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For Seattle To Portland
Bicycle Race
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# KLIPSUN

Western Washington University  
May 1991

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By Julie Schiller

In 1971, all the girls in the second grade at Juana Marie Elementary School in Ventura, Calif. had their notebooks and assignments decorated with beautifully drawn butterflies.

A brown-eyed, 7-year-old artist with freckles and blondish-strawberry hair was the creator of these colorful art pieces.

That young artist was Brian Prosser.

“We could tell his artistic ability right away,” said Sharon Prosser, mother of the youth who pleased his female counterparts and amazed his parents.

Brian is now a Western alumni and has equally impressed many Western students, professors and faculty with cartoon characters, vibrant colors and memorable political cartoons.

Sharon said the selling of colored rocks also was part of Brian’s beginning. He would color the rocks from the walkway in front of the apartments where his family once lived. His mom said he wouldn’t just put the rocks back after coloring them; he’d sell them to the neighbors. By the time the family moved, no rocks remained in the walkway. They could be found on the porches or in the kitchens of their neighbor’s homes, she said.

Besides coloring rocks and drawing in the margin of magazines, Brian’s youth included other activities that enhanced his art work. “He started drawing on our walls,” Sharon said.

It was obvious to his parents that he was very imaginative and had a lot of talent, she said.

“We would always make sure he had enough materials. We would be his cheerleaders and encourage him to draw - unless he was drawing on the walls,” she said.

Brian’s parents also tried to encourage him to look at life in a different perspective. They tried to advise his viewing when he looked at a tree or other object. They did this by asking him what texture he saw when he looked at it, what smells did he experience and how did it move in the wind?

With his parent's encouragement and faith, Brian’s talent expanded and can be found far from his baby album.

His most popular works on campus are his cartoon characters. They have big heads, little bodies and often times resemble a star Western basketball player, the Western cheerleaders, an Associated Student officer or some other well known face.

His comical posters have decorated Carver gym for the past four years. They have encouraged team and fan spirit and sometimes even intimidated the opposition.

Debbie Jackson, Western
cheerleading adviser, said she remembered walking into the gym for the 1988 Men’s Championship Basketball Playoffs against Central Washington University and seeing 10 by 8 feet sketches of each star player.

“They (Brian’s posters) add so much to the games,” said Jackson, whose husband, Brad, is Western’s men’s basketball coach and has also been a subject of Brian’s work.

She said Brian donates a lot of his time to make the posters and will draw the sketches, while the cheerleaders will usually color them in.

One Brian’s most memorable posters is the “Cat Busters” poster, which showed a cat similar to the Bloom County character “Bill the Cat,” who is choking and sticking his tongue out at the sight or sound of Central. Another well-known poster showed Western Men’s Basketball Alumni, Manny Kimmie, flying through the air with the cheer staff watching and cheering for him from the ground.

The unique thing about Brian’s work is his ability to realistically draw the facial features of an individual. These accurate drawings are so detailed it is easy to identify the people in the posters, Jackson said.

Brian explained that he’s not just drawing a face or a portrait, but he’s also trying to capture that person’s personality.

“If a person has droopy eyes and kind of a strong jaw you can make them look very astute. Or a person that has very wide eyes, a big smile and eyebrows raised will make them look really carefree,” he said.

Jackson said she plans to ask Brian to make posters for Homecoming and other big games, such as when the Western men play Central or the Viking women take on Simon Fraser, as long as possible.

“It has become part of a tradition to have a Brian Prosser poster at the games,” she said.

Brian’s comical characters have also appeared on the cover of the Big Blue Bonus Coupon Book. This well-known money saver, given to students at the beginning of each quarter when they buy books, also helped Brian’s popularity.

“I really got my start at Western with the coupon book,” he said.

As Student Director of Communications from 1988 to 1989, Brian and his fellow officers wanted to find a new way to raise scholarship money. The idea of a coupon book, with 10 percent of all gross profits going to scholarship funds, emerged.

The proposal became a success and continues to exist.

But posters and coupon books are not the only forms of art that got Brian started.

In 1978, the Prosser family left California and settled in the small coastal town in Anacortes, where Brian began selling his work at arts and crafts festivals.

“What’s really hard is doing characterizations at arts and crafts festivals, because you really have to push your creativity. If someone sits down, you have to get them done (draw a cartoon of them) in 10 minutes,” Brian said.

With all of his artistic talent it may be surprising to find out that Brian graduated from Western with a political science degree.

“I got a degree in political science because I was interested in doing political cartoons. I still am,” he said.

Brian says he misses creating shocking yet humorous political cartoons for The Western Front. He no longer does so because they are too time consuming. Brian said it takes three to four hours to produce just one cartoon.

Campus and student issues are the angles Brian enjoyed most when he created political cartoons. A few well remembered creations, “Campus Parking Gestapo” and “We’re not going to close this campus till hell freezes over,” hit home with many Western students.

With all this background, experience and natural talent, Brian was able to go into business for himself. He is currently co-owner of Prosser Art and Design located on Telegraph Road, Bellingham.
"I like it here at the orphanage much better," Maria blurted out as she stared at the floor. She glanced up with a glazed look and then a welcoming smile appeared on her face.

Maria and her twin brother Saul were born in Mexicali in 1977. The first five years of Maria's life were filled with abuse and neglect. Physical, mental and emotional abuse were inflicted on Maria by her father and later even by her brother Saul. She would be beaten with an iron and fists as well as abused verbally. Both the children would be left in their house chained up in closets and different areas of the house when the parents were not there.

Maria does not like to talk about the past. One story she did manage to tell was the time when she left to get her mother a birthday present and she got home later than she expected. Afraid of what her father would do, she simply slept outside in the street under a car for the entire night. She mentioned that it was not the only time she had to do that.

The mother is a feeble woman who simply could not defend herself, let alone Maria. Maria's parents separated and eventually divorced, leaving Maria, Saul and newborn Rosa in a state of nearly complete abandonment. Maria's mother could no longer care for all of the children and as a result sent the three to live in the Casa de La Esperanza (the House of Hope) orphanage located in Tijuana, Mexico in Baja California. In the nine years that they have been at the orphanage Saul has returned home to live and take care of his mother. Maria and her sister continue to live at the orphanage. At Christmastime Maria and Rosa head back to Mexicali to visit their mother for a month or two.

Living at the orphanage has brought greater opportunities for Maria. She goes to school and is in fourth grade. Surprisingly Maria said that school is not one of her favorite things. When asked what she likes the best about the orphanage, Maria hunched over to ponder the question then said, "I like the Americans that come down to visit, chocolate, play-
The Casa de La Esperanza was not always a house of hope. Up until the 1950s the orphanage was a whorehouse. Not that uncommon to Tijuana, this house of prostitution stood for several years until it eventually was bought and used by the sponsor, the First Presbyterian Church of San Diego. The whorehouse layout gave a perfect set-up for an orphanage. A main area is used as the cafeteria and basically the rest is just bedrooms. The church works from the American side to provide, above all else, funds to run the orphanage, as well as American organizations and groups that voluntarily work in some sort of mission capacity.

From the top of Tarantula Hill you get a glimpse from one end to the other of what the orphanage grounds look like. The buildings stand in the foreground and the children race around playing, however, no voices are heard. On the far end a plain white cross is seen standing pronouncing what this orphanage is all about, the love of God. Walking down the hill the colors of the buildings become more vivid and the shouts and yells from the children become more deafening.

Arriving at the bottom of Tarantula Hill you are greeted by a dozen kids who tackle you with their rapidly moving mouths spouting out one sentence after another, none of which you understand. You simply nod your head and say “Si.” Who knows what you just said yes to, but you will soon find out. A tiny, little brown hand stretches out to hold onto yours. As you begin to walk around holding tightly to you is little Carina. She simply smiles and continues to walk, content as she knows you will not let go of her hand. As you take a look around, life goes on around the orphanage as usual. Kids run back and forth not knowing or caring where they are running to. They play just as any kids would—sometimes rough, other times gentle.

