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Ecotones: The Heartbeat of Huxley, 2001, Fall, Issue 09

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National award-winning Planet magazine sets the pace, again

By Carla Mingione

Just three weeks ago, at the 80th annual National College Media Convention, The Planet was honored as one of the top eight college magazines in the country. The publication received the Associated College Press 2000 National Magazine Pacemaker Award, which recognizes overall achievement and excellence in a college magazine.

To managing editor, Grant Brissey, the award is meaningful. "We put in a lot of hours here, really late nights often," he said. "So when we win an award like this, it shows that all our hard work is going into something."

Levi Pulkkinen, Editor-in-Chief, said that as the Planet wins awards, more students want to write for it. "The Planet has grown a lot since June 2000 when we did the pipeline issue," he said.

Now the magazine has 14 reporters, the most that have ever been on staff. Pulkkinen said the reporters are not all journalists, necessarily. They are students from a variety of departments at Western, including students from Fairhaven, Huxley, Business and other areas. "All those people from different disciplines give a lot of depth to our staff," Pulkkinen said.

Faculty advisor for The Planet, Scott Brennan noted the same attribute that makes the magazine distinct. "They are a very diverse group of people," he said. "And they all come together to produce a magazine that really reflects that diversity."

As the publication is winning praise at the national level, The Planet staff continues to work relentlessly on the Fall 2001 issue. Brissey said that the multimedia additions are the most significant new addition. The Planet has recently started working with the campus radio and broadcast. "We're looking to become more of a source to look to on current environmental issues rather than coming out once a quarter like we have in the past," he said.

Kate Granat, Web editor, has been working on the online edition. "I'm totally redesigning it," she said. "Giving it a new look."

These additional improvements don't slow the staff from writing stories. After all deadlines and hard work this quarter, the fall issue is ready for print. "It was an awful lot of work to get through and I think we turned out a very high quality issue," Pulkkinen said.

The theme for the Fall 2001 issue is energy. The magazine is devoted to the discussion of energy concerns, the events of the "energy crisis" and the use of energy. Look for it December 7th.
By Jessi Loerch

Tiffany Campbell, a senior double majoring in environmental journalism and English, is the newest intern at CNN in Atlanta, Ga.

Campbell will begin the semester-long internship in early January.

"I can’t think of a more interesting or better respected broadcast station to work for," Campbell said.

Campbell expects to be involved in all aspects of news story development at the station. She will cover environmental issues when they develop, and will be assigned to the war desk, where most of the country’s focus is right now.

"In uncertain times, journalism is even more essential and this will be an opportunity to learn breaking-news reporting under pressure, and the opportunity to report on real news and issues," she said.

For the internship, she will go on assignment with anchors or correspondents, helping with filming, editing and shot selection, in addition to many more projects, she said.

Campbell said she looks forward to learning about the technical aspects of broadcast journalism.

Most of her experience is in print journalism. She began working on The Planet during the winter of 1999 as a writer and then an associate editor. She was editor-in-chief during 2000-01 academic year.

Her interest in environmental journalism was partially triggered by Huxley’s introductory environmental studies course.

"The class really pushed a lot of buttons for me," she said.

Campbell flipped through the bulletin and came across Huxley’s environmental journalism program.

"The program was just a perfect thing," she said.

While some people worry that environmental journalists might be biased, Campbell believes the more educated a reporter is, the better they can cover issues.

"Essentially, I think that my education in environmental studies is a real asset," she said.

"There is still a perception that such an education would make a reporter biased, but I look at it as being equipped to understand complex issues."

While Campbell’s main focus has been on writing during her time at Western, she became interested in broadcast by reading the news for KUGS 89.3.

"Print is my first love -- but I really enjoyed radio," Campbell said.

The idea to move on to television came to her during a Society of Environmental Journalists conference. At the conference she met Natalie Pawelski, CNN’s environment correspondent.

Pawelski suggested Campbell apply for an internship at CNN. Campbell said that since most of her experience is in print, she is looking forward to learning about the process for television news and learning how a story gets from the correspondent in the field to where it is packaged and put on air. She also explained she will learn how to decide on pictures and how stories are written differently for television.

Learning how to cover breaking news will also be a new challenge for Campbell, since most of her work was in magazine writing.

"I think this is a really great opportunity to learn how breaking news is covered, and how to cover it well," Campbell said.

"I’m excited," she said. "It’s going to be a really new experience."

Campbell said she’s been receiving lots of congratulations from friends, family and Huxley students.

