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Klipsun Magazine, 1980, Volume 10, Issue 03 - March

Gregg Olsen
Western Washington University

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INSIDE:

Western's Underground
A Closer Look at Sexuality
Editor, Klipsun:

I have just read Mr. John Greeley's article titled "The Bright Side is Recovery" which appears in the Vol. 10, Number 2 issue of *The Klipsun*, dated January, 1980. The owners and staff at Bellingham's Olympic Treatment Center wish to thank Mr. Greeley for the fine job he did in portraying alcohol treatment as provided at Olympic Treatment Center.

We would also like to thank you and your staff for supporting our efforts through publication of this article.

Sincerely,
Maxine Quimby, Owner
Everett L. Atkins, Jr.,
Administrator

Klipsun welcomes letters, manuscripts and art submissions. All should include the author's name, address and telephone number (for verification purposes).
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VOL. 10 NO. 3

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Klipsun is a Lulmi Indian work meaning "beautiful sunset."

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Cover photo by Mike Bentley
Inside front photo by Bob Slone
back cover photo by Mickey Pegg
Several weeks ago when the Klipsun staff was formulating story ideas for this issue, the subject of civil defense came up and nearly dominated the meeting.

Staff writers voiced what many other Americans were feeling and fearing regarding the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the mercy killing of detente.

Paranoia permeated this campus as students began to wonder where to go when the bomb went off. After all, many surmised, war is on the way.

Ziemer, the writer of this issue's cover story, doesn't think that 'paranoia' is the correct word to describe what students were experiencing. He said, "I would say there has been renewed interest. The civil defense office hasn't been flooded with a deluge of calls but there has been a significant increase in interest."

Naturally, that interest can be traced to recent happenings in the world, specifically in Iran and Afghanistan. "It seems the only times people are interested in civil defense are during times of international crisis and tension—which we have now," according to Ziemer.

Ziemer blamed the press in part for the lack of insight into civil defense. "The only time the press has bothered to pick up on the sorry state of the American civil defense system has been in times of crisis. The press is critical of the government for ignoring civil defense: yet this is something the press is also guilty of."

Ziemer, a Canadian, said researching and writing his article "opened my eyes." He said Canadians like to think they won't be involved in any superpower nuclear confrontation. But nuclear fallout knows no borders and I wonder what kind of shape Canada's civil defense system is in."

He added he wasn't sure he really wants to know.

Waits' work on the sensitive subject of abortion aftermath has brought her some "fan mail"—before the article was even published.

After the interviews were made and the story completed, Waits went home one Sunday to find a note taped to her apartment door.

"The note was inside a plain white legal-sized envelope. Inside, letters cut from headlines were glued to a 3x5" notecard. The text: Abortion = Murder — Burn in Hell," she said.

"Since the magazine had not been published, I knew the writer must be someone on staff, one of my sources, or a person close enough to the magazine to know what was on the run sheet," she said.

Waits said she has no clue who would be sending her "fan mail."

She has also been the victim of a phone call and at least two other letters chiding her for writing the story, she said.

"Since the story advocated nothing, I am at a loss for understanding the motivation of my persecutor. At the risk of giving the person some morbid satisfaction, I admit the notes and phone call have shaken me up quite a bit," Waits said.

Gibble had a few interesting experiences dealing with professors and administrators while gathering the information for her faculty promotions article.

She arranged an appointment with Gerard Rutan of the political science department, without giving the reason for the scheduled visit.

"The first thing I have to say is 'no comment'," he said. "All of the rest is off the record. What does Klipsun have to do with faculty promotions?" he asked her.

Gibble said she replied, "Some faculty members were upset enough to voice the beliefs of a public issue that might affect Western's students."

Rutan countered, "How would you like it if the faculty intervened in student affairs? How would you like it if the faculty decided what band played at the next dance?"
Spending time in a nuclear fallout shelter "is not like staying in a motel or hotel. It's surviving," said Janice Leonardo, the coordinator of the Whatcom County Emergency Services office in Bellingham.

Defending the much maligned U.S. civil defense program, Leonardo said an adequate job is being done to protect citizens in the event of a nuclear attack. Whatcom County's 75-plus public fallout shelters will protect the entire county population. But that comforting prognosis may be somewhat deceiving.

For one thing, most public shelters are located in downtown buildings, where people would be when working but probably far from where they live if an attack came at night or during a weekend.

With most of Whatcom County's public shelters located in or near downtown Bellingham, residents of outlying areas such as Lynden or Ferndale would be out of luck in the event of an emergency.

And it appears that if sirens sounded, signalling Americans to head for fallout shelters, most people would not know where to turn. According to a 1977 Gallup poll, 74 percent of the people questioned didn't know the location of the nearest public shelter.

American civil defense efforts came about in the 1950s as a direct result of the cold war. Government officials encouraged citizens to build shelters in their homes and initial results were impressive. Around the country, building authorities were flooded with requests for shelter construction permits.

But, as the cold war thawed and the threat of nuclear war subsided, public interest in shelter building declined.

Thus it is not surprising that civil defense currently is receiving a renewal of public interest because of recent events in Iran and Afghanistan.

Leonardo said in the past two weeks she received more than two dozen requests for information about building home shelters.

The price of a home shelter varies, ranging from "time and effort to about $2,000. But we can probably fit a shelter into anyone's budget," she added.

Most home shelters are located in the basement of houses. The citizen's handbook on nuclear attack states if a house has two or more stories and its basement is below ground level, it can be used as a fallout shelter without alterations.

Most basements, however, would require minor improvements and civil defense offices throughout the country provide plans for upgrading basements into suitable shelters.

The largest concentration of Whatcom County's public shelters lie underneath the grounds of Western.

"Some of the best shelters are located in utility tunnels below the university," Leonardo said, adding that almost 15,000 persons could be housed there.

Eric Nasburg, director of the office of facilities development, however, disagreed with Leonardo's contention. Nasburg expressed concern about the live steam lines which pass through the tunnels.
"If they ruptured, someone would be killed," Nasburg said, adding that high-powered voltage lines in the tunnel also could be a threat to safety.

Generally, Nasburg said he thought "the tunnels would be a dangerous place to be during an attack."

But Leonardo said in the early '60s, federal engineers inspected Western's tunnels and declared them safe. She said to rupture steam lines or damage voltage lines, Bellingham must have a direct hit, and the "chances of that happening are slim because Bellingham is not a major industrial center."

Whatcom County's shelters are designed to protect citizens from nuclear fallout (minute particles of radioactive debris in the atmosphere following a nuclear explosion) and not from a direct nuclear blast. A nuclear attack on Bellingham would melt concrete and make most shelters useless.

Western Security Officer Walt Springer said most of Western's designated shelter areas now are used in some other capacity. Springer cited Bond Hall where the basement shelter is used for classroom and lab space.

Leonardo said this practice is perfectly legal. "We can't afford to construct new buildings that would be used for just shelters," she said, adding that it makes good economic sense to have them serve dual purposes.

Formerly, shelters were supplied with food such as crackers, hard candy and water, as well as medical supplies. In fact, during the '60s, more than 165,000 tons of food worth about $122 million, were distributed to shelters throughout the country.

But the cost was prohibitive, because outdated food supplies had to be replaced continually.

U.S. civil defense is, to a large degree, based on the assumption that any nuclear attack will be preceded by a period of international tension which would allow shelters to be supplied adequately and the public informed of the whereabouts of the closest shelters.

An important aspect in civil defense is evacuation or "crisis relocation" in bureaucratic terms. In this procedure, large numbers of citizens from what are called "primary target areas" would be transferred to safer rural areas, called "host areas," for shelter.

Seattle is considered a primary target area, mainly because of the Boeing Aerospace Corp. and Trident, while Bellingham is a host area.

But the evacuation plan has been criticized by some officials. Former

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"40 degrees never felt so good"

They twist below us for more than a mile and, in the event of a nuclear attack, would become home to large numbers of Western students.

They are Western's utility tunnels. The largest, and according to one local civil defense official, "the safest" nuclear fallout shelters in town.

Being one who likes to inspect a potential future home before moving in, I asked Western maintenance employee, Stan Auckland, to give me a guided tour.

The tunnels lie about 10 feet below ground and may be entered through any one of several well-locked entrances on campus.

We entered via the Fairhaven administration building and I noticed immediately how warm the tunnels were. A conservative estimate would be about 80 degrees, although Auckland said that "it's a lot hotter in here during the summer."

The tunnels are divided into several hundred-foot sections which have large prison-like steel gates (some of them even squeak) at each end.

