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THE WESTERN FRONT

TUESDAY

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The Gist

Election Day 2011

Tuesday, Nov. 8, is Election Day. Whatcom County voters must drop off their ballots by 8 p.m. at any one of the seven drop boxes in Whatcom County to be counted. The drop box on campus is located in Viking Union room 714.

No school Friday

Classes are canceled Friday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day. The next issue of The Western Front will be on stands Tuesday, Nov. 15.

Alum runs in NYC

22nd

Western alumna Sarah Porter placed 22nd in the New York City Marathon on Nov. 6. More than 47,000 runners ran the marathon, which is about 26 miles long. Porter was a 12-time All-American and was the NCAA Division II national champion in the 10,000 meters last spring.

Quotation of the Day

"We don't live in teepees or igloos; we have homes. We are U.S. citizens and we don't all ride horses and have tomahawks."

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Parking ticket becomes free speech issue

By Diana Pollock

When Western sophomore Jacob Ramirez pulled into the parking lot behind the Communications Facility on Sept. 30, he never expected to be investigated for harassment and threats of violence due to a parking ticket.

Ramirez is a computer science major who spends the majority of his time in the Communications Facility, and he is also the chapter president for Western's Association for Computing Machinery. He is often called into the building on short notice and needs quick parking.

On Sept. 30, Western's Parking Services issued Ramirez a \$25 ticket for parking in the lot behind the Communications Facility. The lot is for permit parking only every day until 4:30 p.m. and people cannot pay to park during that time. Ramirez said this is irritating because he is often in the labs in the building because of his major. He said he was in the building for one hour working on club material when he got the parking ticket.

Out of frustration, Ramirez went home and took a big, black Sharpie off his desk and wrote "Fuck The Police" on both the ticket and the memo line of the \$25 check, and mailed it in.

The check cleared and Ramirez thought nothing more of it.

"If I get a ticket from parking in a space clearly marked that I can't park there and I have alternatives, then that's my own fault if I get a parking ticket," Ramirez said. "But when I'm parked in the only manner there is feasible, when there are no legal alternatives provided, then I don't feel that's right."

About three weeks later on Oct. 19,



Western sophomore Jacob Ramirez stands in front of his car in the parking lot behind the Communications Facility. Ramirez received a parking ticket in this lot on Friday, Sept. 30. Photo by Lillian Furlong

"[University Judicial Officer Michael Schardein] is a really good guy and he's understanding," Ramirez said. "He has one of the hardest jobs at the university, and I give him a lot of credit for that."

Jacob Ramirez
Western sophomore

he received a letter from the University Judicial Officer Michael Schardein, who was investigating whether Ramirez violated Western's Students Rights and Responsibility Code

— specifically, the "Harassment and/or Threats of Violence" policy. Ramirez's frustrated protest could be considered an "unwanted and/or intimidating contact and/or communication of a threatening nature," according to the letter.

When he first read the letter, Ramirez said he thought it was a joke because the statement made no threat to anyone in particular. When he found out it was serious, Ramirez said, he prepared for his university judicial hearing by reviewing other relevant cases. He also contacted the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a nonprofit educational foundation dedicated to free speech and defending individual rights at America's colleges and universities.

"It's probably unwise to exercise your rights in certain ways," Ramirez said. "But at the end of the day, as Americans we're born with the most important right we could possibly have

► SEE TICKET, PAGE 4

State tuition program hopes to pay off

By Marissa Abruzzini

Students paid the highest prepaid tuition costs in state history when the Guaranteed Education Tuition program opened for enrollment on Nov. 1, according to GET officials.

Rising tuition costs at public universities in Washington are causing price hikes on prepaid tuition. State officials expect a four-year degree to cost about \$150,000 in 2029, according to a state actuary report.

The GET program is a state-sponsored program that allows families to save for

college tuition before students graduate from high school. Account holders buy monthly units from GET, which are exchanged for college tuition later, according to GET officials.

GET's prepaid tuition program costs
\$163
per unit

The new cost for GET's prepaid tuition program is \$163 per unit. This is

an increase from \$117 per unit last year, according to GET's website.

GET director and Western alumna Betty Lochner said the program had to increase its cost to keep up with high tuition. The new rates might seem steep for parents wanting to pay for their children's future education, but it pays off long-term, she said.

"I think it takes a while for parents to get over the sticker shock," Lochner said. "But that number is just going to go up the longer they wait."

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DRIP DROP: Linda Finch, a tutor for the Whatcom Literacy Council, tries to stay dry on Western's dripping campus Monday, Nov. 7. "It's better than the wind and cold, and I have my umbrella so it's no problem," Finch says of the less-than-perfect weather. **Photo by Kelly Sullivan**

Cops Box

Bellingham Police

November 6

A man reported at 6:14 p.m. that someone shot a BB through the front window of his residence in the 1600 block of 22nd Street while he was out of town for the weekend.

A man reported at 6:06 p.m. that members of the Occupy Bellingham camp stole his tent and then dumped his personal belongings on the sidewalk in the 1600 block of C Street.

November 7

At 7 a.m., a woman reported an ongoing problem of people going through her garbage and making a mess in the 1000 block of North Forest Street. She said she would notify police if she sees them in the act again.

Compiled by Casey Malloy

Check it out. (A small sample of happenings in the 'ham)

TUESDAY, NOV. 8	WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9	THURSDAY, NOV. 10	FRIDAY, NOV. 11
<p>7:15 p.m. Concert: Classical guitar with Michael Partington Bellingham Public Library Fairhaven branch 1117 12th St.</p> <p>9 p.m. Concert: "Election Day" featuring Eclecticity, The Austerman File, Walking Stick for The Giant Wild Buffalo House of Music 208 W. Holly St.</p>	<p>7 p.m. Expression: "Awaken the Spontaneity within!" free workshop ImprovPlayworks 302 W. Illinois St.</p> <p>10 p.m. Music: Western Wednesday with Blessed Coast Soundsystem Wild Buffalo House of Music 208 W. Holly St.</p>	<p>Noon - 1 p.m. Tribute: Western Veterans Day Ceremony Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room WWU</p> <p>7:30 - 10 p.m. Performance: Monty Python's "Spamalot" Mount Baker Theatre 104 N. Commercial St.</p>	<p>5:30 p.m. Exhibit: "Choices" with Mark Bergsma Donette Studio 4165 Hannegan Road</p> <p>8 p.m. Tribute: Seventh Annual Musical Salute to Veterans Mount Baker Theatre 104 N. Commercial St.</p>
SATURDAY, NOV. 12	SUNDAY, NOV. 13	MONDAY, NOV. 14	
<p>9:00 a.m. Hobby: Art by the Lake Fall Festival of Arts and Crafts Bloedel Donovan Park 2214 Electric Ave.</p> <p>10 p.m. Concert: Pierced Arrows, Dead Moon, Don't, Holy Tailfeathers The Shakedown 1212 N. State. St.</p>	<p>5 - 7 p.m. Performance: Bellingham Repertory Dance Company's "Construct" Firehouse Performing Arts Center 1314 Harris Ave.</p> <p>9:30 p.m. Concert: Hot Victory, Thrones, Exralone The Shakedown 1212 N. State St.</p>	<p>7 - 8 p.m. Literature: Jack Hart's "Storycraft" Village Books 1200 11th St.</p>	

Compiled by Kyle Gootkin



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Corrections

The Western Front strives for accuracy and will correct errors of fact promptly and courteously. Please notify us of any factual errors at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

In the Nov. 4 issue of the Western Front, a story titled "Finally finding his niche" should have said if the men's or women's cross-country team placed in the top four at the NCAA regional meet, that team would qualify for the NCAA Division II National Championships.

The following statements in a Nov. 4 story titled "Western Votes! calls out corporate banks" should have been attributed to Western Votes! club liaison Patrick Stickney:

"Banks have a lot of power because of the aggregation of money that has occurred, and they are able to use their money to promote their views. As students, we're not able to do the same. We have people power."

Students will move their money out of corporate banks to show the legislature they care about where their money goes.

"We want the Legislature to raise revenue. We want them to start funding higher education instead of dismantling our educational system."

Domestic violence reports down in Whatcom, severity up

By KateLynn Walker

Reports of domestic violence in Whatcom County have decreased this year, while related fatalities have increased, according to the Domestic Violence Commission of Whatcom County.

According to the Domestic Violence in Whatcom County consecutive report from 1998 to 2010, "Many of the domestic violence indicators across the criminal and civil justice systems have been on the decline or remained steady over the past few years."

Susan Marks, director of Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence, said gathering data on domestic violence is extremely important and helpful, although it does not always create a clear picture.

The data that goes into the summary are only incidences of violence that have been reported to the authorities or to a counseling center. A decline in domestic violence reports could mean there is less violence, or it could mean fewer people are reporting violence.

Marks has been the director of the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence for little more than a year now. She started her career in social work.

"Once you see what a big problem domestic violence is and how many people are impacted by it, it is hard to leave," Marks said. "It really gets under your skin."

Intimate partner fatalities significantly increased in 2009 and



Photo illustration by Erin Nash

2010. This increase means Whatcom County has the third most intimate partner deaths in the state, after Pierce and King counties.

"This indicator underlies anecdotal information provided by law enforcement and prosecutors that although the rates of domestic violence are decreasing, the severity of the violence is increasing," according to the Domestic Violence in

Whatcom County consecutive report from 1998-2010.

Washington state defines domestic violence as: "Physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or the infliction of fear" of these actions; "sexual assault of one family or household member by another;" or stalking one family or household member by another.

