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Western students have changed over the past five years

Nearly everyone on campus agrees that the average student at Western Washington State College this year is different from his counterpart of five years ago. He looks a little different, he is involved in different kinds of activities and his attitude toward study has changed.

The reasons given for the changes and the degree to which these changes have occurred differ depending upon the particular classroom one enters in search of answers.

The new attitude among students seems to reflect a general change the students have perceived in the world about them. The politics of Vietnam are no longer as immediate an issue; the nation is beginning to rethink its role in terms of its heritage and its future.

In the History Department, Dr. LeRoy Dresbeck, chairman, finds students are more interested in learning fundamentals than they were a few years ago.

“They don’t demand ‘The Big Answer’ that will solve all of the world’s problems,” he said. “They are more interested in putting history into a framework of time and place. Classes are certainly more lively than they were a few years back.

“Students are reading more,” he added. “A faculty member who casually mentions a particular book in class may go to the library later and find that students have gone to the trouble to look it up and check it out.”

There seems to be an increased interest in the liberal arts. There is a feeling among some employers that people who are trained to think are better able to cope with a changing world than are people who are trained to fill a specific role.

“Because of their flexibility and ability to handle a variety of situations, people with a liberal arts background are finding themselves in demand,” Dr. Dresbeck said. “There is currently an increase in the number of jobs available in business for history majors.

“Students, along with everyone else, are greatly interested in the economy at the present time, which brings about an increased interest in the practical aspects of academic study.”

That economic factors are attracting the interest of students is echoed by Dr.

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Two years ago WWSC's Wendy Taylor set a women's collegiate record at the AIAW national track and field meet, running the 100-meter hurdles in 14 seconds flat. That mark will be challenged the next four years by yet another Vikette, freshman Jackie Guichard.

In her first collegiate track meet, Guichard won both the 100-meter (15.0) and 400-meter (65.5) hurdles in national qualifying times. Her best clockings in the two events are 14.2 and 63.1, respectively.

"She's going to be super, if she isn't already," states Coach Lynda Goodrich. "There isn't a more dedicated or harder working person on the team."

Guichard attended Seattle's Immaculate High School where she had the best 400-meter hurdle effort in the state last year as well as the third fastest time in the 100-meter barriers. The slender blonde began running seven years ago when she was asked to join the Seattle Dynamics Track Club.

There Guichard was coached by former Western track star Modris Petersons, who set a national record in the 220 low hurdles (25.5) in 1951.

"He's had the biggest influence on my running," said Guichard. "Even after he moved away because of business, he'd call the girls on the team to see how we were doing and we'd usually see him at various meets where he'd give us tips on how to improve."

It was in her third year of competition that Petersons entered Guichard in the 100-meter hurdles.

"I didn't even know I was going to run that event before the meet since I had run it just for exercise prior to that," explained Guichard. "But I did okay because I won and my time was a northwest record for 13-year-olds."

Thus Guichard concentrated on the 100-meter hurdles and the 440-yard run for the next four years. It was not until last summer that she ran the 400-meter hurdles for the first time.

"It put my best event and one I liked a lot together," Guichard said. "I really enjoy it because it's new and something to go to when I get frustrated with what I'm doing in the 100-meters."

The 18-year-old has participated in four Junior Olympics meets and last summer ran in her second AAU national meet. Her trips have taken her as far east as Michigan and Nebraska.

"Traveling is one of the main reasons I run," said Guichard. "Another is the friends you make. I know I get tired of track sometimes, especially during the winter when I have to run by myself. That's why I really looked forward to this season, so I'd have somebody to run with."

With the success she has enjoyed, Guichard is no doubt causing anxiety amongst fellow competitors and record-holders in her events as well.

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**Monahan scholarship established**

Family and friends of Patrick L. Monahan, late son of Marilyn and Dr. Robert L. Monahan, professor of geography at Western, have established a scholarship fund in his memory. The fund will provide annual scholarships for qualified students demonstrating academic potential and performance in geography, with some consideration of need.

Amounts awarded will vary and will be determined by a selection committee composed of three members of the Geography Department faculty. Students may apply through the chairman of the Department of Geography, or the Financial Aid Office at Western.

The open and perpetual scholarship fund, which now totals $27,000, comes from approximately one hundred and fifty individual contributions of friends of Patrick and the Monahan family. Interest from the fund finances the scholarships.

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**Enrollment pattern is leveling off**

Declining enrollment, which plagued Western in 1972 and 1973, seems now to be a thing of the past. The number of students on campus each year appears to have stabilized at around 8,500.

