

## THE ELLE WORD

By Danielle Kuehnel

During my time at Western, I've found one constant in almost every one of my classes, whether that is upper- or lower-division courses: the person who sits in the very front of the class and feels compelled to make a comment after every phrase the professor says, even if it makes absolutely no sense.

I came to Western from an all-girls high school, and during my time there, I learned to never be afraid to ask questions of teachers and to never be afraid to answer them, either. But I also think that there is a line between intelligence and annoyance that more than one person has inadvertently broached.

"There's a guy in my computer-science class this term that has a habit of repeating back every instruction to the professor," said sophomore pre-med/computer-science major Adam Bernot, 19. "Usually, I feel like I'd appreciate a bolt of lightning striking them down."

While constantly commenting may be just down-right annoying, there's more at stake than simply listening to verbal diarrhea.

"When the teacher asks questions, this girl will just read from the book just to get the points, and that's the only thing she'll do," said senior art major Arianna Ninneman, 21. "She doesn't articulate it...she just reads the answers straight from the book."

"If the teacher asks if there's anybody else, she'll just start talking before anybody raises their hand," she said. "It's not fair."

Indeed, it *isn't* fair.

How is it fair if one person dominates class discussion without even bringing anything worthwhile to the conversation?

How is it fair to the students who pay a lot of money to learn in class, and how is it fair to professors who try to impart valuable knowledge on to their students?

I'm not saying that I think outgoing students should cease to participate in class. On the contrary: I believe that one gets the most out of one's education if he or she participates and contributes as much as possible. However, I also believe that one should not speak during class simply to hear his or her voice. Contribute, but contribute well and appropriately.

Contribute for the good of the class.

Contribute because you have an enlightening comment, or a stimulating answer.

With more people really thinking about what they are saying, less people will have to continue following Bernot's lead in simply "falling asleep."