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Politics:
- Western Grads
  Ralph Munro,
  Bruce Ayers
  & Randy Tate
- Cynicism
- Washington
  Student Lobby
Also:
- Wacky Wilson Library
- Creation vs. Evolution
- Estrus Records
What is the purpose of getting a college education? Why are we here? There comes a point in every student's college career when we ask ourselves questions like these.

It may be that we are here because it was what people expected us to do. Maybe we always planned on going to college and never thought otherwise. Or, maybe we are here because we want to earn more money or make a better future for ourselves.

Whatever the reason we came here, we are all trying to accomplish the same thing. We want to get an education.

In the movie "Higher Learning," Laurence Fishburne plays a professor at racially-torn Columbus University. While the university and the events portrayed are fictional, Fishburne's message to his students is not. The purpose of a college education, he says, is simply to learn to think.

We want to learn to be critical, to ask questions and to seek out answers. We want to learn to communicate with others, and to get our point across.

The editors of this magazine recently learned a valuable lesson in dealing with people. Our interpersonal skills were put to the test when we began the task of choosing which articles would be included in this issue.

It was clear from the start that certain people were more vocal than others. All of the editors are in leadership positions, and this created an inevitable conflict. Which leader would lead? We sat for hours debating about which articles we liked and which ones needed work. We listened to each other's comments, and were respectful of the opinions of others.

Although it could have turned into a shouting match or a test of tempers, we kept the criticisms at a constructive level, and worked to take into account the feelings of the other people involved.

In the politics section of the magazine, our writers illustrate the importance of getting out a message and communicating with others on the political scene.

In a commentary by two of our editors on creation vs. evolution, we can see the importance of respecting others' views, while still maintaining our own values and beliefs.

Four of the five editors on staff this quarter will be graduating in March. For us, the question of what we have learned during our college years will be put to the test when we graduate and enter the "real world."

I think we will find we've learned a lot more than we realize, and are better prepared than we think. At least I hope so.
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Cover illustration by Kelly Jackson. Back cover graphics courtesy of Estrus Records.
idealism, rhapsodized Newt Gingrich, “is American. To be romantic is American. Don’t be a cynic.” Once the image of the speaker of the house getting romantic in the name of patriotism subsides, consider Bill Clinton lamenting the state of the union. Ours, the president said, is “a country encrusted with cynicism.”

Politicians do love a buzzword. And there seems to be some truth in Clinton’s observation. A 1964 poll found that 76 percent of the respondents trusted the government to do what’s right most of the time. In 1992, that number fell to 29 percent.

Such a tumble isn’t really so surprising. After all, those years brought us Watergate, Iran-Contra and a heck of a rise in the national debt. We didn’t seek cynicism; it was thrust upon us.

Cynicism is the social disease of the 1990s. It’s highly communicable, unpleasant to talk about and nearly impossible to cure. Left untreated, it can fester in a variety of nasty ways.

Symptoms of cynicism can include, but are not limited to, narrowing of the eyes and snorting through the nose when exposed to politicians; watching reruns of “Full House” to avoid network campaign coverage; flying your airplane into the north wing of the White House; and contributing large sums of money to H. Ross Perot.

It won’t be easy, but you can avoid cynicism. As with any disease, prevention is the key. Ironically, the ideal model of preventative behavior comes from the origin of the word: Cynicism with a capital C.

Twenty-four centuries ago, as the crumbling of the city-state system left Greece in political turmoil, a man named Diogenes roamed the streets of Athens in broad daylight with a lit lantern. He was searching for an honest man. He never found one.

Diogenes furthered the philosophy of Cynicism, which had its roots in the teachings of Socrates. The basic idea was to live by the rules of nature rather than the structures of society. The Cynics distanced themselves from political and social involvement, and emotion in general, to achieve apatheia. This concept, which described a state of spiritual peace and well-being, was far from the negative connotation of apathy, its modern variation.

Cynics sought the unrestrained freedom of animals. The word itself stems from the Greek kýnos, or dog. Diogenes and his followers believed that natural pleasure could be attained only by denying the comforts of complacency and adopting the simplistic and shameless mannerisms of their namesake. To those ends, they cast off possessions and items deemed unnecessary, including shoes, eating utensils and, in Diogenes’ case at least, roofs. His humble abode was an empty water-storage vat in an alley.

Diogenes led the pack in shamelessness. So committed was he to natural freedom that he took to relieving himself whenever and wherever the urge happened to strike. While such behavior might result in a court date today, Diogenes was praised for his initiative. The fourth-century Emperor Julian stated that “when Diogenes made any unseemly noises or obeyed the call of nature or did anything else of this sort in the marketplace, he did so because he was trying to trample on the conceits of men and to teach them that their practices were far more sordid and insupportable than his own. For what he did was in accordance with nature.”

While Cynics severed specific community ties, they didn’t abandon society completely. Instead, they set themselves up as a slightly vulgar display to shake up the status quo and hint at a freedom unavailable within the social and political constructs of mainstream society. They didn’t attack authority, but they didn’t respect it either.

One day Alexander the Great came upon Diogenes tanning in a courtyard. Alexander asked if he could do anything for the Cynic. Diogenes replied that perhaps Alexander could move on, as he was blocking the sun.

This nonchalance proved pretty effective, judging by Alexander’s response to the incident: “If I wasn’t Alexander, I would be Diogenes.”

Cynicism as a whole may be too big a pill to swallow. Most of us have a certain fondness for shoes and clearly established restrooms. Stripped of the anecdotes and extremes, though, the philosophy merely suggested that if you can’t control what’s going on outside, the next best thing is to control what’s inside.

Modern-day cynics don’t have to go to Diogenes’ lengths. Perhaps cynicism can be treated simply by maintaining an emotional distance from the things you deem unimportant to your life. This doesn’t mean full-scale apathy but rather a selective apathy, allowing you to focus on what means the most to you and discard all the drivel.

It may not be idealistic, it may not be romantic and it may not endear you to Newt Gingrich or Bill Clinton. It might, however, be just the thing to stop those burning cynicism flare-ups.
Working year-round to represent student interests

Currently only 11 percent of Washington state's general fund spending budget is allocated for higher education, whereas in 1972, higher education accounted for one-fifth of the budget. This is perhaps the biggest, but not the only, indication our state legislators are out of touch with students' needs.

But it isn't just about money. Senators and representatives are working year-round to prepare legislation that could affect every student who attends a public college or university in Washington in some way.

Yet when registering, only about one-third of Western students answer "yes" in response to the fifth question asked of them every quarter by RSVP: Are you among the one-third who answers "yes" to contribute $1 to the Washington Student Lobby?

Whether "yes" or "no," many times the decision is made unconsciously, hastily or ignorantly.

"Right now I think a lot of students aren't aware of what WSL is," said Nathalie Oravetz, a sophomore who recently became involved with WSL as volunteer student representative.

Allison Gregg, a junior, confirmed Oravetz's suspicion, saying, "To be honest, I have no idea. I don't know anything about WSL — other than it is a good organization that fights to keep state funding for higher education."

THE WATCHDOG

Formed in 1982, WSL remains committed to keeping a eye on state legislators' political agendas where higher education is concerned. On behalf of Washington's 75,000 students attending Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, University of Washington, Washington State University and Western, WSL lobbies for issues and legislation affecting university students. Operating year-round out of an office in Olympia, WSL has its own constitution, executive body and a board on which each university has representative votes. Every legislative session, one legislative liaison from each university moves to Olympia to interact with lawmakers and lobby for higher education legislation.

WSL is a nonprofit organization operated solely on contributions made by students. Its annual budget is approximately $65,000. Fall quarter of 1995, 3,384 Western students each contributed $1 to WSL. Proportionally, Western's students tend to donate more to WSL than any other state university.

"Right now I think a lot of students aren't aware of what WSL is."

— Nathalie Oravetz
Even though Gregg's background knowledge of the WSL is not extensive, she does respond "yes."

"Legislators need to be reminded of how difficult it is for struggling students to make ends meet," Gregg said. "Based on the current rate of tuition increases in the future only the elite will be able to afford higher education. I think higher education is a right, not a privilege."

Liz Smith, Western's Associated Students vice-president of external affairs, said the AS organization is not affiliated with WSL in any way. However, she explained, they are a type of sponsor.

"WSL has use of an AS office, phone and copy services, like any other club has on campus, although WSL is not an official club. None of the monies contributed to the WSL benefits the AS."

Smith also explained how WSL contracts with individual universities.

"Every school has an organizational contract with WSL stating they collect the contributions, and then each university sends a check and legislative liaison to the main office in Olympia to work for a quarter. Then the main office uses the contributions to support all of the university's liaisons and their operational costs," she said.

The position of legislative liaison is a year-long commitment. From September through December liaisons prepare for the January legislative session by meeting with legislators to talk about current issues: meeting with the Higher Education Committee Board to learn of newly proposed legislation or policies; and attending WSL conferences to form and discuss individual and common goals and agendas.

From January to approximately April, liaisons stay in Olympia to lobby legislators in session. During odd-numbered years the regular session lasts 105 days. During even-numbered years the regular session lasts 60 days. Even if the session runs longer than the liaison's academic quarter or semester, they must fulfill their obligation to lobby until the session is completed.

Once the session is over, the liaisons return to school and report to their school's WSL chapter about how the session went. Liaisons evaluate their successes of addressing their university's individual concerns and issues, as well as those of the entire WSL.

THE HILL

In the early morning hours of winter quarter, while many Western students were still dozing in dreamland, Neely Stratton was already on "The Hill" in Olympia. She was not chasing politicians' coat-tails or hoping for appointments in pencil. Stratton was determined to make an impact on Olympia legislators by influencing the passage and failure of any house or senate bills affecting students.

Although she is one of only five liaisons representing 75,000 Washington students, Stratton admitted she felt overwhelmed at times. However, she also said with optimism, "I'm changing things down here. I'm the only one representing Western's students' rights. WSL may not have the large money support other lobby organizations have, but we have still proven ourselves."

Each day Stratton, a senior political science major, proved herself a little bit more. Her morning began in the Bill Room, where she checked the status of various House or Senate bills being proposed or debated.

"It is very important to stay on top of things here. I always have to keep informed of what is going on, because if I don't, I might let some important legislation get by," she said.

