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Huxley Hotline, 1996, January 31

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The

Huxley Hotline

January 31, 1996

ES 341, x3543

Meet Sean Cosgrove: Leader, Activist

Many people know Sean Cosgrove as 'Mr. Environmental Center'. Although he is arguably Huxley College's most famous student, how much do you know about him? I chatted with him to find out more.

Cosgrove, a double major in History and Environmental Education, has attended Huxley for three years.

"I had been working for Greenpeace in Seattle, and we were campaigning in Bellingham," he said. "While here I decided to look around at the facilities and I met Karen Foisey. We chatted about what would be required of me to get in, and her friendly, helpful attitude persuaded me that I should come here."

Cosgrove grew up in Northern Utah. Before coming to Washington five years ago, he worked for an aerospace company manufacturing booster engines for spacecraft. He desired something 'more dynamic' and, needing a change of scenery, moved to Washington. He moved to Seattle and did a variety of jobs. After nine months of driving a fork lift truck, he decided the job was too dangerous and started working for Greenpeace where he became involved in the Ancient Forest Campaign. This prompted him to think about studying other environmental issues.

At Huxley, Cosgrove has expanded his interests. He has campaigned on public lands issues and become involved with wilderness issues.

"Much has been destroyed and people do not understand the importance of what is going on," he said.

Cosgrove also spends a lot of time campaigning as a member of the Western Endangered Species Alliance (WESA). "They are the best bunch of people I have ever been involved with," he said.

Cosgrove is best known for his role as the coordinator of the Environmental Center. He started working for the center as a work/study student last year and became the coordinator at



Sean Cosgrove

Photo by Liz Allen

the beginning of fall quarter. Taking the job very seriously, he often works long hours.

"I am here to give information about all aspects of the environment to anyone who is interested. Many students, not just those from Huxley, come here for advice," Cosgrove said.

Although juggling schoolwork, campaigning and running the center keeps Cosgrove busy, he still has time to socialize. "I have to organize my time very carefully, and I do not get much sleep," he said.

Cosgrove will miss Huxley College when he leaves, but the college is likely to miss him too.

"I am going to miss Huxley. It is a really cool place to be, and is the only college I know where you can hang out with the professors.

"I don't really know (what I'll do) in the short term, eventu-

ally I hope to go to graduate school and then teach environmental history. I have had some teaching assistant experience in the Environmental History and Ethics course with John Miles and really enjoyed it."

Paul Willis

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Huxley Advising Goes Professional



This quarter, the Huxley academic advising position, which Kay Reddel normally fills, does not exist. Despite its importance, the position, according to Dean Brad Smith, never was an "official" University job.

But there is encouraging news. The University has decided to make the job into a staff position.

It would be against hiring regulations to just hand the advising reins over to Reddel and congratulate her on her position, Smith said. This would be illegal because jobs cannot be created for people who are already engaged in the work of the "new" job. The law requires a job description to be drawn up and interviews to take place in order to find the

best applicant for the job.

Redell performed a variety of tasks, including: advising students, promoting the college, coordinating undergraduates, and aiding exchange students.

The position is definitely an enormous contribution to both the students and staff at Huxley. As a Huxley student, I think the job is an excellent means for students to get help or advice, especially in a quick manner.

Jerry Rusbridge, an exchange student from England in his second year of college, talked with me about his interactions with Reddel.

"She was really helpful," he said. "When I came over here I was not well organized and didn't understand the way

the timetable

works. Luckily, I came a few weeks early. I talked with the international office and they sent me to her."

Rusbridge explained that Reddel helped him set up his schedule and talked about what the different professors were like. He gratefully said that Reddel was "Absolutely valuable. I don't know where else I would've gone."

This quarter we are in a brief period of transition, which hopefully will end with Reddel returning with her friendly and helpful attitude to occupy the academic advising role; helping students from here and abroad.

Liz Allen



INQUIRING REPORTER:



Activism in the Huxley Community; Teacher & Student Perspectives

As a whole, the Huxley community is united by environmental concerns.

I am curious to know where the roles of students and teachers intermix and cross in the subjects they study. To get a clearer picture, I asked a few professors and students the following questions:

What do you feel should be a Huxley student's role in activism? Do you condone it and do you practice what you preach?

***Dr. Leo Bodensteiner:** "Yes, I condone it. Yes, I think the role of the student is independent of their role as an activist, but in my view a student who isn't active in terms of what they believe in should evaluate their motivation for being in environmental studies."

***Dr. Richard Mayer:** "I believe activism is necessary to change anything. I believe my role, as a professor, is to teach the subject and open windows. I try to teach both sides of the story. If students chose to get angry, then good. A lot of what they see is wrong out there. If students decide to do something active it should be decided on their own. That's fine, I applaud that."

