

## Is Bellingham impressing Google?

The city's subdued, scientific approach may win Google's fiber bid

**"It's interesting to see which communities are generating the most social media buzz, but at the end of the day I think Google's decision will be based off something more substantial than that."**

- John Cook, executive editor of Seattle-based TechFlash

Andrew Cederlind | WF

Renaming children and cities, making music videos and jumping in frigid lakes is only the beginning of some of the proposals created by cities in order to win Google's "Fiber for Communities" initiative. However, many think Bellingham's more conservative effort has a good chance of winning.

John Cook, executive editor of the Seattle-based weblog TechFlash, said he thinks Bellingham has a better chance than the cit-

ies with high-profile proposals.

"Those are just PR stunts," Cook said. "Google might be flattered, but I think they are looking for something more scientific in nature when they make their choice."

"Fiber for Communities" is Google's promise for a superfast fiber optic network installed in one lucky city, free of charge. Google says it has received applications from more than 1,000 cities across the country, and will make its decision by the

see > GOOGLE, pg. 5

## Obama reforms student loans

All private loans will be nationalized in July 2010

Christopher Wood | WF

Western students can now borrow more money, thanks to the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which was signed into law on March 29. All private student loans will be provided by the federal government starting July 2010.

The act allows for the investment of \$36 billion of federal money to increase the amount of money Federal Pell Grant Program recipients receive, AS Legislative Liaison Jaime Marine said. The current limit of \$5,550 will increase to \$5,975 in 2017.

Starting in 2013, the amount of money the Federal Pell Grant Program awards to students will go up based on the cost of living, Marine said. Western already participates in the Direct Loan program.

Five representatives from Western's Associated Students went to Washington D.C. to talk about with Washington state's U.S. Representatives, and the loan reform act was one of three issues they discussed, she said.

Marine said the trip was as successful as a one-week trip could have been.

The second issue was the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minor Act (DREAM), which would allow undocumented people to receive federal financial aid. The third issue was the status of the federal work study program, which has not seen an increase since 2005, she said.

The federal work study program currently provides Western with \$487,000 in funding for work study every year, she said.

This amount has not increased since 2005, and the program was reduced between 2002 and 2004, she said.

Western has 82 fewer students on

see > LOANS, pg. 7

### NEWS

#### Health care reform deal sealed

30 percent of Western students lack health insurance > pg. 4



### Arts & Life

#### Turtles, snakes, chickens and ferrets

Bellingham's peculiar pets > pg. 8 & 9

### SPORTS

FANalysis: NCAA majors vs. underdogs > pg. 16

## Western prof. faces court drama

A 1994 murder case resurfaces after Chicago courts exonerated an alleged killer

Keegan Prosser & Julie Franz | WF

Associate journalism professor Carolyn Nielsen has been thrust into a Chicago-based lawsuit against alleged police corruption.

On March 11, Nielsen was issued a subpoena by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington for documents she kept as a reporter covering the murder trial of Thaddeus "TJ" Jimenez in 1994. At the age of 13, Jimenez was tried

as an adult for the first-degree murder of 19-year-old Eric Morro.

Nielsen declined to comment, following advice from her attorneys, Sarah Duran and Eric Stahl of Davis Wright Tremaine, a Seattle-based law firm.

Nielsen covered the courts for her legal affairs reporting class as a graduate student at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She first met Jimenez and his family in a Cook County Superior Court

in Chicago during his 1994 trial, she said in her blog.

Jimenez was exonerated on May 1, 2009, after serving more than 16 years in prison. He was released from prison and granted a certificate of innocence by the Circuit Court of Cook County after the State's Attorney's Office concluded he was innocent.

Jimenez filed a lawsuit on December 31, 2009 against the City of Chicago,

see > NIELSEN, pg. 7



photo courtesy of Carolyn Nielsen's blog  
(Left) Vicky Jaminez, (Center) Thaddeus Jaminez and (Right) Carolyn Nielsen met on May 16, 2009 in Chicago, 15 days after Jaminez's exoneration.



photo by Dan Berman | WF

**Crippled Creek** | A jogger enters the park past a sign advising visitors to limit their contact with Little Squalicum Creek. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting public comment until April 19 on options to clean up contamination at Little Squalicum Park, including the creek and surrounding trails.

## Around Town:

### Tulip Festival

**What:** The Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. There will be fields of flowers and many events going on throughout the month.

**Where:** Between LaConner and Mount Vernon.

**When:** Thursday, April 1 until April 30.

**Cost:** Admission to RoozenGaarde is \$4. Admission to Tulip Town is \$5. All other fields are typically free.

**Info:** tulipfestival.org

### Farmers Market

**What:** The Bellingham Farmers Market will re-open after the winter hiatus. There will be food, crafts, and the traditional "Tossing of the Cabbage."

**Where:** The Depot Market Square on Railroad Avenue.

**When:** 10 a.m., Saturday, April 3

**Info:** bellinghamfarmers.org

### Beer Garden Egg Hunt

**What:** Boundary Bay Brewery is hosting an all-you-can-eat Easter Sunday brunch, with an Easter egg hunt for children in the Beer Garden. Reservations are suggested.

**Where:** Boundary Bay Brewery

**When:** 9 a.m. to noon, April 4

**Cost:** \$20

## Cops Box

### Bellingham Police

#### March 29

• **One thumb down** | A 19-year-old woman was arrested at 12:54 a.m. on suspicion of assault after biting her boyfriend's thumb.

• **Hidden camera** | At 1 p.m., a woman reported a man acting strange outside her home on Orleans Street. She said he took a photo of the entrance and then hid the camera under his coat.

#### March 30

• **Knock, knock** | A 26-year-old man was arrested at 5 p.m. on suspicion of being intoxicated and threatening to kill employees at the Parkway Chevron. Police found him pounding on the door and yelling at people inside.

#### March 31

• **B'ham drift** | Two cars were reported to be racing on 32nd Street at 11:49 a.m., during Sehome High School's lunch break. Officers contacted one of the drivers and the parents were notified.

Cops Box compiled by Mackenzie Hudson

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### WWU Official Announcements – PLEASE POST

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

**MATH PLACEMENT TEST**—The WWU Testing Center administers the math placement test, and the schedule can be found at the center's Web site at <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/assess/tc.htm>. The test is given on most Mondays and Thursdays throughout the quarter. All administrations are at the Testing Center in Old Main Room 120, unless otherwise posted. Remaining schedule for spring quarter: Mondays at 3 p.m. (April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24; June 7) and Thursdays at 9 a.m. (April 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20, 27; June 3, 10).

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

**WEST-B TEST**—All individuals applying for admission to state-approved teacher education programs are required to meet the minimum passing score on the basic skills assessment by the application deadline. Visit <http://www.west.nesinc.com> for registration information and a study guide with sample test questions. Remaining test dates for the 2009-2010 school year are April 17, June 15 and July 24 (last date for winter 2011 applicants). Registration deadlines are several weeks in advance of each date.

**WEST-E TEST**—Washington state requires teacher candidates and teachers adding endorsements to pass a subject knowledge assessment for each chosen endorsement. This endorsement is called the Washington Educator Skills Test-Endorsements (WEST-E). WWU teacher candidates must pass the WEST-E test for each endorsement to be earned with a teacher certificate as a condition for entering the student teaching internship. WEST-E tests are administered by Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson. Candidates are responsible for reviewing the Woodring College of Education WEST-E Test Resource Site at <http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml> for current registration and test information. Remaining 2009-2010 WEST-E test dates: April 17, June 5 and July 24.

**MONEY AVAILABLE FOR UNDERGRAD RESEARCH AND CREATIVE PROJECTS:** The objective is to provide encouragement for undergrads to engage in creative work in their disciplines. The competition is open to any registered undergraduate student in good standing. Grants will be normally be awarded in the range of \$100 to \$500 per project, and proposals are considered near the beginning of fall, winter and spring quarters. Details: <http://www.wwu.edu/depts/rsp/ugrad.html>.

**HOUSING FAIR:** The upcoming housing fair, set to take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6 in the Viking Union Multipurpose Room, will be an opportunity for students and local residents to address their housing needs for the upcoming school year. There will be opportunities to network with other people who are seeking roommates/housemates. Additionally, representatives of a variety of groups, including property managers, housing co-ops and university services, will attend the event and provide information.

**'PEAK PERFORMANCE' CLASS:** WWU's Center for Performance Excellence will offer its annual Peak Performance class, a five-session course from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday nights from April 13 through May 11 in Academic Instructional Center West Room 104. The course is intended for everyone from interested in enhancing personal or professional performance. The class costs \$50. Students will learn how to achieve in sports, the workplace and their personal lives. Info and registration: <http://www.wwu.edu/cpe/home.htm>.

# School district chooses new superintendent

## Western alumnus takes the helm of Bellingham School District

Dan Balmer | WF

The Bellingham School Board unanimously selected Gregory Baker as the district's new superintendent at a special public meeting March 31.

Baker, a Western alumnus, is currently the deputy superintendent for Portland Public Schools. Baker will finish the school year in Portland and become the Bellingham superintendent effective July 1, replacing interim superintendent Sherrie Brown.

"I am very excited to be a part of a community that embraces the school system," Baker said. "In my career, every time I have had an opportunity to learn, I have always risen to the occasion. My path to Bellingham gives me a good foundation of perspectives to help this district move forward."

On Monday, he visited schools in Bellingham and answered questions from a community panel as the last remaining finalist.

Baker was one of two finalists remaining from 33 applicants reviewed by the Bellingham School District Board. On March 27, the other finalist for the job, Dr. Steven Herzog, withdrew his candidacy to accept another superintendent position in the San Francisco Bay area.

Herzog said he was offered the Bay area position before the Bellingham process was complete, and felt he had the support needed to move that district forward. He watched Baker's video interview from Monday and said the community is lucky to have a talented leader who is well-suited for Bellingham.

"The process is like a marriage proposal," said Kenneth Gass, president of the board. "We want to hire someone who

wants to be here."

