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MEMORIAL SERVICE – Washington Governor Booth Gardner presented state flags to the families of Western President G. Robert Ross, Vice President Don Cole and Vice President Jeanene DeLille at the campus memorial service honoring the three who were killed in a November plane crash. Mrs. Betty Ross and Justin DeLille are shown receiving flags. (See stories pages 4-6.)

Photo courtesy of Don Anderson, Bellingham Herald.
Memorial services for President G. Robert Ross and Vice Presidents Donald H. Cole and Jeanene C. DeLille were held on Monday, November 9, in Sam Carver Gymnasium.

Hundreds of University people, students, community residents and legislators flowed into the gym to honor the memory and accomplishments of the three administrators who died in a plane crash the evening of November 4, while returning from an alumni-legislative dinner in Tacoma.

Praising the strong leadership President Ross had given Western, which recently was named among the top 10 Midwest and West universities, Craig Cole, vice chair of the Board of Trustees, said, "This University will come through. Together, these three people showed us what is possible."

Ross was a man of vision. Cole said. He constructed bridges that made the University and the community one.

Don Cole was a truly public citizen and was responsible for making Western one of the most efficiently run campuses in the nation. Jeanene DeLille was "tireless and evangelical" in her support, and "everything she handled, she handled well," said Cole.

With a quaver in his voice, Cole concluded, "In the future, when some of the hurt subsides, I'm going to be happy again and thank Bob, Jeanene and Don."

After giving words of encouragement to the families, Governor Booth Gardner presented state flags to the families.

Speaking to 10-year-old Justin DeLille, the Governor recalled his own mother who died in a plane crash when he was 13. "She didn't have a chance to say goodbye to me either," Gardner said. But, he continued, "Their message and challenge to us is to build on what they have left."

The University's 10th president, Ross is credited with strengthening the school's international academic programs and developing a bridge between the University and the business community.

As Faculty Senate President George Mariz said sadly, "They left behind their honesty, integrity and kindness."

Associated Students President Dan Wood remembered the personal touch each of the three administrators put into their relationships with people. He recalled President Ross giving him a bear hug and telling him his beard wasn't full enough. He remembered Jeanene DeLille straightening his tie, and his long talks with Don Cole about politics. "We've lost our leaders," Wood said, "but we've also lost our friends."

Shirley Osterhaus of Catholic Campus Ministry and Bob Harrison of the Shalom Center, together with Rabbi Michael Oblath, offered prayers and a reading from Psalms 90. Western's concert choir and the University orchestra performed selections from Mozart's "Missa Brevis in F." The organ prelude was played by Bruce Cartwright.

Ross is survived by his wife, Betty; son, Mark; daughter, Robin; sister, Doris; and parents, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Ross. A memorial service was performed in his honor on Monday, November 9, at St. James Presbyterian church. A second memorial service was held in Bryan, Texas, Wednesday, November 11. Burial was in Bryan, Texas.

Cole is survived by his wife, Blythe; their two daughters, Megan Louise and Sara Jane; and a sister, Sabra Stratford. A memorial service took place Sunday, November 8, at the Westford Funeral Home.

DeLille is survived by her husband, John; son, Justin Marcus; and mother, Shirley Daniels.

Memorials for Ross, Cole and DeLille can be made in care of The Western Foundation, Old Main 445, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225.
Nominations for distinguished alumnus due

Nominations are now being accepted for the 1988 distinguished Alumnus Award. The Distinguished Alumnus Award is presented to the year’s recipient at an annual banquet held in the spring on campus.

Nominations should include as much supporting material as possible, including letters, newspaper clippings, books, journals, etc. The winner is included on a permanent plaque in the Alumni Office. Nominations and supporting material must reach the Alumni Office, Old Main 475, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225, by Jan. 30, 1988.

