

The Western Front

Western Washington University

Volume 111 Issue 2

Bellingham, Washington

Can-Am founder honored for his achievements in Western program

By Meghan Pattee
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's founder of the Canadian-American Studies program, Robert Monahan, was awarded the 1999 Donner Medal for his work in Canadian-American studies.

The medal is awarded every two years by the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States.

"It was a big surprise to me," Monahan said. "After you're retired you feel like you are out of the swirl."

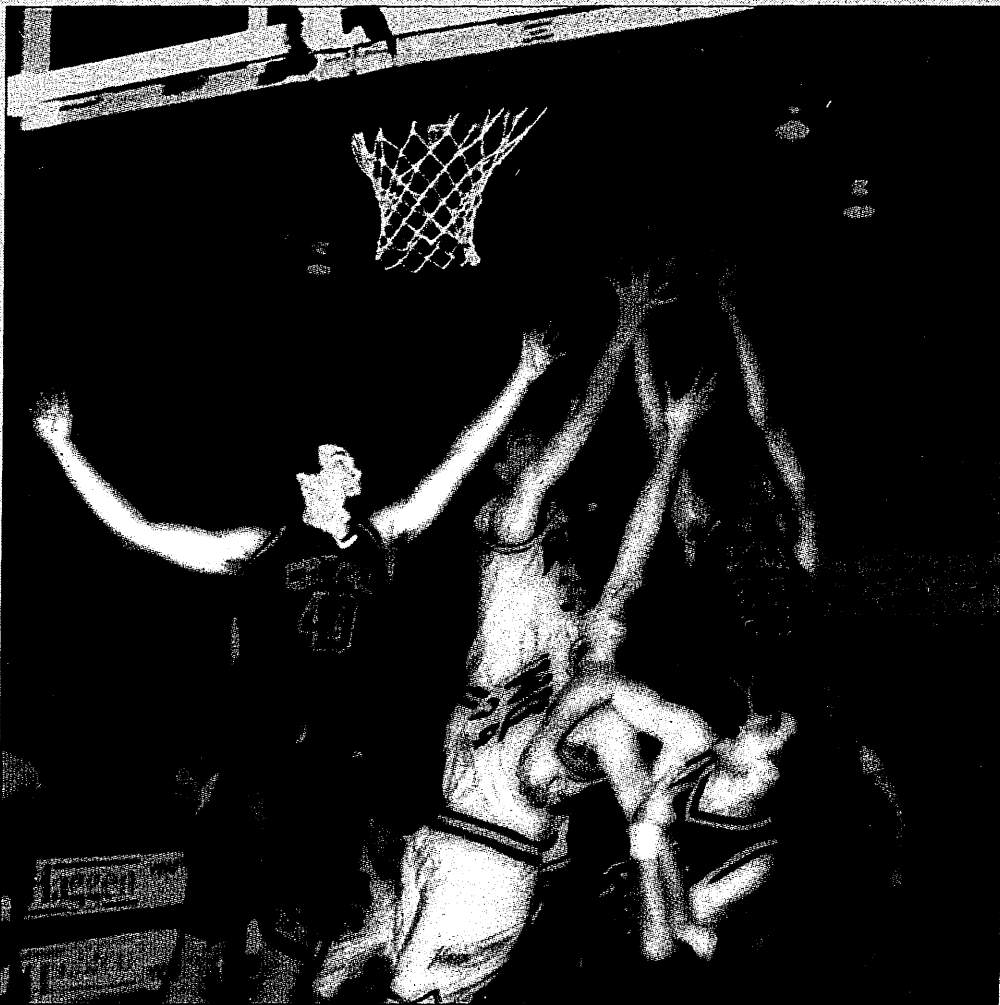
"The prestige associated with this honor I think helps to reinforce the importance of Canadian studies at this university," said Don Alper, Center for Canadian-American Studies director.

Monahan founded the Canadian-American Studies program in 1970.

"No one else around was really doing much with Canada," Monahan said. "At that time I think we were the only program

See CAN-AM, page 3

Vikings rise above Central



Matt Anderson/The Western Front

Western's A.J. Giesa grabs the basketball away from a pack of Central players. Western upset the Wildcats 102-92 in overtime Jan. 8. See story, page 8

English department targeted in lawsuit

By Jill McEvoy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Former Western English professor Rosina Lippi-Green filed a lawsuit against the university Dec. 21 with the Whatcom County Court.

Lippi-Green filed the lawsuit after a settlement was not reached following her initial tort claim filed Oct. 15.

In the lawsuit, Lippi-Green claims her reputation was damaged by a memorandum written by former English Department Chair Richard Emmerson in August.

Lippi-Green, who resigned from Western in May, needed the university's endorsement to teach a month-long creative writing program in Sienna, Italy in August 2000.

Emmerson's memo did not give Lippi-Green the endorsement because she was no longer affiliated with Western, said Wendy Bohlke, Western's attorney. Lippi-Green is seeking \$95,000 in compensation — a little less than two years' wages.

Once Lippi-Green filed the tort claim, Western had 60 days to make a settlement offer, but no talks occurred between the two parties, Bohlke said.

"There probably wasn't much time for discussions because of the holidays (during the 60-day settlement period)," Bohlke said. "Dr. Lippi-Green and her attorney refused to talk to me and Peter Elich (dean of the College of Arts and Sciences)."

Lippi-Green's attorney Robert Butler disagreed.

See LIPPI-GREEN, page 4

Scholarships aim to make Western more diverse

By Kristen Moored
THE WESTERN FRONT

Offering many multicultural scholarships is one way Western hopes to encourage diversity awareness among students.

Western's Multicultural Achievement Program now awards 180-200 scholarships per year. Half are awarded to continuing students and the other half

to incoming students.

Two main changes occurred this past year to allow program growth.

First, Initiative 200 passed.

This non discrimination act allows for this scholarship to be open to anyone. No race specification is required like it has been in the past.

Secondly, more money is available.

These two things allow for more and better scholarships. So far this year, 90 MAP scholarships have been awarded at \$2,000 each to continuing Western students as well as 20 more to incoming freshmen and transfer students. This is a large increase from the 71 MAP awards last year at \$1,800 each.

"Leadership, persistence in overcoming adversity, under-

standing of multicultural issues, devotion to community — all of these contribute to a successful university experience and success in an increasingly multicultural nation," said Karen Copetas, director of Admissions. "Students who exhibit these qualities and strive for academic excellence deserve to be recognized."

Miller Hall undergoing renovations



Chris Fuller/The Western Front

Craig Thomas works on Miller Hall's renovation Monday.

By Tiffany Campbell
THE WESTERN FRONT

Long lines at the Miller Hall Coffee Shop will be a hassle of the past when renovations are completed, promised Jim Schuster, associate director of Viking Union Operations.

The coffee shop is slated to open for business by spring quarter. Demolition began the renovation soon after the contract was signed between Western and Artus Construction Company Dec. 13.

Currently, they are framing in the new structural components, Schuster said.

New components include three double-sided cash registers, plus the espresso bar, which means at any given time, seven lines of customers can be served, as opposed to three.

"Miller Hall has the highest volume of retail foods on campus," Schuster said. "So we need to get people in and out of there as fast as possible."

Of course, this new convenience store atmosphere is at the expense of the original seating.

With only around 25 seats to begin with, Schuster said, the daily seating needs in such a high volume place were not being met.

"They'll find other places to eat, which is evidently what they've already been doing," Schuster said.

Although no seating will be available inside, Schuster said. Western is still looking into the possibility of outdoor, covered seating.

The new renovation is expected to cost roughly \$180,000, not including the equipment cost, Schuster said.

Most of the funds have come from Marriott, now Sodexo-Marriott after its recent merger, the dining services company that has been with Western for 40 years, said Nori Yamashita, director of operations for

See MILLER HALL, page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Century's best

Two players and two coaches from past teams are selected to Western's All-Century women's basketball team.

