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His 'thing' is the classical guitar

Western grad Frank Bliven digs the guitar, all right, but not the kind most people have ever heard of. See story on page 2.
Bliven resurrects the oldies

When Frank Bliven picks up his guitar to play a song or two, he does so with considerable care and respect. His guitar is a Louis Panormo original made in 1828 and valued at between $2,500 and $7,000.

Bliven graduated with a master's degree in performance from Western this past spring and has taught guitar as an affiliate instructor at the College for the past four years.

Actually, Bliven doesn't play the "guitar" as much as he used to. He has a rather unique assortment of other stringed instruments to keep him busy.

This summer, he plans to make a record album featuring his mastery of the 19th-century classical guitar, modern classical guitar and baroque guitar. In the last few years, he has had a theorbo, a renaissance lute and the baroque guitar constructed for him and has set about learning how to play them.

The theorbo, Bliven said, is a 19-string instrument which was in wide use during the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The renaissance lute was in style up to about 1620 and preceded the baroque lute which was also played in the 17th and 18th centuries.

"Nearly every major city in Europe," Bliven said, "at one time employed a theorboist to accompany other instruments during ceremonies and pageantry. History has recorded the fact that Louis XIV employed a court baroque guitarist and theorist."

The lute is another 19-string instrument, played similarly to the theorbo, the difference being that the lute has ten "courses," or pairs of strings which are plucked simultaneously, while the theorbo has 14 courses. Although the bodies of the instruments are similar, the shape of their necks and the sounds each can produce are markedly different, Bliven explained.

Stringed instruments haven't always been Bliven's main interest. He began playing the guitar as a second grader at Maple Falls Elementary School, but switched to the clarinet, which he studied at Mt. Baker High School and while attending Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon.

When Bliven enrolled at Western in 1969, he wanted to study the guitar again, but at the time guitar wasn't being taught there. That year, he attended a WWSC concert by Michael Lorimer, one of Andres Segovia's most gifted students.

The experience drew Bliven to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he studied performance with Lorimer. It was while at the conservatory that his interest in older stringed instruments and music began to develop.

After returning to Bellingham in 1972, he was put in touch with John Rollins, a maker of stringed instruments. Rollins has since constructed for Bliven most of the collection of instruments he now owns and plays.

Bliven recently explained why he is willing to invest so much money and time into the acquisition of such instruments as the lute, theorbo and baroque guitar, each of which costs $800 to $1,000 to construct.

Finding the music can be a problem

"There are basically two schools of performance with these types of instruments," Bliven said. "First, you can attempt to play baroque guitar or renaissance lute music on a modern guitar; but the changes and compromises you have to make in the music result in a substantial loss as compared with the original sound."

A second school, and the one to which Bliven belongs, theorizes that true baroque guitar, theorbo or lute music should be played on the instruments for which the music was designed.

Finding the music and literature needed to master these instruments is another problem.

"Music publishers are interested in publishing music that the public will buy," said Bliven. "Although lute music has become more fashionable today, those interested in obtaining original music must resort to other means."

The best source Bliven has found so far has been the Lute Society of America, which stores microfilmed copies of the original tablatures—notations indicating the string, fret, key or finger to be used instead of the tone to be sounded.

Bliven hopes to record this album in a museum rather than a studio in order to get the "most natural sound possible." As far as he knows, this will be one of the first recording efforts utilizing the original instruments and playing music specifically designed for those instruments, while tracing the developmental history of the guitar.

He said he now wants to concentrate more on performing than teaching and is arranging a concert schedule for this summer and next year.

Bliven, his wife Kristi, and their 17-month-old son, Sam, will make Bellingham their headquarters for the time being. The outlook for the future depends upon the public's response to a man who can pluck a fair string or two . . . or eight, or 12, or 19.

Campus mourns Rahm's death

Dr. David Rahm, 45, Western's "flying professor," died August 3 in a plane crash in Amman, Jordan, where he was performing in an aerobatic exhibition at a flying show being viewed by King Hussein.

Rahm was on leave from Western and had been in Jordan since last spring at the request of King Hussein to organize and train a national Jordanian aerobatic team. The team had been scheduled to perform in Europe and in Canada in August.

