

FIGHT NIGHT
ROUND FIVE

CLIMBING FOR A CAUSE

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Tuesday, September 29, 2009 | Volume 148, Issue 2

THE WESTERN FRONT

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Beck's new key provokes protest

Western students openly object to controversial key ceremony in Mount Vernon

Anna Atkinson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Protesters and supporters formed a line along College Way at Skagit Valley Community College before Mount Vernon Mayor Bud Norris gave the key to the city to Fox News host Glenn Beck Saturday at McIntyre Hall.

Marc Oommen, president of the Young Democrats of Skagit County, estimated Thursday that the Young Democrats would bring approximately 200 people to the college to protest the event.

The Young Democrats more than met Oommen's estimate.

Mount Vernon Police said approximately 800 people—both supporting and protesting the event—attended the event in total.

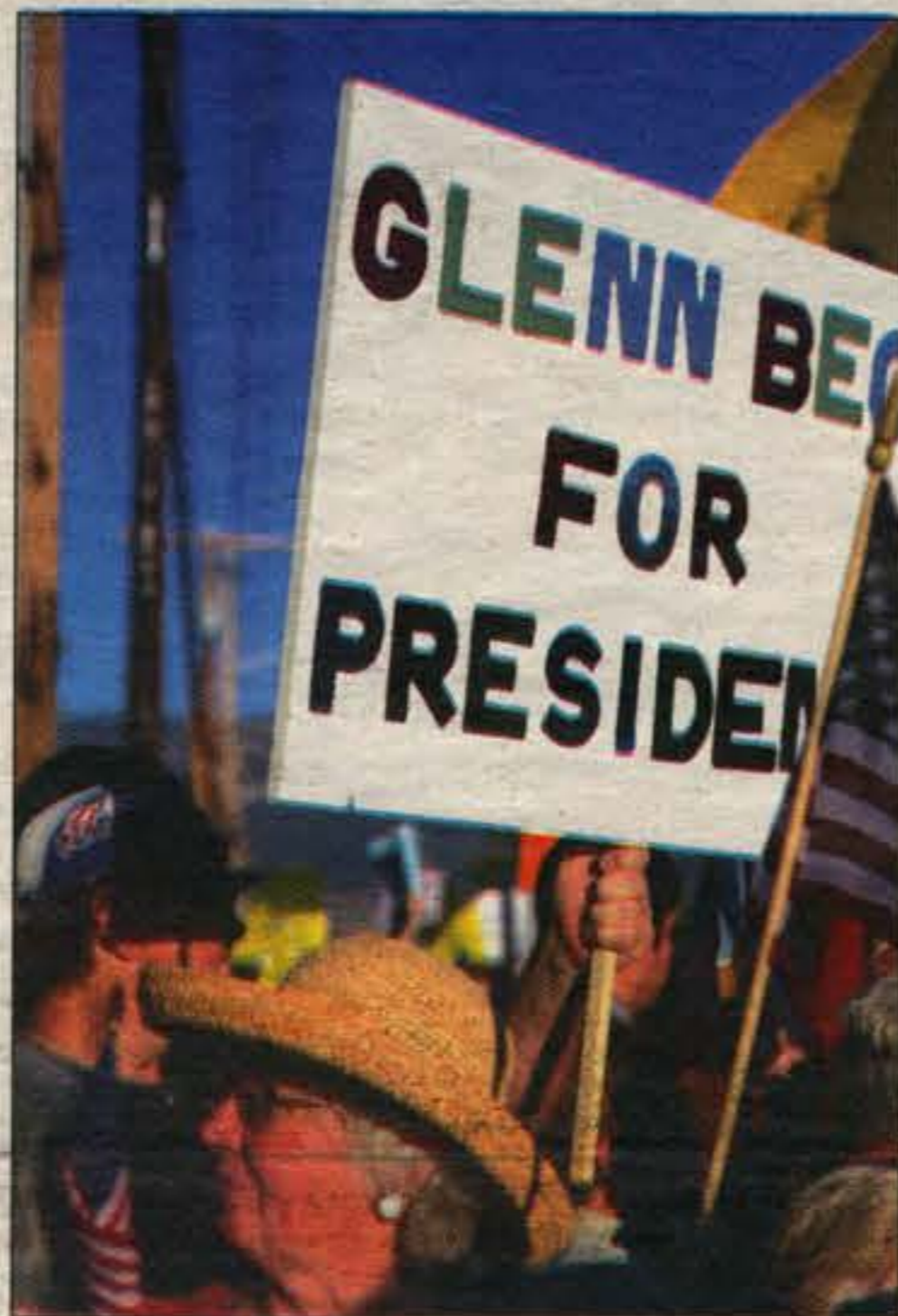
Glenn Beck supporters came out in mass numbers as well, matching the intensity of the anti-Beck demonstrators.

Oommen and his brother, Andrew Oommen, who is treasurer of the Young Democrats of Skagit County, organized the anti-Beck demonstration.

The brothers worked with a coalition of other groups including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of Snohomish County, Washington State Democrats and the Farm Workers Solidarity Committee.

A group of Western students were at the community college to protest the Mayor's decision.

"Well I'm out here because I don't



Glenn Beck supporters (left) carry signs, proposing Beck be nominated for president, Saturday outside McIntyre Hall at Skagit Valley Community College in Mount Vernon. Anti-Beck protesters (right), many of whom were Western students, line the street outside Skagit Valley Community College.



photos by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

support Glenn Beck's use of hate and fear mongering, to feed to their watchers at Fox News," Western sophomore Chris Chaturburn said. "I don't agree that Fox News is fair and balanced, like they say they are. They don't have any journalistic integrity."

Marc Oommen said the theme of the anti-Beck protest was "Hate is not a Skagit Valley Value."

"Hate is not a community value," he said. "It is not a Mount Vernon value, it's not a Skagit Valley value."

People of all ages lined both sides of the street holding colorful signs that read "Glenn Beck for President," and "Mad Key Disease in Skagit Valley."

see PROTEST page 7

Construction crams Miller faculty, staff

Ben Woodard
THE WESTERN FRONT

The inside of Miller Hall has transformed into a labyrinth of cubicles, directional signs and displaced professors. Since construction began on Miller Hall this summer, students and faculty alike have had to adapt.

Woodring College of Education faculty and staff have been ousted from their spacious, private offices and moved to first-, second- and third-floor temporary offices.

In Miller Hall room 158, an old education classroom has been partitioned off into eight cubicles, each housing a professor.

Mary Hall, program coordinator at Woodring College of Education in room 158, said the noise of all the professors working is distracting. When two professors are meeting with students and another professor is on the phone, the office gets loud. And with nothing to hold the noise down—no ceilings between offices—the noise can be irritating, she said.

The faculty and staff there have worked out systems to make their communal space more workable.

see SPACE page 7

Gregoire speaks at grand opening

Renee Davies
The Western Front

Gov. Chris Gregoire spoke Monday at the grand opening and dedication of the new 1,000-square-foot Waterfront Innovation Zone: Technology Development Center located on the Port of Bellingham's 220-acre Waterfront District.

The Technology Development Center, created through a partnership between Western Washington University, Bellingham Technical College and the Port of Bellingham, is now home to technological training, engineering development and research for both Western and the technical college.

Gregoire said through this partnership and partnerships with Washington businesses, Washington students will become more experienced and ready to enter the work force, while Washington businesses will become more competitive nationwide.

"Not only do we advance our knowl-

edge of engineering, [but] our students gain marketable experience and our companies are gaining a competitive edge," Gregoire said.

The Innovation Partnership Zone program was developed two years ago by Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature.

Bellingham's Waterfront Innovation Zone is one of 11 other similar zones statewide, Gregoire said.

Also speaking at the event were U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, Western President Bruce Shepard, Bellingham Technical College President Tom Eckert and Port of Bellingham Commission President Scott Walker.

"Our paramount goal is to build brighter futures, certainly for our students, but also for the state of Washington," Shepard said.

Look for a complete story in the Friday issue of The Western Front.



photo by Max Willbert THE WESTERN FRONT

Gov. Chris Gregoire speaks to Bellingham community members Monday afternoon at the new Technology Development Center located in the Waterfront Innovation Zone, also known as the former Georgia-Pacific site.



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Students dance as the United State of Electronica performs in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room Saturday night. Throughout the show, U.S.E emphasized that Western students were one of their favorite crowds.

Cops Box

University Police

Sept. 25

- Officers responded to a report of a vial, possibly containing drugs, found in the Regional Archives Building.

Sept. 26

- Officers responded to report of people slacklining on the South College median. The subjects were gone upon the arrival of police.

Sept. 26

- Officers picked up confiscated marijuana from Buchanan Towers.

Bellingham Police

Sept. 27

- Officers responded to a man hit by a bus. The 41-year-old had stopped traffic on Holly Street before being hit. He suffered minor injuries and was cited for disorderly conduct.

Sept. 27

- A man reported being robbed at gunpoint between Racine Street and St. Paul Street. The suspect was arrested for Robbery of the first degree.

Cops Box compiled by Sakeus Bankson

TEST YOUR WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE

Which of the following was never an official name for Western?

- A. New Whatcom Normal School
- B. Bellingham Normal School
- C. Western College of Education
- D. Western Washington State College

If a scud missile were to strike, which of the following buildings would be least damaged?

- A. Buchanan Towers
- B. Carver Gym
- C. Haggard Hall
- D. Viking Union

ANSWERS ONLINE

www.westernfrontonline.net

SOURCE: Normal College Knowledge
Charles J. Flora

Flu shots available for students during October

The first flu shot vaccination for students, faculty, staff and family members became available on Sept. 25 at the Campus Services building lobby.

Flu shots cost \$18 with the purchase of a ticket from the cashier's office in Old Main 245, which must be kept in order to receive a vaccination.

There are two more opportunities to purchase on-campus flu shot: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 7, and 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 12. The location of flu shot vaccinations is still to be determined.

For more information visit the Student Health Center web site or call 650-6608.

Speaker series will host Afghan activist Sept. 30

Western's Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies will sponsor the first of eight public forums from noon to 1:20 p.m.

The World Issues Forums will include Malalai Joya, an Afghan woman elected to Afghanistan's National Assembly.

Joya, a women's activist in Afghanistan, will give an account of her past by using her book to give examples of her struggles as an activist.

The book is titled, "A Woman Among Warlords: The Extraordinary Story of

the Afghan Woman Who Dares to Speak Out."

These forums will include topics on international criminal justice, Haiti and international aid and the globalization of the Dominican Republic.

The forums are free and open to the public.

They will continue every Wednesday until Nov. 8.

For more information about the events and speakers visit the Fairhaven College Web site.

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State to survey Bellingham bike, pedestrian traffic

Katherine Garvey
THE WESTERN FRONT

Volunteers in Bellingham will monitor pedestrian and bicycle traffic at intersections throughout the city beginning Oct. 1 for a statewide survey.

Results of the Washington State Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project will help the city measure demand for new bicycle and pedestrian facilities and observe the benefits of existing ones, said Kim Brown, transportation options coordinator at Bellingham's Public Works.

"The state has goals for increasing the number of people walking, riding or taking the bus rather than driving," said Carol Berry, program manager at Western's Sustainable Transportation Office. "We can't know we're making the goals unless we take counts."

The Cascade Bicycle Club, under contract by the Washington State Department of Transportation, collected volunteers to take counts in 25 cities across the state. Last year's count was the first.

Along with Bothell and Ellensburg, Bellingham had the largest volume of bicyclists, according to the final report of the 2008 count. The downtown intersection of Railroad Avenue and Holly Street showed the highest number of bicyclists and pedestrians of the six locations.

Lately, Berry said she has noticed Western students making up a larger portion of this biking community.

"There are more people coming in [to the Outdoor Center] and asking where to get cheap bikes," said Western senior Devin Lee, who works at the Outdoor Center. "There's a lot of renewed interest."

Students move to Bellingham without a car, so they need another mode of transportation and turn to bikes, Lee said.

In 2007, the League of American Bicyclists, a national coalition of bicyclists and bicycling organizations, designated Bellingham a bike-friendly community based on the city's facilities and education



photo by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham resident Jill Morgan, 20, uses the tools outside Kulshan Cycles downtown to fix a flat tire on Monday. Morgan said she rides a bike every day to her job at the Prospect Street Cafe.

programs, according to a statement made by the league.

