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Editors Note:
Censorship is something that affects us all. Especially in today's world situation. News of war is filtered and censored by a government that staunchly protects the freedom of its people, especially the freedom of speech. Our government has manipulated the media to the point of propaganda.

I am a young American who believes in the "American way." I see the pain of war and the sterilization of death. I hear all that is fed to us by the "watch dogs" of our society and wonder about the uncensored truth . . .

Why was the "war" in the Middle East under lock and key by the American government, and why hasn't our "watch dogs" stood up for the American public's right to know the uncensored truth? How can we make intelligent opinions about life and death situations without really knowing the truth?

America's "watch dogs" have failed. The media is ultimately concerned with ratings rather than truth, with visuals rather than facts and emotion rather than logic.

The American public should be wary of candy covered news, glossed over facts, political rhetoric, and remember . . . to question "authority" is the "American way."

In this issue of Klipsun we have tried to give alternative views on the Middle East crisis. The experiences are personal and reflect a wide range of feelings.

--Bretha Urness-Straight
Peace or Punishment
Children making adult choices in a grown-up world.

By Tasha James
Photos by Dave Rubert, Pete Kendall and Tasha James

Middle school children choose to attend Western's peace rally so they can voice their concerns about the war in the Middle East. The choice of skipping school or attending school weighed heavily on their minds as they came to Western's campus to support peace.

Bellingham Police
Crack Down on Gangs

By Darril Fosty
Photos by Gerald Reilly
Illustrations by Patrick Au-Yeung

A once quite town is now a haven for street violence and corruption. The local Gang Enforcement team is doing their part to curb gang activity in Bellingham.
The Fairhaven Experience

By Erika Williams

Walking in, you might assume this is just another trendy bistro catering to the health-conscious yuppie with all the right trappings for "atmosphere."

You'd be mistaken. When you walk into the Colophon Cafe [1208 11th St., Fairhaven] you've found the real thing.

"I guess I'd say it's a bookstore cafe with character, to keep it short," said Tiamy Dunn, co-owner of the Colophon. She and husband Ray seem to have created a restaurant with drawing power. "I hate to use the word 'ambiance,' because it's such a cliche. There's just something about this place, ever since we opened."

The upper level is a walk-in, counter service eatery, featuring ice cream, desserts, coffee and sandwiches. Downstairs is a full-service cafe.

It's certainly unique. Where else can you dine with cows all around you?

Upstairs, you'll find cow merchandise of all varieties for sale. Cow pins and keychains are displayed on the counter. Around the corner, a larger display holds "cowkerchief" and other items emblazoned with the animal: plates, mugs, pencils, cards, teapots, butter dishes and T-shirts. Woody Jackson, the Vermont artist who created the Ben and Jerry's ice cream containers, also does the Colophon's T-shirts. Walking downstairs, you'll find a string of cow-shaped lights hanging from the thick wooden beam lining the length of the room. Lights shaped like radishes, corn and carrots hang in the kitchen. A cardboard cutout of a cow wears a T-shirt and a cap.

The Dunns opened the cafe in 1985, with just the upstairs portion, at the urging of their friends Chuck and Dee Robinson, who own the adjoining Village Books.

"There was a guy selling ice cream upstairs but he was not doing well," Tiamy explained. "Chuck and Dee asked us to lease some space here, and we did."

After knocking out the wall separating the two establishments, the Dunns opened their sidewalk cafe, styled after those they'd loved during a trip to France. The Pythias Building, where the two businesses are located, was built in 1891. It has also housed a hardware store, a variety store, a clothing store, a speakeasy, and secret societies.

"We'd always loved historical places," Tiamy said, "This building seemed so old and European. It's a real fun place. The upper level has great old ballrooms—I think there are ghosts. They're happy ghosts, though, because they like being here."

The living seem to like it, too. The establishment has been "packed" since opening, Tiamy said. They added more tables outside, but still
couldn't keep up. Two-and-a-half years ago, they decided to expand.

"This (the downstairs) used to have a dirt floor and was used for storage," Tiamy said. "The landlord agreed to renovate if we wanted to rent the space. When we did, we immediately filled up again."

Maybe Mama Colophon brings them in. Mama, "our founder," is a cow that wears shoes and socks. She isn't technically real, but you can see drawings of her on the menu and around the restaurant.

"We are not a fast food place, though we endeavor to prepare our orders in a timely fashion."

Colophon Cafe

"Ice cream comes from cows," Tiamy explained. "So, we thought it was appropriate. Ray just came home and drew her one day."

The Dunn's philosophy is spelled out on the front of the menu.

"We are not a fast food place, though we endeavor to prepare our orders in a timely fashion," it reads.

"We took some suggestions from people," Tiamy said. "Mostly they're things we like. I like peanut butter sandwiches, so that's on the menu. The soups are what Ray makes at home."

The preparation of the food matters to the Dunns.

"Not eating preservatives is important to us," she said. "I'm allergic to MSG (monosodium glutamate). Our food is as pure as we can make it."

Most of the desserts are made right there.

"We have three full-time bakers who come in at midnight," Tiamy said. "We don't quite make everything here, but we're getting close."

Try the cream pies--Chocolate raspberry, mocha espresso and coconut chocolate are among the unique flavors offered. Flavors change daily. Whole pies and cakes are available for take-out, with ten soup pots going, five different kinds are offered per day.

"The person from the health department told me the only place with more soup pots than us is Western," Tiamy said.

The vegetarian African peanut soup, which was first greeted with hesitation from the patrons, has received rave reviews from as far away as San Francisco.

"For about two years, he (Ray) gave little sample cups of it to everyone who walked in the door," Tiamy said. "Pretty soon, half the city was addicted to African peanut soup."

Those who frequent the cafe may want to join the Colophon Cafe Coffee Cup Club. For $25, you get a handmade mug with your name on it and the number of the peg it hangs on. "Mug club members also get special prizes, newsletters, and birthday presents (like yachts, Rolls Royces, or maybe just a bagel with peanut butter on it)," read the table tent.

The Colophon Cafe is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Call ahead, (647-0092), for take-out.
By Samantha Lipoma

Often we live by the motto "nothing will ever happen to me," so fire prevention is something rarely thought of. No one wants to believe one day he or she could be the victim of a devastating fire. But Scott and Janet Payton believe it. Experiencing what may be one of the worst nightmares, they recall it with a surprisingly good outlook.

A fire, January 2, at the Mount Baker Apartments, 308 West Champion, began when a short in a set of Christmas tree lights sparked and burst into flames. Luckily, a neighbor was coming home from work at the same time and saw the tree burst into flames and blow through a window in the lobby. He called the fire department from his cellular phone and they responded in one to two minutes. (The fire station is just around the corner of the Mt. Baker Apartments.)

The fire was put out in minutes, but the Paytons' experience lasted much longer. The smoke was the real problem. "The smoke was so black and thick, we didn't even see a flame," Janet said.

Janet and her husband, Scott, had just gotten home from Christmas break when they heard the fire alarm go off. They put their coats back on and started out the door. The Paytons have experienced three fire alarms before - a small, cooking fire and two drills. So they weren't in any panic.

Noticing puffs of smoke coming out from under the elevator doors, Janet, Scott and Greg DiLoreto, a neighbor and friend, ran down the inside stairwell outside their apartment door. The three knew if it was a hallway fire they were safe, because each hall has a thick metal door blocking it.

As soon as the three reached the third floor it was apparent something was really wrong. They found about 10 people and realized the fire was coming from below. "We were relatively calm compared to some of the others. One girl was screaming like she was gonna die," Scott said.

The smoke was getting worse as they went farther down so everyone ran up to the eighth floor. DiLoreto tried the roof door but it was locked.

It was the first time Janet and Scott thought they might die. "It was scary because we didn't know where the fire was," Janet said.

