'Alphabeta Cube' comes to Western (see page 2)
'ALPHABETA CUBE'—A sculpture in wood and bronze, entitled "Alphabeta Cube," by Fred Bassetti of Seattle stands near the new south entrance to Mabel Zoe Wilson Library on the Western campus. A 38-sided solid, with letters of the alphabet and numbers from zero to nine engraved upon its faces, is suspended within the space formed by the cedar timbers. Noguchi's "Sky-Viewing Sculpture" can be seen in right near background.

'Twenty-Six Mark SZYX WU
TSRQPONMLKJ HGFDSCBA
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'Alphabeta Cube' is newest campus art construction

Creation of a sculpture, in the shape of a man holding a mountain lion in his lap, from a 12½-ton block of granite, provided an interesting spectacle for members of the college community for a two-month period during fall quarter. Begun near the end of August by sculptor Richard Beyer and his son, Charles, both of Seattle, the figure was completed during the final week of October.

Jackhammers and hand-held hammer and chisels were used by the artists as the figure, located near the north entrance to Wilson Library, gradually emerged from a five-foot cube of stone. According to Richard Beyer, the statue depicts a bounty hunter who has spent his life hunting mountain lions and is now retired. He is holding his old foe in his arms, the two have reconciled their differences and both are singing.

The sculpture was commissioned by architect Fred Bassetti of Seattle from the art allowance for the recent addition to Wilson Library. The state provides funds for the purchase of art with each major building constructed with state financing.

“The reason to have art works in and around our buildings is the same as the reason for art itself," Bassetti said. "It interprets our world and ourselves visually. It is literature, drama and music speaking to us graphically.

“Public art should not, however, be commissioned primarily to embellish buildings—although that purpose should not be disregarded," he continued. “Its primary purpose is to enlighten us.”

Photomurals, calligraphy, prints, paintings and hangings to be placed inside the building are also included in purchases from the Wilson Library art allowance. Bassetti himself created a sculpture entitled "Alphabeta Cube" which is located in the area between the library and Haggard Hall of Science on the south side of the new addition.

The Bassetti sculpture consists of a cubical space formed by twelve large, octagonal redwood timbers enclosing a suspended bronze, 38-sided polyhedron upon which are engraved the letters of the alphabet and the numbers from zero through nine. The letters and numbers are visible through seven spaces which occur at the corners formed by the timbers.

In commenting upon his sculpture, Bassetti noted that the alphabet and other symbols used in the design are the basis for communication—the essence of a library. "It was therefore natural to select them as the heart of the Wilson Library sculpture," he said.

At several places letters have been stamped into the wood. The principal statement, emphasizing the power of the alphabet, is placed on the end of a timber and reads as follows:

2

Bassetti's sculpture was designed to relate, in outward appearance to "Sky-Viewing Sculpture" by Isamu Noguchi, which can be seen at the opposite side of the large red-brick square on the campus. Both are modified cubes set on the diagonal.

The structural scheme and materials of the two figures are different, however. Noguchi's being of steel painted black. The wooden members of the new sculpture are intricately chamfered, complementing the architectural detailing of the library building.

"The wood is rough cut and will take on a weathered patina over the years," Bassetti said. "The bronze of the central faceted ball will become darker as time goes on, so that it will relate well to the surrounding wood.”

After casting and engraving, the bronze plates were welded into the ball-like shape and then suspended by wire strands in the center of the heavy timber cage. Final assembly and creation at the site were done by Bassetti with the assistance of Richard Beyer and Rick Lucas.

Cost of the Beyer and the Bassetti sculptures is $5,000 each; an additional $1,500 will be spent for interior artwork.
Ethnic Studies eyes ‘cultural pluralism’ concept

Programs in the relatively new academic field of ethnic studies are based upon the concept of cultural pluralism in America, according to Dr. Jesse Hiraoka, dean of Western’s College of Ethnic Studies. “There is no single national heritage,” he says, “and it is somewhat misleading to study American life without dealing with the mixed heritage of ethnic minority groups that exist within the majority culture.”