See story, page 9.

Dogs to the rescue



Whatcom County Search and Rescue dogs hike through any terrain to find lost and injured hik-

ers. When they aren't accompanying their human counterparts, the canines live daily lives as pets.

See story, page 6.

WESTERN FRONT ONLINE
westernfront.wvu.edu

COPS BOX

Campus Police

Jan. 3, 10 a.m.: A Western mechanic reported the theft of a Shop Vac and portable drill battery from his secured office on campus sometime over New Year's weekend.

Jan. 5, 11:13 a.m.: A Western student with a history of seizures suffered a seizure on campus.

Jan. 5, 2 p.m.: A student reported a bicycle stolen sometime during the holiday break in the 600 block of High Street.

Jan. 5, 8:30 p.m.: A Western custodian reported damage to the Visitor Center bathrooms.

Jan. 6, 1:30 p.m.: A car top carrier was broken into and ski equipment was stolen in a Western parking lot.

Bellingham Police

Jan. 5, 5 p.m.: A man was arrested in the 300 block of Halleck Street on probable cause for two counts of First Degree Child Molestation, two counts of Second Degree Child Molestation and one count of Third Degree Child Molestation.

Jan. 5, 10:55 p.m.: Officers responded to a suicidal man in the 1300 block of West Holly Street. He said he wanted to kill himself and was transported to St. Joseph Hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Jan. 6, 11:36 a.m.: A man ran after being stopped for a traffic violation in the 3600 block of Hannegan Road. He was charged with driving while suspended and failing to stop for a law enforcement officer. He was booked into county jail.

Jan. 6, 3:50 p.m.: Police were dispatched to a death investigation in the 1300 block of Kenoyer Drive.

Compiled by Bill Bennion

STATE NEWS

Everett psychologist will not be charged

Criminal charges will not be brought against an Everett psychologist accused of raping a patient.

The patient said Monte Scott sexually abused her under the guise of therapy. Scott denies all charges.

Shipyards shooter faces murder charges

The King County prosecutor filed two counts of aggravated murder against the man accused of the Seattle shipyard shooting.

The prosecutor has 30 days to decide whether to seek the death penalty against Kevin William Cruz. Prosecutor Norm Maleng also charged Cruz with two counts of attempted murder. Maleng called the shooting a horrible crime that "fits an alarming trend of incomprehensible violence in our workplaces."

Arraignment is set for Jan. 19

Gambling could pay for Safeco Field

The state lottery wants lawmakers to approve more gambling to help pay for Safeco

Field.

Last year, scratch tickets with sports themes failed to raise all of the expected \$3.3 million. The state treasury was hit for \$739,000.

Under the legislation that set up financing for the Seattle ballpark, scratch ticket games were supposed to raise \$54 million over 20 years.

Lottery officials said unless a change occurs, they won't be able to raise enough money.

They want to use money from other games to meet annual stadium payments.

Lottery deputy director Bob Benson said it could add a third weekly drawing for Quinto and Lucky for Life.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush declares: "Tax cuts, so help me God"

Republican presidential contenders are facing off at a debate in New Hampshire.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush pledged to push for tax cuts Bush made the statement in the opening moments of the first GOP presidential debate of the year as his five rivals watched.

Bush says he wants a tax cut even if a recession occurs.

The second question went to Gary Bauer, who said he would not place anyone on the

Supreme Court who supports abortion.

The candidates are battling for victory in the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 1.

Custody fight continues over Cuban boy

Six-year-old Elian Gonzales has been playing in his family's yard with a new puppy Friday, as elsewhere in Miami, the fight over his possible return to Cuba continues.

His relatives are going to court today, in hopes of fighting the government's decision to send him home to his father.

The family said it appreciates protests in Miami on Elian's behalf, but violence has to be avoided. Family members are worried that communist agents are trying to create problems.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

"Anna and the King" faces protest in Thailand

Police in Thailand are cracking down on bootleg videos of the banned movie, "Anna and the King."

Police arrested two people who allegedly peddled pirated disks and are threatening them with long prison terms for insulting Thailand's monarchy.

Meanwhile, 20th Century Fox

confirmed today it will not appeal a ruling by censors in Thailand banning the film for allegedly denigrating a 19th century king.

The movie, a remake of the musical "The King and I," stars two-time Academy Award-winner Jodie Foster and action star Chow Yun-Fat.

Windows 2000 forbidden in Chinese government

A rare public disagreement between China and its own state-run media sparks concern.

The media reported key government ministries were forbidden from using Microsoft's new Windows 2000, partly for security reasons, but also to support China's software industry.





China's Ministry of Information Industry used its Web site to deny the story.

"Our department has never made such a decision, much less raised such a request," the Information Products Department said.

China's spokeswoman for Microsoft also denies the story. Yet the report is unlikely to die, thanks to China's alleged record of trying to thwart foreign companies' competition.

Compiled by Tami Olsen

Bellingham Weather

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			
Chance of rain later in the day, high 40, low 30.	Few showers, high 38, low 30.	Mostly cloudy, highs 39, lows 32.	Not so sunny, highs 42, lows 33.

The Western Front Online

Read the news or the puppy gets it!

<http://westernfront.wvu.edu>

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/7287, or brought in person to Commissary 113A. DO NOT SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE WESTERN FRONT. Phoned announcements will not be accepted. All announcements should be signed by originator.

PLEASE POST

2000-2001 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE scholarship brochures are available to students, faculty and staff. Updated scholarship information also may be found at <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~scholar>. To request copies, call X/3471 or stop by OM 260.

MATH PLACEMENT TEST: In OM 120 at 3 p.m. Mondays on Jan. 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14, 28, and March 6 and 13 and 9 a.m. Thursdays on Jan. 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, and March, 2, 9 and 16. Registration not required. Photo identification and No. 2 pencil required; \$10 fee payable in exact amount at testing time. Sample problems: <http://www.washington.edu/oea/apt.htm>.

TEST FOR ENTRANCE INTO TEACHER EDUCATION (TETEP): 2 p.m. in FR 3 on Jan. 14 and March 3 and in FR 2 at 2 p.m. Feb. 17. A \$25 fee must be paid in exact amount at time of required registration in OM 120. Not administered individually. Admission deadline: Jan. 31 for spring quarter and April 30 for fall quarter.

MILLER ANALOGY TEST: 2 p.m. in FR 3 on Feb. 18 and March 24. Registration is required in OM 120 or by calling X/3080. Not administered individually. A \$35 fee is payable at time of testing. Test takes about 1 1/2 hours.

ARK AND WINIFRED CHIN EARLY LITERACY SCHOLARSHIP eligibility is open to juniors, seniors or graduate students majoring in education or a related field. Priority deadline is March 31. Recipients will have the opportunity to implement a preliteracy project at Lummi Head Start. Applications are available in OM 275B or call X/7542.

WINTER QUARTER GROUP OFFERINGS at the Counseling Center include "Art Therapy," 3-5 p.m. starting Jan. 12; "Eliminating Your Self-Defeating Behavior," 3-5 p.m. starting Jan. 11, pregroup interview required; "Grief and Loss," 3-4:30 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 24; "Math Frustration Workshops," 2-4 p.m. Thursdays, first workshop is Jan. 20 and 27 and the second is Feb. 3 and 10; "Relaxation Training," drop-in group, 4 p.m. Thursdays starting Jan. 13; and "Take Back Your Body" drop-in group, 1 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Jan. 18. For more information or to register, call X/3164 or stop by OM 540.

STORMY WEATHER? NEED YEAR 2000 INFORMATION? Call 650-6500, after 6:30 a.m. Or tune to KGMI (790 AM), KARI (550 AM), KPUG (1170 AM), KWPZ (106.5), KUGS (89.3), or KAFÉ (104.3 FM). Western's decision to remain open or closed will be broadcast starting between 6:15 and 6:30 a.m.