Rahm's wife, Katy, and small son Sam were among the spectators who witnessed the accident.

Rahm was first introduced to King Hussein at the Abbotsford, B.C., Air

Show in 1974, where the King, an aviation enthusiast, was guest of honor. A former West Coast amateur aerobatic champion and holder of an Unlimited Aerobatic Certificate, Rahm was at the show as a performer and impressed the King, who invited Rahm to visit Jordan as the King's guest on two occasions prior to last spring.

Rahm, a full professor in the Department of Geology who had been cited as an outstanding educator, combined flying and teaching in his courses at Western. He frequently took his classes into the air to give them a better perspective of geological formations. He was also an aerial photographer, and his work in that field led to the publication of two books and many articles in the field of geology.

A native of Bellevue, Pennsylvania, Rahm was a faculty member at Western since 1968. Two grown sons by a previous marriage also survive.
Viks pin gridiron hopes on Mendelson

By PAUL MADISON
WWSC Sports Information Director

Although he finished classwork for his bachelor's degree last spring, Western Washington quarterback Bill Mendelson will return this fall to compete in his final season on the Viking football team.

Since arriving on the hill in 1971, the 5-9, 160-pound signal-caller has seen Big Blue gridiron fortunes go from conference champions down to last place, then rebound to respectability.

"The only reason I'm coming back to play this year is that I think we can go all the way," stated Mendelson. "And I want to play in a bowl game." "I came here when we were champions and played through the lean years. Now, we're ready for a little glory."

Mendelson came to Western from Nile C. Kinnick High School in Yokohama, Japan, where his father was stationed at a United States Navy base.

As a junior at Yokohama, he was moved from flankerback to quarterback by his coach, Roy Clumpner, who was hired as an assistant at Western last fall. Mendelson responded by leading the team to the league title and earning all-conference honors.

Just as the Vikings have had their ups and downs over the last five years, so has the senior from Amityville, N.Y. In his first season, he did not play in a single game as Western won the Evergreen Conference crown.

"I had been used to a leather football in high school. You could pick it up and throw it any way you wanted and it would spiral. Here, a rubber ball was used and I couldn't adjust to it. My passing just got worse and worse."

Mendelson missed the entire 1972 campaign because he was injured, with a dislocated foot in a practice session. Western dropped to a tie for fourth place in the league standings and finished with a 2-7 record.

In 1973, Mendelson saw his first action, as the third-string quarterback on a team that placed last in the league with a 1-7 mark.

Passing continued to be his weak area.

"It got so bad that I would come to turn out late because I was embarrassed to throw to the receivers before practice," Mendelson explained.

Then teammate Pat Secenbaugh gave him a book entitled Psycho-Cybernetics which dealt with the power of positive thinking. That summer, Mendelson spent time each day and night visualizing himself dropping back and throwing perfect passes downfield.

That, plus many hours of practice, helped Mendelson become the Vikings' first-string quarterback and lead the league in passing in 1974. He completed 73 of 159 attempts for 835 yards.

Western did not win a game that season until the final contest against Southern Oregon State College at Ashland. With the Vikings trailing 10-7 late in the fourth quarter, Mendelson directed a 15-play, 84-yard scoring drive to take home a 14-10 victory.

But the physical education and history major also led the conference in interceptions, having 19 passes picked off.

"Even though I threw all those interceptions, not one of my teammates at any time ever said anything about it," Mendelson said. "That really helped my confidence."

Last fall, Mendelson passed for 1,145 yards, completing 76 of 162 attempts, including seven for touchdowns as the Vikings won three of their last four games to end with a 4-4 record. The yardage total was the second highest in school history.

The 22-year-old also ran for 274 yards for a total offense output of 1,419 yards.

"I like to move around with the ball," he explained. "If I can't locate a receiver, I run now rather than throw interceptions."

This season Mendelson has a good chance of breaking the school passing and total offense records of 1,475 and 1,658 yards, respectively. But that is secondary to his main goal of leading Western to the league title.
Does Italy really resemble a boot?

Too many persons aren't sure of the geographic location of countries.

