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## Ecotones: The Heartbeat of Huxley, 2002, Fall, Issue 09

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# ECOTONES

*The Heartbeat of Huxley*

Fall Issue 9  
December 4, 2002

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## Heads Up!

December 7

Noon to 10 p.m.  
Northwest Ecosystems Alliance Presents  
Sierra Club-led  
Blanchard to Baker  
Benefit Hike and Gala  
with soup. Local activist  
and musician Dana  
Lyons to perform.  
Tickets are \$10. For  
more information, call  
647-2807.

## Coffee Vendors at Fair Trade Fair Offer Free Samples and Information

By Erik McKenna



Image courtesy of www.fairtrade.ca

Pura Vida Coffee was among three vendors who participated in the Fair Trade Coffee Fair in Red Square last Wednesday, offering free samples and information to students, staff and faculty.

The fair, hosted by the Western Fair Trade Coffee Club, was intended to educate students on fair-trade coffees.

Pura Vida says they have been purchasing fair trade beans for over four years. The Seattle-based company has established programs in coffee-growing countries to assist the farmers and provide for children in the countries.

"We take the profits and put them back into the coffee-growing countries," Pura Vida employee Geoff Harper said.

The Pura Vida coffee company was co-

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## Dean of Huxley Attends Conference in Netherlands

By Laurel Eddy



Photo courtesy of www.gccf.org

Huxley Dean Bradley Smith and Robert "Tide" Tibbs attended a conference in the Netherlands in November to discuss exchanging students and faculty and managing what Tibbs calls the "Green Heartland."

He said the heartland, or floodplain area, is crowded by the spreading metropolises of Seattle and Vancouver, and may be swallowed up if careful planning is not done.

"This area is highly desirable, but it's under great pressure," Tibbs said. "Deltas are mostly where people go to live."

He said deltas have hospitable tem-

peratures and good soil.

The Dutch city of Arnhem is much like Bellingham will become as it grows, and also has a sister city much like Mount Vernon, Tibbs said. He said we can learn what problems we will face by studying that city.

Arnhem also contains the Wageningen University and Research Centre, which Huxley is planning exchanges with, Smith said. He said there may be an exchange next fall.

"They like the idea of American enterprise and free thinking," Tibbs said.

The two Netherlands cities have competed, but are now working together against pressure from Germany and the Hague, Tibbs said. He said this is like pressure Bellingham and Mt.

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Smith at the 2000 Global Environmental Alliance Workshop in China.

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**Huxley Dean**

Vernon receive, and those two cities also need to plan green areas together. The Chuckanut highlands are on the edges of Whatcom and Skagit Counties, and so are hard to care for.

"No one has paid much attention to it," Tibbs said. "But it's beautiful."

The heartland is about the same size as the Netherlands, which also have influence from an ocean and many dairy farms and are extremely crowded.

"The Dutch are very skilled at managing their land because they don't have very much of it," Tibbs said. "Holland is one of the most densely populated countries in the world."

The U.S. in general has very low population density, Tibbs said, but this area is becoming more crowded. He said it is necessary to plan where forests, parklands and farms will be, or growing cities will swallow them all.



These two maps represent the Cascadia Pacific "Green Heartland" (left) and the Netherlands. Robert Tibbs, director of the Cascadia Pacific Center, sees the two regions as comparable based on size and land use.

Images courtesy of <http://www.envirocitizen.org>

"People who are living in cities want green space around them," he said.

Smith said the Netherlands plans for recreational areas.

"It is the most planned country in the world," he said. "You can get in a train and go 10 minutes outside Amsterdam and be in a green area."

Smith said Huxley students can learn a lot from Dutch successes and fail-

ures. "Huxley students are going to be working in the international world more and more," Smith said. "The environment is not confined...part of an education as feasibly as possible should be international."

Wageningen has a worldwide reputation in sustainability and land use, Smith said. He said they teach in English and have the best cheese shop in the region nearby.

"In order to preserve a healthy environment, we need to preserve a healthy economy as well and a healthy society," Tibbs said. "If you're poor and no one's got any jobs, no one's going to care about the environment."