Then, they all grabbed a hold of each other, crouched to the floor and tried to go further. They couldn't even make it two feet before being forced to turn back. "And that's when we really panicked," Janet said.

The Paytons and Diloreto stayed on the eighth floor while the others went down to lower floor windows. There was only room for three people at each window.

The only way to breathe was to stick their heads out of the window at once making a shield against the smoke billowing up from below.

"Janet and I looked at each other and said 'I love you', and then we both turned to Greg and told him we
loved him too,” Scott said.

The eighth floor became worse because people were opening windows in the stairwell below. Janet told the fireman they were going to be unable to wait till the smoke was cleared. If I would’ve had to wait, they would’ve had to carry me out. It was getting very hard to breathe,” Janet said.

“I could see them working on someone below,” Scott said.

As the people on the lower floors were able to walk out, the Paytons and DiLoreto were climbing down a fire truck ladder to their safety. “I had to stand on the window ledge, hold onto a pipe and swing my leg into the ladder. I can see how people would jump in panic from a fire. I didn’t want to suffocate from the smoke,” said Janet.

“When I was coming down the ladder I was relieved and yet I felt kind of guilty because other people were still in the building,” Scott said.

Although Janet, Scott, DiLoreto and the others got out safely, Peter Albert, Western senior, was seriously burned in the fire and Kim Owner, also a senior, died from smoke inhalation. They were the Paytons’ next door neighbors. “They were always together and both were very nice,” Janet said.

Since Albert and Owner had just returned from break, the Paytons do not think, as widely believed, that the two panicked and got in the elevator. “I know they didn’t use the elevator as an escape route because we would’ve seen them. They had just gotten home and probably were making another trip to unload the car unaware of the fire below,” said Janet.

After Janet came down the ladder the aid person checked her pulse, gave her oxygen from a mask and wrapped her in a blanket. “They asked me questions like ‘How was I feeling?’ and ‘What color was the smoke?’,” she said.

Janet and Scott stayed at a friend’s parents’ house that night and Janet said she had the worst headache of her life and “coughed up black, acrid sludge from her lungs—mostly flu-like symptoms.”

“I couldn’t sleep at all,” she said.

The Red Cross stepped in and paid for all tenants to stay at motels across town. They also gave each tenant a 15-dollar-a-day voucher to use at Denny’s Restaurant. “I am extremely pleased. The Red Cross has been wonderful,” Janet said.

The Red Cross also gave the Payton’s a follow up call to ask if they still needed help.

The tenants had three scheduled times to pick up their personal items and necessities from the apartment. “All of our stuff has a layer of greasy, smoky soot on it. You can’t blow it off like dust, it kind of crumbles,” said Janet.

The apartment manager, Jim Bjerke, said the building should be able to be reoccupied by March and everything is being professionally cleaned.

The Paytons don’t think they’ll move back in. “It’s too long to wait and it inconveniences people. Everyone has been so wonderful. We’ve had more offers than we can count,” said Janet.

Some fire escape rules:

- Remember that smoke and super-heated air are the worst problems. Escape, not fighting the fire, is most important.
- Stay low. Smoke and heat rise, so crouch low and cover your face with a wet cloth if possible.
- Test the doors. Before jerking open a door look for signs of smoke and listen for sounds of fire.
- Use the windows. Try to wait for the fire department to rescue you. Signal that you need help. If you can, knot together sheets and blankets to make a makeshift rope or hang from the windowsill and drop to the ground.
- Close doors. Closing doors behind you will cut off air to the blaze and slow the fire’s advance.
- Alert others. Let others know that the fire is out of control.
- Call 911. Never assume someone else will call the fire department.
- Once you’re out, stay out. Never reenter unless under extreme circumstances.

Janet Payton
Love

Western Students Kiss & Tell

By Leah Linscott

Love can make people do crazy things. But camping in a cow pasture surrounded by cows? This just wasn’t normal. Was it? The funny thing is, “cow camping” was just the beginning of what Western students have done for “love”.

At the risk of exposing themselves to the world, here’s what a few brave Viking souls confessed:

“I walked to Lake Samish from campus in the freezing cold in the middle of the night to get my girlfriend’s car keys after she had locked herself out, while she kept warm inside the building.”

Jason Studebaker, 21
environmental studies

“I sung a love song in the middle of the Seattle Center to my boyfriend.”

Lisa Goodrich, 21
elementary ed / social studies

“My girlfriend broke up with me, so I spent time with her. I started parachuting with her. I never thought I’d jump out of planes for anyone.”

Lee Taylor
business management

“I made love in my dad’s potato field.”

Kim Hanses, 22
psychology

“I babbled a girl’s name endlessly while I was in a coma. When I came out of it, I declared my undying love to her.”

Mike Navarre, 21
undecided

“My girlfriend broke up with me, so I started parachuting with her. I never thought I’d jump out of planes for anyone.”

Kerry Newman, 22
special education

“I drove 200 miles every weekend for two months for love!”

Mark Smith, 21
education

“I saw this really cute girl and even though I had no idea who she was, I wrote her a letter, sort of a personal advertisement about myself, asking her to meet me somewhere. I carried that letter around for three miles in the middle of a freezing cold night to buy a thermometer and medicine for my boyfriend when he was sick.”

Lee Taylor
business management

“I regressed back to childhood by giving homemade cards and posters to my boyfriend for no special reason. For example, Happy Monday Night!”

Padget Dean, 22
psychology

“When I was in Hawaii, I saw two girls in a convertible I thought were attractive and I jumped headfirst into the car.”

Kirk Petersen, 21
psychology

“On my birthday, I flew to Boston to see my boyfriend. I hadn’t seen him for six months. . . . without my parents knowing. I hope they don’t see this, they still don’t know.”

Erin Duggan, 20
commercial recreation

“I walked three

Patrick Au-Yeung
weeks before I finally gave it to her. After I gave it to her I waited for the big date to come, and when it did arrive I waited and waited in the place we were supposed to meet, but she never showed up. I found out later she was an airhead with a seven-foot boyfriend.”

Danny Gellert, 23
English/writing

"I always make sure I have nice underwear on."
Jay Daily

“I’m mean to my boyfriend to see how much he really loves me and to see if he’ll forgive me.”

Karen Lane Hingston, 22
Western graduate

“When I was in the first grade, I held a boy down and kissed him all over.”

Mimi Donovan, 22
graphic design

“I always make sure I have nice underwear on.”

Jay Daily, 21
art

“I quit partying on weekends. I’d be home by 9 p.m. to be sure to answer the phone. That lasted a quarter.”

Joel Heidal, 21
business/computer science

“My boyfriend and I were trying to find a place to camp at night on this river. When we woke up we found out we were in a cow pasture surrounded by cows.”

Morning Anderson, 20
outdoor recreation

“I actually sat at home waiting for a phone call!”

Julie Dunnweber, 21
economics/mathematics

“I was studying with this girl I liked, so I hid her sweatshirt so she’d have to come back. She did. By golly, now were engaged.”

Scott Wisenburg, 23
Western graduate

“I flew out to the coast to see my boyfriend and we slept on the beach under a Hobie Cat.”

Chyleene Eberhardt, 22
psychology

“I drove to Olympia every weekend for a quarter to find out I WASN’T in love.”

Bart Grohe, 24
accounting

Although relationships generally start out innocently enough, don’t be so surprised if you wake up with a cow-pie pillow. You could be in love.
By Tasha James

I don't want you to beat me or anything," said my daughter Jenny, soon after I had gotten home from school.

"What are you talking about?" I said, feeling very offended that she would say that to me after spending all of her 11 unbeaten years with me.

"I went to the rally today," she said.

We had just been talking about "some children" who had left the grounds of Fairhaven Middle School without parental permission, and what they were told would happen to them if they left anyway. The rally was on Western's campus on Jan. 15, the day of the deadline for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

"Mom, I didn't know anything about it until the kids at school started talking about it, so I couldn't get permission," Jenny said.

