

MEN AVENGE VALENTINE'S DAY LOSS, THROTTLE WESTERN OREGON



PAGE 10

AND ALL THAT DRAG: BEHIND THE SCENES AT ANNUAL DRAG SHOW



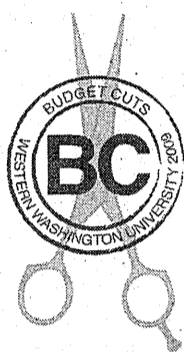
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Friday, February 27, 2009

THE WESTERN FRONT

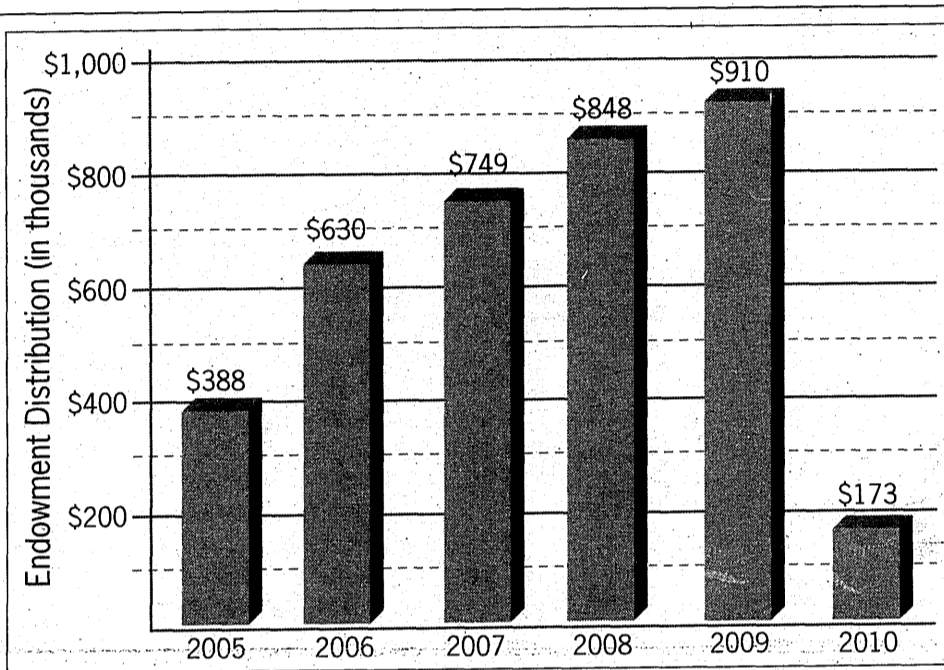
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Endowments plummet



During the past four years, Western's endowment revenue has steadily risen. Next year, that four-year streak will abruptly end.

Infograph by Brandon Kays
information from the Western Foundation



During the next few weeks *The Western Front* will be taking an extended look into the financial crisis Western is facing, beginning with its endowments.

Nicholas Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western Washington University foundation officials are scrambling. As a result of a nearly 30 percent loss in all invested endowments over the past year, they must fill an 80 percent loss in endowment revenue intended for undergraduate scholarships.

Western's endowment revenues have declined \$737,000 since last year and the market value of those endowments has fallen by roughly \$8 million.

Students will soon begin filling out

applications for scholarships through their academic departments, as they do every year. But this time, significantly fewer scholarships will be offered because significantly less money will be available.

Last year, the distribution of \$910,000 to academic departments resulted in 515 scholarships for undergraduate students. Stephanie Bowers, Western's vice president for university advancement, said she does not know how many scholarships will be awarded this year, but she said it will be noticeably less because this year's endowed scholarships amount to just \$173,000.

"I think the hardest thing about this whole situation...is the level of uncertainty," Bowers said. "It's just all so uncertain right now."

Western's Endowment

The Western Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises private dollars for the university's advancement, defines an endowment as a gift worth at least \$20,000. Whether it's a piece of property or money from a life savings account, Western usually invests the gift in stocks or bonds.

Each year the foundation takes 4.5 percent of each endowment's revenue and distributes the money to a specific scholarship or academic department program based on the donor's wishes.

Eighty percent of the Western's foundation endowment revenues support undergraduate scholarships and the other 20 percent is distributed to departments on campus for programs, such as hosting lec

see ENDOWMENT page 4

Three finalists for VP position overlooked

Dan Balmer
THE WESTERN FRONT

In a turn of events, Kathy Wetherell the assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs (VPBFA) will be appointed interim VPBFA—not one of the three finalists who visited Western.

"It's a compliment to be asked," Wetherell said. "I have a nervous excitement to juggle all the aspects this job requires."

In an e-mail sent out to Western faculty Feb. 25, President Bruce Shepard said due to the economic challenges facing Western, not choosing one of the three finalists was in the best interest of Western.

"Our immediate need is to address looming major budget reductions in Business and Financial Affairs and at the university—knowledgeably doing so with minimal damage to the units involved and to Western," Shepard said.

This is the second administration position where none of the finalists were chosen, after Shepard announced earlier this quarter that the provost position remains unfilled.

On March 24, George Pierce plans to retire after 20 years of serving Western as VPBFA. Wetherell volunteered to fill the position on an interim basis between Pierce's retirement and when the new VP would be hired.

Shepard said the best available option, after a reassessment of Western's needs, was to ask Wetherell to continue serving as interim VP for a more extended

see VPBFA page 3

Search for dean of Western's largest college nears end

Kipp Robertson
THE WESTERN FRONT

The search for the dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS) is nearing its end after interim dean Brent Carbajal drew an impressive crowd at his open-forum presentation on Feb. 26.

On the heels of extending Kathy Wetherell's interim period as vice president of business and financial affairs, Western officials now have the choice to select the current interim dean or two finalists who openly expressed unfamiliarity with Western for the open CHSS position.

Carbajal's presentation was two days after fellow finalist, Jeffrey Gilger, associate dean for discovery and faculty development in the College of Education at

Purdue University in Indiana, presented on Feb. 24.

Associate professor of classical studies and member of the search committee for dean of CHSS Diane Johnson introduced Carbajal at the beginning of his presentation. Johnson said since Carbajal was named chair of the department of modern and classical languages in 2000, the department has thrived.

"I consider it our golden age in the language department since Carbajal became chair," Johnson said as she introduced Carbajal.

Carbajal has been serving as interim dean for CHSS since Ron Kleinknecht retired July 1, 2008. Carbajal said he has

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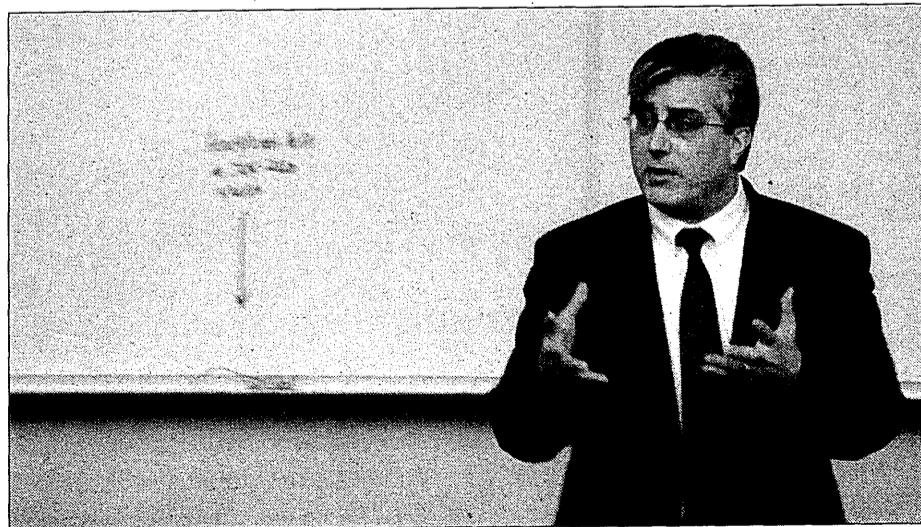


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Finalist for dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Jeffrey Gilger, associate dean for discovery and faculty development at Purdue, presents at his forum on Feb. 24.

Cops Box

University Police

Feb. 25

- Officers arrested a 21-year-old male at Bond Hall on suspicion of felony harassment. The suspect was cited and booked into the Whatcom County Jail.
- Officers responded to a report of individuals throwing snowballs at passing cars on north campus. The individuals were gone upon arrival.

Bellingham Police

Feb. 25

- Bellingham Police arrested a 45-year-old female on suspicion of driving under the influence on the 1100 block of North State Street.
- Bellingham Police arrested a 24-year-old male on suspicion of driving under the influence on the 1100 Block of North State Street.
- A resident on the 400 Block of Holly Street requested extra patrol during the night due to transients sleeping, leaving trash and defecating on the property.

