Editor's note:
It always happens, this feeling of the mundane becoming remarkable, when I return to the city after camping several days in the woods. It happens when I decide, say, to tap some water. Turning the faucet handle, I suddenly enter a memory of bending over the creek where I last camped. I'm looking down at the water, turning rocks in the creek to make a pool to fill my canteen. Water, ice-tea colored from tannin in the soil, spills in. Moss flows in, too. I pick it out, lift the canteen, and suddenly I enter a revolving door and come out holding a glass of clear, cold water. The creek takes a turn, far off from here, and I'm left standing at the sink wondering how rivers became so sterile. This effect, for all I know, has always been temporary. It isn't long before I turn the faucet on again, and water spills out as it always did — in varying thermostatic degrees which I've come to expect, and to disregard, as well. We, at times, tend to regard world events as mundane, like a generic glass of water. Hours, maybe days, of sipping the news pass. We become saturated. We stop thinking. We wait for something even more fluid than current events to move us. We leave the tap water running, while waiting for the greater miracle of a creek.

— Jennifer Hahn
January 1984
Volume 14, Number 4

Klipsun is a Lummi Indian word meaning "beautiful sunset."

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Life Under the Fluorescent Hum

by Steve Manthe

The average American doesn't weld, hammer, chisel or solder, doesn't refine oil, smelt metal or mold plastic. Rather, most Americans spend their workday surrounded by clacking typewriters, buzzing fluorescent lights, jangling telephones and glowing video display screens. During the past 40 years, the shift from blue-collar to a white-collar work force is apparent. U.S. offices are our third largest physical environment (after housing and manufacturing), comprising 10.4 billion square feet, according to Joel Makower, author of Office Hazards, How Your Job Can Make You Sick. Today, almost 70 percent of the total national work force — 20 million people — work in business, government, academic and social service offices.

VDTs
Moving in tandem with the growing white-collar work force are a climbing number of office-related hazards. Recent studies connect sophisticated office equipment, such as the VDT (video display terminal) and the photocopy machine to physical and mental disorders. The disorders range from the mundane — dizziness, headaches, sore eyes, rashes and irritability — to the tragic — cataracts, miscarriages and birth-defective babies.

Research also indicates office-related chemicals, office building materials and fluorescent lights are further reasons for concern. According to Working Woman, a national association of office workers representing 10,000 members across the country, new video display terminals are installed every 13 minutes. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) said seven million workers use VDTs in the United States alone.

Much like a blackened television screen with bright green lettering, VDTs can be used to write and transmit documents. Connect a VDT to a microprocessor, a fingernail-sized computer chip, and you have the electronic successor to the typewriter — the word processor.

It's no wonder they're so popular. VDTs enable companies to provide better service at lower costs. At the same time, however, no other factor in the work environment has ever created such a torrent of health complaints and problems as have VDTs, said David Eisen, director of research and information at The Newspaper Guild, said.

According to a 1979 U.S. government survey, occupational cervicobrachial syndrome (a pattern of neck, arm, shoulder and back strain), may afflict as many as 25 percent of all keyboard operators.

In 9-to-5: Surviving the Working World, Karen Nussbaum and Ellen Cassedy estimate that 93 million workdays are missed each year due to employee back pain. Many of the complaints can be traced to "ergonomics," or the arrangement of the screen and the keyboard in relation to a person's natural posture, Vince Martinis, industrial hygienist for the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration, said.

Eyestrain is one of the most significant hazards with VDTs. In a study conducted by Manfred Haider of the University of Vienna, researchers found that extended use of VDTs can result in temporary myopia (nearsightedness) or temporary loss of color perception.

One VDT operator who works in Western's Registration Center in Old Main and who declined to identify herself, said long-term VDT
VDT operators commonly complain of visual fatigue, dizziness, headaches and neck and back pains.

defects. While authorities in both Canada and the United States, including the Center for Disease Control, have called these incidents "coincidental." Canadian labor unions since have been working to gain provisions from employers allowing pregnant women the right to refuse VDT tasks.

**Photocopiers**

Video display terminals probably are not the only office machine to be concerned with, however. Some researchers say photocopiers may be hazardous as well.

According to NIOSH, continuous exposure to a photocopier's ultraviolet light, used in illuminating copy, can lead to cataracts. Photocopiers also produce ozone — a potent lung, nose and throat irritant — suspected of causing the breakdown of red blood cells and producing changes in the blood's enzyme level.

Some photocopy inks which use toners may contain Nitropyrene, found to be a carcinogen by NIOSH in 1977. Trinitrofluorenone (TNF), found in some IBM machine toners, is a possible mutagen and carcinogen.

Correcting a typing error with liquid correction fluid also may be harmful, since it contains solvents suspected of causing cancer. One brand of correction fluid, "Sno-Pake," has been taken off the market, while another, "Liquid Paper," has changed to a different solvent. Nevertheless, many other correction fluids still use the dangerous solvents.

**Indoor Air Pollutants**

Direct contact with a VDT, a photocopier, "Liquid Paper," or any other hazardous items is not the only health danger. Working in an "energy efficient" building, weatherized as a conservation measure, seals office-related pollutants inside for long periods of time.

Although indoor air pollutants come from many sources, cigarettes and building materials present the greatest hazard. One of the least known and most common is radon. A radioactive gas, radon is produced through the decay of radium 226, a naturally occurring trace element that seeps from soil and stone. Air-tight buildings often allow radon to be confined in working areas.

According to the article "White Collar Hazards" from the spring 1982 issue of Resources magazine, radon is found in the highest concentration in poorly ventilated spaces. It is estimated that exposure to radon while indoors may be the cause of more than 10 percent of the lung cancer cases in the United States.

Perhaps more of a household word than radon, formaldehyde, used as the binding glue in particle board and plywood furniture and in curtains and carpeting, gives off fumes causing nausea, burning eyes, breathing difficulties and dizziness. Long-term effects are unknown, but formaldehyde has been found to cause cancer in mice during laboratory studies.

