

**A MONTH OF
PACKAGE-FREE
FOOD**

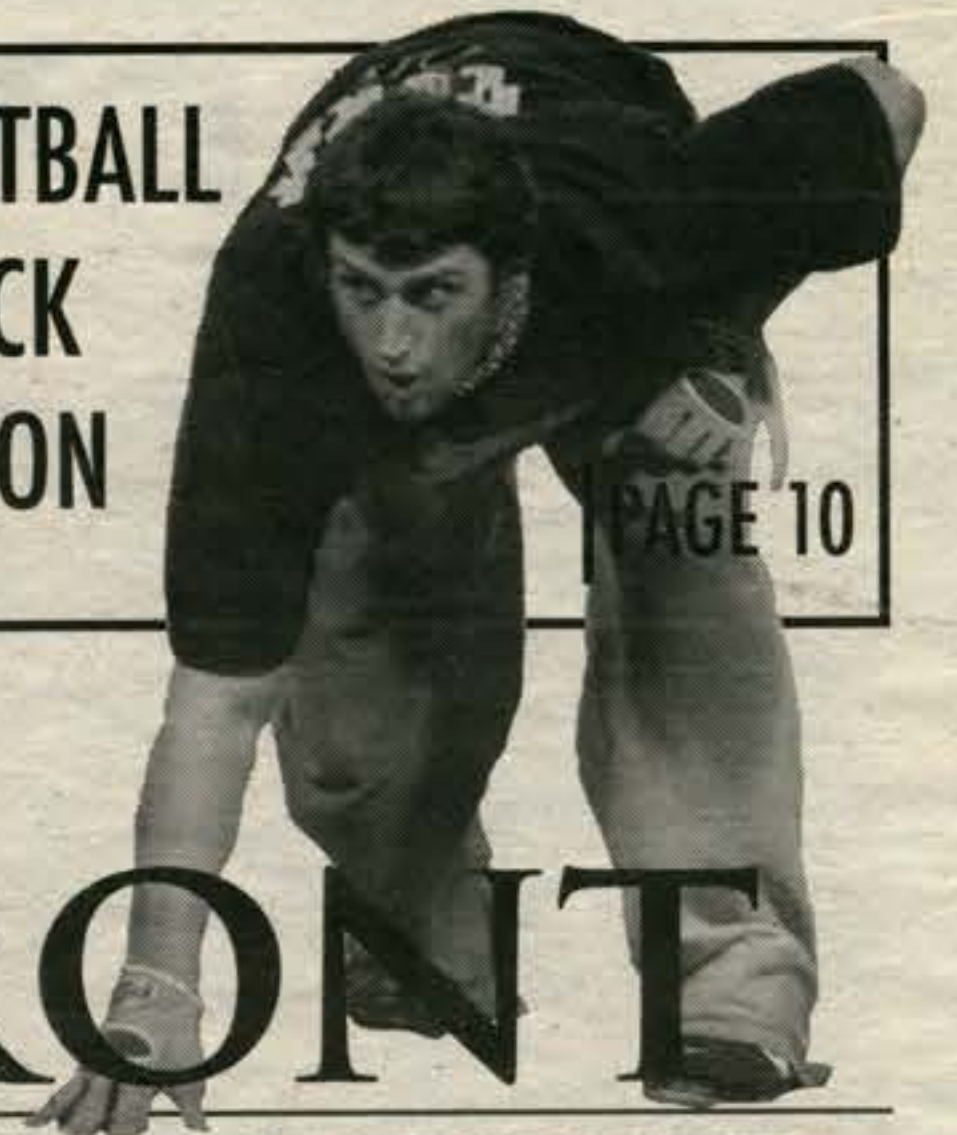
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**COMMUNITY
REMEMBERS
PROFESSOR**

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**FORMER FOOTBALL
PLAYERS FLOCK
TO FLAG ACTION**

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Friday, October 23, 2009 | Volume 148, Issue 9

THE WESTERN FRONT

AN INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER SERVING WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SINCE 1970 | WESTERNFRONTONLINE.NET

Armed robbery suspects arrested

David Gonzales
THE WESTERN FRONT

University Police arrested Western freshman Sean Heien outside of Ridgeway Delta Thursday, following the Wednesday arrest of Western freshman Derreck Opheim in connection to the report of an armed robbery in the Sehome Arboretum Oct. 15.

Heien and Opheim were booked into Whatcom County Jail on suspicion of trafficking in stolen property and robbery in the first degree, said Mark Young, Bellingham Police Department public information officer.

Opheim, who was arrested outside Ridgeway Omega, was arraigned Thursday afternoon, Young said. His bail was set at \$100,000.

The robbery was reported by an unidentified 20-year-old Western student who said he was walking through the arboretum when two males ahead of him, one armed with a gun and the other with a knife, turned around and ordered him to give up his backpack.

Among the stolen items was an iPod, which came back to play a vital role in the discovery of the suspects' identities.

Bellingham detectives found the knife reportedly used in the robbery in Opheim's dorm room after his arrest.

Immediately following the incident Oct. 15, University Police Chief Randy Stegmeier sent out a campus-wide e-mail describing the robbery and encouraging anyone with information to call the "Safe Campus" hotline.

This e-mail prompted the tipoff that led to Opheim's arrest, Young said.

A Western student called Bellingham Police to report that a friend of hers had purchased a used iPod from a stranger at an exceptionally low price, Young said.

The Bellingham Police Department attained a warrant for the arrest of Opheim, though the other suspect, Heien, was still at large.

Chief Stegmeier released another e-mail announcing the arrest of Opheim and listing Heien as a "person of interest" Thursday morning.

Within a few hours, a Delta resident saw Heien return to the residence hall and called the police, Young said.

Heien was arrested shortly after without incident and transported to Whatcom County Jail, Young said.



photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Registered nurse Teri Bodensteiner carefully administers the H1N1 vaccine for Western sophomore Emily Johnson Tuesday afternoon. "My mom wanted me to it," Johnson said. "I don't want to be missing classes."

Hundreds vaccinated

Students receive limited supply of H1N1 vaccine

Ben Woodard
THE WESTERN FRONT

Hoads of students and faculty lined up Tuesday for free H1N1 virus vaccinations in the Performing Arts Center lobby. Many waited hours for screening before finally receiving the nasal spray vaccine.

Two registered nurses administered the government-funded vaccinations from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., two and a half hours longer than anticipated.

A total of 309 students have contacted the Health Center with flu-like symptoms since school began, and one student was hospitalized and released, according to the health center's swine flu blog. The center is allowed to send three samples a week to the state department of health for testing, but many come back positive for the H1N1 virus.

see VACCINE page 3

Western students to help naturalize immigrants

Renee Davies
THE WESTERN FRONT

Approximately 10 Fairhaven College and Western students will volunteer as paralegals for Bellingham's first Citizenship Day, a program meant to help U.S. immigrants become U.S. citizens Saturday Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fairhaven and Western students have volunteered previous years in Mount Vernon, but will help with the event at Bellingham Technical college this year.

Citizenship Day, created by the Washington New Americans Program, OneAmerica and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, is an event where paralegals, lawyers and interpreters work together to provide free assistance to those wishing to apply for U.S. citizenship.

"This program is an attempt to streamline the path to citizenship," said Charlie McAteer, communications manager for OneAmerica.

Scott Railton, the attorney site coordinator for the event, said the applications are

long and complicated and can be intimidating for those who speak English as a second language, or little English at all.

Without this free service many would need to seek out and pay for their own attorney, Railton said, which in addition to the \$675 in application fees, could be expensive.

Saturday's event will involve several different rooms and steps.

Each client first meets with a paralegal in order to fill out and discuss the application. The paralegal also flags anything that might be of concern when applying, which is then looked over by one of the immi-

gration attorneys.

Fairhaven College's Center for Law, Diversity and Justice partnered up with Railton to work with and train students to act as paralegals at the event.

Railton requires students fill out their own naturalization forms, read a 70-page manual and attend an afternoon training session in order to prepare themselves to act as paralegals.

Although many students do it strictly as volunteer work, students could also receive one credit as an independent study course.

Railton said one of his favorite parts of the event is working with the students. He said the event offers good legal experience for Western and Fairhaven students, especially those wishing to go on to law school.

After clients spends one-on-one time with a paralegal and has finished the application, they meet with a full-time immigration lawyer.

During this step, the lawyer looks over the application, taking note of the sections

see CITIZENSHIP page 2

AS Board abolishes charter

Ben Woodard
THE WESTERN FRONT

The AS Board of Directors revoked an interim charter deemed illegitimate by the office of Western's assistant attorney general in a board meeting Wednesday.

Western's assistant attorney general Wendy Bohlke advised the AS to revoke the governing charter passed June 3 for the Departmentally Related Activities Committee (DRAC), and since then has worked with both AS and DRAC to develop a charter which represents both parties equally.