Boston, D.C. alumni meetings held

Western alumni gathered in Boston and Washington, D.C., over the weekend to separate get togethers. New England area graduates dropped into the Copley Square Hotel in Boston in July to renew acquaintances and meet with Alumni Relations Director Chris Goldsmith, Vice President for University Advancement Jeanene DeLille, Vice President for Student Affairs Saundra Theurer, and executive director of The Washington State Board for Community College Education, received the Edmonds Community College Excellence in Education Award at the college’s 20th annual commencement exercises.

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The summer alumni planning meeting included some time for outdoor planning sessions. Board members (l-r) Marlene Dixon, Sandle Lucke, Dick Dixon, Chuck LeChance and Jon Slidell were among the participants.

Alumni board sets goals for 1987-88

The WWU Alumni Association has appropriated a record $45,000 for operations during the 1987-88 year, following adoption of the annual budget by the WWU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Meeting at Fort Worden State Park near Port Townsend for its annual summer planning session, the 33-member board adopted plans for the year. Among those plans are an increase in the number of Alumni Association events, both in the local area and in other regions of the country; increasing WWU Alumni Club membership to 2,800; continued interaction with the State Legislature on Western's behalf; continuation of the goal of raising $15,000 per year for the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund; and the establishment of an alumni mentor program to assist current students and recent graduates with their career decisions.

The board also launched a cooperative program with alumni groups of four of Western's colleges and schools in an effort to increase financial resources and activities for those alumni at the collegiate level. Huxley College, Fairhaven College, the College of Business and Economics, and the School of Education are participating in the program this year with the WWU Alumni Association. A total of $5,000 was also adopted into the budget to fund a number of grant and project requests from campus departments during the year.

Marriott sponsors minority scholarships

Six WWU students will receive $1,000 scholarships thanks to the Marriott Corporation. A $6,000 check was recently presented to The Western Foundation by Frank Diaz, director of Western's University Food Services, a division of the Marriott Corporation, which recently acquired Saga. Representing Western at the presentation ceremony, held Sept. 28, were President G. Robert Ross; Vice Presidents Jeannene DeLille and Saudra Taylor; Kay Flisch, director of university residences; and Maurice Bryan, affirmative action officer. The $6,000 donation was made "in appreciation for being able to serve Western for 27 years," Diaz said.

"The Western Foundation is very proud of our relationship with the Marriott Corp., and we look forward to many years of cooperation," said Jeannene DeLille, vice president for university advancement.

Scholarship recipients include Laura Cock, Michelle Lopez and Robert Sherrick of Tacoma; Christina Jones of Bellingham; Tresa Lubben of Spokane; and Ray Ruiz of Entiat. The scholarships will be used to defray room and board expenses for the coming academic year.

Foundation board has new president

Robert G. Miller is the new president of the board of directors of The Western Foundation for the 1987-88 year. Officials serving with Miller are Elizabeth Balas, vice president, and Vi Zurline, secretary-treasurer. Jim Grabicki will chair the Investment Committee. Other members are John L. (Jack) Warner, and ex-officio members Balas, Miller, Zurline, the executive director of the Foundation and the president of the University.

New members agreeing to serve four-year terms on the board beginning this year are Debbie Adelstein, Rita Tan, Butterworth, Pat Foreman, Ken Graham and Gordon (Gordy) Smith. Butterworth is a former member of the WWU Board of Trustees.

Show your Viking colors on the road!

Western graduates can now take the Viking message on the road with the purchase of a Western Viking license plate holder now available from the WWU Athletic Office. The navy blue plate holders have bold white lettering. Cost is $5 for each holder. Proceeds benefit the Western Athletic Department.

To order, fill out the form below, make checks payable to Western Athletic Department, Carver Gym, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Please send me Western Viking License Plate Holders. I have enclosed $5 for each holder ordered.