Take this test and see how you compare.

High school geography students of today may know how people in Hungary live and interact with the world around them, but they probably aren't sure where Hungary is, according to Dr. Jane Ehemann, assistant professor of geography at Western.

"At one time, a major emphasis of geographic education focused upon memorization of major physical and political features of the earth's surface," Dr. Ehemann said. "The study of geography today, however, has shifted away from an emphasis on place location and instead emphasizes the distribution and interaction of people.

"In this shift, knowledge of the location at which events take place has often been de-emphasized, or even frowned upon, as being too mundane for the classroom. But a knowledge of location is important in that it gives students a framework into which they can put the activities and events that are happening in the world."

A recent survey of high school students in the state of Georgia attempted to find out what those students knew about the location of the nations of Europe. Researchers making the study particularly wanted to find out what factors led to students' familiarity with the location of some countries and comparative ignorance about where other nations are.

Results showed, for instance, that the size of a country was not necessarily related to its familiarity. The Soviet Union, Europe's largest political region was well known to the students, but other large countries, Yugoslavia and West Germany, were not well known.

A small country that appeared to be better known than its size would predict was Luxembourg. There was some indication, however, that there is a positive relationship between physical size and correct identification.

Countries mentioned most in news media were not necessarily the most readily identified. Iceland, Portugal and Spain, deemed low in news-media visibility, were well known, while West Germany and Poland, most frequently mentioned in the news, were less well known by the students.

Further examination of the results of the study indicated that the better-known countries seem to be those located on an island or peninsula. Identification of countries in the middle
of the continent seemed more difficult for the students. The best-known countries formed an arc from Iceland to Italy, while a group of mid-continental countries from Austria to Bulgaria were least known to the respondents.

No country in Europe was correctly identified by 80 per cent of the students tested. The countries that were identified most frequently were those of unusual shape or location.

"The question arises as to how meaningful information about West Germany or Sweden provided to students can be if less than 40 per cent of them can correctly fit these countries into a mental framework of places," Dr. Ehemann said.

"Locative data should not be the major emphasis in geographic education; there seems to be little value in simply learning the locations of all the world’s countries or major cities. But data about locations are a fundamental element in understanding any situation and must not be assumed or ignored if the students are to have a clear idea of where particular activities or events occur.

The nations of Europe are in the news daily and events affecting them have a direct influence on our lives. But how well do we know where these nations are located? Below is a list of 26 European countries. Match the names with the numbers on the map above and see how many countries you can identify correctly. A test group of high school seniors in Georgia were, on the average, able to identify only 36 per cent.

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(Answers on page 7, column 3)
Technology students’ design aids handicapped

Two months ago, when it was bath time for eight-year-old Tania Nott of Kirkland, the occasion was a major challenge for her and for her family.

Today, Tania, who suffered brain damage at birth because of a lack of oxygen, can be in and out of the tub in about half the time it used to take, and with half the trouble, thanks to a device developed for her by Western technology students.

Tania’s problems are primarily physical in nature, involving uncontrolled movement of her arms and legs. Despite her handicaps, she is at her normal grade level at the Lake Washington Special Education Center.

Last year, Tania’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nott, read of the successful work of Marvin Southcott, associate professor of technology, and his WWSC class in human-factors engineering and industrial design. Nott contacted Southcott and arranged for him and his students to meet with Tania and observe some of the problems faced by the youngster.

With a little more than three weeks left before the close of the 1976 spring quarter at the College, Southcott’s students set about designing and developing some practical aids to help Tania and her family cope with the challenges facing them.

Through the use of some special “head gear,” Tania played her first game of checkers with brother Paul in the backyard of their Kirkland home. The specially designed game was the creation of student Doug Taylor of Everett.

The end result of that crash program produced a no-slip toilet seat designed by student Eugene Jackson of Gig Harbor, a walking aid to strengthen Tania’s legs developed by Paul Wong, a student from Hong Kong, and a checker game created by Doug Taylor of Everett, which Tania can play with by use of special head gear.

Other student-designed creations included a push-cart which will enable Tania to move about more freely outside by sliding on her back in a prone position, and another cart which she can maneuver while sitting down. Another device, an exercise board, can be attached to a wall or other structure and will help develop Tania’s muscles and coordination.