"Humans are built to walk. We love it; we live in a beautiful area," said Berry, who is volunteering as a counter. "If we can get from point A to point B without driving, we don't have to worry about parking that big piece of heavy equipment."

Surveys will take place during peak travel times of 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Counters in Bellingham will also provide the city with observations, such as the use of helmets and padding, Brown said. The project will also help the city prioritize which areas to improve facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists by showing

where the most foot and bike traffic is, Berry said.

"[Biking or walking] takes the pressure off of our roadway facilities because we have a limited amount of money," Berry said. "The facilities for cars are way more expensive to build than facilities for people or bikes, and people and bikes don't wear them out as fast."

Berry said Western is already making changes in order to promote the use of bikes around campus. Construction on the trail connecting the service road behind Fairhaven to East College Way widened the path in order to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians. Also, a stop sign on

East College Way allows for better access to campus, she said. Western reworked its policies concerning bikes and skateboards on campus to encourage their use.

The old regulations dictated specific times when bicyclists and skateboarders could ride. Now, the campus has specific walk zones, shared bike/walk paths and bike routes.

Between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the school week, bicyclists and skateboarders must dismount in designated walk zones. These include the narrow space between Carver Gym and the Fine Arts Building, Red Square and Vendors Row outside the Viking Commons.

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Campaign promotes 'meat-free Mondays'

Reiko Endo
THE WESTERN FRONT

On Saturday, Meat-Free Mondays kicked off at the Bellingham Farmers Market to raise awareness of carbon dioxide emissions. Meat-Free Mondays encourages participants to reduce their consumption of meat during the month of October.

The goal of the Meat-Free Mondays campaign is to collect 300 pledges from people in the Bellingham community to not eat meat at least once per week through the month of October.

For every 61 people who pledge, carbon emissions are reduced by one ton. Three hundred pledges would amount to reducing carbon emissions by five tons, or 10,000 pounds, Western senior Matt Moroney said.

Facts about meat:

- 836 million tons of grain and corn feed livestock, seven times the amount used for biofuels.
- Approximately 75 percent of available fresh water, 35 percent of available land and 20 percent of all energy resources are currently used for food production.
- It takes approximately 6 to 22 pounds of plant protein to produce 2 pounds of animal protein.

"It was intended to train community volunteers to actively participate in reducing carbon dioxide emissions," Moroney said.

The campaign was originally a project that came out of a class called the Carbon Masters, a Washington State University Whatcom County Extension program in association with Western, said Amy Vergillo, a designer at Fidalgo Design who promotes the campaign by designing Web sites and posters.

"We are not asking everyone to become a vegetarian," Nelson said. "If you just reduce your meat consumption, it will go a long way toward helping the [environmental] problem."

Gail Nelson,
Campaign promoter

Moroney said the choice of Monday as a meatless day was based off similar campaigns conducted in the United Kingdom and other universities such as Johns Hopkins University.

"The goal is for student representatives to spread the word of the Meat-Free Mondays campaign to the students in their respective residence halls," Moroney said.

Every residence hall has two student representatives in the association, Moroney said. Moroney said he works with the Western Residence Hall Association to encourage involvement in the campaign.

"We are not advocating not to eat meat [at all]," Moroney said. "It's biologically incongruent."

Vergillo said eating less meat lowers the demand on the livestock industry, which creates less need to clear forests for grazing land.

Carbon Master member Gail Nelson, who promotes the campaign with Vergillo, said eating less meat also lowers the amount of carbon emitted by reducing the costs of transporting the cattle and the grain to feed them.

"It is healthy to go without meat once a while. I didn't realize that meat made that big of a carbon footprint by eating it," one of Saturday's pledges Joan Hall said.

At the market, Hall said she received a sticker that says 'I took the pledge to eat meat free on Mondays' to remind her of her pledge.

Nelson said the idea of the Carbon Master program is to get out into another community, as volunteers out of the classroom, to educate people.

"We are not asking everyone to become a vegetarian," Nelson said. "If you just reduce your meat consumption, it will go a long way toward helping the [environmental] problem."

Vergillo said there are only a few types of meat but there are many different types of vegetables and grains, with many meatless recipes and vegetarian restaurants. She said it is fun to educate people about how their food choices affect the environment.

Vergillo said the campaign has collected more than 50 pledges within the

Meatless MENU:

Black Beans and Rice:

Heat some oil (grapeseed or coconut) in a frying pan. Add black beans and cooked rice and chopped green onion. Heat it up for a couple of minutes and stir in some chopped parsley after you take it off the heat.

Potato Hash:

Heat coconut oil in a frying pan. Add chopped onion to oil for two minutes. Add smashed garlic cloves and some chopped fresh rosemary and small potato slices. Cover and cook until potatoes brown. Add green pepper and some chopped greens: spinach, kale, chard. Take off heat and mix in chopped parsley.

Bellingham community and is sponsored by seven different local businesses.

Local restaurant Nimbus participates in the campaign as a sponsor and by offering a "Meat-Free Mondays Special," Nelson said.

This program is one of eleven community projects planned by the Carbon Masters program in the Bellingham area, according to the Carbon Master's Web site.

"I can't afford to buy a hybrid Prius but I can just do something like not to eat meat one day a week," Moroney said.

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Western tapper takes national award

Jessica Bader
THE WESTERN FRONT

Jovon Miller, a Western senior and dance major, was recently awarded the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Performing Arts Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year. Heineken International is sponsoring the \$3,000 scholarship this year.

Winning the scholarship with a display of his tap dancing skills, which he acquired during the last two years, Miller was one of 10 recipients to be awarded the annually distributed national scholarship this year, beating out more than 450 other applicants.

Miller plans to use the scholarship money to complete his major in dance.

Miller said he started tapping in 2007 after a friend's suicide prompted him to audition for the show "So You Think You Can Dance." After leaving the stage for the last time—he did not make the show—he stopped to watch the next audition: a tap routine.

"I thought, 'That's so cool. I can do that,'" Miller said.

Once back in Bellingham, he began taking private tap lessons at the Dancing for Joy studio, but he said within three months he had already surpassed his teacher in skill level.

He then began commuting to Seattle each week to continue private lessons at Johnson and Peters Tap studio, where he now takes advanced classes that usually

require at least 10 years of tap experience.

Western junior Erinn Crosby, a friend of Miller's, said the fact that he can take these high-level classes after tap dancing for two years is a huge testament to his dedication, commitment and work ethic.

Cher Carnell, head of the dance program at Western and Miller's ballet teacher for three years, said she found out about

"I'd like to perform for a while, and then I'd like to become a famous choreographer."

Jovon Miller,
Western senior

the scholarship approximately one week before the deadline and advised Miller to apply.

Miller said he sent in all his materials the night before the application was due and was apprehensive about entering at all.

"You just assume that you aren't going to be at the top," Miller said.

Miller was awarded his scholarship and a medal for his achievement at the Annual Legislative Conference, a four-day event including workshops, seminars and forums that focus on the concerns of the black community. It is hosted by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, a nonprofit institute that aims to improve the lives of blacks and other minority groups.

The awards ceremony took place in Washington, D.C., on the evening of Sept. 23. Miller also had the opportunity to perform for the conference that same night.

Those present included members of the congress, celebrity honorees, Sam Giliam and Tyler Perry, as well as representatives from sponsors including Disney, Coca Cola and Heineken. The Annual Legislative Conference is known to be one of the most important gatherings of black leaders today.

Miller changed his major to dance in 2007 after originally pursuing a degree in music education and performance. Miller said leaving music behind for dance was not a hard decision.

"Music wasn't fun anymore," Miller said "Dance made me happier."

Miller said music still influences him. "His feet are his instruments," said Western junior Laura Aschoff, a dance student who has been tapping with Miller for approximately one year.

Miller is currently taking ballet and modern dance classes to work toward his degree. He choreographs, dances and writes music with Sounds Out of Necessity, the only performing tap club at Western.

He also teaches tap at Northwest Ballet Theater in downtown Bellingham, and is choreographing a piece for Fall Into Dance, an annual dance performance that takes place at Western in early December.

Miller said he will continue to pursue a career in dance after graduating from



photo courtesy of Mikaela Martin

Jovon Miller poses with his tap dancing shoes.

Western, hopefully starting in Las Vegas, where he wants to do more than just tap.

"I'd like to perform for a while, and then I'd like to become a famous choreographer," Miller said.

Carnell said while not all dance majors will have the opportunity to pursue a career in dance, she believes Miller will.

"Jovon has the substance for a career in dance," Carnell said. "He's very good at what he does."

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Disaster impact study receives grant

Professor will develop computer program to inform public of possible damage by natural hazards

Chelsea Kennedy
THE WESTERN FRONT

Assistant professor of environmental studies Scott Miles has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to study postdisaster infrastructure restoration and the disasters' effects on economies. Miles has been working for more than eight years on the project, which will commence Oct. 1 and continue for four years.

This is one of the first large grants toward postdisaster research, which focuses not just on the actual disaster but all the ramifications that come with it.

"This is the first major influx of money into this endeavor," Miles said. "There has been some funding, but very little. This is one of the biggest infusions of money toward this research."

"I am looking forward to becoming more familiar with the personal stories of community and small business recovery, instead of just the physical hazard."

Scott Miles,
Assistant professor of
environmental studies

The research will provide data taken from the surrounding Western Washington area, which is frequented by natural hazards such as flooding, landslides and storms.

The National Science Foundation's division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation awarded the grant.

"The grant process is highly competitive," said Dennis Wenger, a program director at the foundation. "We receive proposals from all around the country, and they go through a very severe peer review system. I think the fact that he made it through the review process is a testament to the strong quality of his project."

Miles will be developing a computer model that can help officials mitigate the damage in areas affected by natural disasters.

The tool is called ResilUS (Resilience United States), a computer program that models the possible damage created by the disaster in all aspects of the involved community.

ResilUS will provide information re-

garding the decisions necessary to quickly and efficiently put a community back together.

The program will analyze a city's layout or infrastructure, helping city officials know where a city will be affected the most by a disaster.

"Everyone defines infrastructure differently: highways, electrical grids, storm water, underground vaults, institutions, governments systems, ATM networks," Miles said. "Infrastructure is the skeleton that the community is wrapped around."

Miles will study the relationship between infrastructure and local economic performance after a natural disaster.

ResilUS will allow officials to analyze different scenarios of disruption and the possible outcomes following disasters.

"A disaster is not something that just happens, it continually unfolds," Miles said.

ResilUS will focus on which parts of the economy are damaged by the hazards.

It will also show the impact on businesses and how long it will take the economy to be restored after a disaster.

"We want to use local case studies to develop a database of infrastructure disruption and infrastructure restoration," Miles said. "Obviously we are going to be using past events. Possibly real-time events, we have floods every year in

"I am looking forward to becoming more familiar with the personal stories of community and small business recovery, instead of just the physical hazard. This project will only enhance the public's knowledge of the important research we're doing."

Alexis Blue,
Huxley graduate student

Washington, which we can study."

Ultimately, Miles said he would like to not only learn about how communities can fix their infrastructures after disasters, but also how people can shift away their dependencies on them.

"The economy is completely dependent on infrastructure," he said. "We want to look and see how we can be less reliant on the infrastructures that we create."