Most of the tunnels are rounded, about seven feet in diameter, resembling gigantic concrete sewer or drainage pipes. Intimidating steam and high voltage lines traverse the entire lengths of the tunnels.

Auckland assured me that the steam lines would "probably be turned off" in the event of a nuclear attack, but in the next breath matter-of-factly explained what would happen if one of the steam lines ruptured. Pointing to a metal ladder under a manhole cover more than 15 feet away, Auckland said if the line near us ruptured suddenly, we would be "fried" before we got halfway up the ladder.

With that bit of good news, we continued our tour. Suddenly the lights went out and it was totally dark, the kind of dark that disorients. Auckland had doused the lights to show how the tunnels would appear during use as shelters.

Auckland surmised that the electricity in the tunnels could be turned off to protect sheltered people against the danger of the voltage lines.

Indicative of the state of affairs of civil defense in this country, several empty and rusted civil defense water containers were scattered throughout the tunnels. Packages of what Auckland called "rancid" civil defense crackers also lined the walls.

We walked a little further and it seemed the longer we were down there, the hotter it got. With sweat beads beginning to form on my forehead, I hinted to my tour guide that my next class was quickly approaching. We exited near Carver Gym. Rain and 40 degrees never felt so good.

—B.Z.
U.S. disarmament negotiator, Paul Warnke, for one, suggested last year that massive evacuation would be "the biggest rush hour in history, and probably the last."

Some favor the idea of taking cover rather than running for the hills. This would involve the building of "blast shelters" in primary target areas. But defense department officials argue that the cost would be prohibitive: between $50 billion and $100 billion, compared with the $1 billion estimated cost for an evacuation program.

In the event of a nuclear attack on Seattle, Whatcom County residents would have anywhere from "three to 24 hours" to find shelter depending on area wind conditions.

Citizens would be warned of an imminent attack by sirens, and instructed where to go through use of the emergency broadcast system. But one civil defense critic said the warning system has become outmoded, and compared it to an old New Year's Eve noisemaker: "It may sound off, but most people won't attach much meaning to it."

At last count, almost half of the country's population lived outside the range of local sirens, although this is not a problem in Whatcom County. If things go as planned, the United States has the capability to save 60 to 70 percent of its population.

But in the aftermath, the Soviet Union would emerge from a nuclear war in much better shape than the United States, according to a 1977 study by Boeing.

T.K. Jones, chairman of the Boeing group, said in 1977 that the Soviet civil defense program could protect the industrial base of the U.S.S.R. and could facilitate a relatively quick recovery from a nuclear war.

Jones also said the Soviet civil defense system is effective enough to assure the survival of 98 percent of the population following a U.S. retaliatory attack.

Leonardo said she doesn't like those kind of "crystal ball type predictions," and is not convinced the Soviet program is as good as rumored.

Her opinion received some support recently in an article in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, by arms control expert Fred Kaplan, which said: "On paper, the Soviet evacuation plan seems impressive at first glance. There are nine warning signals, each indicating different stages of a crisis . . . At the final alarm, ordering urban evacuation, the people are to take pre-specified motorcars, trains or buses to pre-specified shelters in rural areas."

Kaplan goes on to say, however, that even on paper the Soviet plans are inadequate to protect anything close to 90 percent of the population, as the Soviets imply.

But Kaplan does agree that U.S. civil defense is behind the Soviets.

Leonardo said it is not feasible for the United States to have compulsory evacuation and fallout shelter practice as the Soviets do and added "the cost of screwing peoples' lives" for just a couple of hours would be too high.

"There's going to be mass confusion regardless," she said.

The remaining question is whether adequate is good enough. Last year, a defense department proposal to ask Congress for $145 million for civil defense in fiscal 1980 (up from $98 million) was cut back to $109 million. This is out of a total 1980 defense budget of more than $125 billion.

Walter Cronkite had a point back in '69 when he said, "If there are enough of us left after a nuclear war to carry on our government, one can safely forecast that the first order of business will be the gosh darndest investigation this nation has ever witnessed. Subject? What Ever Happened to Civil Defense?"
Generic beer, along with generic peas and fruit cocktail, is appearing in stores without an introduction through advertisements, marketing or even an eye-catching label. But the low price is catching the eyes of Bellingham residents. Riggs Nelson, president of Ace Beverage, Inc., Bellingham's generic beer distributor, said the price is a big, and generic's only, selling point.

Generic beer is made by Portland-based General Brewing Co., which also brews Lucky Lager beer. Fred Meyer was the first to sell plain-label products in Bellingham.

Comparing the price to other lagers, a six-pack of canned plain-label beer is about 70 cents cheaper than Budweiser, 67 cents less than Miller and the same price as Rheinlander.

People taking advantage of generic beer's lower price are usually young men, between ages 21 and the mid-30s, judging from watching consumers at the generic section in Fred Meyer.

Nelson said he sees the older Bellingham residents on limited incomes or college students as potential beer consumers. Because low-cost products make money only by selling in large volumes, Nelson hesitated to predict its success here. He said generics are new to the local market and he was unable to estimate the amount of total beer market they constituted for lack of accurate figures.

Nelson said, however, he thought inflation would play a positive role in generics' future.

"I think generics can be a significant factor in this market; all generics, not just beer," Nelson said.

He cautioned that changes in the market and upcoming summer months, "beer season," will determine better the future of the local beer industry.

Four Western students compared the taste of two brand-name beers and generic.

Sipping the brews from three unmarked glasses, one student rated generic No. 1, a couple rated it No. 2 and the fourth rated beer last.

"Just goes to show you," one sampler said. "It would have turned out the same if we'd tested most any other kind (of beer)."

Autopen's

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Cruel Jewels

If tackiness was next to godliness, Russell Di'Orio would be first in line for canonization.

From Di'Orio, the man who brought mood rings to the masses, has come Wear-A-Pet, an aquarium on a chain that houses live brine shrimp.

In a phone interview from the Providence, R.I. ("the costume jewelry capital of the world") headquarters of Di'Orio Enterprises, Bob Allen, a spokesman for the firm, claimed sales of "well over half a million since October."

Only about four of the half million were purchased in the Bellingham area. A salesperson for Rockhill Apparel, located in the Bellingham Mall, called Wear-A-Pet "gross" and "not exactly a hot seller. But then who would want one, anyway?"

She answered her own question, without hesitation. "Nobody."

The press package designed to market the cruel jewels is just as "gross" as the product. A glossy photograph of Di'Orio sitting on his chandeliered Continental and dangling several Wear-A-Pet pendants is included to show the public that you too can make it by exploiting brine shrimp.

Boasting that Sammy Davis, Jr. is a proponent of the fishy accessories is no cause for celebration. Anyone who tuned in Merv or Dinah knows Sammy will wear just about anything.

But the press release does make fascinating, if not unbelievable reading:

"Russell Di'Orio likes to talk about his own. He likes wearing handkerchiefs that match his ties; and he likes the diamonds that spell RUSS on his wrist.

"He likes the velvet roses on the back dashboard of his Lincoln; and he likes the chandelier that hangs above the bar and television in its back seat.

"I guess I'm a little flamboyant, he says, gesturing around the office, reflecting images of himself in the ever present mirrors; images he's obviously happy with."

Too much.

Allen said the current $3 line of Wear-A-Pets is only the beginning. "We're planning to expand to the adult market with more expensive gold-filled chains." Also in the works are items with cowboy motifs that Di'Orio hopes will cash in on the urban cowboy look.

Gregg Olsen

CCCW Wants You

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors is now registering individuals who are opposed to participation in the military and advised young persons who are in agreement to complete a conscientious objection card. The card states, "Because of my beliefs about war, I am opposed to participation in the military."

Larry Spears, CCCO director, said those in opposition should "go on record now" because a prior statement of pacifist intent could "sway a draft board."

CCCW, with offices in Philadelphia and San Francisco, has counseled young men for more than 30 years about CO status and how to get it.

Conscientious objector cards are available from CCCW, P.O. Box 15796, Philadelphia, PA, 19103.

Nancy Walbeck

Diorio displays Wear-A-Pets in his Lincoln. (inset)—The cruel jewel.
By Patrice Gibble

"I didn't want to believe that it happened at Western, too, but it does. There are definitely political dealings on campus."

—A Western Professor

In 1969, Eugene Hogan was hired as an assistant professor for Western's political science department. Last year, his peers elected the burly man with the articulate speech "Outstanding Teacher of the Year" in the College of Arts and Sciences.

This year, Hogan has yet to be promoted to the next rank, associate professor. He said his promotion was denied because he has had only one article published. But some of his colleagues think the reason may be otherwise.

