. He said he understands the department's position — and dilemma.

"The director at that time said, 'No, we have to protect that habitat,'" he said. "But there's a lot of new things that have happened since then. There's a new governor, a new director and the Chinook have since been listed on the endangered species list. Because they're endangered, (removal) is one of those things that our department wants to do. But we want to find a way to try and do both."

Varney agreed that the department's stance shifted following the Chinook listing in 1999.

"Over the years, the stance has been that we don't want anadromous fish up there," he said. "That's changing. One of the things we do is say we want to help this endangered species. But you can't do it at the expense of another. We don't want to create another endangered species. But our agency has said we support it."

Tribal Involvement

The Nooksack Tribe and Lummi Nation have been trying to open up habitat above the diversion for the Chinook for years, Phillips said.

A 1995 decision by the Shorelines

Hearings Board and Pollution Control Board of the State of Washington in the case Nooksack Indian Tribe vs. the State of Washington, Department of Ecology, Whatcom County and Warm Creek Hydro, INC., concluded that suitable habitat above the dam was nonexistent. It also questioned historic fish runs.

The Nooksack Tribe started releasing hatchery-raised Chinook above the diversion to aid recovery when the dam is removed. McKinley said the tribes were heavily involved in design and review processes.

According to a Dec. 11, 2003 article in The Bellingham Herald, Bob Kelly, Nooksack Tribe Natural Resources Director, said the tribe is optimistic about benefits for the Chinook.

Kelly, the only person authorized by the Nooksack Tribe to speak to the media on this issue, declined to comment.

Next Steps

Varney and Sisson said the state has acknowledged the imposing dam removal, and tried to set up hatcheries elsewhere. But these have failed because of the kokanee's reliance on the Lake Whatcom environment, Sisson said. He said hatchery operations attempted in Lake Roosevelt and Sherman Creek were unsuccessful.

"Since 1905, we've been taking eggs from the lake," he said. "We don't really know why, but the lake has been exactly what these fish need."

While the project is still at least two years from breaking ground, it appears to be moving forward with no problems.

"I think it's going to go forward," Varney said. "I think the plan is to try to move forward and try to find a new place for disease-free kokanee. We have our kokanee eggs in one basket right now."

Just how long they remain in that "basket" is the question.

editorial

Better relations with Indians key to help solve common problems

If American history has taught us one thing it should be ignoring American Indians will not make them go away. This approach has been used for more than 200 years and it has resulted in a fractured and hostile environment for all parties.

Whatcom County is home to two tribal governments, the Lummi and Nooksack tribes, yet the majority of Whatcom County residents continue to live in ignorance of the customs, politics and even the day-to-day realities of life on these reservations. The closest that most non-Indians get to an actual understanding of the people who live on these reservations is during the few hours that they spend inside dimly lit tribal casinos or waiting in line at fireworks stands the day before the Fourth of July.

The only true way to repair fractured relations between members of the sovereign indigenous nations and members of other cultures lies through a mutual education of Indians, whites and everyone else. This education cannot come from the school system or any other forum, but rather from the actual interaction between Americans Indians and non-natives.

These kinds of interactions have already been successful in many environmental endeavors. Tribal governments such as the Lummi and Nooksack have worked with state and federal government as equal and yet independent entities during ongoing studies of salmon recovery and habitat restoration. The tribes have performed the same scientific studies as any governmental agency or university and have proved invaluable to the programs because of their deep ties to the local land and wildlife.

While these interactions are valuable tools for tribal and non-tribal individuals, the government should not be forced to play the role of a elementary school teacher trying to force two bitter children to hug and make up. True reconciliation will only take place once both sides realize they need each other to prosper and survive.

The fact that reservations have severe problems ranging from alcohol and drug addiction, high unemployment and corruption cannot, and should not be covered up, but neither should the fact that these are the same problems running rampant in every United States community regardless of its geographical location or ethnic majority.

Americans cannot afford to continue the practice of relegating American Indian populations to the outskirts of society. This nation must fully include them as full partners in this nation's multifaceted society if America is to thrive in the coming millennium.