Gass said the total annual salary package for Bellingham's superintendent position is about \$200,000 — significantly less than what Herzog was offered in California.

Baker, 41, received his Master's Degree in Secondary Education at Western. In May, he will receive his doctorate in the Urban Superintendent Program from Harvard University. Baker said he enjoyed his experience on the East Coast, where he also worked at the Boston Public Schools, but his love for the outdoors drew him back to the Northwest.

"I have a strong desire to raise my family in a community that values education," Baker said. He brought his wife Jeanie on his visit.

Gass said the board has come under fire from the community in recent years due to a lack of stability in the superintendent position.

"The process is like a marriage proposal. We want to hire someone who wants to be here."

**Kenneth Gass**  
President of the Bellingham School District Board

The board was searching for someone who was familiar with education in Washington, and because of his Northwest roots, Baker has always been at the top of their list, Gass said.

The board started its search in October 2009 after Ken Vedra resigned as su-



photo by Carey Rose | WF

Gregory Baker, who was selected to be the Bellingham School District's next superintendent, addresses a panel of students and faculty during a presentation at Bellingham High School on March 29.

perintendent after only two years on the job to become a director of schools in the United Arab Emirates. Before Vedra, Dr. Dale Kinsley was the superintendent for 16 years. Brown became the interim superintendent after Vedra's departure, but her term expires at the end of the school year, Gass said.

The Bellingham School District enrollment for the 2008-09 school year was 10,646 students in grades K-12. In Portland, Baker was responsible for more than 13,000 students.

Bellingham Deputy Superintendent Karst Brandsma likened Baker's visit to being in a fish bowl, where the community can get a look and see if he is worth it. The difference, however, is that there is nobody left to compare him to, which could set him up for more scrutiny.

Brandsma said the Bellingham community has a great reputation for commitment to education and that attracts highly qualified leaders.

"The time for accountability has never been higher," Brandsma said. "The community deserves the right leader to move forward."

After his presentation, community members got the chance to talk with Baker, which allowed them to find out what kind of person he is.

"We have been floundering for the last few years," said Susan Plummer, a Roosevelt Elementary kindergarten teacher. "We need someone who can carry a vision over this difficult time."

Michael Jay, a parent and grandparent in the district, said he is excited about Baker's potential and the experience he brings. He said the district seemed to get locked into old approaches and thinks Baker is a confident person who likes collaborating the teaching staff.

"He communicated a respect for teachers as professionals," Jay said. "That kind of belief in a teacher transfers into belief to the student."

**CARL H. SIMPSON BRIDGING AWARD**  
Nominations Due April 9, 2010

The purpose of the Carl H. Simpson Award, which includes a \$1,000 award, is to recognize and support efforts to create bridges and forge new paths that others may follow and build upon in turn.

During his twenty-five years working at Western as a professor and administrator, Carl H. Simpson was a man dedicated to bridging intellectual, interpersonal and administrative worlds. With kindness, enthusiasm and creativity, he sought to unite divisions within academia, faculty, staff, students and administrative campus life. Carl helped people come together and facilitated creative process in a variety of settings. He acknowledged people's strengths and encouraged them to trust themselves, helping people find and give their best.

This award is to benefit a staff, faculty member, or student, who has demonstrated a remarkable ability or innovative approach to bridging some aspect of academic or campus life, in this way bettering the Western community. This might include a new style of teaching to improve the quality of education, interdisciplinary study, intercampus diplomacy, supportive service, or mentoring of others.

The following criteria and policies are used for selection:

- No person shall receive this award more than once.
- Only winners will be announced. Candidates' names shall not be published.
- Nominees will be asked if they wish to be considered, and, if so, will be required to submit supporting materials to the evaluation committee. Nominees from the previous year may elect to remain under consideration for the subsequent year and resubmit supporting materials.
- The evaluation committee may devise additional or alternative criteria and/or process upon announcement.
- The evaluation committee will evaluate all material and make a selection according to its best judgment.

Nominations are solicited from alumni, students, staff or faculty members.

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**CARL H. SIMPSON BRIDGING AWARD**

NOMINEE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Email or Telephone Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Nominator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Letter of recommendation may be attached. Nomination deadline: **April 9, 2010**

*Nominations and letters of recommendation should be forwarded to Arlan Norman, Dean, College of Sciences and Technology, MS 9126.*

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# Health care rundown

Andrea Farrell | WF

College students will be one of the first groups of Americans to feel the effects of the health care reform bill, thanks to a provision that will allow young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance until age 26.

President Barack Obama signed the final pieces of the historic bill into law Tuesday, March 29. The first of the bill's provisions will kick in this September.

In addition to the raised age cutoff, insurance companies will be prohibited from denying coverage to anyone younger than 19 who has a pre-existing condition. New legislation intended to help lower-income Americans afford coverage will take effect in 2014.

Along with the health care bill came an education package that represents the largest investment in college student aid in history.

While it will not directly affect the source of loans for Western students, who already receive aid directly from the federal government, it will mean more money will be available through federal Pell Grants.

The maximum grant amount will be raised in increments until 2017, from the current \$5,550 to \$5,975. Students will have an easier time paying back loans with a monthly payment plan that requires 10 percent instead of 15 percent of their income to go toward loan repayment.

## Changes to Western's health center

Forty-five percent of the 20 million American adults between the ages of 19 and 29 were uninsured at some point during 2008, according to a Commonwealth Fund study. These young adults also make up nearly one-third of the uninsured population of the U.S.

Dr. Emily Gibson, director of Western's Student Health Center, said about 30 percent of Western students have no health insurance. She said the number of uninsured students has risen in the past year, and economic problems have made insurance too expensive for many students.

"Luckily, college students are one of the best populations to take care of," Gibson said. "They are very healthy and [are] continually learning, so they are more open to making changes than older patients."

The one downside of working with college students, Gibson said, is their tendency to have outbreaks of cold and flu because of their close living quarters in apartments and residence halls.

"The problem is that when you gather people together in close quarters and add stress, people get sick very easily," Gibson said.

Gibson said administrators at the health center are still figuring out exactly how health care reform will impact their day-to-day operations. However, one measure intended to help low-income adults afford Medicaid will not affect the center because it closes during the summer, and health care providers are only allowed to accept Medicaid if they stay open year-round, she said.

Other doctors in Bellingham take Medicaid, but finding one who is accepting new patients can be tricky. Gibson said Whatcom County lacks about 15 general practice doctors for a county our size. In addition to this lack of primary care physicians, the county is also short by about 11 OB/GYNs, according to a report by St. Luke's Foundation, a local group that works to secure grants and scholarships for health care establishments.

While the health center does not have the same resources as a hospital, it does offer a range of common treatments such as basic surgeries, psychiatric care and IV hydration during the day. And while a hospital emergency room costs close to \$400 just to walk in the door, a health center visit is free to students, and most procedures cost less than \$50.

In the next four years,  
the health care reform bill  
will...

2010

Provide coverage  
for adult children  
up to age 26

Impose a tax of 10 percent  
on indoor tanning salons to  
help pay for new programs

Increase the supply of doctors  
and medical professionals through  
support training, scholarships  
and loans

2011

Increase funding by  
\$11 billion for community and  
school-based health centers

Require chain restaurants and  
vending machines to disclose the  
nutritional content of their food

2012

Require better data collection  
on underserved rural populations,  
in order to improve quality of care  
in those areas

2013

Require full disclosure of financial  
relationships between health entities -  
so if a pharmaceutical company has paid  
a doctor to prescribe their drug, the doctor  
must inform their patient

2014

Require U.S. citizens and legal  
residents to have health coverage,  
with a tax penalty for those  
without coverage

Expand Medicaid to  
individuals who make less  
than \$14,404 per year

Prevent insurance companies from  
denying coverage for any reason  
other than age, family composition  
and tobacco use

## How reform will affect Western students

### Working students

Many college students find jobs while attending school, but few employers offer health benefits for part-time employees. One exception to this rule is The Woods Coffee, whose owner, Wes Herman, estimates that close to half of his staff of 85 are Western students.

He offers health care to all employees who work 30 hours a week or more, even though less than 40 hours is considered part-time.

"We do it because we want to make sure the staff knows that we care about them," Herman said. "Health benefits make the positions look more attractive, and they tell even our student employees that they can consider a long-term career at The Woods."

Beginning in September, the health care bill will provide tax credits to small businesses with fewer than 25 employees and average annual wages of less than \$50,000 who provide health insurance to their employees.

In 2014, employers with more than 50 employees who don't offer coverage will be fined up to \$2,000 per employee. Employers with more than 200 employees will be required to enroll their employees in plans but allow employees to opt out.

Herman said he is not yet sure how the health care reform bill will affect his business, but said he feels it may hinder his employees instead of helping them.

"We are already doing the right thing by our employees," Herman said.

### Congressman defends bill

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, who represents Bellingham in Washington's 2nd District, has attempted to quell worries about how much the bill will cost taxpayers.

Through telephone town halls and press releases, Larsen has explained that the health care reforms will mean less, not more, cost to the average American.

"The bill is fully paid for," Larsen wrote.

"Much of the bill is paid for by achieving significant efficiencies and savings in the health care system - using the money we are already spending more effectively by rewarding high-quality, efficient care and expanding coverage to bring down emergency costs."

> GOOGLE

Warshawer: chances of Google picking Bellingham are slim

< pg. 1

end of the year. When the city set out to create its proposal, one of the first people approached was David Wiggs, president of Hitch, a Bellingham-based marketing company.

Wiggs' company created googlefibertobellingham.com, a Web site that allows users to upload anything from photos to videos that show why they think Bellingham should be selected for the fiber optic network.

Another Web site, created by Bellingham Web site developer Nathan Carnes of Carnes Media, tells users to take photos around Bellingham with signs that read "Bellingham is just right for Google Fiber." The photos are then pinpointed on a map of the city using Google Maps.

"We were trying to figure out something that could be interactive for people who didn't want to do a whole proposal," Carnes said. "Our goal is to help convince Google by showing how much enthusiasm we have."