INFORMATION REGARDING NATIONAL TESTING is available at the Testing Center, OM 120.

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOPS ARE OFFERED through the Career Services Center, OM 280. Among the workshops offered are "Successful Job Search Strategies," "Résumé Writing," "Cover Letters," "Interview Techniques," "Mock Interviews," "Developing an Internship," and several workshops for teachers. For more information, stop by OM 280 or call X/3240.

The Western Front is published twice weekly in fall, winter and spring; once a week in summer session. Address: The Western Front, Western Washington University, CH 110, Bellingham, WA 98225-9100. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University, published by the Student Publications Council, and is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection with advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are enrolled in a course in the Department of Journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

Advertising inquiries should be directed to the business office in 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.

Online professor-evaluation plan proposed

Victor Cox hopes site will help students during class registration

By Laura Mecca
THE WESTERN FRONT

Associated Students President Victor Cox proposed a plan for online professor evaluations to the faculty senate Monday.

Separate from the current in-class evaluations, the Web site will allow students to evaluate their professors online and make the results public.

"I believe this project is important because it will build community on campus and create a sense of holding our professors accountable," Cox said.

The Web site is designed to average quantitative data — it will not include written comments. The site will have a list of questions with pull-down menus displaying evaluations of excellent, good, fair and poor. Each choice is assigned a number value. The numbers are

averaged and results are displayed in pie chart or bar graph form.

The proposed site would be tied to the AS home page, Cox said. He said his goal is to make the evaluations a part of the Banner system so students can view them while registering.

Cox and four other students designed the program to help students match their learning styles with the learning techniques of professors.

The faculty senate voiced concerns about the relevancy of the questions on the evaluation form.

Associate history professor Kathleen Kennedy said more questions that pertain to the course and the professor's teaching style — instead of general questions alluding to whether or not the student liked the professor — would be in order.

"It is really important for students to get access to informa-



Victor Cox presents his plan for online professor evaluations at a faculty senate meeting. Dan Peters/The Western Front

tion about the class and how it is taught," Fairhaven professor Kathryn Anderson said.

The plan for the online evaluation site does not require faculty senate approval. Cox proposed the idea to the senate to receive feedback from faculty.

"We've already got the skeleton," Cox said. "We would like the senate's help in writing the questions."

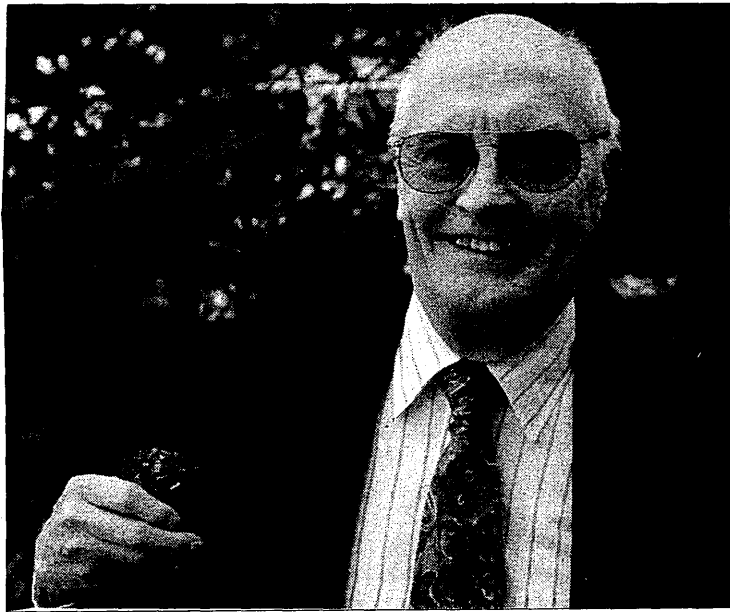
Cox said the evaluation Web site will be working by the end of winter quarter.

Cox stressed the importance

of the Web site making professors' evaluations public.

The Web site will give students whose professors do not hand out evaluations an opportunity to give their input on the course and the professor to other students, Cox said.

Monahan remains active in Canadian-American Studies program



Chris Fuller/The Western Front
Robert Monahan proudly displays his 1999 Donner Medal.

CAN-AM, from page 1

west of the Mississippi River."

Monahan said earning his Ph.D. at McGill University in Toronto sparked his interest in Canadian studies.

"It (the Canadian-American Studies program) is one place where Western distinguished itself," Monahan said.

"Western (has) one of the most active programs in the United States," he said.

About 75 colleges nationwide have something to do with Canadian-American Studies ranging from individual courses to formal programs.

The Canadian-American Studies program involves research programs such as environmental studies, criminology, politics and women's issues in

Canada.

Monahan said one thing he thinks is significant about Canada is its role as a peacekeeping nation.

Every six months, peacekeepers are trained at the National Peacekeeping Center, he said.

"It's a great way to use military personnel to keep peace, not wage war," he said.

Monahan retired in 1993 but still serves as a consultant for the Canadian-American Studies program.

He is also professor emeritus of geography and environmental social sciences.

"Winning the Donner Medal is a tribute to his excellent work in building the Canadian-American Studies Center at Western (for the past) 25 years," Alper said.

STRANGE DAYS

The Arkansas Department of Motor Vehicles issued hundreds of license plates with the letters "DWT" to residents in a dry county. The department said the letter combination, which sometimes abbreviates "Driving While Intoxicated," was assigned to it completely by coincidence. Banned three-letter combinations include PIG, DAM, FAT and SEX.

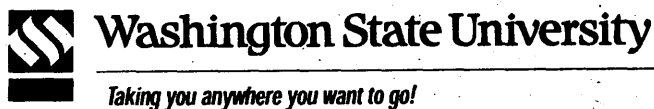
The city of Warsaw, Poland, leased 28 public restrooms to private companies with the expectation that the companies would renovate and maintain the bathrooms. The companies found more lucrative ventures for these lavatories. Many were used as small shops, taverns and even a veterinary clinic.

Compiled by Gabe Joseph

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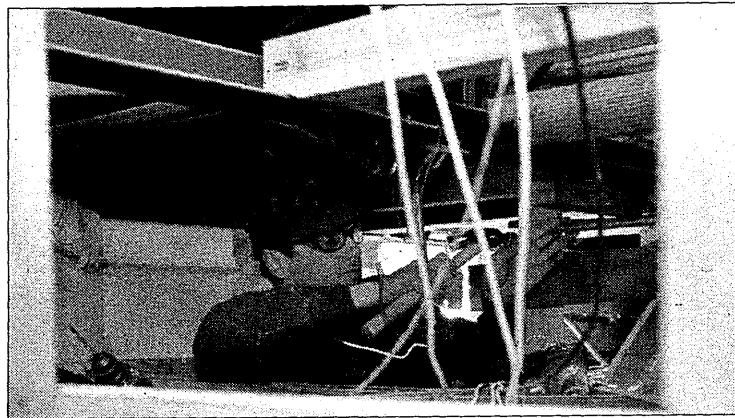
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Miller coffee shop to be closed during winter quarter for makeover



Chris Fuller/The Western Front
Electrician Craig Thomas fits a pipe in the ceiling of the Miller Hall Coffee Shop as part of the new fire alarm system.

MILLER HALL, from page 1

University Dining Services. In a past contract, Marriott pledged \$40,000 per year for food "extras," such as yogurt machines. Western saved remaining for renovations. Sodexo-Marriott has also pledged \$150,000 in equipment costs. "We value the partnership we have with the school," Yamashita said. "They provide the place so we can provide the service." Sodexo-Marriott has been looking out for its investment for some time.

