

## Army

continued from page 1

should not be taking financial consideration into account in a mental health diagnosis, she said.

"This is the opposite of everything that we are working for," Murray said. "It is very disheartening to see this in writing."

The Army Surgeon General's office also has asked psychiatrists from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to evaluate the mental health of more than a dozen soldiers who complained that the Madigan team had unfairly dropped their PTSD diagnoses as they prepared for medical retirement. Some said the team

**'This is the opposite of everything that we are working for. It is very disheartening to see this in writing'**

Sen. Patty Murray

such as a battlefield casualty. Symptoms can include recurrent nightmares, flashbacks, irritability and feeling distant from other people.

Soldiers are often diagnosed with PTSD as they move through the Army medical system. The forensic team at Madigan has been charged with making a final diagnostic review of soldiers under consideration for retirement.

At Madigan, the team's validation of a PTSD diagnosis can help qualify a soldier for a medical retirement with considerable benefits that include lifelong health insurance for a retiree, spouse and dependents

and monthly pay, and also can help qualify a retiree for disability benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Madigan is located at Joint Base Lewis-

**Some said the team branded them as malingerers who were lying or exaggerating their symptoms**

branded them as malingerers who were lying or exaggerating their symptoms.

PTSD is a condition that results from experiencing or seeing a traumatic event,

## Library

continued from page 1

people won't smack you up side the head like your friends would," Farr said.

The teen advisers agree that one advantage to this service learning opportunity is the flexibility.

"It seemed interesting because a lot of it is 'do it on your own time,' like the book reviews and blogging. It's not a huge time commitment," said Madeline Ewbank, Ballard High junior.

The teens earn credit hours by creating podcasts, reading and reviewing books for the library's card catalog, posting on the library's teen blog, "Push to Talk," and planning and volunteering at library events.

"I have technically enough service hours by now, but I come back just because it's fun," said Ewbank. "It's a good table out there, it's always nice people. I think there's always something to be gained in the library."

Rebecca Wong, a sophomore at Garfield High School, is starting her first semester as a teen adviser. Prior to this she frequented the library for DVDs, CDs and fiction books.

"I want to read. I think coming here would give me more access, I use the online encyclopedia and the links on the website and that's usually helpful for homework," said Wong.

Bass said overseeing the teens is the most rewarding part of her job. "A lot of adults may never come into contact with teenagers and they will forget that there are so many smart, articulate, thoughtful, engaged teens out there. We want to help put them on the forefront," she said.

Over the years Bass has seen the program evolve into a diverse, safe space for learning. She added that often these teens wouldn't necessarily hang out with one another. At the Central Library they come together and understand each other's perspectives.

Students form relationships, express themselves through creative writing, and have an added incentive to engage with literary material outside of the classroom.

"I think it's a unique program," said

**'I think there's always something to be gained in the library'**

---Madeline Ewbank

Ewbank. "It's more of an outlet because there is a lot that we don't do in school and I would like to. Like books that we don't get to read because it's not part of the curriculum."

Borrowing books from the library pro-

vides these swift readers with a free service that could easily weigh them down.

"I don't buy books because I just read them really fast and I would spend a fortune on paper if that was the case," said Ewbank. "It's also kind of a way to give back because I have used so much of the resources here and I'm not a taxpayer."

The teens debated the issue of e-books.

"I actually like the electronic catalog

because I am a really fast reader, my family has three (e-readers) and we can download books, so that means I don't have to be at the library every other day getting a new book," said Farr. "I can just download a bunch of them at the beginning of the week."

Ewbank said she refuses to touch a Kindle.

"There's something to be said for a book; it's more of a sense of accomplishment when you get to the end," she said.

Check out what the teen advisers at Seattle Public Library are doing on their blog "Push to Talk" (at [www.pushtotalk.spl.org](http://www.pushtotalk.spl.org)). New applicants are accepted every semester and there is no term limit.

*Breanna Lai is a student in the University of Washington Department of Communication News Laboratory.*

## Bomba to Hip Hop



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Tyrone Crosby with Kutt 'N' Up teaches a workshop in Hip Hop Feb. 4 at Southside Commons. The cross cultural community event included a Bomba workshop taught by Angel Reyes and a Hip Hop workshop with Crosby. The event was sponsored by Goddard College and the Intra-Afrikan Konnection.

McChord, about 30 miles south of Seattle, which has sent tens of thousands of soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The September lecture was intended to

help social workers, nurse case managers and others understand the role of the forensic team in the Medical Evaluation Board system.

## Murder

continued from page 1

dren's Administration at the Department of Social and Health Services, said state authorities work closely with courts to determine whether supervised visits should be allowed and whether they should be held at a parent's home or at a neutral site.

"If there had been any indication of suicidal thoughts, or anything that we would have thought there was an intent to harm the children, we would have taken immediate action," she said. "If we had thought that, we would have done what we could. I don't think there's anything else we could have done."

And as devastated as Susan's parents are to have lost her and now her sons, they aren't critical of how the custody case was handled, said their attorney, Steve Downing.

"They knew that legally he would proba-

**It was their belief he had something to do with Susan's disappearance, and that ultimately he could harm the children**

bly have supervised visitation," Downing said. "It was their belief he had something to do with Susan's disappearance, and that ultimately he could harm the children. But they believed the state had listened to them and had taken appropriate measures to protect them. They don't know what more the state could have done."

Supervised visits are typically ordered to take place at a neutral site in cases of documented abuse or domestic violence, Down-

ing said. Powell had been having supervised visits with the boys twice a week, three hours at a time, for about four months.

The court ordered a psychological evaluation of Josh Powell last October. After it was completed, the psychologist received information from police in West Valley City, Utah, about undisclosed materials found on his computer during a search in 2009. That material prompted the psychologist to recommend a psycho-sexual evaluation before Powell be given custody or expanded visitation rights.

For his part, Josh Powell had argued in court papers that it was unfair for his children to be removed from his care based on something his father had done. In supervised visits, twice a week for three hours apiece, he demonstrated his love of the boys

and his competence as a caregiver, he insisted. He believed that a Child Protective Services investigation completed Nov. 30 clearing him of negligent treatment or maltreatment of his boys should have paved the way for their return home.

"No child wants to be taken from their parents and it is not reasonable to continue this process," he wrote in a court declaration last Wednesday. "At this point, it is only by bending and breaking the rules that anyone even tries to keep it going."

The judge disagreed, ordering the psycho-sexual evaluation.

Powell's attorney, Jeffrey Bassett, said Powell was extremely upset about the decision.

"The last conversation I had with him, we were looking to move forward, to comply with the evaluation and go from there," Bassett said. "This is a total shock."