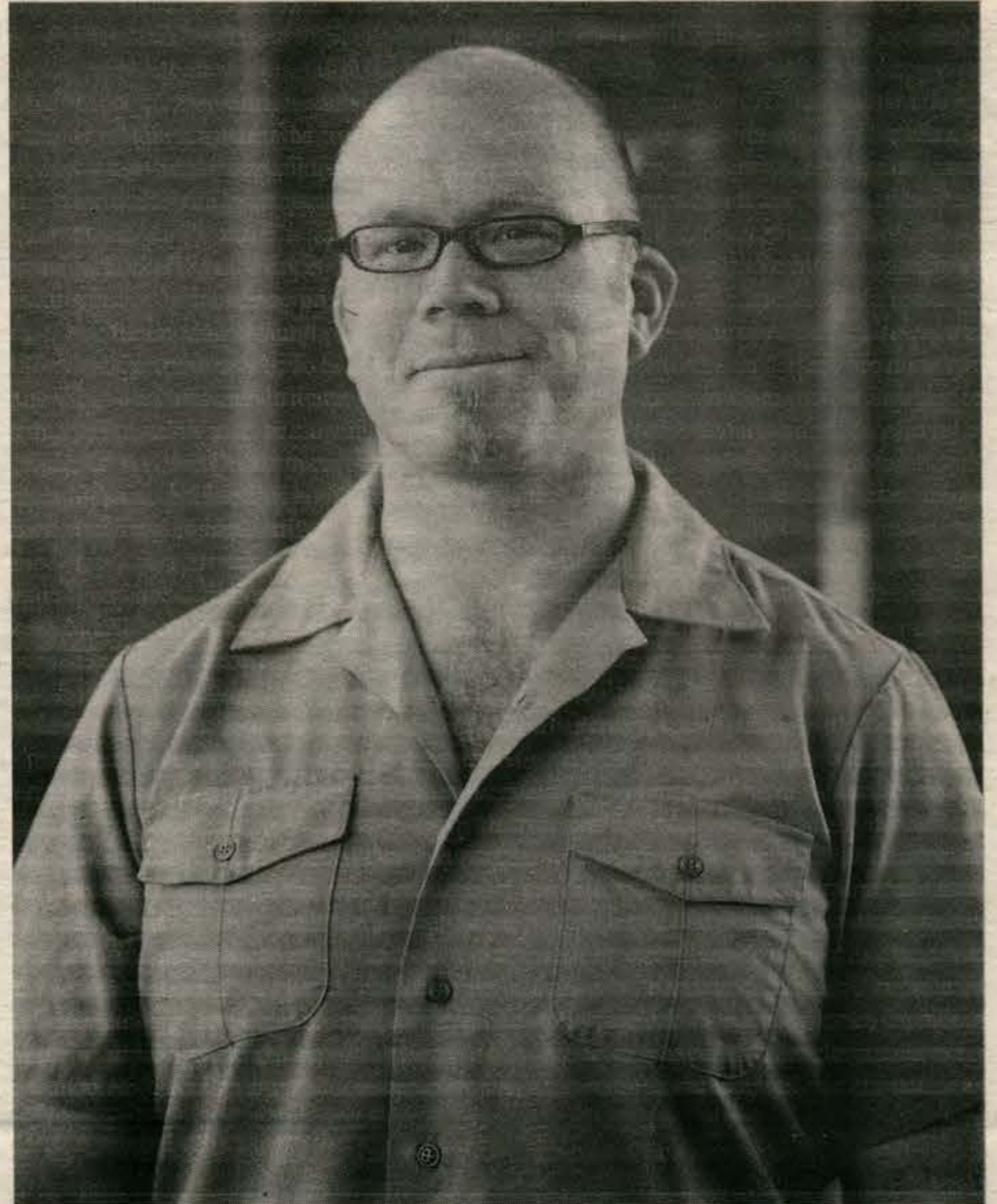


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Scott Miles will use a \$250,000 grant to further his research on natural disasters and the resulting impacts they have on communities.

Rebekah Green, associate director of the Resilience Institute at the Huxley College of the Environment and program coordinator of the grant proposal, said she agrees with Miles.

"Our hope is that by enhancing this model we will be able to assist policy makers [in handling future problems]" Green said.

Miles plans to hold workshops soon after the project that starts this fall to involve local community leaders, who are potential stakeholders.

Not only does this project have possible significant impact on how people look at disaster research, but it also provides opportunities for Western students.

Alexis Blue, a Huxley graduate stu-

dent, will be working directly with Miles on the project.

"I am looking forward to becoming more familiar with the personal stories of community and small business recovery, instead of just the physical hazard," Blue said. "This project will only enhance the public's knowledge of the important research we're doing."

As the project progresses there should be more opportunities for Western students, Blue said.

"There will be need for data collection and organization through credits by Western students," Blue said.

Green said she hopes to get more undergraduate students involved in research during the later years of the project.

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PROTEST: Protesters remain civil overall; one arrest made

from 1

People driving past honked at the spectacle, or waved to show their support to either group; some held signs out the window or shouted at the demonstrators.

The entrance to McIntyre Hall was blocked off with yellow tape, and police stood along the sidewalk and parking lot of the college, directing traffic and monitoring the safety of pedestrians.

Demonstrators representing both sides of the issue remained non-violent; with some shouting across the street, but a fair amount of civil discussion. Mount Vernon Police said there was one arrest for disorderly conduct.

The pro-Beck demonstrators defended their opinions with signs, such as one that read, "Truth is not hate," and others with similar messages.

Dan Hickman, of Snohomish who supported Beck, came to the demonstration to show his feelings and values re-

garding the country.

"We're out here because we love America," Hickman said. "We like the values and standards that we've traditionally lived with, and things are changing to the extreme. And we're here to stand up and voice our opinion that we don't agree with the direction that the United States is going."

Judy Ness, a system analyst for Western's administrative computing services, was there to show her appreciation for Beck.

"I definitely support Glenn Beck," Ness said, "Yes, I watch his program. I think he tells the truth and I think he's very well informed. He represents what I believe, and what a lot of Americans believe."

Kathy Reim is president of Skagit County Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, an organization that was involved in the anti-Beck protest.

"I'm out here because we want people across the nation to know that this is a wonderful part of the world," she said.



photo by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

Andrew Alaways, dressed as Uncle Sam, poses for and points at the numerous cameras pointed at him during the protest Saturday.

"That we value diversity and we want people to know they're welcome to be here, and that we are a friendly and safe community, and we don't thrive on hate."

When Beck walked onto the stage to accept the key, the audience stood up. They remained standing as the mayor spoke, until Beck pulled up a chair himself and sat down, motioning for the audience to sit and causing them to laugh.

After speeches from Beck's childhood friends, Pastor Bruce Wersen and Cascade Radio Group's Robert Shelton, Beck spoke.

He said the purpose of the event was not to honor him, but to help the Lincoln Theatre.

Laughing, Beck said to Norris, "I'm going to present you with a key to my house, because you're going to need a place to stay," in reference to the anger of some people in the community.

Beck also congratulated demonstrators on both sides of the issue, saying, "That's what America's all about."

SPACE: Miller Hall occupants 'camp' with optimism, Hall says

from 1

Hall said the faculty were looking at their situation with optimism, referring to the temporary placement as "camping."

"It's a sacrifice for the better of the college, and we know it's only temporary," Hall said. "We aren't whiners at Woodring."

Faculty and staff in offices facing the bulk of current construction on East College Way said the noise is better than expected. The faculty and staff will be displaced for up to two years, according to Western's Facilities Management.

Pam Large, assistant to the dean at Woodring, said even with a crane right outside her window, the noise distraction has been low.

"It has been really beautiful to watch what they are doing," Large said, referring to the renovations taking place in and around the building.

Assistant professor Raine Dozier said most of the temporary offices are empty of professors.

Dozier said faculty has been working more from home while meeting students at coffee shops, only coming to campus to teach their classes.

"I try to be here for two full days a week," Dozier said. "The only problem is ventilation for me. The air can get stale in here."

Dozier said she acquired a bigger room with a couch, but other faculty members on the third floor were put in



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Pam Large, assistant to the dean at Woodring College, works in the office while the crane works just outside.

closet-sized rooms.

In such an old building, Dozier said, physically handicapped people have a difficult time getting to offices. Access to the Miller Hall elevator is unavailable during construction, so those with canes and

wheelchairs have a difficult time making it up the flights of stairs to reach the faculty offices, she said.

Susan Kincaid, assistant professor in the Department of Human Resources and Rehabilitation in Miller Hall, said stu-

dents in general, but especially physically handicapped students, are uneasy about asking their professors to meet away from offices.

"I try to make it clear to students that they can meet me elsewhere," she said.

Washington state law prohibits teachers to ask whether or not a student is physically handicapped, Kincaid said. She said the major concern is physically handicapped students being too nervous to ask for an alternate meeting place.

Kincaid said she is happy to see work being done on Miller Hall even though the construction is an inconvenience. The larger classrooms, offices and common places will be well worth it, Kincaid said.

"Two years of [construction] is for the 30-years worth of students and faculty in the future who will enjoy the renovated building," Kincaid said. "Look at the long-term benefits."

Jackie Baker-Sennett, chair of the Department of Human Resources and Rehabilitation, said in an e-mail that her department on the third floor has been treated well. Professors and lecturers in the department have their own office, and some offices are even larger than last years, she said.

Baker-Sennett said she has had to adapt with the changing environment.

"Overall, the disruption is relatively minor," she said. "I am in a fairly small office, and my books are in boxes for the year. I have only unpacked essential items."

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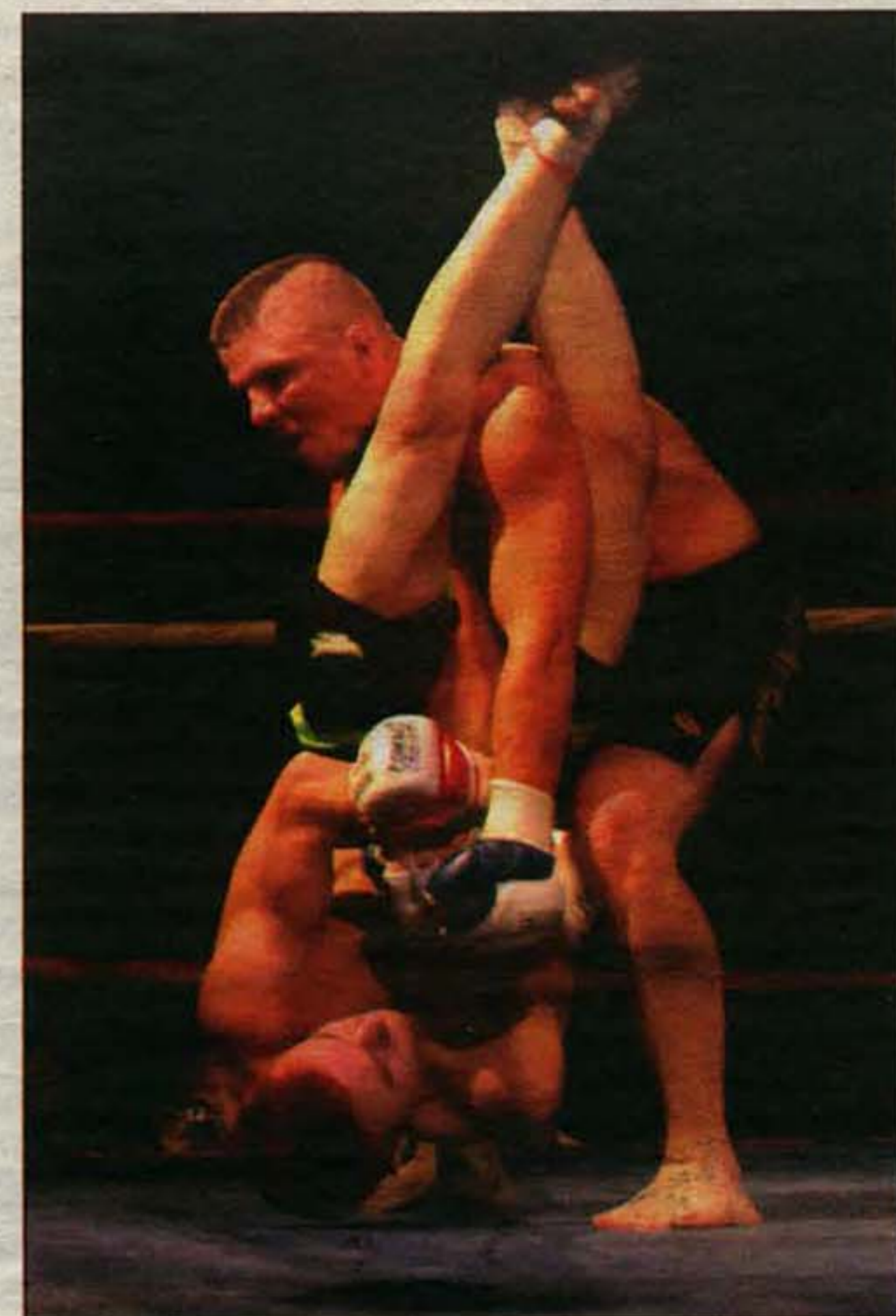
BELLINGHAM BEAT TO OWN

Mark Stayton
THE WESTERN FRONT

The lights dim, obscuring the boxing ring in the center of the Bellingham Sportsplex as the fight announcer's voice rises to a fever pitch. Cain "The Spartan" Spaulding, a Bellingham mixed martial arts (MMA) fighter, jogs out onto the arena floor bathed in a pale yellow spotlight. Screams and whistles can be heard over the Metallica that blares overhead.