Despite Bellingham's more conservative proposal, Mayor Dan Pike said he thinks Bellingham has a better chance of being selected than most cities.

"We share a lot of the same values as Google," Pike said. "We both care about the triple bottom line of economic, social and environmental issues."

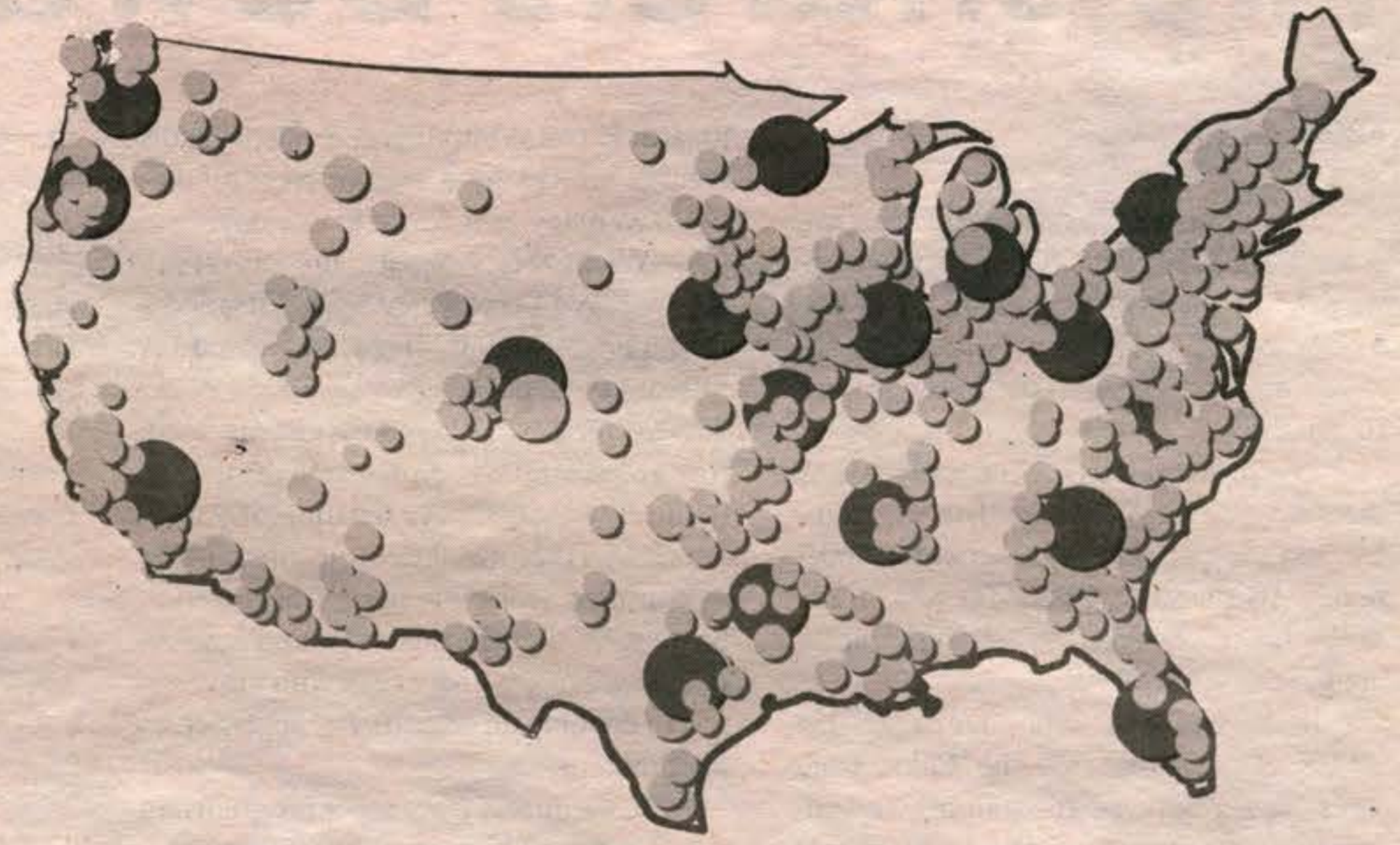
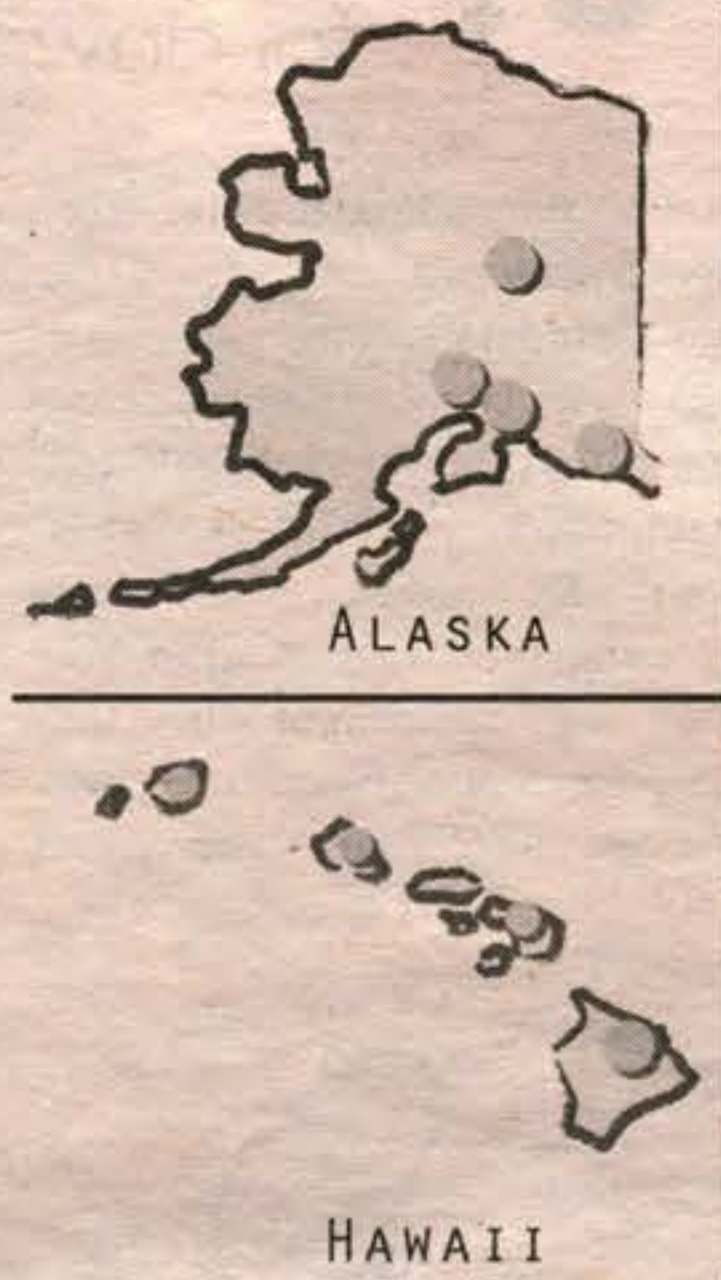


Illustration by Cassy Meyers | WF source: Google

This map displays where Google-fiber application responses were concentrated. Each small dot represents a government response, and each darker, large dot represents locations where more than 1,000 residents submitted a nomination.

Cook said he thinks Bellingham's location will help the city because of its proximity to Microsoft's Redmond headquarters. He said it's close, but not too close.

Some Bellingham citizens expressed concern about how much money would be spent on the proposal, but Pike said the city was efficient with its spending.

"We were very sparing with resources," Pike said. "I think it was good that Google gave us a short window, because

now it's done and we can move on."

Bob Warshawer, president of Black Rock Cable, a local fiber optic cable provider, said he thinks Google's proposition is too good to be true.

"If it's free, then that's great, but how many things are genuinely free?" Warshawer said. "I gave up on believing in Santa Claus, but who knows, maybe he's real."

Warshawer said people shouldn't get their hopes up because the chances of be-

ing picked are so slim.

Cook said he doesn't know exactly what Google is looking for in the candidates for their network, but thinks the creative way Bellingham showed its community support will go a long way.

"It's interesting to see what communities are generating the most social media buzz," Cook said. "But at the end of the day, I think Google's decision will be based off something more substantial than that."