Walking past the blue buildings, the kids will immediately run over to you. They mutter something and you nod and the games of jump rope and jacks begin. Life at the orphanage is lazy and loud. It seems as if there is never a moment of silence, but everyone gets used to it and you even miss it after you leave.

Franco sits by himself in the corner, just rocking back and forth and staring in one place. If you walk over and ask his name he will disclose it to you under his breath. You sit with him for a while and find out more about him. Franco was blinded as a child when his parents beat him over the head.

Five or six little girls put together an arts and craft project, drawing with crayons and markers making their famous artwork that they will eventually sign and hand to you with a proud smile on their face. One of the artists wrote next to her picture, “Cristo te ama y yo tambien,” (Jesus loves you and so do I).

After several years in limbo, the orphanage hired on a new director next month, who everyone simply refers to as Doctor. The orphanage was at a point of chaos a couple of months ago, with very little organization at all. As soon as he took the position the wheels of the orphanage began turning and structure and discipline in the lives of the children soon followed.

The staff of the Casa de La Esperanza consists of about 10 to 15 people and fluctuates constantly. Unfortunately, it is never enough, the need is so great. Only 15 adults trying to be the parents of all 85 kids is nearly a losing battle, but somehow it all works out. The orphanage basically runs from day to day. Just getting through one day with 85 kids is an incredible feat in itself.

The children at the orphanage are really not struggling for basic needs. The amount of donations of clothes and shoes is incredible. There food is very basic and very Mexican. A meal for the kids would consist of beans (frijoles), rice (arroz) and tortillas. There is nothing fancy about the way that the kids live. They live humbly in comparison to the way of life most Americans are used to. What the children are lacking is any sort of
A game of marbles is one of the few forms of recreation these Mexican children can afford.

guidance, structure, and discipline. With the new director, many people hope these concerns will fade.

The past two spring breaks The INN University Ministries has sent teams of around 30 down to the Casa de La Esperanza to work and to play with the kids. The ultimate mission is to share Christ with the orphans, the staff and other Mexican people they might come in contact with. The INN is a Western interdenominational Christian fellowship.

Every spring break the INN sends out teams to go various places. This year it was Watts, L.A., Denver, Colorado and of course, Tijuana, Mexico.

The team meets for two hours every week for seven weeks to prepare for the trip. The preparation mostly entails setting up Bible lesson, dramas, arts and crafts projects, crash courses in Spanish, but especially praying for the trip and the kids.

There is frustration and anger about what the future holds for all 85 of these children. However, as Jasona Dolan, a senior and a political science major at Western says, “The future of the kids at the Casa de La Esperanza is in the hands of God. We can only be there for a week, but His Spirit stays there all year round.”

Since January, Cheryl Ryan, 25, has been at the orphanage working voluntarily. This 1988 graduate of Western will be there for the entire year, at the least. Ryan, a recreation major, raises support money through individuals and churches in order to live. However, Ryan does get free room and board and with the Mexican economy the way it is it costs next to nothing to live.

Ryan has felt a need to be down with the orphans and in the Mexican culture for a few years. When asked what she would want students at Western to know about the orphanage and Tijuana, she answered, “The perception people have of Tijuana and its people is that of gross, scummy, a third-world nation; that somehow it is their poverty that make them subhuman. That is not it at all. We are the ones that have it all wrong. Maybe it is they (Mexicans) that have enough and we (Americans) that have too much.”

Ryan and many other Americans that have taken a visit to the Casa de La Esperanza have seen a culture completely different from the one we are submerged in. This orphanage has been an incredible “family” to many children, like Franco, Maria, and Carina, as well as 82 or so other kids. The Casa de La Esperanza has definitely been a “House of Hope” for a lot of people.
Pulling the Arm for Success

By Dan Tolley

Three more quarters clang through the machine as you reach for the handle. One methodical pull and the rollers are set in motion. As the first one stops on a BAR, you see a glimmer of hope. The second roller slows to a stop. BAR. Now your heart begins to race as you watch the final roller begin to slow. Another BAR!! The quarters start to fall and the lights begin flashing. You can’t believe it, you hit the 1,600 quarter jackpot.

Sounds like a movie or a Las Vegas casino advertisement, but it’s not. This is the vision that drives average citizens to be compulsive gamblers. The hope for that one big payoff.

It can start with a friendly game of cards or a bet on an afternoon football game. Some people can stop here. These are the lucky ones. They can stop, walk away and be happy.

“I play cards, the lottery and that sort of thing, but I don’t do it very often, I can stop when I want to,” Becky, a Western student, said.

When they are gambling, many people don’t realize the amount of money they are spending at the time. It becomes a cup of game pieces, not $50 in quarters. Five dollar tokens are tossed out without a second thought.

“You don’t realize the amount of money you’re going through in a casino. You just keep plugging the quarters in and pulling the handle on the slot machine,” Joe, an Eastern Washington University senior, said after a recent trip to Las Vegas.

Las Vegas, Reno and Atlantic City are havens for the gambler. Anything can be wagered on: sports, craps, roulette, cards, keno and bingo, just to name a few. Casinos in these towns are unbelievable. Many casinos are large enough to get lost in with wall-to-wall slot machines and card tables. “The Mirage” has white tigers running around in an indoor zoo, and a volcano that erupts every 15 minutes. Hotel casinos offer perks such as free rooms, alcohol and meals to make gambling seem inexpensive.

Most casinos claim a 97.4 percent return rate on your money. This means the average person will get back 97.4 percent of the money they gamble with on the slot machines. Some will win, some will lose, but most are told they will come close to breaking even.

With the large number of people going through one of these casinos, it’s hard to monitor and check all the guests. Because of this many minors sneak in to gamble, to satisfy their urge. According to “U.S. News and World Report,” casino officials report that on the average 230,000 minors are denied entrance and 25,000 are ejected.

As young gamblers reach college, gambling gets even more attractive to some, or unattractive to others. Money is such a precious commodity on campus, some students can’t bring themselves to chance it.

“If I had money to blow sure, but right now I can’t afford to lose any money,” Tim, a Western student, said.

College students find gambling everywhere they turn. Sports pools in the dorms, pull tab games in the bars and special “casino night” events.

On the local level, Danny’s Tavern & Card Room and Shenandoah Pub & Casino offer organized gambling. Students are now beginning to use these facilities more and more. Ruth Brock of Shenandoah Pub and Casino says she sees about seven Western “regulars” who usually play two or three times a week. The gambling really picks up on the weekends.

“On Friday nights you can’t find an empty spot at a table,” Brock said.

Shenandoah’s offers two card table of blackjack in which the players take turns as dealer. Each dealer sets their own limit from $2-10. This is different from neighboring Canada, where the house provides the dealer. Brock doesn’t see any pattern to who plays. Returning players and new players alike come in to check out the action.

“We get people from all walks of life,” Brock said.

You can bet gambling will become even more accessible in the future. Technological breakthroughs and more areas of legalized gambling will probably be seen the near future.

Some of the gambling forms of the future will be living room casinos where you have the ability to interact and bet via your remote on every play. Or better yet, corner slot machines next to the local newspaper box. And if lottery officials could, they would like to legalize and control sports-pool betting much like Oregon has.

But however gambling’s future may twist and change, the instinct to gamble won’t. It’s just a matter of being able to stop.

(NOTE: The names of the people in the article were changed in order to protect them. These are not their real names.)
Scenic beauty provides a relaxing atmosphere for vacationing students.