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State ______ Zip ______

Résumé / Winter 1988
A debt that will never be repaid

by Ron Judd

The view from a brick plaza next to the Performing Arts Center at Western University today will reveal a fog-shrouded Bellingham Bay that looks about three shades grayer than usual. I used to go to the plaza as a student to sort things out in my head. It is like a view from an airplane. The bay sits there, gray and murky, framed by Puget Sound to the south, Lummi Island to the west, and the Nooksack River to the north. Front and center is a Georgia-Pacific wood products plant, belching out toilet paper, a loud hum, a stale tuna-fish odor and a large chunk of the local cash flow.

The scene never changed. It always calmed me. I’d leave four minutes later, two minutes late for class, freezing but possessing new resolve that I was doing OK, after all.

I imagine the plaza is getting heavy use today. An airplane crashed headlong into the northern frame of that serene scene Wednesday night. My younger sister, a dormitory-residing student at Western, my alma mater, said last night that “It’s weird around here.” The gray bay sprawled before a school many of us love for its peace and vitality suddenly looks different, it is an un illusioned liberal professors and middle-class kids from around Puget Sound.

Shortly thereafter, one by one, the three finalists visited Bellingham. Two of them were your average presidential types: dignified, scholarly, almost charismatic, refined.

Then there was Ross. I first met him in the Viking Union Lounge the night of his campus visit. He didn’t look like a president. He looked like a Cajun chef.

G. Robert Ross was a very large man. His physical and emotional presence filled rooms. He had thin, graying hair halfway down the road to bald, soft features and eyes that could change from Burl-Ives twinkle to Clint-Eastwood piercing at the mere drop of a challenge.

He had the most prominent and memorable hands I’ve ever encountered. When he shook your hand, his paws virtually swallowed your own digits while the eyes twinkled softly and the affable voice crawled out, “Glaaad ‘ta meet ‘ya, Ron, I’m Baaawb Raaawwwwws.”

He was hired in 1983. I got to know him better, although never enough to say I knew him well, over the next three years.

Ross changed a lot of things on campus. His academic background had instilled in him a tradition far more hierarchical than most Western professors were used to or willing to accept. They staged quiet rebellions. As editor of the campus newspaper, so did I.

We tangled over issues. My weapon was an editorial column. His was an intimidating presence mixed with a manner that made him impossible to dislike. Many times, after interviews, I’d leave his office kicking myself. I still didn’t agree with him. But I couldn’t help admiring G. Robert Ross.

As the days went on, people got used to him. He got used to us. Both sides became more tolerant, more accepting, and better off for it. Ross became extremely well-liked in the community. His greatest asset was a rarity: he was always approachable. I felt more at ease eating lunch with him than I would with many of my relatives.

He was a maverick. It was that. He made him fit in where he really shouldn’t have. All of the odds were against a happy marriage between Ross and Western. His background was all wrong. But he was down-to-earth, unassuming and progressive. Western had always portrayed that image. Both were committed to education. Together, they flourished during his reign.

They did it under adversity. Western was forced to do more with less. The University for years had received less than an equal share of state funding. Ross couldn’t shake any more loose from the Legislature. So he brought in his own professional private fundraiser from his former school. Her name was Jeanene DeLille and she became a vice president, working with Ross and university finance director Don Cole to keep the money rolling in. Some of that money bought me an education that will be with me for the rest of my life.

Today, all three are dead.

Watching TV news coverage of the plane crash that killed them, my mind went back to graduation day, 1985. I walked half-relieved, half-saddened that day to the front of Carver Gym to receive my degree. G. Robert Ross held it in his hand.

I paused in front of him, flashing back to our arguments and my bullheadedness, not knowing for sure which set of eyes were about to make contact with mine. But he broke into a wide smile, his hands eating mine for lunch in an extended, firm grasp. The eyes twinkled. They conveyed a look of warmth—and respect. “Good luck, Rawn,” said the drawl, sounding more sincere than I’d ever heard it. I smiled.