Tibbs said Dutch who came to Western last summer for a conference said it was a beautiful area.

"But (we have) got to start looking after it properly," he said.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**"How do you feel about the Bush administration's plan to drill for oil in the Alaska Wilderness reserve?"**



Photos by Tyler Faulstich

"I don't support it because he has concentrated on tapping finite resources to support his buddies. He should be concentrating on human rights and real liberty."

-Sky Wilson  
History major

"It is set aside for the animals. I don't think it's too good of an idea."

-David Milners  
Undecided

"I disagree with it. I don't know a lot about Enron and what's going on but I don't think we should drill in an animal refuge."

-Ondrea Watson  
Business major

"Well, I don't agree with it at all. We need to concentrate on renewable resources as opposed to finite resources like oil."

-Nick Beymer  
Undeclared major

"I don't agree with it completely. I think that they should focus on alternate resources and not listen so much to outside influence."

-Rob Robson  
Political Science

"I think that it's a bad idea, and my vote is for the Inuit life-style."

-Audrey Steele

# Sean Cosgrove, Sierra Club's National Forest Policy Specialist And Former Huxley Student, Visits Huxley

By Anne Chapin

Sean Cosgrove, a Huxley grad, returned to campus on Nov. 21-22 to share his experience and knowledge in national forest policy with Western students. He now lives in Washington, D. C. and works for the Sierra Club.

"It's always good to come back to Bellingham, which I think is by far one of the best places to live," Cosgrove said.

While he attended Western, Cosgrove wrote for the *Huxley Hotline* (now *Ecotones*) and the *Planet Magazine*. On his return to campus Cosgrove lectured in John Miles' History of Conservation class, for the *Planet Magazine*, and in ESCI 101.

"I feel it [Huxley] should be a training ground for future environmental leaders," Cosgrove said. "Faculty and students have a lot of resources. This is

no time to stand on the sidelines and be an observer."

Cosgrove's official title with the Sierra Club is 'National Forest Policy Specialist.' He represents the interests of Sierra Club members to Congress,

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*"They [the Bush administration] basically want to eliminate most basic forest laws and rewrite them," Cosgrove said.*

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the media, and the National Forest Service, which oversees the national forest system.

"The thing that's exciting about my job is dealing with Sierra Club members who are passionate about this issue," Cosgrove said.

The Sierra Club has between 730,000

and 740,000 members in any given year who support its work for local and national environmental protections.

"(Part of my job is) getting our story out about why our national forests should be protected," Cosgrove said.

The Sierra Club was successful in achieving forest protections with Clinton's administration, he said. In Clinton's last weeks of office, 58.5 million acres of national forest was put aside to be protected by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. However, Bush began to undo most of that work in his first few days of office, Cosgrove said.

"Some of the most challenging [work] is having the persistence to get up and take on the bad guy each day," Cosgrove said. "Sometimes it feels like you're banging your head against a wall."

The second half of the president's

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## Fair Trade

founded by Chris Dearnley and John Bage. The two came up with the idea to return money to coffee-growing countries and to provide assistance to local children.

"Our goal is to feed, clothe, and educate children in need," Pura Vida Sales Manager Katie Johnson said.

According to Pura Vida's Web site, the company has established children's clubs in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Brazil. The returned profits also pay for computer labs, soccer teams, and feeding children in Latin America.

"We feed over 1000 kids a week," Harper said.

Feeding children is one of the main focuses of the money being returned to the countries. Pura Vida is also hoping to expand their grower's co-op to Africa and increase their sales in other countries. Pura Vida is available on the campus of two Northwest colleges and on their Web site.

"We have contracts to provide coffee for Evergreen State College and Portland State University," Harper said.

Pura Vida is trying to educate people in the United States about the conditions in coffee-growing countries.

They also have programs which allow college students to travel to Costa Rica to see a coffee plantation and have the opportunity to work with the children.

"Co-Operative Coffees is the coffee co-op we buy our coffee from," Harper said.

Pura Vida started their own co-op of growers when they began business.