Asbestos, used to insulate and fireproof schools, dormitories and offices from the 1950's to the early 1970's, is carcinogenic at any exposure level. Breathing air contaminated with asbestos can result in lung cancer.

Although there is currently a movement to remove asbestos from school buildings, offices may be in more serious straits. "There is 10 times the amount of asbestos in office buildings as there was in schools," Dr. William Nicholson of the Mt. Sinai School of Environmental Medicine, said.

The most obvious respiratory irritant, of course, is smoking. The American Lung Association notes that a roomful of smokers can raise the carbon monoxide content of the air to almost twice the maximum industrial level for carbon monoxide.

According to Makower, tobacco...
smoke contains nearly 3,000 compounds, including ammonia, benzene, formaldehyde and propane. He cites several studies on "passive smoking":

- Two California researchers found that "chronic exposure to tobacco smoke in the work environment is deleterious to the nonsmoker and significantly reduces (the lungs') small airways function." The researchers also found that nonsmokers' lungs were damaged to the same degree as non-inhalers and light smokers.
- According to the American Lung Association, a cigarette left idle in an ashtray emits almost twice the tar and nicotine of an inhaled cigarette.

Fluorescent Lights

In addition to other hazards, poor lighting conditions common to many office environments are cause for concern. Most office lights — cool-white, fluorescent tubes — emit no ultraviolet light, important in the formation of Vitamin D, which strengthens bones and teeth.

Independent researcher John Ott said he is convinced that human beings need a "balanced diet" of light — the full spectrum of wavelengths found in sunlight — in much the same way that we need nutrients and vitamins. Deprivation of the different wavelengths found in sunlight, he said, contributes to many illnesses and diseases, such as arthritis and cancer.

While many scientists consider Ott's theories "out way," a study done in Britain in 1981 gives Ott's work more credibility. According to the study, conducted by researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, employees working in offices lit by fluorescent light increase their chances of developing melanoma, a deadly skin cancer, by two to four times, depending upon the duration of exposure.

Taking Action

The hazards found in the office work environment have only recently attracted public attention. Each year, a larger number of complaints are registered with institutes like NIOSH. The solutions, however, are often simple and inexpensive. For example, Dr. Pratum recommends that VDT operators take a break every 15 to 20 minutes to do another type of work, look out the window, or just close their eyes for a few minutes.

Changing the color of the screen may also help to reduce eyestrain. An amber-colored screen, used in Europe, causes 75 percent less eyestrain than other types of screens. Mel Davidson, of Western's Computer Center, said.

More relief: Ozone emissions from photocopiers can be decreased by proper grounding of the electrical system and construction of outside exhaust vents.

Back strain can be prevented by job rotation and by having a well-constructed chair — chairs and desks made especially for VDT users are available. As many as 40 productive minutes, or 20 extra workdays a year, can be added by sitting in a well-made, adjustable chair, Dr. E. E. Tichauer, a New York University professor, said.

Glare is another problem that can easily be controlled. NIOSH recommends that hoods be installed over screens, windows be covered with curtains and VDTs be positioned so that glare from overhead lighting is minimized. Polarized nylon screens, which reduce the amount of light reflected off VDT screens, are also recommended.

Several countries already have laws regulating exposure to some office health hazards. In the United States, however, has been slow on its feet.

California's "Right to Know" bill, passed in 1968 and amended in 1970 and 1981, was the first legislation addressing the problem. This bill made personnel files and legal records open to public inspection. As well, it required employers to inform workers about the hazards of the substances with which they work.

Washington state may have "Right to Know" legislation soon. Sponsored by Sen. Phil Talmadge (D-Seattle) and Rep. Gene Lux (D-Renton), a similar bill is scheduled to be proposed to the Washington State Senate and House of Representatives this month. The bill, which establishes the rights of employees concerning dangerous materials in their work environment, also contains a listing of hazardous materials. As well, it provides for educational programs in handling materials, and prevents employers from discriminating against workers who exercise their rights concerning these hazards.

An important characteristic of all "Right to Know" legislation is the acknowledgment that illness and injury in the workplace are preventable. Informed workers encourage safe uses of new technology. Office high technology offers us the choice of a stressful "sweatshop" or a healthy, productive workplace.

What To Do

To find out more about the "Right to Know" bill, or what you can do to make your workplace safer, call Ed Thorpe, House Parks and Ecology Committee, 1-753-2247, Tom Doglish, Washingtonians for a Fair Share, a citizen's lobby group, at 1-682-7337, or call or write your legislators.
CONSCIENTIOUS DISSERT

by Stephanie Freeman

Every once in a while the opportunity arises to review global issues in the light of related, smaller happenings at a local level. While KLIPSUN cannot cover United States military involvement in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Grenada, it can examine the impact that this involvement has had on us as individuals. This article concerns the voices and views of four political activists in Whatcom County.

They are: Bill Distler and Kenny Distler, Vietnam veterans; Sarah Bramsfield, an unemployed licensed practicing nurse; and Wayne Iverson, a Western student.

The organization that these people belong to is CISPES: Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. By demonstrating their solidarity with the people of El Salvador, these Bellingham residents hope to make lasting changes in the lives of those people. This article lets them, in their own words, cast some light upon how they feel about their work, and why they got involved in the first place.

Kenny Distler sits very still when he talks about Vietnam. He speaks seriously then, in a straightforward manner, concentrating on his words.

I've had a relatively violent life, yet I think of myself as quiet, and even rather shy. I've lived three years in Bellingham. I'm 35. I was born in New York. How long have I been involved in CISPES? About a year and a half. Really, I got involved through my brother, Bill.

