letter from the editor

Happy Birthday Western!

As the new year begins, so does a plethora of events surrounding Western’s Centennial. Founders Celebration activities include an opening ceremony with a reenactment of the signing of the bill by Governor McGraw to establish the normal school, a formal dinner, concert and historical picture and video exhibit. Many academic departments will also be sponsoring activities to commemorate the centennial of the law.

The keynote speaker for this year’s Founders Celebration, Patricia Aburdene, will be speaking about collaborative relationships for business, institutions and within the community. Aburdene is co-author and collaborator of “Megatrends,” “Megatrends 2000,” and “Megatrends for Women.” She will speak from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Feb. 23 at the Performing Arts Center Mainstage. A reception will follow in the Viking Union Lounge.

During previous Founders Day Celebrations, notable guest speakers have included Wayne Morse, a U.S. Senator from Oregon (1964), and Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas (1965).

For more information on Founders Celebration events, call the Public Information Office at 650-3350.

Corduroy: (N) 1. A kind of coarse, durable cotton fabric, having a piled surface, like that of velvet, raised in cords, ridges, or ribs. 2. pl. Trousers or breeches of corduroy. 3. A corduroy road; the material forming, or the structure of such a road. (ADJ) 1. Made of corduroy, as a jacket. Corduroyed: (ADJ) Dressed in corduroy.

Corduroy Hammer: Tim Pilgrim.

On behalf of the Klipsun editorial staff, I would like to thank Tim for all his help and guidance -- and tolerance of being called "THE CORDUROY HAMMER."

On the cover:
Roger Griffith, master clockmaker. Photo by Will Young. Masthead design by Matt Hulbert.

On the back:
For $45, each graduate can have his/her name engraved on a brick outside Old Main. For more information, contact the Alumni House. Photo by Matt Hulbert.

KLIPSUN magazine, published twice per quarter, is supported by student fees and distributed free. Klipsun is a Lummi Indian word meaning beautiful sunset.
Meet Roger Griffith -- master clockmaker
by J Overstreet

Homeless Pride
by John Pressentin

Financing your education through scholarships
by Julie Krause

To Serve and Protect
by John Lindblom

High Standards
by Charity Proctor

Panoramic Photography
by Clayton Wright

Fairhaven College: 25 years later ...
by Sue Kidd

Mort on the Beach
Klipsun editorial

Nautical Themes
by Chris von Seggern

On the Up & Up
by Loretta Richardson
Master clockmaker, small businessman, political activist, musician

meet Roger Griffith

Roger Griffith works on one of his many clocks. Photo by Will Young.

By J Overstreet

He is a small businessman and political activist. He directs and arranges music for a local choir. He has taught woodworking, metalworking and engineering. He has built a ship and several houses. He is master clockmaker Roger Griffith.

When I visited Roger at his home, he had a room full of about thirty antique clocks awaiting repair. Roger was bent over his workbench with a lens over his eye, squinting as he restored balance and order to the complex mechanisms in the sensitive guts of a beautiful brass clock.

He set the clock gently down upon his workbench, a plain wooden desk. Roger sat up, stretched, and wiped the trace of perspiration from his unworried brow.

The first thing I noticed about Roger was his piercing yet understanding eyes, observing his world from the summit of his sun-weathered nose. His unruly hair cascaded down the back of his neck, a blue-black river splashing over the collar of his faded flannel shirt. A smile cracked his stubbly face; he seemed to chuckle inwardly as if remembering a long-forgotten joke. I felt like I was talking to a favorite uncle who I hadn't seen in years.

Roger spoke fondly, almost nostalgically of Inverness, California, the town of his youth. "It was a tiny village, only about 400 people, but it was real integrated. It was a diverse village, but that little village had room for everyone and it was beautiful. Kids were people too. All my projects have grown out of that little village."

Roger said this village taught him to cherish and appreciate the value of a community. "Community is most important to me, and stewardship of that community. I'm taking care of it and making sure it lasts so that it's not exploited and ruined, so I put in a lot of energy."

Roger has been active in the community since the moment he came to Bellingham about five years ago. Roger started the Neighborhood Coalition, a loose association of people concerned with the quality of life in their community and in Bellingham. Roger said he started the coalition to protect the interests of everyone in the community.

"This was not a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) response. I started this group to address equity ... the first thing we did was get an ordinance passed requiring developers to notify neighbors (about prospective developments) and get neighborhood input. It is a property rights issue. I'm questioning any system that squanders another person's equity."

Roger believes everyone in a community has equity, and he has a clear perception of what he sees happening when this equity is not held in proper regard.

"Government needs to address equities. All equities must be honored. The homeowner's equity is important, and equally important is the equity of the homeless. People's equity needs to be addressed — crazy people become crazy when they feel powerless."

Roger believes everyone is a crucial part of a system, and when any part is neglected, the clockwork breaks down. Even children and youth have equity, Roger said.

"Even if you do not own property, you lose equity when your hopes and dreams are squandered. To say America invests in its future is to pay lip service," Roger said vehemently, throwing up his hands with an air of bitter disgust.

Shaking his head almost imperceptibly, Roger painted a grim picture of what may pass if the equities of America's youth are not honored.

"School's not all it's cracked up to be ... we're setting ourselves up for chaos when we trash our young people. They are way overextended just to pay for their education. Kids get out of school today owing more for their education than their
parents owe on their homes. We’re setting ourselves up for chaos, and I’m not so sure America can buy her way out of it.

If education is part of this problem, Roger explains, it is also part of the solution. Roger got his teaching certificate in the mid-1960s, when he returned from the Philippines, where he served in the Peace Corps. New legislation had been enacted in California which let time spent teaching in the Corps count toward a teaching certificate, but the application process had not yet been drafted and implemented.

“I wrote letters and got documents and verifications ... and basically created the application process. I was practically the first person to get it (credentials for teaching in the Peace Corps).”

Roger’s whole person glowed as he told of a critical experience he had during his service in the Peace Corps. He spoke of a fellow teacher, a man who had such a way with people of all ages that the teachers learned to teach better and the children were swept up in a passion for learning. Everyone felt good about themselves and their abilities, and communities thrived.

“The man’s impact went way beyond the classroom in the Philippines. One experience is so important; the choir is a little piece of all that.”

Roger started a choir, Bellingham’s Kulshan Chorus, soon after he came to live in Bellingham.

“We (my wife and I) came here and looked around to see what there was. There wasn’t anything like the choir around so we just decided to do it. I research and arrange music. That’s my main gift to the community. The Kulshan Chorus performs diverse material that you can’t find in stores. It’s very eclectic.”

There are now about 60 singers in the choir, and more than 100 singers are waiting to join. Roger said he is proud of the choir, whose members range in age from seven to seventy.

“We provide a service to the community, especially to people who have never heard this music before,” Roger said, and added that he has begun the process of applying for nonprofit agency status for the chorus.

“We performed for 1350 people last season, all for free. It is free as a gift to the community; that is part of our vision.”

Before he came to Bellingham, Roger and his wife raised their three daughters on a 10-acre homestead near Sequim, which he bought in 1973 after they sold their home in California. On the homestead, Roger designed and built a home out of telephone poles and shingles, cedar shakes, boards and windows he scavenged from abandoned homes and old barns. Often friends would drop by for a few days to help build the home.