The renovation for the coffee shop has been in the works for 10 years, Yamashita said. The Miller Hall Coffee Shop is slated for completion before renovations begin on the Viking Addition. The renovated coffee shop will provide a central, high-volume food service area that will be up and running to alleviate demand on the Viking Additions. The Viking Addition will be closed later this school year for renovations, which will increase demand for the Miller eatery.

Lippi-Green claims lack of support in suit

LIPPI-GREEN, from page 1

"There was no effort by Western (to begin talks)," he said. Since Dec. 21, the date Lippi-Green filed the lawsuit, English Department Chair John Purdy, English professor Bill Smith and the university have been served with notices of appearance, Butler said. Along with six other current and former Western faculty named in the lawsuit, they will have 20 days to admit or deny the claims against



Rosina Lippi-Green

them. After all defendants have responded to the lawsuit, a discovery period will allow both sides to ask questions about the basis of all claims in the lawsuit. If a settlement is still not reached, the lawsuit will go to trial, Bohlke said. In the tort claim, Lippi-Green said the lack of support from the English department showed that the professors believe she is not qualified to teach and was retaliation for her lack of support for the new department chair.

Project Kaleidoscope created to advise Morse about diversity

DIVERSITY, from page 1

Freshmen Lupe Perez and Lisa King are two of the 20 incoming students awarded an MAP scholarship this fall. King worked this summer with the community, trying to create ways to increase diversity in Bellingham. Perez has been an activist in diversity throughout high school and hopes to continue. "Right now I am really busy with school and I am on the track team, but by next year I know I will be an activist," Perez said. Perez said she thinks Western has become more diverse in past years but always sees room

for improvement. In 1997, the Board of Trustees reaffirmed Western's commitment to diversity. "We want to create an environment where everyone is welcome," Copetas said. "I see a lot of different nationalities on campus, I like how no one cares what race you are here," Perez said. "I'd like to see more diversity," King said. "I'm new here. If I knew of any ways to help I would." Western has been trying different ways to achieve its objective. The recent formation of Project Kaleidoscope is one of these ways. It is made up of stu-

dents and staff to advise Western President Karen Morse on diversity. Two grants were Identity was developed to look in-depth at the relationship between language and ethnic identity. This fall 14.25 percent of the applicant pool and 13 percent of the entire student body are students of color. This is the largest in university history. According to a press release on Dec. 22, Copetas said, "Western's admissions standards and application review process are the same as (they have) been for years; we just happen to be riding a good wave. However, like all of our peers in the state, we have increased outreach efforts to welcome and encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds." also awarded to faculty projects that infuse diversity in the curriculum. This fall a new freshman interest group called The Politics of Language and Ethnic

"We want to create an environment where everyone is welcome."

Karen Copetas
Director of Admissions

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ANN YOW: A FOCUS ON LIFE

By Kasey Halmagyi
THE WESTERN FRONT

Coupling words and pictures in the most powerful way is a skill Ann Yow of the journalism department calls visual literacy.

"Visual literacy is how I identify myself in the department," Yow explains. "The importance of being visually literate is in identifying when a story will benefit from a visual treatment and making those two components, words and pictures, best complement each other."

This Friday, an exhibit featuring the work of Yow's fall quarter photojournalism class opens. The exhibit, "A Day in the Life of Bellingham," is patterned after a series of coffee table books in which photographers attempt to capture what a day in the life of a certain country is like.

When 15 students were presented with this as an option for a final project, they showed enthusiasm about tackling what a day in the life of this community is really like, Yow said. The chosen day was split into five time zones. Three people were assigned to each zone, documenting different areas of the community, such as business and school.

Commenting on Yow's contribution to the exhibit, Kari McGinnis, a student in the class and current Klipsun editor,

said, "She is an asset to us. She has faith in us. She inspires us. She believes in us."

When Yow began looking at the photographs, she said she realized they were exhibit-quality work.

Grants from the Academic Enrichment Fund of the Office of the Provost, and the journalism department funded the exhibit, which will show Jan. 14-29 at the Blue Horse Gallery in downtown Bellingham.

"Ann has brought a strong sense of professionalism and a real dedication to students," said Floyd McKay, chair of the journalism department. "This photo display at the gallery is a good example of her dedication to photojournalism."

Yow, a photojournalist whose photographs have been published in Time, National Geographic and Wired, has contributed experience in photography and journalism to numerous classes and student publications.

Yow received her undergraduate degree in magazine writing and intended to continue her education in that direction. When she spoke with a neighbor who worked as a staff photographer for the Athens Daily Gazette in Georgia, she began to consider photography in graduate school. She graduated from the University of Missouri with a masters in photojournalism in 1978.

In 1992, Yow began teaching in Western's journalism department.



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Ann Yow of the journalism department at Western plays an active role in giving students a different perspective on journalism.

In her years at Western Yow has taught a variety of classes including photojournalism, several photography classes at Fairhaven and Borderlands, Western's Canadian publication. For the first time in her career at Western, Yow is also teaching Introduction to Mass Media this quarter.

Yow has served as the advisor to Klipsun, Western's magazine, for several quarters.

"It (Klipsun) incorporates everything I love about journalism, words and pictures," Yow said. "It's wonderful to work with people getting turned on to feature writing."

Yow also designed and taught a class

about photojournalism's impact on social change during the past 100 years. The class detailed the way in which photographs affect child labor laws, living conditions for immigrants, civil rights, the women's movement and the anti-war movement.

"All of those social movements have really been propelled by photographs," Yow said.

The best part of teaching, Yow explained lies within her interactions with students.

"I have students who really want to partake in what I can deliver. They come to me as a teacher and they really want to learn what I have to teach," she said.

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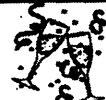
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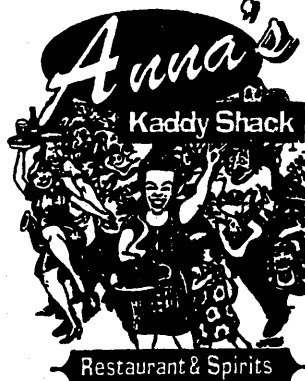
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Search & Rescue

Search dogs — extraordinary pets trained to save lives in Whatcom County area

By Jill McEvoy
THE WESTERN FRONT

The mountain conditions were unpredictable — snow packed five feet deep in some areas and sheets of ice covering steep slopes like glaciers. For Briggs, the icy slopes were treacherous as he clung to the mountain by his toenails. He waited for reassuring words from his handler, who was clinging to the icy slopes below, then cautiously moved into Mike Rusling's waiting arms.

Hours later, the search for missing snowboarders on Mount Baker ended, and Rusling and Briggs were happy they had made it down the mountain safely.

"The icy conditions are the most dangerous," said Rusling, a local EMT who volunteers with Bellingham Mountain Rescue and Whatcom County Search and Rescue. "Briggs' trust is very important ... he knows I won't get him in a bad situation."

Rusling and Briggs are one of three canine units utilized in local searches and rescues. The teams are called most often to search for missing hikers,

drowning victims, skiers and snowboarders, occasionally joining searches for lost children and elderly people.

Three-year-old Briggs, a purebred black lab was trained in search and rescue for a year before being deployed on an

"(The dogs) howl, cry and whine in the car on the way because of their sense of urgency. They want to get out there and move."

Mike Rusling
Rescue volunteer

actual mission, Rusling said.

Rusling has owned Briggs since he was 8-weeks old, and the two have formed a strong bond.

"Our relationship has to be strong," Rusling said. "We have an extremely tight, deliberate bond — there's more attachment between us (than a normal pet relationship)."

In the past two years, Briggs has participated in searches in many different terrains, from mountains and forests to urban

areas. He rides snowmobiles and chair lifts, and at the end of January will brave the skies while training on Navy helicopters.