Southcott said the publicity generated by this and previous class projects for the handicapped has resulted in a number of contacts with other individuals facing similar problems.

He said his classes will continue to deal with this often-neglected aspect of human problems, and has hopes that some of Western’s graduates of the program might one day go into this field on a full-time professional basis.

Some of the students’ creations weren’t completed in time for the formal presentation which took place at Tania’s Kirkland home. Other projects suffered from some last-minute problems and will be refined and developed further.

In all, eleven students worked on projects for Tania. Others included Gordon Bradford of Vancouver, B.C.; Bill Fisher, John Lidstrom and James Walker of Seattle; Dave Fletcher and Dave Marrander of Bellingham; Paul Tiffany of Wenatchee and Kenneth Vander Stoep of Oak Harbor.

Steffens heads journalism

Pete Steffens, associate professor of journalism, has been named acting chairman of the newly created Department of Journalism at Western. The appointment was effective July 1.

According to Dr. James Davis, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Steffens was the unanimous choice of the four permanent journalism faculty members.

Steffens first came to Western in 1972. He had previously taught at the University of California at Berkeley from 1961 to 1969, spent two years writing in Israel from 1969 to 1971 and taught at North Peralta Community College in Oakland, California.

A native of California, Steffens received a B.A. degree from Harvard University and earned a second B.A. and a M.A. degree from Balliol College in Oxford, England.

He has worked as a reporter and writer for Reuters News Service, 1953-55; covered the Middle East for Colliers Magazine in 1956; and wrote for Time Magazine in New York and Los Angeles from 1957 to 1959.

Steffens, his wife Ella and their two daughters, Daneet and Sivan, reside in Bellingham.
Long-range Arboretum plan approved

A long-range plan for the preservation and use of an 80-acre area encompassing the western slope of Sehome Hill has been approved by the board of governors of the Sehome Hill Arboretum.

Board secretary Dr. Ronald J. Taylor, professor of biology at Western, said that a trail-improvement project and the labeling of trees, shrubs and plants within the area is underway and will continue throughout the summer. The projects are being partially funded by a $1,000 grant from the State Bicentennial Commission, awarded jointly to WWSC and the City of Bellingham last year. Western is providing $1,000 in matching funds.

The Arboretum’s long-range plan calls for restrictions on vehicle traffic in the area and specifies that all trail improvements be “in concept with an ecological arboretum and be aesthetically pleasing.” According to the plan, any new tree plantings will be restricted to the edges of the area and permission will only be granted to plant trees that are native to this area but not yet represented on Sehome Hill.

In the plan, board members called for establishing an Alpine garden within the Arboretum, using plants native to the Cascade Mountain Range. Existing gardens in other areas contain species native to the Rockies and to Europe, but none native to the Cascades. Development of such a garden would be made in consultation with a landscape architect.

Continuation of educational programs and tours in the area is also called for in the plan. Board members recommended that an observation tower be constructed on the highest point of the hill and that roads beyond that point be closed to vehicle traffic.

An “arboretum concept” for the area was first approved in May of 1969 by the WWSC Board of Trustees, following advice of a committee appointed by then college president Charles J. Flora. The area then being considered was 35 acres of college-owned property.

The proposal was presented to the City of Bellingham. Following several years of arbitration, the joint Sehome Hill Arboretum became a reality on August 7, 1974, with the approval of an “Interlocal Cooperation Agreement” between the city and the College.

A board of governors was subsequently appointed and given responsibility for the creation, development, operation and administration of the arboretum. The board consists of nine members—three appointed by the WWSC Board of Trustees, three appointed by the mayor of Bellingham and three “at large” members chosen by the appointees.

Current board members are, in addition to Dr. Taylor, Howard Harris, associate professor of sociology at WWSC; Dave Woods, Western's grounds supervisor; city engineer Jack Garner; Philip Schwind, director of Bellingham parks and recreation; and Eunice Wolf, former city planning director.