It took seven years to build it, but when it was done, the five-story home had a hexagonal floorplan and two large porches. The family lived a simple, self-sufficient life, eating food from a vegetable garden near the house. Roger earned money doing woodworking and other skilled and semiskilled labor, and began building his dreamboat.

Roger said he became interested in boats during his childhood in his coastal village. Boats were everywhere, so it was only natural that he should want his own. He explained that he approached boatbuilding in the same way he worked in the Peace Corps, organizing a citizens’ coalition and started
Roger Griffith. Photo by Will Young.

the choir.

"It's the same way with anything you want to do. Here's where we are: Where do we want to go from here? I just went and talked to people with experience and got ideas and advice until I felt I was ready to begin."

Roger talked to people who knew about cabins, mechanics, and other areas of boat construction, and then he bought a 38-foot long prefabricated hull. Today the boat sits almost finished in the backyard of his home on Toledo Street, awaiting her maiden voyage.

Roger's leisurely country lifestyle changed when his three daughters grew up and left the homestead.

"I was looking around for what to do next," Roger reminisced. "I thought about teaching or going to graduate school for alternative education. I thought about finishing the boat and being a charter guide. Then I heard about the watch repair classes (at North Seattle Community College) and decided to try it, and found that my previous machine work and teaching applied to clock repair."

Roger became a master clockmaker certified by the American Watchmakers Institute, and moved to Bellingham shortly thereafter.

"I opened the business about five years ago, I bought the house, and the business has been able to support me most of the time. Sometimes it hasn't, so I have to find another way to get by." With a slight shrug, Roger pulled the lenses onto his eyes and leaned once more over his bench to fix the brass clock. He picked it up even more gingerly than he had set it down an hour before.

Reflecting back on the visit, I cannot think of a more accurate representation of Roger than the image of him at his workbench with a clock and his tools.

He had a sensitive understanding of how each part of a system, whether it be a clock or community, must work together for the whole. For Roger, every person, every life, every hope and dream is a weight, spring, pin or cog playing a vital role. He seemed to have a serene wisdom, an understanding that no part is too small or too odd to be significant, and it is this understanding that makes Roger the master clockmaker.

J Overstreet is a journalism major. Following graduation, J plans to own and operate a publishing house. This is his first published work.
For the last two years, home for Rick Curfman has been an endless moving picture, from forests near urban centers to a variety of homeless shelters from Portland to Bellingham. He says a “recurring alcohol problem,” an unstable job market and family troubles have all forced him to the streets.

“Not in too gooda shape, since the divorce,” he says. “I’ve really had nobody to turn to, haven’t seen my ex or my son since then. Gotta a few friends in Mt. Vernon, but I have to quit this bottle.”

A skilled electrician, Curfman said he’s been unable to hold down a job since he was divorced in 1988.

As he walks down Lakeway Drive on a cold night, Curfman’s long brown hair blows over his shaggy beard and weathered face. Wearing two layers of thick clothing and a hat, he looks as though he’s spent quite a few nights out in the cold.

Curfman, a middle-aged man, says he spent time in shelters from Seattle to Portland while doing temporary work. But after spending time in “depressing shelters,” he usually finds more hope on the road.

“Nothin’s predictable, but sometimes a change of scenery helps the spirits a little,” he says as his face erupts into laughter. “I got friends I do work for in Mt. Vernon and Seattle, but it’s hardly enough to live on. Nobody ever wants me around long. Shit, I’m too independent.”

It’s another day of disillusionment for Curfman. He’s another one of an untold number of drifters who come...
through the area each year. Like many before him, he left a broken home and broken dreams for the lure of the open road.

In Bellingham, there are a number of people who live here that have chosen the road for a variety of reasons: family trouble, job trouble, personal problems or the need for independence. Whatever the reason, the homeless in Bellingham are an array of personalities who come from a variety of backgrounds. While many of them are dealing with personal problems, they all seem to be willing to explain the good, the bad and the ugly details of their circumstances.

"I slept with one eye open, with a .357 in hand when I lived out in the bushes," says William, a resident at the Lighthouse Mission in Bellingham. And when I'm living out there in the streets, I carry that gun everywhere. You get a lot of violence out there."

The Lighthouse Mission, shelter for homeless men since the 1920s, helps to put roof over peoples' heads, feeding them and preaching the Christian message. A goal of the mission is to help its residents make a commitment to their lives and work to hold down a steady job.

The biggest difference with people at the mission is that they are often in transition and not "truly homeless," William says. "Some of these people may have been working for 10 years up until last month. A lot of seemingly wealthy folks who refuse to acknowledge the homeless don't realize that they may be one paycheck away from here."

William said after his divorce, he was having terrible emotional problems. He said he's just beginning to understand why his marriage went so bad.

"I had an abusive childhood," he said. "My father was very abusive. I had 11 permanent teeth missing at the age of 13 and a crushed windpipe. Both my mother and me suffered a lot of brutality."

When he was younger William said he got into a lot of trouble and into a lot of fights. Consequently, he was put into a mental institution.

"I'm just starting to realize this was all building up, and my whole life has been my lack of control over my emotional problems," he said.

While William said he was not an abusive father to his four kids, a poor marriage has kept him from seeing his four kids much at all since the divorce four years ago. He doesn't trust his ex-wife and she doesn't trust him anymore. The kids are between five and 13 years old and she has custody of them.

"Six years ago, I was making between $30- and $40,000 a year," he said. "I lost everything because of the divorce. And I just couldn't handle the pressure anymore. I let everything go."

William has worked at a number of missions since that time. He said life in the Lighthouse Mission, where he currently works as a cook, is worth the commitment because the security and direction in his life are important.

"I'm just starting to make sense of things," he said.

Discovering the meaning of his own life is what Gary, a homeless man who lives in "an old abandoned building" in Bellingham, has found since he became homeless two and a half years ago.

Gary, 40, an industrial mechanic, said he has seen life at both ends of the ladder. A couple years ago after getting laid off from his job he said he began his "crawl down the ladder." While working on the East Coast, he said he had it all: a car, a house, a VCR, a television and a "middle-class income." Today he has no trouble living on scraps he gets from "dumpster-diving," and can live on "about $60 a month."

"A few years ago I was making high wages, helping to build huge machinery plants," he said. "Once you're out of work and homeless, it suddenly becomes very difficult to get a job and get paid what your worth. I'd rather live off nothing and be independent than be treated like a slave and get paid $5 an hour when my skills are worth much more."

Gary, a recovering alcoholic who hasn't drank any alcohol in seven years, says he has been looking for work around town, but hasn't been getting any good results. He said living outside all the time has given him a new perspective on the world.

"I notice things in nature that I hadn't noticed before," he said. "I better understand how people are judged in businesses and in life."

Dressed in a denim coat and jeans, Gary said what he likes most about being on the "bottom end of the ladder" is the freedom to be yourself.

"That's what I want in the future — to be able to enjoy this freedom," he said. "If I can't ever get paid what I'm worth, so be it. I'm a good writer. I would like to write something about the new look I have on the world. You'd be surprised how little you need to be happy. It has little to do with money."

John Pressentin is a journalism major and environmental studies minor. He plans to graduate summer quarter.
Financing your education through SCHOLARSHIPS

By Julie Krause

Paying for college often leads students to resort to working three jobs and existing on Top Ramen and macaroni and cheese. Scholarships are another way to finance school without resorting to malnutrition.