"I really had such a good experience here. Everyone seems really happy for me," she said. "I couldn’t have gotten this without the support of Huxley and the journalism department’s professors and staff. I can’t thank them enough."

contact: Ecotones@cc.wwu.edu

is looking for students to join our staff

Contact us if you are interested in submitting your writing or story ideas.
‘Trees’ teach lessons in environmental education

By Carla Mingione

When the 450 students in Environmental Studies 101 came to class on Monday, Nov. 5, they were asked to sing and think like children while watching a play by students in the Environmental Education Program.

“Take off your cool hats, don’t be 22 today, you’ve got to be 10,” said Wendy Walker, undergraduate advisor and environmental education faculty member.

She asked the students to sing the chorus with her:

“We are one in the forest, We are one underground. We are one in the forest, Cycling around And it’s all in a balance, like the earth is round”

The play, Nobody’s Ever Alone in the Forest is one of three written by Walker to present ecological concepts to a variety of people in a way that is both entertaining and accurate.

A young hemlock tree and an older, wiser Douglas Fir, were the main characters.

Arms covered by socks depicted truffles on the forest floor. The young hemlock was alarmed when she saw a vole eating the truffles that were so vital to her life. The Douglas fir patiently explained that by eating truffles the vole was spreading the spores, helping more to grow.

Then Douglas Fir said he would soon die. The hemlock was worried, but he showed that she was only looking at one side of decay and there was more.

“Hooray for decay,” he sang.

“Rot is okay!”

He explained that his death would give nutrients back to the soil and be a part of new growth and life.

When a volcanic eruption blasted through the scene with silly string of hot lava and ash, the hemlock cried out for it to stop. The volcano explained to the young tree that he was actually beneficial.

“This is a very rare, treat,” he said. “Now apologize, or you won’t get anymore.”

The volcano said he was a shower of nutrients needed to keep the soil rich. By teaching the young hemlock, the play serves to tell the audience about how parts of the forest work together. “There are no good guys or bad guys, we’re all in this together,” the Douglas Fir said.

The goal of the Environmental Education Program is to educate people and make a difference in the way people live with the environment around them.

“(It is) intended to change people’s ideas, attitudes and behaviors to help create an ecologically literate earth citizenry…” Walker said.

Students in the program hope to make this type of difference.

“I see it as the very basis of changing everything in the environmental science field,” Gwex said.

Students in the Environmental Education Program presented the play to let other students know about the Environmental Education major. The program is very applied and interdisciplinary.

The major is 90 credits, though next year it will be 85. The minor is 26 credits.

“You have to want to do this,” Walker said.

KATE & NIKOLE’S
TOP TEN WETLAND PLANTS

10. Sium suave
9. Ranunculus repens
8. Lysichiton americanum
7. Lemna minor
6. Ilex aquifolium ("It’s like Christmas!")
5. Alnus rubra
4. Typha latifolia
3. Brasenia schreberi
2. Solanum dulcamara
1. Potentilla palustris

Special thanks to Dr. J.M. Rybczyk

Photo Courtesy of Wisconsin State Herbarium Website

Solarium dulcamera.
WHAT'S UP?

November 26
"Injury Prevention & Body Mechanics for Runners"
7:30pm, Fairhaven Runners (1209 11th St.)
Get information on how the everyday use (and misuse) of your body at work, home, and in your car affect your health... for free! Call 676-4955 for details.

November 28
Surf movie Wednesday
8pm, VU 552, $2 for all.
Come help the Bellingham chapter of the Surfrider Foundation raise money just by checking out some awesome surf footage presented by Billygoat Productions. The foundation has chapters across the nation campaigning to clean up and preserve the nation's beaches and coastlines.

November 29
"Practical Herbalism - A User's Guide to Northwest Native Plants"
7-8pm, Community Food Co-op's Connections Bldg. (1220 N. Forest)
The talk will feature an introduction to the traditionally used plants of the area with Suzanne Nagler and Erin Groh. It's a free event, but you'll have to register by calling 734-8158.

Coming up...
New Huxley gear
Available December 5th!
Huxley's sweatshirts and long-sleeve t-shirts will be back just in time for Christmas. There will be new colors for the t-shirts and brand-new zippered hooded sweatshirts. You'll be able to pick them up between 9 and 12 Mon.-Fri. or 3-5 Tues. & Thurs.

Huxley's annual Internship/Career Fair
Thursday, February 14th.
The event will run on the same day as the Western's internship fair sponsored by the Career Services Ctr. The WWU event is in the morning, and Huxley's will be held in the afternoon, so you'll be able to attend both.