By Erika Williams
Photos by Matt Hulbert

Sun, sand and relaxation. You don’t have to go to the Bahamas to find them. Here in Washington state, the San Juan Islands offer affordable recreation to fun-seekers on a budget. Hiking, boating, fishing, bird watching, scuba diving, whale-watching and bicycle riding are just a few of the activities that can be enjoyed on these natural playgrounds.

The glaciers that once covered northwest Washington created the San Juan Archipelago between the mainland and Vancouver Island. The 172 San Juan Islands, considered some of the world’s most beautiful, enjoy an unusual climate. The San Juans are relatively arid, considering the rainy region they are located in. A “rain shadow” created by prevailing westerly winds and the Olympic Mountains extends from the Canadian Gulf Islands through the San Juans. The islands receive an average rainfall of only 20 to 25 inches. July and August are the warmest and driest months, with temperatures in the 70s.

You won’t find 90-degree weather, rowdy bars or hordes of college-age partiers. You will find a laid-back, slow-paced atmosphere, friendly residents and beautiful lakes, trails and scenery. It’s an ideal vacation for campers, whether you want a bare-bones clearing to hike into and pitch your tent, or an auto camp with running water and showers.

Four of the islands are served by the Washington State Ferry System: Orcas, Lopez, Shaw and San Juan. Each offers low-cost accommodations and activities for the vacationing student.

GETTING THERE
Take Exit 230 from I-5 and take Highway 20 to Anacortes. Follow the signs to the ferry terminal just outside of town. Allow about an hour to travel from Bellingham. Be warned: Summer peak travel makes catching a ferry more difficult. If you travel by car, arrive an hour early and get in line. Traveling by bicycle is a bit easier and cheaper, too. Bikes load and unload first, and will almost always make it on to the ferry. Be ready to load 20 minutes before departure time. For a car and driver, fares are as follows (through June 15): Lopez, $11.60; Shaw/Orcas, $13.85; Friday Harbor (San Juan) $15.85. Passengers pay $4.65 and bicyclists pay $5.65.

Sailing schedules are available at many area businesses. Call the Washington State Ferries (464-6400, 1-800-542-7052 statewide) with specific questions.

STAYING THERE
Finding accommodations in the islands during the summer can be
difficult. The majority are located on Orcas and San Juan, with a few on Lopez and virtually none on Shaw.

Planning ahead is the key. If you are camping, arrive early. Most parks are run on a first-come, first-served basis. And it's always a good idea to make alternate plans, just in case. (A San Juan County ordinance prohibits off-road camping.)

Campgrounds are the cheapest way to see the islands. State parks charge $8 per night per car (effective May 15) for standard sites. Some parks have utility sites with RV hookups for $10.50. Most have a stay limit of seven to 10 days.

Lopez, Orcas and San Juan also have a number of motels and bed and breakfasts. Prices vary from $40 a night at the Islander Lopez Motor Inn all the way up to $175 a night at Rosario Resort on Orcas. If you want to go this route, call for reservations as soon as you know when you'll be going. Rooms fill quickly in the summer.

LOPEZ

Lopez is one of the friendliest places you'll visit. Don't be surprised if a stranger waves to you as you pass on the road: It's the island's trademark, so go ahead and wave back.

Because the terrain is flat, Lopez is popular with bicyclists. Remember, though, island roads are narrow. Don't ride side-by-side or otherwise impede traffic.

Lopez has three campgrounds. None accept reservations, so check for a site as soon as you arrive. Indoor accommodations include one motor inn, three bed and breakfasts and three rental cabins, which can all be reserved.

Hummel Haven Bicycle Camp (468-2217) at Hummel Lake has 15 campsites and one cabin, is four miles from the terminal and is restricted to bicyclists. It also offers boat and bicycle rentals and is popular for fishing.

Odlin County Park (468-2496), 1.2 miles from the terminal, has 30 campsites and a sandy beach. It's a good area for swimming and scuba diving, and also has hiking trails. There's a ball field, too. It has pit toilets, drinking water and kitchens. It's open year-round and is $8 a night.

Spencer Spit State Park (468-2251), four miles from the terminal, has 45 sites and offers hiking, clamming, swimming and fishing. It has flush toilets, drinking water, picnic tables and fire rings.

The Islander Lopez (468-2251), mentioned above, is the cheapest indoor accommodation, with rooms from $40 to $150 a night. It has a heated pool and whirlpool, fishing, a marina and coin laundry. Some rooms have refrigerators.

SHAW

Shaw is the smallest island served by the ferries, and has only about 100 year-round residents. Spend the day, but go on to Orcas for the night — Shaw has just two campgrounds, with a total of 14 sites and no motels.

The only commercial development functions as a general store, post office, ferry terminal, gas station and marina. Since 1976, the Little Portion store has been run by a small group of Franciscan nuns. It was named after an Italian church named Portucula, a favorite spot of St. Francis of Assisi. The store is closed Sundays.

Near the center of the island you'll find the Little Red Schoolhouse. The classic one-room elementary school is in the National Register of Historic Places, and is still operating. Enrollment over the years has fluctuated between two and 15 students.

Shaw Island County Park has 12 campsites and one of the best sandy beaches you'll find on any of the islands. Even if you don't get a site, the park is great for swimming, clamming, crabbing, hiking and birdwatching.

ORCAS

Orcas has been a vacation spot since the 1890s when ferries first started making the trip. Today, it has the largest park — Moran State Park — a variety of other accommodations and a number of restaurants.

Eastsound Village, the business district on Orcas, has a number of shops you might want to browse through for unique arts and crafts. The Outlook Inn, built in 1883, is the oldest inn in the San Juans and is still in operation. The Orcas Historical Museum is open afternoons in the summer and has an extensive display of Indian and pioneer artifacts.

Seven miles past Eastsound, you'll find Cafe Olga and the Artworks. Do not pass by until you've gone inside for a cinnamon roll — or preferably, a full breakfast — and seen the arts and crafts for sale in the other half of the building. Here's a good place to spend half your allotted va-
cation money on pottery, scarves or candles.

Moran State Park is the best bet for camping, with four camping areas and a total of 166 sites. RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED (376-2326) and you should definitely make some. The park is usually filled in the summer, with some 60,000 campers per month. Mount Constitution, within the park, is the highest point on the San Juans and offers a spectacular view from the top. At the summit is a stone lookout tower constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936. You can see many of the San Juans, the Canadian Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island, Mount Baker and Mount Rainier. On clear days you can even see Bellingham, so if you're homesick for your dorm room, go up and have a look.

The park has a plethora of hiking trails, four lakes, a waterfall and abundant wildlife. It's common to see black-tailed deer, river otter and raccoon. Bald eagles, kingfishers and great blue heron live in the park year-round.

Don't bother staying anywhere else on the island. You can easily spend a day or two at the park, especially in nice weather. The park has showers, flush toilets, kitchens and drinking water. Besides hiking, you can go swimming, bird-watching or fishing.

SAN JUAN

San Juan is the busiest of the islands — but that's a relative term. The ferry brings you into Friday Harbor, the county seat and the largest town in the islands. Here you'll find groceries, public showers, laundry, shops, restaurants, museums, fishing tackle, bicycle, moped and car rentals, and a movie theater.

The Whale Museum is worth seeing — it's the only museum in the country devoted to whales, as well as a research and education facility.

Sportsman and Egg Lakes are a good bike's ride away from the terminal (about six miles). You can fish or swim and enjoy a picnic. It's also a great area for bird watching.

Cattle Point has a lighthouse, picnic area with tables, a shelter and a fireplace and sand dunes. It's a good place to stop for lunch, but there's no water, so bring your own.

In the 1840s, the British and Americans both staked claims to the San Juans. Tensions were high, and when an American shot a save British pig for eating his potatoes, war broke out. (The so-called Pig War.) Both sides massed men, armaments and ships. In 1859, it was decided that the islands be jointly occupied until the boundary dispute was settled. It took until 1872. Meanwhile, American Camp and British Camp had been established and lived in for 13 years. You can still visit both today. At British Camp you can see artifacts of the Pig War.