The various scholarships that are available generally fall into two categories: private and institutional, both of which have a lot of money to offer students. In the 1991-92 academic year, Western Washington University awarded $744,868 in institutional scholarships to 649 students and $594,578 in private-donor scholarships to 735 students. A total of $1,339,446 in scholarship money was awarded to Western students.

Francine Titus, scholarship coordinator at Western, said the 1991-92 year total for scholarship awards increased 25 percent from the previous year.

"There's a wide range of scholarships available," Titus said. "The money given out is increasing every year."

One such scholarship aimed at specific students is the HAPO Federal Credit Union Scholarship. An award of $1,500 is available to a graduate of a Tri Cities high school who has sophomore status or above and at least a 3.0 grade point average (GPA).

Many scholarships are also available exclusively to students who are freshmen, transfer students or graduate students. The President's Scholarships have awards of $1,000 for entering freshmen and transfer students of superior academic ability. At least 40 of these scholarships are predicted to be awarded this year.

Departmental scholarships are also another popular scholarship option for students. Titus said although some departments may not offer any scholarships, all of the departments on Western's campus offer at least one or two students a partial tuition and fee waiver, which amounts to approximately $750 for the academic year.

Applications for these scholarships, along with a scholarship prospectus are available to students in Old Main 240. Applications for the 1993-94 academic school year are available now.

"We also have information for off-campus scholarships, which is another important resource for scholarship opportunities for students," Titus said.

While many students may believe scholarships are awarded to only a select few, Titus said this perception is false. She said a number of scholarships are available that are targeted at many different people.

"It's well worth a student's while to come and have a look at the scholarship board outside Old Main 240, which is always updated," she said.

Angelina Haggard, a Western student who is part of the program support staff in the scholarship office, said students won't know if a scholarship is available to them unless they search.

"Looking for scholarships is a lot of work and it does take a lot of time, but if a student is qualified, it's worth every student's time to look for a scholarship," she said.

Haggard advised students against paying scholarship-search organizations to find scholarships for which to apply. Students who use these services often come in requesting applications for scholarships that have been discontinued.

"They are mostly inaccurate and cost a lot of money," she said. "It is better to search for scholarships on your own time — it's more accurate and costs less money."

Just being poor does not automatically qualify a student
for a scholarship, since most scholarships are awarded on the basis of educational merit, Titus said. Good grades are often a necessity and most scholarships don’t require applicants to even file financial-aid forms, she said.

"Scholarship winners mainly have to be scholars," she said.

An involvement in the campus and surrounding community is also helpful. Titus said committees looking to award students scholarship money are looking for a well-rounded person as well as an academically achieved person.

Titus said although scholarships are generally awarded on the basis of educational merit, other factors are often considered such as financial need or minority status.

"A high GPA is a real applicant, but a number of scholarships are available that don't require that high of a GPA," she said. "You have to come out and search for what is available to you."

Applying for scholarships can often be a daunting experience, the prospect of which often leads many students to not bother to apply for scholarships they may have a good chance of winning. Collecting all the information applications require early, such as letters of recommendation, is an important step in getting the application in on time.

"Keep on reminding professors who are writing you letters of recommendation about your due date," she warned.

Often applications require an essay such as a statement of career goals. Titus said students should be aware that if their language skills are lacking, they should get help from the scholarship office or the Writing Center in Wilson Library.

"Language skills matter what your major is when applying for scholarships," she said.

Turn in an application that is the best it can be, Titus said. The most important thing students applying for scholarships must do when applying for scholarships is to read what the donor is looking for. The quickest way to have an application overlooked is to turn it in incomplete or late.

"Remember: a deadline really means that (a deadline)," she said.

Haggard said many scholarships have requirements students must continue to meet once they have been awarded scholarship money. Some of these requirements include maintaining a certain GPA or keeping a certain number of credits.

"You need to make sure you meet the requirements to receive the aid and, once you’ve received the aid, you need to make sure you meet the requirements to continue receiving the aid," she said.

Not only will winning scholarships help students get through school but, because scholarships are generally awarded on the basis of merit, prospective employers are impressed with resumes that include having received scholarships.

"Basically, scholarship awards are a distinction. It recognizes outstanding ability," Titus said.

Julie Krause is a criminology major and a journalism minor. She plans to graduate this quarter. Following graduation, Julie plans to pursue a career in the criminal-justice system.
Life as a University police officer

To Serve and Protect

Story and photos by John Lindblom

At 6 feet 5 inches tall and 280 pounds, Steve Gatterman is the last person anyone wants to see strolling up to the car with a .357 Magnum revolver at his side.

It's too late now. He's pacing toward the vehicle — taking his time. He's eyeing the vehicle, noting anything out of the ordinary — broken taillights, damaged fenders, a driver fumbling around in the glove compartment.

But it's just another traffic stop for the rookie police officer. It has been a slow night.

The driver is very apologetic, as are most, Gatterman says. So the reward is a $47 ticket. Forty-one miles per hour in a 25-mile-per-hour zone was a bit high, but he is feeling gracious. The ticket should have been in the $60-80 range.

Since joining Western Washington University's police force in June, Gatterman has taken responsibility for hundreds of traffic stops. Most of his eight-hour shifts are spent patrolling the streets around campus, watching and waiting for traffic violations.

Gatterman is looking for those who fall prey to the age-old driving phenomenon of "lead foot." They are the ones who are confident they will never get caught. When they do, they rely on the infamous "bum speedometer" ploy. If they are desperate, they blame it on some strange disease making them multiply all speed limits by three.

"It's like anything. If you're going to play the game, you're going to pay once in a while. A lot of people I've run across don't understand, and they get very upset about getting a speeding ticket. I just say, 'Hey, were you speeding? Yes. Well, here's the outcome.'"

He speaks in calm, cool sentences. He is in no rush. It's all part of the waiting game.

"No one likes to get pulled over. I mean your heart starts beating when you get pulled over. But we've got to have someone there to say, 'Slow down
before you run into somebody,' or 'It's too wet to be going that fast,'” Gatterman says.

He doesn't mind people who get angry with police officers. He says it's not the person, it's just the uniform.

Removing his finger from the trigger of the radar gun, he checks the glowing display on the back as the speeding car passes. The lucky number is 42. It's another one for the taking.

He shifts the 1992 Chevrolet Caprice into drive and jumps out of the dim shadows of the Sehome High School parking lot. The digital speedometer on the dash is reading 35 mph as he swings the car onto Bill McDonald Parkway in pursuit. He reaches across, pushes a button and shafts of red and blue light engulf the car. The driver of the car out front pulls to the side and stops. Justice is served.

But Gatterman lets this one go with a warning. He says it is officer’s discretion and besides, the driver had picked up a ticket last night in Seattle. Gatterman doesn’t want any more enemies than he already has.

He heads back to the station for a break and some lunch. He’ll be back on the streets in a half-hour, when he’ll start the best part of his day — hunting for drunk drivers.

He has picked up 30 drunk drivers, or DWIs, since June, and the holiday season will probably run the total way up. University police have arrested 63 DWIs this year — a drastic change from the last two years, when only seven drivers were served with DWI violations.

Gatterman is anxious to get these offenders off the street. It's part of a plan to increase the visibility of the University police. They have placed a renewed emphasis on enforcing strict drunk driving laws, especially on main thoroughfares like Bill McDonald.