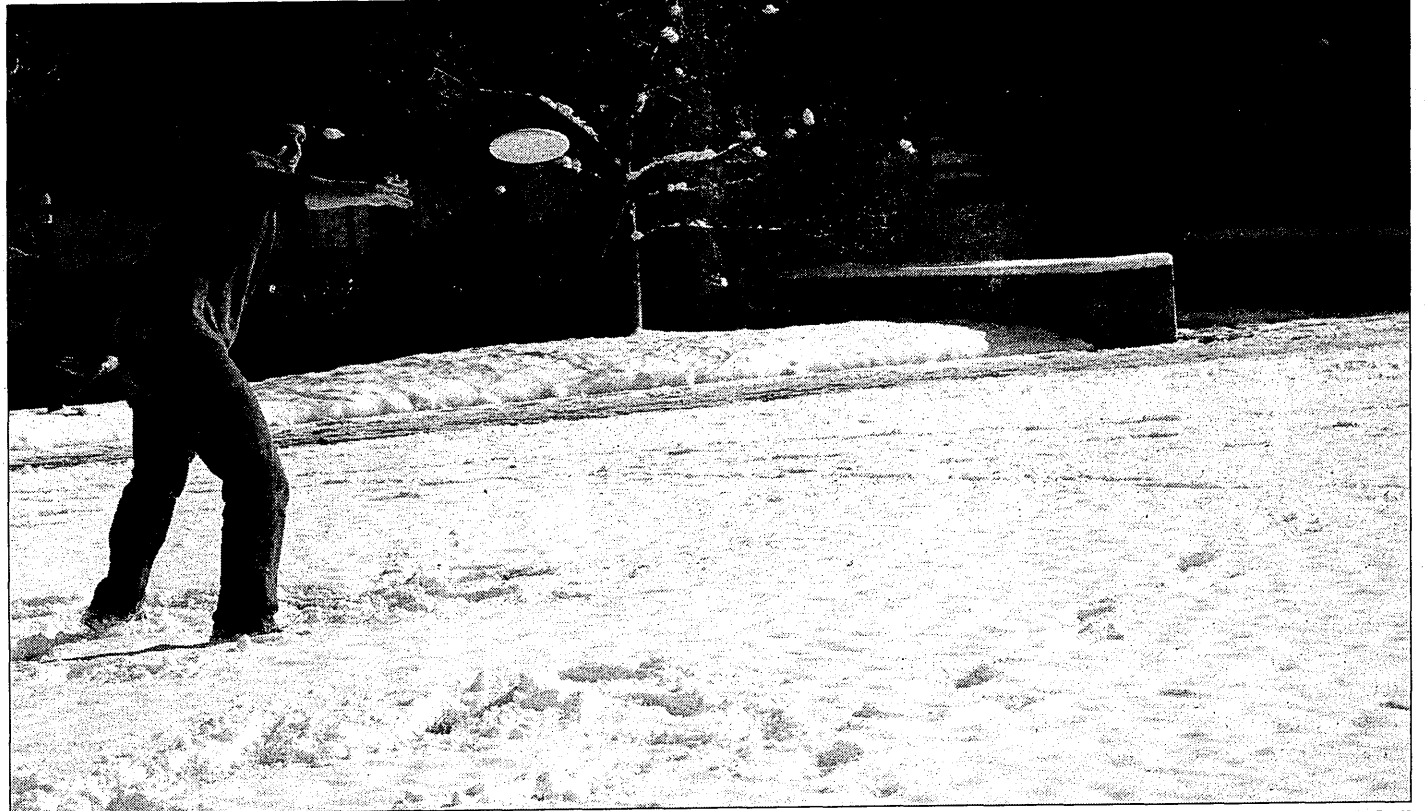






photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite the snow, Western geology graduate student Sam Bruno plays Frisbee with a friend outside the Communication Facility Thursday afternoon. Bellingham unexpectedly received approximately two inches of snow Wednesday evening and overnight.

WEATHER REPORT

	SAT High: 45° F Low: 36° F Mostly Cloudy (60% rain overnight)
	SUN High: 49° F Low: 33° F Cloudy (70% chance of rain)
	MON High: 47° F Low: 33° F Cloudy (40% chance of showers)
	TUES High: 49° F Low: 33° F Cloudy (40% chance of showers)

Yvonne Durham wins 2009 teaching award, excels in economics

Western's College of Business and Economics (CBE) has selected Yvonne Durham as its 2009 Distinguished Teaching Fellow.

This award recognizes a tenured faculty member in the CBE who demonstrated sustained excellence through scholarly contributions to the teaching mission of the college and to student learning.

Since joining Western in 2000, Durham has assumed a leadership role as coordinator for the economics curriculum. She demonstrated an ability to stimulate learning and innovation in lower-division economic classes.

Huxley College hosts author David Knibb

Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment will host David Knibb, a former U.S. Forest Service employee and practicing attorney, Feb 27 as part of the Huxley College Speaker Series.

Knibb, author of "Grizzly Wars: The Public Fight over the Great Bear," will present "Saving Endangered Species: What Grizzly Bears Have Taught Us," at 3 p.m. in Communication Facility room 420.

Knibb will discuss issues that have risen from attempts to recover grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act.

The lecture series presentations are free and open to the public.

Corrections

In the Feb. 20 issue of The Western Front, an article about WTA rate increases incorrectly stated that students enrolled in fewer than six credits will pay the new rates. Students taking fewer than six credits have the choice to "opt in" to paying the student transportation fee.

In the Feb. 24 issue, Western softball player Sarah McEnroe's name was misspelled in a Sideline Chat. The Western Front apologizes for these and any other errors. Errors should be reported to the managing editor at managing@westernfrontonline.net

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WWU Official Announcements - PLEASE POST

The WWU Official Announcements will appear in The Western Front twice per quarter. Submission policy: Announcements should be limited to 50 words and be typewritten or legibly printed. Announcements may be sent to fast@wwu.edu—in the subject line include a one-word topic and clearly note that the item is for Official Announcements. Items also may be sent to "Official Announcements," MS 9011, faxed to ext. 6817 or brought to Old Main Room 300. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST—The WWU Testing Center administers the math placement test, and the schedule can be found at the center's Web site at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/assess/tc.htm>. The test is given on most Mondays and Thursdays throughout the quarter. All administrations are at the Testing Center in Old Main Room 120, unless otherwise posted. Remaining schedule for winter quarter: Mondays at 3 p.m. (March 2, 9, 16) and Thursdays at 9 a.m. (March 5, 12, 19).

MILLER ANALOGIES TEST—To arrange an appointment to take the MAT, contact the Testing Center, either in person in Old Main Room 120 or by calling (360) 650-3080. A fee of \$70 is payable at time of test. The test takes approximately 1.5 hours, and preliminary scores will be available immediately. Official results will be mailed within 15 days. See <http://www.testprepreview.com> for more information and free practice tests.

WEST-B TEST—All individuals applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs are required to meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit <http://www.west.nesinc.com> for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Remaining test dates for the 2008-2009 school year are April 10, May 30 and July 11. Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance of each date.

WEST-E TEST—Washington state requires teacher candidates and teachers adding endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment for each chosen endorsement. This endorsement is called the Washington Educator Skills Test-Endorsements (WEST-E). WWU teacher candidates must pass the WEST-E test for each endorsement to be earned with a teacher certificate as a condition for entering the student teaching internship. New WEST-E tests administered by Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson are being implemented in two phases. Phase II tests—Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education, Special Education and World Languages (French, German, Spanish)—will be available in fall 2009. Candidates are responsible for reviewing the Woodring College of Education WEST-E Test Resource Site at <http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml> for current registration and test information. Some students will need to pass the WEST-E/PRAXIS II test to qualify for endorsement during the New WEST-E implementation period. Refer to the Test Resource Site for test dates, registration and test information. Remaining 2008-2009 New WEST-E test dates: April 4, May 30 and July 11.

BIOLOGY SEMINARS—4 p.m. March 4: "Recolonization of the Cedar River, WA by Pacific salmon: ecological effects across levels of biological organization," by Peter Kiffney, research ecologist, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Watershed Program, Mukilteo. 4 p.m. March 11: "Vegetable seed production: Where, why, and how?" by Lindsey J. du Toit, associate professor/extension plant pathologist, Washington State University - Mount Vernon Northwest Washington Research & Extension Center, Mount Vernon. Both are in Biology Room 234. 2 p.m. March 6: "Microbial community composition and variability at active hydrothermal vent sites along the Mariana Island Arc and off-axis at the Southern Juan de Fuca Ridge" by Rick Davis, graduate student, Biology Department, WWU. Chemistry Building Room 485.

GRADUATE SCHOOL TEST PREPARATION—WWU offers online courses to help prepare students for the GRE, GMAT or LSAT exams. Improve your test score with self-guided, study-at-your-own-pace classes. Register by March 23 to start the course in April. Visit the Web for details: <http://www.extendeded.wwu.edu> or contact eesp@wwu.edu or (360) 650-3308.

VPBFA: Shepard prefers stability during financial crisis

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period of time.

In Shepard's e-mail he said Wetherell's interim position will now probably last 12 months while a second national search is performed.

As VPBFA, Kathy Wetherell's annual salary will be \$160,975.

Shepard said it would have been challenging to have a sequence of leadership change around the same time the annual budget is due.

"This institution is in a huge transition," Wetherell said. "The leadership here has been very deliberate about managing that transition."

The VPBFA serves as the chief financial and business officer for Western and is a member of the President's council. Some of the job responsibilities are to provide a number of departments with strategic direction, including: ensuring the financial integrity of Western, acquiring state capital appropriations to address institutional needs and giving full accountability to the public on the utilization of public resources.

The VPBFA is primarily responsible for managing services that include Financial and Business Services, the Capital Budget Office, Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities Management, Human Resources and Public Safety.

A search advisory committee was formed on August 20 to hire a replacement for Pierce, who had originally planned to retire in December, but extended his retirement until March 24. Dean of the College of Business and Economics Brian Burton

is the chair of the search committee.

Wetherell, who has worked at Western for one year, brings stability, leadership, great communication and experience to the position, Burton said.

Burton said the eight-person search committee narrowed a list of approximately 30 applicants to eight that met most of the qualifications they listed in advertising the position. The first required qualification was an applicant with a bachelor's degree and a minimum of 10 years of experience directly related to financial administrative management.