An annual rally and march called "Take Back the Night" rallies for safe streets and communities for everyone. The march is for all genders, and everyone is encouraged to stand in unity for a non-violent community at the candlelight vigil that honors survivors.

Women's Center Coordinator Kim Absher organizes the annual event and said the rally has three main goals. The first is to raise awareness that violence affects many people. The second is to show that violence is a community issue and if they respond strongly against violence, it can create a solid stand against violence. The third goal is to empower individuals who have been hurt and to help them use their voices against violence.

Absher said the Night of Testimony, which happens the night before the march, is an event where survivors

5 ways to help prevent domestic violence

1. Attend the next Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence meeting: 10-11:30 a.m. Nov. 17 at the Bellingham Police Department training room, 505 Grand Ave.
2. Program the CASAS 24-hour student help line number into your phone: 360-650-3700
3. Attend "Take Back The Night": starts 6:30 p.m. Nov. 17 in Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room
4. Volunteer for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services: www.dvsas.org/pages/volunteer. Next training session begins Jan. '19.
5. Become a Lifestyle Adviser. Call Western's Prevention and Wellness Services at 360-650-2993 for more information

of violence or anyone who has been affected by violence share their experiences. Absher said the night is always powerful and moving.



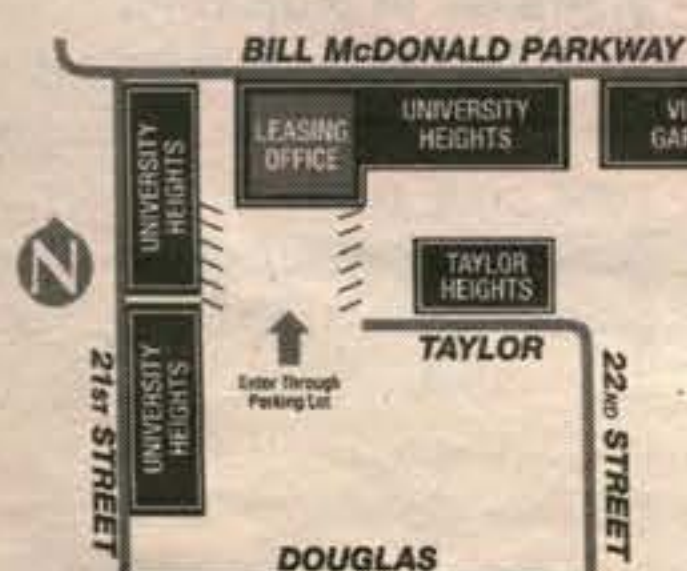
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- Paul S., WWU Student, Class of 2011

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Illustration by Alicia Lathrop
Source: Office of the State Actuary

▼ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Account holders who bought units through GET about 10 years ago spent \$45 per unit. This means new account holders spent \$118 more per unit this year than people who signed up 10 years ago, according to unit value reports.

About 300 students signed up for a GET account within 24 hours of enrollment opening on Nov. 1, Lochner said. She said she expects between 10,000 and 15,000 students to open accounts this year.

About 15,000 students signed up last year, Lochner said. She doesn't expect the higher costs

for the program to affect the number of new accounts.

"It's too early to tell, but we expect another great year," Lochner said.

The program charges account holders based on the most expensive tuition costs in Washington, according to its website. Lochner said GET officials want to make sure customers can choose any university in the United States and use their GET units for tuition.

GET officials looked at future tuition estimates from the University of Washington and Washington State University to determine the new cost, Lochner said. She said GET uses these universities because they are typically the most expensive and represent the highest tuition increases throughout the state.

GET will charge students about \$16,300 per year to buy GET units, which is an estimate based on the University of Washington as the most expensive tuition in the state, Lochner said. The university increased tuition by 20 percent last year, according to its board of regents.

The state guarantees the program will meet its financial obligations to customers, according to GET's website. This means if the program runs out of money, the state is required to pay any remaining tuition owed to customers, Lochner said.

Earlier this year, lawmakers tried to freeze the program because they were concerned it would not meet financial obligations, according to a state actuary report. Government officials decided to keep the program in its original form because that is the

most effective business model, Lochner said.

She said GET has about \$2 billion in assets and is not at risk of losing money. It earns money from new customers in order to pay for current college students in the program, she said.

"We're not going to go away after a few bad years," Lochner said.

The only way GET would be unable to fulfill its financial obligations to customers is if state universities decide to raise tuition more than once per year, Lochner said. The program relies on calculating tuition costs one time per year, she said.

GET's goal is to provide options besides student loans for families wanting to put their children through school, Lochner said. The program is not for everyone, so

The only way GET would be unable to fulfill its financial obligations to customers is if state universities decide to raise tuition more than once per year. The program relies on calculating tuition costs one time per year.

families should look at every option to pay for college, she said.

"Our goal is to help families save for college by showing them all of the options," Lochner said.

The program works best for people signing up at least four years before students are expected to go to college, Lochner said. The state guarantees that 100 GET units will pay for one year of college at the University

of Washington, so account holders would need to buy at least 400 units for four years to cover the cost of a degree, she said.

Lochner said GET is a better option than student loans because it is guaranteed by the state and allows students to save for college over time. The cost of going to college is higher than ever, and families should prepare as soon as possible, she said.

"Parents need to look less at the current cost [of the GET program] and look more at what [tuition prices] are going to be in the future," Lochner said. "Every dollar spent is a few dollars saved in the future."

TICKET: Western apologized after ending investigation

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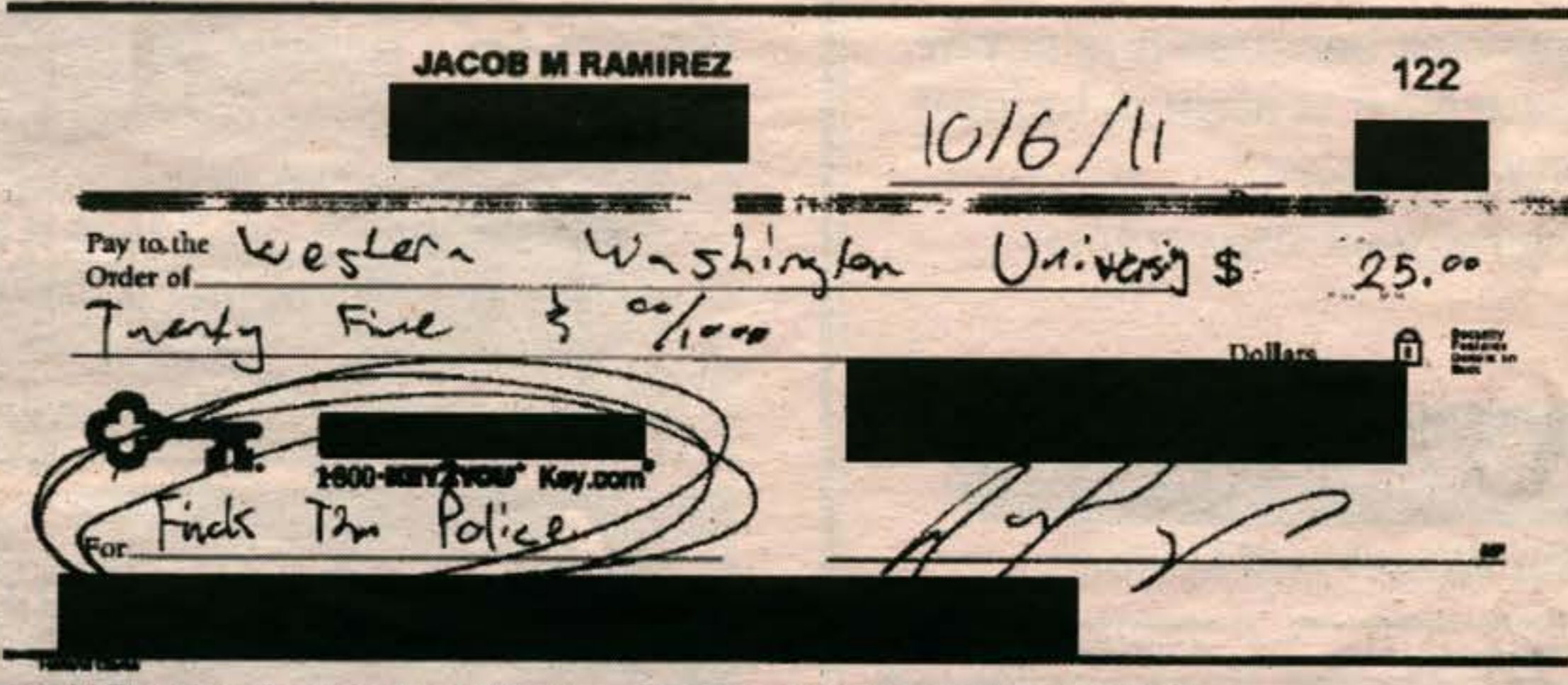
which is the freedom of speech. The day we allow any sort of administration to take that from us is the day that not only we become weaker as a people, but we lose our identity as Americans."

Ramirez is an outspoken First Amendment activist. He had read stories by the foundation, and thought it would be appropriate to contact about the issue.

"I think they are a great organization who uses a lot of their legal know-how and backing to help students in similar cases where they are being prosecuted on a First Amendment basis," Ramirez said. "I think it's really sad that organizations like that have to exist, that I need the backing of a big corporation in Philadelphia to not get prosecuted for [using profanity]."