Image courtesy of [www.puravidacoffee.com](http://www.puravidacoffee.com)

Co-ops are a way for farmers to collectively bring their product to market. Their co-op is open to all farmers who grow their crops organically and in the shade.

Pura Vida has recently started offering Organic Teas. People can make direct donations to the people of coffee-growing countries.

Donations can be made to a general fund or for a specific purpose. Donations are handled

through their Web site.

For more information about Pura Vida coffee you can contact them at: 877-469-1431 or look at their Web site: [www.puravidacoffee.com](http://www.puravidacoffee.com).

Leaf image courtesy of [www.puravidacoffee.com](http://www.puravidacoffee.com)

# The Many Faces of Huxley

By Brwyn Harris  
Photos by Tyler Faulstich



Chris Dunford, Huxley freshman.

Chris Dunford is an undeclared freshman, "Environmental studies is my passion!" said Dunford, a Spokane native.

Dunford said he played football and basketball in High School, but hasn't gotten around to

sports yet in college. He said that he likes to write poetry and listen to music when he is not studying.

Dunford said that he came to Western because it was "in state, so I could save some money. Plus, I like Bellingham."

Dunford said he is interested in joining the Huxley department. "The main thing I want to do is inform people of the environmental situation," Dunford said.



Ariel Elanc, Huxley senior.

Ariel Elanc is a senior in Huxley College. Elanc said she came to Western because "It's the best school I could find for and Environmental Major."

She is majoring in Environmental Science and hopes to find a job in the

toxicology research department after graduation.

In her spare time, Elanc enjoys snowboarding, biking, and reading.



Mary Stevens, Huxley junior.

Mary Stevens is a junior in the Huxley College. She is now wrapping up her first quarter at Western.

Stevens just transferred from Rhode Island College. Stevens is majoring in Environmental Policy.

After graduation she is thinking about going into law. Stevens is originally from Kent, Washington but said she had moved all over.

"I like art, I love painting. It's my biggest interest," Stevens said.



Eric Larsen, Huxley junior.

Eric Larsen is a junior at Huxley.

Larsen spent two years at Whatcom for prerequisites before coming to Western.

"I was working in PT (Port

Townsend) and living on the peninsula when I heard the Dean of Huxley give a talk on the radio about toxicology and I thought, WWU...that's where I'm go-

ing!" Larsen said. "I chose to take the long, slow, hard route because I needed to have the science background."

Now he is a Environmental Toxicology major. Larsen said he was inspired by the political situation when the U.S. led NATO forces bombing Yugoslavia. He was worried about the environmental effects the bombing would have.

Larsen is hoping to get a job in pollution control and bio remediation after he graduates. Meanwhile he lives by the Nooksack river with his dog Mula and they enjoy watching the river change the earth.



Mary Nowicki is in the Graduate program at Huxley.

Mary Nowicki is in the Graduate program at Huxley. She is Mastering in Education in Natural Science/ Science Education.

"There's not many schools out there offering Environmental Education and geographically I

wanted to do New England or the West Coast," said Nowicki.

Nowicki is in the first year of a Resident option and said there were "lots of bugs to be worked out."

Nowicki earned her Bachelors degree in Pennsylvania for Environmental Education with a minor in Elementary Education.

"My life is school," Nowicki said. But when life isn't just school she enjoys "outdoorsy stuff."

## WANTED:

Students interested in writing, photography, desktop publishing or online publishing for Ecotones, Winter quarter 2003. No experience necessary. Interest in environmental issues a plus. 2 credits.

Register for Ecotones, or for more information, call 788-8980.

# Huxley Graduate Wants to Give Back

By Tyler Faulstich

Because of Huxley graduate David Silverman's positive experience at Huxley, he is now offering a scholarship to interested Huxley students. The scholarship will offer students a chance to, "study in threatened ecosystems of global significance."

"Huxley is a brilliant education institution," 1983 graduate Silverman said. "The teachers and faculty offered me so much; it is impossible to fully repay them."

The scholarship will cover the \$2,250 cost of the winter, 2003 Inter-session Course offered by the Environmental Learning Institute (ELI) in Arizona.

Students will study the geology, biology, and environmental studies of the Baja region in Mexico.