At-large members are chairman Dick Holland, superintendent of the Washington State Nursery; Helen Warden, involved in environmental education; and LeVern Freimann, retired Whatcom County extension agent.

The board of governors has written its operational by-laws which have been approved by the City Council and the WWSC Board of Trustees. The long-range plan and progress reports will be submitted shortly to each of those bodies for their endorsement.

Arboretum board meetings are scheduled on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public.

Western given $35,000 grant for public records survey

WWSC has been awarded a $35,000 grant by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to begin a survey of records of all public utility districts and other public power agencies in Washington and Oregon.

The sum represents the largest amount ever awarded by the NHPRC. The grant, together with assistance and administrative aid valued at approximately $81,000, will fund the first phase of a comprehensive program to survey the records of all public power agencies in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana and Idaho.

The Washington and Oregon study will begin September 1 and continue through August 31, 1977.

Five WWSC graduate students intern in Western’s Archival Training Program will carry out the survey. They will work under the direction of Esther Harris and Dr. George Mariz of the history faculty and Paul Kohl, former regional commissioner of the National Archives and Records Service.

The first phase of the survey will produce an inventory of all records held by PUDs in the two states and a catalog of their resources. It will also develop model records retention and disposition schedules.

“Up until now, the PUDs and other public power agencies have had neither staff nor resources to undertake such a massive project,” said Dr. Mariz. “Some PUDs operating today can tell you how much gravel they bought in 1933,” he said. “Those kinds of records probably should be destroyed; others must be maintained.”

The researchers will be able to provide the districts with records systems that meet and comply with recently passed laws governing retention and disclosure of certain documents.

Dr. Mariz said that the survey will benefit both the utility districts and Western’s students.

“The five WWSC students will receive the best possible training as archivists and records managers through this project,” he explained. “The PUDs will learn how to better organize their records and will gain the ability to transfer data to computerized form where funds permit.”

In addition, information compiled by the researchers will benefit the general public. Data derived from public power records, Dr. Mariz noted, can provide historians, political scientists, economists and consumers with information needed to predict future power needs, and can help them determine what to build or expand and when to do these things.

GEOGRAPHY TEST

Answers: 1—Ireland; 2—United Kingdom; 3—Portugal; 4—Spain; 5—France; 6—Luxembourg; 7—Belgium; 8—Netherlands; 9—West Germany; 10—East Germany; 11—Poland; 12—USSR; 13—Czechoslovakia; 14—Switzerland; 15—Austria; 16—Hungary; 17—Romania; 18—Italy; 19—Yugoslavia; 20—Albania; 21—Bulgaria; 22—Greece; 23—Norway; 24—Sweden; 25—Denmark; 26—Malta.
'32 HOWARD MICKESEN retired in February after 43 years of teaching, 30 of which were at Queen Anne High School.

'34 GRACE HESS is a librarian in the fine arts section of Hawaii State Library.

'35 BETH HANKINS GRIESEL has retired after 40 years of teaching—20 years at the University of Puget Sound and 20 years in public schools. Her latest contribution at UPS was to set up a new program in early childhood education.

'44 DON ELDIDGE was re-elected to the board of directors of the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association.

'57 BOB DUVALL is a band instructor in the Bellevue School District.

Two students win Gannett scholarships

Two WWSC journalism students have won $750 Gannett Foundation Scholarships for the coming academic year. Karen Borders, a sophomore from Kelso, was awarded the scholarship for freshmen and sophomore entries. Jody Bento, a senior journalism major from Alderwood Manor, won the upper-division award for juniors and seniors.

Four candidates were considered in the final selection process for each division, according to Pete Steffens, acting chairman of Western's Journalism Department.

Lower-division candidates were judged on their journalistic potential, academic promise, evidence of need and a description of their goals and academic interests. Upper-division students were evaluated on their achievements, including training, recognition, samples of work and academic record. Also considered were evidence of need and a description of goals and career ambitions.

'58 CURTIS HORNE has completed his Ph.D. in educational administration from the University of Idaho and is assistant superintendent of schools in Port Angeles.

'60 DICK HARRIS, associate dean for continuing education at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, has been elected president of the Northwest Adult Education Association, a voluntary professional organization.