I've been a mother for 11 years but I was not prepared for the argument going on inside me as I struggled with the parental instinct of "You skipped school and now you are in big trouble" and the feeling that said, "Wow, you must have felt very strongly about this issue; what a big decision you had to make! I'm so proud of you!"

Around 2,500 people rallied for peace on Western's campus.

Considering that I'm a person who has signed all my letters 'Peaceful ways' since before Jenny was born and my dove collection continues to grow, I had a hard time not smiling as I told her, "My punishment for you is that you have to write an essay on your experience."

She was unable to hide her smile after five hours of imagining that her mother was going to turn violent at the thought of her child going to a peace rally.

I'm so glad to be through those teenage years and lucky for Jenny I can still remember how it felt to be craving adulthood while fearing the unknown.

"Our teacher told us we would have to choose between detention after school or Saturday school, if we went to the rally without permission. I'll choose after-school detention," she said responsibly.

She knew the consequences of her actions as she left her school to go to the rally, which was over a mile away. What was scariest to her was not the fear of detention but the fear of meeting me at the peace rally, so she had no peace of mind all day because of that possibility.

Her friend, Alison Leigh, also walked with her to the rally without permission. When they were offered a ride in the back of a pickup by "someone's mother," Jenny refused the ride because there were no seat belts. A warm smile came over my heart because I knew my not-yet-teenage daughter was making adult decisions.

Decisions about Western's rally were difficult not only for the middle school students but also those who are responsible for the children while they're at school.
"I know that 60 or so left but I have no way of knowing how many of them attended the rally," said Gail Aarstol, the principal at Fairhaven Middle School.

The night before the rally, Aarstol received calls from Fairhaven teachers who had concerns about some children feeling pressured into attending the rally.

"We made the decision to talk with the teachers in the morning and ask them to allow time during the daily advisory period for the children to talk about these issues," Aarstol said. "We offered a forum at noon and we had counselors on staff. It is legitimate for them to have individual concerns."

"We have a closed-campus policy that says once you come to school, you don't leave," Aarstol said. "Once the students are here, we are responsible for them. Parents expect their children to be in school, so when they leave campus it puts us in an intangible position."

It sounded to me as though Jenny also felt she was in an intangible position because she had to make a decision between what she was required to do and what she felt was right.

"I had to go because I didn't want our soldiers to go to war." Jenny James

right. "I had to go because I didn't want our soldiers to go to war," Jenny said. "I was scared of the threat of thousands of people being killed, so I wanted to say how I felt about war."

"I have been punished but my mother has never grounded me before and I thought that I might be grounded," Alison said. "When we walked home after the rally, I thought, 'my mom protested the Vietnam War,' so, I thought she'd understand that we needed to get our feelings out. We are young but we have feelings, too."

Alison's mother, Georgia Leigh, said she was supportive of her daughter's decision to go because children's concerns about war are real and need to be explored and dealt with.

"My main concern was for their safety in getting to the college and during the rally," Georgia said. "I also wondered about the remarks that would be made in the speeches. Protesters can be war-like verbally so I was concerned, but she was able to ask questions that came up after attending the rally. Communication was opened up."

Connie Copeland, assistant vice
president/student life, said Western's staff and the university police were aware of the youths on campus.

"The university is a public place. The reality is that when 2,500 people are together, there is a risk of a disruption. The issue of safety must be monitored."

"We are reviewing the issues of youths being on campus during an event like this at a time when they should be attending their classes," Copeland said. "This is the first time I am aware of that middle school students were on campus for this type of event."

Many children visit the campus on school field trips or for swimming lessons and will be permitted to continue those visits, she said. Only their unofficial attendance of events during their regular school hours is being reviewed at this time.

Copeland talked with several of the middle school youths who expressed a clear understanding of the decisions they made and why they wanted to attend the rally.

"The youths on campus felt very strongly about this issue and continue to try to sort out how they should respond to the events and issues," she said. "In the past it never would have occurred to us (children would) be involved but today the parents are talking to their children about this war."

Parents should encourage and validate the opinions of their children, while also expressing their own opinions, which should be backed up with reasons, she said.

The situation in the Persian Gulf changes on a daily basis, so discussions of those changes and the resulting emotions should take place every day. A child's capacity to understand and the need to talk must be taken into consideration so that there is not an overload of information, she said.

"For all of us this is a teachable moment concerning personal values and world events," Copeland said. "The world needs for youth and parents to maximize this experience. It's going to the rally would accomplish people being heard on what they think of the war," Jenny said.

I was disappointed, but not surprised, when Alison told me about some of their classmates condemning them for their involvement in the rally.

"Children in our class had negative comments and they treated us quite rude when we went back to class the next day," Alison said. "They called us 'hippies', which isn't bad, my mom was a hippy, but I thought it wasn't right for them to treat us that way. It took more guts for us to go out there than it took to stay at school."
Students Hit The Right Note

By Margret Graham

"Just moving your feet around or bobbing your head isn't enough weight for you to feel where that beat is," Chuck Israels explains. "You've got to set your whole torso in motion too, get your whole weight moving against the earth like a pendulum."

Israels, Western music department's jazz director, is leading the five o'clock jazz ensemble through his arrangements of "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum," a Depression-era song. The pulse is suffering, and this is far from the first reading.

"Somebody dance with me," he says. Nobody moves. They know he means it.

"Seriously, I want someone to come and waltz with me. Come on." He looks from one to the other and grins. "Won't one of you ladies deign to dance with me?"

After a few more minutes of hesitation, Dawn, a tenor sax player, steps forward and joins him as the horns play their opening figures. He waltzes to show what he means: rhythm must be set internally.

"One, two, three; one, two, three," he counts as the trumpets steady their pace to fit the dance. On the next run through the piece, the notes begin to lock into place. The band is getting used to these sometimes off-the-wall illustrations. It's not uncommon for their director to jog to the beat to show how it feels when parts are rushed. Rhythms, he maintains, are confusing on the page.

"You know how this goes," he said in his New York accent. "You know what it's supposed to sound like. You're just getting confused by the way it looks." A baffling figure can be translated into accented words.

"Package of gum, package of gum," he repeats, making the band say it along with him. The way a certain type of music is played can be referred to in terms of language. "You're reading it right, but what you're saying doesn't make sense. It's like my daughter reading the milk carton at breakfast: ho-mo-gen-i-zed. That's exactly how it's spelled, but it's wrong." He grins. Gradually the sounds are shaped into jazz concepts.

Whether one is a newcomer to jazz and a novice at one's instrument, or in advanced studies after playing professionally since high school, the basement of the Performing Arts Center is the place to be. Western's jazz program - in which the five o'clock band is the entry-level group - draws talented musicians from all corners. At least, Chuck Israels does.

"I didn't come to Western, I came to Chuck," says Mark Alexander, a jazz bassist and principal player in Western's orchestra. "I bounced around between a lot of schools looking for a teacher. When I met Chuck I dropped everything and came right away...I didn't know what to expect. I didn't ask questions about anything else."

A short, intense man of 54, Israels has been on the jazz scene since he gave up trying to be an engineer. He "found the courage to continue to be a musician," and flunked out of Michigan Institute of Technology. His career since then has been a kaleidoscope.

After getting a liberal arts education from a college near Boston he took his bass to Europe. "I played jazz with a lot of famous ex-patriot Americans," he said. Back in the States, he "fell into" professional jazz playing through friends from college, and made his way back to New York, where he grew up. "I discovered I could make a living as a bass player,"
Student Dean Scott concentrates on the music.

Israels explains. He worked for Benny Goodman, and spent six years with Bill Evans. He stayed in New York, freelancing and playing on Broadway, and even conducted a Broadway musical called "Promises, Promises," by the songwriter/playwright team Burt Bacharach and Neil Simon.

