Banner announcing the school's new name stretches across High Street on the opening day of school (September 21), the same day in which Western became Western Washington University.
Dr. Michael Mischaikow (above), professor of economics at Western's College of Business and Economics, has been named interim dean of Huxley College of Environmental Studies. He replaces Dr. Ruth Weiner, acting Huxley dean, who will return to full-time teaching. The appointment will extend through June 30, 1978. During that period, a search committee will be formed to seek candidates for a permanent dean. Mischaikow, native of Bulgaria, first came to Western in 1964. He has taught statistics, economics and general studies courses at Western and will be on leave from the College of Business and Economics during his appointment at Huxley.
Plastics was a near-dirty word to Dustin Hoffman in the movie The Graduate, but Americans are addicted to the stuff. The explosion of plastics technology is fascinating students at Western Washington University.

Claude Hill, associate professor of plastics technology at Western, said in the past eight years his offerings have grown from one basic course with a few dozen students to more than nine basic courses with some 250 in attendance.

Hill, 42, winner of the University's "Excellence in Teaching" award this year, said Western's program is one of nine with a student chapter of the International Society of Plastics Engineers. He goes further.

"It's one of the most comprehensive polymer science and plastics technology programs in the Western United States," he emphasizes.

In the basement of Western's Bond Hall, where the plastics technology program is based, students choose courses and laboratory sessions aimed at exploring the nature, processes and applications of a bewildering array of synthetic materials.

Students interested in either preparing for industrial positions or teaching plastics technology can earn a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology, with an emphasis on plastics.

At Western, Hill and his colleague in the field, Technology Department chairman Clyde Hackler, are most interested in giving students the broadest possible view of plastics technology. Besides plastics core courses, students dip deeply into other related disciplines—math, computer science, chemistry, physics, economics and the environmental sciences.

"Our grads are apt to perform better than some from highly specialized programs, especially when they work for smaller industries," Hill said. "Rather than a tunnel view of one area of plastics engineering or technology, they get a background in plastics, product development and marketing. One of our recent women graduates already is supervising a plastics operation in Alaska," Hill said.

While pursuing their degrees, Western students get first-hand experience on injection molding, extrusion, thermoforming and rotational molding equipment. They also explore the intricacies of compression molding and applications of laminates and other reinforced plastics. In addition they have the opportunity to design and develop the necessary production processing molds and dies.

"About 60 percent of our students are industrial tech-oriented," Hill explained. "The rest hope to teach in vocational, secondary and other schools."

Hill, a Seattle native who earned his bachelor and master in education at the University of Washington, previously taught in Bellevue and worked for the Boeing Co. as a designer of experimental tooling.

In fact, new plastics materials and applications continue to intrigue him. Hill and Hackler are working on grants to purchase a larger injection molding machine and equipment for conducting strength and stress analyses of plastics.

Students in the program already have worked with acrylic polyurethane and fiberglass applications in designing the body of Western's widely acclaimed fuel economy car Viking II. The low-slung auto weighs only 1,200 pounds, 150 of them plastics, Hill said.

Another student designed strong, heat gathering panels for a solar energy panel that Hill thinks may someday have commercial possibilities.

"It has definite cost advantages over glass or metal," he said, "the student expects to patent his idea."

For years Hill has probed the possibilities of recycling plastics of America's so-called "throwaway society." He already has explored recycling plastics from a municipal garbage dump and notes that industries are beginning to make better use of their plastics scrap heaps.

"The technology's not here yet for recycling all our packaging and other disposable plastic products," Hill noted, "but I think this area will get more attention as oil supplies diminish."

Hill also is working with his colleagues, students and industry scientists to make the general public more aware of the value of plastics in their daily lives. For students in his introductory course, he said, one project involves listing the plastics products that consumers tend to take for granted.

"Students are amazed at the kinds and amounts of plastics in their lives—from uses in communications and clothing to furniture and medical appliances."

Hill, who injects facts about plastics like a rapid-fire molding machine, chides the notion that America's oil shortages should mean a sharp curtailment of plastics.

"Of all the billions of barrels of petroleum this country uses for transportation, heat and other uses," he said, "only about 2.7 percent goes for plastics manufacturing. That's a very, very small percentage. To me real value of plastics materials is more housing and jobs in manufacturing, construction and other fields."