I went from there out into the world feeling at peace with myself—and quite lucky. Lucky because I’d been granted the respect of a good man, and I wasn’t sure I’d earned it. I have no doubt that G. Robert Ross was also at peace with himself this week. He was that kind of man. But it angers me beyond belief to see him run out of luck so early. I feel as if I owe him something. I think we all do. And nothing is worse than an unpayable debt.

Western will continue doing what it does best. The bay will resume its calming look. But the campus nearby won’t forget G. Robert Ross. I won’t forget him, either. Something within me won’t even let me try.

Reprinted from The Bremerton Sun, Nov. 6, 1987, with permission of the author.

DeLille inspired students to grow

by Jennifer McKinnon

When someone dies, who you barely know, the feeling isn’t necessarily that of mourning or grief, but that of disbelief and that of loss. Loss not to yourself, but to the well-being of the universe in some small or even great way.

The passing of someone like Jeanene DeLille makes a young woman realize what kinds of things she can accomplish ... and how far she can go. Jeanene was the kind of administrator that pulled employees to their limit ... not set- (Continued on page 5, column 1.)
DeLille was inspiration
(Continued from page 4.)

Dr. Ross, Jeanene DeLille and Don Cole who make this University an exciting place to learn, work and grow. Let not the students feel unloved, for the old saying, "There but for the grace of God go I," rings true. Let us all strive to be our best, giving to our community and ourselves with our time. Let each one of us be an example to not only to our employees but to the people to whom we serve.

I know that working indirectly for Ms. DeLille has strengthened my feelings for the University on a larger scale. It is my hope that the students of Western will feel pulled to go out into their chosen fields and not just do a job, but make a difference. Choose to challenge... choose to grow.

Reprinted from The Western Front, Nov. 10, 1987, with the permission of the author.

Cole influenced lives, careers

In addition to being a vital part of the WWU and Bellingham communities, Don Cole was a dedicated, active member of both the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the Western Association of College and University Business Officers. He was president of WACUBO in 1980-81 and was a member of the NACUBO Board of Directors from 1981-84, serving as secretary to the board in 1983-84. He chaired the WACUBO program committee for its 1987 annual meeting in Seattle, and he directed that organization's annual Business Management Institute for a number of years.

"Don influenced the lives and professional careers of many college and university business officers as director of the WACUBO/ACE workshop in College Business & Administrative Management," said WACUBO newsletter editor Sedge Thomson. "Don's leadership at the workshop was well recognized for the quality of the programs offered, and for the very special hospitality that he provided for the students and faculty of the annual program." Thomson, of the University of Washington's Campus Planning Office, also noted that "Don's tremendous effort to provide an outstanding professional development workshop within a superb social environment was very much appreciated by the members of the Western and the national associations."

"NACUBO has lost one of its finest members and a dedicated professional through the untimely death of Don Cole," said NACUBO Executive Vice President Caspa L. Harris, Jr. "Personally, I have lost a true friend and colleague. Don was a warm, highly intelligent and energetic person. We all will miss him very much."

Trustees name interim president, acting vice presidents

The WWU Board of Trustees at a recent special meeting passed a resolution reaffirming commitment to the University's long-range role and mission statement and its three-year objectives document as developed during the administration of the late President G. Robert Ross.

The resolution calls for Western's continued support of the communities it serves by aiding their cultural and economic enhancement; committing to achieve the highest quality in its offerings through the most cost-effective means; and maintaining a relationship of mutual respect and credibility with state leaders. It further commits to continued cooperative relations with community colleges and other segments of the education system as a means of best furthering the public interest, as well as endorsing the general thrust of the University's program development.

Search for new president begun

At a special meeting on November 25, the WWU Board of Trustees set in motion the presidential search process. A special search committee is now in place, and nominations for the position of president of Western Washington University are actively sought.

Nominations or other comments on the search process should be sent to Ms. Martha Choe, chair, Presidential Search Committee, Old Main 420, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Judy McNickle accepts WWU legislative duties

Judy McNickle, research analyst for the Education Committee of the Washington State Senate, has been appointed assistant to the president for state government relations at Western Washington University. The one-year appointment, which will begin immediately, was announced by Interim President Albert Froderberg.