The committee conducted phone interviews with the eight finalists and chose three to visit Western for a personal interview. During search committee meetings, the panel put together a list of names of candidates who, Shepard said in the e-mail, had strong leadership qualities.

Janice Stroh, Craig Morris and Nathaniel Brown were the three finalists who visited Western to interview for the VP position. The search committee interviewed Stroh in early January, followed by Morris on Jan. 29 and Brown on Feb. 5.

When asked about budget cuts during his forum, Morris said he was not a proponent of across-the-board cuts. Brown, who has an experienced financial background, did not have any experience working at public universities.

As assistant VPBFA, Wetherell supervises the financial and business support services for Western. From 2001 to 2008, she was the associate vice president for finance and administration at the University of Redlands, in California. Much of her experience is in facilities management, one of the functions she will man-

age as interim VPBFA.

"What makes this job difficult is that it does have so many functions," Wetherell said. "When you try to fill this position you're asking the candidate to be masters of a lot of different functions."

Wetherell said she does not have supervisory experience in the areas of environmental health and public safety, but said she will learn as she goes. She said the job would be more daunting if it wasn't for a great slate of function directors in those areas, namely Gayle Shipley, director of environmental health and safety and Randy Stegmeier, Chief of University Police.

"[Wetherell] realizes because we encompass so many broad professions that you can't expect to be an expert in all things," Pierce said. "You need to be a good manager, bring the best skills out of people and work as a team, and she knows how to do that."

Wetherell said she has been able to observe how Pierce manages and said she has a similar style.

"He has a thoughtful way of leading," Wetherell said. "He has a compassionate, empowering management style."

Wetherell said she also thinks she has a similar philosophy as President Shepard, who thinks about things at a strategic level. It is better to cut strategically and not make everybody else suffer equally, Wetherell said.

Pierce said the biggest challenge for Wetherell, who begins the job in March, will be the budget cuts expected from the Washington State Legislature. Wetherell said she had experience with budget cuts while working in higher education back in

California. She said the cuts were worse compared to the numbers talked about at Western. When she was the financial manager for facilities management at the University of California Riverside campus, she said she had to cut \$1 million out of a \$7 million budget. She said she is familiar with how budget cuts come down and with imposing reductions. Few issues will take her by surprise during Western's budget cuts, she said.

"This institution has never really had to do a budget cut of this magnitude," Wetherell said. "Either we are going to make everybody share the pain and cut across the board, or we are going to be strategic and start with the lowest level priority and start from there."

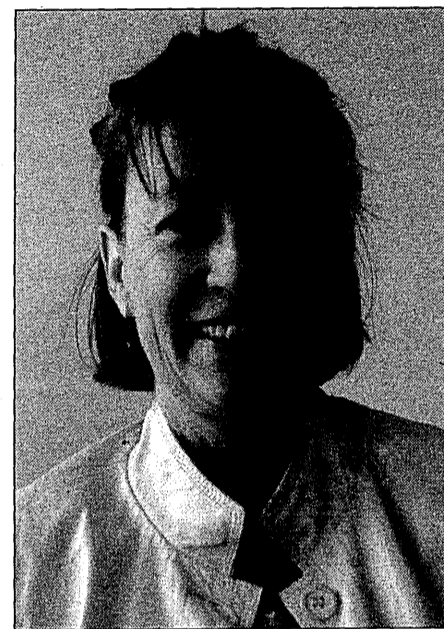


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT
Current assistant VPBFA Kathy Wetherell will take over for George Pierce March 24.

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ENDOWMENT: Western not the only state university facing a decline

from 1

ture series, buying computers, paying for travel expenses or holding special conferences.

The foundation also accepts non-endowed gifts, which are not invested but instead designated as a lump sum for either scholarships or programs. These gifts can support scholarships, but are not considered part of endowment revenues because they are not invested.

When a donor creates a non-endowed scholarship it is referred to as an annual scholarship and can be renewed each year, Bowers said. Annual scholarships can be created in any amount but the minimum for attaching the donor's name to the scholarship is \$1,500.

After the foundation takes 4.5 percent of an endowment's revenue, the remaining revenue is considered "accumulated earnings" or "carry-forward dollars" because they are saved and used in the years when endowments do not produce enough revenue.

Bowers said the foundation manages endowed investments so money distributed today will be equal to whatever might be given out a generation from now, while also considering the tuition and cost of living at the time.

"In the good years we might earn 17 percent and take 4.5 percent out and the rest is accumulated earnings. In the down years we might only earn two percent in revenue but we need 4.5 percent, so we take from our accumulated earnings," Bowers said. "We have used all of our accumulated earnings, so our endowment revenues are what we call 'under water'."

Endowment Struggles

Endowment revenues have failed to meet the need of scholarships for a combination of reasons. The foundation was established in 1966. Most of the "carry-forward dollars" the foundation had accumulated came in the last eight years.

Over those eight years the value of the foundation's endowments doubled, jumping from \$14 million to \$30 million between 2000 and 2008, but due to the economic crisis, the value has now fallen to approximately \$24 million in the past year.

Initially, the endowments fell to just under \$22 million, but with recent gift additions amounting to approximately \$2 million, the endowments are now valued at nearly \$24 million, said Randy Senf, Western foundation finance officer.

Bowers said the foundation has spent the last two weeks fundraising in an effort to offer more money for scholarships.

The foundation has also asked faculty and staff to consider a payroll reduction. Any Western employee can opt for a minimum of \$5 per month to be taken out of his or her paycheck, which would support the foundation's general scholarship fund.

"We're saying, 'Maybe your gift to Western this year can be exclusively to scholarships so we can fill in somewhere between \$173,000 and \$910,000,' Bowers said. "We know we can't make \$910,000; we just can't do that, but we would like to make \$700,000."

The foundation is also reaching out to current donors, she said. Many donors have been able to contribute \$5,000, while others have only been able to offer \$50, Bowers said.

"We're talking to people whose personal portfolios have taken the same decline as our professional portfolios," Bowers said. "And they're saying, 'We really want to help.'"

Bowers said everybody is asking their donors for more. All the non-profits are broke, people are out their beating the streets for contributions and Western is trying to let its best supporters know that we need them today, tomorrow and next year as well, she said.

Mark Bagley, senior director for university advancement, said the foundation traditionally sits down with each department in early March to tell them how much money they will receive for scholarships and programs.

"The good news is that the numbers we'll show colleges and departments will be the minimum amount," Bagley said. "In the following few months, we'll be able to give more."

Other Universities

Western, along with Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University and The Evergreen State College, is considered a regional institution.

This classification differs from Washington State University (WSU) and the University of Washington (UW) as they are considered "Research I" schools, meaning they offer a fully developed doctorate program.

Because of this distinction, WSU and UW have substantially larger endowments. Western's endowments are non-comparable to those of "Research I" schools.

As the stock market has fallen further than expected, universities across the country have all taken a substantial hit. The National Association of College and University Business Officers released the results of its 2008 endowment study of 785 colleges' and universities' endowment



photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT.

Photo of Stephanie Bowers, Western's vice president for university advancement

funds between July and November, which showed an average endowment-fund loss of 22.5 percent during that period.

Central is one of the many state universities seeing endowment declines. Jen Gray, assistant vice president of development at Central, said that while their endowments have seen an 18.9 percent decline in the past year, Central will still be able to offer 70 percent more scholarships this year because much of their "accumulated earnings" are still intact.

Central has established an active fundraising campaign similar to Western's, but Central's campaigning began last fall. Gray said they are mainly concerned about next year.

"We began campaigning in the fall of 2008 because we knew 2010 and 2011 would be a real crisis for us," Gray said.

Eastern Washington University's Mike Westfall, vice president for advancement, said their \$12.2 million of endowments have declined 21 percent since June 2008, making the value of their current endowments \$9.6 million.

Eastern's endowment revenues have fallen similarly to Western's. They have seen an 80 percent drop of roughly \$500,000 down to \$100,000.

WSU's \$252 million in endowments has seen a 22 percent decline over the last year. The school's endowment revenues amount to less than \$15 million this year, down from the \$16 million the endowment revenue amounted to last year.

Kevin Harvey, director of finance for Washington State's foundation, said the

school has done rather well under the circumstances.

"Because we calculate the market value of our investments over a three-year period and this is the first year we've seen a decline, our scholarship distributions will not have to be significantly reduced this year," Harvey said.

On Jan. 30, Michael Truong of UW's newspaper, The Daily, reported the school's endowments had lost \$400 million, falling from \$2 billion to \$1.6 billion. Ann Sarna, assistant treasurer of investment operations for UW's treasury office, said some of the school's endowments have been hit harder than others.

"We have always tried to keep our investments very diversified," Sarna said. "Our losses might mean one less scholarship here or one cut program there, but we still have another month before we'll know for sure."

Student Effect

Western senior Hannah Higgins, an engineering technology major, has received at least one endowed scholarship each year. After she was recognized as a National Merit finalist in high school, she was offered \$10,000 a year to attend Western.

Higgins said her scholarships have allowed her to work less and focus more time on school.

"Because of my scholarships I have been able to take summers off and do things I never could have afforded," Higgins said. "One summer I was lucky enough to be able to study abroad in Iceland."

During another summer Higgins traveled along Washington's coast on the "Lady Washington." The ship is a replica of the first ship to land along Washington's coast, she said.

"Without scholarships a lot of students will be forced to work full-time," Higgins said. "That means they won't be as involved with the university and won't be able to travel as easily."

Despite what seems to have been an unavoidable loss of scholarship dollars, students, faculty and staff all have opportunities to help. Anyone can buy a Western license plate for \$30 from the Washington State Department of Licensing and \$28 of the original \$30 will go directly to support the Alumni Association's scholarship fund.