"I tend to think it's simply because Talbot and Olscamp don't like the man," an instructor said. "He has publicly criticized the administration."

Some instructors said Hogan, as president of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), is in a dangerous position at promotion time. The local union, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, is composed of approximately 120 faculty at Western.

"I don't think the administration consciously discriminates against active AFT members, but it might subconsciously," said history professor Leonard Helfgott.

Ajit Rupaal, chairman of Western's physics-astronomy department, said promotions were denied to faculty members in his department who would probably have received them five years ago.

"The criteria for promotion have become more stringent," he said.

Teachers were willing to talk about their problems, but were afraid to have their statements published.

Specific reasons for promotion denials stem from a recent revision in the Faculty Handbook stating promotion candidates have an obligation of scholarship. "Evidence to be considered in evaluating scholarly contributions may include publication of books, articles and reviews of scholarly and/or literary merit . . ." the handbook states.

Rupaal explained that before someone can publish material, the topic must be researched. The tall man sat behind his desk, his hands folded and said, "It's a 'Catch-22' situation. There is a 28 percent higher student load on the teachers than there ought to be. Money for travel and research is not available. To expect the amount of research that they do seems unreasonable to me."

Rupaal said some areas of study need a lot of time to do research, and others, like the physics-astronomy department, require expensive equipment. "They (the administration) don't seem to take that into consideration," he said.

Ajit Rupaal
University President Paul Olscamp said research money is available. "We have a research leave program here," he said. "It gives the researcher a leave of absence at full pay. This year is the first year in history that we used up all the leaves available."

French language professor Robert Balas, another faculty member denied a promotion, filed a civil suit against the university last April. In the suit he claimed "breach of contract" in being denied salary step increments and promotion to full professor.

Balas said he is basing his claims on the 1969 Faculty Handbook which was in effect the year he was hired.

But the passage requiring scholarly publication was added to the handbook in 1978. Olscamp and James Talbot, vice president for Academic Affairs, said Balas doesn't meet the new requirement.

Balas has published material. He co-authored "Qu'est-ce qui se passe?" ("What's Happening?"), which he uses in his second-year French class. Balas helped design a supplemental tape program and drew more than 300 cartoon illustrations for the text.

The book was relatively new last year, but this year Balas said he received 85 adoptions on it — a "spectacular" feat according to publishers Rand McNally. That, Balas said, should be enough to get him his promotion.

"Balas has been the instigator of an intensive language program here," Helfgott said. "His textbook has been adopted by many schools including Harvard and Stanford. He is an excellent teacher," Helfgott added. When asked if the reason Balas hasn't been promoted was political, Helfgott said he had no reason to think otherwise.

Balas said he received a letter from Talbot in January of this year praising Balas' teaching, community service and contribution to the Foreign Language department.

"But he said in essence that the textbook didn't qualify as a scholarly publication," the curly-haired man
Janet Hevly

Robert Balas

He was promoted from instructor to assistant professor in 1974.

According to the six-year tenure rule, in 1977 Alper would have to apply for tenure. The problem was that the position he renewed each year (American politics instructor) was a non-tenured position. Controversy flared. As a result, the political science department decided to change the position to a tenured one, the Affirmative Action office held two searches for a qualified candidate to fill it. Alper was hired and subsequently received tenure. With tenure usually comes promotion, but Alper didn't get promoted.

"Talbot said he wasn't satisfied with the search for a qualified candidate," Alper said. "He intervened in the search process which is totally out of the ordinary in other searches," he said. "This clearly indicates to me there are no specific criteria for promotion. The vice president will promote who he wants to promote and turn down who he wants to turn down."

History professor Harley Hiller agreed with Alper. "The criteria is all very subjective, and people know it, but they can't prove it," he said.

Hiller said he was one of a very few teachers who were promoted without having published. "I happened to go up in a year when teaching was emphasized greater," he said. "In the '60s, promotion was based on two of three criteria: research, service and teaching." Hiller said his teaching and service records were more impressive than his research (publication) record, and he was promoted on that basis.

Hiller said the chances of a teacher getting a promotion depend on the deans, the tenure and promotion committees, and even on what day it is. "Or even if the vice president has a stomach ache," he added. "But I think it should be based on the individual's value to the department," Hiller said.

Talbot was unavailable for comment.
A night at the disco:
After spending a night in an atmosphere for which a dance ("The Hustle") is named after its prime activity, I was confused.

I tried to fit the experience in a total picture of society. It was easy, shockingly easy.

I realized the disco was not a new social phenomenon brought on by booze and penetrating boom-booms, but merely an exploitation of all interaction.

Sexuality is here. It may ride the undercurrents of conversation or present itself as an association to avoid, but it is always around.

Even conversations in the VU coffee shop provide many examples. On any day, someone might discuss the ERA's chance of survival or proclaim that it's time men were liberated, too. I haven't made it through a week of academia without hearing about women's frustration with the pill or friends' comments on gay rights or declarations of temporary (?) celibacy. It's all in a week's worries.

A poster at the Men's Resource Center depicts a man in the latter stages of pregnancy. (Florynce Kennedy, a lawyer, said a while back, "If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament."

Rock 'n roll confronts the issue directly. Groups like The Knack and singers such as Rod Stewart talk about being sexy and crawling up her thigh all the time. We don't notice it much anymore. The music is probably background to private, slowly, sexy conversations.

So if this issue of Klipsun seems to be just another journalistic ploy to get at least one of "Sex, Blood and Tears" into the pages, think again.

Barbara Waits

PREGNANCY TEST KITS:
BOXED RESULTS

For about $10, a woman who suspects she is pregnant can confirm the diagnosis anonymously with an over-the-counter product. On the market since 1976, home pregnancy-test kits have been sold with the claim of about 97 percent accuracy in test results. But this advertising hyperbole is misleading.

Early studies conducted by the Johns Hopkins University Medical School state that many people can't follow the kits' instructions, including professional medical types, and vibration and temperature changes can affect the results as well.

What is more disturbing is the margin for error when the test is negative—a whopping 20 percent. Further, false positive readings are produced in cases of uterine cancer and false negative results for tubal (ectopic) pregnancy, with potentially fatal results.

Evelyn Schuler of Western's health center recommended testing for pregnancy with a more reliable medically-tested product, "Accusphere," available at the center. As for anonymity, Schuler insists on it.

"Our charts are private," she said. "No student helpers handle these." As for herself, "I try not to remember their names and faces. I really forget them." Schuler has a few to forget. On the average, one female student daily comes into the center for a pregnancy test. This confirms the general consensus that younger women are major users of the kits.

Deryl Allen, a pharmacist at Discount City, said he had sold "hundreds, generally to young women." With an emphasis on the "young."

The kit tests female urine for the presence of HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin), a hormone secreted by the placenta. It is basically the old rabbit test.

All sources recommended a follow-up medical examination even with a negative result.
'IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, KEEP THE HELL OUT!

Teen-age boys giggle here, thrilled that they are finally getting a taste of what they consider the "hard stuff." Middle-aged executives sit quietly in their seats. Young couples hold hands as they stare in awe at the activities. They all come here for one reason—explicit sex. They don't perform it, of course, rather they pay to watch others do it on screen at any one of Bellingham's four pornographic outlets.

Most local residents who have never visited the " pornos," as they are referred to, probably would be shocked at what they would find—not by the fare offered—but by the discovery that none of the movie houses fits the traditionally lambasted stereotype of a pornographic theater. All the shops, the Seavue in Bellingham and the Green Apple Cinema on State St., The Great Northern Adult Bookstore on Railroad Ave., and Star Books on Holly St., are not as plush or comfortable as other local theaters which offer much tamer flicks. But all are carpeted, well-kept and have friendly, pleasant employees.

"A lot of people are surprised at how nice a porno can be," observes a Seavue employee. "There's a lot of couples that come in here. If it was just an old slew hall there's no way a guy would bring his girl in."

The Seavue is the only local porno resembling a traditional moviehouse, such as the Mount Baker or Viking Twin theaters. The other outlets have private booths for showing two-minute films operated by dropping a quarter into a coin slot. The most elaborate are found at the Green Apple. They are equipped with locking doors, two seats, a trashcan and a metal Kleenex dispenser chained to the wall. At the other shops, the viewing areas resemble voting stalls. The movies shown are nothing extraordinary; and are usually monotonous. All have the same basic plot: boy meets girl, boy and girl engage in a few moments of forced dialogue and atrocious acting, then jump onto a bed, table, chair or whatever else is available and proceed to copulate their brains out in a variety of fashions. Sometimes fruit or candles are tossed in for added effect. Although the action can sometimes become steamy, it really cannot be considered "hardcore," said Art Howard, a 24-year-old Green Apple employee, who has spent considerable time hanging out in pornos in Chicago and other large cities.