# DUI?

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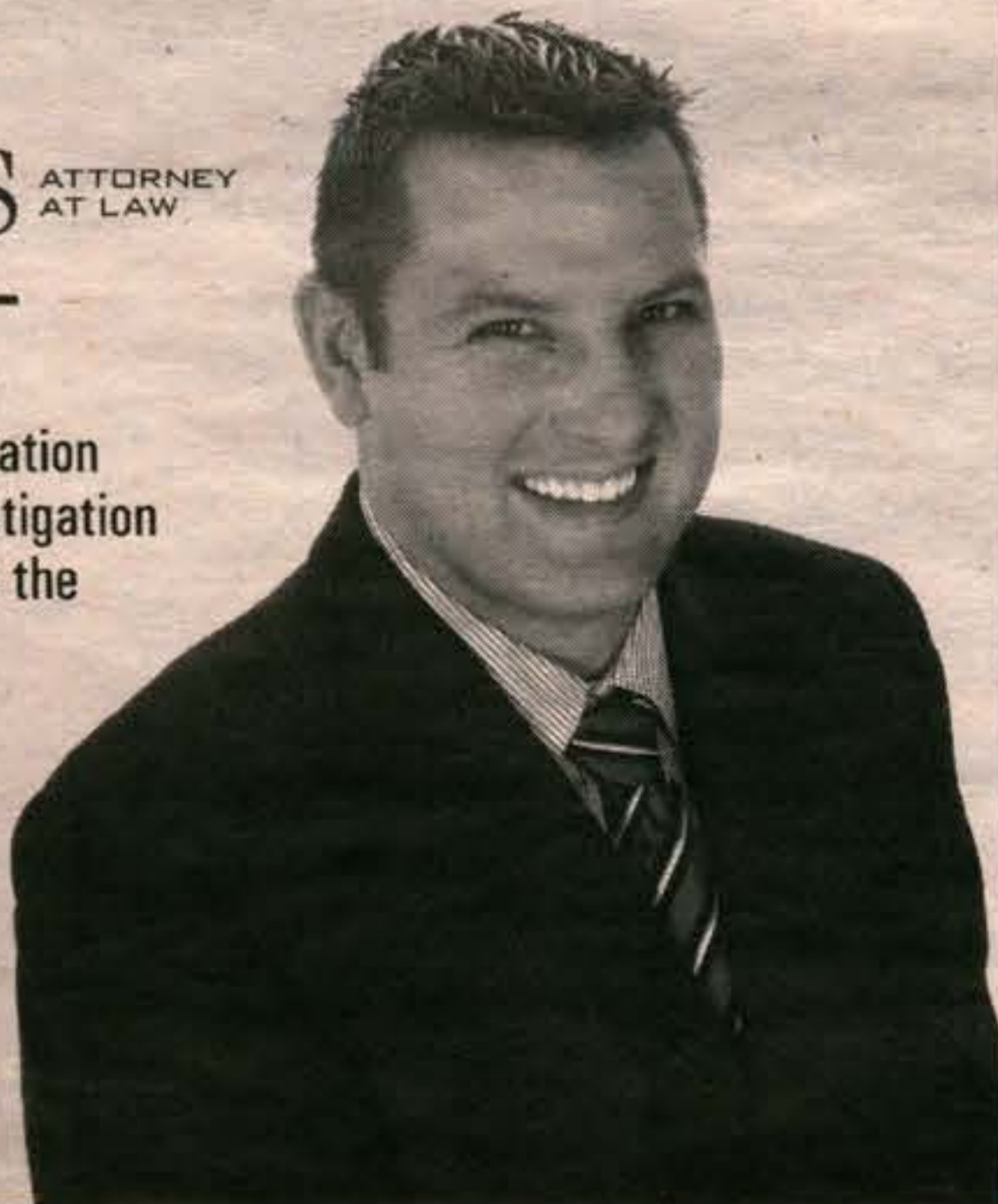
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# File sharers beware: Violators could be fined \$50 for downloading in dorms

Mitch Olsen | WF

Western officials are considering imposing a fine for students who engage in illegal file sharing on campus networks. The proposed fee is \$50 per copyright violation notification and could be enforced by next fall.

The fee has already been approved by the university's Academic Fee Committee and the provost. It is currently under review by the division budget offices and will soon be presented to the president for approval.

Rick Nichols, who manages the ATUS Help Desk, said the funds from fines would be used for training and information programs on legal and ethical issues related to file sharing.

"We don't want to be punitive," Nichols said. "We want to be educators."

Ramon Rinonos-Diaz, Associated Students vice president for academic affairs, said the university wanted to put the fee in place as a preventive measure. The idea is to deter students from illegal activities before they face serious consequences under federal law.

Illegal file sharing violates the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and shows up when the university is audited, Rinonos-Diaz said. Law enforcement authorities can then come to the university and track down students.

With DC++ and other peer-to-peer file sharing networks still in use around campus, Western gets its fair share of copyright violations.

According to ResTek Program Coordi-

nator Howard Muhlburg, residence halls receive notices on a regular basis, sometimes as many as a dozen in one day.

"When this happens, the university has no way to protect students," Rinonos-Diaz said. "The only thing they can do is forward the letters."

In 2007, 15 Western students were forwarded pre-litigation letters from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) asking them to settle outside of court for sharing copyrighted material. Since then, the RIAA has stopped sending litigation notices and works with universities to develop an educational approach to the problem.

DC++ differs from other programs, in that it is usually run on interior networks, which are less likely to be monitored by third-party companies.

Although it operates under the name Western DC++, the program is not monitored by the university and users are still subject to federal law. Muhlburg said a common misconception is that students think they are using a Western service.

When a violation occurs and the university is informed, it is required by law to take action with escalating consequences. The procedure in the residence halls to find violators is to track the IP address and look up the user.

"Western has no sanctioned DC++ service," Muhlburg said. "Using the program for illegal file sharing is a violation of Western's policy and the university does not condone the use of DC++."

Nichols said in many cases, students were unaware of their violations because

the programs run automatically when their computer starts up.

"When a student connects to one of our networks with one of these programs running, they are often uploading to outside users unknowingly," Nichols said.

Typically the notices come from third-party companies that monitor Web traffic. Most users are caught when they connect to peer-to-peer file sharing programs, such as LimeWire or Kazaa, on an

outside network.

While it remains a major issue on campus, Nichols said illegal file sharing on the university's wireless network has decreased by 40 percent. The ATUS network had 62 cases in the fall and 37 in the winter, with as few as three repeat offenders this year.

"The action they really look for is uploading," Muhlburg said. "Downloading is only part of the violation."

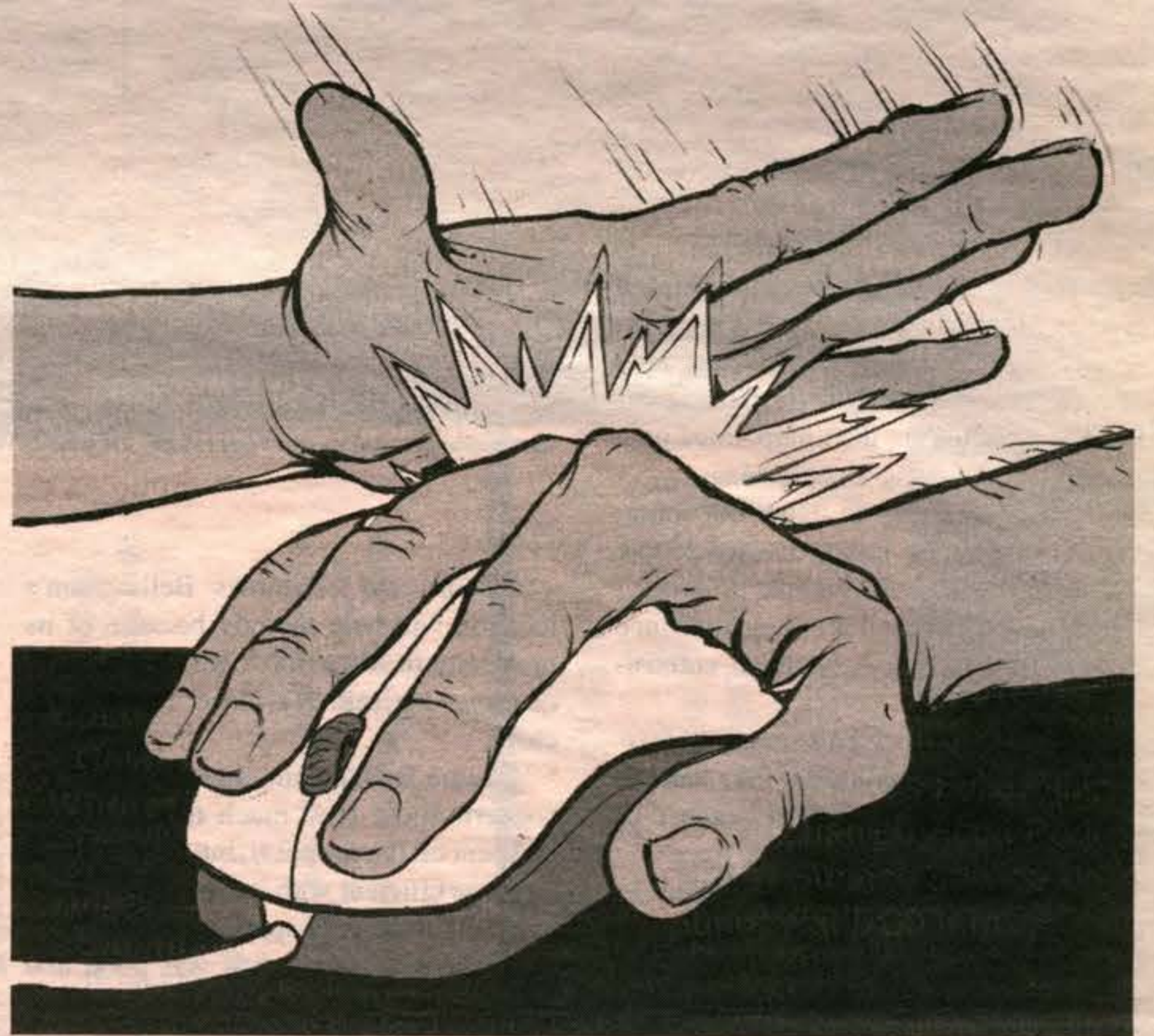


Illustration by Drew Miller | WF

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> **NIELSEN**

**Jimenez suing City of Chicago, six retired police officers**

< pg. 1

four retired Chicago detectives and two retired police officers.

According to court documents, Jimenez filed a civil suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, in Chicago, on the grounds of alleged due process violations, failure to intervene, conspiracy, malicious prosecution and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Defense Attorney Andrew Hale came across Nielsen's blog by searching Jimenez's name on Google after the lawsuit was filed. When he stumbled upon Nielsen's May 4, 2009 blog entry, he came to know of her coverage of Jimenez's 1994 trial.

One line in particular caught his attention: "More than 14 years later, I still have my original draft, my notes and letters TJ sent me when I interviewed him via mail." Hale's discovery prompted him to file the subpoena. He said he knew nothing of Nielsen's involvement in the case until that point.

Hale said a phone conversation with Nielsen on March 16 left him feeling uneasy. He said he felt she was being evasive about the whereabouts of the documents she mentioned in her blog. Hale said he immediately returned to the blog and the line about her notes and letters had been deleted.

This led the defense to file an order in Seattle on March 18, directing Nielsen to preserve her documents.

"I think a reasonable interpretation is that she didn't want me or anyone else to know she had the documents," he said. "Why else would she delete that?"