The foundation looked over Ramirez's case and intervened. The foundation's senior vice president, Robert Shibley, sent a letter to President Bruce Shepard explaining that the message on Ramirez's parking ticket is protected by the First Amendment, and included applicable case law on First Amendment rights.

First Amendment speech is protected



Jacob Ramirez's check to Western paying for the parking ticket

Source: theFIRE.org

even when it is vulgar, even when it is in a university setting, and even when it is directed at police officers.

"While the term 'Fuck The Police' may be considered offensive by many, WWU strains credulity to its breaking point in claiming that writing such a phrase on a parking ticket is impermissibly 'intimidating' or of a sufficiently 'threatening nature' as to merit punishment," Shibley wrote in the letter.

He said too often both university police and municipal police believe it is illegal to use foul language toward

officers or the institution of the police. No basis exists in the law for deeming people "violent" or "intimidating" just because they swore at the cops, he said in an email.

Shibley said students face censorship or punishment for engaging in unpopular or "offensive" speech too often, and do not realize the university has no power to punish them for it.

In a meeting on Oct. 25 with Judicial Officer Michael Schardein, Ramirez said the investigation was dropped and his record fully cleared. Schardein also apologized to Ramirez for the situation.

"Schardein is a really good guy and he's understanding," Ramirez said. "He has one of the hardest jobs at the university, and I give him a lot of credit for that."

On Oct. 27, Western's Associate Dean of Students Sherry L. Mallory issued a written apology to the foundation stating Western recognized its mistake. The letter stated that using the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code to talk with a student about interactions with staff was inappropriate. The letter also thanked the foundation for assisting Ramirez, stating "Western strongly supports the First Amendment rights of all members of our university community."

Ramirez said he was surprised at how quickly the whole situation got blown out of proportion.

"The biggest thing, is no matter how small the issue, when you feel that your civil rights are violated it's your duty as an American to stand up and protect them," Ramirez said. "If you don't, then you're just allowing them to be taken away from you and it's a slippery slope."

Ramirez said his decision to write profanity on the parking ticket was not a wise one, but that he would probably do it again.

Despite setbacks, student co-op still on horizon

By Kristen Stanovich

After a year of developing plans to start a food cooperative on campus, and after being sued by campus food provider Aramark, Western senior Chelsea Enwall is getting closer to achieving her goal.

Enwall, coordinator of the WWU Student Food Cooperative, said though the project is still in its planning stages, she hopes students can see a campus co-op by next fall. In the meantime, the WWU Student Food Cooperative is working to gain student and faculty support by spreading the word about the co-op and collecting opinions through surveys.

A Fairhaven College student focused on food sovereignty issues, Enwall said the main objective behind starting a food cooperative on campus is to expand the variety of food, as well as get organic foods on campus to provide students with an alternative to dining services.

"Something I hear from a lot of different students is they walk into [a market on campus] and they see a well-stocked gas station," Enwall said. "They don't see a variety of foods available on campus."

Aramark sued Enwall, as well as its major competitors, Sodexo and Chartwells Higher Education, in August, shortly after the three parties each requested a copy of its food services contract with Western.

When Enwall requested the contract, she was unsatisfied with the information provided.

"[I received] a heavily redacted copy that didn't have any vendor information or information about how they're assessing sustainability," Enwall said.

The company apologized to Enwall about two weeks after filing suit. Enwall said Aramark dismissed the lawsuit because she was a student who was interested for sustainability reasons. Aramark claimed they would not sue other students who try to view the contract.

Enwall requested the contract primarily for vendor information. She said she believes students deserve to know where their food is coming from.



A chicken meanders outside its home on the Outback Farm, where the WWU Student Food Cooperative plans to grow food. Photo by Erin Nash

"I have always really been interested in challenging power structures, and it just so happens that food is my passion," Enwall said.

Adam Gillman, a junior studying at Fairhaven College, has been involved with the project, helping teach cooking classes for people who want to learn recipes with community-grown food for lower costs.

He said the first cooking class is Nov. 14 in the Fairhaven residence halls.

Gillman said food for the classes will come from both the Outback Farm behind the Fairhaven residence halls and the Viking Supported Agriculture program on campus.

"[Viking Supported Agriculture provides] a box every week of produce grown in Washington that we

The WWU Student Food Cooperative meets each Thursday at 8 p.m. on the Wilson Library Skybridge.

For more information on the bulk buying club, visit www.wwufoodrevolution.com

will be using too," he said.

Enwall said one of the co-op's goals is "food for people, not for profit" — a core value other food movements share. Funding for the project will be primarily based on future fundraising events and donations, she said.

She said the group plans to launch a bulk buying club for students winter 2012. The club will first hold a three-month pilot program beginning Jan. 1 to see what student participants think of it.

The bulk buying club will consist of students who share large bulk orders of food such as flour, quinoa and other dry goods from a wholesaler or directly from local sources. According to the club's website, the club would operate on a membership basis. Enwall said that, similar to the community co-op in Bellingham, non-members could also shop there.

"Economic inclusivity is something that is a problem in the food system, and we definitely don't want to make it so at the co-op," she said.

Gary Borzin, a Fairhaven College senior lecturer specializing in sustainability, is Enwall's faculty sponsor for her independent studies. He said the project creates great short and long-term goals for the kinds of food students want on campus. In terms of sustainability, Borzin said the co-op would set higher expectations for the food on campus.

"I just see it as a really exciting move for students to start taking interest and control over food on campus and where it comes from," Borzin said.

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Dinner celebrates Native pride

By Dakota Mackey

The pounding of buckskin drums fills the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room. A Native American woman moves across the center of the floor. Her quick foot movements make the handmade bells on her dress jingle. The moccasins she wears sparkle with intricate beading. Traditional Native American chanting erupts and the crowd roars with pleasure. The Native American Student Union's first annual heritage dinner has begun.

The theme of the Nov. 5 event was "We are One: Honoring the Cultures of Our People." The dinner benefited the Seattle Indian Health Board, a multi-service community health center that serves Native American people in Washington.

The Native American Student Union is an Associated Students club and part of the Ethnic Student Center. Club members said they strive to create a safe place where students can learn about Native American culture and history.

The club also focuses on working to change misconceptions and steer people away from common stereotypes about Native Americans.

Nicole Patrick, Western junior and vice-president of the club, said a common generalization is that all Native Americans are the same and can be grouped together.

"There are so many tribes and we all have different backgrounds and traditions," she said.

Patrick and other members of the club said many stereotypes are made about Native Americans.

"We don't live in teepees or igloos; we have homes," she said. "We are U.S. citizens and we don't all ride horses and have tomahawks."



Western junior Ashley Alvarez performs with the Unangan Dream Dancers at the Native American Student Union's first annual heritage dinner. Photo by Kelly Sullivan

Food and community

Western junior Kylie Gemmell, another club member, was excited for the dinner because she enjoys sharing food from her tribe and learning about other tribes' food.

Gemmell is part of the Suquamish tribe on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington. She said food is a crucial part of Native American culture.

"One thing that is big at our [tribal] events is salmon cooked over a fire," Gemmell said. "I used to think seafood was gross, and salmon was the first thing they could get me to eat."

Gemmell is part of a coastal tribe, which means seafood is a staple in their diet. Patrick, however, is part of the Spokane tribe, which hunts big game animals.

"My family has always eaten deer, elk or moose roasts," Patrick said. "A couple Thanksgivings ago, my dad slow-cooked a roast in the ground."

Slow roasting is a common cooking method in Native American culture. The cook digs a hole and builds a fire with rocks around it. The fire burns out and the meat is wrapped in tinfoil and put on top of the fire. Once buried, the meat cooks.

Food preferences are just one of the ways tribes are different. Patrick's grandmother has a beaded poncho and skirt that she wears for special occasions, but Gemmell and Jackson said members of their tribe wear mostly wool and cedar formal attire.

Patrick's grandmother is constantly teaching her about her tribe and its customs.

"My grandmother wanted to make sure I had a tape of recorded stories," she said. "The oral traditions are very important to me."

Gemmell and Jackson lived on reservations and cherish the closeness of the people on them.

"I love the sense of community on the reservation," Gemmell said. "Everyone helps raise the kids and everyone is very close."

Jackson said the reservation is like a big family.

"I spent my entire life on the reservation," she said. "My mom made me be involved in the tribe, whether I wanted to or not, and I really pride myself on knowing the history and traditions."

Combating misconceptions

Patrick, Gemmell and Jackson all have fairly light complexions and said people don't notice

they are minorities.

Their frustration with the stereotype that all Native Americans have dark eyes, hair and complexions comes out when they discuss how they are the only minority that has to show legitimacy of their race.

"We are the only race that has to prove with a number who we are," Patrick said.

The number Patrick is referring to is the number on the ID card Native Americans are issued when they are part of a tribe.

Another frustration stems from rumors of alcohol abuse. Patrick said the stereotype that all reservations are a source of alcohol and drug abuse is false.

"Alcohol is an issue, but it is an issue everywhere," she said.

Jackson said these stereotypes are sometimes rooted in real life, but they are generalizations.

Jackson said a perception also exists that Native Americans are lazy, but that's not true either. She said many people on reservations work hard for what they have.

Patrick and Jackson said these misconceptions often come from a lack of knowledge about

Native Americans.

Jackson speaks to classrooms at different schools and finds many people don't know Washington has a large community of Native Americans.

"Where do you think all those funny names come from?" Patrick said, in reference to the influence of Native American culture on Washington's towns and natural landmarks — Puyallup, Snohomish and Snoqualmie, for example.