The tightly muscled, 205-pound fighter enters the ring and hops to keep warm as his tattooed opponent Huy "M1" Vu emerges, followed by a mass of teammates in white team shirts. After the ring girl shows off the round number, fighters touch fists. The main event of Fight Night Entertainment's Round V is underway.

Spaulding makes first contact, landing kicks to the left shin of Vu before his left foot finds the side of Vu's face. The fight



photos by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

ABOVE: Cain "The Spartan" Spaulding lands a kick to the head of Huy "M1" Vu in Fight Night Round V's main event on Friday at the Bellingham Sportsplex.
LEFT: Jorey Taylor slams Robert Morrison into the mat in an attempt to escape a submission hold at Fight Night Round V at the Bellingham Sportsplex.

moves to the ground as Vu attempts to lock in a submission hold on Spaulding, but he breaks free and unleashes punches and kicks onto Vu unchecked. In one minute, 11 seconds it is all over when Spaulding TKOs Vu with a kick to the head, knocking him to the floor in the first round.

Fans sitting around the elevated ring in folding chairs or standing pressed up against the glass surrounding the Sportsplex's soccer field erupts into hoots and cheers as the victorious Bellingham fighter is embraced by his cornerman John Keay and coach Cody Houston.

"He can hit like a truck," said Houston, owner of Bellingham's West Coast Fight Club, about Spaulding's punching ability. "And his kicks will literally break your legs."

The fight was the last of nine matchups witnessed at the fifth "Round" series event. Fight Night Entertainment joined up with West Coast Fight Club to produce the MMA showcase, which featured fighters representing 12 gyms from Northwest Washington and British Columbia, and special guest Krzysztof "The Polish Experiment" Soszynski, a 19-10-1 Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter.

Approximately 770 fans came out, said Frank Pefferman, timekeeper for the fight.

In the third fight of the night, Western junior Morgan Tucker of West Coast Fight Club (WCFC) made his MMA amateur -fighting debut against Nathan Graham, fighting out of North County Martial Arts Academy in Lynden. Knocked to the mat by a savage series of strikes at the hands of Tucker, Graham struggled to regain his footing and catch his breath. Graham threw in the towel two minutes, 25 seconds into the match, giving Tucker the win.

"I was pretty impressed for his first fight," said Elisey Yorovoy, Tucker's cornerman and teammate at WCFC.

Houston started his training facility two years ago in a small, two-story gym at the intersection of Ohio and Franklin street. He said he now trains 10 active fighters and 85 to 90 students in boxing, kickboxing, Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. He said the sport, along with his enterprise, is expanding.

"This is bar none the fastest growing sport in the world," Houston said. "And we have a long ways to go be-

fore we hit our saturation point still. That's just because it's such an awesome sport. People are starting to understand that, and it's just starting to get its recognition all over the world. It's no longer a blood sport."

Some would argue the point. In 1993 the Ultimate Fighting Championship held the first MMA match in Denver, bringing a sport long celebrated in Japan and Brazil to America, reported the Washington Post on July 15, 2007. However, the early matches were unsanctioned by states' athletic control boards and the fighting was unregulated. Arizona Senator John McCain, a former Navy boxer, found fault with the sport and led a national campaign against MMA, wrote Amy Silverman for the Phoenix New Times.

In 2001, Nevada and New Jersey sanctioned MMA fighting under a set of rules that would regulate acceptable moves and fight conclusions. According to a 2006 Johns Hopkins study, injury rate in MMA competitions is similar to other sports involving striking. The study also found that MMA fighters are knocked out less frequently than in boxing, reducing the number of brain injuries caused by the

"Fight Night Round V" brings the PAIN

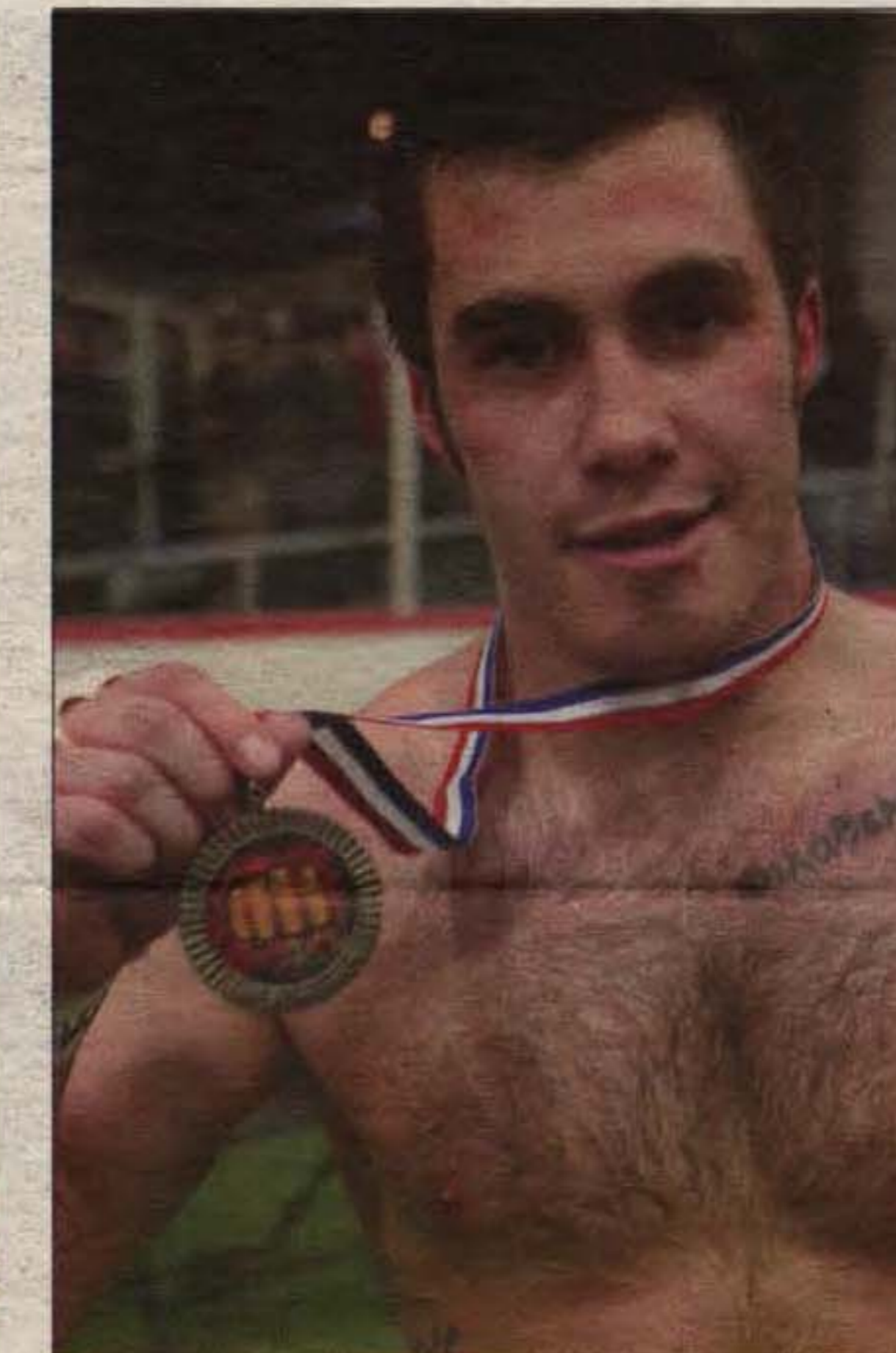


photo by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

Western junior Morgan Tucker displays his first MMA victory medal Sept. 25 at the Bellingham Sportsplex.

MORE PHOTOS ONLINE
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sport.

Lou Faralan, owner of Kalahi Martial Arts Academy in Burlington and certified MMA referee, said elbow strikes are not allowed at the amateur level, and throughout MMA there is no strangling, twisting of small joints, fishhooking lips or eye-poking.

Faralan also said a referee will call a match if they decide that a fighter is losing consciousness or control over bodily functions such as sight or balance, or is in danger of being seriously injured.

The fights are still unsanctioned in 10 states, including New York, where as recently as January 22, 2009, the New York Times Editorial Board called the contest "a blood-soaked slugfest."

Although violence is a main aspect of the sport, personal achievement is the reason "The Spartan" competes.

"I just want to get out there and see what I can do," Spaulding said. "I just want to measure my spirit and my strength and my mind power and technique against some of the better fighters out there."

OUTSIDE THE RING

Not every college student fights boredom with guillotine chokes and round-house kicks. But that's what Morgan Tucker, a junior at Western, had in mind when he began training in mixed martial arts (MMA) a month and a half ago at Bellingham's West Coast Fight Club (WCFC).

He was called Thursday and asked to compete at Fight Night Entertainment's "Round V" by his trainer Cody Houston, only one day before the match. On Friday, Tucker beat his opponent Nathan Graham into submission at two minutes and twenty seconds into the first round, netting his first amateur MMA victory.

Western Front (WF): What's your fighting style?

Morgan Tucker (MT): I did Tae Kwon Do for four years while I was in high school, but since I got up here I've been doing Muay Thai and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. I've been trying to put in about 12-15 hours a week doing that since I started. I'm feeling pretty comfortable with it.

WF: Were you surprised when you got the call?

MT: Yeah, a little bit. I had just finished eating lunch, and I had a beer for lunch and everything. I wasn't expecting to have to make weight. Luckily, that's not really an issue for me.

WF: How do you balance school with your training?

MT: It can be kind of tough. You got to understand that school always comes first. If you really want to do something, put your mind to it and it'll work out.

WF: Does a social life fit in there somewhere?

MT: I do have less time hanging out with friends and spend more time working out in the gym. Which is alright because the guys in the gym are cool. I don't train that hard in MMA on the weekends, so I still have plenty of time to kick it with my buddies. It doesn't feel like I'm sacrificing that much because it's something I enjoy doing so much. It's not a chore for me.

WF: What do you do in your free time?

MT: I like playing chess. It may sound nerdy, but I'll play whenever my friends will play with me. When I'm down at my ranch in Walla Walla, me and my friends shoot shotguns and pistols and stuff. That's fun.

WF: What are you majoring in?

MT: Right now I'm undecided, but I'm trying to get into business management.

WF: How did you feel the night of the fight?

MT: I was excited for it. It was the first time I've been in such a big event. I mean, I did Tae Kwon Do and wrestling in high school, but usually we just had five or six fighters and they got us in and out as quick as they could. Here we were like the main event. I was pretty pumped. It was a good experience for me. I just went in there with a clear head and did what I had to do... There was actually a little girl who had me sign her shirt. It was awesome.

WF: Did you tell your parents about the match?

MT: Yeah.

WF: How'd your mom feel about it?

MT: She was pretty excited. She's a mom, you know. Of course she was relieved to hear from me after the fight. So was my girlfriend.

Golf takes bronze at St. Martin's Invitational

Andrew Mitchell
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Western men's golf team took their first official swings of the year to place third overall at the Saint Martin's University Invitational Sept. 25-26 at The Golf Club at Hawks Prairie in Lacey, Wash.

Western shot 14 over par as a team in their first tournament of the year, seven strokes behind winner Saint Martin's University, and took home the bronze out of the 19 teams who participated in the weekend's event.

"It's a pretty good start to the season," Western sophomore Nick Varelia said. "We are just getting back into the swing of things, and we have really high expectations for this season, so this was a good first step."