In 1978, when I came to this University I was told to turn around the trend of student and faculty activism. Specifically the activists were involved with a

Squalicum Harbor project. Their particular approach create negative feelings downtown about Huxley college. I believe that activism carried out in certain ways can come back and bite you. It will work if you engage the other side in your cause."

***Herbert Webber:** "I've always been active. I've gotten involved in issues but I've never tried to force my ideas on to others. I have my own ideas. For example, I know a lot about water quality. I believe that if you have the knowledge you should share it with others. If you have information, tell it to the decision makers. I am president of the Nooksack Salmon Association which works on enhancing the area's salmon population. To me that's activism."

***Rachel Severson, Environmental Science, senior:** "I believe in activism. Although many people associate the term with chaining themselves to a gate to stop logging, you can be active in your community by sharing your knowledge and educating others. I think most professors think activism is good. I don't think it has to be extreme though. But I think it balances it out when some people are more extreme in their actions."

Volunteering in the community is a great way to be active and you meet

people who you wouldn't come across normally. It creates an alliance within the community. I find when there is ignorance about an environmental problem the same people don't care about it. When you educate you create people who do care. I think it's OK if you're an extremist because there is a place for it. But it isn't the only way."

***Ant Chapin, Environmental Education major, junior:** "My role as an activist is basically two fold. My first and perhaps most important objective as an environmental activist is to stop the destruction that plagues our earth. I use political, social, and educational tools to reach this necessary salvation. As an activist, my second most important goal is educating people about environmental degradation. Once I have stopped the current destruction and warned future generations not to repeat it, then my mission, as it were, is fulfilled."

The opinions of the Huxley's teachers and students are what makes the college what it is. Hopefully the education at Huxley will always be focused upon learning from each other; a cycle in which everyone can learn from the other's experiences.

Liz Allen

NPR's Jennifer Schmidt Visits Environmental Journalism Class

If you listen to "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio (NPR), you have heard Jennifer Schmidt's voice. Schmidt spoke to Huxley's environmental journalism class last Wednesday to explain the challenges of radio journalism.

Schmidt works out of 88.5 FM KPLU's Seattle office, covering the environmental beat. KPLU is a member station of NPR. Schmidt covers local news stories, but also does national features on topics like salvage logging in Okanogan National Forest, salmon recovery, and the proposal to kill goats in Olympic National Park.

In her presentation to the class, Schmidt explained the difficulties of being an environmental reporter. Schmidt says one of the biggest drawbacks is that people call her all the time with very good stories and she just can't do them all. The challenge is to do a good overview of what's happening with the environment in this area, trying not to neglect anything, but also to choosing stories carefully.

Schmidt says the other challenges she encounters are the stories she hears about at 2 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, which are due at 8 a.m. on the East Coast the next day.

Yet another demanding aspect is simplifying and shortening a complex issue because time is limited. Usually the crucial details are extra baggage, Schmidt said. Carrying around sound equipment and getting access to certain places are



Photo by Liz Allen

Jennifer Schmidt and Scott Brennan

two more inconveniences.

Schmidt occasionally encounters people who still think NPR is a liberal, left-wing production. These people automatically think she's an environmentalist or an activist.

Even after Schmidt explains that she's just trying to make a fair story, the image can still strain an interview. Despite all the hassles, however, Schmidt says she loves covering the environmental scene and enjoys being her own boss.

Although Schmidt is now well-established in her career, she, like many others, started at the bottom and worked her way up. Her first exposure to public radio came when she volunteered in the news department of a California public radio station after graduating from college. Schmidt went back to graduate school for a degree in journalism, and came to Washington.

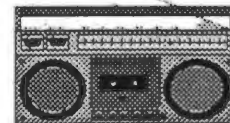
After holding down a "boring job" with a real estate agency for as long as

she could, she wrote to the news director at KPLU and offered to work for free.

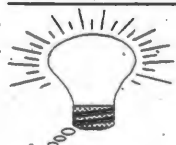
She was an intern at KPLU for three months before getting a half-time position for a year, then becoming a full-time reporter. She started out writing the pieces for the host to read, but eventually voiced them herself.

Schmidt said she has watched NPR evolve into much more of a mainstream news source than it was in its grass-roots beginnings.

All 12 students in the Environmental Journalism class seemed interested in what Schmidt had to say. At one point they encouraged her to play more of the tapes she brought with her. The students asked questions at the end of Schmidt's talk and they received honest answers.



Diane Peterson



GARBAGE BAG: Paper, Plastic, and Appliance Recycling

*The Whatcom County Waste Reduction and Recycling Program's new "Guide to Easy Recycling" contains the Whatcom County sites which buy or accept recyclables. The guide includes a "how to" panel for preparing materials. Pass this valuable information on! You can obtain the free guide by calling 676-5723 or 384-8040.