Though he has given numerous papers on plastics design, instruction, applications and trends, Hill is happiest when he can work closely with students, helping them convert classroom theory into tangible products.

"I like to see students become enthused and fascinated about this field," Hill exclaimed. "If a teacher can stimulate their interest and enthusiasm and also be in a position to offer moral and technical support, then he can't help but be successful."

In his windowless basement office the shelves are crammed with plastics technical manuals and chemistry texts. Hill is called on by industry for occasional consulting jobs and these contacts, he explained, help him keep up with industrial trends. Sometimes they lead to donations of materials for Western's plastics program.

Hill's students now are exploring the uses of boron, graphite and epoxies in the development of Western's new Viking V car.

"With graphite, which is now used in golf clubs, skis, expensive fishing rods and in aircraft and aerospace construction, the weight to strength ratio is incredible," Hill mused. "The whole plastics field is developing so rapidly that we can't help feeling we're on the leading edge of technology."
Inability of air layer to recover from pollution is source of alarm

A chemistry professor at Western has been using the facilities of the National Center for Atmosphere Research (NCAR) to pinpoint air pollution miles above the earth.

Dr. H. William Wilson spent the summer of 1976 at the federal research center near Boulder, Colo., checking for contaminants from aerosols, vegetation and other sources in the stratosphere. His sleuthing, aided by the use of sensitive airborne detectors, ranged from western Texas to the Beaufort Sea north of Alaska's Prudhoe Bay.

"Scientists are presently worried that man-made materials which destroy ozone and other beneficial species are reaching the stratosphere in quantities that will upset the natural equilibrium there," Wilson said. "The inability of the air layer to recover from pollution is the major source of alarm."

At Western since 1966, the Edmonton, Canada, native earned a science degree from the University of Alberta and a doctorate from the University of Washington. Later, Wilson, a full professor, did post-graduate work in infrared intensity measurements at Germany's University of Freiburg.

Wilson said he has concentrated on infrared spectroscopy for many years and began participating in major atmospheric research projects in 1970.

At NCAR, whose normal scientific population of about 150 swells to 500 or more researchers and students each summer, he worked with a physicist in developing an instrument for recording
Question: does pollution constitute a real danger to humanity?

pollutants at high altitudes. One of NCAR's five planes, a jet Sabreliner, can carry such gear to heights of about 43,000 feet as part of its instrument payload of 2,000 pounds.

Wilson said the computer-equipped plane reached maximum altitude in 15 minutes for evening flights that lasted up to three hours. While much data gleaned from the flights continues to be analyzed at Western's chemistry laboratories, Wilson said more probing is needed to unravel the mystery of how the atmosphere disperses pollutants.

"Too little is known of the chemistry of the upper atmosphere and whether or not the pollution constitutes a real danger to humanity," Wilson noted. "This is one of the questions facing scientists at NCAR as well as at other research locations."

Especially vexing, he added, is how the upper atmosphere cleanses itself of contaminants that are visible at ground level and aloft as a bluish haze.

"The very absence of detectable quantities of the compounds is in itself valuable as a clue in the nature of the reactions that remove the molecules from the air," he said.

Will more research in Colorado be necessary with the airborne interferometer Wilson and his associate, Dr. W. G. Mankin, developed at NCAR?

"I've had a continuing good relationship with the NCAR laboratories," Wilson replied. "Future work could well call for a return to Boulder for short periods of study."
‘Old Blue’ shuts out varsity

A group of determined Western Washington University gridiron graduates shut out the current Viking pigskin edition 15-0 to take a one-game advantage in a hard-fought alumni-varsity football series which began in 1975.

Fifty-four players participated in this year’s contest for the old Blue, making it again the best-attended game of its kind in the Northwest.

Last fall 40 former WWU gridders led by a 19-7 margin before the varsity came back to take a 27-19 decision. The alumni won the inaugural encounter 26-13 with 48 players taking part.

It was a six-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Glenn Hadland to fullback Tom Wigg capping an 83-yard drive late in the second quarter which proved to be the difference for the alumni. Bruce Phillips kicked the extra point for a 7-0 halftime lead.