The Alumni Association is partnered with the foundation to raise scholarship funds. A gift to Western's foundation in any amount can support the program, scholarship or department of the donor's choice.

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DEAN: Interim Dean Carbajal draws biggest crowd at forum

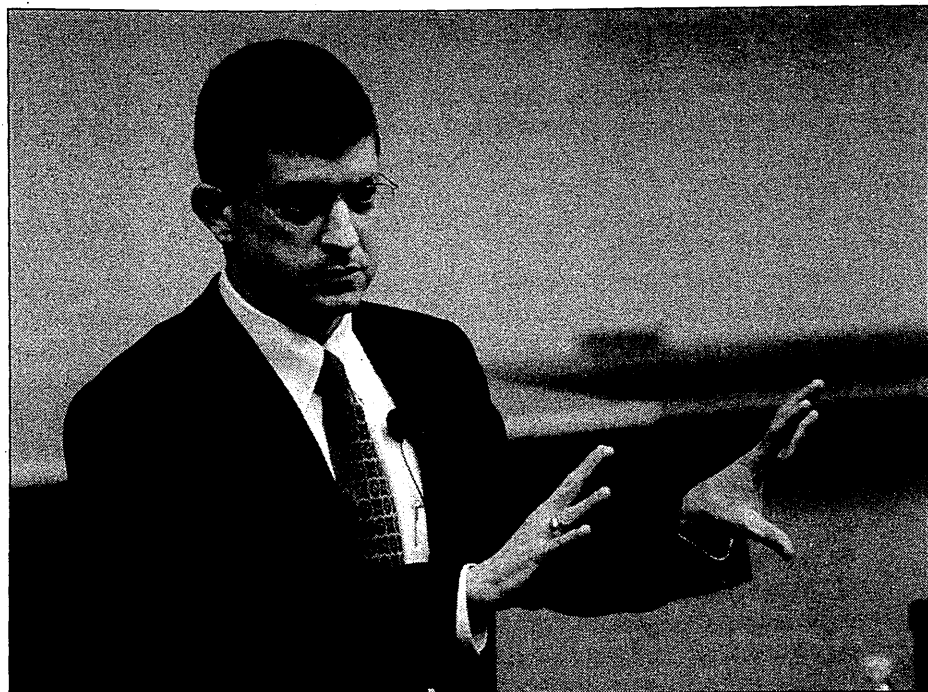


photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT

Interim Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences Brent Carbajal was the only finalist for the position who didn't use a PowerPoint during his Feb. 26 open forum.

from 1

enjoyed the position, especially because he has been given the honor of being an advocate for the faculty and staff of CHSS.

"The amount of learning I have done as interim dean is incredible," Carbajal said. "If I am hired as dean, I will continue to do so."

Carbajal was given the same topic to discuss as the previous two finalists—challenge as opportunity: managing a college of humanities and social sciences in an age of budget uncertainty. Carbajal divided the topic into two segments: challenge as opportunity and management.

Carbajal said challenges that institutions like Western may face could help everyone involved see what is really valued—faculty, staff and the students who attend Western. He said since he has become interim dean of CHSS, he has seen everyone come together to try and come up with solutions for the budget crisis.

"The challenges we are facing [at Western] are being faced worldwide," Carbajal said.

In his presentation he said approximately 70 percent of CHSS' budget reductions could come from the operating budget, such as worker's compensation. He said approximately 90 percent of

CHSS' budget will be off-limits to budget reductions because that money is used for faculty and staff wages; he said laying off staff is not an option.

"For change to be embraced, there needs to be a sense of security and stability," Carbajal said.

Because Western is a liberal arts focused university that places value on student learning and applying knowledge, Carbajal said the university has the opportunity to prepare students for world problems. He said in times of trouble, institutions might lose their focus and forget what is important to the school's mission.

"Many should reflect the same principles during tough times as they do during the good times," Carbajal said. "Principles may seem like they need to be changed to fit the times, but they stay the same."

Carbajal said the second focus of his presentation, managing, would also require an explanation of leadership within CHSS. As part of the administration, Carbajal said the dean of CHSS should be the voice for its faculty and staff. In order to push through these tough economic times, he said Western administration needs to build a trust throughout the university and let everyone know that a collective voice matters.

"I'm standing here talking with you because I want to be here talking with you," Carbajal said. "I'm not here because I want to be a dean, but because I want to be dean of this college."

On Feb. 24, Gilger was the second finalist to hold an open forum, following Nicol C. Rae, on Feb. 19. Gilger's presentation lasted 30 minutes, allowing 25 minutes for attendees to ask him questions.

Professor of modern and classical languages Cornelius Partsch posed a question to Gilger about whether or not he thinks he could be a strong advocate in fulfilling Western's mission—keeping a student centered environment, while being engaged in teaching, scholarship and community service.

"This college has quality faculty, programs and students," Gilger responded. "I would want to maintain that as best I could."

During his presentation, Gilger said he has been involved with colleges affected by budget issues, and one way Western could ease its budget problem would be through attempts at trying to link with other universities in Washington.

He said if Western were to bridge or cooperate with institutions such as The Evergreen State College, these campuses could share credit hours, giving students the choice to go to the campus that suits them. This would also mean splitting profits from tuition, while saving money.

Partsch said he was not sure how that plan would work out for Western. He said Gilger made it sound easier than it really would be to cooperate with another university with a different mission.

While Partsch said he thought some of Gilger's ideas for solving Western's budget problems may not work, he said Gilger's presentation was an example of someone coming up with new ideas and thinking creatively to solve the issues Western is facing.

To see full articles on all three finalists' presentations please visit: **WESTERNFRONTONLINE.NET**

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Preparing for the show

Western freshman Isaac Bond prepares backstage for the LGBTA's drag show on Thursday. It takes him a minimum of one and a half hours to get ready, he said.



4:20 p.m.
Bond defines his eyebrows with an eyeliner after applying a first layer of foundation.



4:32 p.m.
Bond's makeup case sits nearby while he applies eyeliner.



5:08 p.m.
Before assisting a fellow drag show participant, Bond adds lipstick to his look.



6:12 p.m.
Bond puts on earrings. Six minutes later, Bond will become Lillian Cumfortable.

photos by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

BEAUTY KN

Behind the scenes at the LGBTA's 17th

Angelo Spagnolo
THE WESTERN FRONT

Under the sticky heat of the mirror lights, women draw mustaches with mascara and try to tie their ties. Men lessen the prominence of their cheekbones with makeup and flatten their eyebrows with glue sticks. Women use eyeliner to draw abs and define their biceps while men adjust the socks stuffed in their bras. Welcome to a drag show.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance (LGBTA) presented their 17th annual drag show, which helps fund two local charities that work with people living with HIV and AIDS, Thursday on the Performing Arts Center Mainstage.

Proceeds from the drag show are divided between the Sean Humphrey House and the Evergreen AIDS Foundation. Western's LGBTA coordinator Amber Aldrich said last year's show raised approximately \$3,000 for each charity after deducting productions costs.

In previous years, the event was held in the concert hall, forcing several hundred people to be turned away because only 650 seats were available, Aldrich said.

"That's money that we could be giving to Sean Humphrey House," Aldrich said.

This year, due to the new venue, approximately 400 more people could have had the opportunity to see the show.

However, the tickets sales for this year's event totaled less than 450.

Western sophomore Truong Nguyen, the 2008 drag show winner, said before this year's show that he was confident in his chance to repeat his win, despite tougher competition than last year.

"I definitely need to step my game up this year," Nguyen said. "That's why I have to get almost naked on stage."

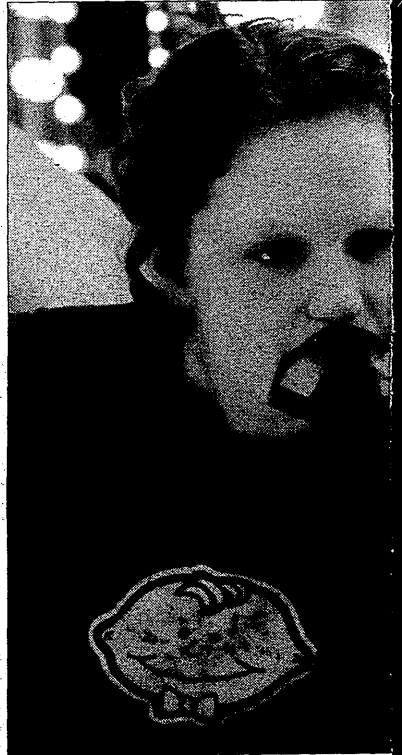
The winner of the drag show is decided by a

combination of crowd response and from the Sean Humphrey House.

Nguyen performed under his stage name Bee, in two acts, performing to both Sean and Eric Prydz and Beyonce's "Single Ladies."

However, Nguyen's multi-act performance was not enough to earn him another win. This year's drag queen honor went to Western sophomore Stone, who donned rollerskates for her performance of Olivia Newton John show tune "Xanadu." Best drag king went to Anne Albright.

Backstage before the show, Western freshman Isaac Bond said it usually takes him about



Western senior Maggie Neuman works backstage.

Actors attend

Megan Tackett
THE WESTERN FRONT

To escape the cold, dark month of winter, some people treat themselves to a vacation to Hawaii. But not Deb Currier, Western Theatre Department chair and director of "La Cage aux Folles." She puts on a drag musical to lift her spirits.

"I'm tired of doing dark, dismal, depressing productions in dark, depressing, weather," said Currier, who worked on "Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?" last fall quarter.