We went to the Federal Building for the nuclear freeze picketing. People passing by in cars yelled at us: 'You're communists' or 'You're ruining the country.' It's a strange phenomenon that sometimes people feel bitter about our work with CISPES. It's hard to figure, but I'd like to give them the benefit of the doubt, and think that they genuinely like this country. They assume that we don't, which of course isn't true.
Sometimes I wonder why I think I know what's going on and Reagan doesn't — but he said that Vietnam was a noble cause, and I know it wasn't.

— Bill Distler

I was going to nuclear freeze meetings, too, but I didn't want to get involved in the issue about the war in Central America, because it reminded me of Vietnam, you know: the East/West struggle going on in a little country. And I didn't want to think about Vietnam, because it was a painful memory.

I had a feeling of futility after the war. I wrote to congressmen, and I went to protests. I talked to my friends and family. I was so convinced of the wrongness of the war that I wanted it to end immediately.

So I began studying events. I began to get interested in news. I was still not sure that I could have an effect on things, but I wanted to try, anyway. It's such a lopsided situation in El Salvador. A small group of people are terrorizing the majority.

I was wounded in a fire-fight in Vietnam. They gave me treatment — one leg had shrapnel in it, and one leg had a bullet in it. My legs still hurt on cold days. That makes it hard to forget.

After seeing a foreign country, you just can't ignore it. I'd like to ignore it, but I can't. I've seen starving people, so I've written to congressmen and circulated petitions to stop the Junta in El Salvador. I've picketed. And I've gone door-to-door, talking to people, canvassing.

There are so many inequities in Central America right now. Supposedly, big business is wonderful, and big business is where America is at. It's like Freud said: They've been treating all the symptoms and ignoring the cause.

In Bellingham it can seem so out of context to talk about Central America, but international politics and foreign policy do affect us. Look at what apathy about Nazism did. It created a situation where everybody was afraid to speak out about what they saw happening.

What happened in Vietnam wasn't as black and white as the situation in El Salvador is now. There were so many complex problems in Vietnam that were forced to be distilled and simplified.

When I was in Fort McArthur in Los Angeles, I went AWOL for 24 hours. I was sitting in the stockade then, almost like a prisoner. I had to go with a group of real prisoners: they had their heads shaved; they were in shackles and cuffs. I never saw so many chains. Soldiers were punching the prisoners and hitting them with clubs.

I looked out over the city, and saw the lights of Los Angeles. There were millions of people sitting out there in their homes, at drive-ins, going about their daily lives, and there I was, in this environment of fear and physical pain.

I wasn't going to tell you this story. I haven't told anyone else. But when people come up from Central America and tell their stories, I don't have to think too hard to understand. And I know that you don't have to experience it personally to make a moral decision.

Bill Distler, 35, is Kenny's brother. Wiry, with abundant energy, he smokes Pall Malls, the cigarette the Vietnam era bequeathed the "coffin nail."

How long have I been involved with CISPES? For two years. Political activism is all pretty new to me. I was already paying attention to Reagan, though. It seemed like his belligerent attitude about problems was heading somewhere.

Sometimes I wonder why I think I know what's going on and Reagan doesn't — but he said that Vietnam was a noble cause, and I know it wasn't. I wouldn't mind if they pulled all of the ships and all of the advisers from Central America.

I was pretty apolitical for a long time. With some
people it comes out in rage; for me, well, I saw what was happening in El Salvador was like Vietnam, and to me it’s not a noble cause, it’s just a slaughter. I was in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. I was 20 years old when I went. There is no way to prepare for something like that — it’s like trying to prepare for a car accident by reading about it.

I wrote one letter to Nixon, during the Christmas bombing of Hanoi. I tried to explain what it felt like — I thought: ‘This is the letter that will bring Nixon back to his senses.’ It doesn’t work that way. No one even answered.

I’m always trying to think of a solution, trying to think of what to do to include other people. Thinking about all of the resources that the government has. It has access to the media. People pay attention to the government. People don’t ask questions, or if they do they ask the wrong questions: not, ‘Is Grenada right or wrong?’ but, ‘Will it work, and will we have minimum casualties?’

I started going to a Vietnam Veterans’ group in Whatcom County. The first time I went I took along a CISPES petition. I expected everybody there to do something — maybe start a movement, you know, Vietnam Veterans Against Intervention. Most of the people there felt used by the government. And a lot of the people there thought that the only thing wrong with our actions in Vietnam was that we didn’t win, whatever winning means.

They are all decent people, you know, yet they were all capable of doing hideous things. Some of them are ashamed and sorry. Some of them are still defending themselves.

At the end of this meeting, I said, ‘I have this petition.’ Everybody there signed it. I found out later that they try to keep politics out of the meetings. It’s usually more on personal things. But they all pretty much had been keeping track of El Salvador.

Some Veterans against Intervention in Central America are going to Nicaragua soon. I’m going with them to see how the Nicaraguans feel about their Sandinista government.

It’s bad enough that there’s one person that I consider relatively insane, that’s Reagan, but I don’t want to make him the target all the time. The saddest part (of the Grenada invasion) is that there was this poll, and 58 percent of the people agreed with Reagan that Grenada should have been invaded.

Why are we there? It seems like it might have been to practice invasion techniques, testing weapons and stuff. I can’t say what’s on their minds. Reagan called them ‘leftist thugs’ in Grenada, but in Guatemala there are some rightist thugs, and he didn’t send down the Marines then. I pick up on inconsistencies like that. I know I’d rather see people hate murder and injustice than hate communists.

When I was going door-to-door for CISPES, someone said to me, ‘You’re a leftist, I don’t want to talk to you. You’re a communist.’ I said, ‘I’m not a communist, I was in Vietnam.’ He said ‘Well, my son was in Vietnam, too, and he doesn’t agree with you....’