Last fall enrollment stood at 8,601, up nearly 500 from the previous year. Winter quarter, 1975, started off with enrollment up an additional 96 students, only the third time in the memory of college administrators that winter enrollment has exceeded that of the previous fall.

Enrollment at Western this spring is 5.9 per cent higher than it was a year ago. The growing number of college students on the Bellingham campus means that some of the pressure on Western's operating budget has been relieved. At their January meeting, college trustees approved a recommendation from President Flora that some faculty reductions, made in the face of diminishing revenue due to a diminishing student body, be restored.

All letters of termination to those faculty members who were tenured as of June 1974 were rescinded and all those affected were restored to full teaching status. Other restorations are anticipated as favorable action is taken by the state legislature during the 1975 session.

What the enrollment upturn means in terms of prospects for the future is difficult to predict. College officials believe it is unlikely that there will be a return to the problems of the late 'sixties when each year brought many more students than the campus could accommodate.

According to a report by the National Center for Education Statistics, enrollment at colleges and universities throughout the nation was up 5.5 per cent last fall as compared with figures for a year earlier. The increase exceeded nearly everyone's expectations.

Part of the growth, across the country as at Western, has been an increase in part-time enrollment. At Western, improved retention of students previously enrolled was also a major factor.
A group of students gathers on the brick square between classes for a moment of fellowship and spiritual singing, a daily occurrence at Western for the past couple of years.

Campus social activism is thing of past

Social activism, apparent at Western and on other campuses around the nation in the late 1960s and early '70s, has largely become a thing of the past. Where once a crowd of students on Western's brick square marked a harangue against some social injustice, it now is more likely to indicate a gathering for a daily hymn sing.

Reverend Wayne Keller of St. James Presbyterian Church in Bellingham sees the trend as a return, on the part of a number of students, to fundamentalist religion, in search for direction and reassurance in their daily lives.

"Between the era of activism and the present, the campus saw an influx of what was known as 'Jesus people'," Rev. Keller said. "This group, with its literal interpretation of scripture, constituted a fad that is pretty well over.

"College-age students are now returning to the churches, but not to the main-line denominations like Lutherans, Presbyterians, Methodists or Episcopalians," he continued. "They are more apt to participate in independent congregations."

The trend is also seen by Julie Christensen, a representative of the Catholic Church at the Campus Christian Ministry, operated by a consortium of local churches and located near the WWSC campus.

"Less than ten per cent of the college population is involved in the religious movement," she said, "but there is an increase in the number of fundamentalist groups doing things that are noticed.

"The students are being turned off by the 'Jesus movement,' and they are not attracted to the conventional churches."

The trend includes a good deal of interest in non-traditional religion, according to Barry Bonifas, Viking Union program coordinator. "Eastern philosophy has become quite popular as well as fundamentalist Christian religions," he pointed out.

Reverend Paul Cantelon of Bellingham's Calvary Temple agrees that the strong "Jesus people" emphasis that made the news three or four years ago has leveled off. Many of the people who were involved in that movement have achieved a stability as Christians and have moved into the Evangelical churches.

"They may have just done it for kicks for awhile, but some have made a serious commitment. Some have turned to religion to find deliverance from drugs," he continued. "We used to see a lot of bare feet and overalls, but that has changed, too.

"I personally see some very encouraging signs in what is happening," Rev. Cantelon went on. "I'm very thrilled with things I see in the youth movement."
Student change
(Continued from page 1)

Michael Mischaikow, professor of economics and business.

"It is difficult to worry about the plight of Bangladesh if you don't have a job yourself," he said. "The concerns are still there, but the priorities have shifted. The necessities of making a living have to be satisfied first."

More realistic

Students of today are more realistic in their appraisal of education and the world around them, Dr. Mischaikow believes, and they are more tolerant in terms of the need for social change.

"In the 'sixties, they said, 'This is what ought to be,' without consideration of whether the changes they wanted were possible or who would foot the bill,'" he continued. "Now, they tend to make a cost-benefit analysis."

"This shift in emphasis has not occurred overnight; it has been gradual."

As a result of their revised attitudes, Dr. Mischaikow finds students motivated and performing better, with a more positive attitude and approach to their studies. They are also more pragmatic and career-oriented.

"As a result of this, there is a shift of students from other departments to economics and business because these are areas with more employment opportunities. People who have been employed in other fields are also returning to the classroom for retraining in order to keep up with changes in the job market. Both of these groups appear to be more mature and more dedicated." Dr. Mischaikow commented on a mid-term exam he had just given to one of his lower-division classes.