This editorial reflects the opinions of The Native Sun editorial board: Ian Alexander, Ben Arnold, Wolfgang Deerkop, Josh Dumond, Kelseyanne Johnson, Peter Louras, Aaron Managhan, Tara Nelson, Christopher Smith and Abiah Weaver

The Native Sun

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Covering the Indian beat takes patience



Wolfgang Deerkop

COMMENTARY

Working with American Indians presents challenges not found when dealing with other governmental bodies and groups. This twofold challenge arises from a perceived need within Indian country to project their collective voice into the mainstream media, and decades of reporting many in the American Indian community feel is a poor reflection of their issues and needs.

These challenges are compounded by the fact that tribes have unique legal rights within the United States. At the same time many tribes have become extraordinarily successful business groups in the last decade.

Despite this success and independence, American Indian tribes have vast public relations problems that have expanded, rather than reduced, despite the tribes newfound wealth and

political power.

Investigating American Indian involvement in politics was easier than reporting on issues such as drug abuse and casinos.

This is because an overwhelming majority of the facts and figures surrounding political issues are accessible through governmental data bases, and through governmental officials, who are more likely to talk to reporters and be familiar with dealing with reporters.

The difficult portion of the assignment involved getting local tribal representatives to talk about local politics and political involvement, due to the negative publicity that casino funds have recently generated in the mainstream media.

I found that the Indian Americans outside of the structured reservation system were much easier to talk to. This could be because of their increased

exposure to the media and also because the issues that they presented were not specific to any one tribal government.

Unfortunately, these people are also the most likely to have a personal interest in good public relations for their cause or group.

Reporting on American Indians requires patience and tact, but not any more than what would be required in reporting

'American Indian tribes have vast public relations problems that have been expanded, rather than reduced, by their new found wealth and political power.'

on any other story or on any other minority group.

The key to creating working relationships with American Indians is to give them enough time to

become accustomed to working with you.

The types of relationships that are needed for in depth stories cannot be forged in days or even weeks. All it takes is time and patience from the reporter's part to cement relationships with useful sources.

If you're comfortable, you're doing it wrong



Tara Nelson

COMMENTARY

As journalists, situations constantly force us to expand our awareness of things — academic disciplines, different cultures, different people and customs. Some of these are easier than others.

For example, giving yourself a crash course on, say, biology is inherently easier than learning the customs of different cultures or counter-cultures in your community.

In the old days, Tibetan monks used to arrange tables stacked with books and then crawl underneath them in an attempt to absorb knowledge through some sort of osmosis process.

We should also be trying to experience life in such a way. Instead of learning about the differences of people of society in text books, we need to be out there, blundering ahead, throwing ourselves in the midst of it whenever we get the opportunity and making glorious mistakes.

Only then, can we learn to appreciate other perspectives and gain some ourselves.

Yet people are creatures of habit, and we form opinions based on our experiences. We tend to gravitate toward people that we can relate to or identify with.

We also tend to avoid situations where we might stand out, or feel awkward. So one could argue that the experiences we limit ourselves to will greatly affect our outlook on life.

Putting ourselves in awkward positions could be the most important, expansionary actions we can make. But, before we can

do that, we have to step outside of our comfort zone.

Some philosophers believe that all the world's problems are caused by thought.

As journalists, it is especially important to be aware of our thoughts due to the tremendous influential power we have. It is crucial for us to expand our knowledge of subjects and people and to be conscious of our beliefs and values, as they will ultimately resonate through our words and affect the mass consciousness of society.

We have the potential to influence or change the stigmas in our society, and we have to design our stories carefully so that we do not reinforce existing negative stereotypes. But before we can do that, we have to evaluate our own ways of thinking.

Rest assured, though, the decision to look inward is the most difficult step.

Reporters should put aside anxiety toward Indians, get the job done



Ian Alexander

COMMENTARY

To be a journalist, you have to be tough, confident and driven. You have to go ask the tough questions and go to whatever lengths necessary to get the story. But what do you do if the story is right in front of you but you just cannot make yourself go get it?