Then, depending on her schedule for that day, she would try to attend as many Higher Education Committee meetings as possible. "Face-time" is crucial when lobbying legislators. They need to establish a name with a face, and I need to establish credibility," Stratton said.

When she was not in meetings giving testimony, Stratton wanted to spend as much time as possible in appointments with individual legislators. "Hopefully I'll get five minutes, but sometimes I'll have a half hour. We discuss the specific issues on the WSL legislative agenda, as well as any specific issues pertaining to Western."

Stratton said one of her best experiences in Olympia occurred when she gave testimony against Bill 2303.

"The bill proposal would've given public institutions the authority to raise tuition for each of the university's three most expensive academic programs. However, the legislators who drafted the bill never checked the accounting methods of the different schools. So there would be no accurate way of funneled the additional tuition revenue back to the specific (most expensive) programs of each school."

Following Stratton's testimony, Bill 2303 was killed. "It is all about finding that one thread that will make the whole thing unravel," she explained.

Not all days were days like that, Stratton conceded. Some days were discouraging and frustrating.

"Like when I met with Representative Dave Mastin of the 16th District," Stratton recalled. "He was very closed-minded. He thinks students are just whiners who can adequately fund their education through federal and private loans."

Stratton said some legislators, like Mastin, just won't budge on how low they place higher education on their list of priority concerns. However, it is important not to alienate anyone. "Someone may be your enemy one day but your ally the next," Stratton said.

For every one lawmaker who opposes the changes Stratton and the WSL are seeking, there are at least two willing to give their support. "It is the ones in the middle whom I need to bombard with information so they'll vote on legislation in Western's and the WSL's favor."

-- Neely Stratton

Smith was Stratton's "right-hand-woman," researching and supplying the testimonial information she needed and managing WSL on Western's home front. She has been involved with WSL for many years, including being chapter chair last year.

THE HOME FRONT

Smith was Stratton's "right-hand-woman," researching and supplying the testimonial information she needed and managing WSL on Western's home front. She has been involved with WSL for many years, including being chapter chair last year.
"A lot of what WSL has done has been more of a blocking activity. The organization itself has been a more preventive force than creative movement. As lobbyists, it is not our job to create legislation, although we can encourage, support and add our information to proposed legislation," Smith said.

"For example, last year Senator Owen of the 35th District proposed a bill preventing the consumption of alcohol on college campuses, even if those consuming were 21 years old or older. WSL fought this bill, claiming it not only violated civil rights, but a lot of 21-year-olds live in campus housing. If this bill was passed they would move out and drive up prices for other residents to make up for the loss. WSL organized, got students to call their legislators, so the bill got shot down," Smith said.

It is still a long-term goal for Western's WSL chapter to increase its contribution request to $2.

"Right now we are on basic operation with the $1 contribution. But we don't have any extra money to do any projects. For example, we would like to have training for our legislative liaisons because they go down to Olympia having no prior lobbying experience. We also need things like a new copy machine and other office equipment. It is important we look professional when dealing with legislators," Smith commented.

Sophomore Michelle Caballero said, "I would only be willing to contribute an additional $1 to WSL if they did a better job of keeping me informed of how they are currently spending students' contributions."

Catherine Bouthillier, a junior, agreed with Caballero.

"Western's WSL chapter needs to take the initiative to get the word out about what they are doing, I think they would get a lot more support in general, as well as increased donations, if more students understood what the organization is all about. Perhaps WSL could submit articles to The Western Front, or publish their own newsletter," Bouthillier said.

THE CHALLENGE

Whether united as an organization or preoccupied with individual university agendas, the WSL faces many challenges every year.

Keith Boyd, executive director of the WSL, said one major challenge that has existed since 1962 is House Bill 1005, better known as the "Student Regent's Bill. The WSL has continuously battled to get a student on each university's Board of Trustees. Such a student could vocalize about, and vote on, policies that ultimately control the operation of the school.

"We were close to getting it passed last year but it came up short in the Senate," Boyd explained. "I don't think it'll get any attention this year because it is a short session. But I have a good feeling it'll finally get passed in 1997 because we will have time to focus and gain more legislative support."

In addition, Boyd said, "A top priority for WSL is access. Access is a buzzword for getting students through higher education in four years. Washington is currently ranked 49th out of 50 for state access to higher education. The more we can help current college students graduate, the more accessibility we can create for students applying to attend public universities."

Some solutions WSL sees as improving Washington's access ranking are keeping tuition low and state general fund spending high, increasing financial aid, providing good child care for students who are parents of young children and holding the universities accountable for aggressive and easily available academic advising.

"Oravetz encourages all Western students to volunteer for, get informed about and/or donate to WSL because it deals with legislative issues affecting students. "I see it as politics on a personal level," she said.

"If there was no WSL I really do think a lot of the legislation passed would be quite out of touch with the actual needs and benefits of Washington state students."

-Liz Smith
In November of 1988, Randy Tate was in the race of his life. He was only 22 and near completion of his double major in political science and economics at Western. Unlike his college peers, who were worried whether they were going to be able to get up in time for class or pass final exams, Tate was worried about winning an election. Not the student council or even city council, but the state legislature.

His opponent, Frank (Buster) Brouillet, was a former state legislator and served as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Pretty impressive credentials, but they didn’t even phase Tate, who, after knocking on more than 15,000 doors and wearing out three pairs of shoes, was victorious.

Six years later, after three successful terms in the state legislature, Tate once again decided to defy the norm and ran for Congress at age 28 and won, becoming the youngest Republican member of Congress.

In addition to Tate, who eventually graduated in 1990, two other distinguished Western alumni hold high profile political positions. On the state level is Ralph Munro, a 1966 graduate who has served as secretary of state for the past 16 years. On the local level is 1979 graduate Bruce Ayers, a Bellingham city councilman and recently elected council president.

**Poster boy of the radical right?**

Sitting in a Tacoma hotel coffee shop on a snowy January afternoon, Tate had just spent the morning working in his Federal Way office. He was on his way home to Puyallup to spend a few hours with his wife, Julie, and 1-year-old daughter, Madeleine, before heading back to Federal Way for a town hall meeting later that evening.

Wearing a white shirt with a colorful neck-tie and gray suit pants held up by suspenders, Tate’s genuine, boyish good
looks are coupled with a receding hair line.

He said he chose Western for various reasons. "My older brother went to Western and liked it," Tate says, "plus it was close to home. Also you weren't just a number, you could actually get to know your professor."

While at Western, Tate surprisingly was not involved in student government. Most of his extracurricular campus involvement was playing intramural sports such as softball, basketball and volleyball. The remainder of his time was spent eating, studying or taking naps, which he pointed out was "a coveted thing to do when you are in college, because you don't get much sleep."

Growing up, Tate had always been interested in politics — in fourth grade he ran for class president and won on the platform of "longer recesses and better school lunches," which he jokingly says he reminded his Democratic colleagues in Congress of when they accused him of not supporting better school lunches. He was also elected class president at Tacoma Baptist High School.

While attending Tacoma Community College, Tate said he had a professor who made "political science very interesting, so I decided that was going to be my major."

He began to attend Republican party meetings and in 1988 was a delegate to the county, state and national Republican conventions. "I was kind of like television character Alex Keaton on 'Family Ties,'" he recalls, "wearing all kinds of political pins on my shirt."

He then decided to run for office because he felt concerned with what was going on in the state.

"There was a need for change, so I decided to run," he says. "I didn't have a lot of money and had very few connections ... but I had a good message and good volunteers ... I figured if the founding fathers were willing to put their neck on the line, the least I can do is go through the media scrutiny and the other challenges to do my part to make this state and country a better place."

In preparation for his campaign, Tate attended one campaign seminar in Olympia where one of the speakers told him, "If you really want to win, young man, you will have to wear out three pairs of shoes." Tate says he went doorbelling every day from the end of June (1988) until November, six to eight hours a day. "As long as people answered the door, I kept going," he says.

During the campaign his relatively young age was never an issue with the voters. "If you have a good message, people do not care how old you are. They would start talking about higher education, I was in it. They (voters) needed a different perspective, which I could bring."

Once in the legislature, Tate worked hard at maintaining a close and strong relationship with his constituency. He also moved up rapidly in the party leadership, taking on the role of caucus chair, the number-two position within party hierarchy.

When looking back at his state legislative career, he says the most memorable experiences "were not the bills I helped pass, but the people I helped," such as helping a constituent whose electricity was going to be shut down because their welfare check did not show up. The most important thing in that person's life right then, Tate says emphatically, "is not some legislative bill or policy that politicians are working on, but making sure they receive their welfare check and not having their electricity cut off."

Tate has been labeled many things by opponents throughout his political career, including "poster boy of the radical right" by the state Democratic party chairman in Tate's 1994 campaign for Congress.

"Anyone against high taxes, against socialized medicine and who does not believe that all problems can be solved by government," he says pointedly, "is going to be labeled radical right."

Once in Congress, Tate was one of eight freshmen-elect invited to advise House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia) on the formation of a transition team.

Tate says Gingrich is very approachable.

"The first thing he says when you sit down to talk to him is, 'What did you hear out there? What are the people in your district saying?' He is an incredible listener."

In response to the low approval ratings Gingrich has been receiving, Tate remembered once Gingrich commented to him, "If he only heard 30-second sound bites he probably would not like himself either."

Tate attributes much of his success to a very supportive family, his faith in God and all the teachers from elementary school through college who inspired him.

His limited amount of free time is spent with his family, and Tate says he plays pickle ball, beach volleyball or just about anything competitive. "It could be monopoly or Uno. If there is competition (involved)," he says, "I like doing it."

**EVOLUTION OF A PUBLIC SERVANT**

Unlike Tate, Munro was very active in campus politics while a student at Western in the '60s.

Sitting at a long dark oak table in his capitol office, the tall, gray-haired man talks about his days at Western.

He says he chose to attend Western because it was small and offered a much more personal education. "I was afraid of the city, of going to the University of Washington," adds the 1966 history-education graduate.

While at Western, Munro served as a representative on the student council. He rose up through student government to eventually hold the position of student body president in his junior year.

He describes the mood of the student body when he attended Western as being very "divided." It was at the start of the Vietnam War, which caused a huge uproar on the campus.