"Four or five years ago, a majority of the class would not have finished the test after 30 to 40 minutes' work; many would not have finished it at all by the end of the period.

"Today, only one member of the class was not finished; some left after only 30 minutes and turned in nearly perfect papers."

Dr. Don Easterbrook, chairman of the Geology Department, also sees new job opportunities enticing students to earn better grades.

Job market good

"The job market for geology students is really good right now," he reported. Mining and petroleum companies are exploring new energy sources and are becoming involved in environmental concerns.

"With these opportunities presenting themselves, our students are becoming more serious about the prospect of future employment."

In the Education Department, Dr. Roberta Bouverat finds students are dedicated even though jobs may be somewhat scarce. They have a commitment to becoming teachers and are willing to work hard to meet the keen competition for available jobs.

In early childhood education, Dr. Bouverat's specialty, students are taking introductory courses because they are interested in finding out how young children learn. They are looking as much toward the possibility of working in day-care centers or in learning things that will help them in taking care of their own children, rather than in specific job orientation.

Dr. Louis Barrett, chairman of the Department of Physics, finds that students in introductory classes are more serious in the past year or two than they were four or five years ago. They are not in class just to be entertained, as they were when the threat of the draft was present.

"A few years ago, students felt pressured into school," Dr. Barrett said. "They wanted to change the world and didn't see academic courses as relevant to that desire.

"Those who go into physics as a major have always been serious students, but we may be getting a higher quality student now. Our graduates are finding assistantships at the better graduate schools more easy to obtain than in the recent past."

"One of our students this past quarter had a choice of assistantships from Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities."

Western's rapid growth in the late 'sixties brought with it new faculty members to teach the larger number of students. The diversity of faculty interests brought about by this expansion may have changed the character of the department, bringing in new and stronger students.

Physics interest high

"Western graduated more students with degrees in physics last year than did any other school in the Pacific Northwest, with the exception of the University of Washington," Dr. Barrett stated.

At Fairhaven College, the job market has little or no effect, according to Dean Kenneth Freeman, and there is little noticeable change in the students. One reason is that the difference in ages of Fairhaven students causes a wide variety of interest levels at any one time on the cluster college campus and changes in any one group are not as noticeable.

The Art Department also sees little change in its students in recent years.

Dr. Thomas Schlotterback, chairman, did note, however, that current students have more sophisticated views of the world. He attributes that change to an expanded viewpoint largely to the fact that the department is attracting older students.

"We are getting more people from community colleges who already have their associate degrees and have their basic courses behind them. They are, by that time, pretty well dedicated to being art majors and are pretty hard-driving."

Whatever the reasons, it appears that the students attending WWSC during the 1974-75 school year have somewhat different attitudes from their predecessors of a few years back. The change is difficult to quantify, or to place on a scale of one to ten; some will even deny that it exists. Mostly, there's something different in the air. □
Students return to residence hall living

Students at Western Washington State College have been moving back into the residence halls and have been returning to more traditional kinds of campus activities during the past year or two. Cheerleaders and less-casual attire at dances have begun to appear and there is even some talk about the return of Homecoming.

Occupancy rates in Western's residence halls suffered during the 'sixties as students began to prefer the freedom and informality of off-campus living. Since then, a relaxation of curfew hours and of dress regulations, and an end to extreme segregation of the sexes and other restrictions have brought students back to campus.

Regulations in residence halls now are about the same as those which govern the lives of any other human beings. Most students are happy with being able to live in the same manner as any other person living in the Bellingham community.

This absence of special restrictions plus the high cost of groceries, the bother of shopping and cooking and increased flexibility in the variety of room and board available on campus have caused a steady increase in the occupancy rate of Western's residence halls during the past two years.

Along with the movement back into the dorms, there has been increased interest in organized activities, according to Keith Guy, director of residence hall programs. He has noted that more students are volunteering for leadership positions and taking on responsibility—a swing of the pendulum back to the more moderate times of the early 1960s.

"The students on campus today had no part of the turmoil of the late '60s and do not identify with it," Guy said. "They are much less eager to get involved in other than social activities."

More and more students within the last year or two are turning out for hall meetings and participating in things like banana-split nights.

"Once a month," Guy explained, "residents of a hall may get ice cream and toppings from Saga Food Service and gather in one of the lounges for a social evening." The students pay for these goodies through their regular room and board bill.