San Juan County Park is one of the most popular campgrounds on the island. You can make reservations (378-2992) for one of the 18 campsites. The park has toilets, drinking water, a picnic area and a small store. Swimming is allowed, but the water is icy cold year-round.

The Elite Hotel (378-5555) has hostel-style, dormitory lodging for up to 22 people for $9 a night. Private rooms are only $25. Bring your own bedding or use the hotel's. Hot tubs and saunas are available for a fee, and there's a café, too.

MORE INFORMATION

For more complete information about the islands, consult one of the many guidebooks available. Two good ones are “The Ferryboat Islands,” by Gordon Keith, and “The San Juan Islands,” by Marge and Ted Mueller. If you are a AAA member, you can get free maps and lodging information from the King Street office, near Fred Meyer. They can also give you a bike tour map of Lopez, and an auto tour route of all four. Travel agencies can give information about motels and inns on the islands.

The San Juan Islands offer a variety of lodging accommodations.
"Hey, that’s the guy from ‘Kid’s Stuff,’ says a little boy with dark curly hair. A curious crowd begins to gather around the television cameras to see what’s about to happen.

“Quiet on the set, roll cameras...” says Brian Berry, associate producer of KVOS’s television program “Kid’s Stuff.”

Today, Berry is filming at Science World in Vancouver, B.C. Next week he’ll be in Los Angeles working on another project at Universal Studios. This 24-year-old Western graduate says he’s in seventh heaven.

Berry’s internship with KVOS as a production assistant gave him a taste of the television industry.

“I get paid to have a good time, that is why I picked the industry I’m in,” said Berry.

KVOS officially hired Berry a month before he graduated as a production assistant. Michele Higgins, a news anchor producer at KVOS says, “Brian’s responsibilities have increased from production assistant to producing local commercials and working with the clients to get an end product.” Higgins feels that the benefits of working in a small station are being able to test out certain skills and grow.

Although a representative of KING-Five News encouraged Berry graduated I thought I knew everything and I should be a producer. Now I don’t mind.”

A producer makes less than a cameraman because shooting a camera is technical engineering and pays more on a union scale. Berry adds that the pay scale in Bellingham is comparable to Seattle, ranging anywhere from $18,000 to $25,000 a year. He stresses that it’s not kosher to talk about how much money you make in the business. It is also very difficult to generalize about salary because it depends on the job you’re doing, how experienced you are at it and the market you’re working in.

A friend of his in the television industry was even asked not to mention his pay rate to anyone, including his roommate.

“Don’t get into television if you want to get rich,” Berry says. “I make enough to get by and a little extra to be happy.”

As a child, Berry told one of his friends he was going to be a movie star. Now his dream has come true — partially, that is. As an associate producer on “Kid’s Stuff,” Berry gets to play a talent role. “I’m not a real TV person but I play one,” Berry said. Technically “Kid’s Stuff” is a bunch of one-minute spots about kid’s opinions on all types of subjects. These
spots are programmed in between cartoons during the mornings and afternoons. Berry's definition of "Kid's Stuff" is "a lot of fun."

Berry does the introduction and interviews kids on camera. Kneeling down, Berry affectionately asks a timid little girl, "If you were to make your own movie about anything in the whole wide world, what would you make it about?"

Berry's trick for getting kids to open up is to act as goofy as possible. "I was real tense around kids at first. Now kids will look at me and say, 'Dude, you're weirder than me.' I'll make a good dad because of it."

Besides the talent role on "Kid's Stuff," Berry is an assistant director for the Sonics. He is the eyes of the Seattle Center Coliseum. He watches for substitutions in the game and whatever else might be going on in the sidelines that the director may miss. A benefit of this job is that he gets to meet basketball stars such as Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls and James Worthy of the Los Angeles Lakers.

He also covered the "New Kids on the Block" concert and was attacked by a mob of pre-teen girls after shaking a band member's hand. Berry jokingly adds, "I'm hesitant to let people know at work that I'm having such a good time." He feels everything is going so well for him right now, he's afraid of having it all taken away from him.

Learning to get along with different people and personalities is an obstacle Berry had to overcome on the job. But Berry says every professional he works with, he takes a little bit of knowledge from. He says they have molded him into what he is today, but the mold isn't set. It changes day by day.

KVOS's promotions producer George Horvorka says he loves working with Berry because "he is willing to stick his neck out and try something that might not work. He risks taking a chance and that's what it's all about."

Berry has always been interested in film and video. He said when he was little he would watch toy commercials and be so amazed by what the toy could do, he would go buy the toy. He soon discovered the commercials always fooled him and decided he wanted to make commercials like that, too.

In high school he was a photographer for his school paper in Arlington. He took summer jobs such as working on promotional campaigns for Snohomish County's Children's Museum. "High school prepared me for everything but college," he said.

Berry enrolled at Western with a high interest in English. After deciding English required too much reading, he had to make a choice between broadcast communications or visual communications. Berry says, "I picked VICO-Ed over broadcast because it offered different media and I wanted a technical background." After four years of school, he graduated in August of 1989.

"The strength of the VICO-Ed program was the wide variety of classes offered such as industrial psychology. I use it every time I have a meeting," Berry said. Although Berry wished Western offered more film courses, he did gain some filming experience while working for Western View, the student television show.

"I think what I got out of Western was valuable, but you can only get true training with experience." He describes KVOS as great two-year graduate school where he is getting good experience and being paid for it.

When talking about his future Berry says, "My future is not laid out. I live my future by living in the present, not the past." Berry is interested in areas of producing and a talent role.

"The avenues for employment open up once you're in the work force," he adds.

Berry's advice for other students is, "Remember you know you're good. You have to like your work because there will always be someone who hates it and someone who loves it."
Western Students Gear Up for Seattle to Portland Bike Race

By Bob Horn

A bead of sweat appeared on his forehead as he saw the long climb ahead. He slammed into low gear and lifted himself off of the seat. As he pedalled, he could feel the intense burning sensation spreading from his calf muscles to his quads. Glancing at the tiny bike-computer mounted on his handlebars, he noticed he was on his 25th mile — halfway done with today’s training ride.

This is a familiar scene all over the Northwest as thousands of cyclists prepare for the Seattle to Portland Bicycle Classic, commonly known as the STP. This 200-mile event, sponsored by the Cascade Bicycle Club, began in 1979 with fewer than 200 riders. Now in its 12th year, more than 10,000 cyclists will ride this year through the scenic valleys, forests and farmlands of Western Washington and Oregon. A handful of those riders will be Western students.

The STP, held on the last weekend in June, has come to be a sort of “Super Bowl of Bicycling.” The cyclist who has ridden the STP has proven himself. The STP is not a race, nor is it a leisurely ride for beginners. It is, however, a chance for those with a quest for fitness and a yearn for adventure to take on a challenging, even grueling ride with plenty of company, food stops and medical and mechanical support.

Cyclists can choose to ride the route in one or two days. Two-day riders typically stop over at the halfway point in the Centralia/Chehalis area. One-day riders spend the full 16 hours on bike, leaving Seattle’s Kingdome around 5 a.m. and winding up in Portland by 9 p.m.

Jason Friesen and Athan Katsandres are two Western students getting ready for the challenge and they plan to ride it in one day. Both are first-timers to the STP but have decided 200 miles isn’t all that far.

Friesen, 19, a tall, lean sophomore majoring in biology/pre-medicine, has a thirst for fitness and is looking forward to seeing how far he can push his body. Katsandres, 22, a dark-haired junior majoring in communication, says his main objective is to prove to himself he can do it.