"On the snowmobile, he sat between the driver and me and just stuck his head out to the side, saying 'Let's go,'" Rusling said of his partner and best friend. "He's so full of energy ... he loves to walk and train."

Rusling, a third-year search and rescue volunteer, said search and rescue dogs, like their handlers, have a sense of urgency when a call comes in and the search begins.

"(The dogs) howl, cry and whine in the car on the way because of their sense of urgency," Rusling said. "They want to get out there and move."

One of the most important parts of a search and rescue for the dogs is closure, even if a victim is not found, Rusling said.

"If we can't find someone, we let the dogs search for something else, such as an article of clothing, and then reward them when they find it," he said. "(Briggs searches for things) to please himself and to please me, so closure is very important."

Mountain Rescue volunteer Rory Scribner, who owns two dogs involved in the search and rescue program, also finds closure is essential for the dogs.

"(If lost people) are found without the dogs, I want to get the dogs back to base camp right away and let them meet the lost people," Scribner said.

Scribner has volunteered with Mountain Rescue for four-and-a-half years, spending four of those years working with her 6-year-old German shepherd Tesa.

"She's an in-your-face dog," Scribner said. "When she finds something, she'll come running from a distance and body slam me to tell me about it."

Along with working in the mountains and forests, Tesa also helps in water searches. When she finds a scent in the water, she'll dive overboard and circle the area, swimming with excitement, Scribner said.

"(Tesa) goes wherever she's asked," Scribner said. "The trust between the dog and handler is the most important thing. She knows I would never sacrifice her on a mission."

Scribner also has a 2-year-old husky mix, Claudia, who is one of several dogs in search and rescue training.

During the winter and fall, the canine units train every few weekends, while during the warmer months of spring and summer, they train every weekend.

"The harder we train, the easier it is to read the (dogs' actions) in the field," Rusling



Rory Scribner of Bellingham Mountain Rescue plays with an dog during search and rescue training at Silver Lake Park north of

said. "We train in different terrain and learn the best ways to read and deploy the dogs."

Each dog trains and is rewarded differently for its efforts.

Briggs works for food and praise, and even takes his treat out of Rusling's closed lips after a successful exercise.

Fellow search and rescue volunteer Abby Gorham's 12-year-old yellow lab, Bailey, prefers her bumper — a toy she retrieves after exercises and searches.

"(Bailey) only plays with it when she's working," said Gorham, a long-time search and

rescue volunteer in Washington and Alaska. "We use the treats the dogs like best."

Trained to search in disaster situations, Bailey barks when she finds something, Gorham said.

"Her natural instinct is to come back and hang around you," Gorham added. "And she won't leave you alone."

Bailey's most recent successful search and rescue involved an elderly Alzheimer's patient, who wandered away from his rest home, Gorham said. Bailey found the man in a nearby park during the night.

When they're not training or



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Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Tesa, a German shepherd, rests after a day of rescue training.

Bow-wow to the Master

Dog trainer has a special connection with pupils

By Kristin Bigsby
THE WESTERN FRONT

In the summer of 1989, Jeanne Laverdier was in her early 40s and committed to her job as a search-and-rescue-dog trainer in Fairbanks, Alaska. It was sweltering the day state troopers gathered the local search team for a challenge that federal investigators didn't believe the group could meet. The FBI gave them odds of a million-to-one to find the body of a woman who was believed murdered by her husband in 1980.

"Search is the ultimate mystery novel," Laverdier said. "Somebody disappears, and you have to figure out why and where. You have to figure out what their frame of mind was, what's their skill level, and if they were frightened. And the dog can tell you a lot - if you know how to listen."

Laverdier's dogs led the way into the remote wilderness. She watched their nostrils flare as they picked up the faint scent of death. She was oblivious to all time and space, listening to what the dogs had to say and watching the muscles in each body tense as the scent grew stronger. Laverdier sometimes put her compass on a dog's back and watched for consistency in direction.

It took six hours to track down the missing body.

Their find was evidence enough to sentence the man for 76 years.

Today, Laverdier is a member of the Bellingham Mountain Rescue team. She has taught canine obedience and tracking for more than 30 years.

Laverdier began her career working with dogs in the early 1960s, with aspirations of becoming a veterinarian.

During that time, society was still adjusting to the idea of women in business, and she was turned away.

She ended up at Eastern Michigan University with a

degree in education, and went on to teach high school biology.

Laverdier's training as a teacher came in handy when she began instructing obedience classes and participating in competitions with her own dogs in the late 1960s.

"I dragged my first dog to obedience class about 1968," she said. "That German shepherd was a problem child. She'd been in three homes and no one could handle her. Waffin could take apart a piece of furniture faster than anything on this earth. She was the dog that got me into competitive dog training and taught me more about it than any human ever thought possible."

Laverdier started out in school believing behavior was instinctive, that dogs weren't capable of emotion or reasoning. It became clear to her after spending time with the animals that a dog's behavior is conscious. She drove this idea like steel into the minds of future handlers.

"Just because they can't speak doesn't mean they don't understand," she said.

"Their body, their eyes, their behavior is their language," Laverdier said.

"They can take something I taught them and apply it to a totally new situation and end up with the right answer. The only way they can do that is if there's some thought process going on up there," she said.

Laverdier, 53, has no children other than Greta and Kate - two giant female schnauzers she speaks to with a calm admiration.

She bends the rules for her furry children and allows them to stand on the furniture in her Lynden home to observe the neighborhood scene.

"They have to know what's going on at all times and be able to let me know," she said. "That's what I've trained them to do."

Laverdier was living in Fairbanks in the late 1970s



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Jeanne Laverdier, a master dog trainer, holds back Kate, her giant schnauzer.

when she first developed her skills as a tracker.

"It would occasionally happen in town that we'd have an Alzheimer patient walk away from the nursing home," she said. "Waffin and I would sniff the bedding and then off we'd go. So I backed into search and rescue slowly and steadily."

Laverdier soon became involved with a search and rescue canine team 350 miles away in Anchorage, Alaska. She drove every other weekend to attend training.

Waffin was getting older and Laverdier acquired her first giant schnauzer, Haida.

"I taught Haida a lot about tracking by borrowing my nieces and nephews and losing them," she said. "Search is a game. It's fun for the dogs. Almost all search dogs have in common a strong drive to hunt."

Seattle was the next destination for Laverdier's further search experience. She had a friend in the business and Washington state soon became her home.

"I've spent a great deal of time training dogs," she said. "The best tracking dog in the world is worthless if its owner doesn't know what he's doing. The dogs I'm training now are good, because the owners have really learned, above and beyond, how to listen."

Effective obedience involves consistency and fairness, she said. Training is about forming

a relationship with a dog, and is just as much a learning experience for the handler.

Laverdier's colleagues can verify that she is a valuable team player.

Mike Rusling, who's been a member of the Bellingham Mountain Rescue Council for three years, believes Laverdier has an extreme sense of performance.

"Jeanne, oh man, she's got a lot of experience," Rusling said. "She's proven herself right, again and again, in the field. Her perspective is never doubted."

"She has a partnership with her dogs," colleague Abby Gorham said. "She's almost famous for her teaching."

"My husband and I met Jeanne four years ago, and she was devoted to teaching us to train ourselves to train our dogs," Bellingham Search and Rescue member Rory Scribner said. "She's really been invaluable in helping people get started in helping put together a team for Whatcom County."

While Laverdier is respected for her experience in canine search and rescue, she maintains that search is a team effort, and no one should be singled out as the hero.

"I've seen everything you can imagine," she said. "I've been on many adventures. But I couldn't do it without a team, not without my dogs."

le



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front
Genetic Claudia, a husky mutt, in the Falls Sunday afternoon.

searching for missing people these search-and-rescue dogs are ordinary pets, lounging around the house all day and sleeping next to, and sometimes in, the bed with their owners.