"The college arrangement with Saga provides a special dinner for each residence hall once each month. The students living in the hall can decide what form the event is to take; the banana-split night is one of their options."

"Some groups may choose to dress up and be served at a sit-down dinner," Guy continued; "others may want a special buffet or to have entertainment with a meal."

Trend carries over

The trend toward a little more formal attire carries over into other social activities. A few coats and ties are appearing at dances.

"But mostly the trend is manifested in the appearance of more nice, casual clothes, replacing the torn jeans and work shirts of a few years ago. There is also more color in clothes on campus," Guy added.

From each student's room and board payments, $4.50 goes to government and programming for residence halls, administered by Inter-Hall Council. This organization, independent of WWSC Associated Students, has its own constitution and consists of two representatives from each of fourteen residence halls.

A chairman is selected in the spring of each year from the incumbent group to take charge of the following year's weekly or biweekly meetings. Keith Guy is adviser to the Council.

About $3,000 of the students' money goes directly to the Council for social or programming activities. This may include putting on dances, purchase of TV sets and stereo equipment or other uses. The remainder of the revenue from students is divided among residence hall organizations according to the population of each group.

Funds not spent during the year are carried over for availability the following year.

"Some halls elect a president and hold regular meetings during the year," Guy said. "Students in Mathes, one of the high-rise residences, have divided the money among each floor, with each floor electing a representative to the main hall council."

"During the late 1960s and early '70s, there was little interest in this sort of formal organizational structure, but now we find it is returning."

Traditional dances

Guy works closely with the residence hall staff in planning activities, and has found a real switch to more traditional dances this year than in recent history. Inter-Hall Council sponsored a semiformal dance at Ridgeway Dining Hall just before the Christmas break, which was attended by 70 to 80 couples.

"Everyone got dressed up and the men bought corsages for their dates. And the band played a variety of music rather than the steady diet of heavy rock that was standard fare not long ago."

Other kinds of planned, group activities are gaining in popularity. Beta and Gamma Halls in the Ridgeway complex held a cross-country ski trip to Mt. Baker; another group organized a Saturday trip to Vancouver, British Columbia, by Greyhound for dinner, dancing and sight-seeing. Intramural sports are also on the upswing.

The growth in planned social activity is contrasted with the 1960s, which saw more loners among the students. There was much more social alienation, which was manifested in protests or introverted behavior and there was a serious, almost grim, response to a bleak world. Free time was spent in talking about major issues or personal problems.

"The students are serious today, too," Guy explained, "but now they are more attuned to academic responsibility and vocational orientation. More seem to have a better idea about where they are going and what they want to do. They do a lot more studying."

A dozen students enrolled in a class in marine vertebrate ecology at Western's Shannon Point Marine Center near Anacortes embark on a field trip to study fish living in the waters of Puget Sound. A total of 39 students are enrolled in classes at Shannon Point this spring.
High school seniors visit Western campus

The rains of April retreated for a day, allowing the sun to show itself, as more than 400 high school seniors and some of their parents took part in Western’s second annual College Day on April 12.

Sponsored jointly by the College and the Alumni Association, College Day provides high school seniors who have applied to the College with a day when they can meet with faculty, visit residence halls, sample the campus cuisine and generally investigate Western’s style of higher education.

In preparation for the event, alumni volunteers in Snohomish, King and Pierce counties contacted most of the applicants in their areas and extended their additional invitation to the students. For those who would not be able to attend, the alumni provided information on alternate ways that a student could make a visit, and forwarded questions that the students had to the campus, where college officials were able to respond to them.

In addition, the Alumni Association underwrote the costs of four chartered buses from King and Pierce counties, enabling approximately 120 students to make the visit and have lunch in the Commons at a reduced cost.

Upon arrival, the students were greeted with an organ recital in the Music Building’s Concert Hall by Dr. David Schaub. C.W. McDonald, vice president for student affairs, extended a word of welcome, urging the students to “look us over like you would a used car. Kick our tires, look under the hood and ask questions.”

Each student then met with two academic departments of his/her choice, visited the residence halls, and met with representatives from various college organizations and services who had set up displays in the Viking Union.

Student guides, who had been trained to conduct tours and act as hosts for the day, conducted the student groups around the campus, answering questions from their own perspective.

According to Dick Riehl, director of Admissions, the day was a great success. “It is my concern that students who think they want to come to Western really understand what we have to offer. If you are going to spend four years of your life at a school, it’s a good idea to check the neighborhood before you move in.”