Israels moved onto a teaching job at Brooklyn college and began a jazz repertory company, the National Jazz Ensemble. Nine years later Israels handed the business over to his assistant and moved to San Francisco with his family. That's where he was five years ago, when he came to Western on special request.

"I'd never oriented my activities toward the kind of security this job gives," Israels admits.

As for living in a small town, away from the big-city jazz world, he says, "It has its limitations in terms of the number of people with whom I can work on a high level, but it's more fun. I've found a way to enjoy working with people with that lack of background... My point of view about myself is that what I do is not wildly different from what my students do - I've just been doing it longer."

Alexander said he values Israels' talents and experience. What attracted Alexander to Israels is the fact he could get personal attention any time in his playing. He considers Israels as "a working professional musician of the highest level, who's willing to take the time," he explains.

Israels' jazz program has helped musicians to develop their potentials as high playing, professionally. Many students, like Alexander, make money playing extracurricular engagements. Baritone sax player John Gudmundson took time off last quarter to tour with Florence Henderson and Pat Boone. Doug Coutts, a saxophonist in his fifth year, was drawn to Western to play jazz and is a member of Group Sax, a saxophone quartet that has made its off-campus debut at Tony's in Old Fairhaven. The group, composed of Coutts, Gudmundson, Ruben Watson and Nick Scherzinger, plays everything from classical to rock, but got its start in jazz.

In addition to the five and twelve o'clock bands, a more competitive band than the five o'clock band, Israels has organized the Little Big Band which plays outside engagements and social functions for the department. One instrument on each part allows him to do something new in composing and arranging, which he does for all the groups he directs. "I wanted it small - bigger than a combo, smaller than a big band, to be flexible... Most of my playing has been in trios and quartets."

Plans to revive the vocal jazz program are in the works as Israels and department chair Bruce Pullan work out schedule conflicts. This spring the two are introducing a new vocal ensemble and by next year they hope to have a six-voice acapella group. "We're not sure yet how we're going to organize it," Israels says.

Meanwhile, Israels is planning a professional leave in the spring of 1992 to take care of odds and ends. Every once in a while he says he needs to get away from Bellingham and back to the fast lane, where old friends are still playing. "It recharges my batteries," he says. But teaching is an important part of Israels' music now and he wants to help students understand what he has learned, and not just about music.

'I hope they realize that you can be doing something in your life that's pleasurable and make it work for you," he says. "It's really worth it to figure that out."

The hours of rehearsal with Israels and countless evenings spent practicing in the PAC basement have made a closely-knit, dedicated group of performers who hold music as a common form of expression.

"That's what we do. We play music," he adds with emphasis. "It's more than a class or an assignment. That's what we do."

John Ketcham
By Tracy Brewder

Not everybody is able to travel to an exotic land covered with palm trees to acquire a natural tan for the spring. An hour from Bellingham there is a place offering a great tan and much more.

Mount Baker's ski area is a great recreation spot for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snowboarding. With all the needed resources, such as transportation and ski rentals, available to Western students, it is possible for everyone to enjoy Mount Baker and get a tan this spring.

"Spring skiing at Baker is fun, you can dress lightly, it's incredibly warm and you get a great tan from the bright sun reflecting from the snow," said Western student Loren Jackson.

"The cross-country ski trail is great for everyone. It's not to steep, yet someone looking for more of a challenge can take advantage of some steep hills leading right off of the trail," said Mirabai Benck, assistant coordinator of the outdoor program.

The Snowboarding National Amateur Champion and visual communications major Jeff VanKleeck who heads the Western snowboarding club said, "The snow is soft in the spring and it's a good time to learn how to snowboard."

Mount Baker's ski area is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday through Monday. During spring break the ski area is open every day for two solid weeks starting March 23 through April 7. The last day of skiing at Mount Baker is May 12.

Pam Sralick, a Mount Baker employee said, "We close at that time, not because the snow is dwindling away, but because people are heading towards more summer type activities." She also explained because of the location of the mountain the temperatures remain colder and the ski conditions are really good.

The entire lift operation is spread out to include six chairlifts, two rope tows and a new quad chair. The quad chair leaves from the new parking lot and ticket booth which are located on the west side of the ski area. Other facilities include the ski shop, day lodge and Razor Hone Cafe.

The ski shop has everything from boots to sun block. In the spring, wearing sun block is as important as a wearing a coat in the winter. The high altitudes and reflection from the snow will burn any exposed areas, especially lips and ears. Besides the practical ski items the ski shop also sells souvenir items such as ski pins and sweatshirts.

The day lodge is the home of the brown baggers. Fast food, deli and bar facilities are also available. A buzz of noisy ski chat and thumping ski boots fill the room as everyone eats together at long wooden tables with benches.

Inside and outside dining in the midst of the ski area is offered at the Razor Hone Cafe. The smell of tropical sun tan oil and zinc oxide lingers around the large outdoor deck of the cafe in the spring where skiers and snowboarders alike work on a sun tan and enjoy the mountain scenery.

The ski terrain is divided up for three different levels.
Matt Remine blazes down the slalom to finish in the top ten in a recent competition.

of skiers. Approximately 30 percent of the terrain is for novice. The trails are wide and smooth with a few small hills. Intermediate terrain dominates the ski area by 50 percent with some mogul runs and steeper hills. The face of the mountain, including the steepest terrain and biggest moguls, covers the 20 percent of the trails designated for the advanced skiers. All trails are highlighted and marked by the difficulty of terrain on maps and by colored signs on the slopes.

Lift prices on the weekend and holidays are $22 for adults. If you are only skiing from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. you can purchase a half-day ticket for $17. Merilee Dazell, a business major at Western who also moonlights as a member of the ski patrol at Mount Baker said, "Weekdays are your best bet for skiing since there are rarely any lines and the ski area is quiet and peaceful." Not to mention that it will cost a lot less money. Mid-week lift prices for adults are $14 and lift operations begin at 9 a.m. The cross-country ski trail is $3 every day.

Skiing lessons are available through the George Savage ski school at Mount Baker. It is a certified school and prices for an hour and a half lesson can start as low as $13 with a group up to $45 for a semi-private lesson. All group lessons have anywhere from four to ten people. The school teaches all levels of skiers and you can sign up for lessons the day you go skiing.

Western student Gina Patelli, a ski instructor for two years with George Savage said, "The advantage of taking lessons at Mount Baker opposed to the Big Three (Snoqualmie, Alpental and Ski Acres) is that it's not as crowded."

Quality ski equipment rented at low prices is available at the Valhalla outdoor equipment rental center in Viking Union 104. Even if you have your own gear, you can use the shop to hot wax and tune your skis for only 50 cents. Ski packages are available for students, alumni and faculty for $12-$13.50 per day, students receive a 10 percent discount.

Eric Ludwig, Valhalla manager, said, "The cross-country and downhill ski equipment is about a year old and we have enough gear for 40 to 50 people." Snowboards are also available for $20 a weekend.

If transportation to Mount Baker poses a problem then the Outdoors Program has the solution. Take the Magic Bus. The bus is actually a van which can hold up to 15 people. The van leaves at 7 a.m. Saturdays from the VU holding area. The transportation costs $6.50 and you must sign up by 2 p.m. the Friday before in VU 207.

Mount Baker is 56 miles east of Bellingham on State Route 542-A. Just take I-5 heading north of Bellingham and get off on the Mount Baker exit. Before you head up to the mountains it's a good idea to call the ski report, 671-0211, and check on weather and driving conditions to ensure a safe trip.
By Patricia Cleveland

"The land of Palestine gave rise to one of the most ancient of all civilizations....It is the only place in the world where a town can date back nine thousand years. Jericho is the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, being four thousand years older than any other urban settlement known at present," writes Edward W. Said in the "Profile of the Palestinian People." "It is one of the greatest ironies of history that in the middle of the twentieth century-in the Golden age of peoples' rights to self-determination-Palestine was dropped from the map of the world."