The Vikings held a one-stroke lead going into the second and final round of play after shooting 4-over-par 292 as a team in the first round. The team had to

deal with a fog delay early in the round on Friday.

Western junior Xavier Dailly said after the fog had cleared and play resumed the team also dealt with unusually long rounds, some lasting up to six hours, which he said he thinks may have affected the scores of the other teams' players.

"The first day was a little strange," Dailly said. "We had the lead, so it was a very winnable tournament for us at that point, but we really didn't feel as though we were playing that well."

The Vikings were passed on the second day of play by home team Saint Martin's, who put up the best team score for any round with 4-under-par 284 in the second round.

"It was disappointing to relinquish the lead on the second day," Western head coach Steve Card said. "It was the first opportunity for this group to play together, and we know already that we are capable of a lot more than we showed this weekend."

California State University-Monterey Bay also passed Western and shot the second best round of any team with 2-over-par 290 strokes on the second day of play, finishing second in the tournament. Western shot a 10-over-par 298 on the final day to finish third in the tournament.

"We started really poorly Saturday,

and we could never really regain it back throughout the day," Dailly said. "When you don't have any players on your team shoot an under-par score for an entire round, it gets really tough to get it done playing like that."

Western junior Sam Ayotte led all Vikings and finished tied for fourth place in the tournament with an overall score of 2 over par for the two rounds of play.

"I was really pleased with Sam's performance in this tournament, because it was his first on the Western team," Card said. "He came out of the box hot on Friday, but had a couple bad shots that let his score slip. It was overall a tough course to try and recover from those kinds of shots."

Ayotte led all golfers with a score of 3-under-par 69 after the first round of play. He was tied with two other players for the best individual round score for any round with Saint Martin's junior Zach Dietz and University of Victoria freshman Sam Holland.

Dietz and Holland both shot 3 under par in the second round and finished first and second, respectively, in the tournament.

Western senior Julian Peters finished tied for 14 with the second best Viking score for the tournament at 4-over-par 148. Peters had the best second round score of any Viking player at 1-over-par

73.

Varelia tied for 36 with three other players at 7-over-par 151, and Western sophomore Brian Barhanovich rounded out the team's score with an 8-over-par 152 for the tournament, tying two other players for 40th place.

The Vikings were the only team in the tournament who managed to have all five of their players finish 40th place or better for the tournament out of the 99 players who participated.

"Those finishes are good, but if you really want to win tournaments your players have to finish mostly up in the top 20 of the field," Card said. "We aren't thrilled with the result of this tournament. We know we have some work to do."

Western will be hosting their only home event of the season on Sept. 28 and 29 at Bellingham Golf and Country Club, located at 3729 Meridian Street. Many teams from the Saint Martin's Invitational will take part in the event, including the top four finishing teams.

"We are excited to bounce back after the little disappointment we felt after how we ended on Saturday," Varelia said. "We definitely want to defend our home course like Saint Martin's did in their tournament. We were just a few shots away in this tournament, so we know if we stay patient we can win any tournament."

LAST HOME MATCHUP

Western Washington Invitational
Sept. 29
Bellingham Golf and Country Club

Soccer cruises to victory over Crusaders

Nick Schiffler
THE WESTERN FRONT

After three straight difficult losses, Western's men's soccer team was able to get a satisfying comeback win on Saturday night, beating Northwest Nazarene University 3-1 in a Great Northwest Athletic Conference match at Whatcom Community College's Orca Field.

The Vikings created many chances, taking 18 shots and putting enough in the net to get the victory in front of a standing-room only home crowd.

Western sophomore Oscar Jimenez, junior Gibson Bardsley and junior Matt Fishbaugher each scored goals for the Vikings, who trailed 1-0 at halftime after a Northwest Nazarene goal in the 10th minute of the match.

All three Western goals came in the

second half, with two of them coming back to back in the 74th and 75th minutes. Bardsley's goal was the game winner.

"Oh yeah, this is a good effort," Western coach Travis Connell said. "We were able to battle back and get the goal. I'm proud of them."

Western improved to 4-6-0 on the season, and evened their record at 1-1 in GNAC play.

Northwest Nazarene dropped to 3-6-0 overall and 0-2 within the GNAC.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for Western, including a double overtime loss on Thursday.

"It feels amazing," Jimenez said.

The goal by Jimenez five minutes into the second half leveled the score at 1-1.

Western sophomore Kellan Brown won a ball in the air from the Northwest Nazarene goalkeeper and headed it back

REMAINING HOME GAMES

- Oct. 3 vs. Seattle Pacific University, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 5 vs. Saint Martin's University, 7 p.m.

to the top of the penalty box, where Jimenez received the ball and lobbed it past the stranded keeper into the net. It was his fourth goal of the season.

Western finally took the lead in the 74th minute, when Bardsley ran onto a misplayed pass backwards from the Northwest Nazarene defense.

The goalkeeper slipped, and with nobody else between him and the goal, Bardsley had an easy finish for his third goal of the year.

"It's huge," Connell said. "We knew

if we could go get that goal, the floodgates would open."

And open they did, because it took Western less than a minute to find the net again.

Fishbaugher almost immediately scored on a long-range strike to make the game's score 3-1 and put the match out of reach.

The next match, against Seattle Pacific University is one of only two remaining home games this season, taking place at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 3 at Orca Field.

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Lady Vikings bump out Alaska Fairbanks

Western is currently second in GNAC; will play first-place SPU next week

Andrew Barrows
THE WESTERN FRONT

Volleyball fans were ecstatic in the student section of Carver Gym Saturday night as the Lady Vikings thumped the Lady Nanooks of the University of Alaska Fairbanks in a 3-0 straight set sweep.

Vikings head coach Diane Flick said the energy was good and the Lady Vikings showed better composure to rallies made by Alaska Fairbanks, something they did not do Sept. 24, when they were defeated in a five-set thriller by the University of Alaska Anchorage.

"We had most of our pistons firing, which is good," Flick said. "The college environment in Carver Gym makes it tough for any opponent to play in, and that showed tonight."

Western freshman outside hitter Marlayna Geary and sophomore middle blocker Emily Jepsen were tied for the team lead in kills with 10 apiece, including a combined eight as the Vikings rolled to a 25-18 in the first set.

"We played with so much intensity and our energy was peaking in this match, I'm glad we were able to pull it together this match," Jepsen said after the match.

After a dominant first set by the Vikings, the teams played a closer second set that went back and forth until Western bounced back from a 1-5 deficit to steal the set 25-22.

The Lady Vikings used strong footwork and explosive energy to rally as communication broke down on the Lady Nanooks' side of the net.

The third set was much the same as the Lady Vikings used strong blocking to down their opponent and pull out the set 25-21.

"Our blocking was strong tonight and our outside hitting was working well," Flick said. "We played pretty good."

Western proved to be the better offensive and defensive team Saturday night, and it showed in the box score.

The Lady Vikings edged the Lady Nanooks in kills 43-36 and outblocked them 14-2, including 10 team blocks in Saturday's win.

The win boosted the Lady Vikings to a 10-5 overall record and has them seated in second place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference with a record of 3-1 in conference play.

Western junior Allison Gotz, defensive specialist for the Vikings, said it was an inspiring win.

"We really cut down our errors this match and we kept the pressure on them," Gotz said. "Our blocking was great and we sighted out fast. We really came together and put the last play behind us."

Flick said she was happy to see her team become more positive with every point of the match.

"We never focused on the negative...

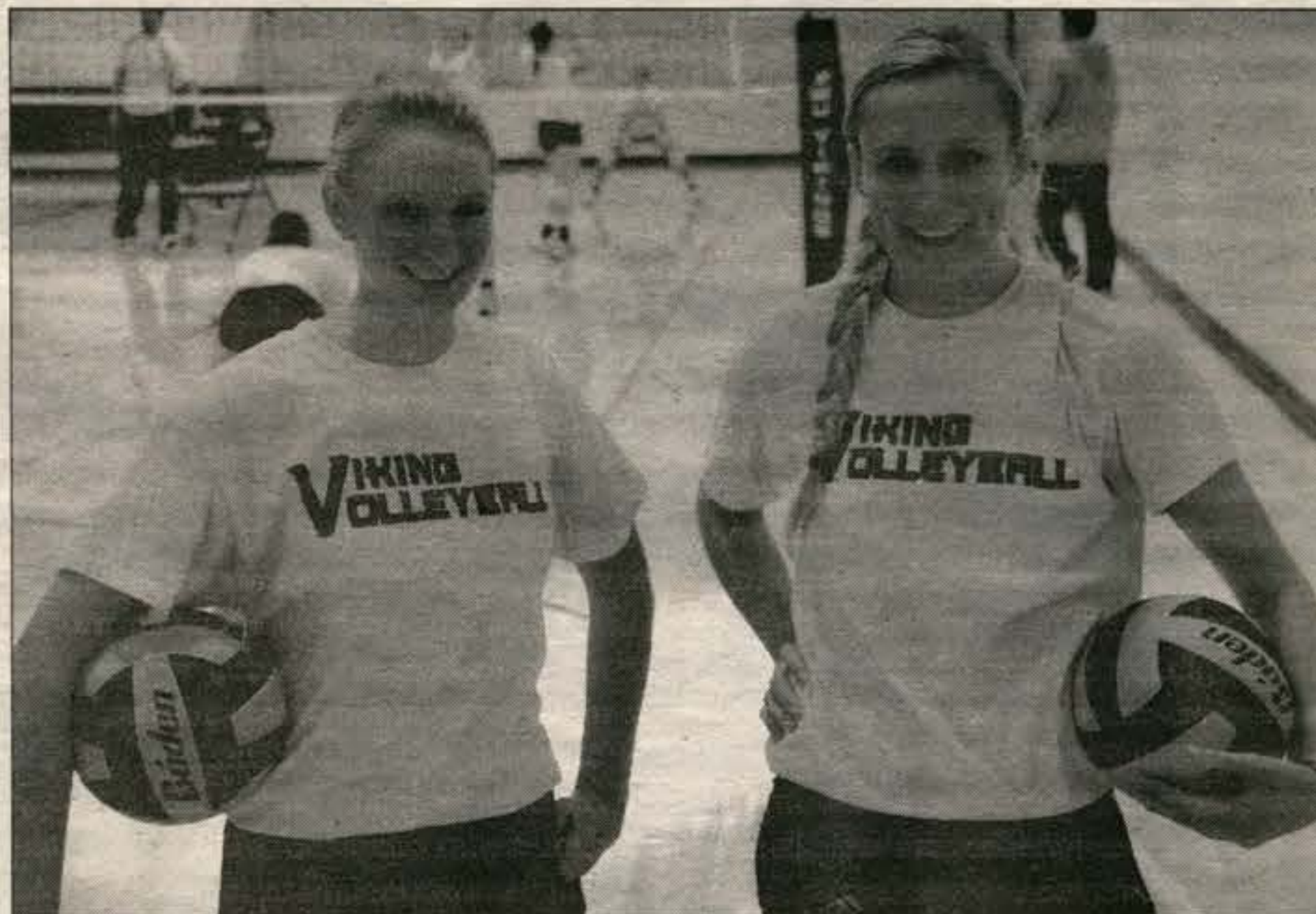


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western sophomore Emily Jepsen (left) and freshman Marlayna Geary (right) led the team in kills with 10 apiece on Saturday night in Carver Gym.

if we made an error or lost a point we put it behind us, moved on, and were able to focus and turn the page," Flick said. "We are getting better despite any opponent when preparing for a match and we are young enough to keep this going."

The Lady Vikings improved their record to 3-2 at Carver gym, where they have proven to be dominant for many years, winning 90 of 99 matches since 2000.

The Lady Vikings head to Seattle Pacific University next week, taking their 3-0 road record to play GNAC leaders Seattle Pacific University.

The Lady Falcons have not been defeated in conference play.

Western is looking to move into a two-way tie atop the conference as the showdown with SPU takes place at 7 p.m., Sept. 30 at Royal Brougham Pavilion in Seattle.

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Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

How do you feel about Western using non-union contractors?