Munro, who at the time claimed to be a conservative Republican, says one day a huge group of students was
marching from the campus to the federal building downtown. Munro and a group of his buddies got a van with loudspeakers attached to the top and followed the procession, playing patriotic music.

"They (the protesters) were furious. They wanted to kill us and they probably should have," he recalls with a grin.

Munro, who has held the position of secretary of state since 1980 and plans to run for re-election this year, began his public service career in the late '60s.

Governor Dan Evans asked him to create a volunteer program aimed at college students. The program was so successful, it attracted the attention of the Nixon White House, which asked Munro to come back to Washington D.C. to help create a similar federal program called ACTION.

Munro returned to Washington in 1972 and was hired by Evans as liaison to the secretary of state's office, a position he held for the next four years.

He contemplated a run for the state Senate, but realized that he knew more people throughout the state than in Kitsap County where he lived. So ... he decided to run for secretary of state in 1980 and won.

Over the years Munro has done a great deal for the citizens of Washington. As secretary of state, Munro is one of nine statewide-elected officials who make up the state's executive branch. While Munro's primary duty is chief of elections, he also records corporate filings and is the state's archivist.

Political science professor and Faculty Senate President Kenneth Hoover describes Munro as one of the "leading citizens of the state of Washington. He is genuine, thoughtful and ethical."

Hoover added that Munro, as a politician, has "offended very few people," which is rare.

Munro also works with the legislature — an example is a program he developed with some state senators to help victims of domestic violence.

The program takes individuals, who, as Munro says, "are probably going to be murdered if they don't get some serious help," and moves them from their residence to another "completely private residence that is scraped off all public records."

Of the 700-800 individuals in the program, Munro added none of them have been located by their past abusers.

Munro attributes much of his success to a good education, which he feels is the top priority facing Washington state.

"Our kids have to be the best, sharpest and brightest ... we are not competing with kids from Oregon or Idaho, but rather with kids from Tokyo and Taiwan."

FROM VIKING UNION TO CITY HALL

At the local level of government, Bellingham City Council President Bruce Ayers' status as a Western alumnus makes the university very special to him. As a city councilman, Ayers also recognizes the role Western plays in the local economy by being the city's largest employer and providing thousands of students who help support the local tax base.

He came to Western from the small Eastern Washington town of Twisp in 1970 and turned out for the football team. After that first year, he decided to take a break and dropped out of school, eventually deciding to come back to Western in 1973. By this time he had decided he was interested not in football, but in student government.

Like Munro, Ayers attended Western during a very tense political era. "We were coming out of a pretty adversarial time in our country's history," Ayers says. "I remember the first year I was there some students closed down l-5 in protest of the Vietnam War."

His first involvement on campus was working in the legal aid facility in the Viking Union. He found this work gratifying, along with being a tremendous service to the student body. "I found I could solve a problem other people couldn't get a grip on" says Ayers, who eventually moved up to the position of co-coordinator.

He recalls once a student pulled down a banner from one of the buildings on campus. A campus police officer came and arrested the individual, but did not read him his
Campaign posters adorning the walls outside of the secretary of state’s office chronicle years of national, state and local partisan politics.

Miranda rights, which were relatively new to the system at this time, Ayers says. The student was questioned by the police officer and confessed to the officer without any idea of what his civil rights were.

At this time Western had a campus judiciary, which moved to have the student expelled. Ayers intervened when he found out what had transpired and went before the judiciary and pleaded that the evidence gathered by the police officer could not be used. The judiciary agreed, and the charges against the student were dropped.

Ayers says he felt the whole concept of having a campus judiciary was wrong. So he led a fight to have it eliminated.

"If someone commits a crime they should go downtown to the courthouse and stand before a judge, not a campus judiciary committee," says Ayers. His persistence paid off and eventually the campus judiciary program was eliminated.

In 1975, Ayers decided that student government was something he wanted to stick with, so he ran for student body president and won.

At this time $52 came out of everyone’s tuition to support the services and activities fund. But, Ayers adds, very few students knew exactly what the services and activities fund supported.

"I went out and told people this money was coming out of their tuition to support the campus clubs, bookstore, V.U. and the radio station." He hoped this would make more students want to get involved in the different organizations on campus.

After graduating from Western in 1979 with a degree in political science, Ayers went to work for his father’s surveying company. Later, after receiving his surveyor’s license, Ayers took over the business, which he eventually sold to another company.

Now, more than 10 years later, he has formed his own surveying company called Ayers Professional Group Inc., in which he is the president and principle surveyor.

He decided in 1993 it was time for him to give something back to the community and launched a successful campaign for city council.

“When a person draws from the community, there comes a time when they must give something back... I saw a job that needed to be done,” Ayers says. “I looked around to see who was doing it and decided I could probably do it as well as anybody else.”

Now, two years later, Ayers has been elected city council president, a role he looks forward to taking on.

“In my first two years on council I took a leadership role in making motions and configuring compromises,” says Ayers. “Now as president I’m not supposed to make motions... I must be more of a facilitator and coordinator, making sure we follow proper procedures and practices.”

Fellow city councilman Bob Hall says Ayers is “doing his very best to satisfy his critics,” as the new council president. “He is very bright and has tremendous ability... I will confess I have admired this man from the time he first came on council,” Hall says.

As council president, Ayers feels the biggest issue facing Bellingham is the “balancing of our economic needs with our parks, open space, and residential needs... In order to keep our parks up, we must generate some revenue.” He strongly feels “parks and economic needs are not exclusive.”

Ayers, who puts in 35-40 hours of work a week just on city council issues in addition to running his business, finds little free time. But when he does have some, he spends it with his wife and four children ages 3, 7, 15 and 23. He also enjoys golfing, skiing and taking a karate class with two of his children.

Ayers says he hopes people will remember him as someone who was “conscientious, who looked at issues with facts, and balanced out interests for the best of the whole community.”

As Munro says, “You’re not remembered for what kind of car you drive or what kind of house you live in. You’re remembered for what you do for other people.”

MARCH 1996
On the Prowl –
So Many Tickets, So Little Time

COMMENTARY BY CASEY ROUTH

It was the last day of Thanksgiving break and, my friend and I, like many other Western students, were coming back to school. The only two unloading spots outside Kappa were full, so we had to park illegally. My friend ran his stuff up to his room and, not 30 seconds later, an agent of Satan, cleverly disguised as an officer, knocked on the car door.

"Move the vehicle," he barked, menacingly punching keys into his strange computer device. I foolishly asked him if he could wait a few moments. "Move the vehicle," he replied in the same fashion. Still thinking that I could reason with this man, I explained that my friend would be back in a few minutes. He obviously had not been swayed by the Thanksgiving spirit and became more specific. "Move the vehicle, NOW!" he snarled.

I agreed to move the vehicle and he walked back to his go-cart. After I searched a minute for my friend's emergency brake, the parking enforcer began to flash his brights and honk his horn. Just as I had the car moving, my friend ran out and yelled a few obscenities at this man, one of Western's most feared elite, the Parking Gestapo.

This event could have scarred me for life. Did all campus meter maids behave in such an abusive manner? Was this disrespect commonplace? Do they make offerings to Infractia, Greek goddess of parking offenses? With these questions in mind, I set forth.

To get the inside scoop on the campus meter maids I ventured into the parking trailer and asked the attendant to speak with a meter maid. Not soon after pronouncing the word "maid" the room fell silent. I felt the cold glares of the parking staff poking into my head, much as they had poked my license number into their little hand-held computer a few weeks before. The attendant's face wrinkled viciously as she stammered, "We don't have meter maids here."

"Then what do you have?" I questioned. "We have parking enforcement officers," she chirped indignantly. I realized my faux pas and apologized for my grievous error.

I eventually got to discuss current matters with veteran officer Shawn Smith. Expecting to find a pot-bellied, overworked, donut-eating pig, hands callused from overzealous ticketing for minor infractions, I was quite shocked to find a young, square-chinned, Brad Pitt of the parking enforcement world.

Smith is a Western alumnus and worked for the University Police for two-and-a-half years before deciding to go into the ticketing business. Since then, he has been a full-time parking officer. Though he didn't mention what his major was, it must have been public relations; Smith was one smooth-talking parking enforcement officer.

It immediately became evident Smith was trying to make the parking enforcement officers a kinder, gentler, more understanding arm of the transportation office. When asked what he likes most about his job, I was surprised by his answer.

"I like dealing with people," he said with a grin. His answer aroused my suspicion and I dug deeper, asking him how many people he interacts with in a day.

"I actually only deal with one or two people a day," replied Smith.

"I can't decide who is worse, Pol Pot, Hitler, Yoko Ono or the campus meter maids," comments Western student Toby McEvoy.

"The campus meter maids are whack," said Western student Kenneth Hammond.

Despite these criticisms, Smith said, "I make a lot more friends than enemies. The Western community is great to work around. They're really understanding."

It seemed strange to me that one who likes people so much would work in a field with such a great social stigma attached to it. Thinking back to how offended the office attendant was at my lack of proper terminology, I asked Smith how the term "meter maid" made him feel.

"It doesn't bother me, but it seems a little sexist, " he replied. "It's a term that is commonly used, but it can be offensive to some. I try to always use the correct term, "parking enforcement officer.""

PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY LOC NGUYEN

Did all campus meter maids behave in such an abusive manner? Was this disrespect commonplace? Do they make offerings to Infractia, Greek goddess of parking offenses?
from the '90s point of view.” After a thoughtful moment he added, “Besides, we only have a few meters on campus.”

To help the officers keep up with this “90s view,” I proposed a few ideas to spice up their image: perhaps racing stripes on their vehicles or a free yogurt cone at TCBY with your 10th ticket. Smith didn’t seem very impressed with my suggestions.

Smith’s eyes lit up when asked about his vehicle. It is the Porsche of parking enforcement vehicles. Called the Go-4, it has four cylinders and 58 horsepower. “Some people think it has a lawnmower engine. You don’t have to pull a chain or start peddling.”

According to Gary Hardman of Western’s auto shop, the Go-4 cost around $15,000. The reason for the high price, according to Hardman, is that it is “specialized and hand built, like a Rolls Royce.” Smith was a little surprised at the cost of the Go-4. “I didn’t know they cost that much,” he said.