Learning about their cultures is important to the club members, as is educating others about Native Americans. The dinner was held to engage students and community members in the food, song, dance and traditions of their heritage. It featured salmon, fry bread and bison stew.

Unangax dancers came from Alaska to perform traditional dances representing their culture. The dancers' movements were soft and flowing when they represented water, and sharp when they symbolized fishing and hunting.

"It's good to eat together, it's good to share our culture, it's good to share our heritage."

Dan First Scout Rowe
Member, Nakota tribe
Senior lecturer, Fairhaven College

Club co-president Ashley Alvarez danced in her brown and cream-colored regalia.

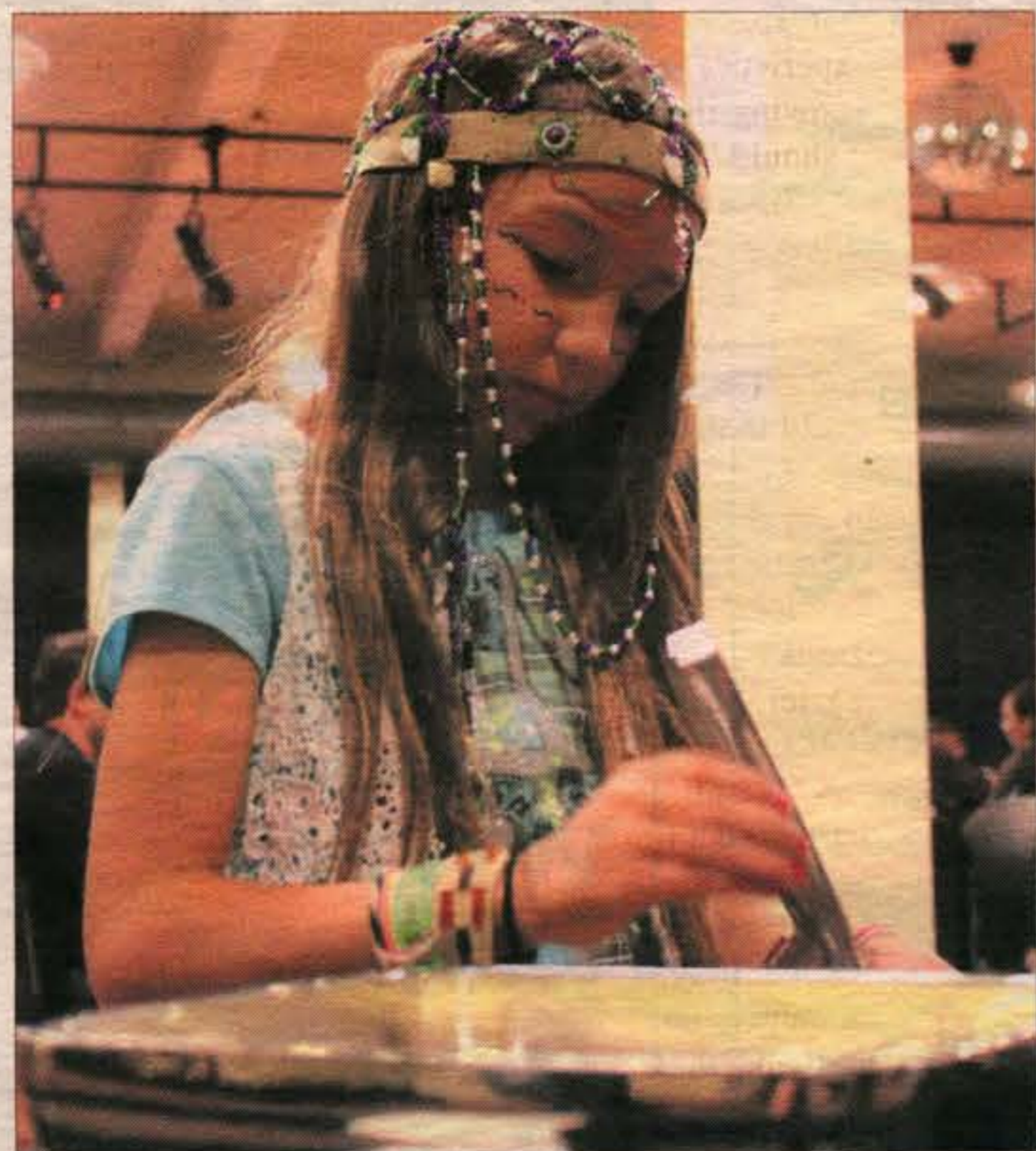
Her beaded headdress had long strands of beading that symbolized the flowing hair that is treasured in the Unangax culture.

Dan First Scout Rowe, a member of the Nakota tribe in northern Montana and senior lecturer at Fairhaven College, gave a speech during the event about the Native American way of life.

"It's good to eat together; it's good to share our culture; it's good to share our heritage," he said. "Good food, good people — it's good to be an Indian."

The sold-out event concluded with Alvarez singing a song dedicated to her ancestors.

The song had no words, but she belted it with power and confidence to the beat of a drum. The crowd stood as a sign of respect, and once the song was over, the entire audience erupted with applause.



Gabriella Rogers, 9, takes butter for her traditional fry bread, served at the Native American Student Union's first annual heritage dinner, on Nov. 5 in the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room. Photo by Kelly Sullivan

Frozen fight for discovery

Play explores Antarctic trek, character of mankind

By Diana Pollock

Antarctica is known for its treacherous terrain and severe weather conditions, including blustering wind and snow. Attempting to travel across the vast, frozen tundra is a test of strength and bravery. That is the basis for the upcoming play "Terra Nova," put on by Western's theatre arts department.

"Terra Nova" is a play about the real life story of the 1911-12 South Pole expedition led by Englishman Robert Falcon Scott.

Scott and his crew race against Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen and his crew across Antarctica, trying to be the first men to conquer the last unexplored territories of the planet.

The play, written by Ted Tally and directed by Western theater professor Charlotte Guyette, focuses on men struggling against the extreme, forced to face the realities of life, death and difficult decisions.

"It's a really good piece," Guyette said. "It's thought-provoking, and the language and way it's written is beautiful—so many different layers. It's kind of like a big puzzle that you get to put together."

Guyette chose the play to portray how difficult times can test a person's character.

"I've always been interested in discovering how people are built and what kind of stuff we're made out of," Guyette said. "We don't really discover who we are unless we're put under pressure and have to deal with extremely difficult situations."

The two crews in the play both have their own ways of handling life-threatening decisions, Guyette said.

One group is scientific, methodical and detail-oriented, while the other group shows more humanity and follows the "no man left behind" motto.

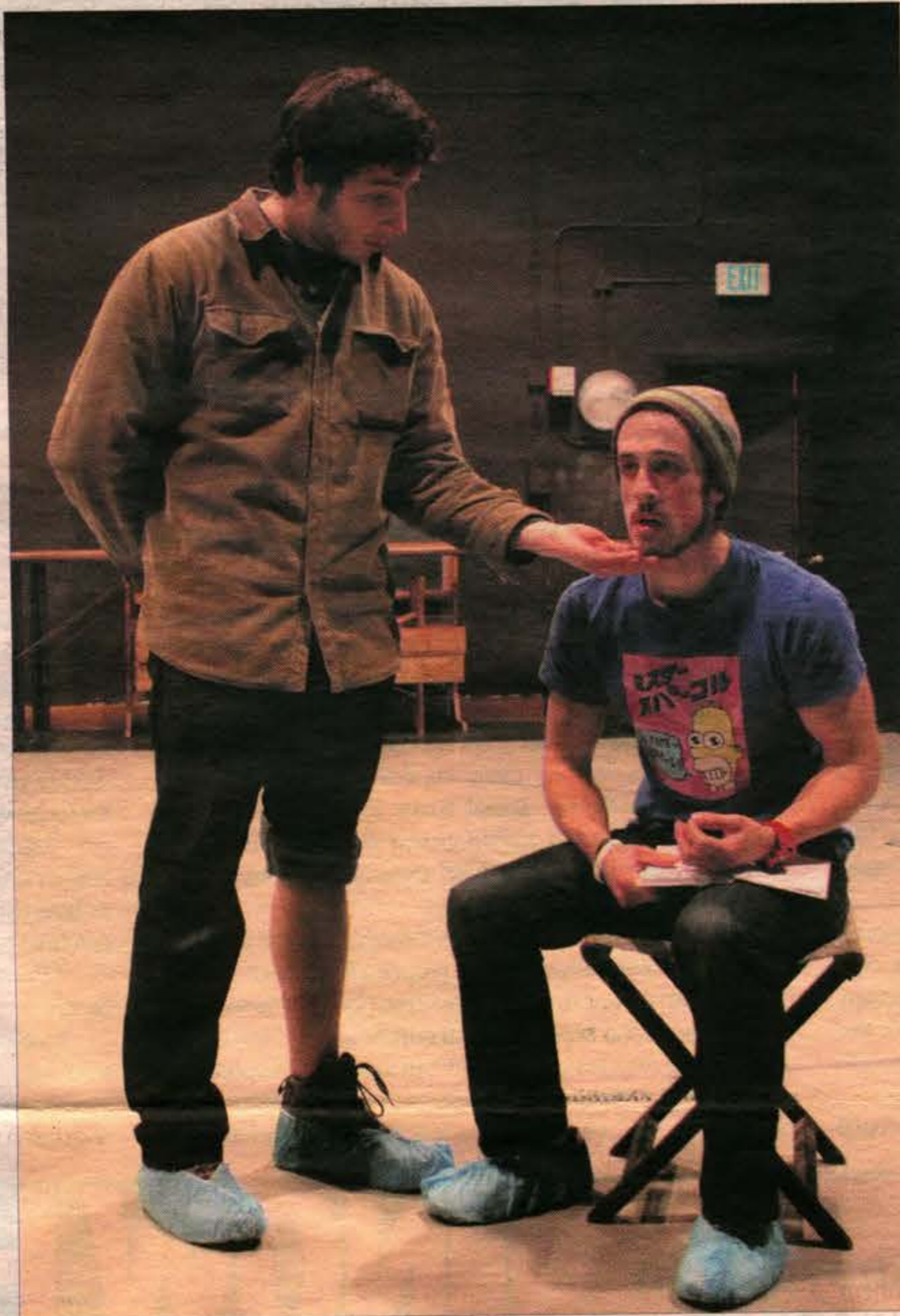
Creating an intimate space

The audience sits on the stage with the actors and set, creating an intimate space and putting them close to the action, Guyette said.