*Did you know it's possible to recycle your old household appliances? Washers, dryers, old water heaters, and more are recycled in Whatcom County. The steel from the appliance is sent to a mill where new steel is made using 25 to 100 percent steel scrap. Each ton of steel recycled saves one and a quarter tons of iron ore and half a ton of coal! A service fee is necessary to recycle refrigerators

and freezers because the gases which cool the systems must be captured and recycled to prevent ozone depletion. Each of the following companies accept different appliances and have individual requirements. Call 676-5723 or 384-8040 for specifics!

Liz Allen



Eco Events That Count

Wednesday, Jan. 31: David Wallin of Huxley College presents seminar, beginning at noon in PH 146.

Tuesday, Feb 6: A water resources consultant will discuss Nooksack River water allocation and low-flow hydrology. The presentation takes place at 4 p.m. in PH 146.

Every Wednesday: The Western Endangered Species Alliance (WESA) meets at 7 p.m. in ES 413.

Scholarships Available

Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Scholarship:
One Scholarship of \$1,000. Conditions: upper-division Huxley College student, GPA 3.0 or better, financial need, must be Washington resident.

Chuckanut District Garden Club Scholarship:
One scholarship of \$500. Conditions: upper-division Huxley College student, GPA 3.0 or better, financial need.

Richard Brian Whitmire Memorial Scholarship:
One scholarship of \$585. Conditions: senior standing, GPA of 3.0 or better, financial need, must be Terrestrial Ecology major and a Huxley College student.

Huxley College Tuition and fee Waiver scholarship:
Either One waiver of \$750 or Two waivers of \$375. Conditions: Huxley College student, GPA 3.0 or better, financial need is not a condition

Trans Mountain Oil Pipeline Corporation Scholarship:
One scholarship of \$1,000. Conditions: upper-division Huxley College student, GPA 3.0 or better, financial need, must be an Environmental Science/Engineering major and reside in general area of company's pipeline operations (N.W. Washington/Canada).

Al Swift Scholarship:
One scholarship of \$770. Conditions: upper-division Huxley College student, GPA 3.0 or better, financial need is not a condition.

Cecil William Western Scholarship:
One scholarship of \$575. Conditions: upper-division Huxley College student, GPA 3.0 or better. Recipient of this scholarship will be selected by Huxley College faculty on the basis of a brief essay written by applicants on the topic of the conservation and preservation of public lands. The essay must include information on what the applicant plans as a career.

Environmental Toxicology Scholarship:
One scholarship of \$350. Conditions: upper-division Huxley College student majoring in Environmental Science with an emphasis on environmental toxicology, must have at least two courses in environmental toxicology, GPA 3.0 or better.

For applications and more information, contact the Huxley office, ES 513. Applications are due April 15, 1996.

For more information on the following scholarships, contact the Center for Geography and Environmental Social Sciences. The deadline for submitting applications is April 15, 1996.

Edward J. Arntzen Geography Scholarship:
This scholarship honors former history professor and social studies chair Edward J. Arntzen who taught at Western from 1924 until 1962. One \$500 scholarship is awarded to an outstanding geography/regional planning major with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 who has need for financial assistance.

Patrick L. Monahan Memorial Scholarship:
This endowed scholarship was established in memory of Patrick L. Monahan, son of Western professor Robert Monahan and Marilyn Monahan. The fund was made possible by gifts from friends and the family of Patrick Monahan and geography and regional planning graduates. Approximately \$4,000 is available for tuition scholarships to undergraduate students majoring in geography who demonstrate promise of significant professional contributions.

Center for Geography and Environmental Social Sciences Tuition and Fee Waiver:

Either One waiver for \$750 or TWO waivers of \$375. Conditions: GPA of 3.0 or better, must be a Center for Geography and Environmental Social Sciences student. Financial need is not a condition.

An invitation to all students at Huxley College:

Friends of the Trees Society is seeking two Huxley students to assist in the preparation of a publication *Restoration Forestry in Australia*.

Students activities are to include;

- * Annotating bibliography entries.
- * Reviewing periodicals and organizations
- * Selecting additional articles from Australian publications
- * Editing articles
- * Selecting graphics
- * Layout publication
- * Index by subject, organization, periodical, book title, and author/people.

Credit can be arranged with Huxley College.

For further information contact: Michael Pilarski in Bellingham 738-4972.

***In the last issue of the Huxley Hotline, the L.E.A.D. office's room number was incorrect. If you would like to visit the L.E.A.D. office, look for them in ES 318.**

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