Smith’s top speed is a scorching 35 mph. He said at such extreme speeds the front wheel wobbles a lot, like a “bike with training wheels.” For all those who have wondered, the officers do not drag race their vehicles. “It wouldn’t be good PR,” Smith said.

After talking with Smith for an hour, I still did not fully understand the adrenaline rush and excitement that a parking enforcement officer goes through on a day-to-day basis. We decided to hit the streets a few weeks later on an icy cold Friday morning. What follows is a true account of an hour in the life of a parking enforcement officer. Although the names have been changed to protect the innocent, the stories you are about to hear are all true.

Incident #1 10:13 a.m. Fine - $5
A few moments into our rounds, Officer Smith spotted a red Toyota 4-Runner whose meter expired. In less time than it takes an army private to pick up the soap in a shower, his ticket was printed and placed under his windshield wiper. The long arm of the parking office claims its first victim of the day.

Incident #2 10:20 a.m. Fine - $10
As we were making the rounds, something caught the corner of Smith’s eye. An expired permit hung in a Red Plymouth Voyager. “Sometimes they try to fool us,” Smith said. I quickly realized that nothing gets by this guy. Smith works like a hawk slowly circling his prey.

Incident #3 10:25 a.m. Warning
Outside the art department, Officer Smith noticed an illegally parked vehicle. Moments before the ticket was issued by Smith, a man in his mid-40s ran out of the building. “I was just unloading some stuff,” the man pleaded. It was this man’s lucky day; Smith let him off with a warning.

Incident #4 10:34 a.m. Fine - $10
As we walked up to a white Ford truck, Smith stopped in disgust. “This one’s a regular, I’ve given him a ticket every day this week.” The car was illegally parked in the vanpool lot. Scum like that will never learn.

Incident #5 10:42 a.m. Hit and Run
As we headed up to the trustee lot behind Old Main, the crème de la crème of parking spaces, a large truck pulled up in an illegal space. When he saw Officer Smith, he reversed his vehicle, smashed into a sign and quickly drove off. As he darted away, I could see the fear on his face like a deer caught in headlights.

The morning ended with a firm handshake. Although I had made a good friend, I knew he would not hesitate one second before issuing me a ticket. Such is the dedication of the parking enforcement officer.

A final message to Western students. Keep hanging up your bogus permits, parking in the wrong lots and letting your meters expire. In case you didn’t know, the parking office is entirely self-sufficient, and they need a way to pay for those Go-4s.
It was 6:45 p.m. on a Friday. A man who looked to be in his 70s was walking our way. His glasses, bald head, protruding stomach and blue eyes reminded me of my grandpa.

"Mind if I sit here?" he asked.

"Please do. We need somebody to show us the ropes," my roommate said. "We are new at this."

"Well, I got a buddy coming," he said. "I think we can show you girls a thing or two. My name is Cliff."

We introduced ourselves and he gave us a few quick tips while he waited for his friend.

With the growing popularity of casino gambling, one tradition is rarely spoken about. It may not be as lucrative as blackjack or poker, but many say it is much more fun. Not knowing what I was in for, I dragged two of my roommates down to The Big Brothers and Sisters bingo hall on Cornwall Street to find out what bingo is all about.

The action didn't begin until 7 p.m., but at 6:30 p.m. many of the tables were already full.

One thing stood out: not everyone was old. Families, young couples, old couples, single people, and groups of middle-aged men and women ate snacks, gossiped, discussed taxes or waited patiently for the game to begin.

Whatcom County has several bingo halls, four of which are among the 40 most profitable in the state. Although each hall has a unique set of patrons, they all have a similar ambiance. They all have small pots, around $100, and all have large ones, usually between $1,000 and $2,000.

"Bingo is a very social activity," explains Jim Carney from Mr. Ed's Bingo Supply Company. "It competes with dance palaces, malls and theaters for entertainment dollars. You'll find people of all ages, from 8 to 80, playing bingo."

In Washington state, bingo players between the ages of eight and 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

When we had walked into the building, we'd stared blankly at two big price charts.

"Can I help you?" the lady behind the counter snarled.

"We just want to play bingo. How much will that cost us?" I asked.

"Four dollars," she said as she shoved three cards in our direction.

Excited about our new experience and the opportunity to win some cash, we hurried to pick out a table. We sat in the non-smoking section, not that it really mattered by the end of the evening.

"Here comes Mr. Bingo, himself," Cliff Moena said smiling at the man approaching our table. "This is my friend Jim."

We introduced ourselves to Jim Milligan and watched as he carefully laid out his three bingo cards and three daubers.

"These people know what's going on," my roommate whispered.

Cameron Baker, a representative from the Washington State Gambling Commission, said bingo is one of the most heavily regulated types of gambling. The WSGC monitors each bingo hall's audit trails and marketing schemes very closely. Any organization or bingo hall operating with a profit of more than $5,000 in one year is required to buy a license from the state.

Depending on how much revenue is generated, the license can get very expensive, discouraging many would-be bingo operators, Baker said.

State law only allows bingo halls to operate a maximum of 16 hours per day, three days per week. To avoid competition and better serve the players, bingo halls alternate the days they are open so fans can get their fix almost any time of day, seven days a week.

Across the aisle from our table two younger men with flannel shirts, big boots and saggy pants smoked cigarettes...
It became apparent that their experiences with bingo were limited in comparison to our friends and mentors, Milligan and Moena. The shorter man with the even bigger?? finished his pile of pull-tabs and wandered to the concession stand, returning shortly with a plate of nachos.

The room slowly filled with people and smoke. Couple after couple came in, scanned the room for their friends and sat down. Many carried “bingo bags” advertising their favorite bingo location. Bingo bags are just large enough to hold a few daubers, a little snack, a coffee mug and some Kleenex: the basic bingo necessities.

Milligan and Moena play bingo an average of three times per week. They estimate that they win a small pot once every two to three months and a large pot once or twice a year.

“It’s not a money-making proposition,” Moena said. “I suppose I win $100 for every $600 I spend. Except for a while back when I won a car — a little Geo, and $1,500 to pay the taxes on it.”

To many, bingo seems like wholesome fun. However, a recent survey given to the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling shows bingo is one of the three most addictive types of gambling. A representative from WSCPG believes this is because people begin playing bingo for the social interaction it involves, not for money.

She told the story of a lady who began playing bingo once a week to relax and escape the demands of her six children, but before long was spending all of her free time playing bingo.

Others have the misconception that because bingo is sometimes associated with churches, it is not gambling, and therefore, not addictive. A recent report done by the Washington State Lottery says that a minimum of 57,700 Washington State adults are currently experiencing moder-
At an early Mexican lunch I realize I’m thinking about rock ‘n’ roll instead of eating my quickly cooling burrito. The gentleman across from me is Dave Crider, owner of Bellingham’s Estrus Records. He has better focus than I on satisfying his culinary compulsions. And he’s not just thinking about rock — he’s explaining it between bites.

I glance at my now-cold burrito, set my fork down and divert my full attention to the speaker. He has dressed for the snow without losing his style. The white collar of his undershirt shows from beneath his cotton button-up. If he were to remove his gator-green wool jacket and put a few rolls in the sleeves of his shirt he’d be perfectly dressed for pool — no, bowling. Bet he owns bowling shoes — he might even have some customized ball — but he definitely doesn’t rent the shoes. The sturdy black frames of his glasses are held together by stout pins, craftsmanship found only by searching second-hand stores or asking grandpa what’s in those boxes in the attic.

As he finishes his meal and swigs the last of a Corona, he begins to describe his record collection. My own collection of tapes, CDs and records I have gathered into some sort of shrine in my bedroom tell volumes more about my personality than any bag of groceries or the contents of my medicine cabinet ever could.

The music in my collection is stuff I bought on Saturday afternoons with the last of a paycheck or “borrowed” from my friends when they had too much of it to keep track of. This fellow who has collected music as a passion now collects for a living. I live with the music I have chosen. He lives in the music he has chosen.

Dave Crider regards his collection more fervently and passionately than I ever will mine because his has something more in it: his friends.

Since 1987, Crider has been releasing recordings of the music he likes to listen to and collect, a lot of it written and performed by people...
he knows and admires. He is directly involved with Bellingham's music scene and the subculture that has formed around the playing styles of garage and surf rock music.

Crider, 33, and his wife Bekki have lived in Bellingham since 1981 when they moved here from Yakima to study at Western. Bekki finished her geology degree, but Dave stopped working on a double-major in anthropology and biology to work full-time at Bellingham's Cellophane Square downtown record store and pursue his deepening interest in music, specifically playing garage rock.

Crider formed a band called the Roofdogs with some friends, and after playing together for a while, they decided to record some songs. Setting out to produce a tape on their own, they needed a record company name to print on the tape. Crider, being an anthro buff and a Roofdog, came up with Estrus, the sexual excitement of female mammals, or "heat," and the label was born. Crider considers the release of their cassette in '87 to be the anniversary for Estrus Records.

Since then, Crider has been fueling the now-international subculture that has formed around music termed "garage rock" by making and promoting albums, and bringing bands into town to play shows.

"What's this about you surfing in the garage, kid?"

Garage music is basically what bands played in the '60s and '70s when they got a guitarist or two, a bass player and a drummer together to play tunes out in the garage. The songs often follow a three-chord progression like punk, but differ in lyrical content and playing style.

Although garage doesn't lend itself to definition, Crider knows who is playing it and who's not. Many people have heard it before who didn't know it was garage rock.

"I think the Ramones are a garage band. I think Motorhead is a garage band," Crider said. "The Replacements were a garage band. The Sonics are a garage band."

Some garage bands play a lot of surf rock. Surf rock techniques originated in '60s songs like "Wipe Out" by the Surfaris and The Ventures' theme from the Avengers. Dick Dale's "Miserlou," re-released on the Pulp Fiction soundtrack, is a Spanish surf tune.

Surf is characterized by a guitar sound with a lot of reverb (echo) and sometimes the use of tremolo, a part of the guitar that bends the sound. Finger picking can get very technical in surf-rock songs. Some guitarists like surf because the songs are challenging to learn and just plain hard to play.

Surf bands usually have one or two guitarists, a bass player, a drummer who can play super fast, and sometimes an organ. Surf tunes are mostly instrumentals, and a lot of them have really fast tempos.