This allows them to experience the emotion of the actors up close.

They are creating the Antarctic onstage, so there will be lots of fabric, projections, platforms and a big sled that moves across the stage.

The sled also has the ability to change and form



Western seniors Miguel Vila and James McGrath practice for their upcoming performance in the Western Theatre and Dance production of "Terra Nova," Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Performing Arts Center. The production will take place Nov. 9-13 on the mainstage. **Photo by Kelly Sullivan**

itself into different things, said Western senior and set designer Bethany Fromong, who has been creating the designs since last spring.

The play has only one faculty designer, while all of the other designers are students, Guyette said.

This is the first year Western is allowing students to design shows.

Having such a unique set requires a lot of hard work and determination from the set designer.

Fromong, who has been studying set design for the past five years, said the special aspect about the set is the minimal space that still manages to have magic behind it.

"A lot of lighting and production work is what makes the set," she said. "Lighting effects such as the Aurora Borealis come into play, which really light it up and make you feel as if you are in the icy climate of Antarctica."

Fromong wants the set designs to portray the balance between the worlds in Europe and Antarctica.

See the show

What: "Terra Nova"

Where: Western's Performing Arts Center Mainstage

When: Nov. 9-12 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

Cost: General admission \$12, seniors and Western faculty and staff \$10, students \$8

Developing Characters

"Terra Nova" has a great group of actors with a great deal of talent, Guyette said. The cast has seven students: six men and one woman.

Western senior Miguel Vila plays Roald Amundsen, captain of the Norwegian crew. Amundsen is morally strong and ambitious, with an honorable personality, Vila said. Vila is excited to play a character with a Norwegian accent, and he has been working hard on perfecting it.

Vila is also eager to perform in a close space with the audience and portray the struggles his character goes through.

"The play will allow us to have an emotional relationship with a lot of people in the audience," Vila said. "That's really enjoyable."

Western senior James McGrath plays Robert Falcon Scott, an explorer with a military background, determined to make a name for himself, McGrath said.

Getting to the South Pole is a way for Scott to do that, and has become his goal and obsession.

McGrath is excited for people to see the play and is also eager to get onstage and in costume.

The show will be visually appealing and a surreal experience, McGrath said.

"Having the audience sit onstage, and manipulating that space, will be cool," he said. "That's just an experience people usually don't get with theater: knowing that the space is being used differently than it should."

Since the play is based on true events, the audience will be getting history in a very stylized way, McGrath said.

"I think it's very cool to show people things that have really happened through an artistic form," he said. "It's an important way to connect the fictional world to the real world."

Western junior Suzanne Monin is the only woman in the show.

She plays Captain Scott's wife, Kathleen. Kathleen's character is forward for the time period and is not a typical 1911 Englishwoman; she is a little crazier, Monin said.

Being the only woman in the cast is fun for Monin. "We all get along really well," Monin said. "I'll get teased a little bit, but not too bad. Sometimes I get treated like a little sister: it's really fun and we have a good time."

The play "Terra Nova" portrays a test of mankind's humanity and allows the audience to experience firsthand the emotion that goes into making life-or-death decisions.

Antarctica is a vast, white wilderness with new adventures and dangers around every corner. Both Scott's and Amundsen's crew embark on their journeys, but only one crew returns.



Western senior Peter Ostergaard practices with fellow cast members for the upcoming performance of "Terra Nova" on Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Performing Arts Center. **Photo by Kelly Sullivan**

Alt. library hosts fundraiser for Books to Prisoners

By Ian Couch

Tucked in the back of Rocket Donuts' kitchen, behind the ovens and flour-coated countertops, is a library. However, this is no ordinary library — it's dedicated to providing books to prison inmates across the United States.

During his time volunteering at the library, Western senior Zachary Robertson answered letters from inmates. The letters asked for reading material, something Robertson said helps provide the prisoners a sense of normalcy and helps them stay connected with the outside world.

His experience with Books to Prisoners, a nonprofit volunteer-based organization that distributes books to prison inmates, inspired him to take on an independent fundraising project for them.

"I only volunteered once or twice, but during that time, I decided the need was great, and that inspired me to do something," Robertson said.

He is hosting a series of events at the Bellingham Alternative Library, at 717 N. Forest St., from 7-10 p.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of November, December and January.

Robertson said he is asking for a \$3 to \$5 donation at the door, and will sell T-shirts for additional donations of \$5 to \$10, to reach his \$600 total goal for the fundraiser. He plans to donate the money to the Bellingham chapter of Books to Prisoners, a branch of the Seattle-based organization that has locations in Portland and Olympia as well.

Each month features a different revolutionary, Robertson said. Angela Davis will be featured in November, Audre Lorde in December and Emma Goldman in January. The events include literature, speeches and documentaries based on the revolutionaries, he said.

Robertson hopes the sessions about these revolutionaries will help inspire people to push for change in their own communities. He said in the wake of the recent Occupy protests nationwide, he wants to shed light on some of the revolutionary figures who were at the forefront of past social-change movements.

The events begin this month with Angela Davis, a social



Western senior Zachary Robertson screens images of Angela Davis onto shirts on Oct. 29, at the Bellingham Alternative Library. Proceeds from the final products benefit Bellingham's Books to Prisoners program to increase the number of responses volunteers will be able to provide to prisoners. **Photo by Kelly Sullivan**

activist associated with the civil rights movement and the Black Panther Party. Robertson chose to start with Davis because she has recently been speaking out against the prison-industrial complex, which helps put the fundraiser events in context and raise awareness about prison conditions, he said.

Robertson said he plans on working with Western's Ethnic Student Center, Social Issues Resource Center and Women's Center to try to find groups and clubs on campus whose interests might align with some of the messages and themes of the events.

Robertson said he was touched by many of the letters he read while volunteering with the program because of the way the inmates seemed to be alienated from the outside world.

"Prison is far separated from regular society, and I think it's that way for a reason," he said. "[It's] to keep the prisoners out of the loop from what's going on in the outside world so they can't connect with that, and to keep regular society from

Featured figures for fundraiser

Angela Davis

Nov. 11 & 25

Audre Lorde

Dec. 9 & 23

Emma Goldman

Jan. 13 & 27

All events held at 8 p.m. at 717 N. Forest St. for a suggested \$3 to \$5 donation

knowing what's going on in there."

Many recently privatized prisons are shutting down their libraries to cut costs, causing inmates to reach out to organizations such as Books to Prisoners for reading materials, he said.

Tom Aeschliman, Bellingham Books to Prisoners coordinator, said most of the donations they get pay for postage to send books to prisons.

The Bellingham chapter meets once a week. Volunteers respond to requests by shipping 50 to 60 book packages, Aeschliman said. The Seattle branch gets between 1,200 and 1,500 letters per month from prisoners requesting books, and those are divided among all four program locations, he said.

Aeschliman has been involved with the Bellingham branch since 2006 and said if funding allows, he would like to host two meetings a week. In the meantime, he plans to continue responding to as many book requests as possible.

"I'm interested in spreading light into dark places," he said.

Robertson hopes to provide some much-needed funds to Books to Prisoners and educate people about prison conditions. He said he hopes this will ultimately get more books into the hands of inmates.

Ever wonder what they DO in those offices on the 40th floor?

A Day in the Life of Sydney Walker

Manager, Business Tax Advisory
Ernst & Young, LLP
MS Tax (05) and Adjunct Faculty Member
School of Taxation, Golden Gate University



TO DO:

- 8:00 Strategize with partners re: new market approach for potential clients
- 10:00 Brainstorm tax issue - conference call
- NOON lunch with client
- 2:30 Meet w/ partner re: billing for new client
- 4:00 3rd Quarter kick-off meeting
- 5:30 Happy hour w/ team

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Klipsun

The Western Front

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Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

Applications Due
Wednesday, Nov. 9th at noon

FRONTLINE

OPINIONS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

University overreacted to student's frustrated comment

When Jacob Ramirez paid his \$25 parking fine to Western, he left some unkind words for the University Police, writing "Fuck The Police" on both the parking ticket and the check's memo line. That sentiment is perhaps shared, though rarely put into writing, by many of his peers in similar situations.

The editorial board does not support Ramirez's action. Throwing around profanities doesn't help when dealing with authorities or any other professionals, but rudeness alone does not justify the university's reaction — or, rather, overreaction.

University Police alleged that Ramirez violated Western's Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. The specific allegations were "Harassment/Threats/unwanted and/or intimidating contact and/or communication of a threatening nature," wrote judicial officer Michael Schardein in an Oct. 19 letter to Ramirez. The letter said University Police had accused Ramirez of violating the code and

Schardein needed to meet with him to talk about it.