Written by Harvey Fierstein and adapted from Jean Poiret's 1973 version of "La Cage aux Folles," the musical tells the story of Georges, a drag-club owner in St. Tropez, France, his drag queen wife Albin and the events that ensue when their son Jean-Michel introduces them to his fiancée's conservative family.

Compared to previous years, the theatre department has an exceptional amount of strong males who sing and dance, Currier said. The show, which will be presented on Western's Performing Arts Center Mainstage March 5-15, will utilize the strong male turnout, she said.

Although some audiences may shy away from shows with storyline that revolve around homosexuality and cross-dressing, Currier said Bellingham was the perfect community in which to present the show.

"I think Bellingham will respond how it always

responds to the arts—open-minded," Currier said.

Western Junior Danny Kam, who said he thinks a negative stigma has been placed with the homosexual characters he has seen on stage.

"A lot of times, the gay characters are put out on stage and it's this big awful show," said Currier. "Mean things are said and violence is done."

"La Cage aux Folles" approaches relationships in a very light-hearted, positive message, Kam said.

"Be what you are and be proud of it," Kam said. "If anyone has a problem, it's not yours."

Drag queens Starla D'Ville, Naven and Madison Lane, who have performed in Cabaret, taught the actors the basics of drag queen in what Currier called a "class."

"Drag is another form of art," Vain-Stevens said. "You paint yourself, you sculpt yourself, you present yourself. For an audience to see [aux Folles], I think they will understand a little better."

Vain-Stevens said she and the other cast members helped the cast members find their own personalities.

"Some [queens] are comedy, some are serious," Vain-Stevens said, "We try to help

SHOWS NO BOUNDARIES

10th annual Drag Show, which scored larger venue and previewed drag musical

votes by guests
ge name, Queen
"Call on Me," by
adies."
effort was not
This year's best
freshman Peter
is lip sync to the
adu." The award
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Western freshman
between 45 min-

ute and an hour and a half to do his stage makeup. Bond said he learned how to apply stage makeup on the Internet.

"I've been in theater since I was nine, so I had some experience," Bond said. "But drag makeup I learned from YouTube videos."

Between doing his own makeup and helping his onstage partner with his, it took Bond, who goes by the drag alias Lillian Comfortable, more than two hours to get completely into character.

But amidst the chaos of kings and queens running around the cramped dressing room trying to complete their looks as showtime approached, West-

ern junior Steven Didis was still shirtless and in jeans finishing his makeup.

"Usually, the shortest amount of time it takes to do my makeup is an hour and an a half," Didis said. "I'm just trying to finish my face before I freak out."

Makeup is the main source of chaos backstage. Western sophomore Cyrus Huber grumbled as he waited for his turn to get made up.

"How long does it take to put makeup on a guy?" Huber asks. "I'm about to punch somebody."

Eye shadow serves as a shading tool to create the illusion of cleavage. Other show participants doubled as makeup artists, performing odd tasks, such as giving full, red lips to a man with a full, red beard.

"You're a boy—how do I do boy hair?" asked Western senior Courtney Crass, who performed as a man to a Kanye West track.

Crass said the drag show is a fun way to get the campus community thinking about gender.

"I love the idea of challenging what gender is," Crass said. "Is it just clothes? Is that what gender is?"

Aldrich said LGBTQA events are important for individuals looking for acceptance in the college environment.

"A lot of people, when they're in high school, have this feeling like 'I'm the only person who's like me,'" Aldrich said. "Our events provide not only an opportunity to educate people about LGBT issues, but also provide social or entertainment events that can offer a sense of community."

Thursday's performance also included a preview of the upcoming play "La Cage aux Folles," which will run March 5-15 on the PAC Mainstage.

Aldrich said much of the play is set in a drag club, so offering a glimpse to the drag show audience seemed like a no-brainer.

"We kind of decided to create a little synergy between us and the theater department and give them an opportunity to give a preview of the show," Aldrich said.

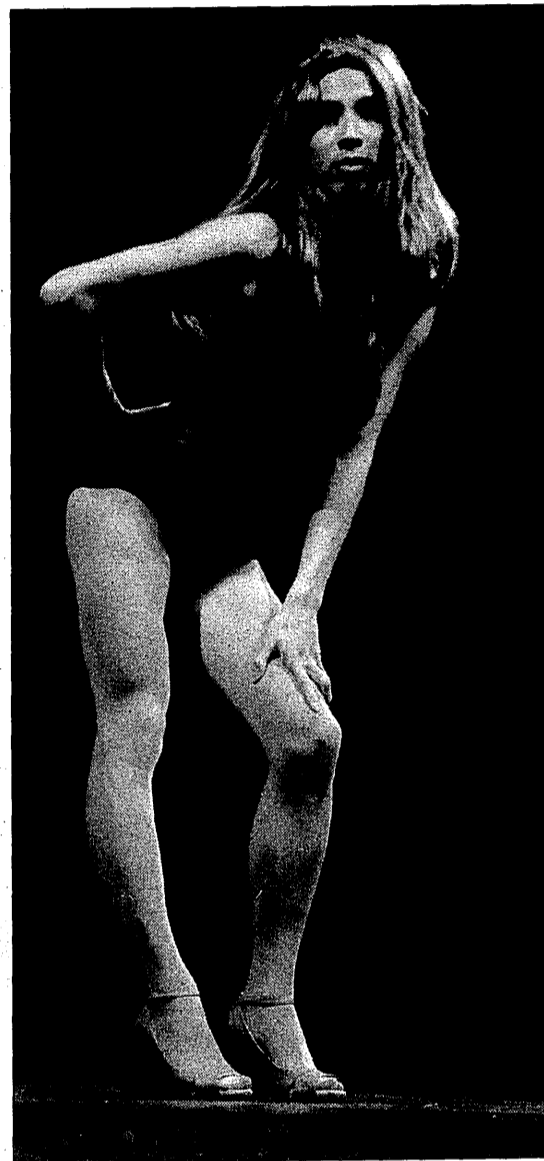


photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT
Western sophomore Truong Nguyen, whose stage name is Queen Bee, performs to "Call on Me" in the Drag Show Thursday night.



photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

...s on her goatee for the LGBTQA Drag Show Thursday night.

"Drag Camp" to prepare for roles

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ain-Stevens said.
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some are diva,"
them find their

own attitude."

Because it is "Drag Camp," the 15 cast members with a drag role are required to wear heels during rehearsal.

"It's been interesting trying to find heels in the sizes for some of the guys," Currier said.

Since men do not naturally move their hips much when they walk, D'Ville said she and the other drag queens taught the male cast members to roll their hips to achieve the natural sway that women have when they walk.

"Your look can't be subtle," D'Ville said. "It has to be big and flashy."

Western junior Mauro Bozzo said walking in heels was not so much of a challenge as it was to walk in them as women do. He said when women walk, their feet follow their hips and when men walk their hips follow their feet.

"You have to all of a sudden take something you've been doing for 18 years of your life and try to reverse it," Bozzo said. "It's very interesting."

Western junior T.J. Anderson, who plays Jean-Michel, said sharing the stage with men in heels was strange at first.

"It's kind of a weird cognitive difference," Anderson said. "But I got used to it."

To downplay the men's physical size, the queens told the actors their wigs, make-up, hair and dress must be over the top, Bozzo said.

"Everything has to be larger than life," he said.



photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

Members of Western's Theatre Department rehearse for 'La Cage aux Folles' on the Performing Arts Center Mainstage Feb. 13. They performed a preview of the musical at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance's annual drag show on Thursday. The musical will run from March 5-15.

Students are key ingredient to new restaurant's success

Amanda Halle
THE WESTERN FRONT

When Bellingham's newest restaurant, Scotty Browns, opened on Jan. 6, it not only gave the community a new and upbeat dining experience, but it also created jobs and career opportunities for many Western students and recent graduates.

Almost two months after its opening, Scotty Browns is still booming with business every night, said Kevin Doyle, Scotty Browns opening manager.

"January and February are usually the slowest months," he said. "It is amazing that even with all of the economic downfall, our business has been high and consistent." Approximately 80 percent of the 54 front floor staff are Western students or alumni. Western alumni also hold three of the restaurant's four management positions, Doyle said.

Bellingham's Scotty Browns is the first restaurant from the Canadian chain to be built in the U.S., Doyle said. The restaurant is known as 'Browns Social House' at its seven other locations in the Vancouver, B. C. area.

Doyle, who helped open several of the franchise's restaurants in Canada, but wanted a location closer to where he was living. He said the Bellingham restaurant quickly proved to be the most successful in the franchise.

The 5,400-square-foot restaurant, lo-

cated in Barkley Village, is the largest of the eight restaurants built by the chain, which presented the need for a large staff, Doyle said. Scotty Browns currently has 54 employees working the front of the restaurant and 25 employees in the kitchen.

Western students employed at the restaurant impressed Doyle early on, he said. Having never worked while going through college himself, Doyle said the student employees' time management skills have continued to amaze him. Scotty Browns employee training is extensive and includes several tests on a thick manual of menu and bar items, Doyle said.

"[The students] were studying for these tests during their finals week and still giving us 90 to 100 percent results," Doyle said.

Western senior Autumn Henderson said it was her first time working in a restaurant when she was hired as a hostess at Scotty Browns. Henderson also works a second job in addition to being a hostess, but rather than wearing her out, she said it actually motivates her to finish her schoolwork.

"Having this job really helps me with time management, and it also makes me realize the value of my time," Henderson said.

Hollie Johnson, Western alumna and dining room manager at Scotty Browns, said she finds it beneficial having a large group of Western student employees be-

cause they help each other with shift coverage.