At CISPES we’ve put up signs, and we’ve put up billboards. I want people to join CISPES, to think about more approaches to the problem, to write letters to the editor and to seek peace. Working

— Wayne Iverson

"The first CISPES event I ever saw was a film at Western called Revolution or Death. It showed a picture of a woman who was shot in the street as she carried a load of bananas. The soldier said she was shot because she was a terrorist."

— Wayne Iverson
"There is a racist prejudice in our culture that reflects a whole attitude about the war that's happening in Central America. People here are more concerned about the four American nuns who died, than about all the people of El Salvador."

— Sarah Bramsfield

towards peace is not something that most of us have a lot of practice in. I'm not asking people who don't care to care. I'm just asking people to understand that if they don't do something, nothing's going to change.

Wayne Iverson, 30, is a biology student, and works at the Associated Students' Recycling Center.

They stopped drafting people for Vietnam right when they got to my number.

I was against the war in high school. I saw the news on TV, the My Lai Massacre, kids being napalmed, villages burning — real violations of human rights. But the biggest protest I ever did then was to wear a black arm band for the national moratorium.

I don't know if this is really activism, but in a high school history class I wrote a paper once on why a communist government was best for Vietnam. The teacher gave me a 'D.'

Later, I was in pre-med at the University of Washington. I was still very much against the Vietnam war. I attended S.D.S. (Students for a Democratic Society) rallies. I thought that protesting was effective because it made people stop and think about what was going on, and it got more publicity for the issue. The fact that people were marching down the streets of Seattle showed that people really cared.

I left Seattle because I was tired of living in a big city, and because I wanted to be closer to the border in case I had to avoid the draft. In 1973, I came to Bellingham anticipating having to jump across the border.

I worked here as an auto mechanic for a while, and eventually started a collective garage called Harmony Motors. While I owned the garage, a friend of mine introduced me to the North American Congress Library Report. It's a news and analysis magazine that does in-depth reports on Latin American and American politics. I was reading it regularly when it suddenly dawned on me that the same thing that happened in Vietnam was taking place in Central America. But this time we could do something about it.

I'm starting a radio show every Friday on KUGS. I call it "Alternative Perspectives on the News." I readily admit to a leftist viewpoint. I think that a socialist economy is the best for third-world countries. Cuba is a good example. We've got to fight against intervention, to stop it, to sway public opinion. The United States is trying to provoke attacks against Honduras from Nicaragua as an excuse to invade Nicaragua and overthrow the Sandinistas.

The first CISPES event I saw was a film at Western called Revolution or Death. It showed the buildup of U.S. intervention, like our aid to the French in Vietnam, and it showed the pattern of militarization. I thought we should stop at the stage of advisers and aid. The film showed pictures of the napalmed people who were called subversives. It also showed a picture of a woman who was shot in the street as she carried a load of bananas. The soldiers said she was shot because she was a terrorist.

CISPES is working to stop U.S. expansionism. I need to stay up here in Bellingham to help organize, and to provide continuity for CISPES. We want to combat the conservative forces who are building on the backs of the poor.

Sarah Bramsfield, 26, is a licensed nurse. She is also a major coordinator of the Bellingham branch of
CISPES. While she talks she twists a piece of masking tape nervously in her fingers, constantly rolling and unrolling it. She says that she lives on coffee.

When I was 19, a friend said, ‘Let’s go to Central America,’ so we went. I wasn’t prepared for the culture difference. It was a real shock. I was frightened by the poverty. In Oaxaca, beggars, old women and children were sleeping in the streets. My friend, Enrique, told us that the students were bombing small businesses, and during the day the Mexican National Guard drove around the town square in jeeps, carrying rifles. At night there were explosions in the square.

We went south to Guatemala. We left Guatemala City by bus, but the bus broke down. The passengers tried to fix it, and finally we all just started walking down the road. Another bus picked us up, and another time we were picked up by a Coca-Cola truck.

We spent six or seven weeks in Guatemala. We went to Lake Atitlan, a resort town, and I saw an embarrassing distinction being made between the tourists and the people who lived there. The rift between the upper and lower classes was really clashing; the tourists were coming in and taking photographs, like at a zoo. I felt they had no respect for the people. They were stealing their culture.

People here don’t care as much about the fact that 100,000 people were killed in Central America as they do about the people in Poland or Northern Ireland. There is a racist prejudice in our culture that reflects a whole attitude about the war that’s happening in Central America. People here are more concerned about the four American nuns who died, than about all the people of El Salvador.

It’s really something to know people who have been tortured, or who had to sleep on the stadium floor in Santiago, Chile, for a month (during the military uprising in 1971). When I meet them I realize how terribly hard life is for some people. There is a profound upheaval in the third world. Millions of people don’t want to live in poverty any longer. They are saying that they have a right to change the world, to make it a more liveable place.

My early interest in CISPES came through reading newspaper articles about El Salvador in the Guardian. A friend, John Haynes, and I shared that common interest in CISPES, and we went down to Seattle to make contacts with the CISPES organizers. We coordinated a presentation with Western’s Program Commission to bring the first CISPES film to Bellingham, and since then, it’s not a hobby anymore.

We also have a delegate seat on the Central Labor Council, which is a coordinating body for the 32 unions in Whatcom County. It meets every two weeks to discuss local and national issues. CISPES works with churches, too, giving presentations, and we help with emergency-response telegrams and telephone calls.

We raise funds for material aid to the people of El Salvador through canvassing: going door-to-door talking to people about the war in Central America, giving them information about it, and getting money for supplies.

It’s a slow process of education. The Salvadoreans want to talk, and their speeches are a networking, building kind of process, an outreach. The money we’ve collected from canvassing goes to demonstrations, to billboards and to keeping the office going.

The CISPES office is located off Railroad Avenue in the back room under the Fairhaven Mill. There, posters clutter the walls with verse — “Do Not Adjust Your Mind, There Is A Fault in Reality” — in Spanish and English. More posters are piled up on the couch. Some of the editions were printed by Sarah at the Blackberry Press in Bellingham, where she once worked.