DRAC distributes funds

see DRAC page 3

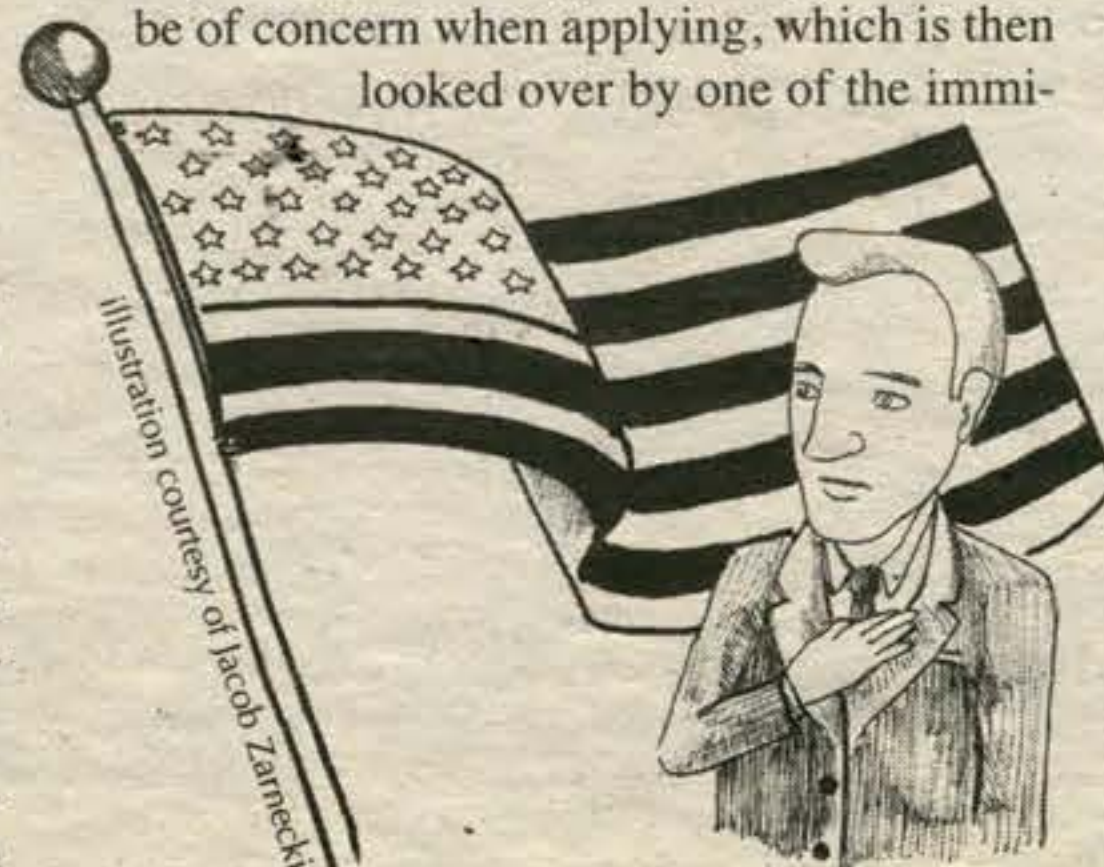




photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Wendy Crandall of the Sustainable Transportation Office screws a bell onto Western senior Allison Lewis' bike. Crandall gave out free bike bells with members of the Bellingham Bike Gang, a Western club, and the Outdoor Center on Thursday in Red Square. Crandall said they are hoping to create a "safe and considerate bicycling culture on campus."

CORRECTIONS

An article in the Oct. 16 issue titled "Sudden death shocks Western," gave the incorrect age of Michael Grimes; he was 44. In the same article, it was stated that Grimes taught at Western for five years. He was hired as a full-time tenure track faculty in the 2001-2002 academic year and had a visiting professor appointment the previous academic year.

An article in the Oct. 20 issue titled "Committee seeks to ratify green fee initiative," stated the green energy fee was included once a year in tuition—it is included once per quarter.

CITIZENSHIP: Program first for Bellingham

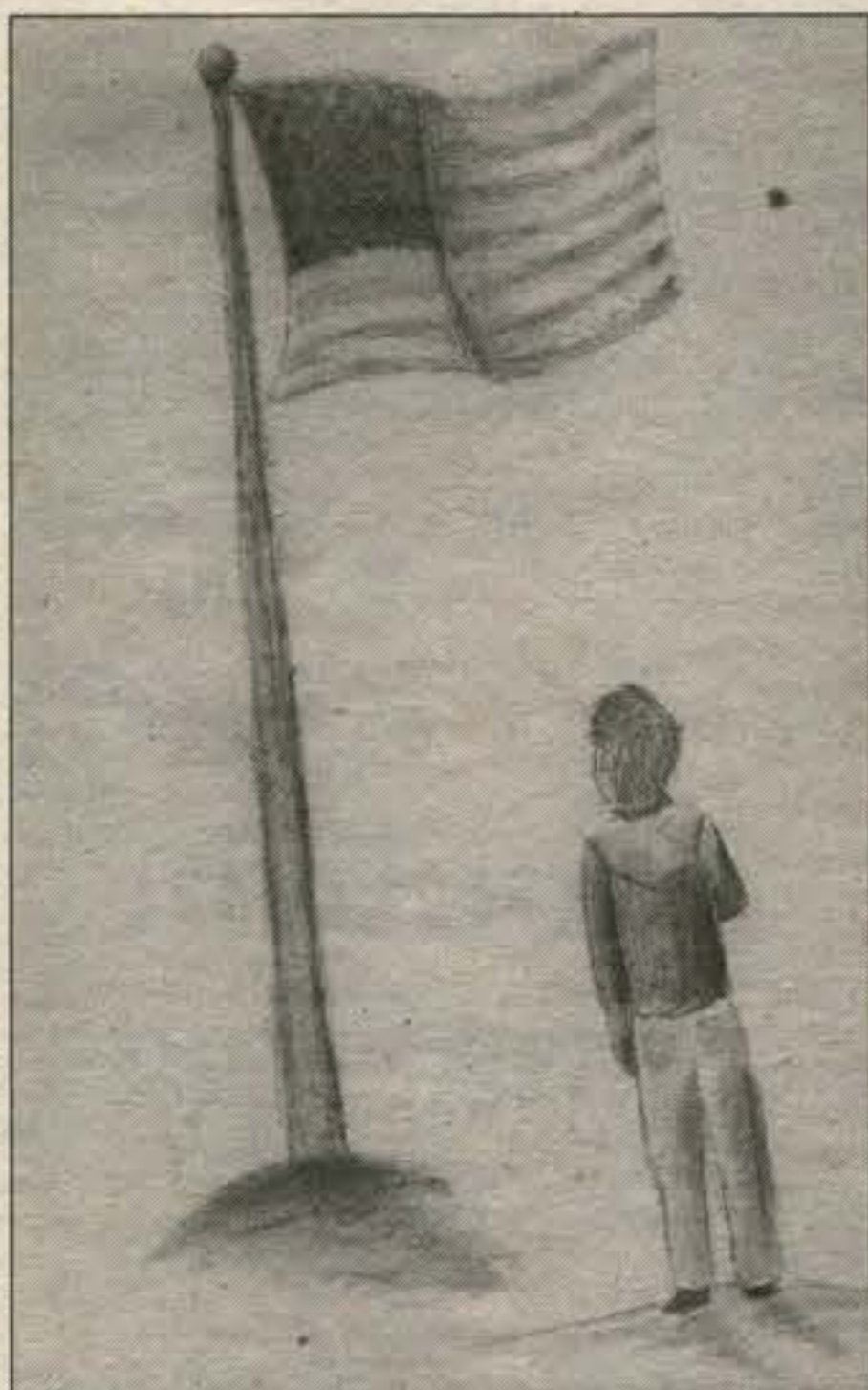


illustration by Alan Crow THE WESTERN FRONT

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flagged by the paralegal, and offers advice on whether or not to file.

Railton said it is not uncommon for lawyers to advise a client not to apply because of missing criteria or required materials. He said sometimes certain information, such as a criminal record, could put the client at risk for deportation, in which case the lawyer would recommend not applying.

Railton said part of the process includes a basic English language requirement, an American history and civics test, requirements as far as amount of time spent in the U.S and showing good moral

character.

The client cannot have left the U.S. for any extended period of time in the last five years, or three years if married to a U.S. citizen.

Railton said he has heard of applications being turned down because of items as small as being on probation for a traffic violation.

The application process takes approximately six months to a year, but Railton said he has had applicants wait for as long as four years to receive approval.

Niall Ó Murchú, Fairhaven professor and community site coordinator for the event, said the entire process on Saturday takes approximately two hours per person, depending on how many people show up as both participants and volunteers.