Compiled by Alan Crow



Kalan Hatton
Sophomore

"I think [Western] is supposed to be a role model for progressive thinking, and this is just proving that they don't necessarily have everything together."



Jennifer Jacobs
Senior

"Overall, if they're not paying their sub-contractors the money they said to, that sucks, and that's bad business practice."



Neil Miller
Junior

"I think hiring people who fail to pay their workers is not a very good practice, especially if they're lying about the lawsuits that they have."



Christopher Davis
Senior

"I would have rather they hired a union contractor because I think it's more fair to the construction workers."

Western, improve sustainability

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Western is a university that prides itself on its sustainable image, and that image is deserved. There are compost bins within the Viking Union and solar panels on the roof. The Go for the Green Challenge kicks off winter quarter and hypes up cutting energy use and waste production.

However, even with all these positive steps toward sustainability, Western has a long way to go to achieve more environmentally friendly operating parameters. More state produced food, more locations for composting and less oil, water and energy use are more measures the university can take to further its commitment to progressive environmental policies.

According to University Dining's Web site, Western uses local vendors for approximately 39 percent of food served on campus. For example, Edaleen Dairy in Lynden accounts for all milk on campus. However, there is a cost to using too much dairy and meat.

Bellingham Meat-Free Mondays is a campaign started in 2009 that advocates for a reduction in meat consumption for

both health and environmental reasons. Their Web site quotes the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which states the process of raising and maintaining livestock accounts for 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. The food, water and land needed to raise livestock could be used to feed starving individuals or develop biofuels. The Food & Agriculture Organization predicts food production will need a 70 percent increase by 2050 in order to sustain a growing human population. Will the livestock industry be able to keep up, or will their use of scarcer and scarcer resources slow them down?

As far as composting goes, the bins in the Viking Union are a positive step. Yet many students are not going to bring their compost from across campus to these specialized containers. Their napkins and banana peels will end up in the trash and then in a landfill. Placing more composting bins around campus, in other eateries and in the dining halls would cut down on this waste.

Western as an institution, as well as its students and faculty, need to cut down on resource use—in particular oil, water and power.

Is driving up Indian Street to cam-

pus really necessary? Or driving to the Fairhaven district from south campus? Save some money and some of a nonrenewable resource by walking more, biking or using the handy bus system.

Water is sometimes difficult to think of as a nonrenewable resource, but consider this: the earth is a closed system with a finite amount of water available and no new water being produced in the system; it is merely recycled. So leaving the faucet running while one brushes his or her teeth is wasting something increasingly valuable. Having sprinklers on *during a rain storm* is very much wasting something valuable.

Electrical power is wasted all the time, all over campus. The amount of lighting left on in academic buildings during the night is unnecessary and wasteful, while leaving lights, computers and phone chargers on in dorm rooms wastes electricity and costs the university money that could be better spent developing alternative foods, sustainable transportation and composting.

The editorial board is comprised of Editor-in-Chief Rebecca Rice, Managing Editor Audrey Dubois-Boutet and Opinion Editor Tristan Hiegler.

A push to eliminate failing for-profit society

Ramy Khalil
Guest Columnist

Not since the Great Depression has the global capitalist system experienced as severe a crisis as the current one. For the first time in world history, 1 billion people will go hungry this year, too poor to afford food, despite record harvests.

Income inequality in the U.S. has reached record heights, surpassing even the Great Depression. As Business Week reported on Nov. 1, 2004 and Michael Moore points out in his new film, "Capitalism: A Love Story," 1 percent of our population now owns 95 percent of the country's wealth.

The anarchy of the capitalist system is also dragging the planet into a historic environmental catastrophe.

The competition for power and resources under capitalism has also propelled global military spending to an all-time high of \$1.47 trillion in 2008, according to the Web site globalissues.org. Even though we elected an "anti-war" president and congress, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan drag on.

These glaring contradictions, alongside Republican claims that Obama is a "socialist," have generated a surge of

interest in socialism as an alternative way to organize society to capitalism.

The ideologues of free-market capitalism have had their way for the last 30 years. Across the world, nearly every ruling party embraced the ideology that governments should refrain from regulating corporations and that everyone should fend for themselves in the "survival of the fittest" market economy.

And what was the result? The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression!

During this crisis, Republican free-market fundamentalists have denounced Obama's bailouts for banks as "socialist." In reality, Obama's policies are not socialist. They are designed to save the capitalist system from a devastating crash like the Great Depression and a working-class backlash that could threaten the ruling elite.

Governments such as Obama's that merely regulate the excesses of capitalism are incapable of escaping the system's inherent flaws and grotesque inequalities.

Despite all the taxes and regulations on corporations, global capitalism has still condemned 2.6 billion people—almost half the world—to struggling to survive on less than \$2 a day. Meanwhile, the

world's 200 richest individuals own more wealth than these 2.6 billion people combined, according to World Bank's publication, World Development Indicators.

With today's modern productive technology, there's no reason half the world should suffer such poverty. According to the 1998 UN Development Report "the additional cost of achieving and maintaining universal access to basic education for all, basic health care for all, reproductive care for all women, adequate food for all, and safe water and sanitation for all is roughly \$40 billion a year."

Yet as long as corporations are privately owned, no matter how much they are regulated, they will be locked into a system of cut-throat competition, and society will be structured around one fundamental purpose — maximizing short-term corporate profits rather than the needs of humanity and the environment.

The only way to ensure that the economy meets the needs of the whole population and the environment is to change the system that is the root cause of all these problems.

This requires taking the top 500 corporations into public ownership and placing them under the democratic control of elected representatives of workers, con-

sumers and local communities.

With a democratically planned economy, we could finally guarantee everyone on the planet a living-wage job and free, high-quality health care, child care, education and housing.

Canada, Europe and Cuba have single-payer socialized medicine systems that work far better than the U.S. for-profit healthcare system. In a truly socialist society, though, public services would be fully funded, and all managers and politicians would be elected, paid the wage of the average worker and held democratically accountable by the community.

Workers, oppressed groups and students should unite and fight for every reform possible under capitalism. However, history shows that reforms can only work for a limited time before they are undermined by the fundamental tendencies of the system.

For all these reasons, we must build a mass movement to replace this profit-driven system with democratic socialism and liberate the world from poverty, exploitation and war.

Ramy Khalil is the president of the Western club Socialist Alternative.

Clinging to the Index Towers

Climber returns to Bellingham to raise money for the location where he first learned to climb

David Gonzales
THE WESTERN FRONT

Dangling from a treacherous rock face deep in the southern Andes of Patagonia, Blake Herrington rappels alongside a surging waterfall. Suddenly a violent squall thrusts against the rock, escalating torrents of water from the base of the mountain. Drenched between the geyser and the waterfall, with visibility instantly restricted to 200 yards, he continues the descent.

It's been only two years since graduation and Herrington has already summited peaks on three continents, had his stories and photos published in *Climbing Magazine* and received the American Alpine Club Mountain Fellowship grant for climbers younger than 25.

The grant funded his trip to Patagonia, where it showered rain and snow all but three days of the six weeks he spent there.

"You couldn't go into the peaks, they had 50 mph winds and snow so there was a lot of wasted time," Herrington said. "Some climbs were successful, but some were work. Alaska was much better."

On Oct. 3, Herrington returns to Bellingham to support the Washington Climbers Coalition's fundraising efforts to preserve the Index Towers for rock climbers everywhere.

The Index Towers, located approximately two and a half hours south of Bellingham, are rated one of the world's premier granite climbing locations and are in danger of being sold to a granite quarrying company.

The fundraiser is scheduled for Oct. 1 at Backcountry Essentials at 214 W. Holly St. The event has a suggested \$3 donation, and will showcase Herrington's new project, "Climbing Across the Hemisphere: Storms and Successes in Patagonia and Alaska."

Four months after leaving Patagonia, with high hopes for clear days to climb, Herrington arrived in Juneau, Ala., to conquer the Mendenhall Towers.

Located on the outskirts of the Tongass National Forest, the Mendenhall Towers report an annual rainfall of 161 inches, easily qualifying the area as a temperate rainforest.

Though the forecast predicted rain, Lady Luck shone on Herrington, landing him in Juneau during an unexpected dry spell.

Refreshed by the brisk Alaskan air coming off the Mendenhall Glacier, Herrington hitched up his gear and set out for more adventure.

"He's a dirtbagger-climber," said climber Jeremy Park.

He said this not as an insult, but rather as a compliment reminiscent of a Kerouac-style Dharma Bum, or a Bear Grylls-influenced, bite-the-flesh-off-a-freshly-caught-fish type of survivalist.

"The image of being a dirtbag has also become kind of cool," local author and climbing enthusiast Alan Kearney said.

"They will spend money on climbing gear, or to resole their shoes and they will

spend money on beer and cheap food, but they are not going to eat out, they're not going to buy a new car and probably not going to own a house for a long time."

Herrington does own a car; in fact, he lives in it, which is a prime example of a dirtbagger-climber essential: making due with what you've got.

"Basically he does what he loves and that's to climb," Park said.

Park then relayed a story in which Herrington refused a dinner invitation at an outdoor retailer conference in Salt Lake City, simply saying he was cooking supper in his hotel room.

"I was given a per diem for food," Herrington said, "but I didn't want to spend it so I bought a bunch of Deals Only food and crammed it into my bag before the trip."

To cook his dinner, Herrington crafted a stove that would make MacGyver proud, using his hotel room iron.

"You rig them up with a metal garbage can, which most hotel rooms have, and rest the iron upside-down," Herrington said. "I think I just heated up some soup that night."

Park said moments of ingenuity like this are essential for dirtbagger-climbers; Herrington just played it off as if he had done nothing out of the ordinary.

"It's important to be resourceful and never locked into one system or one piece of gear so that if something goes wrong you can always roll with the punches and figure out how to do what you need to do," Herrington said.

Herrington learned to climb on the Index Towers and said they provided him with both moderate routes ideal for beginners, and difficult crags that challenged his skill level.

"It is one of the best climbing areas in the United States," Herrington said. "It has high ratings and the densest granite climbing anywhere."

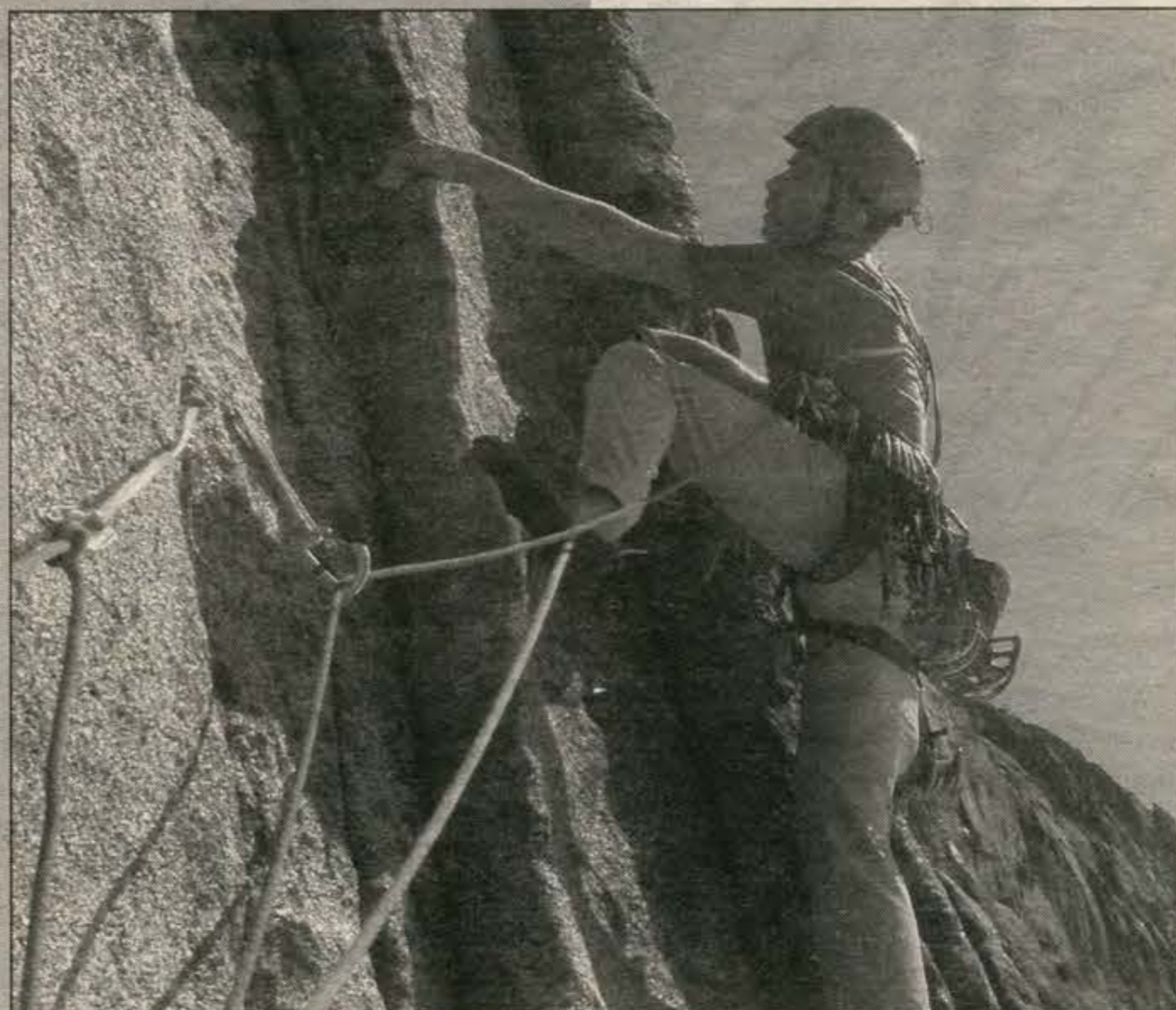
The original Index quarry was shut down approximately 50 years ago. Granite from the towers has been used in structures statewide, including the steps to the capital building in Olympia.