I’m doing a lot of the quieter work here, like developing materials, printing and contacting people.

At first I was resentful of the time that I spent on CISPES. I don’t see it as a personal sacrifice now. I work with other people, and we are doing so much. I’ve changed my lifestyle: I dress differently for picketing than I do when I visit the churches, or when I am going to see Swift. I’m more conscious of what I’m doing, and I’m trying to be more effective.

It would be really nice to learn Spanish fluently, and maybe move to Nicaragua. I would like to work with women there. I just got my LPN (licensed practicing nurse) degree from Bellingham Voc-Tech. But I think it’s more important to stay here now.

CISPES in Action

With about 300 chapters and roughly 10,000 members nationwide, CISPES’ (Citizens in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) focus is not just El Salvador. It’s the Central American region as a whole.

Bellingham’s CISPES branch is working with The Picture Show in the Fairhaven district, to show “When The Mountains Crumble” and “Nicaragua,” two current films about the plight of Central America.

The Bellingham chapters have raised $5,000 to $6,000 in the past three years, with a current local goal of $2,500 and statewide goal of $18,000 by the end of February.

Currently, the money being donated through CISPES is going toward an effort to grow 300 acres of corn in the provinces close to being liberated in the northeastern parts of El Salvador, such as Chalatenango, with regional governments electing village representatives every six months.

For more information, contact the CISPES office in Viking Union 222, or call 676-3460. ext. 9.
THE ARMS RACE

A group of us are trying to climb these huge blocks of granite and marble stacked up like so many dominoes. An aerial photograph taken of the site by our spy plane and rushed to us by intelligence reveals a concentric circle, a gigantic spiral staircase that really has no center, no hallway or sun room from which one can emerge, shake hands, or rush to the embrace of a lover. The steps are steep, the angle of curve at times too sharp, so we perform bridges and hand rail with our own arms and legs, we cling together and circumvent obstacles like ants. We climb over each other’s backs and reach back to pull up the stragglers.

Below there is a pool, a bog that is so clear you can see all the pennies that mottle its black floor, some kind of linoleum laid down by Jules Verne and our love of progress forty thousand fathoms ago in our minds. There is no reason to continue, only the rational explanation that this is a game we have been playing for a long time, the promise of more steps and complexity.

Da Vinci drew tanks and rockets but could have never imagined such an abyss, save for his Mona Lisa, another dark, smiling creature whose rough image has now been air-brushed on ice cubes and cigarettes, the liquor sold to us in ads.

Nevertheless we press on, jumping further gaps between stone, pinching our toes in narrow crevices, our breath welled up in our chests, the adrenaline flooding our veins. The wind blows harder and the oxygen thins out. We keep looking up and biting our nails, watching the lead man struggle with his banner, a triangle of black and white checks, a flag that says nothing. We put on our helmets and zip on our survival suits. We synchronize our watches and climb on.

— Scott Lenton
A photograph extracts one moment from those surrounding it, and gives us all a chance to wonder, "What's going on here?" Two Western photographers examine humanity's artifacts and humanity itself; how do the two relate in this century characterized by a pace of headlong destruction countered by a growing concern for simpler, closer values?

James Ryder

A COLLECTION OF DISPENSABLE ARTIFACTS

Items: 1 purse — vinyl, 1 pair golf cleats — saddle shoe style, 1 sport jacket — double knit, 1 dress — polyester, 1 Decca phonograph, 1 record, 1 hand-wound alarm clock, 1 pair black-rimmed glasses, 1 magazine, 1 Cubex IV camera, 1 set of silverware and 1 floral-design, ceramic plate.
Tools: 1 '63 Ford pick-up equipped with all-terrain tires, 1 35mm Nikon camera and 1 deranged photographer.

Result: DAMAGED GOODS

"It was all spontaneous. I went to the Salvation Army store, purchased some lonely products, then crushed them with my brother's pick-up. I believe many of these products were first bought out of wanton 'need.' I found it interesting that one can have the same feeling for their destruction. In our society, it seems evident, by all our mass-produced garbage, that destruction is a necessary part of progress."

James Ryder is a VICOED major and plans to graduate in spring, 1985.
Blair Kooistra

"Baseball fans at a Tacoma Tigers AAA baseball game, people worshipping at a Puyallup church service, and a crusty gravedigger from Carbonado — all represent virtues and traditions of the America seemingly lost in '1984.' But these scenes survive in Pierce County, where I worked last summer."

"I feel my photographs succeed when they cut through the facade most people erect in dealing with strangers. If I can get through this 'mask,' I feel I have done my job as a photojournalist." Kooistra is a journalism student at Western and plans to graduate in spring 1984.
ON THE POSSIBILITY
OF COMMUNICATING
WITH WHALES

This guy, a punk type,
with a braid of hair
down his back,
and semi-mohawk sides,
a native American
in the sense that he was born here,
a nice guy,
a friend of a friend
of mine who lived with him
for about a year
but no longer,
he talked with me.

For almost an hour he talked
on how humans are
so maladaptive to tech-no/-o-gy.
"A losing battle
if you know what I mean.
But whales are more in-
tel-li-gent than we are.
They've been trying to com-mu-ni-cate
with us for ages."
(I wasn't sure myself).

But he didn't even know,
as we sounded the depths
of common conversation,
our human sonar bounding
in waves of ageless form,
the last name of our friend
who touched the air of his ears
so many times with his voice
in the same ocean of breath.

— Scott Stackhouse
"Dutch" Schultz, Sculptor: "My Feelings and Concerns"

by Mark C. Murphy

"Art, for me, can't just be for decoration anymore. There are too many things going wrong around us . . . Artists have to concentrate on what's important. I suppose it feels like a sort of duty."