“There’s a million signs of a DWI. Once I get someone pulled over I can pretty much tell based on what I smell and what I see,” he says.

He knows the dangers of drunk drivers and doesn’t like dealing with them. His ambition is fueled by the fact that most will get away with it.

“I’ve pulled people over and had to arrest them and they’ll have a gun on them. A guy gets out of a car to do a DWI test and he’s got a gun on him.

That gets a little hairy.

"I work hard not to let my adrenalin get the best of me. I’m probably one of the more laid-back people. But to tell you the truth, everything I do has the potential to be violent,” he says.

Throughout the course of a night on patrol, Gatterman tries to stay as busy as possible. He works from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m., Sunday to Thursday.

"First thing out is to drive around the campus and eyeball everything. I want to see the entire campus to see if anything new is up — anything out of ordinary. I always read the reports to find out what happened while I was
He didn’t fail any tests, but says the polygraph, or lie detector test, was the worst.

“They ask you everything and they know if you’re lying. It’s tough,” he says.

He learned a great deal from the academy. They teach everything from pushing paper to pushing the limits of a patrol car.

Gatterman grew up with a family committed to public service. His father and brother worked for the fire department in Renton, and his grandfather was a captain in the state patrol. He remembers riding along with him as a kid and thinking this was what he wanted to do when he grew up.

He still has to finish his degree in criminology at Western, which he expects will take him another year, with working as a full-time officer and taking courses as well.

He enjoys his job except for moments like now. He pulls up alongside a parked car and pulls out his parking ticket booklet.

“This is what makes me a real popular guy,” he says as a sarcastic smirk comes across his face.

He knows he makes unpopular decisions but it comes with the job. A lot of times he has no choice. He tries to get the parking ticket out of the way as fast as possible, because students are strolling by watching.

The trick is to get as much done without getting out of the car and being seen. He hops out and slips the white paper under the wiper of the parked car. He’s quick to move on to bigger and better things.

John Lindblom is a journalism major. After graduating this quarter, John plans to pursue a writing career in print or broadcast media.
High Standards

Western student feels the need for speed

By Charity Proctor

There are more than a dozen airplanes in Shawn Gray’s apartment. Five Delta Airlines jets, an F-16 or two and many F-15s (his favorites) fly around his bedroom in pictures and models.

This is fitting home decor for Gray, whose handsome features, short, brown curls tamed with styling gel and trim body make him look as if he just stepped out of “Top Gun.” Considering his love for speed, he might as well have.

Gray is an aspiring fighter pilot. At 21, the Western senior is a six-year veteran of flight. He plans to apply to the 123rd Fighter-Interceptor Squad of the Air National Guard as soon as he graduates this June, but until then, he wants to teach others to fly.

He received his instructor’s rating during the summer. For $30, he will teach students the basics of aviation. During the half-hour lesson at Bellingham International Airport he’ll even hand over the controls. Students interested in learning to fly can call Gray at 650-2113. But being a flight instructor isn’t really a job for Gray. It’s just what he loves to do.

Flying with friends is his favorite way to go, he says. Being able to share the experience of flight with them is like giving a gift. Most of Bellingham misses out on the spectacular aerial views he sees. People stay in their own little world, he says. Many don’t realize the beauty — of the San Juans and more — that lies so close, and he likes to show it to them. For instance, two years ago he gave fellow Geology 101 students airborne field trips.

“Being able to look at (the scenery) from a bird’s-eye view is really impressive,” Gray says.

A smile comes to his lips as he looks back on the days when he was just learning to fly. He made his first solo flight after a total of only six hours of flying with his instructor.

“You look over and that person who you put all of your faith into isn’t there anymore. You’re totally in control of an airplane.”
Gray speaks clearly and evenly, his words a reflection of the confidence he feels in the cockpit.

"I was totally gung-ho. I just... ate aviation up from the very beginning."

Aviation was never a mystery; Gray grew up with it. His father was an Air Force pilot in the Vietnam War, and is currently a commercial airline pilot. Gray remembers times when his father was still in the military and would be gone for 20 days at a time. That may sound like a difficult situation for some, but for him it was no problem.

"I'm not used to a father who comes home at 6 p.m. every night. You're a product of your environment. I really don't know any different."

Initially, Gray wanted to attend the Air Force Academy, but the competition proved too tough. In hindsight, he's glad he didn't make it into the academy. Current military cutbacks are resulting in fewer graduates receiving pilot training. In the Air National Guard, he has a better chance to fly the kind of plane he wants to fly, he says.

Gray earned his private pilot's license at age 17. He also has a commercial license. Pilots must take a test as well as fly with a Federal Aviation Administration official to earn a license or rating. (A rating is an upgrade to a pilot's license, much like a motorcycle endorsement to a driver's license.) He paid for all lessons and license fees — a grand total of about $3,000 — himself. That's not an unusual cost for learning to fly. Student motivation factors into cost, he says. Students should fly at least twice a week. Otherwise, what was learned in previous lessons is often forgotten, and expensive instructional time must be used to relearn that information.

Gray rents his planes. It's cheaper for most people to rent than own, considering such expenses as hangar space rental, he says. A two-seater, such as a Cessna 152, costs about $45 per hour, fuel included. Most of the rental fee pays for fuel and maintenance, he says. There are strict safety regulations for rental planes.

In all the flights he's had, Gray has never been in a scary or dangerous situation. He has practiced forced landings as part of the learning process, but has never had to put those lessons to use. His success is due to the care he takes. A plaque which hangs on the bedroom wall explains his flight philosophy. A biplane, perched helplessly atop a tree, is etched below the words:

"Aviation in itself is not inherently dangerous. But to an even greater degree than the sea, it is terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity, or neglect."

"It's people who step out of the safety envelope, and who go beyond what their airplane can do and beyond their abilities, who get themselves in trouble," he says.

"There's a saying: 'There's old pilots and there's bold pilots but there's not any bold old pilots,'" he laughs.

One of Gray's few nervous moments occurred in Texas, where his family used to live. He was training for his private license. The temperature was 110 degrees in the cockpit, and it was getting to him. He got lost. But there is no trace of panic in his voice as he tells the story: if worry was anything more than a passing thought, he doesn't show it.

"I just found a major highway and followed it back to the airport."

That was one instance where chance came into play. It doesn't happen often, he says, and it doesn't need to; pilots derive their luck from their skill.

"The more you know about flying, the more you realize it's not so magical or unattainable."

Gray wants to fly for the rest of his life. After his time in the Air National Guard, he wants to fly for a commercial airline. Aviation is what he knows.

Meanwhile, Gray is finishing a degree in accounting. He is also minoring in business administration. A college degree is required in the military and preferred in the airlines, he says. He chose accounting because he has always been interested in business.

Flying is Gray's first love, but it's not all he does. He also likes mountain biking, lifting weights, travelling, and U2. Second only to flying is windsurfing. He allows two windsurfing posters to grace his walls among the many pictures of fighter planes. However, the space windsurfing misses on his walls is made up for by the sailboard that rests on the top bunk of his bed.

"Another expensive hobby that I really can't afford, but I do anyway. I really can't take on any more hobbies — I'm max'd out," he laughs.

Windsurfing attracts Gray in much the same way flying does.