Since the quarry shut down, the towers have exploded in popularity, bringing more climbers each year.

"The concentration of alpine climbing is astounding, there are still routes being found on a yearly basis," Park said.

Climbing was put to a halt early this summer when "no trespassing" signs abruptly popped up all over the towers. Practically overnight, scores of climbers were subsequently turned away from their favorite routes.

It didn't take long for the Washington Climbers Coalition to begin their crusade to preserve the towers. They immediately



Photos courtesy of David Trippett

ABOVE: Blake Herrington leads a group of climbers into the unknown on the first ascent of "The Iron Curtain," Mendenhall Towers, Ala.

BELOW: Blake Herrington walks the snow beneath Fitzroy, Mermoz, and Guillaumet in Argentine Patagonia.

contacted the private land owner and entered into negotiations to take down the "no trespassing" signs.

With support from The Access Fund, a national climbing association committed to preserving access to climbing locations across the country, the Washington Climbers Coalition negotiated an option with the land owner, providing them approximately nine months to raise \$115,000 for the purchase of the property.

Although the landowner had nego-

general upkeep and support the ultimate goal of turning over the towers to Wallace Falls State Park.

Park said the Washington Climbers Coalition has already raised nearly \$20,000 and is optimistic about meeting their goal.

Though Herrington hadn't climbed the Index Towers until his sophomore year at Western, he said growing up in the North Cascades provided him with an early love of the outdoors.

"I had done a lot of hiking and backpacking and I liked to do different outdoor adventures," Herrington said. "But I wanted to go solo and get into dicey situations on mountain peaks."

Arriving at Western in 2004, Herrington covertly ordered his first set of climbing equipment.

"One of the first things I did was buy climbing gear," Herrington said. "I got it delivered to my dorm room so my parents wouldn't know."

Over the next three years locations like the Index Towers along with his commitment to the sport allowed Herrington to advance to the climbing level necessary to earn endorsements such as the Mountain Fellowship grant.

"When you are committed to anything, every other endeavor becomes extraneous," Kearney said, describing Herrington's success. "In order to achieve your goals, you're going to cut out a lot of other stuff."

Whatever extraneous activities Herrington may have been forced to give up, his studies were not one of them.

Herrington graduated from Western in 2007 with a combined major of environmental studies and economics.

Herrington married Western graduate Allison King, who Herrington said shares his love for climbing.

They are moving to Denver in October where they plan to do a lot of climbing and, well, be dirtbags.

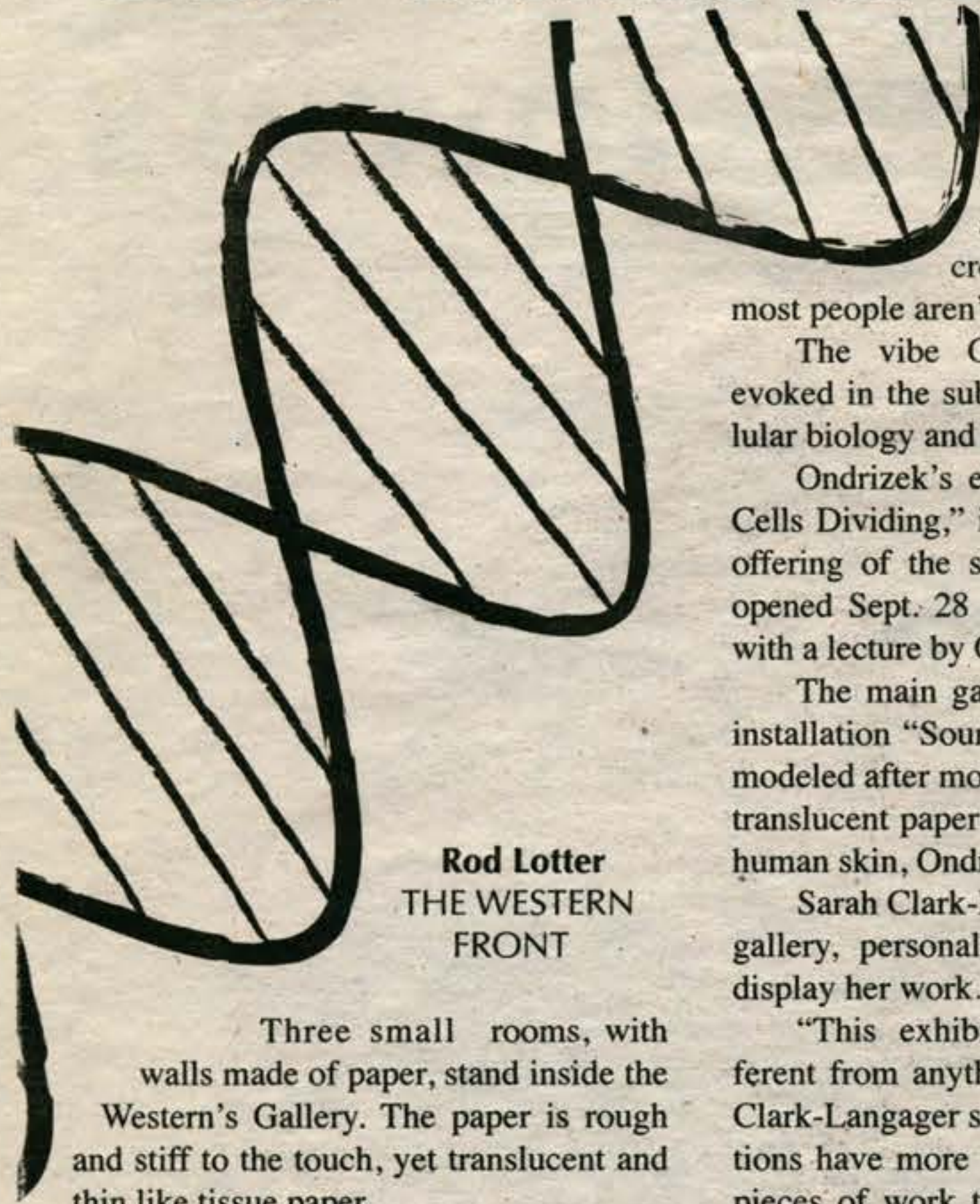


tiated with multiple rock quarrying companies, Park said she is fully supportive of the Washington Climbers Coalition's efforts to purchase the land.

"There was never any opposition," Park said. "[The land owner] was willing to work with us, and the whole area has been excited to keep that area as a state park. A lot of climbers bring business to the local shops, and the town itself has been super supportive."

The Washington Climbers Coalition's fundraising deadline is Dec. 31. Though the purchase price is \$115,000, their goal is to raise \$300,000, which will allow them to install a new parking lot and a lavatorial facility at the base of the towers. The extra \$185,000 will also fund

Cell exhibition fuses art with science



Rod Lotter
THE WESTERN
FRONT

Three small rooms, with walls made of paper, stand inside the Western's Gallery. The paper is rough and stiff to the touch, yet translucent and thin like tissue paper.

The lights, from inside the rooms, make them glow like paper lanterns. Shadows float across the walls as people pass through the rooms.

"I hope people become more sensi-

tive to the world," artist Gerri Ondrizek said. "The sounds, textures and lighting techniques create an atmosphere that most people aren't aware of."

The vibe Ondrizek speaks of is evoked in the subject of her exhibit: cellular biology and genetics.

Ondrizek's exhibit, "The Sounds of Cells Dividing," is Western Gallery's first offering of the school year. The exhibit opened Sept. 28 and runs until Nov. 25, with a lecture by Ondrizek on Oct. 21.

The main gallery space features her installation "Sound Wall,"—three rooms, modeled after monastery cells, with semi-translucent paper walls made to resemble human skin, Ondrizek said.

Sarah Clark-Langager, director of the gallery, personally invited Ondrizek to display her work.

"This exhibition is extremely different from anything we've had before," Clark-Langager said. "Usually the exhibitions have more variety, more individual pieces of work than this one [has]. The theme itself is odd and complicated, but the way it is presented is very straight forward and simple."

Clark-Langager said she suspects art students may have a harder time under-

standing the exhibit than other students because it is such a science-oriented theme.

Ondrizek said she encourages people to feel the exhibit, rather than just look at it from a distance. She said she hopes the minimalist setup, along with the dim lighting, will make the exhibit dynamic and dramatic.

Western freshman Emily Morse, who intends to pursue a degree in science, said she was particularly struck by the haunting sounds of Ondrizek's work.

"Hearing cells dividing put a whole new spin on the way I think about what's going on inside my body," Morse said. "Not only my body, but the whole universe, even."

Small speakers are embedded in the walls and play looped recordings of healthy and unhealthy cells. The speakers also cause the walls to gently vibrate.

The five recordings were acquired by Ondrizek from a scientist at the University of Ottawa, using a technique known as sonocytology.