"Judy McNickle is highly respected in Olympia and, as an alumna of Western, has long and close ties with the University," said Froderberg. McNickle, 43, who succeeds Froderberg in the post during his absence as interim president, will provide a liaison between the University and the Legislature and state government office staffs, and will coordinate legislative activity for Western's many supporters. McNickle has worked for the State Senate since 1984, and prior to that was director of information services at The Evergreen State College during the administration of President Dan Evans. She has also been employed as a grants coordinator and as a public information writer at Eastern Washington University, a technical writer for The Boeing Company and as a reporter for The Bellingham Herald.

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With a fall enrollment of 9,559—some 350 more students than anticipated—Western has had to adopt severe restraints on admissions for winter and spring quarters to control its "annual average" of about 9,200, which would lead to an annual average of about 8,850 students.

Omye explained that for several years, the number of fully qualified students seeking to attend Western has been more than could be allowed under the state budget and enrollment allocation system. Moderate to stringent controls have been required, he said.

Western implemented higher freshman standards this fall, requiring a highly specified preparatory pattern of high school courses, but addition­al controls for fall were also re­quired. "Offers of admission to freshman and 'unclassified' post-bac­calaureate students were stopped last May 7," Omye said, "and after that date admission of qualified transfer students was limited only to those who had 75 or more transfer credits."

Transfer admissions were halted on July 24, and it became neces­sary to turn away applications from former students (those officially ad­mitted to Western but not enrolled last spring) beginning August 25.

Western's increasing retention rates over the past decade have been good news to faculty and admin­istrators, Omye said, since it indi­cates a "good fit" between increas­ingly well-qualified and the University's curriculum. But the three percent jump in student retention between spring and fall threw things out of balance, he added.

An annual average of about 8,650 students.

Are you willing to be a career mentor?

The Western Alumni Associa­tion is putting out a call for graduates willing to serve as career mentors for current stu­dents and recent graduates. Alumni board members came up with the idea for the career mentor program this past fall and spring planning ses­sion.

"We can all remember the ques­tions that ran through our minds when we were in college," said Ron Otis, alumni board member. "Am I taking the right classes to get into the field I've selected? What jobs are available in this area? Are there other classes out of my major that I should be taking to help my chances in landing a job in this field? What's the best way to get a foot in the door? Can you advance quickly in this field?"

O'uts and fellow board members decided the best people to answer such questions would be WWU graduates currently working in those jobs. "We'll put together a com­prehensive listing of individual graduates working in the various career areas," Otis explained.

"Once the list is fairly complete, we will contact all current students and recent graduates and start the program in motion," he added.

"We think it is a viable program and one that will enable Western alumni to serve today's students," he said.

Contacts between students and alumni would be made only at times indicated on the sign-up form. Participation could be by correspond­ence, telephone or in-person visits by appointment. It will be up to the volunteer to set the ground rules.

Western graduates and friends interested in serving as a career mentor should fill out the form below and return it to: The Alumni Office, Career Mentor Program, Old Main 475, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Yes, I want to help current students and recent graduates get started right. I will serve as an Alumni Career Mentor.

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ______ State ____ Zip ______
Business address ____________________________
Work phone _____ Home phone _____
I currently work as ____________________________
I would prefer to participate: □ by phone □ by letter □ by person □ by appointment
Call at business phone □ call at home phone □ call at either phone □

Computer team wins regional competition

WWU's four-man computer programming team took third place in the Northwest division of the Pacific Regional Scholastic Programming Contest held recently at Western's Department of Com­puter Science.

Overall winner of the Pacific region competition, sponsored by the Association of Computing Machinery, was a team of graduate students from Stanford University who participated in the contest at a second site at the University of California-Davis. The two sites were linked by a telephone line for the six-hour computer programming competition.