Duran said she does not see how the changes to the blog entry alter the motive of the defense wanting access to Nielsen's documents in the first place.

"The fact that Carolyn erased a line in her blog doesn't negate the fact that they think they need the information," Duran said.

In her blog, Nielsen said that even as a young reporter, she spotted holes in the defense's case against Jimenez. He was found guilty and sentenced to 45 years in prison. Following the decision, Nielsen chose to stop reporting on the case, as she had become too close to the Jimenez family.

She said it was the only time in her journalism career that she made a decision to be-

come an advocate.

According to court documents filed by Jimenez's attorneys, Jimenez's wrongful conviction was based on fabricated evidence and false testimony manipulated by the defendants.

Steve Drizin, legal director for the Center on Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern's Bluhm Legal Clinic, was one of seven lawyers who worked for four years to prove Jimenez's innocence. Four of the lawyers worked for a private firm and donated 1,200 hours to the case.

Drizin said he believes police officers and detectives suffer from tunnel vision in cases such as Jimenez's. When this occurs, evidence that points away from a suspect's guilt is often ignored and evidence that is minimal is viewed as compelling.

"I think they made some serious mistakes in this case, and for some of these mistakes, a young man spent all of his adolescence, all of his 20s...behind bars," Drizin said. "And the answers to who committed this crime were right in front of them from the very beginning."

Duran said journalists have to protect their sources, especially if the party seeking the documents can get the information by other means.

"I think we've made it pretty clear that we do believe that she has the right to claim a privilege because we're in the 9th

Circuit, which has recognized that journalists do have federal protection in respect to revealing their sources and notes," she said.

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington is a federal court in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois is a federal court in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

"The 7th Circuit here in Illinois doesn't recognize a federal reporter's privilege. The 9th Circuit has a couple of cases that do recognize it, but they're from 1993 and 1995," Hale said. "And I'm not entirely confident that if the 9th Circuit was faced with the issue now, 15 years later, it would rule the same way because other circuits have been kind of following Judge Posner in the 7th Circuit."

Hale said he believes the information in Nielsen's documents cannot be found elsewhere, specifically in the letters between Nielsen and Jimenez during his incarceration.

At Nielsen's request, Hale agreed to give her until April 7 to present the defense with a detailed list of the documents she possesses.

"They could turn out to be innocuous letters. That very well may be," Hale said. "But they could also turn out to be very incriminating."

> **LOANS**

**AS traveled to Olympia to lobby Legislature**

< pg. 1

work study since 2002 because of the cuts to the federal program, Marine said.

"It's a program they fund every year, but they don't really pay any attention to it," said Morgan Holmgren, AS Vice President for Governmental Affairs.

The state work study program, which in the governor's original budget was to be suspended completely, may lose about \$7 million in funding, Holmgren said. The amount is about one-third of the total funding for it.

"There's probably going to be a lot of jobs lost, [but] definitely not as many as we were looking at originally," Holmgren said. "It's not a worst-case scenario, but it's not best-case scenario either."

Holmgren said he felt traveling to Washington D.C. was a success because he and the four other students were able to raise awareness of these issues to U.S. Representatives.

# Summer Session

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# Peculiar Pets

They may not be your typical pets, but these unique animals are proving to be man's — and woman's — new best friends

Keegan Prosser | WF

Amy Daddabbo, 35 of Ferndale had a variety of exotic pets growing up, and for the past six years, she has made her passion for unique creatures a full-time job.

"[Exotic animals are] interesting and cool and different," Daddabbo said. "They're a different type of pet to have."

Her business, Amy's Pet-N-Home Sitting, is an in-home petsitting, dog-walking and overnight stay service for both domestic and exotic animals.

Daddabbo said she has worked with a variety of animals, including horses, sheep, goats, peacocks, turkeys, hermit crabs, pot-bellied pigs, ferrets, chinchillas, geckos and tree frogs.

### Family Flock

"The one thing you really need to know about chickens is that they completely tear up your gardens," said Jeff Bates, coordinator for the Associated Students Publicity Center and owner of four backyard hens. "They're really cute, but they do incredible damage."

The Bates family flock consists of a Rhode Island Red Bantam named Kiki, a Barred Rock named Tobi, a Rhode Island Red named Linda and an Ameraucana named Chuckie.

"[Our chickens] were not acquired as pets," Bates said. "But we certainly treat them that way."

Bates originally purchased the hens to start his own egg production, he said, which he thought would make good use of the north side of his home. His daughter Jessa, 4, also said she wanted a white chicken for her birthday.

Bates keeps his hens in a chicken coop in the backyard of his home in the York neighborhood. He said it has been fun having four different types of hens because they all have unique looks and personalities.

Raising chickens offers people who live in the city, or in small spaces in general, an opportunity to teach his children how to care for animals, Bates said.

### Freewheeling Ferrets

Another popular alternative to a traditional cat or dog is the ferret. But beware: this carnivorous mammal does not play well with other small animals — it eats them.

"[Ferrets are] a mix of a cat and a 2-year-old [child] together," Petco employee Krys Dobbins, 21, said.

Dobbins has worked at the Bellingham Petco for two years. He said ferrets are one of the most popular animals sold.

Ferrets are curious animals with a lot of energy, Dobbins said. He said ferrets are fairly high maintenance — they require about four hours of play each day and constantly need to be watched. Dobbins said his ferrets got into a lot of trouble. If he left anything out, they would get into it.

While ferrets have the ability to be leash trained, they tend to have a short attention span.

"They pay attention for a few seconds," Dobbins said. "And [then] something [else] will catch their eye."

### Raucy Reptiles

Western junior David Lipinski has owned two reared turtles named Dude Bro and Ho Slut for about a year.

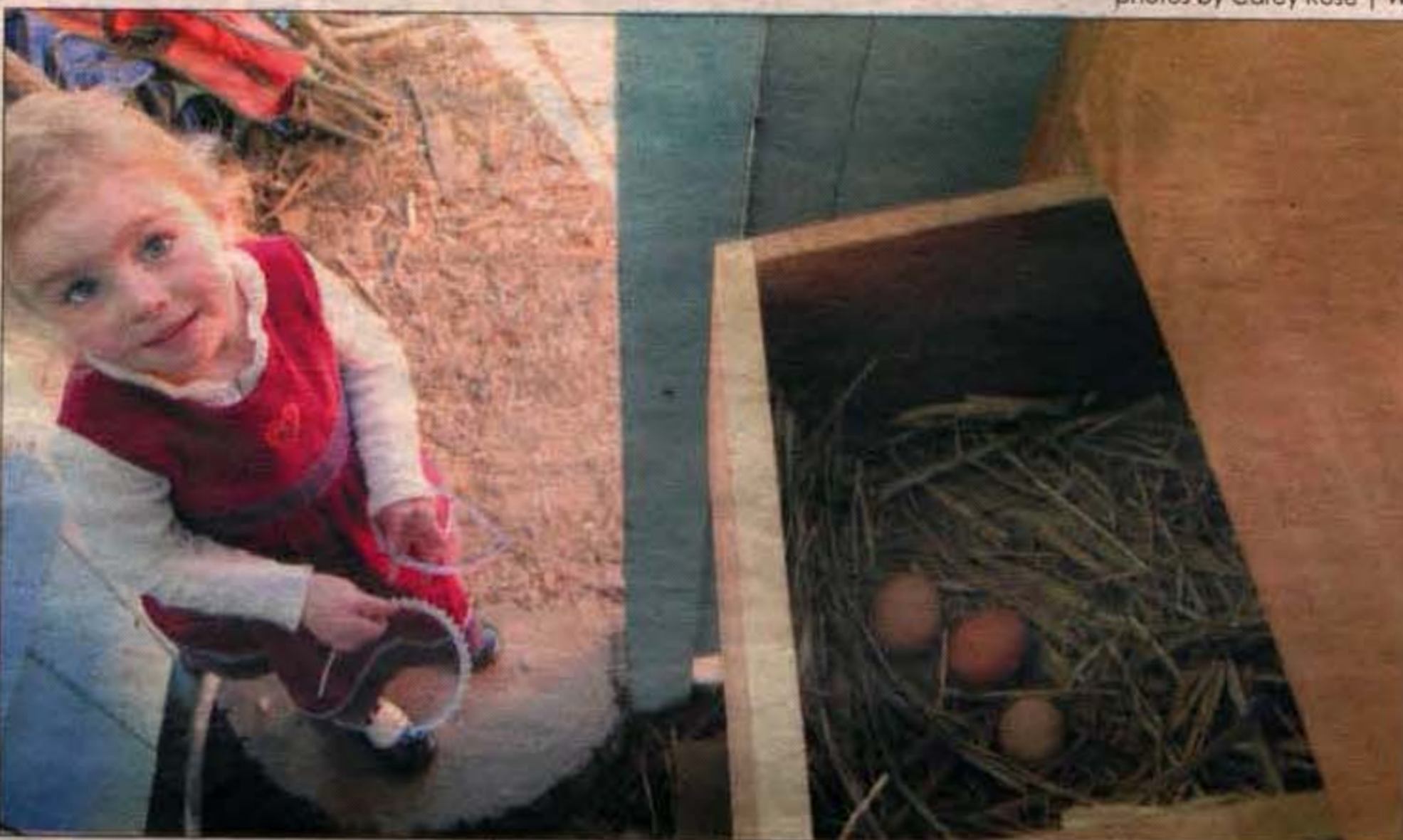


(Left) Western junior Claire Dutton holds her snake Trouser. "He seems to really like riding in my car," Dutton said. "He's a good travel companion...he just kind of hangs out with everybody."

(Right) Jessa Bates, 4, plays with Chuckie the Ameraucana chicken at her home on March 31.

(Bottom) Jessa Bates shows off eggs laid by her pet chickens Linda, Kiki, Tobi and Chuckie.

photos by Carey Rose | WF



**“The one thing you need to know about chicken is that they completely tear up your gardens.”**

— Jeff Bates, Coordinator for the Associated Students Publicity Center and owner of four backyard hens

"The first one we came up with because we called him 'bro' and then he just became 'Dude Bro,'" Lipinski said.