"I really like the adrenalin aspect of windsurfing... the big winds, and pushing myself. I really like to push myself."

"The speed is really neat. That's probably why I'm gravitating towards flying fighters... for the speed... and, you know, the excitement, the competition. Everyone's out there jockeying to be the best."

There's no second place, Gray says. In wartime, the ones who come in second are the ones who get shot down.

Charity Proctor is a senior majoring in journalism.
"San Juan Evening." Photos by Mark Bergsma. Copyright by Mark Bergsma.
The pink patches of the setting sun softly illuminate the thin, splintered clouds resting in the atmosphere. The blue sky of the late afternoon takes on sudden shades of darkness as the sun retreats behind the hills in the distance. The shimmering water and sculpted islands protruding from within provide a perfect, picturesque backdrop. In an instant, the scene takes shape and the photograph is taken.

This image is not uncommon for this area. But for most, the beauty is lost as soon as the sun sinks beneath the horizon.
MARK BERGSMA CAPTURES MOTHER NATURE

Fortunately, people like Mark Bergsma can capture the scene on film and preserve the beauty for the rest of us — to be enjoyed at any time. Bergsma, a Bellingham native and Western Washington University graduate, has been involved in scenic nature photography since 1978. Currently, he owns and operates his own gallery at 1306 Commercial St.

For Bergsma, photography started as a hobby and later blossomed into a career. While at Western in the early 1970s, Bergsma dabbled in photography as well as graphic design. However, following graduation, Bergsma quit photography in order to get married. It wasn’t until his father later gave him a camera as a gift that Bergsma decided to pursue photography seriously.

When his dad sparked that renewed interest in photography for Bergsma, he had other ideas about how the photography profession would work.

“One of the driving forces why I got back into photography was more of a whim on my part,” Bergsma said. “I thought I could be like these other photographers who did these art shows in the summertime, make all my money then and spend my winters skiing. I found out that didn’t work. I have to do this on a full-time basis.

“Takes an enormous amount of energy if you want to be any good at it, market yourself and make a living. It’s not something you can take lightly.”

After working in a printing plant in Portland and fishing in Alaska, Bergsma amassed enough money to start buying equipment. After starting with only a camera and desire, Bergsma was able to purchase equipment for a darkroom so he could start developing his own work. This gave him greater control over how the final product looked. But as Bergsma has found, it’s not the equipment that makes the photographer.

“To be a good photographer there’s an intuitive level that you have to deal with in terms of being able to edit out what your mind’s eye sees,” Bergsma said.

Bergsma also said that the type of photography done depends heavily on eye, the film may tell a different story.

“I’ve gone through a learning experience I still go through every time I produce an image. There are things that surprise me in a good way and things that surprise me in a bad way.

“Even though you think you know what you’re doing there’s always disappointments. It’s the pleasant surprises that keep me going,” Bergsma said.

In exploring photography, Bergsma has found that the triptych works best for his scenic photographs. A triptych is a picture that consists of three separate panels that are joined to complete a single image. In many cases the triptych may be a single picture that is cut into three parts, but in Bergsma’s case, the triptych is actually three different photographs. This is necessary because of the large size of many Bergsma’s photographs. Bergsma said breaking up the picture gives the image a more realistic appeal.

Bergsma said he also likes black and white photography. He doesn’t have as much time to do black and white as he wishes, but said in the future he plans to do more.

In selecting photographs to sell, Bergsma said he likes pictures that look

I don’t necessarily like to call my photography fine art. I like to look at my photographs just as a small step below fine art.
Bergsma said he likes pictures that look like paintings. And as far as he knows, so do his customers. Bergsma said he personally likes large pastel washes of color. Many of his panoramic images are from the San Juan Islands, one of his favorite sites. His San Juan Island photographs are also popular with his customers.

Bergsma also likes the mountains. He has several images that capture snow-capped peaks of mountains as crippled old fir trees reach for the rising sun in the foreground and the dense, gray fog of the early morning swiftly moves in to smother the light from behind.

"I don't necessarily like to call my photography fine art," Bergsma said. "I like to look at my photographs just as a small step below fine art."

When Bergsma doesn't have the time to get away from Bellingham, this area provides a perfect backdrop. What's more, Bergsma said the customers around here don't want to buy photographs of other places. They prefer the beauty of their own habitat.

"It may not be as dynamic as other areas, but try taking pictures in Iowa," Bergsma joked.

Bergsma's younger sister, Jody, has two galleries in Bellingham. Jody draws pictures instead of capturing them, and has helped establish her brother's career by displaying his earlier work in her gallery. Even though they assume separate responsibility, both work to promote each other's business. Jody, who also attended Western, still displays some of her brothers work in her gallery.

For many people, there is nothing like the undisturbed beauty of the great outdoors. Bergsma and his camera have given us the chance to enjoy nature in our own living room. Whether it's the San Juan Islands at sunset or a mountain peak at sunrise, Bergsma has transformed instant beauty to permanent beauty.

Clayton Wright is a journalism major and a political science minor. He plans to graduate this spring.
Students wander in "Red Square." This is what Western Washington University looked like as Washington State Normal School -- years before the idea of Fairhaven college was conceived. Photo courtesy of the Public Information Office.

Fairhaven College:
25 years later -- stereotypes still exist

By Sue Kidd

Why did the Fairhaven student cross the street? Punchline: to get two credits.

Many Fairhaven students and graduates will attest that stereotypes and jokes, like the one above, stain the reputation of the college and its students.

The college is nestled in dense woods on the south end of Western. Its serene appearance can seem quite misleading; within the college, an eclectic array of analytical thought and self-learning takes place.

Bob Keller, a Fairhaven professor since its origin, said the college has gone through a series of transformations since Paul Woodring established Fairhaven as a separate college in 1967.

In the past and present, the college has been called; "Freakhaven," a "hippy commune" and a "dumping ground" for slackers who dislike the standard grading system. The college is on the verge of its 25-year anniversary, yet is still dealing with stereotypes present from the beginning.

The "hippy commune" stereotype may stem from the roots of the college. The original concept behind Fairhaven, Keller said, was to require students to live in the Fairhaven residential halls while they attended the college. Keller said this did not sit well with the students. Fairhaven and Western students protested it, he said, because at the time there was a need for independence, co-habitation was preferred by some and off-campus freedom was romanticized. Encouraging students to live in the environment in which they learn would have created a cooperative environment, not a communal environment, Keller pointed out.

Although the original concept of requiring Fairhaven
Happy 100th Birthday Western!

By Amber Smith

Can you imagine a Western without the need for parking permits? With a dirt playing field in the place of Red Square? Without the Ridgeway residence halls? It wasn't long ago that Western looked like this. In fact, on Feb. 24, Western is celebrating its 100th birthday! To commemorate the occasion, Western is sponsoring a Founders Celebration, the first of its kind since 1965. Founders Day has been celebrated only four times, from 1962 to 1965.

Feb. 24 does not mark the day of the ground breaking ceremony, nor the first day of classes. "On that date Governor John H. Mcgrew signed House Bill 66, which authorized the location of a State Normal School in Whatcom County for the education of teachers of the common schools," said Dr. Arthur Hicks, chairman of the 1963 Founders Day committee.

"The school's doors didn't open until about six years later in 1899, but the authority for the founding of the school had been given by the legislature and the governor," Hicks said. Western was called the Washington State Normal School when it first opened, which meant its mission was to train teachers only.