"Dutch" Schultz was beginning to feel like a soldier as he marched through the hills of Southern France on a brisk morning in the spring of 1937. He was to be smuggled into Spain and trained to help the Spanish Republican Army fight the fascist regime of Francisco Franco. Close to one-half of the more than 3,000 Americans who made the same journey and volunteered to fight for the rebel cause in Spain returned alive.

"Dutch" was one of them.
In 1983, he still is working in solidarity with oppressed citizens, but today he mainly is concerned with the people of Latin America, and is expressing it with an artist's chisel rather than a gun.

Elias "Dutch" Schultz is a sculptor. He combines strong feelings about injustice in the world with wood carving skills to create sculptures serving both artistic and political purposes; they alert people to problems of oppression, and document the powerful emotions of historic and tragic events.

At 72, Schultz's hands and face have been deeply carved by many years as a longshoreman, volunteer and enlisted soldier; social activist and artist. He is stocky and just over five feet tall, with a few tufts of silvery hair loosely arranged on his head. Fragile, metal glasses with slightly scratched lenses pinch his nose. His speech is deliberate; broken by long breaths between phrases. It sounds as if the words are heavy, needing to be pushed out with a weary enthusiasm. Schultz's dialect indicates he was raised in New York City before fighting in the Spanish Civil War and in World War II. Since then, he's lived in Seattle, except for two years spent as an art student in Europe.

"I think there's a lot of things that really have to be said. Things that I need to say," Schultz explained when asked about the political and social nature of his work. "No one else might ever say it, and I think I can use wood to express these feelings...to say 'this isn't fair. It has to end.'"

Schultz's sculptures capture moments of strong, often varied emotion, and each piece speaks to a different example of world injustice by focusing on individual suffering. The large, unstained wood pieces are imposing when displayed in a gallery, such as in Schultz's recent one-man show, entitled "My Feelings and Concerns," at Western's Viking Union Gallery.

Yet, even when resting randomly in his Lake Union studio, the sculptures command attention. A combination of sharp angles and smooth curves demonstrates his formal training in form, and the variety of styles he utilizes is based on a number of different periods.

One of Schultz's most recent pieces, "Angry Woman," was carved after he saw a television news report where a Nicaraguan peasant woman had just witnessed the shooting death of her two sons by U.S. supported soldiers.

"I think there's a lot of things that really have to be said...No one else might ever say it, and I think I can use wood to express these feelings."
Schultz's concerns spiral from the altruistic to the personal, as in pieces such as "Bloody Thursday," (top, right) express the struggle of laborers against owner oppression, and the frail emotion of "El Salvadoran Mother and Child" (above and left).
soldiers supported by the United States. Her two large, clenched fists are held over her head, and her strong, roughly carved feet are wide apart, so her bowed legs fill the mid-length dress.

The anger expressed through the sharp angles of the rough fists and feet is given depth by the compassion according to curves of the smooth, desperate face. Even if Schultz hadn't explained the news report that inspired this sculpture, the statement would be clear. "This woman saw her sons shot, and she doesn't understand why," Schultz explained. He speaks with sharp concern, as if reliving the experience of watching the news report. "I was really bothered by that, and this piece is the result. No one has any right to do something like that to someone. No right, no matter what."

Another sculpture, "Chile," is a relief panel reflecting the oppression of the Chilean people. "I did this right after I met Mrs. Allende, the wife of the President of Chile who was killed. You can say this one is for her."

Through a number of prison-like bars, the figure of a woman is carved. On her face is a mixed expression of mourning, anger and determination. The whole scene is confined within a thick border.

Other sculptures demonstrate several other issues: the struggle of laborers against owner oppression is expressed in pieces such as "Bloody Thursday," the pride of independent womanhood is the theme of "Diane," and a call for peace among the native people of African nations is made in "Africa."

Schultz doesn't credit art with the power to change the course of political events, but he also would never underestimate the impact of sculpture to alert people to the tragedy that people live with daily.

"The message is 'stop,'" Schultz emphasized. "This isn't fair, you see, for people to be treated like they aren't worth anything. It has to end. These carvings, maybe they can help say that."

One of the most important roles of an artist is as a historian, Schultz said. While observing the events, it's important to record them. "There are lots of lessons we need to learn from history. History really does repeat itself. What the United States is doing in Central America, you see, is just what we saw in Vietnam. That wasn't long ago at all. We should learn from mistakes like that."

Major influences on Schultz's work were expressionists such as Edvard Munch, or, more directly, Baroque realists such as Francisco Goya. Goya's controversial "Los desastres de la guerra" ("The disasters of War"), a collection of 85 etchings made during the 1808 French occupation of Spain, includes graphic, tragic scenes with simple labels, including "One can't bear to see such things," or "I saw this." Goya's famous "The third of May, 1808," an emotionally jarring painting of a multiple execution outside Madrid, is considered by many art critics to be a summary of Goya's argument against man's inhumanity to man. While he makes a similar point, Schultz's sculpted episodes of individual suffering and conflict are easily compared to Goya's dramatic paintings.

Before volunteering to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to help the rebel cause against Franco, Schultz was developing wood-sculpting skills through work with the Art Student League of New York City, and also as an apprentice wood-carver. "I was doing a lot of decorative work then. You know, picture frames and so on." He casually waves his hands, palms down, across his chest to show his lack of respect for commercial work. "But art, for me, can't just be for decoration anymore. There are too many things going wrong around us, you see. Artists have to concentrate on what's important. I suppose it feels like a sort of duty."

The experience Schultz gained from his apprenticeship, and from his study in various studios in England after his service in WWII, however, is something he considers valuable. "The idea is the most important thing, but unless you've got some training in the media, you won't be able to use it very well. Without training, it's like working without thumbs."