"In the cities, you can find films that show donkeys on women, German Shepherds on women, men on dogs, men on little girls, sadism—anything. The city has some real perversion. The movies in Bellingham are just like the people who come to see them, soft and easy."

That statement is contrary to the belief held locally by many that Bellingham's pornos are havens for pimps, hookers, rapists, perverts and other forms of lowlife.

"The people who frequent the porn shops are just ordinary people," said an employee at Star Books. "They don't come here for any kind of perversion." That point is echoed by a Great Northern employee, who contends that persons who visit his establishment "have their shit together."

Each local shop is open seven days a week and most of them for twelve hours daily, simply because the demand exists for the product they peddle. And that demand is lucrative. Admission to the Seavue, which shows a regular feature and a co-hit, is $5. Weekdays here see between 30 to 50 customers and weekends 60 to 100. The figures are considerably less for the other outlets, which depend on the sale of sex literature, dildos, vibrators and an array of other equipment for most of their profits.

"Some people think that pornography creates a demand for itself," said the Great Northern employee, "but, really, demand creates the need for pornography."

But that business ethic does not sit well with some of the local citizens, said the Star Books employee. That establishment has been the target of several incidents of vandalism during the last year. The employee claims the local feminist organization, Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW), is responsible. Windows have been broken, liquid metal poured into locks and slogans such as "Rape ain't no party," "Power to the sisters," and "Better learn karata" (sic) have been spray painted on the store's walls.

"It's ridiculous," says the employee. "We don't advocate rape or violence. We're as much against it as anyone. Pornography isn't violent, not when you compare it to the blood and guts you see on the news every night. Now that's obscene."

Whatever the merits surrounding the local debate between certain factions, one thing is certain: the Bellingham porn shops do not fit the mold of indecency that some persons believe or would espouse to others. And for those who denounce the local outlets, a sign hanging in Star Books serves as advice to be heeded: "If you don't like this store, keep the hell out."

Steve Valandra
Songs Sung Blue

Sexual connotations in songs can be found in every type of music and in every generation. In the '30s, a song about a piano player who wanted to play a certain piano was considered unfit for airplay. The title—"Baby Let Me Bang Your Box." When Elvis' gyrations on the Ed Sullivan show caused parents to shudder in the '50s, Fats Domino innocently found his thrill in Blueberry Hill and Ricky Nelson had a "Pretty Polynesian baby over the sea." I remember the night/when we walked in the sand of the Waikiki/and I held you oh so tight." These songs were titillating but only coyly played with the idea of physical love.

In the '60s, songwriters were bolder as the acceptance of sex without marriage became commonplace. Paul McCartney shelved his velvety romantic voice and screeched, "Why Don't We Do It In The Road," and Bob Dylan crooned "Lay, Lady Lay." In the sensitive '70s, Roberta Flack wrote "(That's the time) I Feel Like Makin' Love," a ballad designed to heighten the senses but also depict a caring type of sex.

Then something went berserk. It was as if someone gave the signal to pull the cork on decency. The pretense of innocence was dropped and it was assumed everyone was de-virginized.

Variations on the theme of love is a fitting way to describe the content of popular music through the ages. Unrequited laments such as Buddy Holly's "I've been cheated/been mistreated/when will I be loved?" to the theme of mistrusting a lover as in Carole King's "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" are examples of the many facets of love a composer can use in a song. Other themes include lost love, love found (at long last) or the I'm-gonna-leave-if-you-don't-treat-me-better blues.

But with the onset of the new morality and the acceptance of sex without guilt, blatant sexual overtones in lyrics increased. Take for example Rod Stewart's "Tonight's the Night," with the lyrics:

> Don't say a word my virgin child/just let your inhibitions run wild/the secret is about to unfold/just come inside before the night gets old." Stewart then ends the song with a searing guitar riff underscored by a woman obviously aroused, moaning something sexy in French. In another song he asks, "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?"

But Stewart is not alone. Fats Domino in "Pretty Baby" asked, "I'm gonna be your pretty baby/Oh baby, baby, baby." It was designed to be recorded on an eight-track (for continuous play) and kept next to the bed—serves two or more.

Maria Muldaur warned an unseen lover: "Don't ya feel my leg/don't ya feel my leg/cause if you feel my leg/you're gonna go up high/and if you go up high/you'll get a big surprise/so don't ya feel my leg.

If that wasn't bad enough, she followed it with a song on her next album that had X-rated lyrics: "It ain't the meat it's the motion/that makes your mama want to rock—it ain't the meat it's the motion—it's the movement that gives it the sock."

With the emergence of disco music came a new set of rules. Michael Jackson advised, "Don't Stop Till You Get Enough," and Donna Summer toot-footed and beep-beeped about "Bad Girls."

It seemed as though the worse the lyrics, the better the record sales. One disco tune has the singer asking over and over in a frenzied pitch, "Are you ready? Do you like it like this?"

Apparently many listeners do—at least they get a bang out of it.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

When the Sex Information Center was looking for volunteer workers last month, the sign on its door should have read: "Help wanted. No previous experience necessary. Must be willing to hand out pamphlets and counsel students on sex matters ex gratia."

Such are the qualifications of the students now working at Western's Sex Information Center. Most of them have had no training and no formal sex education. They are "just interested," said Gayle Matson, coordinator of the center.

Their on-the-job training is "a matter of reading through pamphlets and talking to me," said Matson, who has taken a sexuality class.

The center only has five employees but would prefer a sextet. The volunteer workers give information and counseling on matters such as venereal diseases, sexuality, abortion and planned parenthood.

The office hours vary between 10 and 20 hours a week. The hours are posted on the door of the Center, tucked away in the Viking Union, Room 213.

Teresa Tsalakv
Freelance Hustling

With only a handful of massage parlors and porno theaters, Bellingham isn't exactly the Sodom and Gomorrah of the Northwest.

Even the women, or men, who have chosen the world's oldest profession as a career are extremely small in number here.

Sgt. Gary Scott of the Bellingham Police Dept. acknowledged that this town does indeed have a smattering of hookers.

"I'm sure some people are working it around here," he said, adding, as though the Chamber of Commerce might be listening, "but it's not a major thing at all."

Bellingham hustlers work on a "freelance" basis without the managing expertise of a pimp. Scott said that although pimping is common in cities as large as Seattle or Vancouver, there is little evidence that any happens in Bellingham.

The pimping case that recently ended in convictions of former Western student Darrell L. Saulisbury and Judith M. Toth did not indicate the local prostitute scene.

Scott was quick to point out that the teen-aged girls who worked for Saulisbury and Toth did "90 percent" of their hustling in Vancouver, B.C.

"The acts they did in Bellingham were just for convenience," he said.

Scott had a few words concerning why Bellingham is relatively prostitution-free. "Since Bellingham is such a small town, the market isn't that great. If four or five college girls decided they're going to work their way through school soliciting, the market would be glutted."

The women who do work as prostitutes in Bellingham probably do it as a sidelight to another job. Scott said it would be very difficult to make it financially solely as a prostitute in this town.

So where do these weekend streetwalkers get down to business? Not in front of seedy bookstores or movie houses, but rather in two of the plushest motel lounges in the city.

Scott said those places are prime targets because of their businessman clientele.

"The average businessman who has no interest in taking the time to form a relationship will seek a prostitute. The girls are happy as long as they get their money."

After all, as Scott noted, "a trick is a trick." The women aren't in it for fun, they're doing it for the greenbacks.

Bellingham has a subculture of at least 5,000 people that many of us know nothing about. They call themselves gays and they generally keep to themselves because Bellingham is not ready for them to come out in the open.

Yet, these people are not unhappy. Within their own limited boundaries, they have freedom.

At Bellingham's first Gay Alliance meeting more than 10 years ago, about 100 men and women came "out of the closet" to fight for their rights.

"In those days, we fought for our rights and feared for our lives," said Rebecca Valrejean, one of the first gay rights leaders in Bellingham. It was a highly emotional time for us, making a place for ourselves in society. We faced so much resistance," she said.

The alliance grew rapidly, but had no real place to congregate. In January 1974, Joy Tollom and her husband opened The Hut, Bellingham's only gay tavern.

Tollom said she didn't get much flack from the city, except a few broken windows now replaced with bricks.
Rules As You Go

"A few straight people will come in every now and then and cause hassles but the police are very quick to respond to our calls," Tollom said.

The Hut is different than most gay bars because gays of both sexes socialize together.