Western junior Alex Rolnick, a volunteer paralegal for the event, said based on previous years, he expects approximately 40 total volunteers.

This is Rolnick's second year volunteering at such an event.

"It's just really a great experience to see the effects of actually helping people do something that's really important to them in their lives," Rolnick said.

Rolnick recounted helping a Filipino woman his first year.

"It was really cool to see how thankful she was that this was a program that was offered," Rolnick said.

On Oct. 24 there will also be Citizenship Day events taking place in Pasco, Centralia and Port Angeles, and more to follow throughout the year in various cities statewide.

McAteer said undocumented resi-

dents are welcome to come and ask questions, but are not eligible for naturalization services.

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Cops Box

University Police

Oct. 20

- Campus police arrested a 25-year-old man in connection with DUI at 12:08 a.m.

Oct. 21

- Campus police contacted the Ridgeway Delta residence hall regarding student use of marijuana at 10:24 p.m., students were referred to resident advisers.

Bellingham Police

Oct. 20

- Two teenagers were arrested at 10:15 p.m. on the 2600 block on Meridian St., under suspicion of shop lifting and possession of alcohol. One had a stolen credit card and ID.

Oct. 21

- Police responded to a call at 3:24 p.m. of a homeless man following a woman as she walked to work on Lakeway Drive by the I-5 overpass.

Oct. 22

- A 21-year-old man was arrested at 1:13 a.m. on the 1100 block of Harris Avenue in connection to urinating in public.

Cops Box compiled by Lindsey Otta

VACCINE: Western received 400 doses of total 75,600 nationwide Friday

from 1

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, a federal agency, has allocated the vaccination throughout the United States based on population size. According to its Web site, 75,600 doses have been shipped to Washington state, and of those, Western received 400 last Friday.

Even though age and health restrictions were enforced, all 400 doses were given to students and faculty at the clinic, said Teri Bodensteiner, one of the nurses administering the vaccine.

"The clinic was supposed to start at 10:30 a.m., but there were students lined up at 9 a.m.," Bodensteiner said. "Next time we are looking to do some kind of an online reservation thing and hopefully have more medical people."

Western junior Katie Powell said she got to the PAC before the line was too long, but still ended up waiting for three hours.

Western freshman Yi-ran Li waited approximately two hours for his vaccination.

"It's like regular nasal spray," he said.

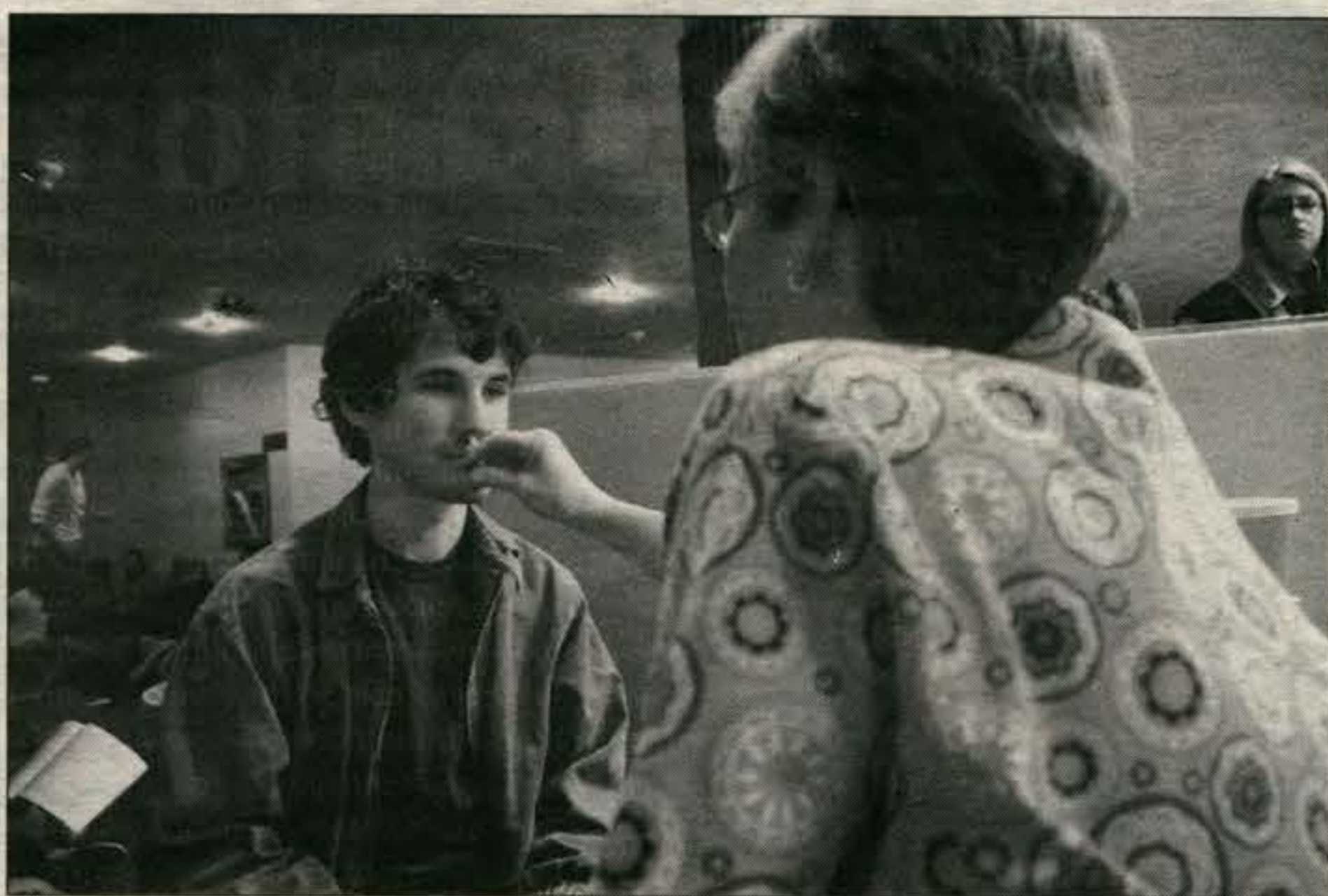


photo by Hailey Tucker THE WESTERN FRONT

Registered nurse Teri Bodensteiner gives Western freshman Graham Armstrong the H1N1 vaccine Tuesday afternoon. "It was free and seemed like a good opportunity to keep myself healthy."

"You expect like a big machine to come down and beam something in your face, but it's just like nasal spray; tastes like it, too."

Recipients had to pass an evaluation

through a screening questionnaire, which restricted those older than 24 years of age, those already sick and those who are pregnant or have chronic health problems such as asthma and diabetes.

The center put restrictions in place because of the low amount of vaccine manufacturers have been able to create since the H1N1 flu epidemic began approximately six months ago, and because of the type of vaccine, which is categorized as a live, weakened intranasal vaccine.

The intranasal vaccine works like the regular shot-in-arm vaccine by tricking the immune system into creating antibodies to fight the flu, except it uses the actual, live virus cultures instead of dead ones.

The H1N1 virus is expected to be around for a while, but next year the seasonal flu vaccine will include an H1N1 strain, Gibson said, so people can get all the vaccinations needed in one shot.

Compared to Washington State University, Gibson said she is impressed with how cautious the Western community has been about spreading germs. She said the WSU outbreak was greatly related to the close quarters of the fraternity and sorority rush. Based on how many cases of illness she has seen thus far, she said Western has been more cautious.

"I expected much larger numbers than what we've seen," Gibson said.

CHARTER: DRAC, AS members will meet Oct. 27 to finalize charter details

from 1

from the Services and Activities Fee for departmental activities in four main areas: music, theater arts, communication and journalism. Some specific recipients include Western's debate team, student publications and the dance program. Students pay the fee alongside their tuition every quarter.

DRAC and AS Board members also held a much-anticipated meeting Tuesday Oct. 20 to discuss the new charter drawn up during summer 2009.

Communication between DRAC and AS Board members has been rocky in the past, resulting in missteps and compromised agendas.

"The process by which they thought they were doing the right thing ignored a procedure that was already in place," DRAC chair Steve Woods said. "And also was offered more accusatory than it needed to be. And so it stepped on some toes."

The new charter is a compilation of parts of the rescinded charter, older DRAC charters and recommendations from Western's assistant attorney general office.

The initial concerns of the AS Board—such as adequate student representation and committee oversight—have



photo by Nicholas Johnson THE WESTERN FRONT

In no more than a few minutes on Wednesday, the AS Board of Directors, including Colin Watrin, Virgilio Cintron and Matt Jarrell (left to right), rescinded the Departmentally Related Activities Committee charter the board passed during spring 2009.

been answered in the new charter. Under it, the AS Board is allowed to appoint two student representatives to DRAC, and as has been done in the past, the committee is forced to report budget recommendations to the Services and Activities Fee Committee, which oversees how student fees are spent.