"They're spoiled rotten," Scribner said with a laugh. "You have to let them do what they want (at home and in the field)."

The handler has to be in control at all times, Rusling added.

"A dog can do what the handler believes it can do," Scribner said. "You give them the training and they'll do it because they trust you."



Chris Goodenow/The Western Front

Laverdier and Kate share a precious moment. Laverdier has been training dogs for more than 30 years.

Vikes sink Central in OT

By Joseph Wiederhold
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's men's basketball team defeated archrival Central 102-92 in an overtime victory Saturday night at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

Led by brothers Jared and Jacob Stevenson, who had career highs of 31 and 29 points respectively, the Vikings came back from a 19-point deficit with 14 minutes left in the game to tie at 87, sending it into overtime.

"The last 10 minutes the guys really showed their true character."

Brad Jackson
Head Coach

The win snapped an eight-game losing streak against Central dating back to 1996.

"It's the first win since I've been here against Central," guard Jared Stevenson said.

"We always thought we could play with them," Jared Stevenson said. "Three-quarters of the game we played like we have in the past and then stepped it up."

Despite shooting only 29 percent from the field in the first half, Western started the second half down by only eight after Jacob Stevenson hit a shot at the halftime buzzer.

Central's Corby Schuh made four 3-pointers in five minutes

to start the second half. Western called a timeout with 15:04 left in the second half. Frustration set in as A.J. Giesa committed a technical foul and Central climbed to a 66-47 lead.

Western chipped away at the lead, aided by four 3-pointers from the Stevenson brothers, to tie the game with 6:23 left.

With 29 seconds left in regulation, the Vikings found themselves down by five points. Jared Stevenson hit a 3-pointer and Giesa forced a jump ball, giving Western possession with 17 seconds left.

Jacob Stevenson made a layup and forced the overtime.

In overtime, Western outscored Central 15-5, led by Jared Stevenson's nine points.

The Vikings extended their lead down the stretch, shooting foul shots to eventually push the score over 100 — the first-ever 100-point game against Central.

Guard Jacob Stevenson had six assists, eight steals and was perfect from the free throw line (10-10) to lead the team in all categories.

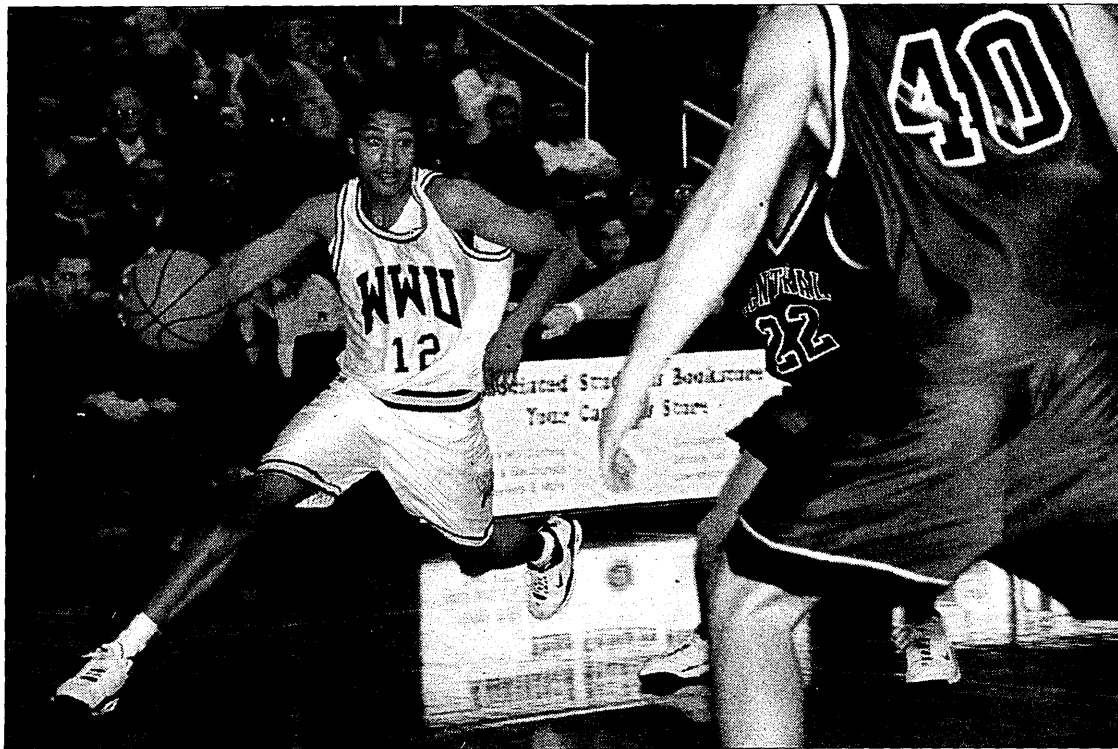
Center Brian "Yogi" Dennis led the team in rebounding with 11 and had two blocked shots.

Forward Ryan Kettman had eight points, eight rebounds, a blocked shot and a steal.

Guard Shelton Diggs had 12 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals. Giesa had eight points and five rebounds.

Western head coach Brad Jackson said he was proud of the way his team played.

"The last 10 minutes the guys really showed their true charac-



Photos by Matt Anderson/The Western Front

Shelton Diggs looks to drive between two Central defenders.

ter," he said. "We played with great intensity on defense and came up big offensively."

The Vikings played in front of a capacity crowd of 3,000, the largest crowd at Carver Gym since the 1993-94 season. Roughly 400 fans were turned away at the door.

"The crowd tonight was unbelievable," he said. "When our crowd is like that, it's worth at least 10 points. It was probably one of the most exciting games ever played in that gym."

The victory put the No. 18 Vikings into first place in the PacWest Conference West Division with a 3-0 record. Central, the No. 9 team,

dropped to 2-1 in the West.

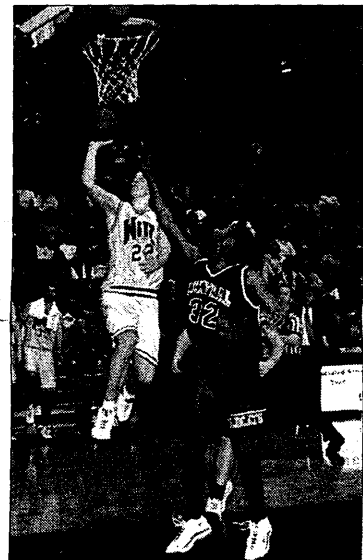
"I think this was really big for our players and will really help with our confidence," Jackson said.

Jared Stevenson had six 3-pointers and shot 55 percent from behind the 3-point line.

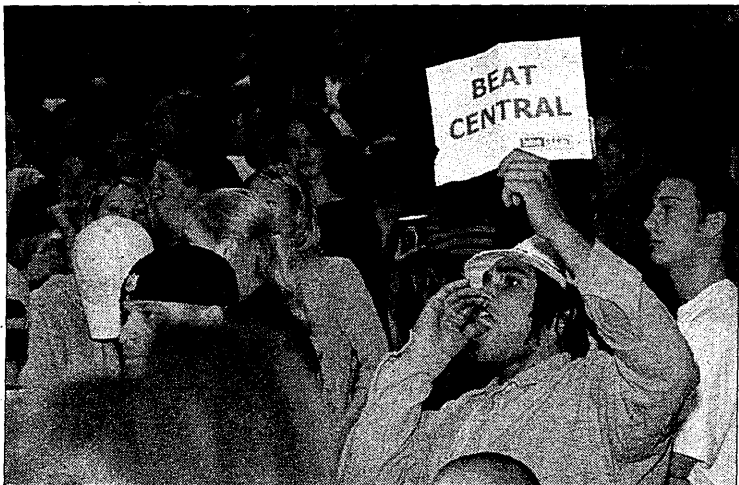
"He played awesome," Jacob Stevenson said. "It seems like he always comes up big against Central. It's nice. It's a good win for him."