Ho Slut got her name from being a little too frisky when she was put in the same tank as Dude Bro, Lipinski said.

Lipinski said the aquatic turtles originally belonged to some of his friends who had the pets for three years. When the previous owners' landlord found out about the turtles, the friends were forced to find the pets a new home.

According to the City of Bellingham Municipal Code, any person who owns exotic animals is allowed to keep them within city limits as long the person can prevent the



photo by Carey Rose | WF



animals from getting within 50 feet of any building where people work or live. But, individual landlords may have their own restrictions.

Lipinski and his roommates keep the animals in a hundred-gallon tank in the living room of their house, he said.

"They're just cool little pets to just watch swim around," Lipinski said. "They're not too invasive. They're pretty easy to keep."

### Hissing Housemate

Although Western junior Claire Dutton admits snakes used to scare her, she said she fell in love with her pet ball python, Trouser, the minute she held him.

"I just thought it was a funny joke," Dutton said, in reference to her snake's name. "When I first bought him he used to like to go into to people's pants [while people] were

sitting."

Dutton said she decided to get a snake after holding one that belonged to a friend. She said ball pythons are known to be the most human-friendly and least aggressive type of snake. She said they can grow anywhere from 3 to 5 feet long and can live as long as 30 years if taken care of properly.

Dutton has owned Trouser for six months. She said she feeds frozen mice about once a week. She defrosts the mice in warm water and uses tongs to feed him. However, Dutton said she will probably have to start feeding Trouser live mice as he grows.

Dutton said she has to keep a close eye on Trouser because he likes to go on adventures. He has escaped from his tank in both her car and her bedroom.

"I think he just has a big personality," she said. "It's weird; I never thought a snake could have a personality, but I think he does."



# A vision without a venue

Bellingham's only all-ages music organization moves out, moves on with optimism

“Strong all-ages scenes help foster creativity in teenagers and young adults and help keep them out of trouble.”

— Mark Heimer,  
No-Fi Soul Rebellion

Alan Crow | WF

Bellingham's all-ages music scene is going through some serious renovations as the local nonprofit organization, Whatcom All-ages Arts and Music, or WhAAM, says goodbye to The Old Foundry.

WhAAM has officially ended its three-year stint at The Old Foundry, 100 E. Maple St., hoping for a new location to better suit its leadership's desire to create a stronger all-ages music scene.

“It's been something we've been talking about for a while,” said Ross Brackett, WhAAM co-founder and volunteer coordinator.

WhAAM is currently without a home base, but it plans to put on two shows a month to quench the musical thirst of people who are under-age, said Amanda Kalkwarf, president and co-founder of WhAAM.

Kalkwarf said she hopes to have a new place for WhAAM within the next six months.

Some ideas WhAAM wants to put into motion with a new space include a practice space for musicians in the area, an art gallery oriented towards younger people and a recording studio for all-age bands, while continuing to provide a safe venue for music fans of all ages.

“It would be great to see [WhAAM] get a space that works for everything they want to do,” said Mark Heimer, a member of Bellingham band No-Fi Soul Rebellion.

Heimer said all-ages music venues are important to the community because they give the youth a sense of local identity—something that is becoming rarer in the information age.

He said with the Internet and other resources, everybody knows about everything right away, but with local scenes, that's not always the case.

Strong all-ages scenes help foster creativity in teenagers and young adults and help keep them out of trouble, Heimer said.

Elliot Jensen, 20, a current WhAAM volunteer, said he would like to see WhAAM continue putting on shows for younger people like himself.

He said he would also like to see more shows.

“[All-ages music] is important to me because if there were no all-ages shows, I wouldn't [be able to] go to shows,” Jensen said.

Heimer said he would like to see more of a focus on getting high-school-age bands to play. Even though the shows are called “all-ages,” they are not really all-ages, because most of the bands are old enough to play in bars, he said.

Heimer said he prefers playing all-ages shows because people attend to enjoy the music, not to drink.

While WhAAM is searching for a venue, other Bellingham all-ages venues like the Jinx Art Space, the Anker Cafe, the Three Trees Coffeehouse and Western's Underground Coffeehouse are picking up the slack.



photo by Cejae Thompson | WF

WhAAM volunteers Troy Greig and Katie Rismondo dismantle the storage closet in the Old Foundry building on E. Maple Street. WhAAM's equipment will be kept in storage units until a new location for the nonprofit organization is determined.

## Upcoming all-ages shows

### Friday, April 2

Swil Kanim at Stuart's at the Market (1530 Cornwall Ave.) 7 p.m. Free

Van Hofwegan Brothers at Three Trees Coffeehouse (118 W. Holly St.) 8 p.m. Free

I love you avalanche, Evil Witch Doctor Sand Trials at Jinx Art Space (306 Flora St.) 8 p.m. Free

Sunshine Bumpers at the Underground Coffeehouse, (WWU Viking Union) 8 p.m. Free

### Saturday, April 3

Yogoman Burning Band at Bloom (1320 Cornwall Ave.) 3 p.m. \$10

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# Easter eggs-travaganza



Samantha Sorden | WF

**E**aster is a time for friends and families to gather and express their beliefs and traditions. Around Bellingham, there are tons of activities for you and your loved ones to participate in. Here are a few places and events to check out this weekend.

## Sunday Brunches

(reservations strongly recommended)

**Host:** Boundary Bay Brewery  
**Where:** 1107 Railroad Ave.  
**Phone:** (360) 647-5593  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$20 per person  
**Menu items:** All you can eat

**Host:** Nimbus Restaurant  
**Where:** 119 N. Commercial St.  
**Phone:** (360) 676-1307  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$25 per person  
**Menu items:** Three-course meal; selections include Dungeness crab frittatas and sirloin steak

## Egg Hunts

**Host:** Bob's Burgers and Brew  
**Where:** Barkley Village  
**Phone:** (360) 647-3355  
**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$18.95 per person  
**Menu items:** slow-roasted prime rib, chicken bernaise, honey-glazed ham and more

**Host:** The Lettered Streets Covenant Church  
**Where:** Fouts Park, H Street and Ellsworth Street  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 3

**Description:** The egg hunt will be for children younger than 10 years old. The church will provide snacks, drinks and will give away gift cards as door prizes for adults.

**Host:** The Arne Hanna Aquatic Center  
**Where:** 1114 Potter St.  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday  
**Cost:** \$3 children, \$4 adults  
**Description:** One thousand plastic eggs with candy inside will be scattered around the pool deck for children to find.

## Easter Services

**Host:** The Oikos Fellowship  
**Where:** Zuanich Point Park  
**Events:** Sunrise service on Sunday at 5:30 a.m.

**Host:** The Newman Catholic Campus Ministry  
**Where:** Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1110 14th St.  
**Events:** Mass at 3 p.m. on Good Friday, April 2  
 Easter Vigil at 9 p.m.  
 Easter Sunday Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

**Host:** First Presbyterian Church  
**Where:** 1031 N. Garden St.  
**Events:** Good Friday service at 7:30 p.m.  
 Traditional Sunday service at 9:30 a.m.  
 Contemporary service at 11 a.m.

**Host:** All Saints Episcopal Campus Ministry  
**Where:** St. Paul's Church 2117 Walnut St.  
**Events:** Easter Vigil at 8 p.m. on Saturday

Illustrations by Drew Miller | WF

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# FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

## Journalists must be able to protect sources

Western journalism professor Carolyn Nielsen is fighting a subpoena of her notes and letters regarding a 1994 murder case that she wrote about in graduate school.

Lawyers representing defendants in a wrongful conviction lawsuit believe her notes may contain helpful information. A U.S. District Court judge ruled Nielsen has a legal right to challenge the subpoena.

The Editorial Board supports journalists' privilege to protect confidential sources and keep their notes private, and calls for a federal shield law to ensure journalists can provide vital information to the public with-

out fear of legal entanglements. While Washington is one of 35 states with shield laws that offer some protection for journalists who are ordered to get involved in a court case, there is no blanket federal protection.

Police should do their own investigations and lawyers should do their own research. They should not rely on information gathered by journalists. While journalists may obtain information police could not through promises of confidentiality, police also have unique ways of obtaining information. When reporters are forced to cooperate with the police, they lose the trust of sources who could provide valuable yet sensitive information.

David Cuillier, a journalism professor at the University of Arizona, said it's important for journalists to stand up for their principles by protecting their sources and notes. If they didn't, the line between journalists and the government would disappear.

"Journalists are supposed to check the government, not be part of it," Cuillier said.

He said 3,000 subpoenas are issued to reporters nationally each year. Often lawyers and police have no idea if journalists have the information they're looking for, and sometimes subpoenas are just out of spite, he said.

This number is outrageous, and a federal shield law would lessen the impact subpoenas have on journalists across the nation.

The federal Free Flow of Information Act of 2009 is currently in the U.S. Senate after being passed by the House about a year ago. This bill would finally provide much-needed protection for journalists and should be supported by the Senate.

*The Editorial Board is comprised of Editor in Chief Nicholas Johnson, Managing Editor Alex Roberts and Opinion Editor Megan Jonas.*

### Viking Voices

Opinions from around campus

### What do you think of the health care reform?

compiled by Sydney Brusewitz



Blake McClenny  
Freshman

"I'm for it. My family couldn't afford health care or insurance and all that [when I was] growing up."



Kayla Ulvila  
Junior

"From what I've heard about it I don't really agree with it because that would mean that people could get a whole bunch of medical and it's on my money and I don't really want to pay taxes for people who go to hospitals all the time."

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## Humans have much to learn from nature



Megan Mullay | WF Columnist

When you were a kid, did you ever climb on top of something, spread your arms out and wish you could fly? Maybe you tried it and cracked your head open like I did. I learned the hard way when I was five that a lot should be left up to the experts, particularly those with feathers. However, there is an increasing number of people who believe humans can replicate nature to make our lives better.