'65 HOWARD E. A. "TONY" TINSLEY recently received a research award from the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association in recognition of outstanding contributions to the research literature in rehabilitation counseling. He is an assistant professor of psychology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and is acting director of the counseling psychology program.

'66 RICHARD WHARF, supervisor of the Woodinville Group Home, has been appointed by Washington State Governor Dan Evans to the board on Correctional Standards and Education . . . DEAN HORNE, University of Toledo assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded a summer fellowship and research grant.

'67 LUCILLE WILKINSON REULE has retired after teaching 19 years at Assumption School in Bellingham . . . TONY SCREWS is executive director of Children's Industrial Home, Inc., which provides residential treatment for emotionally disturbed youngsters . . . NANCY SUMMERVILLE and Carl Broman were married in February in California where they are living . . . ERIC WARN is director of alumni affairs at San Diego State University.

'68 HELEN SHARMAN is an accountant in London, England . . . ELIZABETH and DALE BEHRENS have received their doctorates in mathematics from Montana State University and are currently at Hastings College in Nebraska.

'69 Susan Paul and JAY SASNETT III were married in May at Mercer Island. They are living in Seattle . . . BERT, a first lieutenant in the Air Force, is in jet pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas.

'70 Linda Ann Johnson and RICHARD GIGO were married in April in Ballard. He teaches at East Port Orchard Elementary School.

'71 BRUCE POTOCKI graduated from Willamette University College of Law and has joined a law firm in Sequim . . . JOHN DOHERTY graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law and is with his father's law firm in Port Angeles . . . GENE MOSES graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law and is employed with a law firm in Bellingham . . . Mr. and Mrs. DOUGLAS W. SCOTT (KITTY WLADKOWSKI) are living in Kirkland. She teaches first grade at Mercer Island and he is an attorney in Bellevue.

'72 JUDITH MALLOS and GREGORY W. LARSON ('70) were married in Tacoma where they are living.

'73 BOB COOK is employed as the Skagit County Human Resources Planner. His job is to represent the county in the administration of local, state and federal employment development and service programs . . . DALE VANKIRK is a first lieutenant with the Air Force. He is serving in Korea as a weapons system officer.

'74 AF Force second lieutenant JAMES BURGESON has received silver navigator wings after graduating from navigator training at Mather AFB, California, and has gone on to graduate from navigator bombadier training . . . KORTE BRUECKMANN is a reporter for The Courier-Herald/News-Banner in Enum­claw . . . KATHRYN DONATI and JEFFREY L. HANSEN ('75) were married in May in Seattle where they are living. She teaches third grade in Renton and he is a Burlington Northern Amtrak employee . . . ALLISON FJERAN and TIM MEAD were married in April in Edmonds where they are living. She is doing post-graduate work at the University of Edmonds and is a physical education instructor. He is a teacher and coach at an Everett high school . . . WESLEY S. MARTIN, a second lieutenant in the Air Force, is in jet pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas.

'75 Karol Ann Shewey and STEVEN FIORITO were married in April in Lynnwood. They are living in Seattle . . . KIMBERLEE FORDYCE is a foreign service officer with the Department of State.

Unclassified ROY BENTLY teaches freshman and college English, humanities, great books, speech, and is the drama coach at Ferndale High School . . . WILLIAM BOULTON is superintendent of the Mount Baker School District . . . KENNETH FARLAND, a longshoreman, was appointed to the board of trustees of Lower Columbia Community College by Governor Dan Evans . . . JAN LA MONT is a management trainee with Pay 'n Save at the Skagit Valley Mall . . . MARILYN PARMELEE and David Demulson were married in April in Bellingham . . . CAROL ANN FJERAN and TIM MEAD were married in April in Edmonds where they are living. She is doing post-graduate work at the University of Edmonds and is a physical education instructor. He is a teacher and coach at an Everett high school . . . K. "OUTSTANDING WOMAN OF WHATCOM COUNTY"

JOHN VANKIRK is a first lieutenant with the Air Force. He is serving in Korea as a weapons system officer.

ROBERTA YOST and Larry Swanson were married in April in Arlington and are living in Snohomish.

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