The first building, Old Main, was built in 1896 and cost $45,000. The school opened its doors to students on Sept. 6, 1899. Enrollment was expected to be about 100 but 264 students registered.

The list of early faculty and staff sounds like a map of Western's campus. Edward T. Mathes was Western's first president when it was still a normal school. J.J. Edens was president of the of the Board of Trustees at this time. Ella Higginson, a famous poet, was the wife of one of the members of this board, R.C. Higgison. G.W. Nash became the school's president in 1914. W.W. Haggard was the university's longest reigning president, from 1939 to 1959. Bill McDonald was the first Vice President for Student Affairs.

The students of this normal school could not earn college degrees, only teaching certificates. It wasn't until 1933 that Western granted its first bachelor of arts in Education degree.

The title was changed to the Western Washington College of Education in 1937 and again in 1961 to Western Washington State College. The college was granted university status 16 years ago and in 1977, the name was changed one last time to the current title, Western Washington University.

What will Western look like in 100 more years? Will it expand into Fairhaven? Will it see a female president? Will Western ever get rid of its parking problem? We'll just have to wait and see.
Since class sizes are typically smaller, communication and analytical skills are developed, said Linda Carr, a 1989 Fairhaven graduate. Her interdisciplinary, or at Western, a major, was women's studies. She has utilized her concentration in her work at Womencare Shelter in Bellingham. Carr is the volunteer program coordinator and said about her Fairhaven degree, "I did more than complete a series of classes."

Interdisciplines, like Carr's, are difficult to design. Many approaches can be taken toward a degree. According to a pamphlet designed by 1991 Fairhaven graduate Peter Frazier, Fairhaven students choose their own curricular core programs.

Three core curriculum requirements comprise the Fairhaven degree program. The first stage includes exploratory studies. Primarily, freshmen enter here and take these as the equivalent of general university requirements. Or, transfer students take a transfer seminar course before moving on to stage two. The courses deal with self-exploratory learning and help students become more perceptive, Hopper said.

Stage two includes two options. Students can either design their own interdisciplinary concentration or complete a Western major following departmental requirements.

Stage three is the advanced studies seminar. It is important to remember that no student must complete one curricular stage before moving on to the next.

At the end of their studies, Fairhaven students who pursue a Western degree receive the equivalent of a bachelor of arts, a bachelor of arts in education, bachelor of fine arts, bachelor of music or a bachelor of science.

Students who opt to self-design their own interdisciplinary concentration receive a bachelor of arts or bachelor of arts in education. Those writing a concentration take a concentration seminar, complete a senior project and are self-evaluated and evaluated by their professors. A series of internships and independent studies complement the interdisciplinary concentration.

In the end, all Fairhaven graduates, like other Western graduates, complete 180 credits, which include 60 credits at the upper-division level and 45 credits in residence for transfers.

Sound confusing? Linda Hopper, admissions coordinator at Fairhaven, said it can be confusing, but students continually work with advisers throughout the process to find the exact program that works for them.

When students design their own concentration, they work with a committee, Hopper said. "It's like grad school. Two to three committee members find out where people are going. Each person's is different. The purpose of the committee members is to give feedback, give direction, give resources. The student does a lot of legwork."
She said the biggest problem with self-designing a major is students tend to overburden themselves with too many classes. The committee enters here, she said, to advise and assist students in tightly focusing their concentration. Classes can be Fairhaven courses with a mix of Western classes to complement the degree, depending on the concentration, Hopper added. In return, any Western student can take a Fairhaven course to round out their degree. However, space is reserved for Fairhaven students first, which makes it quite difficult to get into some classes.

Hopper said senior projects are required of students who write their own interdisciplines. Hopper said some examples of this are, writing a chapter in a book, writing or adding an act for a play or volunteering in the community.

Carr's senior project was volunteering at the Womencare Shelter, where she is now the coordinator of the same volunteer program. She said about the experience, "Fairhaven prompted me to get active in the community and go beyond the parameters of Fairhaven. Fairhaven gets students off campus, doing the work." She said her interdiscipline helped her get to a level of employment hardly imaginable without the degree.

A wide variety of classes are available to Fairhaven and Western students. Hopper recommends interested students leaf through Western's handbook to get an overview of courses offered.

Some examples of popular classes are body awareness, communication and gender, a course on the 1992 elections, the history of feminist thought, organic gardening and the psychology of women.

Fairhaven students who have graduated with interdisciplinary concentrations have completed such diverse degrees as Latin American studies, video and photographic documentaries, spiritual ecology, studies in power: women, law and policy, aging and family systems, somatic psychology and native cultures and nutrition - to name a few. Obviously, Hopper said, a wide variety of studies are open to Fairhaven students.

Only 15 of 354 students this year have a pre-written interdisciplinary. The law and diversity program was implemented last year, and still contains all of its original members. It's the only pre-designed Fairhaven major with all of its courses already tailored for the 15 students.

Christal Davis, a law and diversity senior graduating this spring, said, "Because we're (the 15 students) so close, it forces you to take it (learning) seriously. In a 100-level political science class, it's not as obvious if you don't have your homework done. In our program, since all of our classes are together, it is noticeable if you're getting behind. It causes you to really focus. We learn as much from each others as from our professors."

Davis' program prepares students for a legal career aimed to help under-represented groups. The program, she said, delves into access and diversity in law. The degree is the equivalent of a bachelor's degree and meets Fairhaven concentration requirements.

Davis plans on attending law school after she graduates. She said many career opportunities will open to her because of her law and diversity concentration.

Many graduates, like Davis, have all different types of career opportunities. Recent graduates, like Carr, have entered community service work, while others enter politics, like Tip Johnson, a Bellingham city council member. Graduates like Frazier become entrepreneurs.

Hopper said Fairhaven graduates are successful in finding employment after graduation because often their internship or senior project gets them into the field before they graduate.

Anderson said the stereotype that Fairhaven students can't get jobs may come from the image the students and professors present through their dress and attitude. She said this image has changed, but the stereotype is hard to shake. Anderson said, for instance, she used to wear jeans and T-shirts when she taught. Now, she wears more professional clothing. It is common to see Anderson wearing business-like apparel when she teaches.

Also, she said, Fairhaven students tend to stick out in Western classes because of the inquisitiveness they've developed through their Fairhaven courses. She said these students are often seen as "obnoxious" or dominating in the classroom. She was quick to defend Fairhaven students, saying they are simply used to a differently-structured learning environment.

Regardless of any stereotype, Anderson said, Fairhaven College strives for excellence and diversity in learning. "To our credit, we've learned to use the small class well. The student is actively engaged in education every day. The class formats rely on the student's ability to share, understand and relate. That is Fairhaven."

Sue Kidd graduated last quarter with a degree in journalism. Currently, she is a free-lance writer.
Western's President, Kenneth P. Mortimer, recently accepted an invitation from the University of Hawaii to become the next president of the university. So, Mort is bidding Western a big ole' aloha.

Although Mortimer was only president for four years, he did a lot of things for our university. He attempted to increase multiculturalism and diversity; and led us through the first round of budget cuts. However, it's a little too convenient that he's leaving right before the next proposed budget crunch. He'll be basking in the sun while we freeze our cabooses off because the university can't pay its heating bill. Bummer.