After World War I, Palestine was experiencing dramatic change under a British mandate and colonization of Zionists (Jewish settlers moving into Palestine to transform it into what is known as today's Israel). Zionists denied the existence of a Palestinian culture and paraded before the world as the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, writes Said.

"Palestinian people were scheduled to become aliens in their own land," writes Said.

Half of Palestine was given to the Jews after 1948 and in 1967 the rest of Arab Palestine became Jewish Israel, and native Palestinians became landless peasants in their own land. They were put in occupied areas of Israel and lived in refugee camps.
"I grew up all my life in a refugee camp and went to school in Bethlehem because refugee camps don’t have schools," Sami Wuara, a 26-year-old Palestinian refugee and resident of Bellingham, said. "The United Nations help Palestinian refugees get an education. I finished high school in Bethlehem and worked for the Israelis."

Sami attends Whatcom Community College in Bellingham and is studying computer science. He is married to an American named Holly, who is a 25-year-old Western student. Holly was living in Israel when she met Sami through one of his friends who worked for a Palestinian newspaper.

After Sami married Holly in Jerusalem, Holly lived with Sami and his family in a West Bank refugee camp. In 1988 they applied for Sami’s immigrant visa and came to the United States to live in Holly’s home town, Bellingham.

Sami sits on the wooden floor of his Bellingham apartment with his head bowed. His hair is blackish-brown, thick and wavy, and his eyes are deep green. Sami smiles a lot in his nervousness and makes gentle gestures with his hands as he speaks about Israel in a heavy Arabic accent.

"We are a problem to Israel, so they try to get rid of us. They make things very hard for the Palestinian. The Palestinians are denied basic human rights," Holly said. "Israel can’t find any way to justify the way they treat the Palestinians," Holly said. "The refugees in the occupied areas of Israel are not considered citizens of Israel, yet they still pay taxes and are very oppressed."

"Palestinians have been suffering from the Israelis. You see, a Palestinian doesn’t care too much about their life any more because they aren’t enjoying life," Sami said. "They’re always in prison. They can’t go from city to city.
Soldiers will stop their cars and make them stand on one leg, or lie on the ground or pull their pants down. The soldiers come to their houses and take them to prison, or don't let them leave their houses, which is like prison. They've just lost hope in life. Dying is better than living. So in this circumstance, they will be thinking maybe Saddam will do something to help us.

"I would say the Iraqis are more loose about Palestinians. Most Arab countries require that we have visas to visit them, Iraq doesn't. Iraq has been letting Palestinians in and out of their country. The Iraqis are more likely to be friendlier (to Palestinians)," he said.

"It's not just my view, but other Palestinians, as well, are not happy about any of the Arab countries, including Saddam in Iraq. I don't think it's right for Iraq to invade Kuwait, but still, Palestinians feel like everyone has freedom except them," he said. "Palestinians suffer, go hungry and are killed everyday. They feel like the Arab world and countries like the U.S. who support the Arab world, don't think of the Palestinian or try to help them. Palestinians have a lot of madness inside of themselves toward most Arab countries."

"The Palestinians have tried everything to get their land back. They've tried to be terrorists and they've tried to be peaceful too. The Palestinian people who have been suffering, they think anything is worth it to get a better life," he said.

Israel wants as much land as possible so they can bring Jews from all over the world to Israel, Sami stated. In the last few months, Israel has been bringing Russian Jews into the country. As a result, many Palestinians have lost their jobs because they are given to the Jewish immigrants.

He said the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization), has tried to make peace in the last few months by going to the United Nations. Peaceful demonstrations have been going on in Israel and Sami says he thinks this has helped the world see more of what the Israelis have been doing to the Palestinians.

"If the Israelis were Christians or Hindus it wouldn't matter. We just want our land back. People think it's a religious war of Jew against Muslim, but that's not true.

A young Palestinian Boy shows his support for his people by wearing a black-and-white pattern scarf, known as a "hijab."

Palestinians are both Christian and Muslim. It's just people fighting for freedom."

Sami spoke strongly about his views of the American media.

"The media here in America doesn't show what's going on. For me, I get hurt everyday because I can't do anything. I get so frustrated when I watch television because they only show one side and they lie about us," he said. "I lived there, and I know what's going on. So when I see lies on the television it hurts me so much. Many Palestinians get killed everyday, but you don't hear about them. But if an Israeli is killed you hear 'a Palestinian terrorist killed them'."

He said because he believes the American media doesn't report incidents of Israelis killing Palestinians, most Palestinians are labeled as terrorists which isn't true, they're just fighting back.

"America gives more money to Israel than any other country in the world. So Palestinians hate America like they do Israel," Holly said. "Israel is like a colony of the United States. So Americans really have a hard time when they see Palestinians burning the American flag on television — they're not very sympathetic of the Palestinian. But also here in America we only hear the Israeli side, which is very convincing. I think the big culture gap between political leaders in the Middle East and America is the problem."

Sami has only met one Palestinian since he's been in America. At first living here was hard because he had to rely on Holly to communicate for him.

"I used to have people around me all the time; America is different. I guess I'm used to strong relationships because my friends and I suffered so much in the refugee camp."

Sami telephones his family often. But right now he is worried because the Palestinian camps are under curfew, their coming and going is controlled by Israeli soldiers, and he can't get a hold of them.

Sami stared at the floor with watery eyes. He knows Saddam isn't bombing the West Bank, but he has bombed Baghdad.

"I have a brother and family in Baghdad. I really worry about them, I really do."
Espresso: A Cup Of Life

By Bretha Urness-Straight

Swish, swish, swish. The milk steamer heats the cold milk in the stainless steel pitcher. The Italian Astoria brand espresso machine fills two Lilliputian-sized pitchers with the dark aromatic liquid of Tony's coffee. The steam from the hot foamy milk rises into the cold February air and impatient customers await their daily fix.

“Ididn’t mean for it to be my career,” says the 31-year-old entrepreneur clad in faded blue jeans and blue galoshes. “I kind of got into it by default.” Ruth Dawson, a 1986 Western Washington University graduate, has been vending espresso drinks for close to two years now.

“It’s like falling in love. I never thought I would be doing this,” Ruth said. “It’s not what I thought I would be doing with my degree.”

Ruth started her education at Western in 1977 and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. “It took me nine years to get my B.A.,” she said. “I think it took so long because I was majoring in crew.”

Ruth, a transplanted Seattleite and an avid espresso drinker, believed she could sell espresso to college students at Western.

“Every morning I would stop by Nordstrom or the Bagelry to get my good coffee. I decided, hey, maybe if I get an espresso machine I can sell it to college students.”

“I got in the business at a good time. I started with a Krups (espresso machine) from home and for six months I made $6 a day.”

Ruth initially thought that she would be able to carry all the needed supplies and equipment on the bus. But before long, she discovered she had a booming business and the Renegade Coffee Company was born.

“I had to buy a car for the first time in my life,” she said, “and I had to buy a bigger (espresso) machine ... matter a fact, I’m still paying for it.”

Ruth’s boyfriend, Ted Gregg, has been instrumental in helping her become successful.

“I started this business just as we started going out,” she said. “He’s been the inspiration, but he hasn’t really worked here until the past year.”

Ted encouraged her during the hard times to keep going, Ruth said. He supported her ideas and dreams of being self employed.

Ruth opens her espresso bar early every morning with the help of her boyfriend.

“He is the behind-the-scenes-thankless guy. He’s the one who gets up at 5 a.m. and comes here and sets up,” she says. “We open at 7:30 a.m., my poor boyfriend sets up at about 6:15 a.m. With the way they run this (vendor’s row) you can’t reserve a spot.”

Because Ruth has built up a regular clientele she has an unusual credit policy. “We have a loose credit policy. Anybody who looks honest gets credit,” she says. “They have the responsibility of remembering and I promise to forget.”