Riehl added, “The students were very positive about coming to the campus. For some, it gave them the information they needed to make a sound decision about coming here.”

![Student guides hold signs on high as College Day visitors congregate in “Red Square” to begin their second departmental visit.](image)
More home-grown students attend WWSC now

Students enrolled at WWSC for the 1974-75 school year are more likely to be of the home-grown variety than was the case three years ago, according to figures released by the WWSC Registrar’s Office. An increase in the proportion of students from the northwestern corner of the state has even brought about a few changes in the atmosphere on campus.

At basketball games, for instance, the Viking rooting section has been enlarged by parents and friends from the surrounding community who have come to watch the products of local high schools in action. Of the 11-man varsity squad, four are natives of Whatcom County—two from Lynden High School, one from Lynden Christian and one from Sehome High School in Bellingham—and one is from Eastsound on Orcas Island.

Snohomish County has moved up into third place on the list, with 8.5 per cent of this year’s WWSC students calling that area home.

Everett Community College has traditionally supplied the largest number of transfer students attending Western. In 1971, Shoreline Community was in second place, but this year, Skagit Valley College holds that honor. Last year, Skagit Valley moved briefly into first place as a producer of transfers to Western.

Summer presents varied programs

Visit the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, dine at French restaurants in Vancouver, British Columbia, or study German in a small, medieval German town while earning college credits this summer. These are just a few of many ways to enjoy a vacation while gaining first-hand experience about a subject of personal interest through Western’s summer programs.

A four-day course in June, offered by the Canadian-American studies program, will explore problems, resources and land development around Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia. Taking advantage of Western’s location and the expertise of its faculty, the course will include interesting field trips and explore topics of value to businessmen and government officials as well as to interested citizens of Washington and British Columbia.

In August, shortages of fuel and fruit jar lids and other current economic issues will be explored in a one-week course. A workshop in men’s wear for one who sews or who teaches textiles or clothing construction techniques will be offered during a week in June.

In addition, a series of courses tailored for high school graduates provides a head start in college work in astronomy, computer science, debate, drama and other areas. Of particular interest to entering freshmen is a career conference that examines personal life goals, the relationships of careers and academic majors and an outlook to the year 2000.

All of these things are offered in addition to regular academic programs at the graduate or undergraduate level from any of Western’s departments or cluster colleges during the six-week or nine-week sessions.

For further information, contact the Summer Session Office, WWSC, Bellingham, WA 98225.
With the United States Bicentennial hard upon us, the Alumni Association is calling upon its members to provide some help in acquiring a number of volumes which would greatly enhance historical studies at Western.

Working in cooperation with the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, the alumni board has compiled an extensive list of books on Northwest history that the College does not have. Project chairperson Dr. Patricia Swenson of Portland noted that, "Some of these books might be part of a personal collection that is getting too large to be comfortably housed. Or they might be among books in a box that one got from their grandparents' attic. They might even be found in a bookstore."

"We hope that any alumni who have a line on any of these books, or others that will appear in forthcoming issues of Resume, will send a note to the alumni office telling where they might be found.

"The important thing is that people realize that books like these are important to scholarly work. If any were discarded because the owner thought them to be of no interest to anyone, it would be a tragedy. We need them at Western."

Persons who know where one or more of these books can be acquired should write to the Alumni Office, WWSC, Bellingham, WA 98225.


Season tickets for Western's Summer Stock '75 theater program are now on sale. Special ticket prices are once again available for alumni planning to be in the Bellingham area during the season, which will include nine different shows in a seven-week production schedule, plus an added bonus.

A special production of *Angel Street* will kick off the season on July 9 with a four-night run featuring guest artists Beverly Penberthy and John Gregory.

Penberthy is perhaps better known as "Pat" in NBC's daily soap opera *Another World*, a character she has played for the past seven years. She is a Broadway veteran and has accumulated credits in both repertory theater and summer tours.

Damn Yankees will open the regular schedule, running July 16-19, and then *As You Like It* from July 23-26.

The classic, *Death of a Salesman*, will begin July 30 and run through August 2, followed by *Play It Again Sam*, from August 6 through 9, and *The Miracle Worker*, August 13-16. A readers' theater presentation will have a two-day run on August 18-19, and *Godspell* will round out the season from August 20 through 23.

Summer Stock '75 will also present two plays for children this year. *Indian Captive* is scheduled for August 1 and 2, and *Puss 'N Boots*, August 15 and 16.

Season tickets may be purchased through the Alumni Office at Western or through the Women of Western organization which is coordinating ticket sales.