"I think we're gonna have a great season this year," Jacob Stevenson added. "We've beat some of the better teams in the nation."

Western plays St. Martin's at 7 p.m. Thursday in Carver Gym.



Jacob Stevenson puts up a shot.



Rowdy Western fans loudly cheer the Vikings to a 102-92 overtime victory over Central.

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Western routs Seattle U., improves record to 11-1

By Kelly Cudworth
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western's women's starters scored double figures in Seattle clinching an 86-68 victory over Seattle University Saturday during a non-conference basketball game.

Leading 17-16 in the second quarter, Western outscored the Redhawks 23-8, giving the Vikings a 40-24 halftime lead.

Guard Amanda Olsen led all scorers with 16 points. Forward Celeste Hill chipped in with 14 points, 6 rebounds and 5 blocked shots.

Briana Abrahamsen, Lisa Berendsen and Sara Nichols combined to score 33 points. Overall the Vikings shot 50 percent from the field making 31 of 62 shots.

With the help of outside shooters and strong defense, the Vikings turned the game around

in the second quarter.

"They (Seattle) buckled down on defense, and came out double-teaming in the post, so we kicked the ball out to our shooters who helped a lot," Olsen said. "Our defensive stops picked up our running game."

Coach Carmen Dolfo said if the Vikings win this weekend they will be in first place, putting them in a good position to host this year's playoffs.

"We have a lot to do and concentrate on this week," Dolfo said.

"Now it's time to turn it on," Olsen said. "We need to focus on winning in Anchorage."

With a record of 11-1, the Vikings are ranked No. 15 in this week's NCAA Division II Poll and No. 1 in the West Region.

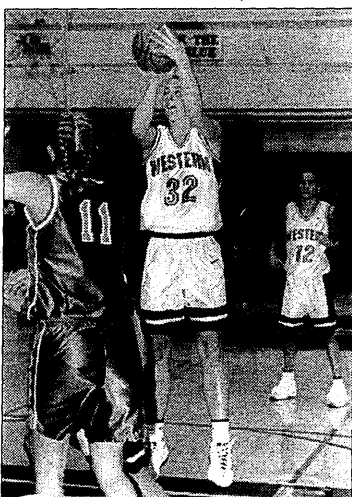
The Vikings next travel to play the University of Alaska Anchorage at 7 p.m. Thursday.

All-Century team named

By Meghan Pattee
THE WESTERN FRONT

Four members of Western's women's basketball team were named to the All-Century women's basketball team.

The Sports Information Office



Photos courtesy of Sports Information Office
Forward Celeste Hill

chose head coach Carmen Dolfo, assistant coach Gina Sampson, senior center Celeste Hill and senior guard Amanda Olsen in celebration of Western's 100th anniversary.

The office chose the team based on honors received during athletes' careers, season and career statistics, and success of the teams.

"We also spoke with coaches and former athletes," Sports Information director Paul Madison said. "We tried to look at athletes as to how they compared with other athletes of their time."

"Women's sports didn't get started until the last quarter of the century," Madison said. "It's difficult because you're comparing apples and oranges."

More opportunities, such as access to the weight room, make the women's game different when compared with 20 years ago, Madison said.

Dolfo played her first two sea-

sons at Biola University and the last two at Western, where she was a second-team NAIA All-American in 1986. Dolfo is the only Western selection to make it to nationals as a head coach, assistant coach and player.

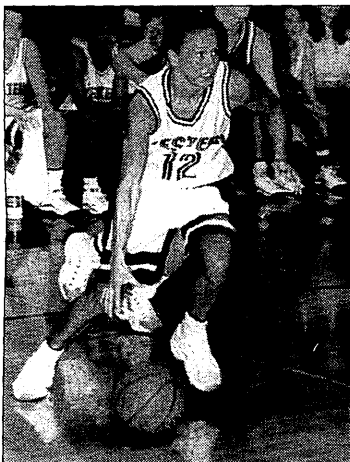
Sampson's career spanned from 1992-96. She was Western's female Athlete of the Year in 1994-95 and a first-team NAIA Division I and Kodak College Division All-American in 1995-96. She is second all-time in career points at Western.

"It's really neat, and a great group of athletes (was) selected," Sampson said. "It's an honor to be part of that group."

Hill was Western's 1998-99 female Athlete of the Year. As a sophomore, she earned third-team NAIA All-American and she ranks ninth in career points at Western.

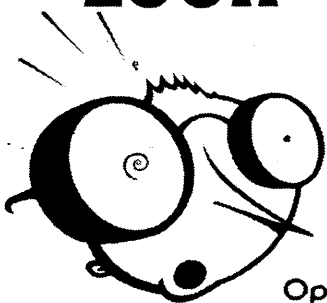
"I think it's a great honor because if you look at the people I'm on the team with, they are amazing," Hill said. "I think it's really cool to be known as one of Western's great athletes of the century."

Teammate Olsen was selected to the PacWest Conference all-star team her sophomore year and was a third-team All-American her junior year.



Guard Amanda Olsen

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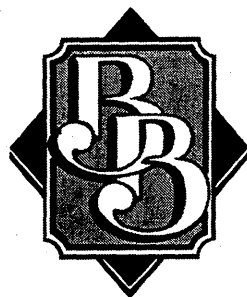
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Frontline

Republican attacks reveal questionable intentions

This week, the Republican party made a major statement about how its 2000 presidential campaign will be conducted — by firing up the hype machine early and riding a wave of controversy straight into the general election.

The GOP's frenzied attempts to cloud the campaign with bickering as soon as possible not only lessens the effectiveness of its message, it reveals the party's true motives for sounding the alarm so quickly in the first place.

The hubbub began after a recent debate, in which Vice President Al Gore stated that his appointees to the Joint Chiefs of Staff would have to agree with his stance that gays be able to serve openly in the military. He indicated this amounted to a litmus test for Joint Chiefs appointees.

After grumblings from both opponents and allies at the implication that current Joint Chiefs members Norman Schwarzkopf and Colin Powell would be precluded from their posts by the policy, Gore softened a bit, saying he would only require potential appointees to follow his orders on the issue, regardless of their personal views.

The Republican response was that of hungry dogs thrown a meaty bone to gnaw upon. The GOP immediately cranked out a TV ad attacking Gore's original statement, planned to air in Iowa, New Hampshire and a few other states later this week.

The ad features shots of working soldiers, Schwarzkopf and Powell, and ends by saying: "Call Al Gore. Tell him the only litmus test ought to be for patriotism."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who has said he would continue the Clinton administration's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, also weighed in on Gore's statement with a biting response.

"If anyone imposes a social agenda on the prospective chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — which totally politicizes the job — then they're not qualified," McCain said.

Both the GOP's ad and McCain's statement are ripe with tell-tale ambiguity representative of the conservatives' true purpose.

Surely, Gore could counter that the only test for any member of the armed forces — not just its highest-ranking officers — ought to be patriotism. It could also be argued that turning a blind eye to the issue, as Clinton has done and McCain would continue to do, imposes a social agenda on not just possible Joint Chiefs members but on the entire working body of the military.

This disparity of logic reveals what all the shouting is really about: muddling the issues with sniping attacks that make little sense.

The Republican party's knee-jerk approach isn't about whether or not to allow gays equal opportunity. It's no more than juvenile finger-pointing intended to make the party's opponents look bad for "attacking" war heroes.

Frontlines are the opinion of The Western Front editorial board: Sarah Crowley, Kristen Hawley, Alex P. Hennesy, Angela Smith, Bobby Stone, Tiffany White and Curt Woodward.