Ruth’s loyal clientele not only get their favorite espresso drinks when they come to see Ruth, they also get a few words of wisdom.

“She does them (espressos) the same every day and she’s here every day,” said Pete Elich, a regular customer and a university grounds keeper. “She’s pretty influential person up here on campus. A few words of wisdom and a latte.”

“Ruth dispenses philosophy, whether they want it or not,” adds another espresso drinker.

Ruth gives advice on how to get through a rough day, a hard exam or a difficult time in a relationship.

What does Ruth like best about her espresso bar? “The people, when I’m in a good mood ... but sometimes that’s what I hate about it, too.”

Ruth hates it when students get impatient and grumpy with her when her line gets long. But she finds the pressure of being a vendor on campus much worse.

“The worst thing is the, ... um, the not knowing if we can continue it. The uncertainty of the university policy and the lack thereof,” she said.

Western’s administration has not officially recognized vendor’s row as a place where many people make a living, she says. Instead the policy is that there is ‘no policy,’ because if there were a policy the administration would have to face the conflict of the vendor.

“In a real job there isn’t security anyway ... so there isn’t a difference, really. We only pay $25 a month, so I guess we get what we pay for,” she concludes.

“I don’t want to do this forever,” she says. “Maybe I will wait until it falls on its face and then see what else I can do.”
By Ted C. Schuehle

A crowd of college students slowly poured into the dimly lit armory near the University of Idaho in the small town of Moscow. Although the voices were unfamiliar, the events that were about to occur were not. I stood in the darkness backstage with the band, running an automatic checklist through my head. "Yes, the microphones have been checked, the monitors are in working order...wait! Have I tuned my bass?" But my thoughts were then interrupted.

"O.K. boys, let's rock-n-roll," said Ralph Eronemo, the sound technician and manager of my band, The Waiting. Playing in a band can be exciting and rewarding, but the mental and physical preparation each member goes through before a live show can be exhausting.

"Moscow is a hard five-hour drive from Seattle, but traveling with a group of guys I've known since third grade helped me mentally prepare for this show," said Marty McOmber, lead guitarist and backing vocalist for the band, just minutes before the concert began.

From the side of the stage, red and blue lights glared in my eyes making me squint, but in a matter of minutes, the multi-colored lights became natural, like the brightness of the sun after you wake on a summer morning.

"We've been playing together for six years," said lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, David Eronemo. "We don't get nervous on stage anymore. It's become totally natural to perform live. When we first started in high school, though, the thought of performing on stage in front of a lot of people actually scared the hell out of me."

When The Waiting first started playing together in high school, we were worried about making mistakes on stage. Not only is it frustrating, but it can be rather embarrassing to play the wrong notes of a song.

A voice broke my stare into the colored lights. "'Australia,' let's start with that song tonight," said drummer and backing vocalist Paul Michaels, as we finally faced the anxious audience.

Clapping, screaming and whistling echoed with our arrival on stage. The drum sticks immediately clicked together with Paul's voice in sync with the sticks, "one..., two..., one, two, three, four!" We began what we had done several hundred times before.

The drums and guitars pounded 1600 watts of music to the standing audience. I hit the first note on my bass as David blared the first line of the fast-paced song, "I could be there for you..."

"The first line of 'Australia' kind of lets our audience know how we feel," David said. "We're on stage for their entertainment. Also, the first song of a show is very important, it gets the crowd into our style of music and makes them want more."

The stage lights flickered from red to yellow, then back to several different shades of blue and green. Planned darkness filled the stage, coinciding with the natural pauses of the songs. White spotlights illuminated the drums from underneath as several colors bounced off the silver rims of the drums.

"Setting up these lights before the show gets real time-consuming, but it's worth it," said Scot Baker, light technician and assistant manager of the band. "I find the lights to be equally important to a live show as the band, because without the lights the audience can get pretty bored. What's a concert without a spectacular light show?" Baker
Minutes into the first song, two males with long hair found their way on stage, ran around for a few seconds and jumped, head first, back into a waiting crowd: An event called stage diving that can be dangerous, but equally exciting.

"The more the crowd gets into one of our shows the better we play. It boosts our ability to perform when a bunch of crazy kids go nuts over our show," Paul said.

As David and Marty strummed the strings of their guitars, David's mouth hugged the microphone, and I looked down to the song list taped to the stage. Before the song ends, mentally reciting how the next one begins is very important, because it establishes a tightness between songs, rather than a lot of unwanted noise.

Four minutes into the show, "Australia" ended, the stage went black and the crowd gave its approval. Sweat began to trickle down my forehead, stinging my eyes, but it is this pain that tells me I am playing to my full capacity, and the pain becomes worth it.

After playing 22 songs, Paul made a brief announcement in the microphone, "We're gonna take a short break, so don't nobody go nowhere!" The stage went black and our band was replaced with a tape which played dance songs, to keep the audience occupied.

Backstage we had enough time to wipe the sweat off our faces and change into dry shirts. The breaks usually last about 20 minutes, then we do another 20-to-25-song set.

"During the last song, I'm going to introduce the band, so be prepared," Ralph said as he tuned the guitars.

We decided to cut the last set to 24 songs and then end the show.

The blue lights came on, giving a gloomy midnight glow to the stage. This was our cue to go back and play.

"The feeling of going on stage, especially with the enthusiasm. "Boys and girls, I'd like to introduce to you, the boys responsible for this awesome display of music. On lead guitar, Mr. Marty 'Bolder' McOmber. Thumping the bottom, on the bass guitar, Mr. Ted 'Ace' Schuehle. The man that's keeping them steady, on drums, Mr. Paul 'Stripes' Michaels. And singing the lyrics you've all grown to love, the one and only, Mr. David 'Dr. Love' Eronemo. This is The Waiting!"

The crowd screamed as we finished playing the last notes on our instruments. David, Marty and I left the stage while Paul was still pounding on the drums. The red and white lights surrounding Paul's drums slowly began to fade.

With heavy breathing, Paul spoke our final words, "Thank you, good night."

The next two hours were dedicated to taking down all the equipment, packing it into the bed of an oversized Ford pick-up truck and driving one hour toward another city and another group of people.
Roberta Rochel, a history secondary education major, must drive to campus for a three and a half hour class.

She parks behind Miller Hall, pulling into the closest spot she can find next to a lamp post. She climbs out of her silver Daytona, cautiously looking at the wooded area behind her, while at the same time, quickly locking her car door. She then speed walks around Miller Hall to her class in Bond Hall, all along knowing that in three and a half hours she will have to make the return trip once again, in the dark.

Many students at Western take night classes and encounter problems of unavailable parking spaces, walking alone at night and transportation.

"I'm frustrated that the most convenient areas to park are not available to me as a student with a night class. I refuse to park behind the Environmental Studies building at night, it would freak me out. It's away from everything and has dimly lit walkways to campus," Rochel said.

Ann Wallace, manager for the Western parking department said specific parking lots are available to night class students. Any G, V or C lot is open after 5 p.m., without a permit. Lots 10 G and 8 V, behind Miller Hall are restricted parking until after 8 p.m., for faculty and employees. A limited number of permits, at no charge, for this area are available to students.

"We can't guarantee everybody close parking to their class. It's strictly on a first-come, first-serve basis. It just depends on how early you get there," Wallace said.

Special night events on campus, such as games at Carver Gym or performances at the Performing Arts Center, may often block off specific parking lots, however, signs are posted giving alternative areas to park, Wallace said.

"We have reserved parking for basketball games, but we prohibit basketball patrons from parking in lots 31 G and 17 V (behind Environmental Studies and Arntzen Hall), so night students can park there," Wallace said.

Stacy Baker, a night class student, said "I just park where I can, if there's a game at the gym, I have to go down by Higginson or Mathes. I don't mind walking to campus, because there's usually a lot of people around at 6 p.m. After class, I try to offer a ride home to a friend that lives on the ridge or nearby. That way they don't have to walk alone either."