Dr. Hiraoka describes the goal of the ethnic studies program in terms of providing the student with a greater awareness and appreciation of the diversity of humankind, and ultimately to provide “an ability to consider not just the differences, but the problems common to all humanity and the many ways in which all people are similar.”

As a new and non-traditional academic field, said Dr. Hiraoka, the College of Ethnic Studies must deal with questions and problems which established disciplines do not face. There are, first of all, basic questions as to what to teach and who is qualified to teach it, complicated by a scarcity of persons with the qualifications for faculty positions in a field so new to the academic scene.

“The question also arises as to whether ethnic studies programs should be designed primarily for students from minority ethnic backgrounds, or for students from the majority culture,” he said. Dr. Hiraoka believes Western’s program should serve both purposes: to give minority group students a better sense of their own cultural identity, and to offer to all students an education in the diversity of American cultural patterns.

A major problem is that ethnic studies is not fully accepted even within the academic community that gave it birth, Dr. Hiraoka added. Few faculty members question the need for studies in English, for example, or mathematics; but there is not such wide agreement on the validity of ethnic studies as an academic endeavor.

Related to this is the fact that while the College of Ethnic Studies is still in the process of defining its goals and developing standards of teaching and scholarship, the cluster college is sometimes judged by the standards of more established disciplines.

“Some people expect us to be academically ‘respectable’ in the traditional sense—which means primarily that we should take a historical, chronological approach—even though ethnic studies is not a traditional discipline,” Dr. Hiraoka said. “There is a danger that if we try to be totally respectable we will destroy what we are trying to develop.

“We are also expected to either dramatically justify the need for this new program or fail miserably, because in the eyes of some observers the program is not deserving of support,” he added.

“Another danger is that in periods of budgetary cut-backs, there is a tendency to give lesser support to new and different programs, which actually need more than normal support,” Dr. Hiraoka continued. He compared the three-year-old cluster college to a child needing the care of parents to survive and grow.

It is not enough, he said, to begin such programs on the basis of “social consciousness and a vague idea they might do some good. There must be a strong commitment from the parent institution to insure their survival and eventual success.”

Dr. Hiraoka believes the College of Ethnic Studies will justify its existence within the academic community and society at large by the interest it generates and the results it achieves.

The program has already demonstrated its appeal to students. While overall college enrollments declined this year, enrollment in the College of Ethnic Studies increased slightly.

One of Dr. Hiraoka’s objectives as dean of the cluster college is to encourage the combination of an ethnic studies program with professional and pre-professional training for occupations such as law, business, teaching, nursing and counseling.

“We need technically trained people who can function in a more human way,” he said, “particularly in dealing with people of differing cultural backgrounds.”

NEW LOOK—Steps leading into the former main entrance to the Auditorium-Music Building have been removed and the entry arches are filled in with windows. What was once the lobby is being transformed into a conference room and administrative offices. A four-foot brick wall erected in front of the new windows provides privacy for the offices and will enclose a decorative garden of native plantings. A new entrance has been created off the stairwell to the left of the wall; the new main entrance will be located on the north side of the building, facing the Viking Union. Architect for the project is Henry Klein & Associates of Mount Vernon.
Safari Fred, a cross-eyed, nearsighted, big-game hunter whose occupation is capturing all sorts of exotic animals, is currently after two creatures from another planet who have been marooned on earth by a breakdown of their space machine.

The hunter’s would-be victims have enlisted the help of some earth children to make their escape. Since their space machine is powered by sounds, the children must discover and create a combination of noises in order to blast the space ship off to its home planet and carry the stranded creatures to safety.

Meanwhile, Safari Fred is closing in. Will they be able to escape in time? This action-packed drama just may be the theatrical hit of the season on the elementary school circuit.

Each Thursday and Friday during winter quarter, Dr. Douglas Vander Yacht, assistant professor of speech and director of Western Youth Theatre, accompanies the student players with a program of three plays, each chosen to appeal to a different age group.