Reporting American Indian issues has been one of the greatest tests of my skills as a journalist yet. The most frustrating aspect was not the bureaucratic run-around when trying to find sources or even the interviews themselves. The most frustrating aspect was getting over my own hang-ups when visiting the Indian reservation. As sad as it

sounds, this was the biggest barrier in covering the issues at hand.

Indian reservations have a stigma about them. Reservations are seen as off-limits. They are a foreign country waiting to swallow any unsuspecting non-Indians into their depths, never to be seen again. And upon my first visit to the reservation, I felt as if I was breaking some unwritten law by merely driving to my interview. I worked myself into such a state that I drove through the parking lot five times trying to find the office where my source worked, even though I knew exactly where it was. I expected to be greeted by inquisitive stares and accusing glances at the white boy who had the nerve to visit the reservation. The only stares I got, however, were at the dumbass who decid-

ed that circling around the parking lot five times was a good idea.

As I sat in my parked car, I could not make myself get out. I felt so nervous and out of place. After a couple minutes, some words of advice echoed in my brain. A reporter, familiar with covering the Lummi Nation, said the best thing to do was not look like you felt out of place. She advised to walk with confidence and purpose knowing you had a job to do and to just "get over your own crap."

Armed with the knowledge of my predecessors, I took a deep breath and stepped out of my car. I walked casually to the door and sat down for my interview.

Each trip to the reservation passed with increasing ease and confidence until my last trip when I was able to casually

'So next time you visit the reservation remember there is a lot more out there than slot machines and cheap cigarettes.'

joke and talk with my sources outside of the interview.

The only person who hindered my trips to the reservation was myself. I was restrained by some unfounded idea that I had to interact with Indians differently than anyone else. While particular customs and practices required attention and respect, I realized by going to the reservation with an apprehensive attitude that I would only alienate those I needed to complete my job.

On my trips I did receive some strange stares from reservation residents, but who does not stare at unfamiliar cars driving through their neighborhood?

The reservation is essentially a large neighborhood where everyone knows everyone else, so of course outsiders are going to be greeted with some amount of curiosity. So next time you visit the reservation remember a lot more exists out there than slot machines and cheap cigarettes.

Survey: Many oppose banishment

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Carroll was in the 29 percent that somewhat disagreed with the banishment plan.

"I don't think that banishment would be effective," she said. "I think prosecution by regular law enforcement should be brought into play."

Another portion of the survey focused on American Indian casinos, where views were split on whether they were a positive contribution to the community. While 39 percent of the respondents said they believed casinos

made a positive contribution to the local community, 41 percent considered them to be a negative aspect.

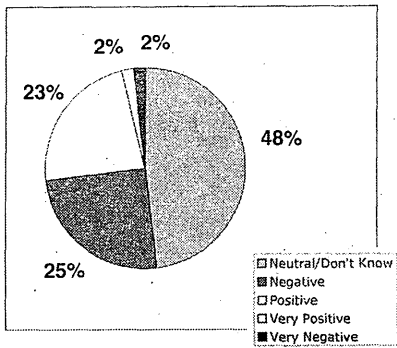
Fanning said the overall problem was that people noticed the negative contributions more than the positive ones.

"From the outside looking in, the reservation looks very dirty to people," Fanning said. "People see there are cars upside down, garbage everywhere and a couch thrown out in the yard. They associate the Indians with their weaknesses like casinos, and tobacco and alcohol."

Journalism students from Western Washington University conducted the opinion survey by telephone between Jan. 22 and Jan. 27. The poll included 142 Whatcom County adult residents chosen through a random selection of telephone numbers. Only those who volunteered their name and phone number were reinterviewed after the poll.

A survey of this sample size carries an 8-percent margin of error. In theory, in 19 cases out of 20 the results based on like samples will differ by no more than 8 percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained by seeking out all adults in Whatcom County.

How would you rate the general attitude among non-Natives toward American Indians in Whatcom County?



Respondents answered generally positive when asked about their own opinions.

Source: The Native Sun survey

Infographic: Matt DeVeau

Expansion: Development leads to extra construction projects; Lummi Employment and Training Center finds unemployed Lummis construction jobs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

said of the expansion projects. "I think we went from probably 60 percent unemployment to 40 percent employment (of the construction workers.)"