University police offer an escort service around the clock, which is emphasized during the evenings. No reservations are required. Lt. Dave Doughty said the escort will take you "anywhere on campus or anywhere on campus," whether it is in the student patrol vehicle, a police car or a student patrol on foot. They will arrive as soon as they can, after they receive the call. The number to call for escort service is 676-3555.

The night shuttle bus is another option for students who live on or near campus. The shuttle is operated from the Viking Union (V.U.) on every hour and half hour. Flyers showing a map of each stop are available at the V.U. information booth and university residences.

"There have not been any serious problems for a long time (years) with anyone getting attacked. The student patrol goes to work at 4 p.m., so there's more patrol on campus at night," Doughty said.

Doughty recommends if students must be out alone at night that they have their keys ready in hand as you walk to their car or house. That way they are not fumbling around for them and can lessen the time of being vulnerable to attack.

Keys can also be used as a defense, but Doughty discourages any other type of weapons.

"You can use keys to scratch or poke at an attacker's eyes, but if you're not psychologically ready to use something as a weapon, it becomes more of a liability than an asset," he said. "If you're going to kick an attacker, mean it. Do it to hurt them, otherwise you'll just make them mad and then they'll hurt you. It requires some pre-thought to know you want to hurt someone."

One general safety precaution Doughty suggested is to walk in well lit areas, in groups of two or three.

"Be alert to the things around you. Don't be so deep in thought that you're not aware of your surroundings," Doughty concluded.
By Darril Fosty

In May 1990, a 17-year-old Bellingham boy was beaten and robbed for his skateboard and Air Jordan basketball shoes by three gang members.

In June 1990, a gang member involved in a fight at a party. He returned later with a car load of friends and one of them fired a bullet through the front door of the house, slightly wounding a male.

On October 1990, a known gang member receives a one year sentence for the rape of a 14-year-old girl.

These are only a few of the crimes being committed by Bellingham gangs as they attempt to assert their "take no prisoners" attitude on the city. Their involvement in everything from petty theft and minor assault to rapes, robberies and shootings have forced local law enforcement agencies to wage a war against the gangs.

Heading the battle is Bellingham Police Detective Todd Ramsey who is in charge of monitoring local gang activity.

"My specialty is gangs," Ramsey said. "I know all the people. I know where they live, what they do, who they hang out with and where they are."

From the modest beginnings of a rap singing band consisting of one Los Angeles Crip and two Black Gangster Disciples from Chicago and Seattle they began Recruiting for the Murder-1 Posse (M-1's). Three different gangs emerged: the M-1's, the Road Runner Park Rips and the Skinheads. According to Bellingham police records more than 200 people are involved in gangs ranging from 13 to 25 years old. They have all been identified by the police as either members or associates, people who are in regular contact with gang members.

These numbers are conservative due to the police's fear of mistakenly
labeling someone who is not involved in a gang. Jim Schelinski, president of the support group PAGE (Parents Against Gang Entrapment), said the numbers may be well over 300 members and associates if fringe members are included.

Kids are attracted to gangs because of their appeal of a sense of family and acceptance.

“When a kid is not involved in any educational sport... has no sense of belonging or has a poor self image you are going to see them in gangs,” said Detention Manager Bill Vandiest.

“The main area for recruitment are schools, particularly middle schools. These kids are at their most vulnerable age because of peer pressures. Club USA, an under age club, is another recruitment spot, where many gang members from in and around the city meet.”

Each gang has its own distinctive colors that all members wear. The M-1’s colors are silver and black. They wear Los Angeles Raiders football team logos or Los Angeles Kings hockey team logos. The Road Runner Park Crips color is blue and they wear Orlando Magic basketball team logos. Both gangs also wear bandanas, or do-rags as referred to in the gangs, with their colors. The Skinheads do not have any colors but do have flags, items that symbolize the gang. These consist of flight jackets, “Dos Martin” combat boots, swastikas, Confederate flags and red suspenders. Their suspenders have special meaning. If they are up then the Skinheads are at peace but if the suspenders are down they are defending themselves.

The nature of crimes committed by these gangs are as varied as their colors. According to police statistics published in the November issue of “Police Chief” magazine, gang members were involved in 23 percent of the crimes and police contacts in Bellis Fair Mall between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31.

“These kids pretty much make up the bulk of the crime scene,” said Vandiest. “Fifteen to 20 percent of the kids make up 60 to 70 percent of the crimes.”

The gangs’ impact has also impacted the drug trade. A considerable amount of marijuana trafficking with some incidence of cocaine and LSD movement has resulted in arrests of gang members for delivery of controlled substances. In August 1990, a gang member was arrested for delivery of cocaine to a law enforcement officer. Several cases are still pending.

The types of weapons carried by gangs have become deadlier with the expansion of the drug trade. In recent months the Bellingham police have confiscated five or six loaded handguns and a loaded rifle along with several knives, clubs and bats.

At the beginning of the battle against gangs it was evident to the Bellingham Police Department that one detective could not handle the problem alone. Without sufficient resources to form a local gang unit the police department began working closer with other local law enforcement and support agencies.

Bellingham learned how to deal with the gang problem from other cities. “Portland was having their problems, but never recognized them until it was too late,” Vandiest said. From Portland the gangs went up to Tacoma and Seattle. Tacoma and Seattle went to the Safe Street Program, a program...
created to curb the crime in these cities, to try and combat the increased gang activity.

"We learned from all these cities’ mistakes and successes and made sure that we had an organization and organizers in place," Vandiest said.

The cooperation among law enforcement agencies has resulted in gang members being specifically labeled in the SHOCAP program (Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program) which identifies habitual criminals and tracks their movements.

"Many of these kids we have in gangs are habitual offenders so it really works out great that our SHOCAP program uncovers gang activity," said Vandiest.

The cooperation also enables law enforcement agencies to follow people more effectively than in the past.

"These kids used to be able to move within the county without being known, now they can’t," Dandiest said.

For Ramsey tracking is vital, "All the departments in this county along with all the departments up and down the I-5 corridor I contact on a day-to-day basis," he said.

With this information the Bellingham police know the identities of gang members. On the weekends the police perform gang sweeps. During this time they exclusively concentrate on gang activities, identifying gang members, talking to them and arresting them.

These actions have been successful. The local gang activities have subsided because 19 gang members have been put in jail. This does not mean total gang activities are down. The problem now is with gang members from Tacoma, Portland, and Seattle coming to Bellingham on the weekends.

Vandiest has noticed the success, "It has pretty much quieted down as far as the juvenile end because it has been jumped on so hard," he said.

Vandiest believes because of the arrests the local gangs are disorganized but cautions there are hardcores that stay with it. "Maybe they are not so vocal, maybe they are not so visible in the daylight but they are at night. They are in the mall (Bellis Fair) and they do wear their colors."

Ramsey said he believes Bellingham has been successful in dealing with the gang problem thus far.

"I look at us and compare Bellingham to other cities our size and our problems here are minor," he said. "We are making people move, we’re making people get out of gangs and we’re showing the ones that are potential gang members that it’s not a good idea in this city."

Ramsey and Vandiest both agree there is still much to be done to keep the gangs under control. Constant and persistent police presence, strong backing from both parents and schools and education about why people join gangs are all necessary to curb gang formation and participation, said Ramsey.

Despite community efforts gangs are here to stay. "It’s a money maker and whenever you have a money maker you’re going to get kids involved in it," Vandiest said.

"If you want to solve the gang problem all you have to do is solve society’s family problems," Ramsey said. "When you look at our society, at all the divorces and mixed-up families and the abuse that kids get, it’s amazing to me we don’t have more kids joining gangs."
By Sandee Robbins

The 90's have ushered in a growing awareness of environmental and economic concerns that have students sorting out their garbage and closing their pocket books. The disposable age is over. Recycling is in and excess is out.