The feeling of unity that held the community together in 1969 is no longer predominant but Tollom said she has never seen the gay community "really together."

A number of those who don't approve of the tavern scene are members of Lesbian Community Center, whose main function is to offer alternatives to the bar scene for women.

Some gays at an alliance "rap session" said coming out allows them the opportunity to be exactly who they are.

Gays have more freedom in their relationships than straights because we can make up the rules as we go along," said John, participant in the 'rap session.' "I wish more straight people would show interest in the gay community and accept its existence. Being gay means a lot more than going to bed with a member of your own sex." Janet Hevly

Saving Deposits

For want of a few critical conditions, the United States in the early 1970s was spared the creation of a nationwide chain of Great American Sperm Banks.

They seemed to be a riskless venture to proponents. Existing emotional and scientific conditions in America in 1970-71 pointed to an attitude that supported the notion of sperm banks.

Vasectomies were performed in record numbers (750,000 in 1971, 1 million in 1972) throughout population-conscious America. Men following this trend, along with oligospermia (low sperm count or high numbers of abnormal sperm) victims, would form the market from which sperm banks could draw and profit.

Sperm bank promoters envisioned a parade of men making "deposits" prior to vasectomies as insurance against a future change of mind. Oligospermic men, infertile in their present condition, would make deposits and accumulate a quantity of sperm that could be later used for artificial insemination.

Through the process of cryogeny — freezing tissues and cells in liquid nitrogen — the sperm would be preserved.

The ideas seemed sound. They were based on scientific principles and served a needed purpose. The venture had credibility.

Sperm banks sprang up around the nation. Two firms, Idant Corp. and Genetic Laboratories, were the leaders in the field. They sat back, waiting for the sperm bank bucks to roll in. They're still waiting.

Men preparing for vasectomies expressed little desire for fertility insurance. They didn't want to be daddies again. The anticipated major source of sperm bank donors failed to materialize.

The toughest blows were the positions espoused by respected medical leaders, specifically a statement issued by the Council on Population of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

In essence, the council expressed doubts that sperm could retain potency and genetic effectiveness following long-term freezing. While sperm bank promoters had claimed potency for 10 years, the council disagreed and suggested no more than a 16-month period.

It didn't help matters that persons in support of sperm banks tended to hold financial interests in them. Sperm banks were also plagued by questions of ethics, morality and religion. Fears of genetic sperm damage caused by freezing were raised.

So the idea of creating a coast-to-coast Great American Sperm Bank ended. Isolated banks are in existence in major population centers. However, any widespread use by the human race has been shelved — at least temporarily.

Linda Williams

Dave Miltenberger
Rhythm Isn’t Doin’ It To Music

A daily oral dose of hormones is declining in use as a contraceptive.

National and local statistics showed a decrease in using the pill and increases in other methods such as sterilization and use of the diaphragm.

A national survey conducted by the Allen Guttmacher Institute, a Planned Parenthood Federation affiliate, showed a 3 percent decrease in pill use from 1973 to 1976.

Mount Baker Planned Parenthood (formerly Planned Parenthood of Whatcom County) recorded an 8 percent drop in pill popping from 1977 to 1979.

IUD use decreased 3 percent and diaphragm use increased 6 percent during that time.

Patients at Planned Parenthood are mostly from Whatcom, with a few from Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties.

Recent media coverage of complications associated with using the pill has affected a woman’s choice of contraceptives, said Bruce Fairman, education director for Mount Baker Planned Parenthood.

“The pill’s been on the market for 20 years now,” he said. Long-term research results are now available and more is being publicized, Fairman said.

“There’s also a lot of rumors going around,” he said. “For instance, that taking the pill causes cancer.”

If a woman is predisposed to getting cancer, the hormones in the pill will aggra-
ABORTION AFTERMATH

Susan remembered silence in the relationship with her partner, too. "All I could do was hurt," she said. "That kind of pain is bigger than tears or complaints or anger. I wanted him to be there, but when he was, all I could do was curl up and rock back and forth. I think I scared him with silence and he hurt me with absence."

Cathy said her partner left soon after she found out she was pregnant. "He couldn't handle it... I didn't have time to comfort him. I needed to be comforted."

Cathy remembers alienation from everyone. "You can't talk about it to anyone," she said, "but it's all you think about."

Janis said she "pushed the whole thing to the back burner" when she and her partner were together. "I smiled and told jokes and played pool. I didn't want to make him feel guilty by putting my trip on him."

Now she regrets not sharing the pain with him. "He can't understand why I cry during Disney movies or John Denver songs. There is part of me he's never going to know, which defies any continuing relationship for us."

Susan said she and her partner separated a few months after the abortion. "I suddenly started working long hours and didn't have time to see him. He understood— I wanted him gone. He was just a reminder. I couldn't help feeling that way."

Susan still works long hours. "I'd like to date, but no one is asking me and I'm not pursuing anyone, either."

Cathy said she sees men occasionally, but forces them to take their relationship seriously. She said, "When someone asks me what my birth control is, I ask him what his birth control is. Men should have to take just as much responsibility as women."

Janis said she looks at the fetus as someone who died. "I still find myself sketching faces, mouths and especially eyes. I think I'm looking for something which will never be defined."

Barbara Waits

Еditor's Note: The sources for this story preferred anonymity and were interviewed separately by the reporter. The names in this story are fictitious, but the accounts are true.

Abortion often is seen as a medical problem ended when the fetus is removed. Others see it as a woman's issue or a legal and moral dilemma.

Those directly involved call it a lingering pain or a base on which they have changed social attitudes. Most people interviewed, men and women, agreed their personal abortion memory would stay with them always.

One woman called it a void that can never be filled. "Memory is a bad way to describe it. It's a feeling that you've lost a part of yourself, a piece of your identity maybe," Susan said.

Janis said, "I think it's worse than a death. At least you knew the person who died. With the abortion, you loved something that was a part of you but never got to know."

"You go through a whole redefinition of everything," Cathy said.

For Ron, what he called his male upbringing denied him the ability to work out the crisis with his wife.

"The detached feeling I had at the time of the abortion has faded. The feeling of a physical loss I couldn't feel then is felt now. I can identify the loss... My home, which is a kind of womb I have made for myself, is empty."

Ron and his wife divorced a few months after her abortion. He said they stopped talking. By trying to stay out of her way and to "muster some kind of calm I could keep for her when she needed it," he stopped being part of the marriage.

"I went into the examination room led by a nurse with pursed lips," Janis said. "She yanked my knees apart and stuffed my feet in the stirrups. At one point she said, 'Don't be so shy. You wouldn't be here if you were.' I felt dirty," Janis said.

"I don't even think the doctor knows what I look like," Susan said. "Maybe it's a good thing now, but at the time I wanted to let him know there was a human being at the other end of his speculum."

Ron said the doctor encouraged him to stay away from the office the day his wife had her abortion. He now feels angry he was left out.

"I wonder why no one thinks much about taking a life at the time but suffers in some way for the rest of their life," he said. "In the first place, why didn't the doctor say, 'Bring your wife in and we'll talk about this before we do anything.' He sees it all the time, who else would know better what may follow?"

Only Cathy said she would have an abortion if it "ever happened again."

Cathy said she'd probably go through the same confusion, but she never personified the fetus as the others did. Instead, she thinks of it as "a spirit that has gone someplace else."

Susan said she thinks of the fetus as someone who was "denied both life and death."

Janis said the child still lives in her and will be with her always.

"I still find myself sketching faces, mouths and especially eyes. I think I'm looking for something which will never be defined."

Barbara Waits
A FAMILY AFFAIR

The image of pacing fathers and isolated mothers is fading even in establishment hospitals, such as St. Joseph in Bellingham.

With various approvals pending and a hoped for ground-breaking in June, the hospital plans a nearby $400,000 "alternative birthing center" to make delivery a more humane and home-like experience. Carpeting, paintings, fireplaces and dimly lit rooms will replace the white blank walls and bright lights usually associated with delivery rooms.

Members of the immediate family are encouraged to participate, including children. The delivery room plans call for large beds so that the mother and father can share the birthing experience during labor. As well as the usual attending physician, nurse-midwives will be introduced to Whatcom County with the birthing clinic.

“This clinic will offer the comforts of home and the safety of a hospital," Richard Brumenschenkel, assistant administrator of St. Joseph, declared. "Emergency medical equipment is kept in the delivery rooms for unexpected complications," he added.

Hospital officials agreed the project was planned partially for financial reasons. With more women seeking alternative birthing methods, and subsequently reducing the delivery rolls in conventional hospitals, officials feared a general rise in hospital costs.