The musical antics of the Mono Men!

The Roofdogs dismantled in 1989 because the band, Crider said, had "run its course." The new band Crider formed with the Roofdogs members who were still in town is now Bellingham's low-fidelity garage greats, the Mono Men. Crider plays lead guitar and sings. John "Mort" Mortenson plays rhythm guitar and sings. John "Mort" Mortenson plays rhythm guitar and sings. Dave Morisette plays bass guitar, and Aaron Roeder plays drums.

Roeder runs the 3B Tavern on State Street in Bellingham, where many of the live performances include Estrus bands.

The Mono Men went on tour through North America with the Cynics in 1990, and since then they've made fewer local appearances.

"It may seem like we don't play that much, but that's because we don't play that much around here," Crider said.

The Mono Men are proud of their relaxed attitude toward playing music.

"We're not a thinkin' man's band," Crider said with a modest grin. "We sort of all learned drunk. We actually have trouble playing when we're sober."

Crider said the Mono Men are getting enough attention in some areas to the point that people will invite them to come and play. Their tour in Spain last year is an example of that popular demand.

A company called Record Runner booked four Mono Men shows, one of which was in Madrid and another in Barcelona. Crider said the people who put the shows together took care of everything. During their last show in Spain at a bar called El Gato, the band was able
to relax and engage the locals in a friendly drinking contest. The Mono Men's visit quickly escalated into a new record for El Gato.

"On Sunday, after that weekend, they had no bourbon left, no gin left, no vodka, no wine and no beer. That was a long flight home," Crider said.

"21 bands, 12 movies, one tavern, 800 gallons of beer?"

Garage Shock

When Crider brings Estrus to Roeder's tavern on Ski-to-Sea weekend, all hell breaks loose, and they call it Garage Shock. Garage and surf bands come into Bellingham from across the United States and as far away as Stockholm and Tokyo for what Crider's '95 schedule called "a drunken trashrock spectacular." Five bands play each night Thursday through Sunday. Vintage movies, mostly sci-fi and horror, roll all afternoon into the evenings.

Local guitarist and Estrus Records fan Ryan Baker said Garage Shock is the big event for people who enjoy garage and surf music.

"This music is the soundtrack to my life, and Garage Shock gives it a physical presence," Baker said.

Vic Mostly, manager of Spokane group the Makers, said he thinks bands would play Garage Shock for free just to be able to attend.

"I think Garage Shock is essential to the (garage music) subculture," Mostly said.

Despite all the fun and the good sentiments toward Garage Shock, Crider is having a lot of trouble solving its problems. Capacity at 3B is limited, and more people are being turned away with each show.

"It was really out of control last year. Twice as many people showed up every night than could get in," Crider said.

Crider resents the idea of people not being able to get inside and watch his friends play his favorite music. He also wishes he could let members of the music press in free of charge, but like the fans, they have to wait in line. Changing the venue of Garage Shock might solve these problems, but Crider says he won't do that.

"The way I see it, it's not an option to move it somewhere else. If it's not at 3B, I don't want to do it," Crider said.

Crider's original intention with Garage Shock was to provide a place for bands of similar playing styles who are scattered across the country all year to be together in the same town and watch each other play some rock 'n' roll.

For fans of surf and garage rock who want to experience their favorite groups live, Garage Shock makes it possible to see 20 bands without having to track their tours and travel to different shows. For the bands who can't afford to take time out of touring to get together with friends in other bands, Garage Shock is a gig they can play where they get paid, and they can see their friends.

"And that's all it is," Crider said. "It's not supposed to be some big money-generating machine."

Crider said he's incessantly talking to people who misunderstand the role of money in putting on Garage Shock.

"Even though the bands get 100 percent of the door, it works out too... because the ticket prices are fairly low for what you get, and Aaron makes sure (the bands) drink free all weekend, which is great, and we try to set them up with places to stay," Crider said. "When you have a band that flies over here from Japan and it costs them $1,000 a piece to get here, there's no way in hell they're going to make money."

Crider said these problems are part of the reason there won't be a Garage Shock in '96. He wants a break from it because it takes more than five months to prepare, and this year he'd rather spend some of that time relaxing and planning for an Estrus 10th anniversary Garage Shock in '97.

"It will be worth the wait. That's all I can say," Crider said.

From outer space and underground, here they come: the Estrus bands

Man or Astroman?, the Tiki Men, the Makers, the Phantom Surfers, Untamed Youth: what makes a band an Estrus band?

Crider looks more for a playing attitude than a style. Crider said there is a common thread
among the musicians in Estrus bands and in the music they play. The common thread consists of sharing a respect for the same bands and also a respect for creativity and originality. 

"I don't like the term 'retro.' And I don't like bands, as a general rule, who go out of their way to sound like an old band," Crider said.

He looks for bands who have put out a single on their own without the help of a record company because its shows how much interest the band has in their music.

Crider hooks up with most of the bands he makes records for when he's on tour with the Mono Men. The Mortals were playing on a live radio show when Crider was in Cincinnati with the Mono Men. He later found out that the Mortals' bass player was working in the record store where the Mono Men played a demo on the same day.

Sometimes the bands are on Crider's turf when he encounters them. The Mummies and the Phantom Surfers were playing in Bellingham when he first heard them live. They were friends with the members of Girl Trouble, whom Crider already knew.

Still other times, the musicians go from Estrus fan to Estrus band just for playing music Crider likes. Three members of Man or Astroman? from Auburn, Ala., were on the Estrus "Crust Club" mailing list when they sent their demo to Crider for review.

"I only put out stuff that I really like. The problem is there's a lot of stuff I like," Crider said.

**A quest for celluloid: putting out records**

Like most owners of West Coast independent labels, the Criders have an office in a cost-effective location: their house. They put in long hours making sure everything gets done.

"I got up at six this morning, I'll be working until about probably 10 tonight," Dave said.

Crider's role in the sale of music is to press records, get the packaging designed, get the records and CDs packaged, and make sure they make it to the store shelves.

Rather than travel great distances to record in a Bellingham studio, bands send Crider their finished master tapes. Crider presses the vinyl for full-length albums, 10-inch EPs, and 7-inch singles. Some albums he will press in colored vinyl for the first batch he makes. Some albums will have bonus songs on the record that the CD doesn't have.

The bands work with graphic designer Art Chantry on the kinds of images they want on the record jackets. Estrus is known for the nostalgic designs Chantry often uses: robots from space, '60s drag racing and natives of tropical islands are a mere few.

After record jackets and CD sleeves come back from the printer, Crider packages the merchandise to be sent to stores and mail order customers.

When he started Estrus, Crider was distributing for himself and other record companies to 250 stores. He soon found himself collecting money from stores that were late on payments.

"I used to hate being a bill collector, but I don't have to worry about that anymore," Crider said.

Mordam in San Francisco now distributes for Estrus, which Crider says is great not only because of the people at Mordam, but also because of their clientele. The owners of the record companies Mordam distributes for all know each other.

"It's kind of like a collective. It's kind of a cool thing. The group whose company it is set it up as kind of a reaction against all the smaller labels, which a lot of them were friends or bands that were putting stuff out on their own and getting dicked by the big distributors," Crider said.

A trend for large record distribution companies is to decline to pay bands for record sales after a 90-day selling period until they promote themselves by releasing a follow-up to the first record.

With the collective Estrus shares with Lookout, Dr. Dream, Sympathy for the Record Industry, Empty and Alternative Tentacles, none of the owners have to worry about being bullied.

When the records and CDs are completed and packaged, they go into storage. Bekki Crider mails them out to a voracious horde of Crust Club members.

She first checks the post office box, which usually contains a good-sized stack of envelopes with record orders in them. Bekki said the Crust Club has more than 500 members, all of whom receive the Estrus Quarterly mail order catalog at about the same time.

She takes the stack of orders home, enters them onto the computer, and prints invoices for each sale. With a complete stack of invoices, she goes out to the unit where the records and CDs are stored.

Bekki said each stack of items has a demo copy, and other record companies send demos of their albums, so she can play the finest tunes while she pulls orders and packages them for shipping.

"I've always been pretty broad-minded about the music," Bekki said. "I like about 90 percent of what Estrus puts out."

Bekki said although the amount of work is cyclical, she does stay quite busy, and she's looking forward to the time off from Garage Shock this spring.

**Luscious literature in "Mail Order Mecca:" the Estrus Quarterly**

To see what sounds are available from Estrus, you have to get your hands on an Estrus Quarterly. It's a mail-order catalog and entertaining piece of garage-rock writing.

"I love doing the quarterlies," Crider said.

The pages of previous quarterlies are plastered with images.
of men and robots in outer space, race car smash-ups, sultry '60s
vixens, and the classic monsters bearing down on petite victims.

Criders uses the catalog not only to show his wares, but also to
spread the culture of garage rock and have fun with something that
would otherwise be just a catalog. The tone of Criders' writing
speaks to the true trash rocker, like this introduction of a new
release:

"Big, bad, mean and mad three-chord Texan stomp, straight
outta the bowels of hot and humid Houston ... that's the shit. Sugar
Shack delivers on their blazin' "You Don't Mean Shit to Me' 7."

Criders wrote the quarterlies himself until the latest issue, a 20-
page fanzine to which his friends contributed.

"I had a lot of fun laying the stuff out," Criders said.

Tom Sparrow wrote about the Pabst Brewery tour, while
Criders covered an equally cool tour: the Bally pinball machine fac-
tory. The zine also contains the debut of Lorca's car Q&A. Estrus

is trying to help answer your automotive questions and get you
back on the road. The quarterly comes from Estrus: P.O. Box

2125 Bellingham, WA 98227.

Working hard to play hard

After the fourth ring, Criders answers wearily. I ask how
it's going, and he sighs like he's been working all day and says
he feels like he hasn't even started.

Vic Mostly described the role Criders has made for himself
among the garage music culture.

"Dave goes above and beyond ... some labels don't give a
shit about their bands. He has an international reputation for
being an 'honest joe,'" Mostly said.

Jim Crabbe, guitarist in Portland's Galaxy Trio, said

Criders really gets the ball rolling.

"He's got a lot of ideas ... He's even named some of our
songs for us."