Many people have been recycling clothing for decades to save money. Today, consignment, thrift and outlet stores are increasing in number to accommodate the ever-shrinking clothes budget.

The fashion industry is observing a replacement of the one-stop-shopping department store with a specialized shopping facility or boutique, says Rosalie King, chair of Western's home economic department.

"A major portion of these stores are specializing in discount merchandise," King said. "A growing awareness in the West is the practice and use of resale shops for clothing."

While many people go to such stores in search of beat-up Levi's, King said, those who frequent these stores often leave with much more.

"People aren't satisfied paying high prices at the mall."

Rosalie King

Sally Berg, owner of Bellingham's Happy Hanger Boutique located at 1938 James Street, said she is proud of the service she is providing.

"People aren't satisfied paying high prices at malls. Once they come into a second hand store and find clean, contemporary clothing in an attractive atmosphere. Their chances of returning are very high. They are no longer discomforted by the term 'second-hand', and they're glad to be recycling," says Berg.

Berg offers 5,000 pieces of clothing, including shoes, from 1,800 different cosigners. She carries names such as Jones of New York, Liz Claiborne, Evan Picone, Genera and Espirit. Sizes at the Happy Hanger Boutique range from three to
18, and Berg also offers a small selection of larger sizes.

Most of Berg's merchandise is priced under $40 and very seldom is an item priced over $100.

Recently, Berg says she acquired some Italian-made leather skirts that would sell for $200 to $400 at department stores. She is selling them for $100 to $125.

Berg said she only accepts contemporary, quality clothing for her store.

"We don't accept anything more than two years old unless it's an ageless piece," she says.

Bargain shoppers who are looking for a more off-the-wall selection of clothes can find unique buys at The Prudent Penny, 1300 Bay St., which offers everything from prom gowns to men's wear. Madhatter Clothing, 1220 North State St., features vintage clothing at reasonable prices.

One of the latest consignment shops to emerge in Bellingham is The Fountain Boutique, which will focus on men's and women's casual wear as well as wedding gowns.

Berg is not intimidated by all this competition, however.

"We all complement each other because different styles are offered in each store," she said.

King said it's this type of variety and unparalleled style that keep secondhand shoppers coming back for more.

If you prefer the convenience of a mall, however, Maggie Walter, marketing director of Burlington's Cascade Mall, says good buys can still be found.

"January and February are the best months for clothes shopping," she says. "Manufacturers are trying to clear their inventory at this time, or they may have overstocked for Christmas. These months are also the biggest return times, so manufacturers and retailers want to see that money coming back in."

One advantage to price shopping at a mall is convenience. You can browse from store to store without spending too much time in your car, or having to brave the elements.

Most factory outlet malls are not designed so conveniently. At these malls, customers usually walk outside from store to store.

But if you have an umbrella, or shop on a sunny day, these malls offer competitive prices for brand-name clothing. The Burlington Factory Outlet Mall hosts such manufacturers as Gitano, the Shoe Pavilion, Jordache, Hanes and Van Heusen.

Generally, factory outlets handle older designer merchandise from previous fashion seasons. Some of the merchandise is irregular or flawless, and some manufacturers produce a lower quality line specifically for these malls.

Walter said one of the best ways to get the most for your money at any store is to watch for regular store sales, such as the Bon One-Day Sale or preferred customer sales. She said back to school sales don't offer a lot of bargains and suggests that bargain hunters shop out of season to find the best deals.

"Go shopping with what you like in mind," Walter said. "Figure out what you need or want and set a budget for yourself. If you can guide yourself through a shopping trip you won't be as tempted to buy on impulse."
There are certain facts most of us seem to born with and accept as second nature. For example, ask any American who the first president of the United States was.


Imagine your flabbergasted feeling upon finding out Anderson’s answer was wrong.
Well, Anderson, your answer is wrong.

Does the name John Hanson sound familiar? Hanson was elected to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia in 1779. He ensured the adoption of the Articles of Confederation and eight months later was elected the first president of the Congress of the Confederation. Hanson's title was President of the United States Congress assembled.

To leave you questioning your history books even more: Seven men held the president's position before our dear George Washington.

"Really? How come everyone believes it was George Washington?" Anderson asks.

Sometimes a good story gets started and as time goes by it sounds more like historical truth than a story.

Here are some other facts easily accepted as truth, but which are actually false:

July 4, 1776. A date quite important in the history of America, the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Perhaps we should move the fireworks and picnics to Aug. 2.

The declaration was only formally adopted by the Second Continental Congress on the fourth. The only signers of this draft on July 4, 1776, were John Hancock and Charles Thomson. On July 9 the document was publicly proclaimed and not until Aug. 2 was the Declaration of Independence signed by 50 assembled delegates. The signing was not completed until the fall.

How long was the Hundred-Years War between the French and the British? One would assume 100 years. The war began May 24, 1337, and 138 years later the truce was signed on Aug. 29, 1475.

Apple pie, baseball and blue jeans. What could be more American? Sadly, blue jeans are not originally from the States. Dungaree is a cloth from India and the word is a Hindi term named after the area the cloth was made. The word "jeans" is an American version of "jene" or "geane fustian," 16th century terms for cloth produced in Genoa, Italy.

There is probably not a more offensive symbol than a swastika. However, before it represented the Nazis, the swastika was a symbol of good fortune. It was found on ancient Greek and Mesopotamian coins and also on art from India, Egypt and China.

How flattering for Julius Caesar to have the caesarean section named after him. Perhaps Caesar is getting more celebration than he deserves. Sanitary practices in Roman times were too poor for caesarean sections to be performed successfully. Most women died soon after the operation. Considering Caesar's mother lived many years after his birth it is highly unlikely Caesar came into the world by caesarean section. The origin of caesarean may be "Lex caesarea," a term which came from the 17th century and described women who were dying close to the end of their pregnancy and often delivered abdominally to save the child.

Think of Scotland and you probably conjure an image of kilts and bagpipes. The first version of the bagpipe, a goatskin bag, was from an area not even close to the British Isles but in the Middle East. The bagpipe did not reach Scotland for 1,600 years. Kilts are not originally from Scotland either, but from the Mediterranean.

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." John Kennedy will never be forgotten for these words during his inaugural address. Kennedy did say this, but maybe the credit should not go only to him but also to Kahlil Gibran in a speech delivered in the Middle East about the same time Kennedy was born.

Gibran similarly asked, "Are you a politician asking what your country can do for you, or a zealous one asking what you can do for your country?"

Remember the crushed feeling when you found out Santa Claus wasn't the one bringing your gifts? Not only is the Santa we know a myth, but he wasn't a Nordic figure either. The actual Saint Nicholas was from the Middle East and lived during the 4th century. He was the bishop of Myra and was described by a biographer as a worker of miracles and a defender of the Christian faith. In the East, St. Nick is the protector of sailors, and in the West he cares for children. The gift-bearing magical Santa Claus was brought to the United States by settlers of New Amsterdam.

Have you ever wondered how ostriches could be so stupid as to hide their heads in the sand to escape a predator? Ostriches probably wonder how we could be so gullible and believe such a tale. The whole story is a myth. The closest these birds come to sticking their heads in the ground is when their heads are resting on the ground. Ostriches do this when they are asleep or listening for danger.

For the last 20 years many people have wished they could step back in time and be part of the famous musical celebration known as Woodstock. It was called Woodstock not because of the location of the concert but because Woodstock is where it was supposed to happen. As the time for the festival drew nigh the town of Woodstock started to get cold feet and put down ground rules impossible to abide by, so another place had to be found. Max Yasgur, who owned a farm 40 miles southwest of Woodstock, was willing to be the host for the largest rock festival of the 1960s. Woodstock held in Bethel, N.Y., not Woodstock, N.Y. K

This information was compiled from the book by Tad Tuleja, "Fabulous Fallacies". These facts can also be found in encyclopedias, dictionaries and history books.