The largest project for the LETC is the school project, which is currently giving 54 construction workers jobs.

And with the expansion projects still to come, the construction will keep piling on.

Finkbonner said he usually has more than a month to plan who will get what jobs, and he knows a month in advance when the construction will end so he can set the next job up.

Major projects in the next year include the expansion of the casino, construction of roads and possibly a new administrative building.

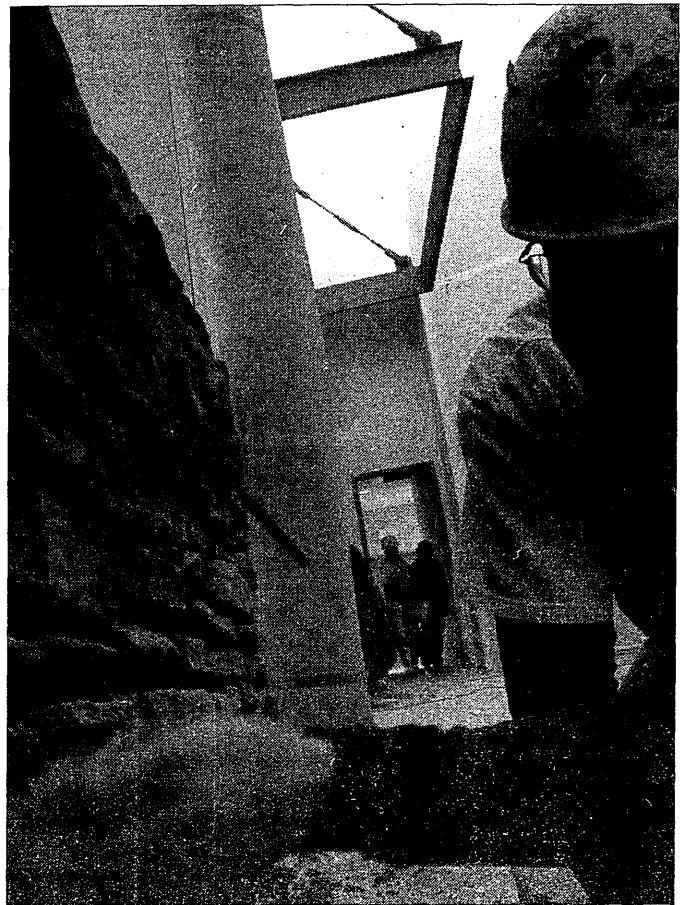
"I think we are going to be real busy," Finkbonner said.

One project his office hasn't been sending too many Lummis to is the casino project.

"The majority of the guys wanted to work on the school project, because the pay was so much higher," Finkbonner said. "Federally funded projects are good pay, but the casino had open-bids so it was a lot different on the pay scale."

Both Finkbonner and Larsen said that one of the keys to the expansion projects is all councils and businesses in the tribes and the councils working together.

"We have a great working relationship," Larsen said of the entire tribe. "The tribe looks at (the casino) like a definite showpiece for them, so one of the things we work on is to keep it looking like that."



Tara Nelson/The Native Sun

Howard Helgeson, a brick mason for R&D Masonry, lays mortar between cultured stone in a newly constructed lounge inside the Silver Reef Casino. The construction is part of an \$11 million expansion project by the Lummi Economic Development Committee.

Diabetes: Changes in native diet contribute to increased likelihood of adult diagnosis

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

American Indians.

"After we were confined to the reservation, our ability to (migrate to find food sources) was very limited, and now we've gravitated to commodity foods," she said.

Lane-Oreiro said the Lummi tribe encourages members to revert back to native diet, such as salmon.

"Some of the elders have said to make an effort to eat the seasonal food, like some of the berries that come out in the spring, and that it would help our bodies be able to process food a little better," she said.

Lane-Oreiro said some tribal

members are taking an active role in controlling the disease.

"We have individuals who found out they're diabetic and have made dramatic changes to their lifestyle," she said. "They've changed their diet, they're exercising and quit smoking. They've done so well they no longer have to take insulin."

But for some tribal members the disease is too hard to manage.