Criders has fulfilled his duties as Estrus owner and Garage
Shock captain for five years, and now he and Bekki are thinking
about what they'll do with some time off.

The Criders said they're post to Los Angeles to
catch the Famous Monsters Convention, and maybe some nos-
talgia theme-car racing events in Bakersfield. They also plan to
one day see the Indianapolis 500 from the stands.

Criders has ideas brewing for a strong return from this year
off. Garage Shock '97 will be the party to celebrate 10 years for
Estrus.

"It's gonna be a big blowout," Criders said. "I've got some
pretty grand plans, if I can pull it off."
At least once a week, I hit the snooze button on my alarm one too many times, and I have to dash out the door to make my 8 a.m. class. On days like that, I don’t have time to grab breakfast. I’m lucky if I remember to grab money for lunch.

I’ve spent many afternoons scrounging in the bottom of my backpack hoping to find some loose change so I can buy a snack from a vending machine. By the time I make it home after my 3 p.m. class, I’m starving. Sound familiar?

Every day students have to make choices about what and when they eat. They don’t always have the time or money to eat right. Beside those obvious obstacles, students are daily bombarded with commercials and each one claims they need to eat or buy their product to be healthy.

But what does being healthy mean, and how do students know if they are healthy? Is it eating low-fat foods or taking vitamin supplements? What foods do college students need to get more or less of? And how can a college student who has no time and no money maintain a healthy diet?

What is a healthy, balanced diet?

Jan Rystrom, the outpatient registered dietitian and inpatient clinical dietitian at St. Joseph Hospital, said the USDA’s food pyramid is the accepted standard for a healthy diet. The pyramid is broken up into six food groups: breads and cereals, fruits, vegetables, dairy, meats and proteins, and oils and sugars. Each of the food groups provides some, but not all, of the nutrients needed.

The bottom portion of the pyramid is the biggest and represents the breads, cereals, rice and pasta. According to the USDA, everyone should eat six to 11 servings a day.

“You can load up on rice, pasta and bread and get a fair amount of nutrients,” Rystrom said. Starchy foods give you a lot of long-lasting energy and provide vitamins, minerals and fiber.

According to the USDA, everyone should eat three to five vegetable servings, two to four fruit servings, two to three dairy servings and two to three meat servings a day. The USDA recommends eating oils and sugars sparingly.

Rystrom is quick to point out that students can get plenty of protein from sources other than meat.
"Protein can take on a lot of forms, although meat products are a good source of protein. Other good proteins include beans, eggs and cheeses," Rystrom said.

She also said everyone should eat at least three healthy meals a day and get most of his or her nutrients early in the day, even if it means just grabbing a piece of toast as he or she heads out the door.

Catherine Vader, the nurse at Western’s Student Health Assessment and Information Center (SHAIC), says skipping breakfast is like getting into a car with no gas and trying to drive to work. No one would get very far. She said breakfast gives everyone the energy he or she needs to make it through the day.

Vader said the SHAIC’s goal is to teach students how to change their lifestyles to incorporate healthy practices, which include healthy eating.

**WHAT DIET AREAS DO MOST STUDENTS NEED TO IMPROVE IN?**

Vader sits down at her desk, grabs a handful of cough syrup samples and hands them to Tory McCareary, a lifestyle adviser at the SHAIC.

"Take these," Vader said. "They’ll help your cough."

Before Vader settled down, the SHAIC door opened and she jumped to her feet. Before the student who had just entered the waiting room had opened her mouth Vader asked, "Can I help you?" as she discreetly shut the door behind her.

After a few minutes, Vader returned and settled herself on the edge of her chair. She said what she sees the most is students who don’t eat enough vegetables and fruit. Fruits and vegetables are the body’s main source of vitamins and minerals.

"We try to encourage them to start eating two to three fruits a day and work up from there," Vader said.

She said a lot of students rely too much on vitamin supplements to get the extra nutrients they need rather than taking the time to eat fruits and vegetables.

Rystrom is torn about whether people should use supplements.

"If we’re talking about the average healthy adult who gets a reasonable amount of nutrients during the day, then they probably don’t need anything," Rystrom said. "But if we’re talking about a 19-year-old student who is fairly stressed, eats like an idiot or a pauper, that may be a person who will benefit from a vitamin supplement."

She added, "As a rule, though, my bias is that I’d rather see people eat the food and forget the supplement."

According to the American College Health Association’s booklet *Eating 101: The Basics of Good Nutrition*, students need to eat less fat, less sugar, less sodium and more fiber.

Cheryl Bittner, a registered dietitian and owner of Apple A Day Medical Nutrition Therapy, agrees. She said students may not have much of a problem with those things now, but in 10 or 20 years they will. She added that now is the time to start forming healthy eating habits.
amounts of fat and sodium have been linked to heart disease, high blood pressure and some cancers. Lack of fiber can cause colon cancer and rectal gastric cancers as well.

In general, for men to maintain a healthy amount of fat in their diet, they should take in between 60 and 90 grams of total fat a day. Women should take in 40 to 70 grams a day.

Students' bodies are pretty forgiving right now, but they won't always be, Rystrom said.

"Kids who live off of pizza and Coke now will be those people who will have some kind of significant health consequences with cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis later on," Rystrom said.

She also said students can eat pizza and chips or other fast foods occasionally, but they should be the exception, not the rule.

According to the American College Health Association, students can consume less fat by eating:

- low fat dairy products such as 1 percent or non-fat milk, non-fat yogurt, 1 percent milk-fat cottage cheese
- more poultry, lean red meat and fish
- less margarine, butter, oil and cream sauces
- meats that are broiled or baked rather than fried in oil.

The association also recommends substituting unsweetened cereal for presweetened cereal and water or unsweetened fruit juice for soft drinks to get less sugar.

And for those who need less sodium, it recommends choosing unsalted popcorn, pretzels and chips and selecting more fresh foods than processed foods, which generally contain a lot of sodium.

To get more fiber, the association advises people to eat more oatmeal, wheat bread and brown rice. It also recommends people eating more fresh or steamed vegetables, fruits and beans.

HOW DO STUDENTS KNOW IF THEY HAVE A HEALTHY DIET ALREADY?

One way to find out if a student has a healthy diet is to keep a food log for three days and then compare it to the USDA's food pyramid.

A food log is a record of all the food a person has eaten over a certain period of time. Most have an area for a food description and an area for the size or portion of the food eaten.

If students want a more comprehensive analysis done, they can take a completed food log to the SHAIC. The SHAIC has what is called the Mosby Diet Record.

With the help of a lifestyle adviser, the student enters all the collected data into a computer. The computer compares the data to what nutrients an average college student should be getting to remain healthy.

"That (keeping a food log) was one of the most revealing exercises I ever did. I remember the very first time I did keep a food log. It was fascinating to see how you eat throughout the day," Rystrom said.

HOW CAN A STUDENT HAVE A HEALTHY DIET WHEN THEY HAVE TIME AND BUDGET CONSTRAINTS?

Most students would buy into eating healthily in theory, but it isn't always convenient when their lives are hectic or they don't have enough money.

"I'm too poor to eat," Jael DeSpain, a junior political science major, said jokingly, her deep brown eyes twinkling. She tapped her pencil on her desk. "I eat a lot of Top Ramen and mac and cheese."

Rystrom said a lot of people think eating things like macaroni and cheese is unhealthy, but it is actually a good and cheap source of carbohydrates. She said the only thing students probably need to add to round out many of their meals are some fruits and vegetables.

Burton Lee, a junior biology and sports exercise major, said he thinks about eating healthily, and most the time he said he does a good job at it. But when he gets busy, healthy eating is the least of his concerns.

"I just don't have time to eat healthy right now. I do make sure I don't get sick, and I keep in shape. Every once in a while I'll skip a meal, but only because I have no time to stop going from class to class," Lee said.

Bittner said time is not an excuse. She said students think they are busy now, but they will be just as busy when they are out of college with their jobs or with a family. She said you have to make time
now and in the future because it won't get any easier.

Rystrom agrees, but has a more sympathetic ear. She said she remembers what it was like being a student at Western, but she does think students can eat healthy. It just takes a little more time and menu planning, she said.

"I think there are three keys to menu planning for students, at least that was my experience. One was that I needed to be on a budget so food needed to be cheap. I wasn't cheap. I was poor," Rystrom said with a chuckle. "Second, food had to be portable. I had to be able to throw it in my backpack and keep it with me. Basically I had to plan enough for a day because after classes I would sit in the library and study or I would run to the gym or swim for awhile. But the number one thing is sitting down and making a plan.

She also said that if students do some menu planning and cook from scratch they can eat cheaper than rolling through the grocery store and just grabbing whatever looks good.

She recommends that students sit down and make a list of what foods they are eating now and see what they can do to make them healthier or what foods can be cut out because they are not healthy or cost effective.

For example, the average macaroni and cheese prepared with margarine and 2 percent milk has 14 grams of fat. But if you cut out the margarine and milk, and just mix in the cheese sauce with the macaroni, you cut the fat content down to 2.5 grams per serving.

Some other suggestions to increase the nutritional value of a meal are to use spinach rather than iceberg lettuce on sandwiches and in salads or add fruit to plain cereal or yogurt to make them more nutritious.

"Sit down and figure out what your week is going to look like. You know what days are going to be the days from hell, and you know what days you're going to be able to go home and cook a meal," Rystrom said. "Plan around those things. Make a list for yourself. Monday I'm going to need breakfast, lunch and dinner in my backpack. Then go back and figure out what is going to be reasonable for you to eat for each meal. Ask yourself questions. Are you going to be able to afford to go into the student union that day and buy yourself a bowl of soup or something?"

"At dinnertime make some one-pot dishes that are really high in nutrient value. I'm thinking of beans. You can cook those, and they last a long time. You can do a lot with them and they have great nutrient value. Very inexpensive things like stews and soups are easy to put together, pretty tasty and hard to screw up."

Here are some other tips for eating healthily on a budget from the American College Health Association:

- Comparison shop and check generic brands. They may offer the same nutritional values for less.
- Take advantage of coupon and sales when shopping.
- Buy bulk if the extra food can be stored properly.
- Cut back on alcohol and expensive, sugary snacks.
- Make casseroles and freeze them in separate portions so they can be reheated as needed.
- Use less expensive protein sources such as beans, frozen fish, and chicken parts rather than chicken breasts.
- Choose fresh or frozen vegetables rather than less nutritious canned vegetables.