The move to rescind the AS charter was a first step to mending relationships that were damaged over the charter dis-

agreements, said Colin Watrin, AS Vice president for activities.

"It was a symbolic gesture more than anything," Watrin said. "Just to say, 'we are going to rescind this so that we can proceed forward with a clean slate.'"

The bulk of Tuesday's meeting was spent going through the new charter, word by word. Each representative in the committee was able to give his or her input.

Approximately 10 minutes into the

meeting AS President Matt Jarrell apologized on behalf of last year's AS Board for passing the now-revoked interim charter in question.

"We take full responsibility," Jarrell said. "We care about our relationship with DRAC, and rescinding the charter was a gesture toward making a positive relationship with DRAC."

Another meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27, to finalize the DRAC charter.

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Loved ones reflect on a life lost;

Anna Atkinson
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western professor Michael Grimes will be remembered for the love and dedication he had for his family, research and students.

Grimes, 44, passed away Oct. 15 due to natural causes.

Family, friends, students and colleagues filled Moles Family Funeral Home and Bayview Chapel to honor the late professor Grimes on Wednesday.

Attendees poured out into the hallway and lobby to silently listen to the service over the intercom when seating in the main room reached capacity.

Grimes will be missed by his wife, three children, faculty and students.

"I would like to thank my family and friends for their support," said his widow Tammy Grimes.

Grimes joined the department in 2000 as a visiting professor and officially joined the staff in 2001.

"His sense of humor was infectious," said colleague Joan Stevenson, an anthropology professor at Western. "He had a silly side that everyone adored."

Stevenson said Grimes expanded the department with his creation of a reproductive ecology and a nutritional anthropology class and contributed to the teaching of anatomy and physiology through the biology department.

He was a popular professor who helped many students plan their degree in



photo courtesy of Liverball

Michael Grimes keeps a drum beat during a Liverball show. Band member Ray Kolcun said Grimes always remained positive during their shows, no matter what happened.

anthropology, she said.

"His door was always open to students," Stevenson said.

He was dedicated to his family and began work earlier this quarter so he could go home a few minutes early and spend more time with his children and wife, Stevenson said.

Stevenson said Grimes was an absolute sweetheart; a wonderful person who was easygoing yet driven.

Stevenson said one of Grimes' papers about the effect protein has in a diet helped her personally—she said reading the article made it clear to her that she

needed to eat more protein herself.

Grimes and Darryl Holman, an anthropology professor at the University of Washington, collaborated in research when they were postdoctoral fellows at Pennsylvania State University in the late 1990s.

This research involved studying the influence culture has on breast-feeding as well as energy loss associated with it.

The research project Grimes was recently co-investigating with Holman and four other professors is a continuation of their previous research, Holman said.

"Mike was a joy to be around," Hol-

man said. "He had this sort of humble sense of humor. He made himself the butt of a lot of jokes."

Holman said he remembers they used to play chess together over beer every couple of weeks, and eventually, when they would travel together for conferences regarding their research, Grimes brought a magnetic chess board to play on the plane, Holman said.

He looks fondly on memories of time spent with the Grimes family at their home, he said. Holman described Grimes as a wonderful husband and father.

"He was very dedicated to his family," Holman said. "He was always doing things with them or for them."

Holman said he remembered a specific time Grimes made him laugh.

"When I visited him in June, I noticed he had drumsticks in the corner of his office," Holman said.

He said when he asked Grimes why he had the drumsticks, Grimes answered he had been practicing for the reunion concert of the punk rock band he used to play for starting in the early 1990s, called Liverball.

"You could be down in your lowest of lows and if you were with Mike for 15 minutes he'd have you laughing."

Ray Kolcun,
Friend
Guitarist for Liverball

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Holman said Grimes had been practicing in his office without drums, with his headset on.

Liverball's reunion was on July 16, 2009, in Pittsburg, Pa.

"It was like walking backwards in time," said Ray Kolcun, one of Grimes' longtime friends and guitarist for the band.

Kolcun said if something did not go quite right with the band, Grimes always maintained a positive outlook and put a positive spin on it.

"You could be down in your lowest of lows and if you were with Mike for 15 minutes he'd have you laughing," he said.

He said one night during a show, the band's bass player fell into Grimes' drum set and knocked it over, leaving only the stool and snare drum standing.

"Drums and cymbals went everywhere," he said. "And Mike kept playing...with this giant grin on his face like, 'this is the greatest thing ever,'" he said.



photo courtesy of Liverball

From left to right; Liverball band members: Michael Grimes, Buck Knauer, Ray Kolcun, Joe Triglia, Jonathan Bagamery.

He said Grimes' passing was like losing a family member.

Western senior Katie Brown said Grimes urged her to pursue a degree in biological anthropology after she finished her degree in cellular and molecular biology fall 2008.

"I would like to thank my family and friends for their support."

**Tammy Grimes,
Wife of the late
Michael Grimes**

"He was a pretty amazing professor," she said.

Brown said Grimes made it easy to know exactly what to study for on a test.

He used to bring the actual test to class for the review session to help his students prepare for the specific questions that would be asked, she said.

His funny, sarcastic personality made the classroom experience fun, and she said she enjoyed his conversational teaching style.

Brown has been in four of Grimes' classes over the last three years, including Ecology of Human Variation this quarter.

She would drop by his office sometimes, even when she was not in his class, and he would be available.

"He [went] above and beyond for his students," she said.

Additional reporting by David Gonzales

A glimpse at the memorial service




Mourners were encouraged to sign a book of memories and thoughts at the memorial service for Michael Grimes Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Moles Family Funeral Home and Bayview Chapel.

Western junior Alex Uhrich (left) and senior Adina Cairns look at photographs of Grimes set up at the memorial service.



The wife of the late Michael Grimes, Tammy Grimes (right, center), is followed by family and friends, after the memorial service.

photos by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT




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Western senior Benjamin Harter almost exclusively purchases his bulk foods from the Community Food Co-op downtown. The store offers clean containers for shoppers who choose to eat packageless.



photos by Jordan Stead THE WESTERN FRONT

Vegan attempts a month without packaging

Jordan Stead
THE WESTERN FRONT

On a trip to the Oregon coastline, Western senior Benjamin Harter, 24, found himself on a beach littered with garbage.

This massive buildup of generated waste moved Harter to see just how little of an ecological impact he can make. Harter is two weeks into a month-long attempt at consuming only unpackaged foods.

One out of every \$11 Americans spend on food goes toward the packaging it came in, and those same materials account for one-third of all the trash in the country.

Harter explained he is slowly trying to move from a packaged lifestyle to making meals entirely from scratch. "There is no negative side of this [decision] for me," Harter said.

Harter grew up in Eastern Washington in a farming family. After attending Washington State University for a year and finding it unfit for his perspective, he moved to Bellingham and started at Whatcom Community College for his sophomore year.

"Sometime after moving [here], I began to develop an environmental sense of things," Harter said.

He began to take classes at Huxley College of the Environment, but found them to be more focused on studying sciences than on the environmental-based topics in which he was most interested and began taking recreation classes.

A vegetarian for more than three years, Harter said he decided December 2008 that he would attempt veganism for a month with several of his friends.

"I always felt like I needed the push to be vegan," Harter said. "And that challenge was that push I needed."

Western senior Jake Bankson, 22, one of Harter's closest friends, was in on the challenge. Bankson ultimately remained vegan for two months.

"[Benjamin] has an interesting way of looking at our world," Bankson said. "I would love to do what he's doing, making time to eat like he does. Ben sticks to his

// Being vegan is simply being conscious of the products you use.

- Benjamin Harter,
Western senior and vegan //

morals and refuses what he doesn't want."

Being a vegan is different than being a vegetarian, and demands a much stricter set of lifestyle parameters. Simply defined, vegans live without the use of animal byproducts—those that can stretch far beyond food. From meat to gelatin to leather and talc, vegans must seek products that were not derived from living beings.

"Being vegan is simply being conscious of the products you use," Harter said. "The only reason companies tell the consumer what's vegan is because of allergies, not to assist a consumer choice."

Potential allergens in a food must be listed for legal reasons.

Over the course of the experiment, Harter has brought his cooking back to the bare essentials—from scratch ingredients that he purchases.

"Peppers, tomatoes, onions and potatoes go in pretty much everything I eat," Harter said. "There's tons of stir-fry with tofu, and a lot of Mexican."

Harter said he knew he might not continue his ex-

periment after the month's time, but was confident that he was going to walk away with a skill set that could potentially reduce his ecological footprint.

According to a survey Harter recently took on The Nature Conservancy Web site, he found his average carbon footprint is approximately 11 tons per year—59 percent less than the national average.