Sometimes it's impossible for Schultz to mold all of the different moods he wants to express into a single piece of sculpture. In a sculpted portrait of a scouting partner and buddy from the Spanish Civil War, for instance, Schultz said he wanted to show "how we felt to suddenly be woke from sleeping in a hole in the ground and called for roll call or action when you're half asleep and hungry."

The sculpture of the friend, "Mac," who was among the nearly 2,000 American volunteers killed in the conflict, shows the weary man in a 'before dawn, at-ease pose."

Schultz occasionally displays his work, and also sells it, "although it can be hard to part with it sometimes." In his cluttered, floating studio on the lake, his huge assortment of hand-made tools ("I'm a blacksmith, too, sort of") is scattered and a basswood block is being chiseled into his most recent sculpture: The form of a group of people with stiff poses is taking shape. "It's some angry citizens. You see how these people are looking at each other? They're talking — talking politics. They're figuring things out. I always seem to have the politics in there, you see."
Faculty and Administration Dispute Technological Growth

by Scott Ansley, Diane Dietz, Steve Kennedy, Malcolm Lawrence

As with the blue-hot brilliance of a welder's arc, development of the technology department has sparked controversy. The proposed change has energized debate about how Western sets its educational priorities. The current has quickened speculation about how the Ross Administration will run the University. The die is questioned in the context of larger social and political trends, and has left the campus community examining its educational values.

As it stands now, the controversy concerning the technology department's proposal to leave the College of Arts and Sciences and expand on its own has brought murmurs of faculty dissent and a lot of attention to the unusually meteoric history of the department and the lack of the proper procedures needed for its withdrawal.

Perhaps the best way to examine the issue is to start from the very beginning.

Tech's History at Western

Until the late 1950s, when Western primarily was a teacher's college, the tech department "basically taught courses to prepare students to teach shop courses," former technology department Chairman Clyde Hackler said.

Toward the end of the 1960s, as industrial technology grew into a nationwide trend, 240 schools in 48 states developed industrial technology programs. "Graduates from '69 and '70 didn't know where they were going," Hackler said. "We were responding to what we perceived the students needed, what they said they needed. We were filling a need in industry, but we were not sure what exactly that was."

Today, about 15 percent of the tech graduates are trained as teachers. Most will work in manufacturing technology, industrial design, and other technological areas in private industry. The technology major finally was implemented in the early 1970s.

The Initial Drive

Since 1976, when plans to expand the tech department were brought before the long-range planning committee, the number of majors offered in the technology department has more than doubled. Student enrollment has gone from 75 to 575.

Faculty Increase

University President G. Robert Ross told tech department faculty last spring that he would push to find more faculty to teach the bulging number of students in the program. He hired a new tech department chairman, Paul Rainey, from Texas A & M. Rainey said that he "took a big career gamble" coming here, according to an October 11, 1983 Western Front story.

In a November 1983 Western Front story, Rainey said: "When I first got here, I got the impression that a lot of growth, a lot of resources could be put into this area."

Peter Elich, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said the plan to expand the tech department was stimulated by several things: The department's plan to expand; the legislature, which is interested in technical training; and the administration, which is responding. "The critical stimulus, however, is President Ross," Elich said.

Ross' initiative is as much timing as anything else, Hackler speculated. "The economy is turning upward, and there are funds coming up to hire faculty. Ross isn't responsible for this upturn, nor the increased enrollment at the college. He just came at the right time," he said.

Proceeding with his plans to develop the tech department, Ross sent a memo to the Faculty Senate, dated October 4, 1983, which read: "I have decided that special attention can be given to the technology department, if the tech department is removed from Arts and Sciences and reports directly to the Provost."

Out of Arts and Sciences?

In an October 28, 1983 interview, Ross said that he wanted tech out of the College of Arts and Sciences for two reasons. One, because no university in the United States has its technology department within its college of arts and sciences. And, two; because an accreditation standards team would recommend

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This seems to be a case where the official policy-making bodies were ignored.

— Dr. Phillip Montague, professor, philosophy

its removal.

Accreditation also is important to the department because graduates are not being considered for jobs at places such as Boeing, since they don’t have a degree from an accredited program. Rainey said in a Western Front article dated October 18, 1983.

In a Western Front article dated October 21, 1983, Rainey said the program will not attract students unless it is documented, and the program cannot be documented until it is accredited. "I’m not interested in staying here unless the program is documented," he said.

Faculty Control

Last October 18, the Academic Coordinating Commission (ACC), a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, considered questions concerning the removal of tech from the college, as directed by the president of the Faculty Senate.

The ACC decided that Ross’ memo did not constitute a proposal, saying it could not make a recommendation without a formal proposal detailing specifics such as curriculum desired, credit hours needed and faculty time required. "The ACC felt proper governance procedures should be followed," John Miles, chairman of the committee, said.

Some faculty members expressed concern about the way Ross has affected his plan to move tech. The university community is in an "extremely cautious, if not reactionary mood," Dan Lamer, dean of Fairhaven, said.

"The faculty’s unease is understandable: Any administration that wants to run over faculty procedures can do it," Ruth Weiner, a Huxley professor, said.

"Apparentiy, this seems to be a case where official policy-making bodies were ignored," Phillip Montague, philosophy professor, said.

The President’s Jurisdiction?

The President was convinced, not long ago, that he had changed the university’s structure, and that led other people to believe he had done so, but "the President was mistaken — he didn’t do what he had thought," Montague said.

If Ross instead had gone to the Board of Trustees and asked for its approval, and then received it, the structure might have been changed, Montague explained, adding that the Board of Trustees is the ultimate authority. It can affect changes even if the majority of the faculty does not endorse them.

In an October 28, 1983 interview, Ross said that he had consulted the faculty before he made the move. Montague said that Ross probably talked to a lot of faculty, "but that doesn’t constitute following the established procedures," he said.

Some members of the faculty were concerned because they had not heard of the move to liberate the technology department until they read it in the Western Front. By then the tech department was in a "transitional period" where it will remain until it either moves back with the College of Arts and Sciences, or regains independence, Elich said in the Western Front article.