Biomimicry is a growing phenomenon that takes inspiration from nature to solve human problems. By bonding our human problems with nature's solutions, efforts in biomimicry have brought man's world closer to nature. This is a critical step toward being able to coexist in an environment in which we belong.

Humans have been getting ideas from nature for decades. Velcro was created when an engineer examined a burr from his dog's coat under a microscope and found tiny hooks on the ends that attached to any-

thing with a loop around the same size.

Since then, the push to be "green" has evolved biomimicry into something greater. It is now a legitimate field that has provided us with stunning ways to enhance our lives.

Another example of humans learning from nature occurred when researchers looked at the leaves of a lotus flower. Incredibly, the lotus's leaves are able to avoid contamination from surrounding sources. On the microscopic level, each leaf is covered in bumps, crevices and a thin, waxy coating. When water comes in contact with the leaf, the air stuck in the crevices pushes the droplets up and the waxy coating forces the water to bead and roll off the leaf. As the water slides down, it picks up any dirt or contaminant that was pushed up by the bumps, cleaning the leaf as it goes. This water-repelling technique has been dubbed the "lotus effect" and is being applied to paints, surfaces and textiles, reducing the need to clean them with chemicals.

Let's take a minute to consider this. Two things as unrelated as leaves and paint can be combined to create a solution we wouldn't have had unless nature provided it first. Nature is powerful and now we have the potential and the resources to learn from it and adapt its teachings to make our lives better.

Beyond the solutions it offers, there is a big-picture benefit of biomimicry.

For too long, man has fallen into a pattern of separating our species from the rest of nature and dominating it by exploitation and manipulation. This way of being gets us nowhere. Biomimicry helps bring the human world back down from its self-appointed supremacy by fusing it with nature. The more baby steps we take toward coexistence with nature, the closer we are to living in harmony with the environment, a prerequisite to the sustainability of our planet.

*Megan Mullay is a Western senior majoring in environmental science with an emphasis on terrestrial ecology. Contact Megan at westernfrontcolumnist@gmail.com.*

### Letter to the editor:

### Black Widow's abuse of men should be taken seriously

If the Black Widow is sober and picks up drunken men, what's the difference between this and when sober men take advantage of drunken women? I'm willing to bet that women's groups on campus would argue there should be a legal precedent that sober men who prey on drunken women should be charged, but the Black Widow's male victims are also vulnerable.

Aren't men to whom this happens just as affected as women? Would your journalist have been kind when interviewing a man who, when sober, preyed upon drunken women? The Black Widow claims he is deceiving people because he has been hurt and left traumatized. He should understand that his actions are traumatizing other men; he is continuing this abusive cycle.

If a man won't approach sober women because he is afraid, but chases drunken women, many of us would be disgusted by his actions. But how many students read this article, and from the nonjudgmental angle, could see both sides? How about when this Widow says he's been hurt, you ask, "Don't you see that you're a hypocrite and are hurting others?"

If he is sober and sleeps with other sober men, that is two consenting adults, and their decisions are entirely their own.

Janis Walworth from Bellingham's Center for Gender Sanity said the most ludicrous thing in the article. Her position dictates that she helps people who are confused. She said he is purposefully deceiving people yet his intent is innocent. How can someone be deceitful but have innocent intent? If he wants to act as a woman and have coffee with people, then that really doesn't hurt anyone. But you are at your most exposed when having sex. One act can have lifelong consequences. Deceiving a person for sex is never innocent. That always hurts the party that is being used.

Elizabeth Wellner  
Western junior

### WESTERN ODDITIES

By Drew Miller



## Rowing reasserts dominance



photo by Cejae Thompson | WF

The Western women's rowing team prepares for its next meet on Saturday in Vancouver, BC by practicing sprints of the last 500 meters of the race with full intensity.

In season-opening regatta, five-time national champs take three of four races; one by 34 seconds

Andrew Cederlind | WF

Starting its season off strong, the Western women's rowing team defeated Seattle Pacific University, University of Puget Sound, Pacific Lutheran University and Lewis & Clark College at the Daffodil Regatta Saturday, March 27 in Tacoma for their first victory of the season.

The five-time defending NCAA Division II champion Vikings won three of their four races, including the varsity eight, the second varsity eight, the novice eight and the second varsity four. They placed second in the varsity four.

"It's always good to win," head coach John Fuchs said. "We had a good spring break coming into it, so we were prepared."

Western's varsity eight, the boat that contains the top eight rowers on the team, finished the 2,000-meter course with a winning time of 6:57.01, just .15 seconds ahead of runner-up and host Puget Sound.

That .15 was enough to give the Vikings' top boat its 13th straight victory and extended the six-year winning streak it's held against non-Division I teams.

Sophomore varsity eight rower Megan Northey said she was pleased with how they performed and thought

their varsity experience helped keep them on top.

"All of us are returners in the boat, so it gives us a lot of confidence," she said. "It's a good feeling to know how each other work. It makes it easier."

The rest of the races weren't even close, with the second varsity four winning by about 34 seconds over second-place Seattle Pacific.

"I was pleased with how we competed," Northey said. "It was a solid performance all around."

Despite the team being ranked No. 1 this preseason by a Collegiate Rowing Association poll and being the defending champions, junior varsity eight coxswain Kelsey McFarland said there isn't too much pressure to perform.

"We let our hard work take over we know how to row, we know the race plan, so when we get out there, it comes naturally," McFarland said. "This season will be really good; the team meshes well. We're each other's support system."

However, the team isn't resting on its laurels. Northey said she and her teammates have some things to work

on before their next meet.

"We're going to keep working on getting off the line nice and fast, just setting the pace for the rest of the 2,000 meters," Northey said. "The race on Saturday was a good example of what we were supposed to do, but we need to stay relaxed and work on the finish."

"If we keep the momentum from Saturday into the next race, the rest of the pieces are going to fall into place," she said.

The team's next meet is the Northwest Collegiate Rowing Conference Invitational at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, at Vancouver Lake near Vancouver, Wash.

Junior co-captain Casey Mapes said the team is capable of winning, but the team members

need to keep working hard and race well.

"We had a really solid performance and we're set to keep going and improving," she said. "After winning nationals for the last five years, we're the ones the other schools are shooting for."

"All of us are returners in the boat, so it gives us a lot of confidence. It's a good feeling to know how each other work. It makes it easier."

**Megan Northey,**  
Sophomore varsity  
eight rower

### What you missed

#### Spring Break sports highlights

##### March 22

Women's softball loses 4-2 and 8-5 (10 inn.) in a doubleheader against Saint Martin's University.

##### March 23

Men's golf places seventh out of 16 teams at a tournament in Livermore, Calif.

##### March 24

Women's softball splits a doubleheader with San Francisco State University.

##### March 27

Western's track team wins eight events at a meet in Shoreline, Wash.

##### March 26

Women's softball wins 3-0 and loses 5-2 in a doubleheader against Cal State University-Stanislaus.

Women's softball wins one and drops two against three different opponents in Turlock, Calif.

# FATALYSIS:

SPORTS OPINION FROM A FAT'S PERSPECTIVE

## The NCAA Tournament

Cinderella stories rarely turn out 'happily ever after'



Without mid-major upsets, March ceases to be 'mad'

Jeff Twining | WF Columnist

This year, my bracket was ruined on the first day of the tournament. Following misguided assumptions and based on little research, I unfortunately picked Notre Dame to make the Final Four of the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament.

I thought the return of Luke Harangody from injury, combined with the team's late-season surge, would give Notre Dame the momentum it would need to make an extended run through my bracket.

The Fighting Irish lost on day one — in the opening game of the entire tournament.

Notre Dame was my 2010 Cinderella story. In the end, like all Cinderellas, Notre Dame disappointed. Most fans would say they love to see upsets, but I believe that is only true through the Sweet Sixteen. Eventually, the glass slipper never fits properly and the underdogs are embarrassed.

This year, eight double-digit seeds advance out of the first round. However, only three made it past the second round and all were eventually blown out by the higher-seeded teams.

Eleven-seed Washington faced two-seed West Virginia and lost 69-56. Twelve-seed Cornell, the first Ivy League to win a tournament game since 1998, fell to one-seed Kentucky, 62-45. Ten-seed Saint Mary's gave a dismal effort against three-seed Baylor, losing 72-49.

As much as I love upsets in the first two rounds of the tournament, I'd rather see a great matchup in the Sweet Sixteen or Elite

Eight than watch an underdog embarrass itself with the false hope of winning it all.

Growing up in Seattle with a brother who attended Gonzaga, I've learned over the years to not put too much faith in the Zags because they usually disappoint.

Gonzaga earned fame in the 1990s as a Cinderella and has sustained that success throughout the past decade. Nevertheless, the team rarely advances past the Sweet Sixteen, let alone the Elite Eight. The Cinderella story is nice and produces drama during the first couple rounds, but only on the rarest of occasions does a low-seeded team advance to the Final Four.

When 11-seed George Mason made its historic run in 2006, its became the first double-digit seed in the Final Four since Louisiana State in 1986. George Mason made history, but TV ratings for the tournament were down significantly from the year before.

This year's Final Four includes two five-seeds, Michigan State and Butler, playing each other. The winner faces either two-seed West Virginia or one-seed Duke. Although only three teams seeded five or lower have won the championship since 1979, this year's matchups will provide an exciting finish to March Madness.

**Championship:** Michigan State over West Virginia.

Jeff Twining was a four-year member of the Western football team and is a journalism and communications major. To reach Jeff, e-mail [front.sportscolumn@gmail.com](mailto:front.sportscolumn@gmail.com)

Andrew Mitchell | WF Columnist

Underdog or "Cinderella" teams are what drive the tournament and make March Madness truly mad. These little-engine-that-could teams provide us with the great storylines that make it the most intriguing championship of any sport. They also provide every sports fan in America something far more important — hope.

The NCAA Division-I men's basketball tournament is a different breed of sports championship. Every other sport's playoffs include the best teams battling it out, and there really is no underdog.