It was a lot of hoopla over an angry kid's rant. Legally speaking, unless what Ramirez wrote constituted intimidation and he threatened an individual or organization with the intent of inflicting bodily harm or death, the First Amendment protects it.

Two days later, Western President Bruce Shepard got a letter from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, an organization that protects students' rights in higher education. The letter, which railed against Western for investigating Ramirez, was copied to Schardein, University Police Chief Randy Stegmeier and Dean of Students Theodore Pratt Jr.

Western dropped the investigation. Schardein met with Ramirez to apologize. Associate Dean of Students Sherry L. Mallory, who supervises Schardein, sent a letter to the foundation emphasizing that Western supports everyone's right to free speech.

"Using the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code to talk with a student about his or her interactions with our staff was an inappropriate use of our Code," she wrote. She acknowledged that a simple phone call from Schardein asking Ramirez to be respectful would have sufficed.

We agree, but we wonder why that didn't happen in the first place. Administrators' time and Western's resources are too precious to waste on formal investigations of students who just want to express themselves.

We are glad the university admitted its error, and we give Western credit for the apology and the statement supporting free speech. But let this case serve as a reminder the next time a student's words anger an authority. Teaching manners is one thing; launching an investigation is another.

The Editorial Board is Editor-in-Chief Gina Cole, Managing Editor Paige Collins and Opinion Editor Olena Rypich.

Letters to the editor

Says Ring of Fire club inspires creative expression

I remember walking through campus one evening last year and suddenly hearing music and chanting coming from the end of south campus.

To my surprise, it was the drum circle, and it looked like everyone was having a great time. It makes you smile when you see a group of people having fun, just dancing to the beat of music.

I always thought it was an interesting and fun thing that happened on campus at random, but am pleased to know it is now a club! Western is a great place for unique and exciting clubs, and this one seems perfect.

A drum circle may not be a place for everyone, but it definitely gives students inspiration to perhaps start their own fun clubs. It allows, like the article said, for students to have creative expression, which is always important. People in society today need more stress relievers from all the school and work we do.

It is nice to know there are these options for students. I hope the drum circle keeps growing for all students — whether they are part of the club or just enjoy hearing the beat.

Taylor Mesa
Western sophomore

Skeptical about learning with gadgets

Using cellphones as a learning platform for most students can be a useless tool. An app designed to entirely replace classroom material (e.g. books) is not a concept that should be unheard of, but I believe it is unnecessary.

I know if I spend too much time "plugged into technology," I tend to get a headache. I feel most college students, if not most people, are spending enough time as it is in front of a computer or talking or texting on their cellphones; they don't need to spend four or five additional hours studying on them.

More of us are starting to become lazy these days with things like studying with pre-made flashcards or not wanting to take notes during lecture.

Of course, there are two sides to every argument. Having material available for students via iPod is potentially cheaper than hundred-dollar textbooks, and walking from class to class with a lighter load would relieve the stress from a student's backpack.

The only way this concept could be helpful is if it were only offered as a supplementary study guide, not to entirely replace classroom material.

Jolaina Phillipps
Western sophomore

Rant...

"My Macbook was stolen. I'm pissed. My rant is directed toward how UNHELPFUL the police are and how as a community, we should watch out for each other. For two years, this creep has been stealing. Four hours of officers 'investigating' and all they achieved was flaunting how little they know (and care)."

...and Rave

"Personally, I love Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Probably the best frozen dessert there is, in my opinion — even when it feels cold enough to snow. I can't say no to a pint of Phish Food."

Submissions Policy

The Western Front publishes submitted opinion items on a space-available basis. We reserve the right to edit for length, spelling, style and grammar. Submit letters to the editor, rants and raves, Hey Yous and guest columns, along with your name and title (such as "Western sophomore") to westernfront.opinion@gmail.com.

Word count limits
Rants and raves, Hey Yous: 50 words
Letters to the editor: 250 words
Guest columns: 400 words

Viking Voices

OPINIONS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

What do you wish Bellingham had that it doesn't?



Daniel Schmidt
junior,
undecided

"Large-venue concerts."



Kate Harrison
freshman,
undecided

"Good Indian food."



Teresa De Sitter
junior,

cellular molecular biology/Spanish
"More outdoor community events."

Compiled by Kristen Stanovich

About the Higher One refund process: Get over it!

As a student employee, [I find it] frustrating to deal with lazy students who are only willing to complain instead of doing what is necessary to receive their refunds.

The process has been described as tedious and a pain. It boggles my mind that college students find entering a few numbers into a computer and making a choice to receive money difficult. I realize there is discomfort with a major change such as this one, but students need to get over it and realize this is the only way to acquire their aid.

If you don't want the card, do direct deposit or wait more than three weeks to receive a paper check.

I admit: the card is kind of a rip-off for students who already have a bank, but for those who are un-bankable, the Choice Card gives them a chance to have a debit or credit card.

The rally planned for Wednesday shows students are concerned, but the frustrating part is Student Financial Services and Higher One are making an effort to answer questions, but students are not making an effort to ask them. We held a forum on Oct. 26, when a Higher One representative flew in, and only four people showed up.

There is going to be another forum on Nov. 17, and I suggest attending if you would like your voice heard.

Brittany Brown
Western senior,
Student Financial Services employee

MEN'S BASKETBALL PREVIEW

2010: 16-11 Overall
11-7 GNAC

Western reloads after disappointing finish to 2010

PLAYER TO WATCH

RORY BLANCHE



The senior and team captain was second in the GNAC and 14th in the nation with his 62.8 shooting percentage. He averaged 14.3 points and 6.8 rebounds last season and earned

a GNAC all-star honorable mention. For a complete story on Blanche, visit www.westernfrontonline.net.

X-FACTOR

JOHN ALLEN



Allen emerged last season as the Vikings' go-to guard in his first season at Western following a transfer from Washington State University. He is capable of shredding teams

from behind the 3-point arch and led Western with 53 made last season, while making 43 percent.

TOP NEWCOMER

RICO WILKINS



Technically, Wilkins isn't a newcomer. But he played just five games in his first year with Western last season after rupturing his Achilles tendon. The Yakima Valley Junior College transfer received medical

hardship from the GNAC and keeps his remaining two years of eligibility. His ball-handling and shooting abilities will be an immediate benefit to the Vikings, who are short on point guards and loaded with forwards.

2011-12 schedule

- Nov. 11 vs. Notre Dame De Namur
- Nov. 12 vs. Capilano (B.C.)
- Nov. 19 vs. Dominican
- Nov. 21 vs. Brigham Young-Hawaii
- Nov. 26 vs. Northwest University
- Dec. 1 at Montana State-Billings
- Dec. 3 at Seattle Pacific
- Dec. 12 vs. Quest (B.C.)
- Dec. 15 vs. Rollins (in Las Vegas)
- Dec. 16 vs. Alabama-Huntsville (in Las Vegas)
- Dec. 31 at Simon Fraser (B.C.)
- Jan. 5 vs. Saint Martin's
- Jan. 7 vs. Western Oregon
- Jan. 12 at Alaska Fairbanks
- Jan. 14 at Alaska Anchorage
- Jan. 18 vs. Central Washington
- Jan. 21 vs. Northwest Nazarene
- Jan. 28 vs. Simon Fraser (B.C.)
- Feb. 2 at Western Oregon
- Jan. 4 at Saint Martin's
- Jan. 9 vs. Alaska Anchorage
- Feb. 11 vs. Alaska Fairbanks
- Feb. 16 at Northwest Nazarene
- Feb. 18 at Central Washington
- Feb. 23 vs. Seattle Pacific
- Feb. 15 vs. Montana State-Billings

By Nicole Strep

As the season starts to build momentum, men's basketball coach Brad Jackson hopes to build a team that strives for excellence.

He works to identify things that make individual team members better players and emphasizes those ideas in practice.

"Ultimately, all you can ask from players is to be able to look in the mirror and feel like they have done the very best job that they can," Jackson said.

Jackson doesn't want to minimize the importance of winning, but if winning is the only thing the team focuses on, he feels it is difficult to improve. Teams tend to play to the level of the opponent; if the perception is the opponent is bad, it rarely results in a good game from his team, he said.

"I think you can still win the game and not play well," Jackson said. "That's not what we want at all. We want our guys to have a higher vision, a goal of excellence, and hold themselves to high standards as far as that's concerned."

It's clear Jackson knows what he's doing. In his 27 years, he has led the Vikings to more wins than any coach in Western history, and is 13 away from reaching 500.

He's the mind behind the Vikings. After losing only one senior from last season, Jackson looks to lead his squad back to the NCAA Division II National Tournament after missing out last season.

The problem is the one player not returning is Michael Duty, who was a Great Northwest Athletic Conference first-team all-star as well as the leading scorer. He averaged more than 16 points a game last season, but the Vikings have some other key players who look to fill that void.

With Duty gone some other Western players are capable of stepping up, such as senior Rory Blanche and junior John Allen.

Both averaged nearly 15 points a game last season. Blanche was considered one of the top shooting forwards in the nation, making 62.8 percent of his shots last year. It was good for second best in the GNAC and 14th nationally.