Some of us will remember Mortimer as the invisible president. The man who lived (hid) in his office and had a tunnel built beneath Old Main so he could escape campus without encountering any students — the treacherous beasts! Others, who worked closely with Mortimer, have said he is a compassionate and witty man. Let's hope the next president will be the same — except more visible and available to the students.

He was very rarely seen outside of his office, and when he was, he was fully decked out in a suit and tie. It's sketchy to think about Mortimer in Hawaii. Really, though, how will he get by on the beach in a suit and tie?

Hey Mortimer, hang ten!
Tell me what is the sailboat's name?
Chorus: It's The Good Ship Lady Washington.
Tell me, Oh tell me, what is her name?
Tell me who was it, what built this fine boat?
The People of Aberdeen built this fine boat.
On the eighth day of May, she put out to sea
With the wind in her sails, she was runnin' quite free.
She's lovely aloft and she's lovely below
She'll do seven knots as you bloody well know.
Around Boston Harbor with the wind in her main
And if you didn't catch it, she'll do it again.
We'll bid her a welcome to Percival Docks
And the lads and the lassies will come down in flocks.
Away, away, in Aberdeen Town
They're toastin' the likes of her round after round
So let's drink a health to the ship taut and fine,
The Centennial Flagship of '89.

"The Good Ship Lady Washington," by Burt and Di Meyer
The rhythmic song of the chanteyman rises over that of the wind as straining crewmen, muscles taut with exertion, combine their efforts to hoist the heavy sails. Far above the deck, topmen cling precariously to the yards and footlines, unfurling or securing the acres of canvas that drive the ship. The helmsman keeps a firm hand on the tiller, fighting to keep the rolling, pitching vessel on a straight course in the heavy seas.

Until the perfection of steam power, the world’s oceans and economy were dominated by sail. Today, the plodding chug of the engine room has replaced the creak of the towering wooden masts and the shriek of a gale howling through miles of rigging. The stately “tall ships” (ships with masts in more than one piece) which once crisscrossed the seas and the men who sailed them have faded from the limelight and been relegated to the past. Sailing ships, once the mainstay of Western trade and military power, have been reduced to curiosities and floating museums.

In 1788, one such vessel, the Lady Washington, became the first American ship to sail into Northwest waters. A replica of the original, as exact a duplicate (right down to its name) as Coast Guard regulations and historical records allow, continues to sail Northwestern seaways, preserving a richly vital aspect of Northwest history.

Small by shipbuilding standards (overall length is 112 feet), the Lady Washington is classified as a brig, meaning a two-masted vessel with square sails on both masts. The original vessel sailed under Captain Robert Gray as the supply ship to a larger vessel, the Columbia, as part of the first American naval expedition to this area. The two ships became separated while rounding the tip of South America, and the Lady Washington arrived about a month before her larger sister.

Built in Aberdeen and launched in March 1989 as a Washington State Centennial Project, the second Lady Washington tours Northwest seaports conducting tours, cruises and educational programs. She also offers a crew-training program. This program allows committed volunteers to work as crew members, giving them a chance to learn something of the near-forgotten art of sailing a square-rigged ship.

Western student Andrea Aldridge has been intimately involved with the Lady Washington since 1989, both as a sailor and a singer of chanteys, the work songs used to coordinate the efforts of the crew. While aboard, Aldridge func-

Aldridge sings at a ceremony welcoming the Lady Washington to Edmonds. Photo courtesy of The Edmonds Paper.
tions as the "2nd chanteyman" - she takes over the job of the ship's regular chantey singer should he not be aboard.

Aldridge, 33, is an experienced folk musician with a background in traditional 19th-century British music, including sea chants and work songs. She belongs to St. Elmo's Choir, a women's group specializing in sea songs, and is half of Pilots of Tiger Bay, a duo that sings bawdy songs, sea chants and comic songs. Chanties are rhythmic songs sung by a "chanteyman" to help sailors synchronize their efforts in raising heavy sails. Although the small size of the Lady's rig allows two sailors to raise any of the sails by themselves and obviates the need for chanties to coordinate more workers, they are sung aboard the ship for their entertainment value.

Aldridge has been performing in folk music circles since 1982. In 1989, she was part of an impromptu performance at the Northwest Folk Life Festival of the group that would become St. Elmo's Choir. Through a member of that group she heard about "this tall ship" being built in Aberdeen. Aldridge, having always had a soft spot for sailing ships, decided to go take a look.

“I can't even remember when I started loving tall ships," Aldridge said. "I just know the first decent song I wrote was about them, before I'd even seen one.”

After the Lady Washington's launch in March of 1989, Aldridge visited the ship repeatedly on its maiden voyage around Puget Sound, and arranged several times for St. Elmo's Choir to sing on board. In this way, Aldridge said, she became familiar with the ship and crew.

"I'm considered 'core crew' even though I'm only aboard for a short time at a stretch; it's a nice feeling," Aldridge said.

Aldridge graduated from Everett Community College with an Associate of Arts degree in 1990 and came to Western that fall. In the spring of 1991, the Lady Washington was back in Puget Sound, and Aldridge brought St. Elmo's Choir aboard once more during the ship's stop in Kirkland.

That final visit with the choir seemed to be the clincher for Aldridge. The day after finals ended that spring, she walked up the gangplank onto the decks of the Lady Washington for a three-day cruise and stayed a week and a half.

Aldridge continues her love affair with the Lady Washington. Currently the ship is in the Columbia River, a 5-hour drive from Bellingham, prohibiting her from spending any time aboard. When the Lady returns to Puget Sound, however, that will change.

"I get a gut feeling from the boat and I can't put it into words," Aldridge said. "It's like an internalized sense of 'home.'"

She describes herself as a "displaced naiad" who has always loved ships and the water.

"If you can't live in the water, then the next best thing is to live on it," Aldridge said.

Chris von Seggern is a senior majoring in journalism and political science. He plans to graduate winter 1994.

Artwork courtesy of Randy Beerbower, Grays Harbor Historical Seaport.
Relay has his own brand of bartending

Story by Loretta Richardson
Photos by Charity Proctor

Gracing the front door of State Street's World Famous Up & Up Tavern in Bellingham is a brand that simply says, "Mine." Ian Relay, its owner, offered to let an art student from Western heat up the iron design and adorn the entrance with it. It seems to fit.

"I always wanted to own a tavern," Relay says. He adds that he thought he was fulfilling his destiny since his name, Relay, is originally French and associated with relay houses (or roadhouses).

Looking like a 32-year-old psychopathic Santa Claus, Relay continues, laughing, "Those that God would punish, he gives them what they ask for."

At 18, Relay moved to Bellingham after growing up in New Rochelle, N.Y. He was raised in the same house his father was born in.

"Unfortunately," Relay explains, "it was in New York. It's sort of like having a fancy condo in a toxic waste dump."

His connections to Bellingham and Western are many. His mother graduated from Western in 1941 and was brought up in the Northwest. As a child he visited her family twice and liked it here. As far as he's concerned, this is home, and he plans to stay.

He's attended some classes at Western and has worked on campus as a cook for Marriott food services for 12 years. When he leaves there in the evenings, he busses down to the tavern where he continues to cater to the student crowd.
of several contributions by local artist Christopher Gerber.

Working all day at Marriott and all night at the tavern could suggest that he might tire of being around students so much. Not so.