“This seems like it’s a huge thing to undertake, but if you have a good attitude and are dedicated, you can push yourself to achieve it,” Katsandres said.

Both cyclists have been bicycling seriously since last year. Friesen began biking when he purchased his gray and pink Diamond Back mountain bike last summer. Since then, he has spent time biking from his Redmond home along the Marymoor River trail to Seattle and back. Around Bellingham, he bikes on Chuckanut Drive or through northern Whatcom County near the Canadian border.

Katsandres began bicycling last summer when friends encouraged him to compete in triathalons, races in which participants compete in swimming, cycling and running events. He enjoys riding his $1,000 Italian Guerciotti black road bike — a bike he found for only $400 — along Chuckanut Drive and around Lake Klipsun.
Karen Kinney, 19, a freshman majoring in education/psychology at Western, will be riding the STP for the second time in June. Kinney rode all 200 miles in two days with her dad last year. This year, her mother and younger sister will be tagging along.

Kinney enjoyed riding the STP last year and now that more of the family is getting involved it should be even better, she said.

“It’s just like a little, fun, family thing to do,” Kinney said.

But planning and training for the STP isn’t to be taken lightly. Riders devote weekends, mornings, evenings and any spare moment they have to training for the event. It’s not uncommon for a cyclist to bike 100 to 150 miles each week. In addition to riding, cyclists spend time weightlifting and paying extra attention to their diet.

“Right now I’m riding 130 miles a week and I’m trying to work that up to 150 miles a week by June,” Friesen said. “I am trying to watch what I eat, cutting down on fats and up on carbs and drinking plenty of water.”

Katsandres also watches his diet and rides 40 miles three to four times a week.

Since Kinney lives eight miles from school, she logs in a solid 16 miles each day riding to and from classes. She also plans to ride two or three short 20-mile rides during the week and a long-distance ride every weekend.

Mary Steinberg, a salesclerk at Kulshan’s Cycles, agrees that riders must take training seriously.

“I think people romanticize the ride because its such a big ride,” Steinberg said. “They think ‘I’ll just do it.’ You can do it, but it won’t be fun.”

Steinberg recommends cyclists finish at least one 100-miler before the ride so they know what it feels like to be on a bike for that long.

That is one of Friesen’s worries.

“I’m afraid I’m going to be totally bored after eight hours of riding,” he said. “And I’m afraid for my butt sitting on my bike so long.”

Kinney remembers the pain from last year. After 12 hours of riding, her bottom was so sore she had to just forget about the pain, she said.

Katsandres is also concerned about his bottom but adds that he fears falling too far behind the pack. Both Friesen and Katsandres will have to keep up a strong pace to finish the ride in less than 16 hours.

Friesen said he has heard the first 100 miles is a breeze but then you hit a wall. Katsandres agrees that staying relaxed and conserving energy during the first half of the ride will be a challenge.

“Hitting the wall” is a reaction Kinney said all riders have but at different times. About four hours into the ride, Kinney said she was so tired she wanted to stop after every mile. After about 10 or 20 more miles, the pain subsided and her energy returned.

"When I ride, I tend to focus my thoughts on life. I try to organize my life. It's time alone to me. I'm always rehashing in my head things I have to do and want to do."

Athan Katsandres
STP rider

All three riders have acquired their own favorite techniques and advice on how to survive a long-distance ride. Katsandres makes sure he holds his handlebars in different positions to keep his hands and butt from getting sore. Friesen recommends drinking a sugar-water solution during the ride for better energy. He also says every 15 miles a rider should get off the seat and sprint for 30 seconds.

Katsandres agreed. “It gives your bottom a break and refocuses
your attention. It keeps your concentration on what you’re doing.”

Kinney’s techniques are much simpler. Her advice is to just keep pumping, enjoy the scenery and forget about the miles.

Crossing railroad tracks at a 90-degree angle is also important to remember, she said. Otherwise a cyclist is certain to have an accident. Kinney also said not to get discouraged by passing cyclists. All riders have their own style and speed.

Style is one thing STP riders aren’t short on. In last year’s ride an 87 year-old man competed on a rickety, old bike, Kinney said.

“We passed him pretty early,” she said.

Other riders included a very large woman who biked the whole route and a man who biked with his young son by attaching a rope between the two bikes and pulling his son up the steeper hills, Kinney said. Cyclists rode everything from tandems and dirt bikes to mountain bikes and road bikes.

The STP finishes at Portland Meadows, a large field where all the cyclists finally get off their bikes, relax in the grass and cheer on the rest of the riders until it’s time to board the buses and head home to Seattle.

Crossing the finish line was definitely the most memorable moment for Kinney during last year’s STP.

“There’s so many people there clapping and cheering for you. It’s great,” she said.

During a long-distance ride, cyclists tend to have a lot of time to themselves. In the Northwest, it’s easy to use that time to appreciate the beauty of the scenery and nature that most well-traveled biking roads run through. Other riders use the free time for self-reflection.

“When I ride, I tend to focus my thoughts on my life. I try to organize my life,” Katsandres said. “It’s time alone to me. I’m always rehashing in my head things I have to do and things I want to do.”

Maybe it’s during that free time when cyclists ponder why they’re attempting to ride 200 miles anyway.

For Katsandres, it’s the realization that nothing is out of reach.

“Things aren’t as out of our grasp as they seem. It just takes a little time and effort and patience to achieve them,” he said.

Friesen’s rationale for riding the STP is to help him achieve total fitness.

“My inspiration for doing something like this is to see how finely tuned I can get my body, which was created by God, and to see how close to physical perfection you can get on your own,” he said. “God laid the foundation, but the rest is up to you. What are you going to do with it?”

On that last weekend in June, at 5 a.m. in the Kingdome parking lot, these three riders along with 10,000 others will soon discover whether their dedication, exhausting training rides and long hours of planning will pay off. Two hundred miles later they may have tired legs, an aching butt and a hungry appetite but they’ll have one thing more that overrides everything else: a sense of accomplishment.
Where is it? Is it in the garage? Is it in the hall closet behind the tennis racquets and the baseball bats? You know you have a fishing rod somewhere and the lakes are open. Maybe finding the fishing rod isn't the problem. Maybe you are new to the area and you don't know where you can go to catch fish.

You're in luck. Whatcom County is covered with lakes and here's a guide to where they are, how to fish them and what you can expect to catch.

Most area lakes opened on Apr. 21, and for a $15 license fee, you can fish for trout until the lakes close on Oct. 31. If you want to fish for species other than trout, such as bass or perch, you must also purchase a $3.50 personal use tag. It's a season of fun for less than dinner and a night at the movies.

A number of area lakes are good trout producers. Four of them have been stocked with hatchery-bred nine to 11-inch long Rainbow Trout. These new fish are just swimming around awaiting the arrival of the anxious anglers.

By Scott Harden
Photo by Gerald Reilly
LAKE PADDEN
Location: Lake Padden is located four miles southeast of the intersection of Samish Way and Bill McDonald Parkway, on Old Lake Samish Road.
Fish: The lake received a plant of 16,000 Rainbow Trout just previous to opening day.
Where to Fish: Lake Padden is surrounded by Lake Padden Park, so there is plenty of bank access. You may also fish Lake Padden from a boat, however, internal combustion engines are prohibited.
Other: Lake Padden Park is also the home of an 18-hole golf course, picnic facilities and recreation areas.

CAIN LAKE
Location: Cain Lake, also known as Windemere or Woodmere Lake, is a 72-acre body of water located between the southwest tip of Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish, on Lake Whatcom Boulevard.
Fish: Five thousand of the nine to 11-inch hatchery-bred Rainbow Trout were planted in Cain Lake.
Where to fish: At the southwest end of the lake you'll find public bank access and a boat launch. Motors are legal.