The only other score of the afternoon came early in the fourth period when linebacker Bob Taylor intercepted a pass and returned it 18 yards into the end zone. Bill Mendelson, who shared the signal-calling duties with Hadland, then ran for the two-point conversion after a fake kick.

Two other turnovers were forced by the alumni defense, cornerback Birger Solberg making a pass theft and linebacker Mark Venn recovering a fumble.

Tackle Jeff Michaelson led the alums with six tackles, while end Aaron Culley and linebackers Gary Gilmore and Ivor Hoglund had five stops each.

Hadland completed 11 of 17 passes for 70 yards, while Mendelson connected on five of 14 aerials for 43 yards. The two quarterbacks found 11 different receivers during the contest, split end Steve Jasmer leading that group with four catches for 51 yards.

Halfbacks Barney Thompson and Carlos Warren led the graduate ground attack with 32 and 37 yards, respectively.

Taking part for the alumni were split end Gary Aagaard, center Bob Ames, guard Brett Bennett, tackle Rich Boyd, Culley, tackle Dann DeBellis, guard Randy Deming, guard Al Divina, tackle Jack Dolan, Gilmore, linebacker Steve Gregorich, linebacker Dan Grimshaw, Hadland, tight end Graham Haight, center Andy Harlin, right end Mike Haerling, linebacker Joe Henry, Hoglund, defensive end Chuck Houser, linebacker Rocky Hughes, defensive end Frank Inslee, linebacker Gill James, Jasmer, linebacker Roger Jones, flankerback Buck Kittelson, linebacker Jerry Kelly, tackle Mike Knutsen, flankerback

Ron Kowalke, halfback Rob Lonborg, tight end Paul Mann, center Robin Meyer, split end Steve McCully, Mendelson, Michaelson, center Lyle Morse, guard Marv Nelson, guard Mick O’Malley, B. Phillips, fullback Greg Phillips, safety Vic Randall, fullback

Bruce Robinson, tight end Mike Ross, linebacker Pat Sencenbaugh, Solberg, tackle Mick Spaine, Taylor, B. Thompson, Mike Thompson, linebacker Bob Unick, halfback Rick Vandervacht, Venn, Warren, defensive end Emil Whitman, and Wigg.

Top photo (clockwise) shows alums Roger Jones (41), Rich Boyd (76), Mick Spaine (70), Marv Nelson (67), Glenn Hadland (19) and Mark Venn (42). In bottom photo, alum Mike Ross (left) snarls on sidelines as Robin Meyer looks on.
MBA degree remains hot job commodity

For the past two years, one of the hottest commodities on the college graduate market has been the masters of business administration (MBA) degree, and Eugene Owens knows it.

Dr. Owens, chairman of the business administration department in Western’s College of Business and Economics, also knows that demand for MBA graduates is expected to be strong until at least 1985.

So nearly three years ago Owens began putting together an MBA program. And though funds were not included in Western’s current biennial budget, Owens still is hoping an MBA program could begin here this year or by fall of 1979.

What would set Western’s MBA program apart from most others is that it would be offered at night. People now holding full-time jobs in and around Whatcom County would be the most likely prospects for the program, Owens said.

“Right now there is a tremendous market for the MBA graduate,” he explained. “In Seattle alone, there is an estimated need for 200 MBA graduates each year.”

The MBA is designed as a two-year program and plans call for 25 students to begin classes the first year. Twenty-five more would enter the second year, with a total of 100 students enrolled at any one time.

“Studies show that college graduates with a bachelors degree in business administration can expect to earn roughly $12,500 during their first year of employment,” Owens said. “Those with MBA degrees will earn approximately $16,500 in their first year.”

Owens’ three-year effort, in the form of a written program proposal, is now moving through various councils and committees, both at Western and on the state level, which must first give their stamp of approval.

Tentative approval already has been given by Western’s Graduate Council, College of Business and Economics and the Long Range Planning Committee.

The next step is to seek comments from other state schools on the impact of Western beginning an MBA program. The Council on Postsecondary Education has approved the program in concept, but still must give an official go-ahead to the written proposal.

Owens said the MBA program is now at the state where it could be underway with six months’ notice, having already received a number of inquiries from prospective faculty members.