According to the ELI website, the course will consist of a geologic, biologic and cultural survey of the Baja

Peninsula with lectures and activities regarding the natural and cultural assets of the region.

The scholarships are merit-based. Important criteria will include academic scholarship, background preparation, and student's degree career plan.

The Mexican states of Baja California and Baja California Sur are the areas of study.

"It is incredibly beautiful with high mountains, tablelands, mesas, arroyos, plains and a remarkable coastline with rich marine ecosystems," Silverman said. "The area has incredible biological diversity."

Silverman says the field studies are community-based. Throughout the trip students work with "host-country communities, scholars and local institutions to conduct community-based environmental research," he said.

Silverman says that it is his goal to get everyone in the communities involved to come up with a resource

management plan.

Silverman hopes the communities of Baja, with the help of students, will become empowered to make their own decisions concerning their environment and use of resources.

According to ELI's website one of the objectives for the trip is to co-design research project with geological and biological components serving the interests of the local community.

Silverman is the Executive Director of the Environmental Learning Institute, an organization he started in Arizona about five years ago.

The Institute is a not-for-profit organization specializing in field studies for undergraduates and graduates. Courses include Field Geology, Field Biology, Environmental Science, Ethics and Public Policy.

Silverman is planning on offering an annual scholarship for Huxley students through the Environmental Learning Institute.

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## Sierra Club

term is where the real damage will be done, Cosgrove said.

"This is an administration that's shown they really don't care about protecting the environment," Cosgrove said. "This is the largest assault on environmental laws and protections in 20 years."

Already, next year's funding bill for the National Forest Service has a 'rider' attached to it that will undermine many of the existing national forest protections. A 'rider' is a piece of unrelated legislation that is usually attached to a large bill, so it can slide through unnoticed, he said.

"They [the Bush administration] basically want to eliminate most basic forest laws and rewrite them," Cosgrove said.

The administration has used publicity from the threat of forest fires this past summer as a vehicle to destroy forests, Cosgrove said. The newly introduced 'Healthy Forest' Initiative is presented to the public as a way to prevent forest fires in national forests, but would actu-

ally be more damaging than beneficial, Cosgrove said.

"What it would do is exclude the public from management of public lands," Cosgrove said. "It would limit the effectiveness of environmental laws so more logging can happen in a shorter amount of time."

The initiative would allow timber

*"This is an administration that's shown they really don't care about protecting the environment," Cosgrove said.*

companies to cut down old-growth trees in exchange for removing smaller trees and shrubs that are a fire hazard. The initiative would override parts of the National Environmental Protection Act, which protects old-growth trees in national forests, and prevent the public from challenging proposed logging actions with citizen appeals or lawsuits.

Another major concern relating to the

Bush administration's environmental policies is that legislation opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling will be put into the budget bill, Cosgrove said. The budget bill cannot be subject to a filibuster in Congress, meaning the action would be difficult to prevent.

"Up until three months ago it was kind of like standing on a beach and watching a giant tsunami get closer and closer and now it's about to hit," Cosgrove said.

People concerned about these issues need to contact their legislators, such as congressman Rick Larsen and Senator Patty Murray, and urge them to be champions and protect the environment, he said.

"We need Washington state senators to stand strong and fight these attacks, fight the administration on environmental attacks," Cosgrove said.

For more information on the Sierra Club, and for tips on writing persuasive letters to congressmen, go to [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

Forest image courtesy of [www.development.ucdavis.edu/tahoe/graphics/forest.jpg](http://www.development.ucdavis.edu/tahoe/graphics/forest.jpg)

## What's Happening Around Bellingham and WWU

**December 5, 7-9 p.m.**

### **Jim Whittaker, Legendary Mountaineer Lectures**

Jim Whittaker will lecture about being the first American to reach the summit of Mt. Everest and other topics in Arntzen Hall 100. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the PAC Box Office. For more information, call 650-6146.