"One of the struggles we have when someone finds out they are diabetic is they are in denial," Lane-Oreiro said. "They don't want to change unhealthy habits, and they end up paying more heavily than those who

take action to fix it."

Don Logocki, director of the Lummi Fitness Center and lifelong Type 1 diabetic, said the disease can be difficult for some to manage because of the need for a balance between diet and food intake.

"I think sometimes, for some people, it can be a little overwhelming, they don't want to put effort into it," he said. "It's a disease of acceptance, they can work on taking care of themselves."

To help tribal members manage their diabetes, Logocki encourages healthy diet and positive attitude.

Logocki said exercise is a top factor in preventing and maintaining diabetes. With the disease

people can become healthier.

To help those less physically active, Logocki said he develops exercise programs to incorporate people's hobbies as well.

Rasch said the difficulty in managing the disease often leads to depression. With funding from IHS, the Lummi also hired a mental health counselor to screen patients for depression after their diabetes screening. Rasch said treatment for depression is important to managing diabetes.

Phair said after her diagnosis, she has exercised more and manages her diet better. She has also been diagnosed with chronic depression. But it helped her cope with her pre-diabetes.

"For me, depression was one of the best things that happened when I was diagnosed with pre-diabetes," she said. "They put me on medication and I was able to go around and be happy. I look at life different than I did before."

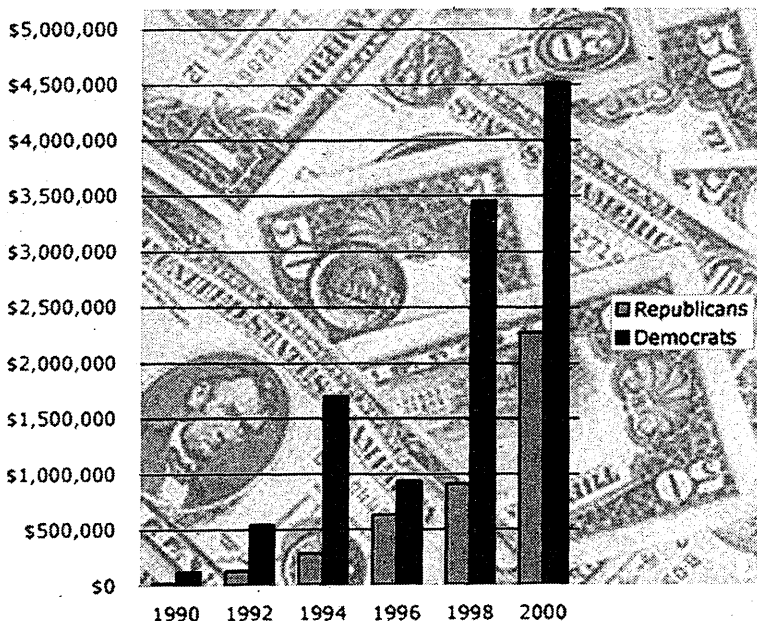
She also said catching the disease early is the best way to live a healthy life.

"People at risk need to be active and if they know they're at risk, they need to get tested," Rasch said.

Logocki said diagnosed diabetics need not fear the disease.

"It's not a death sentence," he said. "Just because you have diabetes, you don't have to develop complications."

American Indian political funding progression



This demonstrates long term political contributions by American Indian gaming interest to political parties.

Source: Center for Responsive Politics

Infographic: Matt DeVeau

Politics: Casino revenues foster political ambition among tribes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

casinos on their reservations without paying taxes to state government.

Schwarzenegger repeatedly characterized tribal gaming lobbyists as the most powerful special interest in California.

This negative by-product of political activism is not surprising because of the competitive nature of politics, said Robert Anderson, assistant professor of law at the University of Washington.

"It is kind of the pot calling the kettle black, but that's the nature of the beast when you are involved in politics," he said.

"Anyone who loses in buying their own influence will blame somebody else for spending more money than they did."

Although monetary contributions by tribes have influenced decision-makers across the nations, real political power will only come about through Indian involvement in the electoral process, Lehman said.

"What is more important than the money is what they do with their feet and their hands in the polling places," he said. "I hope that anybody who loves democracy would applaud Indian voter registration and involving people who have not been part of the process."