SILVER LAKE
Location: Silver Lake is a 173-acre lake located on the Mount Baker Highway, four and one half miles from Maple Falls. It's about a 40-minute drive from Bellingham.
Fish: A crop of 14,000 new Rainbow Trout can be found in Silver Lake.

TOAD LAKE
Location: Toad is a 30-acre lake located near Highway 542 just northeast of Bellingham, about a 20-minute drive from town.
Fish: The lake recently received 5,000 new Rainbow Trout prior to opening day.
Where to fish: Bank access is available, but limited. The lake does have a boat launch and is most easily fished from a boat.
Other: While fishing may slow at some lakes as summer progresses, Toad Lake will continue to be productive.

BAKER LAKE
Location: Take Highway 30 to Baker Lake Road Number 25 between Hamilton and Concrete. Here, you'll find the area's second largest lake at 3,616 acres.
Fish: Baker is the home to Rainbow Trout, Dolly Vardon and Kokanee (land-locked salmon).
Where to fish: Baker has an abundance of bank access as well as five boat launches surrounding the lake.
Other: This lake is an excellent place to camp. There are five National Forest campgrounds and the Baker Lake Lodge.

LAKE WHATCOM
Location: Lake Whatcom, the largest lake in the area at 5,003 acres, is located between Interstate Five and State Highway 99. Northshore Drive runs part way down the northeast shore. Lake Whatcom Drive borders the lake on the west.
Fish: Anglers will find a large variety of fish in this lake. the trout include Rainbows, Cutthroats and Mackinaw. There are also Kokanee and Small-mouth bass.
Where to fish: The lake has a boat launch on the south shore and the public park footage offers ample bank access.
Other: Accommodations and boat rentals are available at the Lake Whatcom Resort.
While these lakes are the best trout producers in Whatcom County, they are not the limit of the area's fishing holes.

Other fine bass lakes include: Lake Samish, Lake Terrell and Fazon Lake. Fazon is also the home to two species of catfish, the Brown bullhead and the Channel Catfish. Channel Cats gets quite large and a 23-pounder was landed at Fazon last year.

Choosing a lake to fish is only the first step in any fishing adventure. Selecting the necessary bait, tackle and rod and reel combination are also very important.

TROUT FISHING
Bait: Trout fishing can be done from a boat or from the bank. When bank fishing, Berkley Power Bait (yellow or pink) will provide good results on most Whatcom County lakes. Pautzkee Green Label Salmon Eggs also work quite well. Anglers planning to fish at Baker Lake should also take along some night crawlers.

Boat fishing for trout is very productive when you troll. Use lake trolls such as small cowbell or maple leaf spinners. Run a wedding ring spinner or a kwikfish lure, 18 inches behind your string of blades. When using the wedding ring spinner, put a piece of night crawler on the hook.

Bass fishing can be done with a spinning reel or a level wind reel. Whether fishing from a boat or bank, your rod should be capable of fishing six to 17-pound test line or 10 to 20-pound line. The heavier rods should be used in heavy plant cover.

CATFISH
Bait: Night crawlers smothered in shrimp oil are the best bait for catfish.

Bass fishing can be done with a spinning reel or a level wind reel. Whether fishing from a boat or bank, your rod should be capable of fishing either six to 17-pound test line or 10 to 20-pound line. The heavier rods should be used in heavy plant cover.

Bass fishing can be done with a spinning reel or a level wind reel. Whether fishing from a boat or bank, your rod should be capable of fishing either six to 17-pound test line or 10 to 20-pound line. The heavier rods should be used in heavy plant cover.

If your appetite for the sport or the fish has been wetted, but you don't have any fishing gear hidden away in the garage or close, don't despair. Bellingham has nearly as many places to buy fishing tackle as Whatcom County has lakes.

Yeager's Sporting Goods, Norm's Tackle and H&H Outdoor Sports have a wide selection of fishing gear, as well as knowledgeable staffs, waiting to answer your questions.

You can satisfy your tackle needs at Fred Meyer, PayLess, K-Mart, Target and Big-Five Sporting Goods. All of these businesses can be found in your local phone book.
Loan Groans

Fast Cash is Available at the Financial Aid Office

By Leah Linscott

Money, or the lack of it, is nearly every college student’s nightmare. Every month we’re bombarded with the tasks of paying phone bills, electric bills, rent and buying groceries. Then, every three months the tuition beast rears its ugly head and demands MORE MONEY.

Making ends meet is tough, but when it becomes impossible the financial aid office (Old Main 240) becomes an oasis in the desert of dried-up funds.

Students can apply for emergency loans up to amounts of $500. All you have to do is fill out a simple application form and plop it in the basket sitting on the desk. Within a few days a check will be available - your problems temporarily resolved.

To get a $100 signature loan, which are available the next day, students need to be in good credit standing with the university and must promise (yes, you sign in blood) to pay the loan back in four weeks. Interest rates of six percent are charged on $100 loans.

The $500 institutional loan must be paid back in four months and is available for full and part-time students. (This loan usually take about seven days to receive.)

If you receive a loan, the money is yours to do whatever you want with it.

Laurie Senescu, a graphic design major, borrowed $100 for a very special reason.

“I took it out to go Christmas shopping before I went home and paid it when I got back,” Senescu said.

Mark Smith, an education major said, “My sour economic condition caused me to take out a loan to get such luxuries as groceries and to pay my bills.” Smith said he borrowed $50.

Although dipping into the cookie jar is a cure-all for short-term cash flow problems, the loan program can only exist if the funds removed are replenished. If the loans aren’t paid back, no money exists to loan out.

Kathleen Sahlhoff, director of financial aid, said funds ran out during fall quarter because the demand was so high, causing students to wait until the funds were paid back to receive a loan.

The loan program itself started when the school opened in 1904, said Carolyn Hinds, student fiscal services manager, only then it was called the “Girls Student Loan Fund.”

The money for the loans comes mainly from donations and bequests in wills, but is sometimes the result of just plain strange requests.

Take for instance the Clara Blunt Fund. Miss Clara wanted her money to only be available to young girls from rural areas. Hinds said the school is unable to use this fund because of the discriminatory nature of the request.

The Joy Stokes Fund stipulates that the money must go to students of good moral character.

“But we consider all Western students to be of good moral character,” Hinds said.

And sadly, some of the funds are available because of family tragedies. The Fairhaven Loan, or the “Harwood Loan,” was established after Harwood and his family were asphyxiated.

The Adele Saltzman Loan was set up by her family for journalism majors after Adele was killed during her junior year at Western by a sniper on a freeway in Seattle. Her parents created the fund to help other journalism students pursue their goals in the same spirit of devotion to accuracy, fairness, and depth that Adele devoted to The Western Front.

According to the journalism department the fund was able to reach $1,000 thanks to a $500 contribution from the Frank E. Gannett Newspaper Foundation and The Bellingham Herald.

The money is used for short-term, interest-free loans to journalism students to further their career preparations. The money is administered by the college with the guidance of the journalism faculty.

However the loans came into existence, the donors can rest assured their money is well-used and appreciated. During the last fiscal year Western issued 3,815 signature loans amounting to $236,000 and 1,342 institutional loans amounting to $613,000, according to Hinds.

“And our default rate is less than one percent,” Hinds said. “The most important issue is to teach students about debt before they get out in the real world and get into trouble.”
EXCHANGING IDEAS

Foreign friends find frustration, fulfillment

By Jeff Flugel

"The first day was crazy! We (Asian students) had just arrived the night before and the next morning we found out we only had until noon to register," said Fumio Kamachi, 23, an exchange student from Japan's Asia University. "We were rushing up and down campus, trying to get into the classes we wanted, but most of them had filled up by the time we had figured out what to do. It was very frustrating! But then, the first day in another country is always hard."