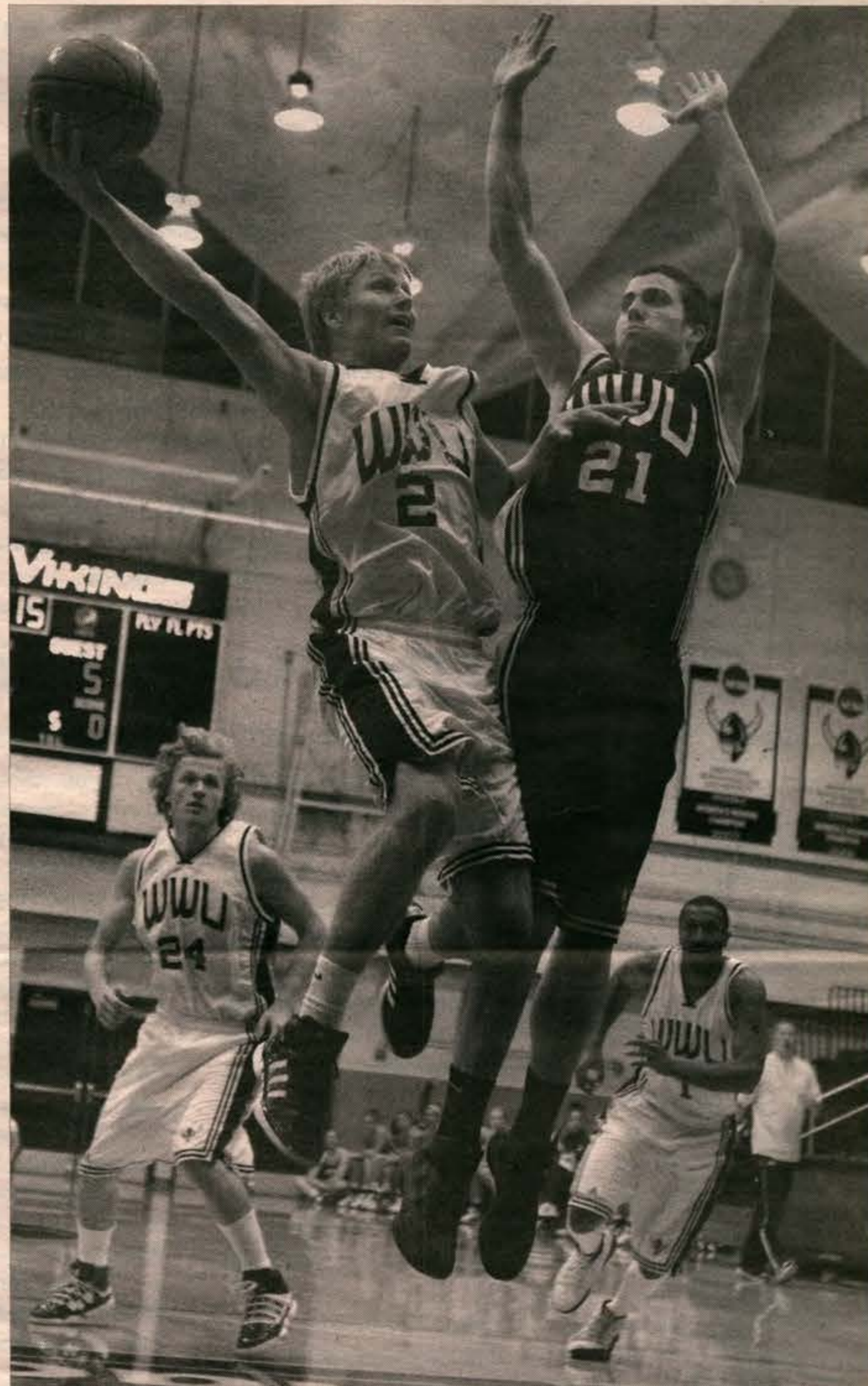
Then there is Allen. Points won't be a problem for him. He holds the record for most points in a single game, which happened at Sam Carver Gymnasium when he lit up Simon Fraser University for 43 in a 99-92 win and connected on 5 of 9 from a 3-point range on Jan. 2.

But it's not just those two who are expected to make an impact.

Western ranked in the bottom half of the conference in assists last year, but the Vikings return two capable ball-handlers in guards Rico Wilkins and Richard Woodworth after both suffered season-ending injuries last year.

Wilkins blew out his Achilles tendon in the fifth game last season and received medical hardship so he could maintain a year of eligibility. Woodworth returns after missing all of last season because of wrist surgery.

The Vikings were the top team for offense in the conference last season and averaged 83 points per game. The problem



Western guard Dan Thorpe collides with forward Rory Blanche in the 8-minute scrimmage game of Viking Jam on Oct. 26 at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

File photo by Lillian Furlong

was their consistency on the defensive end. Western was third to last in points allowed, allowing more than 81 a game.

Assistant coach Tony Dominguez has been at Jackson's side for the past 17 years. Dominguez said he knows the team is going to be able to put points on the board, but is looking for improvement on defense.

"We need to play hard on [defense], which they have been doing better than years past," Dominguez said. "So our expectations are higher now."

Jackson said his team has the athletic talent to be a strong contender in the GNAC this season. If so, the Vikings could have a shot at getting back to the NCAA Division II National Tournament. They lost to Northwest Nazarene University 77-75 in the first round of the GNAC Tournament after a Crusader player scored a breakaway lay-in with 5.5 seconds left on Feb. 28.

But with some key additions and a veteran group returning, Jackson is looking forward to improved play this season.

"[The team] has a lot of different personalities, very athletic, and I think

it will be real exciting and really fun to watch," Jackson said. "That's a huge part of it for us too because the players are performers, they like to be in front of a crowd."

The team recently returned from the Disney West Coast Tip Off Classic in Anaheim, Calif., where it won two of three games. The Vikings won 74-61 against Dominican University of California on Nov. 4, then beat the University of California-San Diego 78-68 the next day, before finally losing 80-71 against Chestnut Hill [Pa.] College on the final day of the classic at the Anaheim Convention Center.

The Vikings now prepare their first home game of the season. They face Notre Dame De Namur at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11 at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

There's no question the Vikings have the ability to put points on the scoreboard. But if the Vikings can improve on its defensive inconsistency from last season, it could result in a return trip to the national tournament in March - making the season where Jackson wins his 500th game even more memorable.

ROWING PREVIEW

2010: NCAA Division II National Champions

Vikings begin quest for eighth straight championship

PLAYER TO WATCH MEGAN NORTHEY



Northey is the captain of the Western rowing team, which is coming off of its seventh consecutive national championship.

With the title comes a lot of pressure to continue the team's success and Western's rowing legacy. After all, no one would like to go down as the class to end the unprecedented streak. For a complete story on Northey, visit www.westernfrontonline.net.

X-FACTOR

LAUREN FLEMING



While Northey competes in the Varsity 8 boat, Fleming will be just as impactful for the Varsity 4 boat. She will be at the bow seat

again, exactly where she was sitting when the Varsity 4 won the national championship last season.

2011-12 Schedule

Nov. 6 at Head of the Lake Regatta (in Seattle)
 March 24 at Daffodil Cup Regatta (in Tacoma)
 March 30 at UC San Diego
 March 31 at San Diego Crew Classic
 April 10 at San Diego Crew Classic
 April 7 vs. TBA
 April 14 vs. TBA

By Suzanne White

The Western women's rowing team is on the water by 5 a.m. Monday through Thursday, despite wind, chill and fog. On Saturdays, the team gets to "sleep in" and be in the boats by 6 a.m.

These are the practice hours it apparently takes to capture an unprecedented seven consecutive NCAA Division II National Championships.

Over the course of its seven-year title sweep, Western has won 25 of 28 regattas. The crew is tied for fourth place for the number of consecutive NCAA Division II women's national titles won by any team in any sport.

The crew hopes to continue its pattern of success, and has experience on its side with 11 seniors this season.

"With over an entire boat of seniors, our team is full of leaders," said Lauren Fleming, senior, bow seat. "With so much dedication, I expect our team to break some more records and dominate the competition this year."

Coach John Fuchs agrees, citing rowing experience and being familiar with each other on the water as contributing factors to any accomplishments the crew may make this season.

It's not just about the experience and leadership, though. As far as talent goes, Fleming said there is no shortage.

However, Fuchs said such a strong team makes placement decisions difficult for him as a coach.

"The challenge is going to be deciding who sits where [in the boat]," Fuchs said. "That's not something I'm looking forward to... it's tough to put 12 people out there at the end."

As talented as the crew is, senior bow seat Kate Berni said the season will not be without its challenges.



The Western women's rowing crew gears for its only home meet last season on April 16 at Lake Samish. The crew kicked off this season at the Head of the Lake Regatta on Sunday Nov. 6, in Seattle. **File photo by Colin Diltz**

"[We will work on] keeping our focus on each day and practice rather than letting outside pressures of the past and future getting in the way," Berni said.

Fleming and Fuchs also said staying focused during races often determines the outcome of the race.

Western's biggest rival this season may not be a specific crew, Berni said. On other crews, many varsity seniors graduate and boat lineups change, so the level of competition varies every year.

"On any day, any team can be beaten," Berni said. "We treat each team with as much respect as any other."

The crew rowed 20-minute pieces at about 24 strokes per minute at full pressure at practice, preparing for the regatta, Fleming said. At the Head of the Lake Regatta on Nov. 6 at Seattle for Montlake Cui, the team placed more importance on improving their own technique rather than out-rowing other crews.

"This [regatta] is more about themselves," Fuchs said. "[It's] about putting together 3 miles of solid rowing and not getting distracted."