This is the only major sports championship that has teams casual fans have never heard of. Plus, the one-and-done format allows any team in the field of 65 to make a run to the championship. That is what makes it beautiful.

The underdog, non-power-conference teams are the most exciting part of the tournament, and I root for them to go all the way every year. It gives me hope that my favorite team can do the same, which is great for the sport because more fans are emotionally involved.

Not only does this give more fans across America hope their team can make a run, but there are more positive outcomes because the school gets recognition.

Obviously these true underdog teams do not ever win the championship, with Villanova being the lowest-seeded team

to ever win the championship as an eight seed in 1985. But the tournament will improve every year rather than remain the same set of teams taking turns winning the championship.

Butler is a perfect example of this, and even though people have it pegged as the underdog in this Final Four, it is actually far from it.

Butler's program got to this point because the team made deep runs in the tournament with two Sweet Sixteen appearances in the past six years. As a result, their school's name got out to the masses and it became a destination for talented players.

If you want to see the best teams at the end of the season, you have every other sport in the world to choose from.

And honestly, how many times do I need to see teams that are overrated by the media battle each other? Even those games carry no guarantee that they will be close, and most of the time they aren't.

See last year's championship game: North Carolina won by 17 points against another powerful team, Michigan State.

Give me the underdog teams making deep runs and I'll give you a championship with some real substance.

**Championship:** West Virginia over Butler.

Andrew Mitchell is a journalism major and has been a sports fanatic all his life. To reach Andrew, e-mail [front.sportscolumn@gmail.com](mailto:front.sportscolumn@gmail.com)

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# MLB pick 'em: Front vs. fan

Our columnists go head-to-head with a campus baseball enthusiast, make MLB preview picks

Paul Wright | WF

Baseball season is upon us. The first pitch will be thrown on Sunday, April 5, by Boston Red Sox starter Josh Beckett, when his team goes up against the defending champion New York Yankees.

Western Front columnists Jeff Twining and Andrew Mitchell are taking the opportunity to impart a little wisdom on what to expect from this Major League Baseball season.

We've had them pick division champions as well as who is headed to the World Series. They've even gone as far as to say who will win it all.

Our experts also handed out premature MVP awards.

But rather than leaving it all up to a couple of columnist know-it-alls, The Western Front went out and found one of the biggest MLB enthusiasts on campus — Western senior Sam Milne. Milne boasts more than 10 years of competitive baseball experience and a lifelong fanhood of the game.

Here are their picks: Western Front columnists versus campus superfan.



**Jeff Twining**  
Western Front sports columnist



**Andrew Mitchell**  
Western Front sports columnist



**Sam Milne**  
Western senior and baseball fanatic

<b>WORLD SERIES MATCHUP</b>	Philadelphia Phillies VS Seattle Mariners	New York Yankees VS St. Louis Cardinals	Minnesota Twins VS Philadelphia Phillies
<b>WORLD SERIES CHAMPION</b>	Seattle Mariners	St. Louis Cardinals	Philadelphia Phillies
<b>AL MVP</b>	Mark Teixeira, New York Yankees	Miguel Cabrera, Detroit Tigers	Nelson Cruz, Texas Rangers
<b>NL MVP</b>	Troy Tulowitzki, Colorado Rockies	Albert Pujols, St. Louis Cardinals	Chase Utley, Philadelphia Phillies
<b>MARINERS PREDICTION</b>	With Felix Hernandez at the top of its rotation and a great defense, the Mariners win the division and go 90-72.	If the Mariners' re-tooled offense can score more than four runs a game they'll win the division easily. Record: 96-66	General Manager Jack Zduriencik has done a great job building this team. The M's will improve on last year's record by four games and finish 89-73.

Infographic by Cassie Meyers | WF

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# 'Unacceptable' play pains golfers

Nick Schiffler | WF

Western senior Julian Peters, captain of the men's golf team, did not hold back when he was asked about his team's performance in the Grand Canyon Spring Invitational.

"You want my honest answer?" he said. "My honest answer is: terrible."

The Vikings placed ninth overall out of 17 teams in the invitational, which took place Monday and Tuesday in Goodyear, Ariz.

"As a team, our play was unacceptable," Peters said. "I say 'unacceptable' because of the level we hold ourselves at, with our experience and finishes."

"Nothing away from [Western junior Xavier Dailly], he played well," Peters added. "But there are five guys on a team. So if you have one guy that plays well and four that don't play well, the team doesn't play well."

Dailly tied for seventh place individually with a score of five under par to lead the Vikings, who are nationally ranked No. 10 in NCAA Division II.

Western sophomore Adam Brisben tied for 38th place, junior Sam Ayotte tied for 50th and Peters and sophomore Nick Varelia both tied for 53rd overall.

Peters said the team was experiencing both physical and mental difficulties.

"Physically, as a team, we are struggling with our putting," he said. "We all seem to be not making the putts we should, myself included, and making mistakes when we shouldn't be."

"Mentally, now that we've had a couple finishes we're not happy with, that's brought us down a little bit," Peters said. "We've put more pressure on ourselves."

California State University-Stanislaus won the tournament with a total score of 846 strokes, 27 strokes fewer than Western.

Although the Vikings have struggled recently, they have had success this season. In the fall, the team finished fourth, third, third and tied for first in four tournaments.

The first-place finish came in the Grand Canyon Fall Invitational, which was also held in Goodyear, but on a different course.

Peters said he is confident that the Vikings can recapture the success they had in the fall.

"I'm not going to say I think we'll turn it around," he said. "I know we'll turn it around."

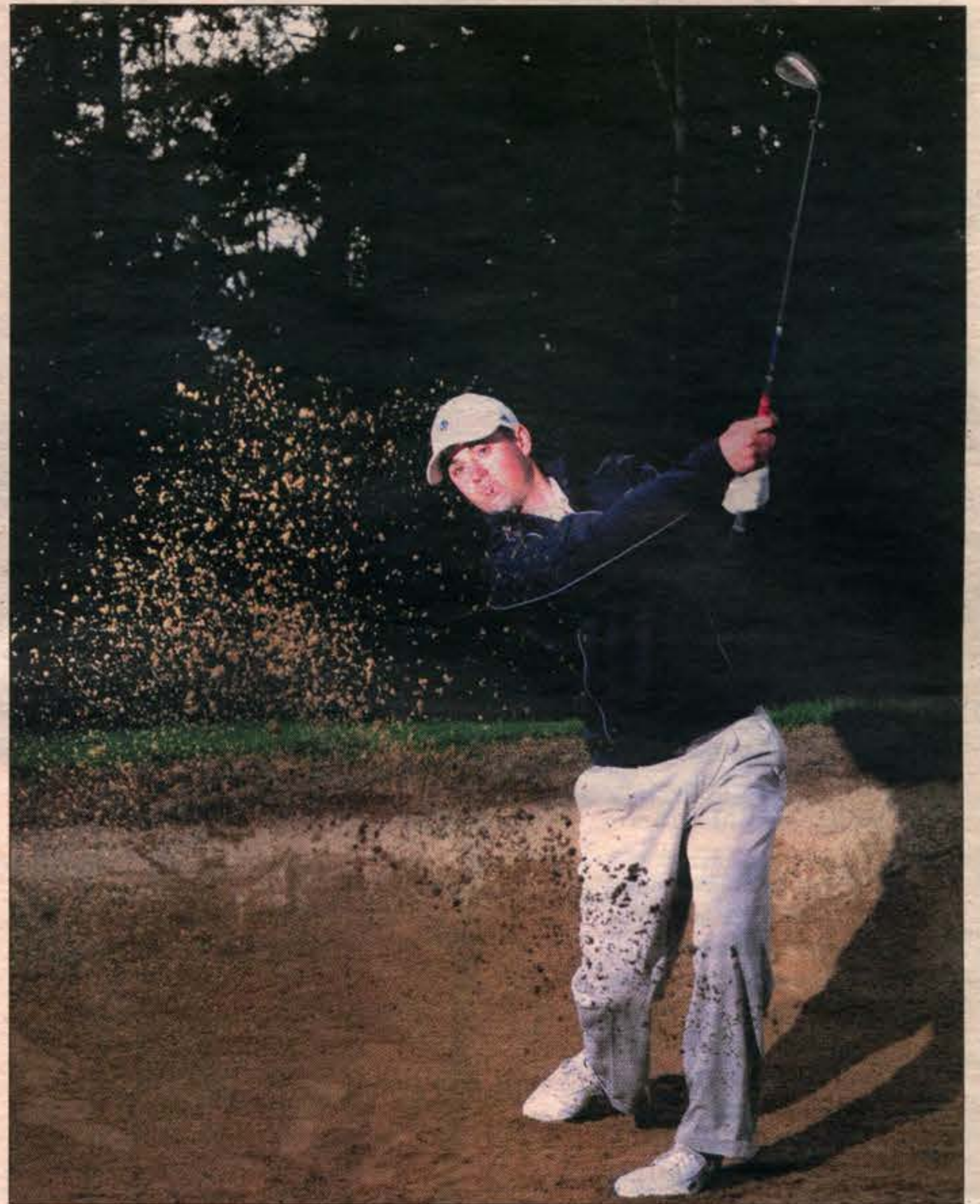
"These next two weeks are going to be the most important of our entire season. It's game time now. There is no more time to figure it out. We will figure it out this week because we have to."

Western will play in one more regular season tournament, the Cal State Stanislaus Invitational, April 12 and 13. The team will play in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships the following week.

Due to its strong overall record and high national ranking, Western will most likely be invited to the regional tournament in California in May. If they place well enough there, they could move on to play in the NCAA Division II National Championship.

Varelia said the Vikings' preseason goal to make it to the national championships remains a possibility.

"We're a good enough team to get there, so there's no reason we shouldn't," Varelia said. "We just need to play well as a team all at the same time."



Daniel Berman | WF

Western junior Xavier Dailly demonstrates a proper bunker shot on Thursday, April 1.

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