Kamachi is one of 144 foreign students studying at Western this spring. Most of these students are Asian, a few dozen are European, and all of them had to adapt to what seemed an often strange new world.

Very few Asian students who come to live and study at Western this spring. Most of these students are Asian, a few dozen are European, and all of them had to adapt to what seemed an often strange new world.

Very few Asian students who come to live and study at Western are part of an exchange program. In most foreign exchange programs, an overseas student switches places with an American student. Western's Foreign Studies Office coordinates the exchange program and currently has 30 foreign students, only six of these Asian.

"We can only send six American students to Asia, so that's all the Asian students we can take," said Patricia Rhoderfer, Foreign Studies Office assistant. "It's a direct exchange. We have two students each from Asia University, Tsuda University and Obim University, all in Tokyo."

The rest of the Asian students on campus go through the International English Language Institute programs, with no American exchanges involved. Most are here strictly to improve their English.

The Foreign Studies Office has a number of programs for either study abroad for Americans or exchanges. The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) is the largest in the United States. Other students come through exchange programs offered specifically through Western.

"Our most popular program for just studying abroad without an exchange is the Mexico program," Rhoderfer said. "Forexchange, France is probably the most popular with Western students."

Wherever they come from, foreign exchange students meet with a variety of differences. For one, the typical American campus, such as Western's, differs from most campuses in other parts of the world.

"When I first came, I was surprised that it (Western) was like a mountain out of the city, a separate entity," said Thomas Fromm, 25, a communications student from Germany. "There really isn't such a thing as a campus in Europe. The university buildings are in the middle of the city. When one is a student, one is part of the city life."

Most foreign students live in the residence halls on campus, which for many is a new experience.

"In Japan, there is no dormitory," Kamachi said. "Students stay with their parents and make a one-or two-hour train ride in to the university."
Some American students are very interested in Asian people and their culture," Kamachi added. "These people are very friendly. They always want to know something about Asia, and they are always asking questions, which is O.K. Many other students just are not that interested."

Most foreign students find the American university system strange, especially the examination routine. "Here, you work from term to term, from exam to exam," Fromm said. "Lots of textbooks, assignments, tests and a very high emphasis on deadlines, which bothers me very much."

Thomas Fromm
German exchange student

"In Germany, we read lots of books over a term and write a very long paper, usually 20, 25 pages. We go one or two years, then have very tough exams for two days. It is a more relaxed, independent system."

"In Germany, we read lots of books over a term and write a very long paper, usually 20, 25 pages. We go one or two years, then have very tough exams for two days. It is a more relaxed, independent system."

Foreign students find American campus life a strange mixture of breakneck, fast-lane pace and casualness. "The clothing is more relaxed than in Europe," Gagnere said. "People wear more shorts, even in the winter when there is snow. In France it is more formal."

When it comes to a discussion of American food, most foreign students get homesick. "Oh yes, the food..." Gagnere said, laughing. "The food is terrible, here. I am speaking about the dining halls, you understand. When I have an opportunity to eat off campus, then it's better."

"Part of the problem is that the eating style is so different," she added. "For example, lunch is longer in France. The family gets together, takes time preparing and eating the meal. Here, people tend to eat quickly, or not at all. They are always rushing around. Many eat no breakfast, which I find very strange."

Overall, the exchange students claim the trip is definitely worth it. "A year's a good amount of time," Fromm said. "I learned a lot about the lifestyle in America, on top of all the research and the classes. I think it's a very good experience."

K
SKI TO SEA
Since 1911
A lot of water has flowed down the Nooksack River since Joe Galbraith won the Mount Baker Marathon in 1911. The Marathon challenged contestants to find the fastest route from Bellingham to the top of Mount Baker and back. That legendary race has been part of the inspiration for the present day Ski to Sea Race.

Mike Brennan, executive vice president of the Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry, admits the Mount Baker Marathon is good marketing. "One of the best ways to (promote an event) is by using an historical precedent concept. It was very easy to reach back to that race which was in itself a very wild thing to do."

Not only was the Mount Baker Marathon a wild thing to do, it also proved to be a dangerous thing to do. In 1913, a contestant fell into a crevasse on Mount Baker during a fierce spring storm, and the race had to be delayed while volunteers rescued the hapless victim. After that incident the marathon was abandoned.

The Ski to Sea Race has undergone many changes since those early days when one individual entered, rather than a whole team. The Mount Baker Marathon rules were few: Competitors were given free rein to find the fastest round trip route from Bellingham to Mount Baker and back, whether it was by horseback, buggy, train, foot or boat.

The next phase of the Ski to Sea evolution was the creation of the Blossomtime Festival in the early 1920s. At one time Whatcom County had its own share of tulip fields. The Blossomtime Festival was designed to celebrate its spring blooms much in the way of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

In 1973, the first Sporting event associated with the Blossomtime Festival was born. Three events — skiing, bicycling and canoeing — made up the race. The entire race was 35 miles long with 52 teams participating.

Skiers started at Panorama Dome on Mount Baker with the bicyclists and canoeists continuing the route down through Glacier, Kendall, Deming, Everson and ending at Hovander Park in Ferndale.

During the last half of the 1970s, two more legs were added: cross-country skiing and running. By 1979 the race was 67 miles long with 120 teams participating. The event became a true relay race with teams passing a medallion at each leg.

In 1980, a sailing leg was added and the race finally lived up to its name — Ski to Sea.

Instead of finishing the event at Hovander Park, canoeists rowed an extra eight miles to the mouth of the Nooksack River where they were met by the sailors. The sailboats then raced across Bellingham Bay crossing the finish line offshore at Marine Park in Fairhaven.

Controversy and dispute still flare up concerning the sailing leg. "The sailboat is considered to be an undetermined factor," said Brennan. "The people who are participating in the race are telling us they're tired of the sailboats."
This group of runners won't let the elements stop them from reaching their goals.

of killing themselves running down the mountain and across the county to hit the bay to stand and watch the sailboats, in a leisurely fashion, glide across the finish line. Teams that are highly competitive would rather (use) muscle they can count on... than leaving the race to the wind's favor.”

The whimsical and unpredictable nature of May winds on Bellingham Bay motivated the Chamber of Commerce to reassess the “sea” part of the Ski to Sea Race.

Responding to the growing popularity of sea kayaking and strong lobbying efforts on the part of people like Tim Niemier, the Chamber of Commerce added a sea kayaking leg last year. Niemier, who is owner and president of Ocean Kayak Inc., a kayak manufacturing company in Ferndale, said the addition of a sea kayak leg was a necessity. “Kayaks are generally more practical.” Sailing is too much of a crapshoot, Niemier added. “For foreign teams (sailboats) were a problem. With kayaks, they can bring their own boat on the plane.”

"It's kind of a fanatic race. People spend an enormous amount of time training... they're more focused athletes."  

Brian Johnson  
Western junior

Teams have the option of using a sailboat or a sea kayak, Brennan said. And while these two team options are given separate consideration when prize time comes, a rivalry exists between sailors and kayakers. Last year the first and third finishers were kayak teams, Niemier said. "A Hobie Cat team snuck in there and finished second — somehow."

The addition of the sea kayaking leg is proof that the organizers of Ski to Sea want to keep up with the times. Brennan said the Ski to Sea Race is a showcase of popular Whatcom County activities. "You look at what the community has to offer...and pattern after that a sporting event that is somewhat competitive but mostly fun."

"Five years ago if you walked around Western and looked at the bike racks, you'd see ten speeds. Today it's all mountain bikes," Brennan said.

A surging interest in mountain biking inspired the Chamber of Commerce to add it to this year's race docket. The canoe leg will be shortened by eight miles, ending once again at Hovander Park. From there, the mountain bikers will carry the medallion down to Squalicum Harbor to be passed off either to a sea kayaker or a sailor.