Fleming said Fuchs encourages the crew to find balance in other areas of their lives in order to keep calm and be successful on the water.

"[Fuchs] emphasizes that excellent rowing comes from focusing on school, health, team relationships and athleticism," Fleming said.

The crew members' commitment, above all else, will play a large role in whether or not the Vikings can take home an eighth consecutive national championship trophy, Berni said.

"Rowing is a sport that anyone can do and learn," Berni said. "But it really is about inner drive rather than athletic ability. For a rower, it is harder to quit than just keep pushing through the pain."

Missing Something

whatcom county pregnancy
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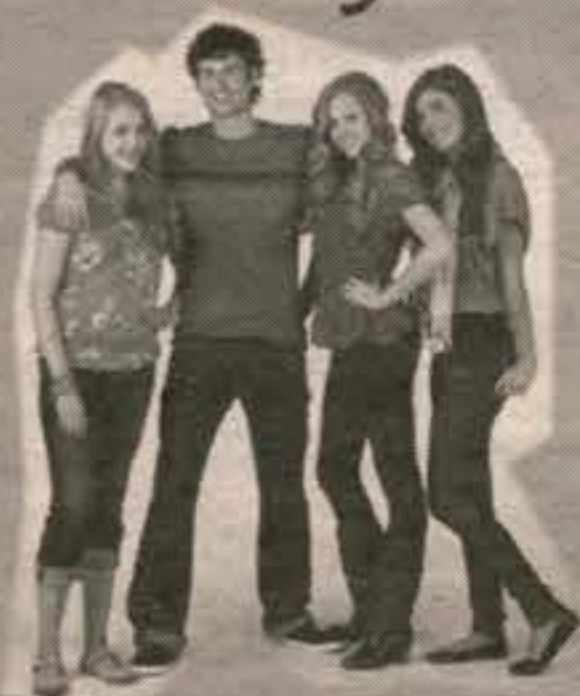
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Cross-country teams return to nationals

By Diana Pollock

For the fourth consecutive year, the Western men's and women's cross-country teams are advancing to the NCAA Division II National Championships.

The Viking women placed third and the men's team fourth in the NCAA West Regional Championships Nov. 5 at the Plantes Ferry Sports Complex in Spokane.

"They were ready to go," said coach Pee Wee Halsell. "Their goal was going to nationals, and they came in and performed to their best."

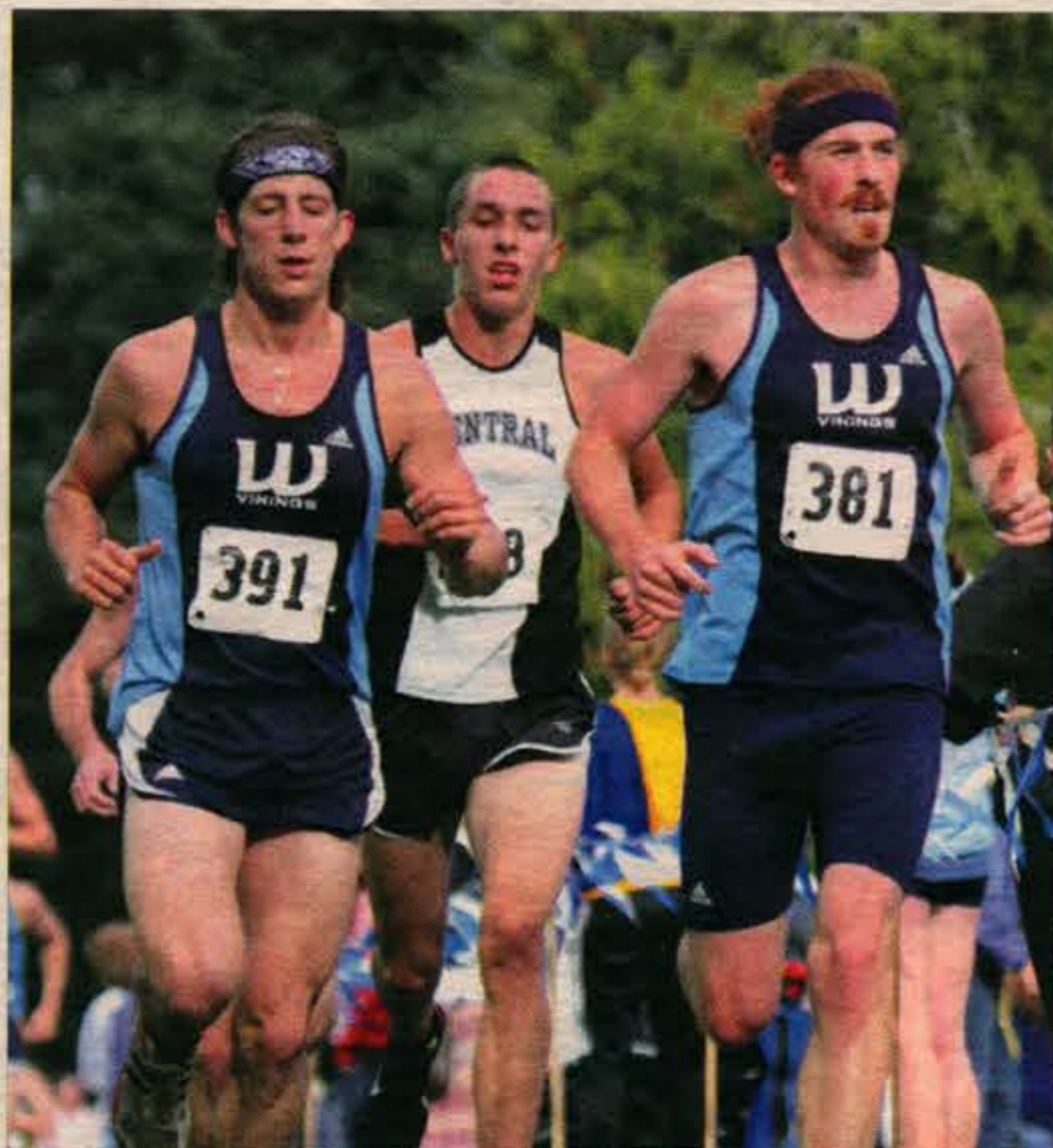
Leading the Viking women was senior Rachael Johnson, who crossed the finish line at 22 minutes and 10 seconds. She was followed by freshman Katelyn Steen at 22:16 and senior Lauren Brehof at 22:30.

Brehof said she struggled with a sideache she was disappointed in her performance.

"The girls did really well as a team," Brehof said. "Even though I didn't have my best race, a couple other girls really stepped up and filled in the gaps."

Going into the race, Brehof said she had the mentality that it would be her final regional race and wanted to give it everything she had so she could end feeling satisfied.

Brehof said she is excited to be going to nationals as a team and believes two weeks will pass sooner than they think.



Western seniors Kyle Johnson, left, and Eric Brill, compete in the Western Invitational on Oct. 8 at Lake Padden. Both helped the men's team finish fourth overall at the NCAA Division II Regional meet and qualified for nationals which will be held on Nov. 19. **File photo by Lillian Furlong**

"I'm really proud of the team as a whole today," Brehof said. "We're pumped to have both teams going back to nationals and we really just want to try and go in there and perform better than our ranking."

The Viking men placed fourth in their respective race with 128 points. Alaska-Anchorage came in first for the men's 10-kilometer race and Chico State was second among 17 teams. Western Oregon University took third place with two less

points than Western.

Senior Eric Brill, making his fourth appearance at the regional meet, led the Vikings with a time of 31:52. He placed 21st overall for one of the best finishes of his four-year career.

Sophomore Dak Riek came in 22nd at 31:55 and senior Nick Abraham was 24th at 32:05.

Junior Tyler Cannon had been the top runner on the team all season, but battled a cold and ended up placing sixth on the team and 47th overall at 32:49.

"We've been focusing all season on having people who can step up when they need to," Brill said. "I think that really showed today."

The end result was not exactly what the team expected because the Viking men beat Western Oregon at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships on Oct. 22 and should have beaten them at regionals, Brill said.

"I look forward to us doing better than we did today at nationals," he said. "We're all really excited about the opportunity."

The Vikings return to Spokane in two weeks for the national championships at the same course on Nov. 19.

In preparation for nationals, the Vikings will take their mileage down in training. All the workouts will be short distance, and the teams will do quicker

GOING TO THE 'SHIP

Seven runners from the Western men's cross-country team and seven from the women's team qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships taking place Nov. 19 in Spokane. Here is how they fared at the regional meet Nov. 5:

WESTERN MEN

PLACE	NAME	TIME
21.	Eric Brill	31:52
22.	Dak Riek	31:55
24.	Nick Abraham	32:04
30.	Kyle Johnson	32:19
37.	Tanner Boyd	32:34
47.	Tyler Cannon	32:49
50.	Dylan Peterson	32:52

*The men's team placed fourth overall

WESTERN WOMEN

PLACE	NAME	TIME
16.	Rachael Johnson	22:10
22.	Katelyn Steen	22:16
29.	Lauren Brehof	22:30
39.	Mary Rogers	22:50
46.	Haley O'Connor	22:59
48.	Sierra Brisky	23:01
79.	Mikhaila Thornton	23:49

*The women's team placed third overall

speed work rather than long workouts, Brill said.

Three Western men, Brill, Riek, and Abraham, and two Western women, Johnson and Steen, earned regional all-star honors by placing among the top 25 in their divisions.

"I'm very proud to be the coach of this group of athletes," Halsell said. "We're going to come back in two weeks and have some fun and do better."

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