“We have two separate programs for elementary students,” Dr. Vander Yacht said. “We’ve found that what interests the older children bores the young ones, and what younger children enjoy seems silly to fifth and sixth graders.”

“Now kids do not have complete mastery of language, such direct physical and vocal participation is necessary in order to hold their interest. The audience is taking part in the action about half of the time and there are no long periods of passive sitting and watching.

A similar play was introduced to...
young audiences during last year’s theatre tour with great success. “We never had a restless audience,” Dr. Vander Yacht remembers.

He believes the success of this kind of presentation lies in the fact that it resembles a child’s natural drama. “Young children’s games and make-believe are a kind of natural art form which we have used as a model for our play.”

For older children, Dr. Vander Yacht emphasizes that it is essential not to condescend to the audience. “They’ll turn you off if they think you are aiming kid stuff at them,” he said.

For that reason, we choose contemporary, adult drama for our high school audiences. This year, we are doing The Dumbwaiter by Harold Pinter, a modern playwright whose works are sometimes ambiguous and require the audience to do some thinking and interpretation.”

This is not true of most plays written specifically for high school audiences, Dr. Vander Yacht says. He avoids them because they tend to talk down to the audience.

“The students appreciate it when we offer them plays containing adult considerations about life.

“We took this approach in our high school program last year and the audiences were very attentive,” he said. “Maybe part of it went over their heads, but often as many as two hundred students stayed after the program to talk about its meaning.”

Some junior high schools have booked performances of The Dumbwaiter and others have scheduled Tom Sawyer. Dr. Vander Yacht gives junior high and middle school principals an opportunity to judge whether their students would most enjoy a more adult drama or a less subtle and sophisticated presentation.

Tom Sawyer features an original sound track created with banjos, a Jew’s harp and an electronic synthesizer by music student Michael Nash of Palmyra, New York. The score includes such sound effects as steamboat whistles and howling dogs.

“Mark Twain has been my favorite American author since I was a child,” Dr. Vander Yacht said. “It’s always been my dream to present his work on the stage. In the script, I tried to capture the essence of Twain’s humor and some of Tom Sawyer’s major adventures.”

For the college students who take part, the theatre tour imposes a demanding schedule. The students attend regular classes at Western Monday through Wednesday, then take the show on the road Thursdays and Fridays.

Dr. Vander Yacht estimates that his touring casts will present some 200 performances before a combined audience of about 40,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade throughout the state this season.
Prime Construction Co., Inc. of Seattle has been named as general contractor of a marine laboratory for a consortium of state supported colleges at Shannon Point west of Anacortes with a low bid of $354,522.

According to college architect Robert Aegerter, the low bid was below budget estimates. "We are particularly pleased," he said, "since the estimates were made approximately three years ago and costs have been rising constantly during the intervening period."

The property upon which the laboratory will be built consists of approximately 70 acres, including 2,900 feet of shoreline, a freshwater pond and forest area. Project architect is Don L. McKee of Anacortes.

To be known as the Shannon Point Marine Center, the facility will be administered by Western. Its services will be available for use by academic departments and cluster colleges of Western, as well as by other consortium member institutions. Director of the facility is Dr. William C. Summers.

Summers holds a joint position as a faculty member at Huxley College and as director of the Shannon Point center. Before coming to Western, he was associated with the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

A comprehensive plan for Shannon Point is under development by a committee comprised of representatives from Western and three other state colleges plus Skagit Valley College and Edmonds and Everett community colleges. Students from any state institution of higher education will be able to study at the facility.

In general, the site will remain largely undisturbed to permit its best utilization for ecological and marine research and instruction. Geared toward undergraduate studies, the laboratory will complement graduate research facilities operated by the University of Washington at Friday Harbor.

Among improvements proposed will be a laboratory and classroom building, parking space, a gravel service road and footpath and a sea-water pumping system. A septic-tank sewage system plus telephone and electrical service are included in the project.