"If one of [the employees] has a test to study for, someone will cover their shift and then next time they will return the favor," she said.

Johnson said she worked in the restaurant business throughout her time in college. She said she graduated in 2007 with a major in psychology but was not sure what career to pursue and chose the restaurant business as a way to pay the bills.

"I worked through college because I didn't have any other choice," she said. "I didn't realize working as a waitress would help me like it did."

Johnson said she finds her psychology major helpful for understanding different behaviors and personalities of customers and other employees in the restaurant. She said she has also learned new skills through working as a manager and experiencing how the inside of a business works she said.

"I didn't take business classes at Western, but I feel like I have learned more working here than I ever would have learned in a class," she said.

Scotty Browns General Manager Jonathan Koncz, who graduated from Western in 2006, returned to campus during fall quarter 2008 in hopes of recruiting Western students to work at the business.

Koncz said he wanted to recruit from Western because he knew that college stu-

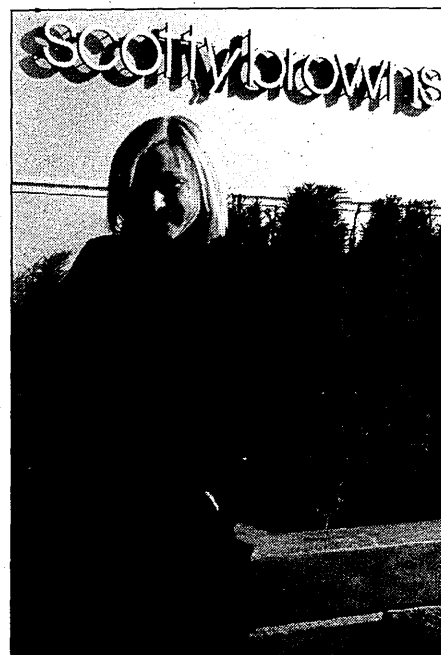


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western alumna Hollie Johnson poses in front of Scotty Browns Bellingham location, where she works as a manager. Western students and alumni currently compose nearly 80 percent of the 54 employees working in Scotty Browns front dining room.

dents were hard workers, and he wanted to offer the opportunity for students to learn new skills while earning some money.

"This restaurant wouldn't be as successful as it is without the hard work from the students," Koncz said.



photo by Katie Greene THE WESTERN FRONT

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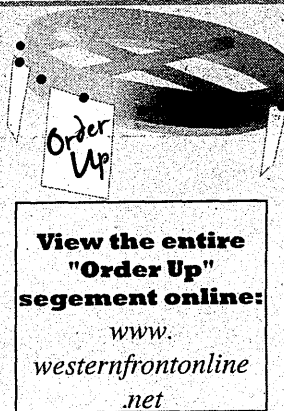
Ken Ryan: My wife and I knew that Bellingham needed some bagels. I worked in bagel shops as a kid and I went back and did a little more research into the needed equipment. I visited about 40 different bagel shops and 12 equipment dealers and came up with this.

What would you say is your specialty?

KR: The bialy (BEE-ALI). A bialy is a bagel that is baked instead of boiled and we fill the hole with an onion and poppy seed mixture.

What do you recommend for students on a tight budget?

KR: We offer a breakfast special of two eggs, a buttered bagel and coffee for \$3.65. We're very popular for the way we make eggs by doing an egg on a bagel. We're an inexpensive alternative, but our attitude is 'cheap isn't cheap if it's not any good.' We try to give really great value with everything we offer.



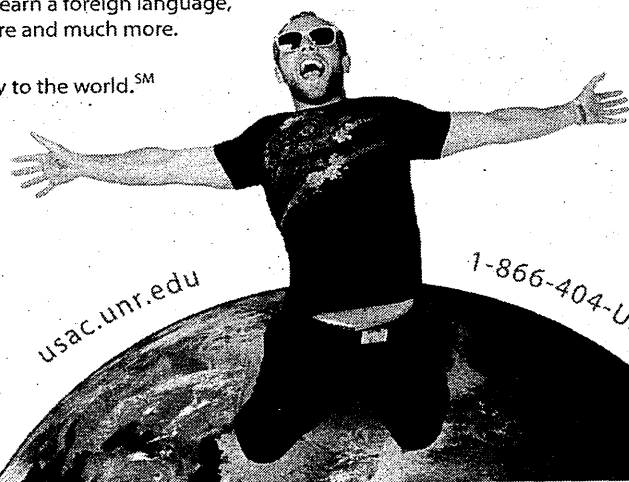
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Under the surface, newspaper staff in constant flux

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

In about a month, an entirely new set of bylines will grace the pages of The Western Front.

New reporters, new editors and new photographers will bring new ideas to the newsroom in an effort to continue making The Front as great as it can be.

This is a process that happens every quarter.

It's important for students, faculty and community members to realize that The Western Front is a class. It's a course requirement; not a voluntary extra-curricular activity.

The Front is a learning tool. Many of the staff and reporters are inexperienced at this stage of their career and just like anyone else in any other class, we make mistakes. We're still learning what it takes to succeed in this fast-paced industry.

People need to keep this in mind when they talk to the reporters and staff of The Western Front.

Be understanding. Do not let your past experiences with The Front mar your

relationship with it now.

You might be dealing with a new reporter; or a reporter that has learned from his or her mistake and won't repeat it this time around.

Dealing with reporters is important because news is happening all the time about which the campus community needs to know. The news needs to be shared and it is The Front's job to do it.

We need help and interviews from the campus community and the people who are important to the stories we write. We're a vital part of the community, not an island off alone in the Communication Facility.

Many schools around the country don't require their journalism students to work for a school publication such as this; they require students to compete for a select number of spots on the paper.

These students don't get as rich of an education as we do. We are lucky that Western values real-life experience in its curriculum.

That is not to say that we take mistakes lightly. We hold ourselves to high standards; we know that we represent

not only ourselves, but our department, university and community. Errors reflect poorly on us as a whole. Unlike most other programs at Western, mistakes made in The Front are public for everyone to see.

We regret and try to prevent as many errors as possible. But, inevitably, some will happen.

If you discover one of these errors, please let us know. And know that we will do our best to correct them and prevent any future mistakes of the same sort from happening.

We're all students and have other classes that we take in addition to The Front. Many of us have outside jobs to balance as well.

So be courteous in your dealings with The Western Front and its staff, and we will strive to ensure our reporters are the same to you. What it really comes down to is: We're here to help you.

The Editorial Board is comprised of the Editor-in-Chief Zack Hale, Managing Editor Rebecca Rayner, Opinion Editor Kera Wanielista and community member-at-large Eddie Verhulst.

Jon vs. Red Square: I strum my ukulele in private



Jon Brandenburg
Columnist

Things Jon likes: hugs, acoustic guitar, Frisbee, drums, pictures of dead babies and free expression.

Things Jon doesn't like: any of the aforementioned in Red Square.

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, or simply, "That Guy," but no one cares that you can play The Killer's, "Smile Like You Mean It" with correct chord progression or if you can do a fluid under-leg catch, spin, throw combination with a Frisbee.

I hate your stupid Frisbee.

Red Square seems to bring out the histrionics in Western students. Its heavy foot traffic and the fact that it's the nexus of most Western activity seem to click with the average attention-seeking academic and make them think, "Know what'd be a good idea? Strumming the same three chords repeatedly while the people next to me try to have a conversation, or God forbid, study."

Perhaps it's the fact that I get along well with my family and that my parents gave me an appropriate amount of attention, but I've never felt the urge to blatantly express myself for all to see.

Wait, I'm writing a column where I'm blatantly expressing myself... NOOOOOOooooo....

Anywho, I'm going to make fun of drum circles now in order to mask my hypocrisy.

I spent the last year teaching English in Japan because over there I am a giant. During my time in the mystical Orient, I was in a constant state of tranquility that was only shattered once.

Whilst exploring in the hip, fashionable district created by Gwen Stefani, called "Hara-Juku," I heard in the distance a deep rumbling of "patta-pon, patta-pon." As I ventured deeper and deeper into the local park the noise grew and my heart began to become icy with dread.

It was a drum circle.

Now, I lived next to Fairhaven's "Outback" for three years and had to suffer through the Saturday night jam/howling at the moon sessions. If I never have to experience another group of white kids expressing their anger toward their conservative parents in badly expressed

rhythm, I'd die a happy man.

Also, what's with all the "Free Hugs" people I've been seeing around lately? Perhaps I am a burgeoning curmudgeon but when I see the sign "Free Hugs" what I really see is, "Please pay attention to me."

Yes, I understand that it's part of a global campaign, but in a hug-friendly place like America I don't really find it vital. If you really want a hug, just ask a friend for one.

And honestly, "Free Hugs?" Why not just "Hugs?" Hugs never have a monetary value; in fact no matter how much you pay an escort, she'll never hug you—but she will change your diaper and flagellate your back with a cat-o-nine-tails.

But not to lose the support of my beloved bleeding hearts, I'm not a huge fan of those Genocide Awareness Project rascals either. Every year I enjoy eating hotdogs in front of their incendiary imagery, hoping some chaos will erupt.

But, I'm sure if the members of the GAP were to spend a day observing the goings-on in Red Square, they'd totally rethink their stance on abortion.

So save your strummin', thumpin', and Greco-Roman discus throwin' for the comfortable confines of your own home.

Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

What would your drag name be?

Compiled by: Megan Tackett



Nick Foote
Sophomore

"Electrissidie. It's energetic and catchy."



Alyssa Brudnicki
Sophomore

"Queen Scumptuous. A combination of scumptious and voluptuous."