He said the program’s first students would be a mix of those now working for business and industry, recent college graduates with B.A. degrees, and others who want to advance their job opportunities.

Many schools across the country offer the masters of public administration (MPA) degree. But Owens said graduates of such programs are locked into public service and civil service jobs. MBA graduates, he added, can work easily in government or the private sector.

Once the program starts and if demand continues, Owens said, college officials will consider establishing a day-time section as well.

Much planning goes into bringing top entertainment to Western campus

average of four hours per day, seven days a week on the telephone.

Many students often take A.S. courses for granted—concerts which have brought such names as War, Joan Baez, Fleetwood Mac, Tower of Power, and Bonnie Rait to Western in past years.

Major concerts—four are planned during fall quarter—are only one part of the Program Commission’s task. Also included are the Thursday and Sunday Film Series, coffeehouse evenings (known as Mama Sundays), shows at the Viking Union Art Gallery, dances, and Social Issues programs and speakers.

And all that means long hours of work for Millegan and his assistants. Phone calls, bargaining, contracts, protecting egos and a hundred last minute details go into booking a year’s worth of entertainment.

While jazz took center stage for last year’s concert season, rock will be the key to this year’s major concerts—at least those in Western’s biggest seating area—Carver Gym.

By mid-August, Millegan had made nearly 50 offers to various groups and performers for concerts at Western. And that is a good piece of work in itself.

Negotiating a reasonable price through offers and counter-offers, getting the right facility on campus, estimating costs of sound systems, lights, security, technical help and publicity are all part of the job.

“Put those items together and you have the total outlay, from which ticket prices are set,” Millegan said.

From an economics standpoint, the Program Commission isn’t a money-making organization, but one which wants to break even.

“Our concert fees are revenue generating items,” he said. “We have to make back what we lay out. Then we can bring in other entertainment during the year, such as dance troupes, mime, and speakers.”

The Program Commission’s goal, Millegan said, is to provide the widest range of entertainment possible to complement students’ academic experiences.

ROLL CALL

'33 EVELYN CHANDLER IRBY retired from the Edmonds School District in June.

'50 JOHN PILL, superintendent of schools for the Hood Canal School District, retired in July.

'51 JAMES M. FORD, who has been dean of instruction at Skagit Valley College since 1965, has been named president of the college.

'58 DOYLE E. WINTER, administrative assistant in the Highline School District, has been appointed executive director of the Washington Association of School Administrators.

'60 LARRY PARKER is an art instructor for the Central Kitsap School District.

(Continued on back page.)
ROLL CALL
(Continued.)

'62 HAROLD L. ROBERTS, JR. received his Master of Arts degree in science education—bio-science emphasis—from Northeast Missouri State University in May.

'63 CLIFF JACKSON, who retired as social studies teacher and department chairman at Sumner High School, has been a volunteer at Tahoma Valley Elementary School there since October . . . HARRY WARREN is assistant principal of Hazen High School in Renton . . . PETER H. GRIGGS is a senior paleontologist with the Shell Oil Company in Houston. He was previously with Texaco in Houston and Trinidad, West Indies.

'64 DAVID P. BENSELER is an associate professor and chairman of the German Department at Ohio State University, effective October 1.

'65 ERIC STEGMAN is the business manager at Yakima Memorial Hospital.

'66 DANIEL E. WARNER is manager of MICR Products and Quality Control at Seattle-First National Bank in Seattle.

'67 JAMES R. SMITH has completed a year as a planning associate at the Board of Engineers for rivers and harbors at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

'69 Mary Riachiotta and JOHN AMACK were married in May in Portland. They are living in Hazel Dell. He is a sign designer and pattern maker for the Vancouver Sign Company . . . LINDA MILLIGAN is teaching sixth grade in South Bend, Washington.

'70 WALT HEMION has been named head basketball coach at Clover Park High School in Tacoma. He had been junior high coach in the same district.

'71 JEANNE FOUBERT and Michael Wargin were married in April in Bellingham where they are living . . . JEANNE DARNEILLE is the residential programs adviser in the Housing Office at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California.

'72 MARILYN LAIRD and Dean Saffle were married in Tacoma where they are living . . . FAITH B. ALEXANDER teaches sixth grade in Clinton, Tennessee.