If St. Joseph succeeds, the '80s babies will greet a new world in a new way.

Nina McCormick

SEX AND THE CHRISTIAN ETHIC

"I chose not to have pre-marital sex because I think it was intended by God to be an intense and enjoyable experience between two people who are deeply committed to each other."

Those words were spoken by Mary, a single woman in her early twenties. Like many Christians, Mary decided not to have sex before marriage because she thinks it's "wrong in God's eyes."

"My decision not to (have sex) is important to me... I didn't decide not to just because it's something good Christian girls do—I thought it out."

Thinking it out brought Mary to the conclusion that "sex with someone else before marriage would have to detract from the intensity of sex with your marriage partner."

For Mary the "formal, lifelong commitment" of marriage is necessary before two people can experience sex fully. "Because of that commitment, there's more freedom to express yourself sexually. You can completely let go, knowing someone loves you enough to make that commitment."

Christians who decide not to have sex before marriage agree it's easier said than done.

One man, who has been engaged for several months, said the decision to abstain "created a little anxiety. Knowing it's wrong and still wanting to do it."

To deal with their natural sexual desires he said he and his fiance are involved in activities that interest them and take their minds off sex. They also try to spend time with other people rather than just by themselves. Mostly, though, they talk about the whole subject. "You have to be honest so you can help each other," he said.

Madelaine Smith, who has been married for more than a year, said she and her husband Greg decided to put limits on their physical relationship while they were engaged. They set "boundaries," agreeing on how much physical involvement they would have. "In the end those limits brought us freedom because we were freer to communicate in other ways," Smith said. "Refrain-

As pre-marital sex becomes more common and more socially acceptable, another source of pressure is created. “There was a social expectation that sex had to be involved in our relationship," Smith said, and at times she "felt guilty" that it wasn't.

Knowing many other people are having sex makes it harder, Mary said. "It's easy to think, 'maybe it's not so bad'."

To counteract that pressure, Mary said she reminds herself of her original decision and the reasons behind it.

"I think it's worth the effort," she said.

Marla McCallister

Linda Williams
What You Should Know Before You Sign On The Dotted Line

By Dave Miltenberger

"Fine. If you'll just sign on the dotted line—yes, the one made up of dots—Mr. Recent College-Grad, we'll begin the search for the job of your dreams. Uhhhh, could you make that "X" just a little bit bigger? Oh, great! Much better.

"Our employment agency will now be working night and day, leaving no stone unturned in our never-ending quest to FIND YOU A JOB, MR. COLLEGE-GRAD! And, of course, you have nine full months to fulfill your obligation—pursuant to the terms of the contract—and present us with your first-born male child."

A far-fetched scenario, granted. But in these days of increasing competition in an ever-tightening job market, college graduates are willing to try any available resource to help them locate a job. For many, an employment agency is one of those resources.

However, too often graduates who decide to use an agency are unfamiliar with the aspects of the business. They view it as a relatively simple procedure (pay a fee, get a job) with little understanding of finances involved and contractual obligations required. They're unaware of agencies' rights and their own rights.

Employment agencies in the state of Washington are regulated and licensed by the Division of Professional Licensing branch of the Department of Licensing under laws passed in the Employment Agency Act of 1969.

The act spells out the rights and obligations of employment agencies operating in the state. Accepted rules of conduct, contractual requirements, license application procedures, penalties and so forth are outlined in classic bureaucratic jargon. Worded all too clearly for the applicant, however, is the section of the act dealing with permissible (maximum) fees.

Ah, yes. The money. An agency bases its fee on a percentage of the monthly salary paid to their client by his new employer. The lower the monthly income, the smaller the percentage of the wage taken for fee payment. The higher the monthly income the greater the percentage charged by the agency. In some instances, the employer will pick up the fee. Typically, the client splits the fee with the employer or pays the fee himself.

For example, the fee for a job with monthly income in the $700 to $799 range would run between $560 and $640, or 80 percent of salary. There is no limit on the percentage charged as a fee for jobs with a monthly income of $1,000 or more.

A client is responsible to the agency for 20 percent of his gross earnings actually received, or the full placement fee, whichever is less, if he quits his job or is fired within 60 days.
of starting. He’s responsible for the full placement fee if he quits or is fired after 60 days. He’s responsible for 10 percent of the anticipated first month’s salary if he accepts employment by agreement and never reports for work at all.

And, depending on terms of the particular contract, an applicant who agreed to pay could be responsible for the entire fee on the first day he reported for work.

(In fairness to the majority of employment agencies, it should be noted this is an extreme instance, with a period of 60 days being a more realistic figure for payment.)

“The philosophy of most agencies is that they are not in the credit business,” a Seattle employment agency representative who requested anonymity said.

The most important thing to remember if you decide to deal with an employment agency is that you will be under contract.

Read the agreement carefully. Note fee schedules, time limits and obligations. Don’t sign unless the contract is completely understood.

A conflict over terms of the contract that ends up in court will favor the agency. Contracts are not meant to be broken, in the court’s eyes. They assume you knew all stipulations and understood the agreement when you signed. Ignorance is no defense. You’ll blow your chance as Perry Mason and end up paying court costs and attorney fees to boot.

“It’s extremely important for students to know that no one can help them once they sign a contract,” Chief Investigator of Consumer Affairs Dick Hubbard of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office said. “The courts almost always uphold the contract.”

Hubbard, a 13-year veteran of the office, advises students to use employment agencies “only as a last resort” and to ask themselves “if they really need it.”

If an employment agency is to be used, he said, be aware of fee schedules (“it can be a slug of money”) and read contracts and advertisements closely. Shop around to find one that is sincere.

“They (students) might feel better about paying somebody a lot of money if they know the agency is going to bust its tail for them,” he said.

He suggests students use State Employment Security Agencies, (“they’re free”) campus placement agencies and individual initiative.

Western’s Career Planning and Placement Center does not advocate the use of employment agencies. They advise students who do decide to use one to search for an agency where the employer pays the fee, specializes in the positions the student is seeking and is located in the area he plans to work.

Dave Cowling of the Bellingham branch of the Washington State Employment Security Department encourages students contemplating the use of an agency to check its resources first.

Cowling, operation manager of Employment Security’s Job Services program, said the agency has worked with students in job searches. Mandatory listings of federal job openings and a microfiche collection of nationwide positions available have enabled many graduates to find employment.

“I think they (students) are losing a good bet by not checking with Employment Security. We certainly encourage them to come down,” he said.

Counseling, aptitude testing, resume writing workshops and other services are offered by Employment Security on an appointment basis.

For all the drawbacks of employment agencies, they still accomplish one thing: they find jobs. An unemployed college graduate in his sixth month of job-hunting is very appreciative of that fact.

“An agency can save a person a lot of legwork. A good one will listen to a person’s needs and goals and place him in the job situation he wants,” Marilyn Odland-Knutson, owner of Apple Employment Agency in Seattle, said.

Odland-Knutson matches applicant ability with employer needs as closely as possible in an attempt to give both sides what they want: one, a job, the other, a valued employee.

With repeat business an economic necessity in employment agency circles, placement resulting in a harmonious, long-lasting relationship between employer and employee is a must. Odland-Knutson said a good agency will strive to make it happen.

She said college graduates not finding work in their respective fields are turning to agencies to place them in an alternate area where their talents might also be needed.

Office manager Lyn Weitenhagen of Acme Personnel Service in Bellingham agrees with Odland-Knutson’s assessment that the critical part of an employment agency’s success is counseling to discover an applicant’s goals and attitudes.

“It’s like trying to put a puzzle together, matching an employer’s needs with an applicant’s skills,” she said.

Weitenhagen said Acme, currently Bellingham’s only employment agency, handles mostly clerical placement but also finds employment in professional, technical and sales fields. She said Acme can “work with some, but not all” degrees—preferably ones relating to private
industry and business.

Attitude, she said, is critical in job searching.

"Get out and hustle on your own. We can't do it all for you. There is always an opportunity for somebody who is on the ball and wants to work," she said.

Acme places about 25 percent of all applicants, she said, a typical ratio in the employment agency field.

Lark Baxter of Law Office Personnel in Seattle, a firm specializing in law office placement, advises students to learn about the firms with which they would like to work.

"It's very important for students coming out of school to do research and find out places they want to work for. It impresses a business when you can say, 'Hey, I know something about you,'" she said.

CONFESSIONS OF A RELUCTANT GRAD

I had a friend who graduated from Western the year I began classes here. His advice to me, a lowly freshman, was to finish my education in four consecutive years, as he'd done. Hit the books hard, make the social sacrifices, earn the degree and get the hell out.