Rebekah Johnson
Freshman

"Jorene Eccentric. It's my grandma's name and it describes her because she's eccentric. She'd kill me if she knew I was doing it for a drag name."



Zachary Kramer
Junior

"Zesty Zach because I'm a very refreshing drag queen. When you see me, you're going to want more."

Letter to the Editor:

Income tax would make system more fair

Michael Lang has identified an important problem for Washington state: it relies primarily on a sales tax. However, he fails to explore all of the implications of such a tax system.

First, a sales tax is regressive: the less you earn, the greater a percentage of your income you pay in taxes.

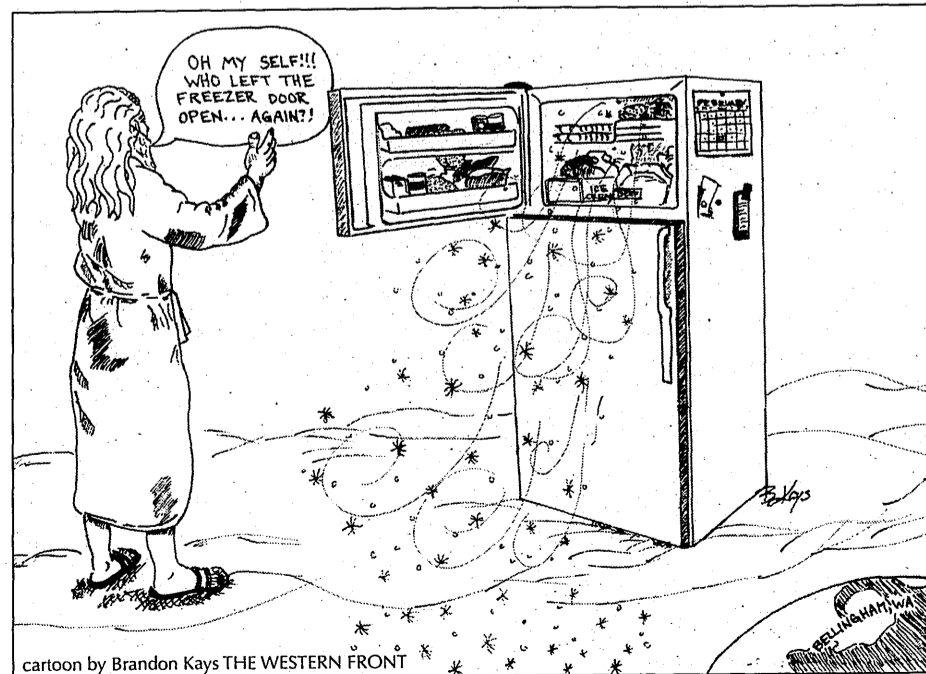
Secondly, people continue to pay sales taxes even when they have been laid off, when they can least afford them. So, there is a perverse irony in our current recession: people with lower incomes—who most depend on state programs—continue to pay higher taxes than wealthier taxpayers and yet receive fewer and less comprehensive services.

We could make the system more fair by switching to an income tax.

While it would not fix the state's fiscal problems, an income tax has several benefits. First, when people are laid off they immediately get a tax break, and thus are better able to make ends meet.

Second, we establish greater fairness by making those who are better able to afford it, pay for more of our public goods. Thirdly, we would not have to become "self-ingratiating, continually unfulfilled consumers in order to jumpstart the economy,"—a disgusting idea.

Matteo Tamburini
Western graduate student



Western men avenge loss

Western: 109
Western Oregon: 72

Jeremy Perry
THE WESTERN FRONT

While it was cold and snowy outside on Wednesday night, the Western men's basketball game against the Western Oregon University Wolves heated things up inside Carver Gym.

The Vikings soundly defeated the Wolves 109-72 in the second to last home game of the season.

Wednesday night's win avenged an 85-83 loss against Western Oregon on Valentine's Day and placed Western in second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC). Their 10-3 record places the Vikings a game behind first place Seattle Pacific University.

Leading the Vikings in points was Western senior guard Ira Graham with 23. Graham complimented his point total with seven rebounds and eight assists. He said his strong game was made possible by being on a solid team and commended Western junior point guard Morris Anderson for his game-high 10 assists.

In addition to Graham's high point to-

tal, every player on the 11-man roster was able to get time on the court and points on the scoreboard.

"Everybody scored," Western assistant coach Rob Visser said with a smile. "That's as good as it gets."

Western senior forward Dave Brittinen liked seeing everybody on the play roster getting some court time.

"We only have a few games left, so it was good we got everybody in there because everybody works hard in practice," Brittinen said. "[The reserves'] hard work in practice makes us as good as we are."

Visser said Western senior guard Steve Alford has been known to act as a barometer for the team, as the senior's performance sometimes sets the tempo for the team overall.

"When I come out aggressive, the whole team is aggressive, but when I come out laid back, the whole team is laid back," Alford said.

Before the match, Visser said the Western Oregon player he intended to watch carefully was senior forward Travis Kuhns, who he considers a formidable player.

During the game, the Vikings made approximately 63 percent of their field

goals overall and 75 percent of their 3-pointers. Both teams were able to score on each of their first four possessions, but the Vikings then decisively pulled ahead. The Vikings held a 19 point lead at half-time and consistently stayed ahead by 30 points in the final 10 minutes of the game.

Western head coach Brad Jackson said he wanted to see a particular emphasis on the Viking's defensive effort. This game, the team came out and really got into the swing of things, Jackson said.

"We needed to boost our confidence, so it was a very good win for us tonight," Jackson said.

With the possibility of a GNAC championship and a potential spot in the NCAA Division II championship, Jackson said he believes the team will stay focused during the three remaining regular season games.

Graham said Wednesday's game could potentially catapult them to winning the GNAC title. He said the last three games of the regular season are going to be tough, but he believes the Vikings are capable of pulling it off. Graham is particularly looking forward to the last game of the regular season with Central, but in-

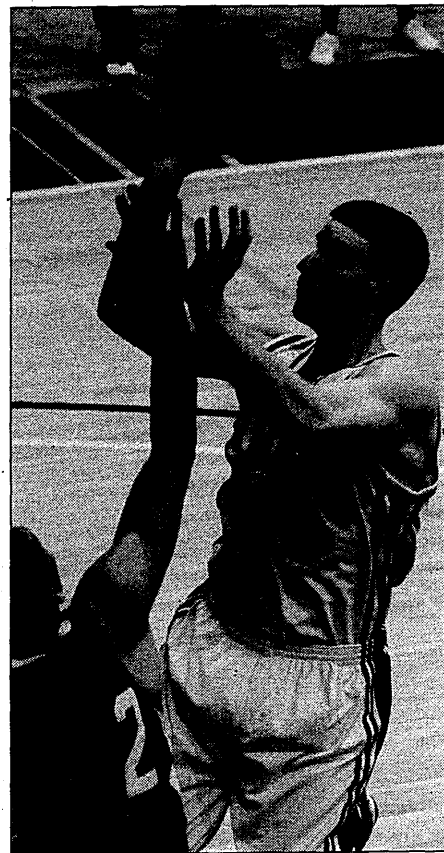


photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT
Western junior forward Michael Duty shoots over a Western Oregon defender.

tends to focus on one game at a time.

Western's next game is 7 p.m. Feb.28 against Montana State University-Billings in Billings, Mont.

Vikings vanquish injured Alaska Fairbanks

Western: 77
Alaska Fairbanks: 32

Nicholas Johnson
THE WESTERN FRONT

After holding the University of Alaska Fairbanks to six points in the first half, the Western women's basketball team claimed a 77-32 win over the shorthand-

ed Nanooks Thursday evening in Carver Gym.

Only three players from the Nanook's original roster remain playing for the team, as nine have been lost to injury. Four of which involved the ACL.

Much of the team is now made up of volleyball players and not a single Nanook stands taller than 5-foot-9.

"A game like this is tough for all of

us," Western head coach Carmen Dolfo said. "What can I say? A win's a win."

The Vikings walked away with their 11th home game win Thursday night after shutting out the Nanooks for nearly 14 minutes in the first half.

Western remains at number five in the West Region of National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II and jumps to 9-4 in the Great Northwest Athletic Con-

ference (GNAC) and 17-7 overall.

The Vikings came out strong scoring off the tip and claiming 20 unchallenged points in the first half and led 34-6 at half-time.

"We have to recognize that our team isn't in shape and hasn't been training together," Nanook head coach Darryl Smith

see WOMEN page 11

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Men's crew rows toward successful season

Rod Lotter
THE WESTERN FRONT

Waking up at 5 a.m. and driving to Lake Whatcom six days a week may not sound like a typical student's idea of fun, but for the members of Western's men's club crew team, this is normal.

"It's not as bad as it sounds," said Western freshman rower Andrew Lapidus, who joined the team this fall. "It's not like getting up for class. Waking up and going out on the water is much more invigorating than sitting in class listening to lectures."

The team has six races scheduled for the spring season with a possibility for a seventh race if they can raise enough money for a trip to the Dad Vail regatta in Philadelphia—the largest collegiate tournament in the country.

Western finished seventh out of the 53 teams that participated in last year's Dad Vail regatta.

Since the team is a club sport, it has to raise most of its own money for traveling, uniforms, equipment and other expenses, Western sophomore coxswain Maggie Swidler said.

The rest of the team's funds come from donations from Western, Swidler said.

Swidler sits at the front of the crew boat and helps guide and encourage the

rowers as they are racing—usually involving quite a bit of yelling.

To earn money to travel to regattas, the team works for a security agency that pays them to work at the University of Washington Huskies football games and other events where security duties are needed throughout the year.