'73 DENNIS LEE WILCOX is a senior in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, where he is specializing in small animal medicine . . . GERALD W. MILLARD is an account executive, Technical Publishing Division, for Ken Cook ' Transnational', a Milwaukee, Wisconsin-based business that is concerned with technical service support literature and automated teaching systems . . . LORI SMATHERS is teaching third grade at Rogers Elementary School in Tacoma . . . Mr. and Mrs. RON PORTERFIELD (Kris Henderson) are living in Vancouver, Washington. She has been teaching special education in the Evergreen School District and he is teaching elementary physical education in Tigard, Oregon.

'74 DIANA LORA and Steven Schrantz were married in May in Enumclaw. They are living in Seattle where she is employed as a graphic artist for Boeing . . . ROB MACKAY is teaching sixth grade for the government of Guam . . . EDWARD P. LEIDTKE is teaching elementary special education in Aberdeen . . . RAYMOND A. GRUVER is working in student programs at Highline Community College in Seattle . . . DARRYL PETERSON is working as an accountant in Seattle . . . Mr. and Mrs. MICHAEL BASINGER (KATHY PIEC) are living in Salem, Oregon. She is employed by the Department of Social and Health Services and he teaches high school and college there.

'75 JOYCE KASSON and Burton Brown were married in April in Bellingham. They are living in Sedro Woolley . . . DAN ROBERTSON is an aerospace electronics technician with the Navy. He is stationed at NAS Miramar, San Diego . . . Mary Haskell and KEVIN BREWER were married in Tacoma where they are living . . . KATHLEEN A. EMERY is teaching sixth grade in South Bend and is the assistant coach for women's basketball at the high school there . . . RICK STEINFAX is employed as a civil engineer in Tacoma. He just returned from working at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska . . . MOLLY ADOLPHSON is working in environmental planning in Seattle . . . DAN MARLOW is teaching junior high school in the Evergreen School District . . . LILLIAN VERHAAR is an elementary school counselor for the Renton and Kent school districts.

'76 CHRISTY KAY KEITH and David W. Moore were married in May in La Center. She is a special education teacher with the Vancouver School District . . . NANCY C. ALFORD teaches pre-school special education in Aberdeen and is working on her master's degree in special education . . . LORI JORGENSEN and MARK SPOGEN ('75) were married in July in Tacoma. He is a high school counselor in Toledo, Washington . . . DALE PETERSON is assistant manager at a Holland Restaurants, Inc., establishment in Centralia . . . RONDA A. BALL teaches pre-school special education in Chehalis . . . PATRICK REICHENBURGER teaches elementary special education in Aberdeen . . . JAY B. HUGHES manages Kinetekos Restaurant in Bellingham . . . ROBERT K. ALFORD has been substitute teaching in Vancouver, Washington.

'77 DEBORAH JACHTS and RAYMOND BREAKLEY were married in April in Bellingham where they are living . . . JANICE M. HAMILTON and RICK E. SKELTON were married at McChord Air Force Base. They are living on Bainbridge Island . . . SUSAN M. WINTERS and DUANE ROTH ('72) were married in May in Seattle. They are living in Alaska. . . CAROLYN BLACKER and RANDY TRATHEN ('74) were married in July in Tacoma. He is employed at Boeing.

Unclassified KATHRYN E. PERKINS and JORGE HERNANDEZ ('77) were married in March at Vashon. They are living in Bellingham . . . BRUCE MACDONALD is director of the Scottsdale Center for the Arts in Scottsdale, Arizona . . . Eva Huth and ROBERT A. MARTIN were married in March in Everett. He is an instructor for the Washington Karate Association in Everett . . . NICOLA (NICCI) HEMPHILL and Jay Rowland were married in May in Tacoma. She is employed as a licensed practical nurse . . . PETER A. BOTTING has been named president of the W. A. Bottling Plumbing and Heating Company in Seattle . . . Linda Pic and ROBERT ULRICH were married in Fife and are living in Puyallup. He works as a surveyor.

IN MEMORIAM

'20 EULA BOWES, May 13, in Portland.

'29 L. JUSTINE DOELL, May 21, in Wenatchee.