"Hustle through as fast as you can," he said, graciously confiding in me his secret to academic success. "Get out into the world. That's where the real fun is."

He started a business directly out of school. The real fun came to him in the guise of 17-hour work days, peptic ulcers, demanding customers, a failed marriage, credit default, lawsuits, federal investigations, smoker's cough, 10-martini lunches and the heartbreak of psoriasis.

"Geez," I said, when informed of the unfortunate news, "It's a good thing he didn't get out in three years."

Not surprisingly, I never heeded his advice. My involvement in the learning process offered at Western has been spread over a half-dozen years, ending for work or play whenever those damn credits began adding up closer to a degree.

But I've run out of novel reasons to quit and incredibly find myself facing the prospect of graduation in the spring.

A credit evaluator disclosed the tragic news to me.

"Are you sure?" I asked, incredulous. (Can this be happening?, I thought.) "Please check again."

My credit evaluator smiled, hacked, blew her nose, eyed my transcript and shook her head. (What kind of body language is this, I wondered.)

"Yer out in '80," was all she said.

"Sheeit," I said.


Maybe there is life after graduation, I thought, trying to reassure myself of the reality setting in.

Perhaps there are pleasantries that exist in the working world equal to the unique atmosphere in existence at Western. Perhaps the pressures and conditions of the job world aren't nearly as bad as my unfortunate friend discovered.

But I really doubt it.

—D.M.
By Nancy Walbeck

Over the eyes. On the face. Falling down the back. Bristling under the nose. Hair.

Short, long, multi-colored, curly, scraggly, trimmed, bushy. Hair.

Inflaming, enraging, frustrating, intimidating, threatening. Hair.

What is it about hair that has split generations into opposing camps of mistrust? Such an ordinary habit you would think, this fondness for the hirsute. But what appeared as a virtually spontaneous explosion of hairiness in the ‘60s has now been documented as a pattern tracing back to the beginnings of Western civilization and culture.

Meet Herb Taylor; specialty, beards.

The stocky, silver-haired, and beardless, professor enthusiastically stuffed tobacco into a well-used pipe and expanded on his hairy hypothesis. He regards his research as "wildly funny" but that seems to fit in with a certain Taylor-like sense of humor. He speaks of World War II as the "second unpleasantness" and haircuts as "having the fur clipped."

With a booming voice, laced with hints of a Texan past and self-trained to reach remote corners of large lecture halls, Taylor regales the listener with historical anecdotes and cultural facts.

For instance, no president of the United States before 1862, or after 1913, had hair on his face. Further, at certain times in history, when establishment and authority figures in society were in full hairy display, their young heirs chose clean-shaven faces and were hotly criticized for it.

A pattern emerged in Taylor's mind and after checking through historical paintings, drawings and artwork, it emerged. Periods of approximately 75 to 150 years mark the resurgence and decline of hairy, or hairless, acculturation.

"Each period covers at least a life span so previous memories of bearded or non-bearded times are not remembered."

"I'm not sure where the chicken or egg is. I sort of stumbled into it," Taylor chuckled.

He used the English monarchy as one example of his evidence. Early and late medieval kings were clean-shaven but, in the intervening period, hairiness abounded among the kingly types. Even Roman emperors got in the hair vs. hairless cycle, which takes the facts back more than a dozen centuries.

Another example of an authority figure is the military establishment and Taylor has documented the absurdity of rules and regulations depending on whether beards were in, or out. Digging into warfare data, he produced what he considered the absurdity of rules and regulations depending on whether beards were in, or out. Digging into warfare data, he produced what he considered the best armies on the field in their day: the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac (bearded), and the English army in WW II as well as the Napoleonic army (clean-shaven).

"The military neither knows or gives a damn about the efficiency of hair length; just in holding up the status quo," he said.

An unusual fact surfaced in Taylor's research regarding religious depictions of a bearded Jesus Christ in paintings. During Christ's time, the Roman establishment was beardless but paintings of the Christian martyr were done 1,500 years later during the Italian Renaissance when the leading lights were very definitely bearded.

"I don't know if Jesus was bearded or not," Taylor commented and added that the question was up to the Biblical scholars.

A more current debate surfaced in 1965, when Western fielded a team in the then-popular "College Bowl," an intellectual's quiz show for the nation's students. Taylor was in charge. One unfortunate lad had the temerity to show up in a beard along with a suit and tie, of course. The establishment, in the guise of T.V. executives, General Electric sponsors and Western President Harvey Bunke, wanted the hairy one removed so he could not expose his face on national television. Ahhh, the wonderful '60s where the battlelines were clearly drawn.

When Taylor expounds on the "sheer intensity of moral indignation on both sides," he is speaking of a hairy issue debated, discussed and damned for thousands of years.

The current period is a transitional one, according to our learned scholar, and he predicts that in 10 to 25 years, we'll be back to hairy-faced presidents.

When Taylor was asked why he has never worn "fur" on his face, he said it made him "feel uncomfortable."

"I'm a product of my generation," he said. "I've shaved with hunting knives, bayonets and even in cold water."

"Intellectually, I hate to admit it," he said, "but that's my visceral conditioning."

He claims his find was "serendipitous" but shrugged his shoulders and admitted, "I don't know where to go from here."
Bellingham's Invisible Population:
Chinese Labor
In the Early 1900s

By Bob Low

Did you know that the city of Bellingham is sitting atop a rather extensive network of mine shafts? And that in those 89-year-old shafts, according to rumor, are the bodies of an unknown number of Chinese, supposedly murdered by the whites who employed them?

And what about the story of the ship captain who, rather than being caught smuggling Chinese into Whatcom County, threw his entire human cargo overboard where they drowned without a chance in Puget Sound?

These are just two of the tales told about Whatcom County's little known Chinese history.

"I'd characterize the Chinese as an invisible population," said Mike Sullivan, historic preservation planner for the Whatcom County Parks.

"The Chinese population was nearly all male. It was a large population—for example on Lummi Island during the (salmon) canning season, there were probably 1,000 Chinese or more. Now, there are less than half that number who live there all year round. I think one spooky thing about the Chinese population here was that they brought no women. Because the men came here to work and sent most of their money home, they simply vanished. When they went home, they never came back. So there's nothing left. The only clue left behind — a few gravestones with Chinese characters on them," Sullivan said.

The Chinese first came with the railroad, he said. They were employed by contractors who would sign contracts to do a certain amount of work for a price, then hire Chinese to do the work. Since their profit was the difference between wages paid to the Chinese, and the overhead of their food and board, as well as the amount of money given them for the contract, wages were very low.

"When the railroads were completed," Sullivan said, "many of the white contractors went out of business, but a few Chinese entrepreneurs began to do the same thing. The best known of these contractors in this area was a man named Gum Dip. He used workers from the completed railroads and put them to work in the salmon canneries.

"The canneries operated here until the mid-thirties."

Cheap Chinese labor made processing profitable.
Sullivan said. "They would use the cheapest labor force they could find; the Indians, who they found undependable, young women from the community, and Chinese, who were very dependable, but in short supply.

"They lived in what were called 'China-houses' under a real firm kind of de facto segregation," Sullivan said. "They stayed apart from the general population. I suppose that they got loaded once in a while. Opium was readily available to them, but other than that they lived a pretty spartan existence."

Robert Kim, a Western professor, confirmed Sullivan's suggestion of the use of opium. Kim, a Korean, became interested in what he called the "dynamics of racial prejudice" against Orientals in the United States and about the smuggling of Chinese and opium into Whatcom County from Canada. The smuggling occurred because of the Oriental Exclusion Act, passed by Congress during this period.

The exclusion act, which cut off the flow of legal immigrants, set up a lively smuggling trade in Puget Sound.

Chinese were paying from $23 to $60 to be landed by boat inside the U.S. borders, Kim said.

"The smugglers basically used small boats such as sloops," Kim said. "Usually it was done under the cover of darkness and, though the methods were very crude, it was successful because of the number of islands in the Puget Sound area and the scarcity of Coast Guard cutters to patrol."

On one such occasion, Kim said, a shipload of illegal immigrants was sighted and pursued by a Coast Guard cutter. The captain of the sloop had a number of Chinese illegals aboard hidden in burlap sacks and threw them overboard to lighten the load. In the end, unable to escape, the captain scuttled his ship which sank with the remaining twenty Chinese still on board.

Opium, used by the Chinese, was the second most popular cargo for Puget Sound smugglers. Whites, who imported this drug from the Orient by way of Canada, used it to keep the "coolie" laborers under control, encouraging addiction. This, Kim said, kept the Chinese constantly in debt and available for work.