Dr. Gary Eekes, of Western's Department of Computer Science, said students raced from blackboards to computer terminals to solve seven programming problems. "The team worked through three problems and came out ahead of second-place Portland State University, third-place Oregon State University and fourth-place Eastern Washington University.

The eleventh annual competition brought more than 40 students from eight universities to Western.
President Eto Shinkichi of Tokyo's Asia University met in Bellingham this fall with President G. Robert Ross to sign an agreement expanding the student/faculty exchange program between the two universities.

According to the agreement, 60 Japanese students and two faculty from Asia University will arrive at Western in March, 1988. Beginning in 1989, 200 Japanese students and four faculty will come to WWU each year. The students will spend five to six months on campus each year in a concentrated English language program. Previously, Asia University has provided the best undergraduate education. Earlier, WWU was among Best Buys in College Education, according to Dr. George Drake, senior editor of Best Buys in College Education. Earlier, WWU was among Best Buys in College Education.

Missum may be made to the Anthropology Fund through The Western Foundation.

Garland Grabert Memorial services for Professor Garland F. Grabert were held October 31 at St. James Presbyterian Church in Bellingham. Grabert, 64, died suddenly at his home October 27.

Grabert taught in the Department of Anthropology at Western for 20 years, specializing in the field of archeology. He was recently named the archeologist of the department, said Dr. Joan Stevenson, anthropology chair, and was "very committed" to his discipline.

He was known for his excavations of Northwest Washington Indian sites, and had conducted digs at Cherry Point and Lummi Moor Spit. He also directed archaeological consulting work for a number of public utility districts in the state. Grabert is survived by his wife Jane at the family home in Bellingham. The family suggests memorials be made to the Anthropology Fund through The Western Foundation.

August Zoet Dr. August C. Zoet, a 1928 graduate of WWU—then Bellingham Normal School—and a former president of the WWU Alumni Association, died November 5 in Bellingham. He was 79.

Zoet received his medical degree from Stanford Medical School and opened a medical office in Lynden in 1946. He was known for his surgical skills in Bellingham and served as chief of staff at St. Luke's Hospital prior to his retirement in 1974.

Survivors include his wife, Edna, of Bellingham; three daughters; a brother; six grandchildren; three nephews and numerous cousins.

Memorials may be made to St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St., Bellingham, WA 98225, or to the YMCA of Santa Clara Valley in San Jose, CA.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Rêsumé / Winter 1988
Happenings

Jan. 20 — The Boccherini Quartet. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Jan. 23 — Fifth Annual Mt. Baker Eruption & Chili Cook-Off. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Assumption Gym, 2116 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham.*

Jan. 26 — WWU Classical Guitar Ensemble. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Jan. 26 — Robinson Crusoe, the opera by Offenbach. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Jan. 28 — Basketball: WWU vs. St. Martin's, at St. Martin's. 7:30 p.m., followed by pizza with the team after the game. For information, contact the WWU Alumni Office, (206) 676-3353.*

Jan. 28-30 — Robinson Crusoe, the opera by Offenbach. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Jan. 31 — Chamber Music Gala. 3 p.m., Performing Arts Center.*

Feb. 1 — Choral concert, Robert Scandrett directing. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Feb. 10 — Choral concert, Robert Scandrett directing. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Feb. 10 — Lecture/recital, "Bach's Short Preludes and Fugues," by Randolph Hockenson, guest pianist. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.*

Feb. 21 — Seattle Aquarium visit with Dr. Jerry Flora. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For information, contact the WWU Alumni Office, (206) 676-3353.*

Feb. 23 — Guest flautist Karla Flygare, in concert with Lisa Bergman, piano. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Feb. 25 — Western Wind Ensemble concert, David Wallace conducting. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.

Feb. 26 — Philadelphia String Quartet. 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center.*

*Admission is charged.

Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Address correction requested.