The laboratory-classroom building will be a three-level masonry structure with a cedar-shake roof. Shops, a receiving area, a lecture hall and wash-up facilities will be located in a daylight basement; instructional laboratories and aquarium space will be on the first floor. On the second floor will be office-laboratories, dry labs, a darkroom and administrative offices.

"All structural elements of the building will remain exposed for low maintenance and construction cost," according to McKee. "There will be no floor coverings, suspended ceilings or other cover-up materials."

Attempts will be made to make the building as unobtrusive as possible; it probably will not be visible from a distance, except from the air. Completion of the building is scheduled for the summer of 1973.

A small residence unit is being considered for a later phase of construction so that students will be able to live at the site as well as in Anacortes. A visitors' center and a conference center are also tentatively planned for later phases of development.

Two more alumni are legislators

In the January issue, Resume cited those alumni who would be elected representatives in Olympia during the current legislative session. Inadvertently omitted were Gene Laughlin, '66, and Eleanor Fortson, '56.

Laughlin is a Democratic representative from Washougal in the 17th district. He is a teacher at Camas High School.

Mrs. Fortson represents the 10th district in Snohomish County. She is also a Democrat. A teacher and administrator in the Camano Island schools, she has both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Western.

Resume apologizes to both Rep. Laughlin and Rep. Fortson for this oversight.

NEW COACH—Rick Iverson is the new Western wrestling coach on a part-time basis, replacing Lanny Bryant, who resigned last spring. Iverson, 31, is co-owner of a dairy in Bellingham. He wrestled at Sedro Woolley High School and was an all-conference matman at Skagit Valley College.
Western’s Vikings headed into the thick of the Evergreen Conference basketball race sporting a so-so 5-6 record and one of the Northwest’s hottest players in star guard Mike Franza.

While the Vikings aren’t considered a threat to repeat as conference champions following their best-ever, 26-4 record of last year, Western is nevertheless considered a dark horse candidate to finish in the upper division of the league.

This is largely due to the guile of Coach Chuck Randall, who is an expert at changing his style to fit his athletic talent and who, year in and year out, coaxes the utmost from his players.

Some of the younger players are indeed beginning to show improvement, but Randall calls Franza “undoubtedly the best offensive guard I’ve ever coached,” and adds, “in fact he’s one of the best I’ve seen in my life.”

This is a rare tribute from Randall, who seldom doles out the superlatives to individual players, but rather issues his praises on a team basis.

But the 6-1 senior from San Jose, Calif., is something else in Western basketball history. At this writing he is scoring at a 26.9 per game average (tops in the Northwest) and has scored more than 30 points in five games this season. His high mark of 42 points this season established a new Western single game scoring record, erasing the old standard of 40 set by Ron Crowe in 1960.

Franza is the lone returning starter from last year’s championship squad, and because of this he has had to stick closely to Randall’s controlled pattern offense due to the inexperience of this season’s young team.

“If Mike gets 50 open shots, I expect him to take them,” says Randall. “But if he gets only five, that’s all he should take. By following this pattern, he’s doing everything possible for us to win.”

Offensively, his basic weapons are great driving ability and a skill for getting free underneath the basket. This year, having added a consistent outside shooting game to his repertoire, he is virtually impossible to stop.

An outstanding student, Franza has often been on the president’s list. He is majoring in mathematics and is minoring in coaching and physical education. “My main ambition is to be a coach,” he says. “In that regard, my basketball experience will be invaluable.”

Another desire in the back of his mind, however, is a chance to play professional basketball.

“There are a lot of pros his size,” says Randall. “He’s slender, but tough, and he’s not injury prone. With his ability on offense and defense, plus his great attitude, Franza should be a natural draft selection.”

Tri-Cities alumni hold meeting

Braving sub-zero temperatures, ice-coated roads and chilling winds, a small group of Western alumni residing in the Tri-Cities area gathered to greet Western Alumni Officer Steve Inge during a mid-December venture into the eastern portion of the state.

Organized by alumni board member Sharon Scharnhorst of Richland, the meeting included the showing of a film, Western Washington State College: A Close Look. Following the film, the group discussed the types of roles organized alumni can play within a community.