Harter also noted since his switch to being a vegan, he has lowered his carbon emissions by more than four tons annually.

The process of raising cattle for slaughter in the U.S. relies heavily on the use of fossil fuels. The waste of the fuel raises a meat-eater's carbon emissions.

Western senior Jeff Johnson, 22, has been a friend of Harter's for more than a year.

"I envy the time and commitment that Ben puts in," Johnson said. "He is always doing things for people; he's got great character."

Over the past 50 years, cooking times have decreased dramatically due to the increase of processed and pre-made foods. Such changes lead Harter to believe that humans—especially Americans—regard food as no longer a nutrient, but a culture.

Almost all the ingredients or raw foods that Harter purchases are from the Community Food Co-op, located downtown. The establishment offers clean jars to fill with bulk foods, which is a majority of what Harter buys.

"Anything you want to eat, you can make from bulk foods," Harter said. "I've eaten less overall since I began this month, but I've made a conscious effort to not change my diet."

The benefits of eating unpackaged foods make a difference on a number of ecological levels. Most plastics are made from petroleum, which is a finite resource, and

fossil fuel.

"For one, I'm making a positive environmental impact, and it's easy on my conscience," Harter said. "I spend more money on food, but that's because I'm buying a higher quality; I'm paying for more than just the market value."

Harter said he is aware that many people do not share the same motivation for eating consciously as he does.

"I recommend this to others, but it's not something you should jump into," Harter said. "Do some research. Then start with a simple step one, like bringing your own bags to the grocery store."

Western senior Matt Camardo, 25, is a friend of Harter's who lived with him for some time.

"Benjamin is open to what he feels strongly about, but he doesn't push it on people to do the same," Camardo said. "He lets people do what they feel is right."

Western senior Calla Ward, 21, Harter's girlfriend, sees the way Harter positively alters the way other people regard their food.

"Ben changes the way people think about what they're doing by inspiring in a kind way," Ward said. "People see him bring his own Tupperware to school, and it stirs them to change for themselves and for the community."

Whether Harter will ultimately adopt the unpackaged lifestyle for good or simply use this month's adventure as an experiment, he said he is satisfied by the choice he is making.

"Mentally, I feel much better [than before]. I know everything about what I'm consuming," Harter said. "My actions are resulting in a positive environmental impact, I'm eating less and it's lighter on my conscience overall."

A short journey with late-night shuttle driver Larry Gnass

Keegan Prosser
THE WESTERN FRONT

Larry Gnass has been driving the WWU Late Night Shuttle since it was brought in to service Fall 2007. Over the past two years, he has seen his fair share of entertainment. The Western Front recently got the chance to speak with Gnass and learn what happens on the streets of Bellingham after dark.

WF: What is your favorite thing about driving during the night shift?

LG: I like the independence. I don't like being cooped up in an office—I like being out. There is a certain kind of freedom that comes with this job.

WF: How do you stay awake during your shift?

LG: I drink coffee, but I don't usually have a problem staying awake. On the weekends it is pretty busy so there is always someone to talk to. But getting used to the hours makes it easier. I try to get to sleep by 4 a.m. and wake up at noon. I also bring a book to read when I have a few minutes of down time.

WF: Where are students usually headed?

LG: A lot of kids get on and just ask to be dropped off at 1000 Indian St. It seems to be a constant party house. I didn't know where it was when I first started driving, but I do now. I am sure there are lots of stories from that place.

WF: What types of people do you generally encounter?

LG: The late shuttle is exclusively for students. The university doesn't like us picking up non-students, but students can usually bring on one guest. During the week it is generally students studying late, but on the weekends there are quite a few intoxicated people.

WF: What is your busiest night?

LG: Friday. The weekends mostly, but especially Fridays.

WF: Are there any specific stops that have more people?

LG: It varies upon each day of the week, but on the weekends a lot of students are downtown.

WF: Have you worked Halloween before?

LG: Yes. Halloween weekend is the busiest weekend of the year.

WF: Are there any interesting costumes that you remember from years past?

LG: None of the costumes that I have seen have been very creative. Everyone kind of dresses down. Or in a way that wouldn't be appropriate for print.

WF: How is Halloween weekend different for you?

LG: I have to get my game face on. I can't be as relaxed as I normally am because things can get crazy. On the weekends kids try to bring alcohol on the bus and use profanity and are jumping around. It can get disorderly, so I have to control that.

WF: Do you have any funny or memorable stories about riders that you would like to share?

LG: The first year that the shuttle started running there were a lot of kids who boarded the bus with open containers. But I don't see that as much anymore. Word must have spread about that not being OK.

WF: Do you see any familiar faces?

LG: I have had a couple of people [who ride regularly] ask me to their 21st birthday parties. I was flattered, but that's just not for me. There was also a young man two years ago—he was a freshman, so he probably still goes here—who always rode the shuttle on Friday nights. One time I found him passed out at a bus stop, and with the help of another guy, I carried him on the bus. I had to call an ambulance to meet us at the Ridge where he lived.

WF: Are there any other stories you can share?

LG: Last month or so, a gal got on the bus and told me this long, animated story about how her car got stolen in Seattle the previous day. And a few weeks later she boarded my bus again and told the exact same story, like it had just happened. And about a week after that, she rode again and told me the exact same thing. She must think I'm just a fixture on the bus or something. I'm waiting for her to board again and tell me [the story] for the fourth time.

The WWU Late Night Shuttle runs 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday.



photo by Lindsey Otta THE WESTERN FRONT

Organization lends helping paw

Whatcom Voice Of the Animals offers cats second chance at finding home

David Gonzales
THE WESTERN FRONT

Surrounded by cats in the cozy back room of Hohl Feed and Seed on Railroad Avenue, Laina Jansma, founder of Whatcom Voice Of the Animals, works tirelessly to find loving homes for orphaned felines.

Whether someone is looking to buy a cuddly new kitten or get rid of a pesky old alley cat, Jansma is ready to help.

Since opening the shop in April 2008, Whatcom Voice Of the Animals has found homes for nearly 300 cats. Operating out of an approximately 8-by-12 foot room lined with cat cages, the organization provides affordable ways to satisfy cats' needs.

Adoption costs \$95 for males and \$100 for females. This expense covers spay or neutering procedures, vaccinations, leukemia testing and de-worming and ear mite treatment if necessary.

Until last spring Jansma operated her non-profit just outside Hohl, bringing her cat cages to the sidewalk six days a week. In April, Hohl management decided to stop selling fish and cleared out their fish room in the back of the store.

"When this room became vacant, the wheels started spinning in

my head and I made them an offer," Jansma said.

Jansma currently owns 11 adult cats and four kittens. She said between her house and work, she goes through approximately 75 pounds of kitten food each month.

Jansma said she is happy to provide a venue for cat owners to bring unwanted litters of kittens, and for prospective pet owners to adopt the perfect feline, provided they pass the pre-adoption application process.

To pass the application process, adopters must provide information about where the cat will sleep, where the cat will spend most of its time and what hours the adopters are home, as well as a landlord's phone number for confirmation of the lease agreement.

Two ways that guarantee application rejection are revealing plans to declaw an adopted cat or listing that the cat will live outside. Jansma said it is not safe for cats to be outside, especially if they have been declawed, because of all the raccoons in Whatcom County.

"If you say you are going to declaw this kitty, then forget it," Jansma said.

One such application reject was a lady who had lost 50 cats in five years to raccoons because she let them wander around outside defenselessly, Jansma said.

Another adoption reject was a mother with "a bunch of bratty kids," who came into the organization and began playing tug-of-war with one of the kittens, she said.

Jansma said the organization looks for responsible pet owners, which means she is sometimes forced to turn down college students who, due to fast-paced and regularly changing lifestyles, are not stable enough for pet ownership, she said.

Western seniors Sara Florence and Matt Preucil picked up an application Tuesday after spending nearly 30 minutes in the back room of Hohl with Jansma and



photo by David Gonzales THE WESTERN FRONT

Laina Jansma explains adoption procedures to prospective cat owners at Whatcom Voice Of the Animals on Railroad Avenue.

a playful black cat.

Florence and Preucil met in English 101 their freshman year. They have been dating for more than two years and said they are excited about adopting their first pet together.

Florence said choosing this cat was simple.

"He was the one that came up to us and started playing with us," she said.

The organization does not charge for cat donations, and when it takes on a litter of kittens, the organization pays to get the mother spayed, though donations are gladly accepted.

One of the organization's biggest cat suppliers is Dianna McCandless, who along with her sons, catches feral cats in Ferndale and brings them to Jansma.

"I'm glad we get to save kitties," said her 13-year-old son Tony. "They're furry and comfortable to sleep with."

The family has brought approxi-

mately 40 cats to Whatcom Voice Of the Animals in the last two years, McCandless said. While they have just one cat of their own, a calico named Rusty, they said they currently feed 20 of their neighbors' neglected and feral cats and attempt to rescue as many of them as possible.