Rystrom said she believes the best thing a student can do to set up a healthy and affordable diet is to menu plan. She said she believes students will save more money if they plan and take advantage of sales and coupons, rather than haphazardly choosing their food because it sounds good at the time.

"It (menu planning) takes a few minutes, but when you really get it organized, it works for the whole quarter," Rystrom said.
A Tale of Sex, Drugs and Chickens –
The Untold Story of Wilson Library

BY MARLESE WEBB

Yes, you read right — chickens. The call came one bright June evening. Jennifer Caldwell, the library assistant on the other end of the line was “laughing (but) at the same time sounding worried,” Dennis Perry recalled. Caldwell explained that two live chickens were running loose in the education reference section, which was then on the third floor.

Perry is the tall, ever-smiling library technician who greets patrons at the circulation desk most evenings at Wilson Library. He’s spent most of his two-and-a-half years here checking out books, making change for the copiers, answering the phone and visitors’ questions, and collecting overdue fines. Sometimes, though, the library’s quiet order has been broken by strange events and the discovery of odd items among its stacks. The chickens are a good example.
After checking to make sure he hadn't heard wrong, Perry went up to investigate.

"Here were these two pure white, fluffy chickens, clucking away and walking around," he said, tapping his hands on the orange Formica counter of the circulation desk to imitate the clicking chicken feet.

The chickens were "just wandering around, looking lost in the government documents' part of the education section," said Caldwell, a junior majoring in Spanish.

Neither Perry nor Caldwell knew what to do. Fortunately, they were rescued by a woman who had grown up on a farm and had wrangled many chickens in her time. She got the birds into an empty file box, where they quieted down in the dark. Perry and Caldwell then did a little cleaning where the chickens had heeded nature's call in front of Caldwell's supervisor's office door.

The fowl pair later went home with another woman who already had a large collection of chickens and happened to be using a computer in Caldwell's section when the chickens were discovered.

"I suppose we could've called University Dining Services," Perry commented in hindsight. Caldwell wrote a note to her supervisor about the event, ending it by saying, "So currently both copiers are acting up, and there are two chickens in a file box in front of the desk. It's been quite an evening."

Down in the basement return room, Stacks Management Supervisor Carolyn Mendenhall said she has seen just about everything during her 25 years at the library.

"There's a law around here that sooner or later it's going to come down the chute," Mendenhall said.

She said several people slide around on the return room's mauze-colored Formica slide, which the chute empties its books on, mostly to dust it. This is not a problem. It is dangerous to try to get inside the chute itself, though, she explained.

About five years ago one of her student employees tried to climb up the book-drop from the return room in the basement. His head and shoulders were stuck in the chute while his feet were sliding down with the moving chute floor. Mendenhall managed to get him free; then she rewarded him with a "nasty lecture."

"I'm not even sure I want to put that idea in students' heads. It scares me a little bit," she confided.

The return staff get a variety of items, including books, wallets and mittens. Once someone sent down several pink felt bunnies that had been part of an educational packet. Another time $170 in cash was found with a bill someone had left in a book.

Mendenhall said people use just about anything as bookmarks. The bookmark board illustrates her point. The large bulletin board displays a variety of items used to hold a reader's place in a book, including photos, fake money, a religious tract titled, "Hell — it's true after all," a child's sock, playing cards, postcards, unopened spiced cider packets and tickets to "The Merchant of Venice." She said the staff omits the "more X-rated stuff" from the board.

Mendenhall said the worst thing a student can use as a bookmark is a Post-It Note. She explained they are difficult to remove.

Mendenhall said homeless people have tried to live in the library, but it hasn't worked. The custodians come in after operating hours to clean the building, so it would be "a cat-and-mouse game" if anyone tried to stay overnight inside the library.

Food is the most popular contraband item people bring into the library, Acting Director Marian Alexander said. She said employees usually find the remains of chips and candy bars. Mendenhall said her assistants have discovered "mummified apple cores" hidden among the shelves, and some people have even hooked up Crockpots in the group study rooms.

Sometimes library staff have found substances more potent than food in the library. On one occasion a recently-used bong was discovered.

Mendenhall said she has found what appeared to be illegal substances, such as marijuana, in the library. She turned them over to campus security.

"I'm not a policeman, and that was the '70s," she explained.

In some cases, the library staff hasn't been surprised by what patrons leave, but by how they behaved. One example Alexander recalled was the man who urinated on the physics reference books in the mid-1970s. He did it quite openly and soaked about two dozen books, which had to be replaced. He got away before any of the staff caught him.

"It was obviously someone disgruntled with physics," Alexander commented.

"So, you wanna hear all the sexual stuff?" Mendenhall asked. She said
such activity seems to be "prominent among college students." The 1970s was a time when streaking and having sex in public places without getting caught seemed to occur more often, she said.

When one red-faced student assistant came to Mendenhall and reported that a couple was having intercourse in a corner among the stacks of the fourth floor, Mendenhall didn't know what to do. She was still new to her job and had never encountered this challenge before. So she advised the young man, "Ignore them. Hopefully they'll go away." Eventually they did.

Mendenhall said flashers have shown their wares to unsuspecting students studying at night in secluded corners. She said the one incident occurred about five years ago in the basement. That is why the staff posts signs to keep doors open in that area, she explained.

One man took flashing to the extreme a few years ago when he raced across the third floor wearing only a ski mask on his head and a sock on his genitals, Mendenhall recalled. He took his show out a corner balcony, climbed down the building and sped across Red Square on a waiting bicycle.

The staff has found evidence of people's prurient interests. Alexander said employees have found library copies of Playboy microfilm and books on sexual abnormalities and suicide with pictures removed. Instead of removing parts of library materials, other people have left interesting objects. Take the case of the electric dildo a student employee found among the shelves in the H-Q section, "where you have all the sex, drugs and perversion books," Mendenhall explained.

The student who found the item kept saying, "I don't want to touch it." So Mendenhall finally removed it, using a paper towel.

"I think it's somewhere in library archives," she said.

"Library archives" turned out to be Alexander's file cabinet.

"I couldn't throw this away," Alexander said, showing the contents of an innocent-looking white cardboard box. "It's an archival item essential to the mores of the times." Inside, nestled in tissue paper, lay a larger-than-life synthetic penis attached to a white plug and accompanied by several condoms.

"Just don't tell anyone it's in my file cabinet," she joked. "It's the sort of thing you hope people don't find if something happened (to you)."

After the device had been washed, Mendenhall and Alexander agreed it needed to go somewhere in the library.

"I had room in my filing cabinet," Alexander explained.

Mendenhall said the most recent manufactured penis episode occurred about five years ago. A student reported that a rubber penis was attached to the shelving on the fourth floor.

"I went upstairs with my paper towel ... and retrieved the item," she said.

Mendenhall gave the object to campus security. The next day, a man who said he was a Whatcom Community College student called to ask where his penis was. He explained that he had been conducting a sociology experiment and needed the item back because he'd borrowed it from someone else. Mendenhall advised him that he should have told the library staff about his experiment before he conducted them.

Odd stuff is not a daily occurrence in Wilson Library, and it's normally business as usual.

"The behavior of most students is very, very good ... They take care of (the library) in general," Alexander said.

The occasional escapades certainly are cause for the amusement of the staff, though.

"I love working with students ... it's endlessly fascinating," Mendenhall commented.

"College is definitely a time when people do a lot of experimenting.

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY KELLY JACKSON
Creation and evolution both attempt to explain the origins of life.

Dr. Duane Thurman, biology professor and author of How to Think About Evolution, said despite their differences, evolution scientists and creation scientists agree on many things. Thurman writes, “For example, they both agree that (1) the universe, life and basic forms came into existence in the past; (2) these origins were one-time events, not repeatable by us, nor were they observed by any human witness; and (3) we do not have and probably never will obtain direct knowledge of how these origins occurred, regardless of how many ways we demonstrate that they could have occurred.”

The origin of life is studied in science classes everywhere. In Washington public schools, a beginning study of origins is usually introduced at the high school level. Debate over what should be taught is ongoing, and has been since evolution theories began. This is the center of our opposing opinions: what should be taught to children in Washington’s tax-supported high schools—evolution, creation, both or neither?

**Commentary by Elizabeth Hovde**

Americans, Buddhists and many other groups have other possible explanations for the origin of man and all of these theories should be treated with equal respect. We cannot continue to play favorites.
Things started out simply enough for Mount Baker High School biology teacher Don Shepherd when September beckoned students back to the classrooms in 1992. As he had done for the past 13 years, Shepherd used the theory of evolution for the scientific explanation of human origin, which administrators and recent federal court cases had deemed appropriate for public school science classes. However, when 12 of Shepherd’s 130 students became enraged because their own religious beliefs (namely creation) were not explored in this class, their parents pulled them from Shepherd’s instruction and hired a private biology teacher. Their anger was justified, they claimed, because evolution was taught as fact rather than theory, and the omission of creation from the curriculum discounted, even ridiculed the students’ personal secular convictions.

In a Dec. 21 article from The Bellingham Herald, Shepherd responded, “I am perceived as ‘unorthodox’ because I understand it to be my obligation to our students to teach evolution and to ignore the angry calls for me to modify the science curriculum to satisfy a small group of parents.” One of a few teachers in the country who have recently endured first-hand legal experience with this controversy, Shepherd was fulfilling his duty as a public instructor to distinctly omit the promotion of religion in his classroom.

**Separation of Church and State**

“I am bound by statute to do what I am doing,” Shepherd said. And what he meant was the separation of church and state outlined in the Constitution’s First Amendment. Although past interpretations of this amendment have differed, courts have clearly outlined its current meaning — support of religion does not belong in public schools, especially in science-related classes, since most religion is non-scientific and based primarily on faith.