Sonocytology works in a similar way to a vinyl record player, in which a microscope, equipped with a small needle, can touch and feel the vibrations of cells and record them, Ondrizek said.

see EXHIBITION page 16

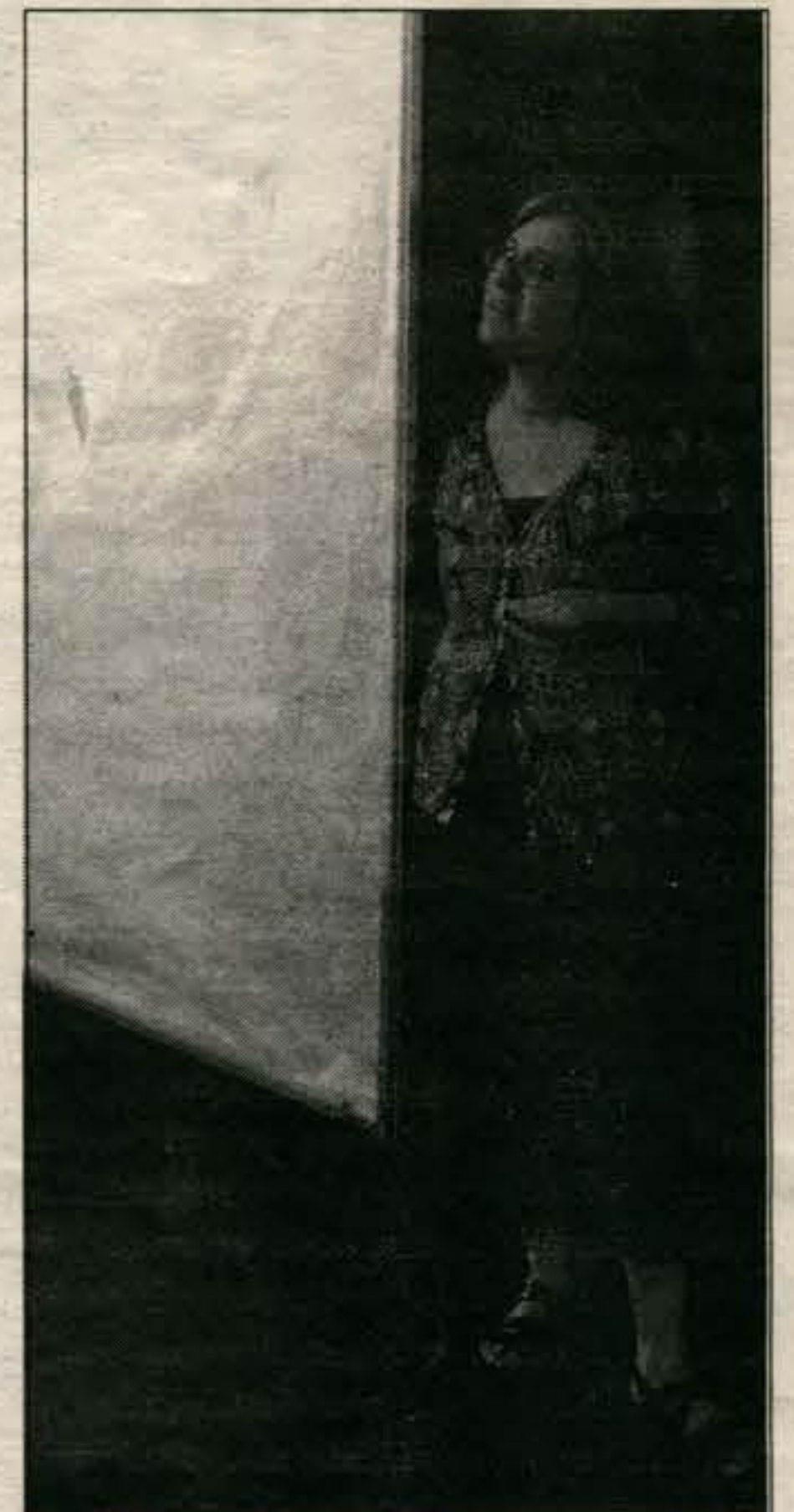


Photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT
Gerri Ondrizek's stands in front of one of the suspended paper boxes from her piece, "Sound Walls."

Professional artists series suspended

Talithia Taitano
THE WESTERN FRONT

Aspiring Western performers will no longer have the luxury of finding inspiration and influence from watching performances of professional artists on campus starting this fall.

Western's College of Fine and Performing Arts suspended the Performing Arts Center Series, which brings professional performers to campus, to offset budget cuts.

"The decision was made so the cuts wouldn't be made in our academic programs and department," Courtney Hiatt, manager of media and PAC Series said. "It was really the only logical solution to the problem at hand."

The bulk of the money that funded the series came from state allocations and endowments, both of which were cut completely. The college's operating budget was cut by 50 percent, so cutting the PAC series will save the department \$4,790 for this school year, allowing no further cuts to be made to the faculty and curriculum, Hiatt said.

Western senior and music composition major John Thomas said by cutting the PAC Series, he and other students in the program will receive less instructional information from the professionals artists

and will miss out on their feedback and influence.

"We're training to be musicians here," Thomas said. "We need to pull influence from other contemporaries, especially composers. We need to know what other people are composing right now."

Dan Guyette, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, said the department is looking at a temporary suspension of the series instead of a permanent cut, hoping new donors will step up to the plate.

Guyette said in the meantime, the students and curricula remain a high priority since the series is not necessarily part of the course requirements of students in the department.

"We're training to be musicians here. We need to pull influence from other contemporaries, especially composers."

John Thomas,
Western senior

She said the PAC Series has been a Western fixture for almost two decades. It brought professional artists from all over the world to Bellingham for public

performances on campus. It was created as a community outreach program by the department of Fine and Performing Arts and not intended to make money.

The Sanford Piano Series is the closest thing to the PAC Series that will remain, she said. The series will host two pianists this year for an evening show and will allow the artists to give a free public class, in which students can perform and get critiqued by the artists.

Hiatt said to compensate for the loss of the PAC series, the department started a new program this year called the College of Fine and Performing Arts Artist Sampler.

This new program will encourage students, faculty, staff and members of the community to purchase three tickets at once in order to receive \$2 off for general admission to future department events, Hiatt said.

Western's previous PAC Series and media coordinator, now events coordinator, Fran Moss said a program called the Concert Series was started in the 1950s as a precursor to what is now the PAC Series

Moss said she thinks the diversity the PAC Series brought was one of its stronger points, and the number of people attending grew as a result.

"It became a series that could have something for everyone," Moss said.

Guyette said the college is looking for more cost-efficient programs to compensate for the budget cuts so everyone can still look forward to other relevant activities.

"We're making sure that we try to reach out to [the community and students] in other ways," Guyette said. "There's still literally hundreds of events that we produce for our students, faculty and staff. As I arrived it was basically, how can we now fill that void with other things?"

Hiatt said outreach-educational programs such as the Matinee Series, which brings K-12 students to campus to watch Western students perform theater, opera and dance, will continue.

Since it started five years ago, 4,500 students have attended the matinee series, she said. It allows Western students to perform on stage and connect with children from the community.

Hiatt said though the department is expecting the series to be suspended for at least two years, the PAC staff is still hopeful the series will return.

"There are still a lot of people that are still appreciative that we brought this to the community," Moss said. "Everybody had to take very big cuts in every department. Saving employee jobs is important."

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The world according to Chris Koser

Western grad and filmmaker uses talents to create videos about school-related, global issues

Victoria Law
THE WESTERN FRONT

While most children dreamt of future jobs as firefighters and teachers, Western graduate Chris Koser had decided at an early age that he was going to be a paleontologist.

As a young boy, Koser was serious enough about paleontology that his parents decided to take him on a trip to Montana to dig up fossils.

However, when Koser first set his eyes on Steven Spielberg's popular film "Jurassic Park" at the age of nine, he knew right away filmmaking had become his new passion. After watching the movie, he thought, "Why be a paleontologist when I could create something that is able to take you to another place or world?"

Koser is a 2009 Western graduate who has a great deal of experience with filmmaking at the university. Koser has done short films for Western's Office of Sustainability and the Vehicle Research Institute on campus and won the iMovieFest and Western's film festival two years in a row.

Koser was impressed with the idea of creating something that no one else could imagine and inventing a nonexistent world. That day at the movie theaters had signified the beginning of his devotion to film.

In high school, Koser began saving money so he could buy his first video camera. He produced his first short film soon after and titled it "High Stakes."

"I would go around and make short films and convince my friends and family to be my actors and actresses," Koser said.

Koser's early stages of filming were devoted to action movies. As his films began to develop, he said he recognized his real passion was dramatic movies.

"Right now I am interested in creating films that address oppression issues that our generations are facing," Koser said. He mentioned issues such as global warming and peak oil.

"I like my films to be metaphoric and force people to look at the world in a different perspective," he said.

Koser's favorite film he has directed is a short film called "Union Street," a crime drama about revenge. Koser and his friends gathered together for one long, grueling 12-hour day and shot the 11-page film which, under normal circumstances, would take three to four days.

In an 11-page film, one page is equal



Photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Western alumnus Chris Koser began filming in high school, progressing from limited equipment and family actors to producing films of all lengths with professional gear and real car crashes.

to one minute. Considering the props Koser and his team used—such as police cars, real police officers in full uniform, cars used for crashing and real guns—a film with this much intensity would usually take more time and coordination.

"It was freezing and pouring rain," Koser said. "It was also challenging and chaotic but I think everyone enjoyed themselves."

"I like my films to be metaphoric and force people to look at the world in a different perspective."

**Chris Koser,
Filmmaker and Western Alumnus**

How did a college student in Bellingham get this far?

"I just went out there and was confident and asked around. People will only take you serious if you take yourself serious," Koser said.

When Koser came to Western in

2004, he studied English, film studies, psychology and theater, but he ultimately majored in filmmaking. Koser had been accepted to other film schools, but said he chose Fairhaven's school because he said he believed he would have the freedom to create the type of work he desired. Koser was introduced to the idea of creating a video for the Office of Sustainability by a friend.

"I thought this video would definitely get people thinking, and it was a good way to talk about some relevant issues," Koser said.

Koser filmed Western's Office of Sustainability coordinator Seth Vidafña for the short film on sustainability.

"We needed to tell the story of sustainability on campus," Vidafña said. "Chris is a great guy and the whole crew far exceeded my expectations for the project."

Soon after Koser shot the video for the Office of Sustainability, he was approached by the team captain from the Vehicle Research Institute to create a video for their team.

"I love cars, so when I was approached about the film I accepted right away," Koser said.

He spent a month and a half with the crew and with the cars.

"It felt like a big family project," Koser said.

Since Koser graduated from Western in 2009, he has been working for a high-end production company in Bellingham called Hand Crank Films. He has shot a feature-length documentary; he has produced feature-length films, directed short films, co-filmed short films and filmed 10 commercials.

"I am incredibly lucky," Koser said. "It's one thing to find a job in this economy but another thing to get paid for doing what you love," he said.

Koser said he has a genuine love of movies and that he is thankful for his mentors and incredible peers who have helped him along this continuing journey.

"If you are doing the right thing for you then the doors really open for you," Koser said. "You just have to get out there and know that it's possible."

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EXHIBITION: Ondrizek portrays cell division through sight, sound

from 14

"Healthy cells, since they travel at a slower speed, have a low frequency, like a choo-choo train," she said. "Unhealthy cells are higher pitched, almost like a scream, and that is because they are traveling much faster."

Ondrizek said it is kind of disturbing to think of a cancer cell, which is spiky compared to the smooth sphere shape of a healthy cell, because it is speeding through, and literally screaming, inside the body while simultaneously destroying it.

Ondrizek currently works as an art professor at Reed College in Portland, Ore., and has been incorporating medical and biological subjects into her art for the last 20 years.

She said she became familiar with cellular biology and genetics when her child passed away due to a genetic anomaly.

Ondrizek said she was constantly surrounded by medical professionals during that devastating time.

"At that point I needed to know what was going on," Ondrizek said. "I looked deeply into the pictures that were constantly being given to me by doctors. I needed information, and I've collaborated with doctors and scientists ever since."

The gallery will also feature two other installations. "Cellular" is a 20-minute film that shows looped footage of various fertilized animal eggs in the early years of formation.

Clark-Langager said scientists are visual people who need images to explain their research, and because of this, Ondrizek's presentation is the perfect merger of art and science.

"I edit the videos so the viewer can't see what the egg becomes," Ondrizek said of the film. "That is because everything that happens before development looks the same, no matter what animal it is. The similar origin of all living creatures is very interesting to me."

The exhibitions' other installation features various



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Chase Boston takes a light meter reading while setting up "The Sounds of Cells Dividing" exhibition in the Western Gallery on Sept. 28.

still photographs and drawings of cells.

A smaller version of the "Sound Wall" exhibit was shown in a 17th-century French monastery in 2008. Ondrizek is currently working with the University of Washington's genetics department on another exhibit.

"Art usually doesn't get this much square footage," Ondrizek said of the Western Gallery. "My work is pretty odd and it's hard to find people willing to fund it."

With the commission from Western, along with an art grant, Ondrizek worked for one year to make a larger version of "Sound Wall" to fit in Western's gallery, she said.

Clark-Langager said the interdisciplinary aspect of Ondrizek's work is what she looks for when selecting artists for the gallery. The combination of science, medicine and art appeals to a whole variety of students, rather than just one group in particular.

Ondrizek said that is the point.

"Through the use of different mediums I want people to come away with an awareness of things bigger than themselves," Ondrizek said. "But, I do want art students, in particular, to understand the aesthetics of my exhibit: that art isn't just about looking beautiful or being flawless."

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