"She has me catch them and set up the cages," McCandless' 14-year-old son Jesse said.

The McCandless family brought three kittens to Whatcom Voice Of the Animals Friday, and said they plan to continue their rescue efforts indefinitely.

The organization spays and neuters its cats through the Whatcom Education Spay & Neuter Impact Program's Spay Station, a mobile animal clinic that charges \$35 to spay females and \$30 to neuter males.

The Spay Station has been cruising through north Whatcom County since the beginning of October and will make a stop in Bellingham Oct. 29.

Whatcom Voice
Of the Animals
is open from 3:30 p.m. to
6:00 p.m., Monday
through Saturday.

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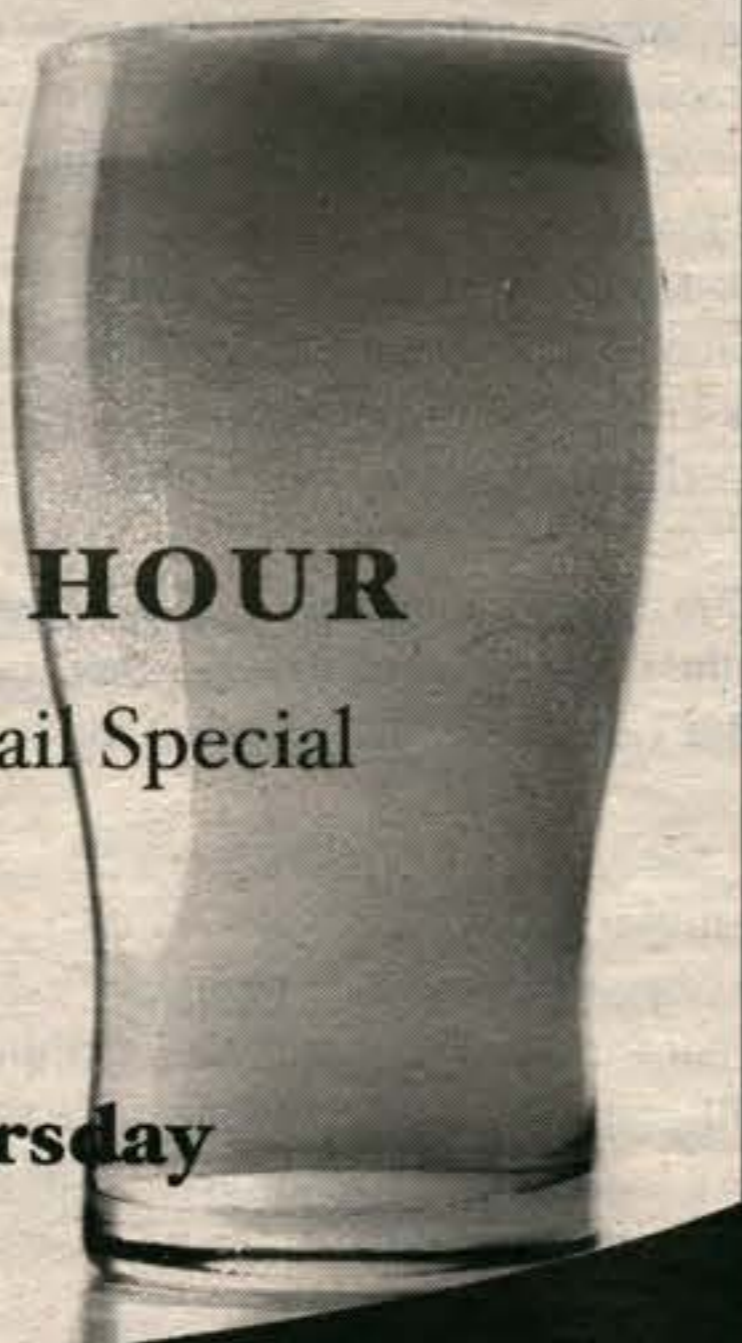
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Viking Voices Opinions from around campus

Do you have any fears about finding a job after graduation?

compiled by Ben Woodard



Daniel Langager
Sophomore

"I don't really know what my major is yet, so I don't really know what my field is going to be."



Gabrielle Fraley
Senior

"Of course I'm a little scared about getting a job because there's always someone out there more qualified than you. But I think my major really prepared me for it."



Sam Mandler
Sophomore

"I'm definitely concerned that there is just not going to be jobs out there, and that I'm gonna wind up working the nine-to-five grind instead of what I want."



Jack Fellman
Sophomore

"I'm not that worried because of two words: grad school."

Belated progress made on stem cells

Obama's lift on research ban still too late to help Bellingham resident

Frontline

Opinions of the Editorial Board

George W. Bush may no longer be president, but his policies blocking stem cell research in the U.S. still loom over the head of Bellingham resident and Whatcom Community College student Erik Gelhar.

Gelhar has been diagnosed with heart failure and will be seeking treatment in Germany that involves using stem cells from his body to try and stabilize his heart.

The procedure is currently unavailable in the U.S. Perhaps that is because former President Bush severely limited stem cell research during his term—perhaps not. However, Bush's policies have slowed down the development of this important medical field in the U.S. If American citizens must travel overseas in order to get medical procedures that could and should be available in this country, there is a problem.

Much of the controversy about stem cells rises from the fact that the most versatile stem cells, the ones that can be coaxed into forming any manner of body tissue, come from human embryos. Extracting stem cells from embryos does

cause their destruction—an upsetting fact for many people. But they should stop to consider that many thousands more embryos are discarded or kept in cold storage by fertility clinics, according to the Time Magazine article "The false controversy of stem cells."

It is not criminal to use embryonic stem cells for medical procedures that can save lives. It is criminal to allow such cells to go to waste.

Fortunately for Gelhar and other U.S. citizens, President Obama has more foresight than his predecessor, at least on this issue. On March 9, 2009 he lifted the restriction on federal funding of stem cell research. According to the Reuters article "Obama lifts Bush restrictions on stem cell research," the National Institutes of Health was given time to review the guidelines concerning the research and recommend new approaches.

The U.S. needs a new direction with stem cells. If citizens must travel to Europe for treatments involving these versatile little cells, what does that say about this country's competitive edge in science and medical technology? In the midst of an economic recession, America must

fine-tune its expertise in fields that establish it as a global leader.

Stem cells are going to be an important part of the effort to remain competitive and advance research that has the potential to be enormously beneficial. It's good news that their neglect by the federal government is at an end.

Gelhar is not without support however. A benefit concert will be held in his honor at 8 p.m. Friday Oct. 23, at the Nightlight Lounge. Five dollars is the suggested donation, and bands such as Black Breath and Heiress will play. The concert benefits will go toward Gelhar's medical bills in Germany.

Student and community members who think a community should receive the help he needs should attend the concert Friday and give their support. Those who want to see stem cell research progress in the United States should let their representatives know by calling or mailing in their opinions.

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

Fake scares cheapen Halloween



Scott Burger

Guest Science Columnist

The autumn month of midterms and free candy comes but once a year, but at a price.

Don't get me wrong, October's changing foliage—and holiday that makes it socially acceptable to dress up as Santa Claus during working hours—make it one of my favorite months. However, the changing of the seasons heralds new highs of needless fear.

At any other time of year when an elevator takes you to a wrong floor, it's blamed on faulty wiring. But during this certain time of a certain month people immediately switch into paranormal mode. Halloween brings with it the whole spooky factor of zombies, ghosts and other supernatural stuff. Generally, these concepts leak into the popular culture via the mass media. It's not necessarily a bad thing, but the issue I have is you can represent these pop-culture figures in a good way and a bad way.

The worst way for media to display the paranormal is to, first off, assume it's true. Secondly, if you run programming around the most haunted day of the year that doesn't necessarily say the paranormal phenomena are true, but doesn't discount them either, it doesn't do a whole lot of good for people understanding the universe around them.