"The mountain bike leg is a welcome addition because it shortens the overall time...it cuts off some of the river time. It adds a lot of excitement," Niemier said.

Excitement is definitely a key ingredient to the success of Ski to Sea. Every year the Ski to Sea Race attracts more interest and the roster of out-of-towners, out-of-staters and international competitors grows.

Nakhodka, Bellingham's sister city in the Siberian Soviet Union, will be sending a team to compete in this year's Ski to Sea Race which will be held on Sunday, May 26. Mike
Brennan said the Chamber of Commerce is hoping to get two teams from Tateyama, Bellingham’s sister city in Japan, along with a team from Port Stephens Shire, Bellingham’s sister city in New South Wales, Australia.

While Ski to Sea has been attracting foreign competition and teams from outside the Whatcom County area, the local competition has been diminishing over the years. Brennan said the race now attracts two-thirds of its entries from out of the area. Five years ago, two-thirds of the teams were from Whatcom County.

Western junior Brian Johnson, 21, and his roommate Greg Wielenga, also 21, along with their neighbor, Greg Warner are putting together a team. All three participated in the Ski to Sea Race last year. Nevertheless, their hearts don’t seem to be in it.

“It’s kind of a fanatic race. People spend an enormous amount of time training...they’re more focused athletes,” Johnson said. It’s also been a logistical and financial hassle locating equipment. For an economically strapped college student, the race can get costly.

Brennan recognizes that the event has become more professionally oriented, attracting some serious contenders and alienating a lot of the more casual and local teams.

The Chamber of Commerce is hoping to revive local participation and interest by creating a recreation division in this year’s Ski to Sea which will provide prizes for all participants. “We don’t want to forget those folks.”

Better prizes in general will be offered in Ski to Sea 1991. “Not only for the highly competitive people but also for the folks who are just there to have fun.” Alaska Airlines, a new sponsor this year, will have a drawing for any participant to win two free tickets anywhere it flies.

More legs, increased international participation and better prizes. Ski to Sea has definitely come a long way from the days when Mount Baker Marathon winner Joe Galbraith walked away with his first prize booty of $100 and a buffalo robe.

Canoeists now must travel eight additional miles to meet sailors at the Nooksack River, since the course was changed in 1980.
Tech Crew Helps The Show Go On

By Stuart Lyon

The guy in the black shirt reading “Leave me alone, it’s the band’s fault,” suddenly begins to yell a stream of complicated instructions.

“Hey, unmute the amps, and tell that guy to turn his base amp down! ‘Get me three 46’s, two 56’s and two 64’s, put the turbos on the wings and get the QSC3800 out,” he screams.

A number of other people in identical shirts are scurrying around the stage at the front of the Viking Union main lounge and a platform in back. The people seem to have no trouble understanding what was said and quickly set off in various directions to accomplish it.

You have just been introduced to the Viking Union technical support staff.

The tech crew, or techies as they are often called, are the people who work behind the scenes to make sure the shows at the Viking Union are successful. The techies are the ones who setup and run all the lighting and sound equipment required by the performers.

“It takes us five to six hours to setup all of the sound and lighting equipment for a typical concert in the main lounge,” said Scott Wallace, supervisor of the tech crew.

Larger shows, such as Western Jam and Showtime, can take up to a week-and-a-half to be designed and set into place.

The techies say most groups are pretty easy to work with and understand the technical nature of the job the crew is performing. However, there are some bands who have what several members of the crew call, “attitude problems.”

“They think they are god’s gift when all they are is a local band who has had some success,” said crew member Jon Sims in reference to the band, “Young Fresh Fellows.”

Wallace also mentioned “Land of the Raven” as a band which has caused the crew problems in the past. “They are very picky for the type of band they are. They want to use every piece of equipment we have, it’s total overkill.”

During spring quarter the tech crew is exceptionally busy, working shows almost every weekend, and many times two or three shows each weekend. This doesn’t even count the average of three to four events during the week they are asked to put on.

“I would say each crew member puts in an average of 20 hours a week during the course of the year,” Wallace said.

The volume of hands-on work the crew gets while working provides valuable experience for students interested in technical theater or audio engineering as a career.

Wallace said he definitely believes experience on the crew helps students prepare for later work.

“Most of the situations on the job are high stress, if nothing else, it teaches people to think on their feet,” he said.

“Working on the crew is a stepping stone to the professional field of audio and lighting in touring companies, the studio or the theater,” added Sims.

Besides giving the crew members experience for their careers after school, the experience gained on the crew helps to open other doors for
A tech crew member adjusts the lighting.

more experience.

"The fact we are working with the equipment we are working with shows not only that we are capable of other stuff, but also gives us the lingo to get into other stuff. We are working with the best equipment available. It is the best in Bellingham and because of that, places such as the Mt. Baker Theater, Speedy O'Tubbs and the Up n' Up are quick to take us on as sound or lighting people."

Getting to work at the Mt. Baker Theater is an opportunity which has helped the crew members establish credibility for themselves. "The Baker, as they refer to it, brings in internationally known acts. Being able to work with one of these acts gives a taste of what it will be like working after graduation.

"If you can go for a job and say you worked for someone like the Koto Drummers, who were just at the Baker and are internationally known, it says something about your skills. The Baker is another stepping stone," said Sims.

Heather Connell said her experience on the crew caused her to change her major. "I ended up changing my degree to recording because of working on the crew. I was in computer graphics and if I was still there I wouldn't be happy right now."

Connell recently interviewed for a summer job in Kennewick and said her tech crew experience helped her greatly.

"I did an informal interview back at home for this summer and when I told them I had experience running sound and lighting equipment from working at the VU they were impressed."

Working on the tech crew has already paid dividends for a couple of former Western students. Jim Floyd, tech crew supervisor until he graduated last quarter, now lives in New York City and has already gotten jobs working on a number of different shows.

"What really helped was perseverance and dedication to the job," said Floyd of the time he spent on the tech crew. "Once you get here and start working, people know if you are good or not and that is how you will get other jobs."

Floyd lives with another former Western student, Mahlon Kruse. Kruse worked as a production assistant during the construction of the sets for "Miss Saigon," which recently opened on Broadway.

Many members of the crew spend their summers working at events throughout the state in order to gain more experience. In the past, students have worked at the Bumpershoot festival in Seattle, the Winthrop Rhythm and Blues Festival, Lackey Sound and Lighting and Electro Voice.

Those who are hired to work on the tech crew are required to complete a full quarter as a trainee before they are allowed to work on their own. During this time, they always work with an experienced crew member and are told what to do when setting, running or striking an event. Most of the training is concerned with learning what each piece of equipment is, how it works and how to go about setting it up so it can be used in a show.

If you are interested in the technical side of performances or want to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes at a show, keep your eyes on the people in the black shirts, but remember, if anything goes wrong, leave them alone, it's the band's fault. 

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May
PARKING IS NOT A PROBLEM!

I INSIST THAT YOU BELIEVE ME!

I'VE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM GETTING A PARKING SHOT YET!

PARKING GESTAPO THEME SONG!

TO-HO-RY-ROW YOUR HOOT;
DRIVE, DRIVE, DRIVE OUR CARS QUICKLY DOWN THE ROAD;
GIVING TICKETS EVERYWHERE, ACTING LIKE A TOAD;
TON, TOM, TON THAT CAR, "I LOVE TO WATCH YOU SWEAT!"
ANOTHER GEEK GOT BUSTED AND MY QUOTA JUST GOT ME;
POWER, POWER, POWER, TRIP," THAT IS WHAT WE'RE ON!
IT'S SO FUNDROSE YOUR FACE, WHEN YOUR CAR IS GONE!

YEAH... WERE KEEPING THIS PLACE OPEN TIL HELL FREEZES OVER!

PARKING IS YOUR PROBLEM AND OUR PROFIT!