The Western Front

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Staff Photographers: Chris Fuller, Dan Peters, Craig Yantis

And we quote:

"I remember watching television and whenever a black person was shown on television, it was my job to run down the block and tell my neighbors, 'Hey there's a black person on television.'"

Kweisi Mfume, NAACP president, comparing 1950s television scheduling to last fall's after a press conference with NBC Jan. 5, www.yahoo.com



Eyman's initiatives necessary slap in the face to big government



Christian Knight

COMMENTARY

Apparently, the pre-2000 vehicle tab fees were the only revenue source holding this state together.

The tab fees met their demise through a Mukilteo watch salesman, Tim Eyman, who wrote Initiative 695, which politicians would have us believe, ended the state surplus. Eyman said the initiative was intended to encourage state politicians to handle money more efficiently and responsibly, to ask them to manage taxpayers' money with the same frugal discretion taxpayers themselves must manage their money.

Instead of focusing on identifying and eliminating inefficiencies within the state budget, politicians are shaking their fingers at Washington residents, warning that virtually every state program will now suffer the same fate the original tab fee suffered.

Moreover, in a desperate attempt to retain surplus and spending slack, governments on every level in the state began raising taxes in other categories to compensate for the void left by the tab fee.

"For the past several months politicians have acted like alcoholics going for one last 'bender,' jamming through every tax and fee humanly possible," Eyman said.

Not to be outdone, Eyman is promising another initiative sure to grind salt and vinegar into politicians' wounds: "Son of 695," or Referendum 47, which Eyman filed Jan. 7.

"Son of 695" is a measure

restricting property taxes from increasing by more than 2 percent or the current inflation rate, whichever is lower.

As the volley goes, the state government is upset, threatening that properties will no longer appreciate at a fair rate, that the tax burden will shift from rich property owners to the average taxpayer.

King County Assessor Scott Noble said when taxes are capped for members of a higher tax bracket, the responsibility invariably shifts to others.

Whether it passes is pure speculation, but one thing is for sure — Eyman and sympathizers will take a beating.

“*Eyman identified a chink in the state's armor and sought through means endowed him by the Constitution to fix the chink. ...*

While I-695 passed with a 56-percent statewide vote, the media have been especially critical. Critics who say the initiative and its "Son" are one-sided, they don't take the larger picture into account.

Eyman thought, if forced, the state government would focus on efficiency within the budget. Eyman trusted his government. Perhaps that is where Eyman went wrong — he trusted his government when it asserted, through its actions, it did not deserve to be trusted.

The government's first reaction to Eyman's initiative proposal was to resort to the "End of the World" fallacy. If the initiative passed, it said, this program and that program will be removed, these jobs and those

jobs will be cut. It resorted to a very manipulative 'scare tactic.' Never did it attempt to tighten the budget or stretch the dollar, as Eyman had hoped.

Instead, it cut these jobs and those jobs and reminded employees on their attached pink slips that Eyman was responsible for this whole mess — the voters are who you should be angry at, not the employer.

George Orwell's "Animal Farm" discusses the digression of society when the government achieves too strong of a hold, when the government is allowed to influence media and people too much. Orwell reminds us we need to keep tabs on history, because history can easily be changed and distorted.

Samuel Adams, a patriot of American history, once said, "Any government that taxes its people by more than 10 percent is a tyranny, a tyranny indeed."

In light of that seemingly idealistic concept, our current tax burden becomes very dismal.

Whether residents agree with Eyman's controversial initiative or not should have no effect on whether they agree with Eyman's principles.

Eyman identified a chink in the state's armor and sought through means endowed him by the Constitution to fix the chink, not just for him, for everyone. He reminded the state government this is a country of the people, for the people and by the people.

He gave politicians a chance to prove themselves as the public servants they proclaim to be and at the same time discredit the haunting stereotype of politicians as manipulative, out-of-touch plastic people.

Unfortunately, for Washington residents and themselves, politicians were unable to take advantage of Eyman's offer.

Major television networks should already be diverse



Siobhan Millhouse

COMMENTARY

It's a sad day when a nation as diverse as the United States must negotiate deals to increase diversity in television programming. Two of the four big networks came to an agreement recently with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to increase the number of minorities appearing on television and also employed in network executive roles.

NBC was the first to do so last Wednesday, and ABC followed with a "statement of understanding" Thursday.

Fantastic, an agreement has been found.

ABC's "statement of understanding" said the network is dedicated to joining the NAACP in "increasing the degree of diversity in the network television industry both in front of and behind the camera and attaining long-term ... solutions in the areas of hiring, promotion, pipeline development and

procurement." Why was an agreement necessary?

Diversity on network television has declined since the 1970s when programs such as *The Jeffersons* were on. Now, however, the networks struggle to find a racially diverse program. When a minority group has to resort to its own network to provide programming that appeals to it, such as the Black Entertainment Network, the

“Television networks bring their ideas into homes every night, and it is the right of the people to be equally represented.”

major networks should realize they are not serving their entire viewing audience.

The majority of viewers targeted by television advertisers are whites, raising the question — is money all that matters to network executives? Green should not be the only color driving the television industry.

The agreements will begin a process of diversifying the networks and will hopefully change some motives for programming.

Network executives need to take the initiative to diversify their programming instead of waiting for the NAACP to urge them to do so. It is the job of the networks to ensure that all groups are represented and incorporated into programs.

"NBC has come to realize that we can and must do more," NBC President Bob Wright said.

What is intriguing is the approach being taken by these networks. Their goal is to increase the number of minorities in the behind-the-scenes operations with the hope that the outcome will be more diversified programming.

"When we're not seen in front of the camera, it's just the tip of the iceberg," minority actor Blair Underwood said. "It's almost like *'The Wizard of Oz.'* When you pull back the curtain, you see it's a much bigger problem."

Television networks bring their ideas into homes every night, and it is the right of the people to be equally represented in television programming.

It is time for the public to send a message that matters by supporting advertisers and networks that encourage and display diversity.

Students punished too harshly for gun incident



Bronlea Hawkins

COMMENTARY

Dec. 10, a 13-year-old Shuksan Middle School student brought a .25-caliber handgun to school. Two others were allegedly involved. A week ago, another 13-year-old boy brought a semiautomatic pistol to Kulshan Middle School to show off to his classmates.

After being notified of the incident by Shuksan Middle School, the parents asked police to press charges against their sons. The boys have now been charged with unlawful possession of a firearm.

Unlike the Shuksan students, the Kulshan student went directly to Whatcom County Juvenile Court Thursday. If convicted, he could spend up to 30 days in juvenile detention.

The way in which each of these incidents was handled raises the question of whether the parents of the Shuksan students went over the top in punishing their children.

Understandably, the parents wanted their sons to fully understand the severity of their actions and deal with the consequences. Although this is an important lesson to learn, slapping 13-year-old children with a charge of unlawful possession of a firearm will do more harm than good.

The boys involved in the incident were immediately expelled. Even for the most rebellious

teen, expulsion is a big wake-up call. It isn't something easily overlooked or blown off.

To make matters worse, the boys have incurred the wrath of their parents. By calling the police on their children, the parents are washing their hands of the problem, turning the punishment of their children over to someone else.

Having the police press charges against their children would be an effective scare tactic if the children had a history of violent or illegal behavior. In this case, it is extreme. The sons could end up in juvenile detention, a place where they would

“By calling the police on their children, the parents are washing their hands of the problem ...”

be susceptible to influences their parents may not want them to experience.

As a more practical solution, the parents could enroll their children in firearm safety classes to properly educate them about the danger of mishandling weapons. Even guidance counselors or psychologists could advise the parents if they weren't sure what kind of action to take.

Parents risk turning their children against them by pressing charges. Expulsion should show students severe enough consequences for their actions.

When treating juvenile misconduct, parents should take the time to think about the consequences of punishments they inflict and the effect they will have on their children.

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