My main target is ghost hunters. They often use techno-babble related to things called electromagnetic (EM) waves. For those non physics majors in the audience, that's light. Whether it's low powered

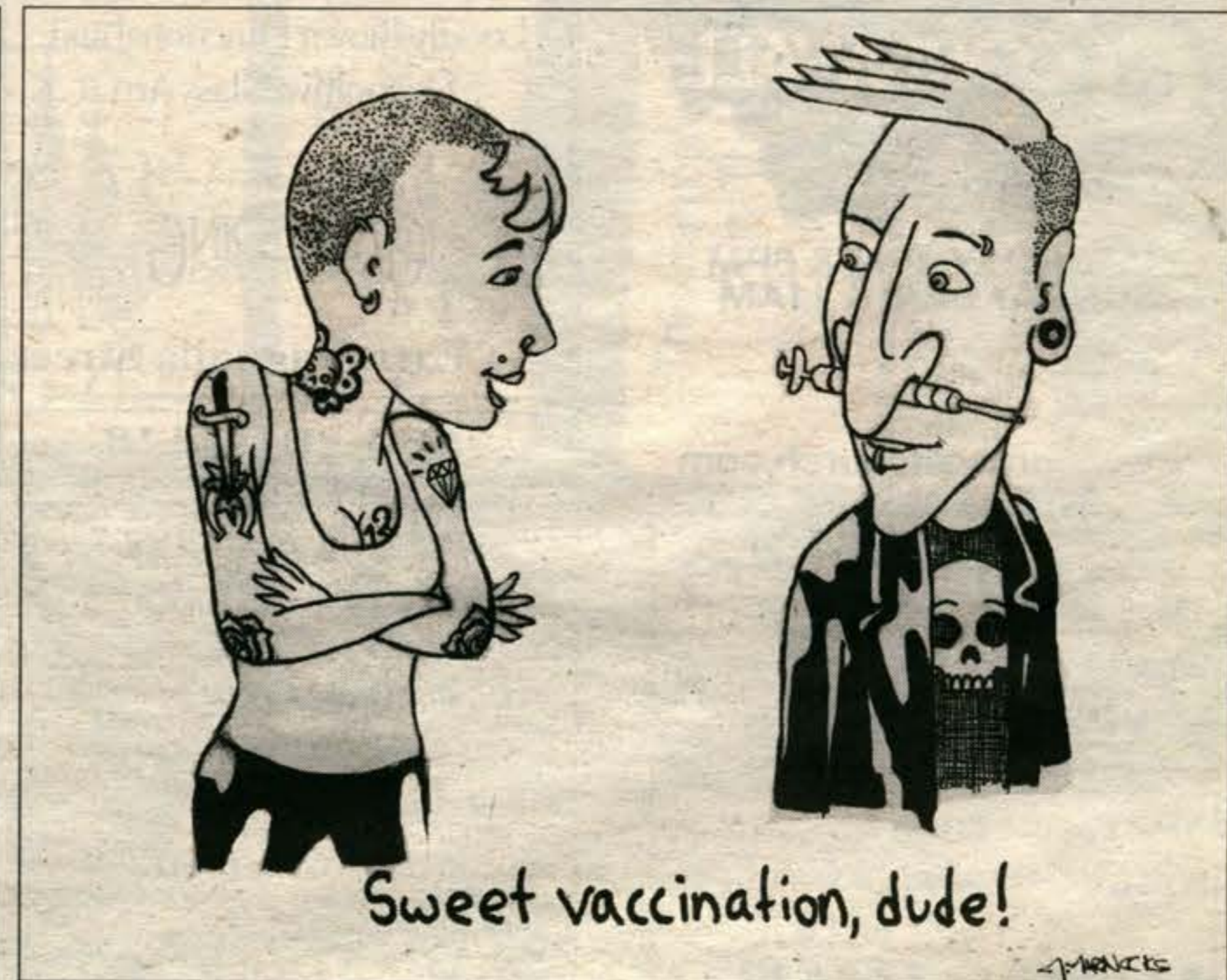
enough to listen to on a radio, or high power enough to take pictures of your teeth, it's everywhere. Many shows on the television station famous for its lack of fact-checking, the History Channel, offer this kind of lingo. I don't expect everyone to know how EM waves propagate down a coaxial wire, but whenever people use 'electromagnetic' this or that on shows such as "Ghost Hunters" on the SyFy Channel, a majority of the time it is not in proper scientific context and misleads people into believing things that scare them.

That's the business model of the History Channel around this time of year: whatever scares, sells. That's why their programming schedule during the weeks surrounding Halloween generates a nice

spike in paranormal-related shows. Never mind the fact that for months afterwards people could still be scared to go into the Wilson Library out of fear that it's haunted, the History Channel is more focused on a "truth is out there" mindset, but it's a truth they can't confirm.

The good way to represent paranormal phenomena would be to investigate the history of how people took the Salem witch trials so seriously or how people take things such as Bigfoot or ghosts as seriously today. The pseudoscience is out there, but the truth depends on what show you're watching.

Scott Burger is a Western senior majoring in physics.



Cartoon by Jacob Zarnecki

Flag football kicks off fall season

Intramural competition offers outlet for ex-footballers to fill the void of last year's loss

For a profile of last year's flag football champions, the Dream Team, visit www.westernfrontonline.net

Willy Delius
THE WESTERN FRONT

This time last year, Saturday was game day, and it began by strapping on a helmet, putting on shoulder pads and flying around the field with limitless vigor.

Now it begins on a Tuesday night with athletic shorts and flags.

The absence of a football team at Western has led former players to join intramural flag football.

"There are only a handful of football players left here, but most of them are out playing flag football," said Western junior and former linebacker David Johnson.

Johnson, along with former teammate and junior David Sinex, plays and referees intramural flag football games. They agree it is a far cry from the competitive football they grew accustomed to in Division-II league play, but the inspiration is entirely different.

"I don't play to fill the void left by Western football," said Sinex, a former Western offensive lineman. "I do it with a group of buddies and have a good time."

Johnson said his motivation stems more closely from the loss of the football program.

"It's really the only option football players left at Western have to play,"

Johnson said. "So we are going to be in all the intramurals now."

The intramural flag football league has 11 divisions with a total of 14 coed teams and 45 men's teams.

The intramural program has a total of approximately 250 teams with 2,000 participants, intramural coordinator Kendra Jackson said.

She said student participation is strong at Western because of the athletic nature of the campus, where people enjoy sports and the outdoors.

"There are a lot of great athletes playing," Sinex said. "A lot of former high school players come out, and the addition of the Western players makes it even stronger."

The opposition is happy to have the former players in the league.

"It is not a problem, it makes better competition," said Western senior and flag football participant Danny Sievers.

For most of the displaced Western football players, this is their first year without competitive football, and it is not easily replaced.

"It's a bummer we lost the team, but there is nothing we can do about it now," Johnson said.

However, there is a silver lining to the loss of the football team.

"My grades are a lot better," Johnson said with a smile.

In addition to flag football, the intramural program is offering volleyball, dodgeball, basketball and soccer in coed and men's and women's leagues this fall.

"Everyone should play [intramurals]"



photo by Willy Delius THE WESTERN FRONT

Former Western linebacker David Johnson runs past a lineman Wednesday night.

Sievers said. "They're a lot of fun."

Jackson said she and her colleagues try to get information out about the leagues to keep the competition strong. Tactics to interact with students include the social media platforms such as the program's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Twitter and Facebook help administer the leagues by getting information concerning cancellations, schedule changes and other necessary updates out where the information is easily accessible, Jackson said.

Students from Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College and Northwest Indian College can also participate in any intramural sport Western offers.

"I think it's a nice connection we have with our community colleges in the

Intramural games are held on the Wade King Student Recreation Center turf field every weeknight until Nov. 6

area," Jackson said.

The award for winning an intramural championship is admittedly nondescript—a T-shirt that proclaims success. But what it lacks in luster, it makes up for in charisma.

"People know what they are and they know how you got it, so it is a sense of pride in your team," Jackson said. "And you get to show that off."

For more information, contact intramural coordinator Kendra Jackson or log on to the intramural Web site: <http://www.wvu.edu/campusrec/intramurals.shtml>.

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photo by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

ABOVE and RIGHT: Geary jumps for two of her 19 kills against Central Washington University Oct. 3.

Thunderstruck

Freshman outside hitter Marlayna "Thunder" Geary has dominated the volleyball court from day one as a Viking

photo courtesy of Marcelo Vidal

reach the state playoffs for the fifth straight year and was named co-most valuable player of the Narrows League her senior year.

Besides playing volleyball for her high school, Geary played on a club squad, which placed fifth nationally at the Junior Olympics in Dallas, Texas, during summer 2008.

Western head coach Diane Flick said she recruited Geary because she believed Geary had a competitive spirit that matches the tradition of Vikings volleyball.

"She's a competitor," Flick said. "That drives her to succeed in the things she does both on and off the court."

When making her college decision, Geary said she had options in other states but chose Western for its intimate campus life and its proximity to her hometown of Tacoma.

"I'm really close with my family and I loved the fact that Bellingham is only about two hours away," Geary said. "It makes it easy for them to come see my matches, both home and away."

Geary made an impressive Viking debut at the Southern California Volleyball Classic Aug. 28, where she tied for a match-high 18 kills, along with eight digs.

"I wanted to come in and be a spark plug for this team," Geary said. "Everyone brings their own thing to the team and I wanted to push the team as much as possible to be able to get better every year."

Though she makes it look as tough

as steel on the court, Geary said she has succumbed to nerves before stepping onto the court.