Some smuggling via the railroads occurred, Kim said.

"The highest point of prejudice came in the 1920s. We had a huge Ku Klux Klan population."

but this was a "precarious affair" which required a bogus certificate to convince authorities that the bearers were legal immigrants returning from a visit to their homeland.

"I was interested in the politics of the prejudice against Chinese," Kim said. "Especially in the dealings of those who wanted to exploit the Chinese for their cheap labor and with other factions of the community, who were opposed to having them around at all. It became a matter of increasing political complexity."

Galen Biery, a noted local historian with a large collection of photographs of local history, had information about the Sehome Mining Co., in whose tunnels the Chinese are supposed to be buried.

"There was a story floating around for years," Biery said, "that there are Chinese buried in the Sehome mine. One story was that they (the mine owners) couldn't afford to pay the Chinese their wages, so they put them in the mine and flooded the shafts."

Biery doubted the story's authenticity, and referred to the eyewitness account of Pete Dennis.

"Pete was the last of the Sehome coalminers," Biery said, flipping a slide into the ancient but functional
projector he uses to give what he calls “magic lantern” shows about the early history of Whatcom County.

“He laid to rest the story that Chinese had been buried at Sehome mine. There were no Chinese working in the mine,” he said, “though there were some 60 Chinese working above ground sorting coal.”

Biery showed several slides of the mine area, whose entrance was at the junction of Railroad Avenue and Myrtle Street, including the 1,000 horsepower steam engine used to pull the 4,500 pound ore cars up from the shafts. He explained that Pete Dennis had revisited the tunnels in 1949 with the late company’s superintendent.

“Pete said there were about 60 Chinese on the company payroll,” Biery said, “but that they would often stay up gambling all night so that only 40 would show up for work in the morning.”

“There is no documented evidence to support claims of the mine incident,” Kim said, confirming Biery’s account.

Sullivan said the community was hostile toward the Chinese over two issues: opium, and white slavery, in which the Chinese were supposedly guilty of selling whites.

“There were rumors of Chinese running around with meat cleavers hacking up people in the middle of a drug high, which weren’t true,” Sullivan said. “Opium being a passive depressant, they would probably just get high and go to bed. But there were a lot of stories about white slavery. One of the stories deals with a young woman who blamed the Chinese for the disappearance of her baby, which led to a lot of horrible things happening to the Chinese. The people of Blaine stormed over to the China House and made all the people leave.

“Here in Whatcom County, the highest point of prejudice came in the 1920s. We had a huge Ku Klux Klan population and there are pictures of them up on Sehome Hill burning crosses,” Sullivan said. “We had a section of East Indians living in town and one night the good townspeople went down there and shipped them out of town in boxcars. This happened in the ’20s, too,” Sullivan added.

Kim mentioned the incident in Seattle where the Chinese were loaded aboard ships bound for San Francisco under threat of physical violence, adding that the Whatcom County Chinese fared better. They left of their own accord.

Probably they left because their labor was automated out of existence, Sullivan suggested.

“Have you ever heard of an ‘iron chink’?” he asked. “A guy named Smith invented a machine around 1914 or ’15 which would pick up the salmon, clean it, brush it and put it on a conveyor belt. It was called an iron chink because it replaced the oriental guy who did the same work. The early ones had a big plaque on the side that said ‘Iron Chink’ in great big letters. It’s still the main piece of processing machinery used in salmon canning and if you go down to Bumble Bee and look at their canning operations, you’ll see that they’re still using them—and still calling them iron chinks.”

“Because the China houses were burned down to destroy the diseases they were supposed to contain,” Sullivan said, “a few gravestones are all that’s left to show they (the Chinese) were ever here.

“It’s kind of an odd feeling to go stand in that corner of the cemetery,” Sullivan said. “They were so segregated in life, and there they are tucked away, thousands of miles from home stuck in the back of a cemetery in lily white Bellingham.”

“Opium was readily available. Other than that they lived a pretty spartan existence . . .”

With the onset of the “iron chink,” the Chinese workers were used only peripherally.

Ca. 1910
By Mike Conners

While most of us are either tacking plastic over windows, stacking wood in the backyard or just resigning ourselves to the inevitability of climbing energy costs and scarcities, one person at Western is on the verge of unplugging his house and family from the utilities.

After two years of dreams, plans, work and frustration, Don Williams, of the biology department, is about to move from his house on South Hill to the solar home he built on a 20-acre lot near Lake Padden. "My wife (Marva) and I used to lay around in bed at night talking about how nice it would be to build our own house. We got tired of hearing people talking about whether solar power could work in the Northwest so we decided to go ahead and build," he said.

Williams has heated his present house with wood for the last five years and enjoys "dabbling with urban self-sufficiency" through an active garden, canning and beekeeping.

The confines of pursuing a somewhat alternative lifestyle in a standard neighborhood context have made themselves evident with neighbors often making comments about his wood-chopping and beekeeping.

"They really got excited when I levelled off the whole front yard" to enlarge the garden, he said.

Williams, who said he loves the country but could never be a backwoods hermit, picked up the acreage near Lake Padden at bargain prices years ago.

With some of their dreams and ideas in mind, Marva contacted Jim Bedrich of the University of Washington school of Architecture, a specialist in energy efficient homes in Alaska.

Williams, who claims to be rather impulsive in his approach to projects, said, "I had the foundation in before the plans were even drawn up."

Along with two friends, Carl Mattson and Allen Kachelmeier, Williams created a 2,500 square-foot A-frame style home at the crest of a hill.

With an unobstructed southern exposure, the entire south face of the house is glassed to take advantage of the sun. The top half of the face is comprised of 720 square feet of solar collectors for space and water heating needs and the bottom half is an array of thermopane windows with a solar greenhouse attached to the house at ground level.

Reflecting on his gardening hobby, Williams said the greenhouse is one of the added touches that can be incorporated in a custom house design. The greenhouse has the added benefit of contributing to the house's heating by channeling warmed air, through large windows, into the rooms on the ground floor.

Williams built the 600-square feet of solar space heating collectors at a cost of $20 each, considerably less than the commercial price.

"There are a lot of people getting rich off this solar boom," he said.

The expensive part of the solar system was the 120-square feet of panels and the heat exchanger for the hot water heating system, which totalled $1,500.

By supplying his own labor, building many of the solar components and cutting some of the main structural beams from the timber on the land, Williams has saved quite a bit of money. Still, he figures he has sunk $100,000 into the whole project and had to "mortgage myself to the hilt" to do it.
Self-Sufficiency

Williams' design, like most solar homes, is a simple one with heated air from the roof panels channeled to a wall of 901 concrete blocks which act as a duct directing the warm air downward to the rooms below. In the process, the blocks absorb some of the heat which is later reradiated into the house at night.

He doesn't know how efficient the whole system will be, but because the house is built with passive and active solar heating, plus a back-up heating system of three wood stoves as well as six inches of wall and 10 inches of roof insulation, the home should be quite snug.

What Williams hopes to show is that solar power can work in the traditionally cloudy Northwest. By virtue of the very clouds that keep some of the sun's heat out, more of the earth's heat is kept in. The result is a more moderate climate with less temperature extremes requiring less solar energy to heat the home.

Existing solar homes in Seattle, built with passive and active features in their designs, are supplying upward of 75 percent of total space and water heating needs through harnessing the sun's energy.

Water heating, generally the second most energy consumptive process in the home, already has found common application in the Northwest. Water temperatures of 155 degrees on cloudy days and 225 degrees on sunny have been recorded.

If he had to do it over again, Williams said he would never build a house as large. "I should have built a mock-up of the thing on the land before I settled on a 2,500 square-foot house," he said.

He constantly made reference to the size of the house but when you lift each beam and drive each nail yourself, the preoccupation with size is understandable. Additionally, Williams thinks Bedrich's design may have been needlessly complicated.

Taking note of the multitude of half-built houses and abandoned foundations found along most any rural road or vacation area, Williams recommended that the potential homebuilder think seriously about the pressures and commitment involved.

The reaction to the project on the part of students has been one of interest with a few former students lending an occasional hand on the building site. He said he hasn't noticed any real interest on the part of his colleagues and even his two kids are ambivalent about the project.

"The guys from the city building codes department were gracious enough but generally looked on in amused silence," he said.

To start and stick with a project like the one Williams has chosen, you must have a good measure of "philosophical commitment" or you'll neither enjoy the process nor reap the benefits of living in a more symbiotic relationship with nature.

Despite the frustrations, second thoughts and loss of personal time over the last two years, Williams said that most often he is exhilarated by the undertaking and that building is a "joyful process."