The possibility of holding additional meetings in the Tri-Cities area during a warmer time of the year was also discussed.
Roll Call

'21 HERBERT HANSEN is director of Seamen's Information Service, a public relations position, in Longview . . .

'57 WILLIAM KENDRICK has been appointed superintendent of Salem Public Schools.

'60 Mr. and Mrs. PAUL WALDEN (BONNIE MATHIEU, '60) are living in Battle Ground. He is principal of an intermediate school there and was listed in the International Who's Who in Community Service for 1972. His wife has been selected to appear in the 1973 edition of The World Who's Who of Women.

'61 STEVE HANSEN is coach of the Woodland High School football team that was voted Class A State Champion in the Associated Press poll.

'62 J. ROBERT PURVIS is assistant professor in social studies methods at Oklahoma State University.

'65 LESLIE GANGWISH is teaching at Issaquah Junior High School and is president of the Issaquah Education Association . . . HANS DAHL teaches a trainable retarded class in Port Townsend.

'66 EILEEN FOOTE and Richard Florida were married recently in Bellevue . . . DENNIS SANDVIG is teaching industrial arts at the high school level in Bellingham.

'68 Sandra White and CARL LINDSTROM were married recently in Seattle.

'69 CAROLYN ASHLEY and Garrett Larsen were married October 14 in Seattle.

'70 SHERYL DALY and James Swenson were married November 18 in Seattle . . . ANN CLARK is teaching fifth grade in Yakima . . . DEAN STENSBY is manager of the Redmond branch of the First Federal Savings Bank.

'71 JOSEPH NEWSTED received his master of arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado in December . . . ARTHUR CLARK is a school psychologist for the Bellingham School District . . . DIANE FOSTER is teaching eighth grade English in South Carolina . . . VICKI BUTCHART and Daniel Marshall were married recently. They are living in Everett where she teaches sixth, seventh and eighth grade physical education and seventh grade social studies . . . Marcia Garton and PATRICK THUNHURST were married November 25 in Chelan . . . CORY SWINBURNSON received his commission as an ensign from the Naval Officer Candidate School at Newport, Rhode Island . . . MARY KAY DONNELLY and ROBERT HANELL ('72) were married recently in Olympia. They are living in Montesano . . . SUSAN BARELLO is substitute teaching in the Lake Washington and Bellevue districts.

'72 SHANNON DAY and JOHN ARTHUR were married recently and are living in Philadelphia where he is attending graduate school in physical therapy at the University of Pennsylvania . . . WILLIAM PALMER teaches a third-fourth grade class in Bellingham . . . DAN PEGERUDE is the minister of youth at the First Free Methodist Church in Seattle . . . JEFFREY DORR teaches math and science at the high school level in Bellingham . . . LESLIE MINTZ is teaching special education in South Australia . . . ROBERT SMITH is teaching at Coulee City . . . GAYLE WOOD is teaching kindergarten in Bellingham . . . LES PORTER is working toward his master of science degree in computer science at Washington State University.

Unclassified

Sharon Richmond and RONALD MAIN were married in Wenatchee. They are living in Seattle where he is doing graduate work . . . BARBARA LEHMAN has received her Ph.D. in math from Iowa State University . . . DONALD R. JOHNSON is a recreational director at Cascadia Juvenile Reception Diagnostic Center in Tacoma . . . Hildin Jacobsen and ROBERT BRUZAS were married in November in Kirkland. He is teaching in Everett . . . SHERILYN AYLER and Bruce Warner were married in Tacoma . . . LYNN PELEGRUTI and Joseph Haworth were married in December in Tacoma . . . JIM SMOTHERMAN has been named assistant manager of the Bellingham Chamber of Commerce.

IN MEMORIAM

'15 MERLE MAE OLIN, October 12, 1972.

'19 CLARA B. LOCKE, August 7, 1972.

'44 MARGARET PATTERSON, August 15, 1972.

'72 TED THOMPSON, July 2, 1972, in a swimming accident.

Unclassified


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