"I get really nervous before a match," Geary said. "When we are sitting in the team room I just sit there, tell myself to breathe, think about all the things I need to do during the game and think about how I can make everybody around me better."

So far this season, Geary has hit double digits in kills in 17 matches, with a career-high 29 kills against Northwest Nazarene University on Oct. 8.

Western sophomore middle blocker Emily Jepsen said she knows she can always count on Geary in challenging situations to come out swinging and fight until the finish.

"She brings a lot of power in her hits and is not going to let up just because we are near the end," Jepsen said. "She keeps going hard the whole time and has a lot of fun with everything she does."

Flick said Geary is stepping into a leadership role for the team by becoming a dominant physical force for the Vikings.

"[Geary] has a gun for an arm," Flick said. "She has developed into one of our go-to people to rely on in key situations."

Geary said she does not consider herself to be a leader verbally, but instead a leader through her actions on the court.

However, she said she can get a little wild on the court.

"I can get really pumped up in certain plays," Geary said. "I've been known

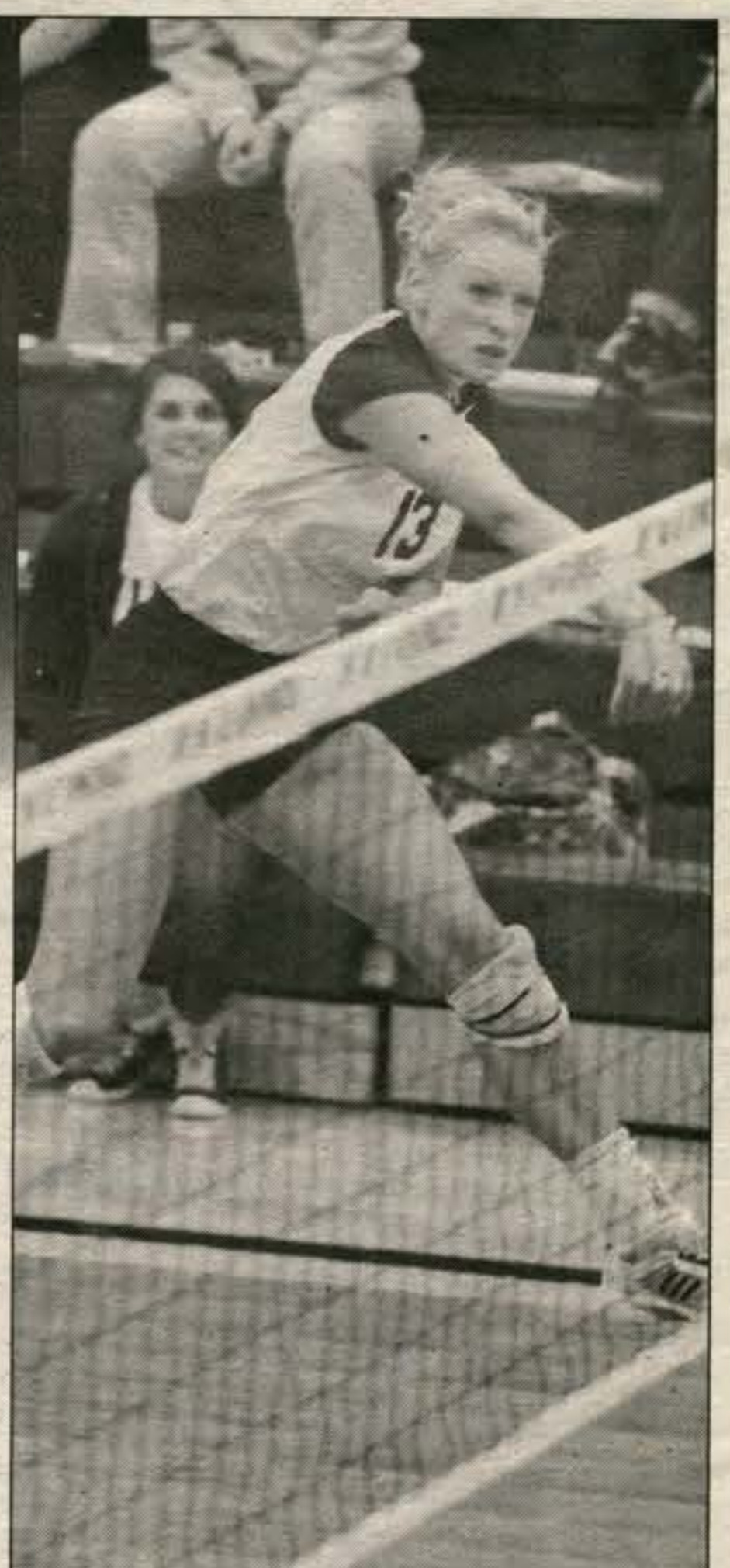


photo by Rhys Logan THE WESTERN FRONT

Next Home Match:
7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24
Carver Gym
vs. Seattle Pacific University

to jump really high in the air and scream after a block. Also, I hug people after a good hit."

Geary said of all her experiences on different teams over the years, this team has allowed her to grow the most in a short amount of time.

With all her accomplishments so far this season, Geary said she is not even close to the player she wants to be.

"I still have so much to learn as a player," Geary said. "I think that's what makes a good player, that you are always open to growth."

Elizabeth Hansen
THE WESTERN FRONT

Watch out Western, there is a storm brewing on the volleyball court.

Western freshman outside hitter Marlayna Geary has been striking thunderous kills all season for the Vikings, racking up 296 kills in only 21 games.

She has been nicknamed "Thunder" because of her powerful hits.

"When I played for a club team in Kent one of the girls' dad would yell 'thunder' every time I hit the ball," Geary said. "It would pump me up so much."

Prior to coming to Western, Geary helped Bellarmine Preparatory School

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Water ski team makes waves

First day at Nationals

Jump competition stats: Women: 1st, Men: 4th
Western took 1st overall in Division-II Jump

Andrew Lang
THE WESTERN FRONT

The last time Western's water ski team went to nationals, the athletes on the 2009 team were still wearing diapers. It has been 17 years since the club has made the trip to California to compete at the national level.

The Vikings earned a bid to the National Championship tournament Oct. 22-24 at Ironwood Lake in Bakersfield, Calif., after skiing to a fifth-place finish at regionals Oct. 10-11. Western did just enough to claim their spot at nationals, because only the top five teams at regionals qualify for the national tournament.

Western senior team captain Kelly Thees said there are many reasons Western's trip to nationals is impressive. Western is the only sanctioned school in the state of Washington that competes in the Western Region Conference.

The only opposition the water ski team faces are teams south of the Washington border.

While California schools often enjoy 80-degree lake water, plenty of practice time and a plethora of recruits, Western endures freezing lake temperatures, lim-

ited practice time and the constant threat of low membership.

These are just a few obstacles the Viking water ski team has encountered during their 17-year absence from nationals.

Western senior water skier Mike Eisele has been a part of the team since his freshman year and said he does not mind playing the underdog role at all.

"It's kinda nice being the underdog," Eisele said. "We upset a team and prevented them from going to nationals. People never really gave us respect, but after regionals we have earned it tenfold."

Eisele said he has seen the team grow immensely during the four years he has been water skiing with the Vikings. Until his junior year, the water ski team did not even have a place to practice their jumps, which is a crucial part of competition.

"My freshman and sophomore year, we didn't even have a lake to practice at," Eisele said. "We had to call the owners of private Borderline Lake if we wanted to practice our jumps."

Western has since been able to reach an agreement with the owners of Borderline Lake. This agreement allows the Vikings to practice every Monday. The new practice time may be attributed to the



photo courtesy of Kaylin Bettinger

Last year's water ski team poses for a group picture Oct. 10, 2008, at Shortline Lake in Oak Grove, Calif.

success the team has enjoyed this season, Eisele said.

Western's 2009 water ski team is having a season to remember, Thees said. The Vikings are not necessarily following a Hollywood movie script, but one might not be able to tell Thees that.

"Everyone was cheering for us at regionals," Thees said. "No one expected us to do as good as we did; it was like what happens in the movies."

Lack of recruits is one issue Western faces each year. Thees said in the past the water ski team has only had four team members, six members shy of what it takes to field a competitive team.

"Not very many people want to water ski in rainy cold weather," Thees said. "We don't quite get the pool of talent that the California schools get. We do have

talent here but most of the good skiers in Washington end up at California schools."

While expectations for the teams competing at nationals will undoubtedly be high, Thees said she thinks the fact Western was not expected to make the tournament will ultimately help the team. She said you do not want to think of the other competing teams, but instead think of your own personal best score and try to beat it.

Western sophomore Carl Skerlong said he cannot wait to see what he can do at nationals. His favorite event is the long-distance jump, and he said he loves to compete.

"The whole tournament atmosphere is awesome," Skerlong said. "It's one of my favorite parts of college; there's nothing like it."



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