**December 6**

### **Last Day to Apply for a Bachelor's Degree for Spring 2003**

For more information, visit: <http://www.wvu.edu/depts/registrar/creditevaluation/>

**Snow Shoe Mount Baker: Dec. ?**

**Pre Trip: December 7.**

Cost is \$30 for students/ \$40 non-students. Pre-register at the Outdoor Center. For more information, call 650-3112.

**December 7 Noon to 10 p.m.**

### **Northwest Ecosystems Alliance Presents Sierra Club led Blanchard to Baker Benefit Hike with homemade soup and music by Dana Lyons**

Six-hour hike and homemade soup by Blanchard community members, slideshow and updates on conservation efforts from activists including Ken Wilcox, Lisa McShane, and Helene Irving. Local singer Dana Lyons will perform. Tickets are \$10, with all proceeds after expenses being split between the two campaigns for Blanchard Mountain and Mt. Baker. For more information, call 647-2807 or [rawal@serv.net](mailto:rawal@serv.net) no later than Friday, December 6. To attend the dinner and show, purchase a ticket at the Community Food Coop in Bellingham, Scott's Books in Mt. Vernon, or contact NWEA directly. Call 360-671-9950, extension 10 for tickets or 26 for more information.

**December 13**

**Geminid meteor shower maximum**

For more information, visit <http://www.whatcomastronomy.org>.

**December 14, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Star Gazing Party at Van Zandt Dike**

For directions visit <http://www.whatcomastronomy.org/calendar.html>.

**December 14- January 6**

### **2002 Winter Break**

No Classes!

For more information, call 650-3430.

**Whistler Ski Trip: December 14-17**

**Pre Trip: Dec. 10**

Play in the snow and then take a dip in the hot tub or steam in the sauna. Lift tickets not included (about \$30-\$45.) Gear not included. Pre-register at the Outdoor Center. For more information, call 650-3112. Cost is \$130 for students/ \$175 non-students.

**December 28 , 7:30 p.m.**

### **Star Gazing Party at Van Zandt Dike**

Cost is \$30 for students/ \$40 non-students. Pre-register at the Outdoor Center. For more information, call 650-3112.

**New Year's Eve,**

**Dec. 31, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.**

### **Northwest Ecosystem Alliance Celebrates New Year's Eve 2002 with The Barbed Wire Cutters**

Tickets are \$10 at the door for members of NWEA, \$15 for non-members. Price of ticket for non-members includes a one-year membership. All proceeds after expenses go to support NWEA's programs. For more information, call 671-9950 ext 10. Or to volunteer and get in free, call 671-9950 ext 18.

**January 11, 6:30 p.m.**

**Whatcom Astronomy Organization's Annual "Trash the President's**

**House" Potluck and Raffle.**

6 foot long submarine sandwich and a fundraising raffle of odd astronomy items. Bring raffle item and food item for potluck. For location and directions, e-mail WACO at [inquiry@whatcomastronomy.org](mailto:inquiry@whatcomastronomy.org)

**January 23, 4 p.m.**

### **Lecture: 'Why Aren't Canadians as Productive as Americans?'**

Lecture by Andrew Sharpe, executive director of The Centre for the Study of Living Standards in Ottawa in the Parks Hall 4th Floor Lounge. For more information, call 650-7708.

**Western Gallery presents 'H2O' through Dec. 6**

An interdisciplinary exhibit focusing on water and the human body. For hours or more information, call 650-3900.

**Ongoing**

**Lake Whatcom/Lake Padden need your pledge**

The Mt. Baker Group of the Sierra Club seeks help with the "Salmon-Friendly Lawn" campaign. To participate, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:  
Sierra Club - Mt. Baker Group, P.O. Box 1722, Bellingham, WA 98227

**Scholarship deadlines for the 2002-2003 year are April 1, 2002. Contact Mary Moores at (360) 650-3748**

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Publication!*



### **Ecotones Mission Statement:**

Ecotones is a student publication devoted to providing a voice for the Huxley community and reporting on current events and issues affecting everyone. We appreciate comments and criticisms about any aspect of Ecotones. Visit us on the web at [www.ac.wvu.edu/~ecotones/](http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~ecotones/) Email us with comments at [ecotones@cc.wvu.edu](mailto:ecotones@cc.wvu.edu)