Members of the men's crew team compete in last year's UPS and Western home regatta. photo courtesy of Maggie Swidler

Swidler, Lapidus and Knutson have all spent time guarding the field during the Huskies' games, working at the ticket booth and keeping an eye on team buses.

"We have a quarter of the cash that other teams we compete against have," Swidler said. "[Other teams] constantly get new boats, new uniforms and can trav-

el anywhere they want without fund raising. We have to do it all ourselves."

But the hard work involved with the fund raising pays off in the end, Knutson said.

"It feels really good when we beat one of those teams that have lots of cash," Knutson said. "There are teams with new

which has eight rowers—usually the newest members of the team, who do not have as much racing experience.

The spring season kicks off March 28 with the Daffodil Cup in Tacoma. Last year the varsity team finished in fourth place. The novice team finished in second place—their best finish last season.

"I think we will do pretty well this year," Knutson said. "We tested everyone's speeds earlier in the year, and then tested them again just recently, and everyone improved their times. Physically, we've improved a lot."

On April 11, the team will host their only home regatta, which will be a dual with their rival, the University of Puget Sound, on Lake Samish. At last year's home regatta, the varsity team was able to beat Puget Sound.

"They're the biggest competition in the region," Swidler said. "It's nice to see how we match up with them every year. Especially since we race them more often than any other team."

The team is always looking for new members, Knutson said. But, with it being so close to racing season, new team members would have to be dedicated and quick to catch up with the rest of the team.

"It'd be rough," Knutson said. "But, we do need more guys and it needs to happen quick because it's getting close to being too late."

boats and nice uniforms, but are just really bad teams."

The club consists of two different types of teams. One boat is the Varsity 4, which has the four most experienced rowers on the team.

Knutson is a member of the Varsity 4 team. The second boat is the Novice 8,

WOMEN: Western women capitalize on 34-6 halftime lead

from 10

said. "The fact that we're still playing is enough for me."

Alaska Fairbanks is now ranked 0-14 in the conference and 5-18 overall.

Nanook senior guard Sheena Brown had a game-high 16 points and junior forward Ronisha Edwards added 12.

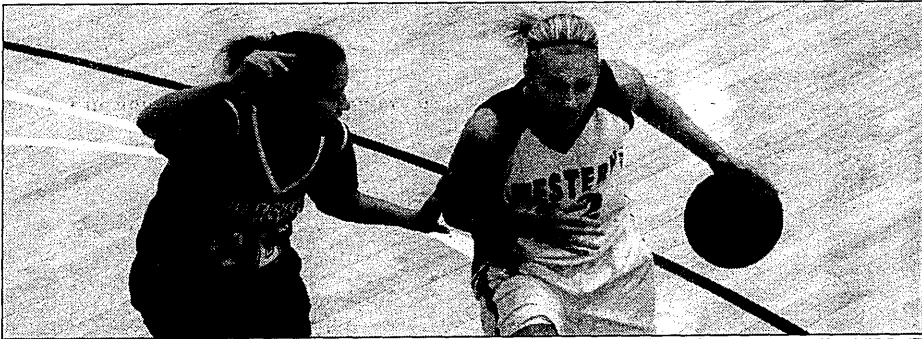
"This game was important for us because we wanted to use it to get better for Saturday," Western senior forward Liz

McCarrell said. "We now know that we need to work on blocking out and cutting down our turnovers."

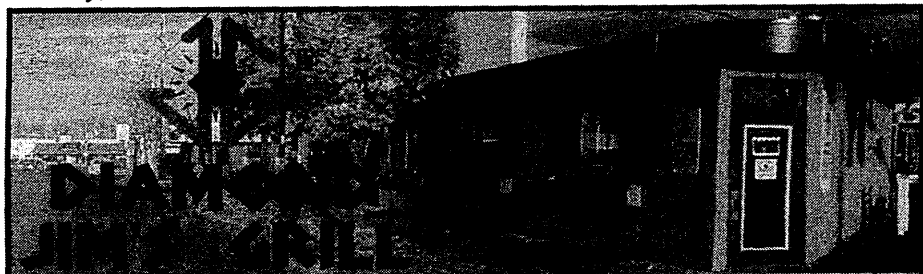
The Vikings will play nationally ranked University of Alaska Anchorage at 7 p.m., Saturday in their last home appearance of the season.

The Nanooks will return home after their last season road trip and will be glad to see the season end, Smith said.

"We only have two more games left," Smith said. "Thank God."



Western sophomore guard Megan Pinske dribbles past an Alaska Fairbanks defender. photo by Alex Roberts THE WESTERN FRONT



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Softball steps up to plate in opener

Kipp Robertson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's softball team seized two Western records while winning the four-game series against the Northwest Nazarene University Crusaders at Halle Field in Nampa, Idaho on Saturday.

Western junior first baseman Meghan Flem broke Western's record and the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) record for most RBIs during a single game—driving in seven runs during the Vikings' first game on Saturday.

Another Western record was surpassed as Western ended game one on Saturday with 21 hits.

Flem also tied the Western and GNAC records for most home runs during a sin-

gle game when she hit two balls out of the park during the first Saturday game.

Flem was named GNAC Player of the Week for Feb. 15-21, and because of her record-breaking game, she moved up to sixth place for total RBIs and holds the record for most career home runs at Western.

Western head coach Lonnie Hicks said the team was not aware that Flem had broken the record until the series had ended.

"It was fun to watch everyone contribute to the wins," Hicks said. "The whole team was making big plays."

The GNAC series improved Western's overall season record to 3-1, leaving the Crusaders with an overall record of 1-3.

Western's first victory of the season came on Feb. 20, when Western and the Crusaders faced off in a doubleheader—both teams left the field with a win.

The pace did not slow for Western as the series continued on Saturday with the opening game resulting in another win and a final score of 12-2.

Western sophomore outfielder Michelle Wrigley and Flem both had four hits; Wrigley crossed home plate three times and Flem made it home twice.

Western sophomore infielder Caitlin Dotlich and freshman pitcher and utility player Tobey Varney each had three hits during the game and scored during every inning except the third.

"These women really played up to their potential," Hicks said.

The last game of the series ended with

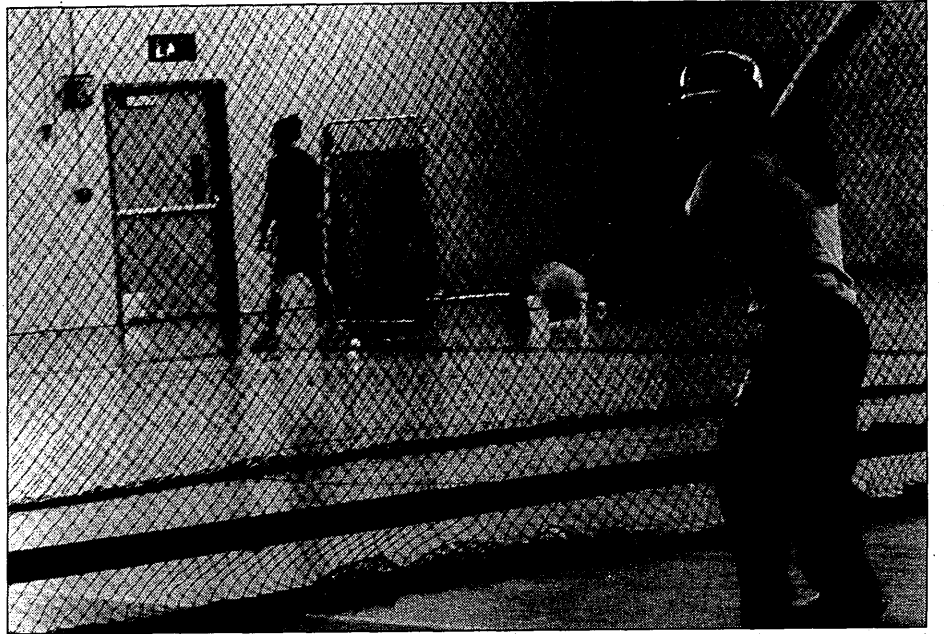


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore shortstop Caitlin Dotlich prepares to hit during batting practice in Carver Gym D on Thursday afternoon.

a Western victory of 5-2.

Western scored one run in the first and second innings and two runs in the third. Northwest Nazarene was able to score two runs in the fifth inning, but Western continued to lead and added a final run in the seventh.

Western will play their first home game against Central Washington University in a two-game series: one at noon on Feb. 28 on Viking Field and the other at noon on March 1 on Viking Field.

"We just need to stay mentally prepared for the game against Central," junior pitcher Sarah McEnroe said. "Staying at our level of play will keep us on top."

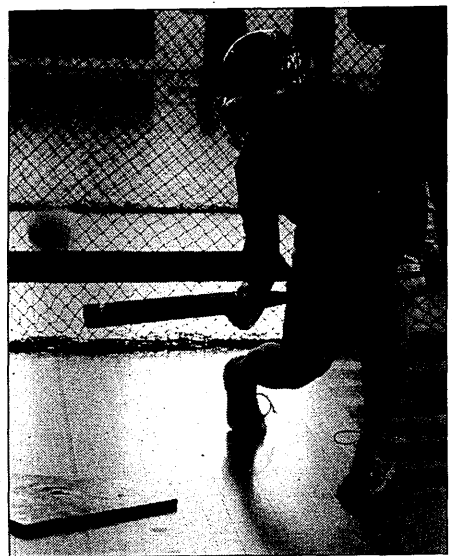


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western senior utility player Morgan Parkerson bunts the ball during practice.

Western's "Pack the Park" Weekend vs. Central

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