"I get tired of the grind, but I wouldn't say I get tired of being around college students," Relay says. "It could be worse. It could be winos or Arab terrorists."

He estimates that college students make up 70 percent of his clientele. The tavern is known for its reasonable prices, dark atmosphere and alternative music.

A musician who recently performed at the tavern interrupts our conversation to pick up a forgotten microphone stand. As he leaves, reassuring Relay that it is the right one, Relay tells him in case there is a mistake, "We've got your name, buddy. We live where you know."

Smiling, the band member responds, "I don't know much."

"I don't live much," Relay rebuts, laughing and sending the man on his way.

The history of the Up & Up Tavern is a little sketchy, but Relay says it received one of the first three original liquor licenses in Bellingham at the end of Prohibition. It's been a card room, Bellingham's first disco a go-go in the mid-60s,
the city's first gay bar later in the '60s and finally the World Famous Up & Up Tavern around 1972. Relay and his wife of five years, Patty, bought it in January 1991.

When the previous owner wanted to call the tavern "World Famous," the liquor board didn't want to let him until he could prove it actually was. To do that, the board decided he had to prove it had been heard of in at least three other countries. The owner advertised in Canada and a few European countries to satisfy the requirement. People from these places have even occasionally visited the tavern.

It's easy to find the Up & Up in the evening as its bright, bubbling sign lights the sky and the faces of its patrons. A virtual marvel of neon and incandescent light, this sign is one of the many artistic contributions the tavern has to offer.

There are two murals on the face of the building that were painted by up-and-coming artist Christopher Gerber, who has painted many in the area recently. The first is a single, dark and haunted-looking face nearly concealed by the character's hair and raised hands. There is one eye looking out, frightened, from behind the fingers.

The other mural is a parody of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel. Ian, in the role of God, pours beer into the glass of a thirsty Adam. Gerber has also painted gargoyles on either side of the bar's front door.

Moving inside, a montage, painted by a member of one of the bands that plays at the Up & Up, is to the left of the front entrance. It depicts the inside of the tavern with a bare-chested (and -bellied) Relay looking onto subjects participating in various bar-like activities.

Relay explains because of time constraints and other considerations, he isn't able to be a true patron of the arts, but likes to do what he can.

"Everything has its own autistic statement," Relay jokes. "The seemingly haphazard placement of the bric-a-brac (above the back bar) is, in fact, haphazard. But haphazard is its own statement."

Another interesting decoration in the tavern is a log that hangs over the bar area. Relay says that it was a prop for the television program, "Rescue 911."

"One of the crew just wandered in and gave it to me. As a matter of fact, the guy who gave it to me wandered in Sea to Ski Sunday this year just to see his log. Before we even opened. Just popped in quick to look at his log, make sure I'd taken care of it," he relays. "Now if I could only get him to buy a beer!"

Comedy is another form of art and entertainment at the tavern. Relay is notorious for keeping his clientele in stitches with his puns, hysterically tasteless jokes and stories of the "good old days" (which could be as recent as yesterday).

He often voices limericks (none safely printable), rude jokes ("I had to shoot my dog today. Well, were he mad? Well, he weren't too damned pleased!") and drops punchlines without the whole joke as if everyone will understand them.

This method of entertaining his customers seems to work. Out of the blue he bellows, "Wrecked him? Hell, it damned near killed him!" bringing the people around him to tears of laughter. When asked if they remembered the rest of the joke, none of them could. It obviously didn't matter.

For many years before actually buying the tavern, Relay worked as the doorman/bouncer. Quick and convulsive stories from that time are constantly being tossed among the regulars.

A nearby regular joins in when they begin. He describes Relay's humor as, "full of puns and almost non sequiturs. It keeps you on your toes. It's sometimes almost pyrotechnic...like watching fireworks."

Looking at him, Relay laughingly asks, "How about the time I grabbed Jason's (one of their mutual acquaintances) nuts and he poured a pitcher of beer over my head?"

"Or," Relay says to me while pointing at the patron, "the time I covered this man with mustard?"

"Oh, yeah!" the customer exclaims. "I don't remember what the provocation was."

"I don't think there was any," Relay responds, snickering.

"I don't think so either," laughs the regular. "It was just sitting on the bar and he just grabbed it," he explains as Relay demonstrates his squirting technique with an air mustard bottle and graphic sound effects.

They both laugh heartily as if it was one of their fondest childhood memories. The customer adds that, years later, there is still brown mustard residue in the cracks and zipper of his leather biker's jacket. The men smile at each other fondly, and their eyes light up again.

The memories continue. They discuss the time Relay picked up an old mutual friend of theirs over his shoulders and danced with him—from under each arm. They all crashed, off-balance, backwards to the floor.

His wife, Patty, agrees. The only example of a more serious side is when she mentions how he remembers their anniversary, "He sends me a dozen roses."

"Sometimes two," Relay adds, "depending on how bad I've been!"

When asked what the funniest thing is that has happened since he's owned the tavern, he answers that he accidentally booked two bachelor parties on the same night. He had set one up with the bride-to-be who was supposed to send the best man around for details. The next day a best man showed up, and Relay proceeded to tell him the plans.

---

Recreational shooting and bartending? In the long run it's bad for business.
The night of the event, two parties showed up. The best man who showed up to make plans had been from a different wedding! Fortunately, many of the members of the two parties knew each other and the food ordered was just enough to go around.

"It worked out much better than it might have," he laughs.

A self-professed workaholic, Relay explains his working habits by saying, "I like money." He adds that he also likes having health insurance.

When asked what he does during his time off, Relay quickly replies, "I sleep."

Relay, a National Rifle Association member, also expresses an interest in recreational shooting, but says he doesn’t have much time for it. After jokingly proposing that he might be able to mix his hobby with work, he responds, "Recreational shooting and bartending? In the long run it’s bad for business."

He also thinks that the idea would probably be difficult to get past the liquor board.

Relay usually carries a pistol to and from work for protection, though. "It’s a nice warm feeling in your butt crack!"

A well-rounded, successful and intelligent businessman, Relay somehow keeps up with current events and politics too. His humor adds flavor to his political views.

He says that he sometimes feels that anarchy may be preferable to our current political system and adds that he’s a "rational anarchist."

The regular sitting nearby turns back, his attention obviously recaptivated, and says, "Meaning, Ian has a bigger gun."

Relay laughs, seems to make an affirmative nod and further defines it with a quote from author Robert A. Heinlein as "a person that recognizes society’s right to create laws and regulations, while also recognizing the individual’s right to ignore them completely."

Although busy, Relay finds time to look to the future. With no specific plans, but "some floating around in my head," he mentions that he would eventually like to cruise around the world (at this point, it’s difficult to tell when the puns are intentional; they seem to just keep coming uncontrollably).

"I like cruise ships," Relay says, "you don’t have to drive and there are bars everywhere."

As for the future of the tavern? "Actually someday," Relay ponders, "I’d like to have a chess bar."

Or, ideally, if he had no need to worry about market or fund concerns, he says he’d like to have a small, very bookish place with possibly a hard liquor license and small café.

"Bookish, quiet, a place where I don’t have to hit people often," he says gleaming with a devil-in-disguise grin.

Loretta Richardson is pursuing a degree in journalism. After graduating, she plans to pursue a career in freelance writing and advertising.