More specifically, Amendment 4 of Washington State’s constitution declares, “No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment.” Surely, any debate should end here, but many creationists (or “scientific” creationists) are determined to find a way around the separation of church and state. Creationists eventually invented “scientific creation” in an attempt to squeeze their way into science instruction. This label is empty and meaningless and an oxymoron — creation does not at all involve science. Joan Stevenson, an anthropology professor at Western, uses a creationist’s thesis paper to help explain why she uses the theory of human evolution in her classes. “Scientific creation cannot be defended on scientific grounds,” the graduate student found. And as Pope John Paul II said in 1981, “Cosmogony itself speaks to us of the origins of the universe and its makeup, not in order to provide us with a scientific treatise but in order to state the correct relationship of man with God and with the universe.” Creation has no place in any kind of scientific setting.

**Theory vs. Belief:**

**Creationists’ Misunderstanding of Science**

A theory is “an explanation for some natural phenomenon that has a large body of supporting evidence; to be considered scientific, a theory must be testable,” according to Historical Geology: “Evolution of the Earth and Life through Time” (Wicander & Monroe). Since it has been established the debate concerns scientific instruction, this definition must be used and demonstrates creation cannot be classified as a scientific theory, therefore eliminating the possibility of teaching creation in a science classroom. “It’s like comparing apples and oranges,” says Stevenson. Creationists use the doctrine of Moses, who claimed God revealed the method of our beginnings to him, as primary evidence for their “theory.” It is impossible for scientists to test whether or not Moses indeed communicated with a supernatural being, and the honor system does not work in science.

In 1984, the National Academy of Sciences cont. on 29
Creation cont.

with a theory that hides behind the false clothing of scientific fact.

Having dealt with the reasons both evolution and creation are theories and not scientific facts, evolutionists jump in to say three things about why they feel creation is inferior and should not be treated with equal consideration: the Bible isn’t a valid explanation for origins, creationists are simply uneducated and misinformed not to accept macroevolution, and separation between church and state restricts creation but not evolution theory from public high schools. I will refute these three points.

THE BIBLE IS A VALID REFERENCE FOR EXPLORING ORIGINS

The Bible is not only a valid historical reference, but it deserves a lot more respect and credit than it is ever given by its critics. The Bible is made up of 66 books written by more than 30 known authors whose works and prophecies intertwine intricately and without flaw. If the Bible is not a valid history book inspired by God, it has pulled off the largest, most convincing hoax of all time. The Bible prophecies things hundreds of years before they happen, and these prophecies have been confirmed in books written hundreds of years later by separate authors.

Moses, the prophet who was known to have talked with God face to face, was born in 1526 B.C. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible, including Genesis, starting in 1450 B.C. Moses claimed God spoke to him and told him what to write concerning the origin of the Earth and man, which is left undated by the Bible. In Genesis 2:7 it is written that the Lord “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” This puts man in a category separate from animals and other life, and it says God created man.

Evolutionists and many other people often argue the Bible is not a valid work that tells us about the past, even though many different works confirm Biblical happenings.

It always amazes me how quickly people discount the validity of the Bible when they never question so many other historical accounts from long ago. People do not question whether or not Homer wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey in 800 B.C. or that Egyptians discovered ink and papyrus in 2500 B.C. They do not question history when it tells us the first known Olympic games were in 776 B.C. or that Buddha was born in Nepal in 563 B.C. Many events occurred and many people lived long before any of us were around to see them. Yet we have to trust the handing down of history to believe they were here. It is always only God and the Bible who are doubted and easily disregarded by our society.

The roles have reversed over the centuries. C.S. Lewis, former professor of literature at Cambridge University and theologian, puts this reversal well. “The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge; God is in the dock.”

This is understandable because God chose to give us free will. He requires our faith. If God had told us all the answers we wouldn’t need to have the faith God requires of us.

Creationists believe God is real and that he created man. Whether or not people agree with or like this theory, they cannot claim it is not possible because they do not know without a doubt the correct explanation to rule it out. No one was present to witness the event. We can trust God, who told Moses what to tell us through the Bible, or we can trust science, which has tried to recreate what might have happened by complete chance. Either theory requires faith and belief, because of our lack of direct knowledge.

Creationists are not misinformed; they simply disagree

Many who dismiss the creation theory as a possibility criticize creationists, and those who do regard it as possible, by claiming they are uneducated and misinformed. This is simply not true. It is not only “fundamentalist Christians” who believe creation offers a possible explanation.

Charles Robert Darwin himself wrote in his book “Origin of Species” in 1859, “To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree.” He also wrote, “There is a grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms or into one.”

Reflecting on his work near the end of his life, Darwin said, “I was a young man with unformed ideas. I threw out queries, suggestions, wondering all the time over everything; and to my astonishment the ideas took like wildfire. People made a religion of them.” Most evolutionists ignore these conclusions made by Darwin. Ignorance is bliss.

Professor Louis Bounoure, former president of the Biological Society of Strasbourg, and former director of the Strasbourg Zoological Museum and of the French National Centre of Scientific Research, was quoted in The Advocate on March 8, 1984, having said, “Evolution is a fairy tale for grown-ups. This theory has helped nothing in the progress of science. It is useless.”

Albert Einstein said about the theory of evolution, “The idea that this universe in all its million-fold order and precision is the result of blind chance, is as credible as the idea that if a printshop blew up, all the type would fall down again in the finished and faultless form of the dictionary.”

I don’t think anyone who criticizes creation would be willing to say Darwin, Bounoure and Einstein were either uneducated or misinformed.

Separation of Church and State

To combat the third of the major criticisms holding creation back while evolution takes its bows in the public schools, a look at the Washington State Constitution concerning the separation of church and state is necessary.

The framers of the state constitution give gratitude to the “Supreme Ruler of the Universe” in their preamble.

In Article IX, Section 4, the constitution says schools are to be “forever free of sectarian control and influence.” This is a statement that people who cry out for the separation between church and state often misinterpret.

In an essay about the characteristics of the Washington constitution, Dr. Linda Pall, a professor at Washington State University and Idaho lawyer, said, “It is clear the framers were not hostile to religion. The constitutional proceedings detail substantial references to the benefits and importance of religion. Though the delegates did not intend to prohibit the discussion of religion or religious influences in schools, for example, there was specific apathy to sectarian influence and sponsorship.”

The constitution does not state that the discussion of reli-
Evolution cont. (NAS) wrote, "The claim that equi-
dity demands balanced treatment of the
two in the same classroom reflects misunderstanding of
what science is and how it is conducted. Scientific investiga-
tors seek to understand natural phenomena by direct observa-
tion and experimentation. Scientific interpretations of facts are
always provisional and must be testable. Statements made by
any authority, revelation, or appeal to the supernatural are not
germane to this process in the absence of supporting evidence."

While evolution is a scientific theory based on factual
data, creation is a religious belief. As Tim M. Berra, zoology
professor at The Ohio State University, emphasizes, "Scientists do
not have to believe that there are transitional fossils; we can exa-
mine them in hundreds of museums around the world, and we make
new discoveries in rocks all the time. Scientists do
not have to believe that the solar system is 4.5 billion years old;
we can test the age of Earth, Moon and meteoritic rocks very
accurately. ... That is the big difference between science and
religion. Science exists because of the evidence, whereas reli-
gion exists upon faith — and, in the case of religious funda-
mentalism and creation, in spite of the evidence."

THE "LEAP OF FAITH"
To call scientists' connection between humans and primates a
"leap of faith" is yet another misinterpretation of the discovery
process of science in its attempt to explain its findings. "In
contrast (to creation), science accommodates, indeed wel-
comes, new discoveries," wrote NAS. "Truly scientific under-
standing cannot be attained or even pursued effectively when
explanations not derived from or tested by the scientific
method are accepted."

Creationists often claim scientists have no proof of con-
nection between the species, that there are missing links. How can science explain spontaneous generation? They ask, con-
fident they've finally sent researchers scuttling into the cor-
ner.

No one can dispute that things on Earth evolve — we see
evidence of evolution occurring right now. The planet has kept
up a consistent rate of change since its inception, as have its
habitants. The missing links have been found, and they are
called Eusthenopteron, Archaeopteryx, Australopithecus, span-
ning the gaps between fish and amphibian, reptile and bird,
primate and human. And the reason for this evolution? The
same reason for change that takes place now — creatures adapt
to their environment both psychologically and physically, the
latter entailing the growth of limbs, reduction of hair, enlarge-
ment of brains. Even now, we show signs of this with differing
skin color and stature, depending on our ancestral origins. To
accept all other forms of evolution but that of humans is sci-
entifically illogical.

DIVISION WITHIN THE CHURCHES
It can be difficult to settle on an argument against creation
because creation itself involves so many different interpreta-
tions. In Stevenson's thesis example, the creationist author lists
at least four types of creation versions, ranging from strictly lit-
eral to strictly non-literal, each with its own "sub-theories."
This illustrates that even those who call themselves creationists
cannot agree on what "creation" means, because it is not based
on fact. In other words, creationists are asking public schools to
cater to each and every one of their individual religious con-
vinctions.

Creation and creation science are even refuted by many
major Christian religions. In a statement from its 67th
General Convention in 1982, the Episcopal Church stated,
"The terms 'Creationism' and 'Creation-science' do not refer
simply to the affirmation that God created the Earth and
Heavens and everything in them, but specifically that methods
and timing of creative acts, and impose limits on these acts
which are neither scriptural nor accepted by many Christians.
The Dogma of 'Creationism' and 'Creation-science' as under-
stood in the above contexts has been discredited by scientific
and theologic studies and rejected in the statements of many
church leaders." This opinion is also supported by the
Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church (1984), the
United Presbyterian Church (1983), and the Lexington

CREATION INSTRUCTION HAS A PLACE —
BUT OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
Certainly, there are those who consider themselves Christians
and still view the theory of evolution as the best explanation
for how we got here. These use the theistic evolution concept
— that evolution is part of God's plan of creation. Keith
Olive, an Earth science middle school teacher in Yakima,
Wash., uses the Big Bang and evolution theories, but assures
his students this does not conflict with the idea of the presence
of a supreme being. And he is right.

The human evolution theory does not discount a belief in
God, nor should its presentation discourage people from their
own secular upbringings and practices. It is not attempting to
explain why we exist — this is clearly where faith comes into
play — only how we came into our current form. What cre-
ationists must remember is that practice of religion belongs
in their private homes and places of worship, not in a public edu-
cational setting where people of all faiths and non-faiths come
together for instruction.