Proper Procedures

Weiner suggested that perhaps Ross, being new to the university, simply didn’t know proper procedure. When she became dean of Huxley, she didn’t sit right down and read the procedural manual, she said.

"This is a new administration, and the technology issue is testing if this administration wants to work with the faculty, or go its own way," Miles said.

The administration wanted to cut red tape, but the system works glacially, and Ross had to take the bull by the horns, Carol McRandle, speech pathology/audiology professor, said.

President Ross "seems to want to get things done more quickly than can be done within the university governance structure," Montague said. But the procedures "have provision for substantial faculty participation, and I prize that." Perhaps the president will have to become more patient, and the faculty will have to become less leisurely in considering his ideas, he said.
Evelyn Wright of the English department agreed that the faculty is "not as responsive as the administration wishes," but it is a characteristic of the faculty to be conservative, she said.

Few faculty members oppose the actual expansion of the technology department, but many question how the policy allowing it should be made.

"It must be remembered that the university is not just a democracy; it is a democratic hierarchy," Larner said.

The Faculty Senate, through the ACC, has some control over academic policy. Their power, however, depends on how seriously the president and the administration take the university's governance procedures, Montague said.

The university's roles and missions statement in the general catalog reads: The major responsibility for the educational role of the university lies with the faculty.

The faculty exerts its will, theoretically at least, through the Faculty Senate. If the will of the Faculty Senate is ignored and the faculty is prevented from exercising its responsibility, "then this would violate, fundamentally, the university's basic policy of educational governance," Pete Steffens, of the communications department, said.

"The idea of faculty governance is old and revered," but the Faculty Senate is not, and hasn't been in the past, Maurice Foisy, of the political science department, said.

Some members of the faculty think that faculty control of academic policy would keep Western from leaping on a bandwagon to nowhere, and keep the university focused on its traditional mission — providing a quality liberal education.

PART II: The High-Tech Push

The students have bought the high tech push; the Legislature has bought the high tech push; it would seem that the administration has bought the high tech push, but this university's faculty isn't convinced.

It looks as if Ross is responding to the wave, Weiner said. The Council for Post-Secondary Education, which helps colleges to carry out "legislative intent," has encouraged a move toward technology, Elich said. The legislators might "not even be sure what they mean by high tech," Weiner said.

Foisy suggested a trend he called the "delegitimizing" of institutions, which has been flourishing since the end of World War II, as a gulf of distrust has formed between taxpayers, the legislature and higher education.

Because the taxpayers/voters don't trust the legislature, they want to know where, specifically, their money is going. Legislators have to be able to answer this, so they ask the schools to account for their funds.

A university's administration must be able to prove to the legislature, and so to the taxpayers, that the money is being used wisely. It's a matter of survival for the school. The Legislature controls the purse strings.

Proof of education's effectiveness isn't easily made. There is an attempt to quantify. The taxpayers want "materially tangible, provable results." The Legislature wants things you can measure and put in a budget, Foisy said.

Utilizing Faculty Resources

An illustration of this phenomenon occurred in 1976 when the Washington State House Budget Committee asked, "How efficiently is the university (Western) utilizing its faculty resources?" Just the language of this query indicates the manner in which the legislators were thinking.

Quantifying Education

It is easier to quantify the results of a technological education than it is to quantify a liberal education. It's hard for a university to prove that it is improving its English composition, even when it is. Weiner said.

"Special attention can be given to the technology program if the tech department is removed from Arts and Sciences and reports directly to the Provost."

— Dr. G. Robert Ross, University President

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It's not enough to hear that Western is turning out people who know literature, history or music. "They want to hear something groovy," she said.

Technology's results are more readily quantified. The experience prepares people for a narrower job market. The university could show the number of tech grads who found jobs within two months of graduation. However, Weiner said, the important thing is not how many got jobs within two months, but how well one's undergraduate work had served one in the 10 years following graduation. The answer will tell you "the value of education," Weiner said.

"When training people for job markets, rather than educating, we suspend our own thinking about socially useful knowledge," Foisy said.

A Comprehensive Education

A liberal education teaches students "not only how to do things, but to know what they are doing," Lamer said. It gives us a sense of history, a sense of our location as people — as members of a species, as human beings in history, he said. "It allows us to participate in the greatness that has existed through the ages and cultures of humanity," Lamer said. "Without liberal arts we would become specialized, small, narrow and disconnected."

As Americans, "we live in a democracy where we are asked to have political wisdom." There is no way to cultivate judgment but in a "laboratory for learning" such as a liberal university, Lamer said.

Weiner suggested that a liberal education helps produce environmentally responsible people.

Best Business Traits

Lamer said that he read a study that attempted to discover the distinguishing trait of business managers who got ahead in life. The common factor: a liberal education.

Brant Holmberg, who teaches "Organizational Behavior," said "a well-rounded individual who can talk and communicate makes the best business person."

Western's roles and missions statement says the university is "fundamentally committed to maintaining, using and developing the...values fostered by the arts and sciences' tradition such as clarity of mind, informed judgment, aesthetic sensibility and appreciation, tolerance for ambiguity and divergent points of view, sensitivity to cultural differences, and a sense of historical continuity...Western will continue to provide its students the opportunity to examine the humanities, the physical and life sciences, the applied sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and the fine and performing arts. This general education will enrich the specialized training and the subsequent experiences of each student."

Changing Emphasis

Individually, faculty members feel differently about how much of Western's resources should be put into applied areas. Dean Lamer said that "expansion of the technology department would be good for Fairhaven. Basically, whatever improves the university is going to help our college...we need academic adventures that include technology."

President Ross said he read that "student demand for history and English is less than half what it was 10 years ago," while the demand for a technology background has increased.

An October 5, 1983 Chronicle of Higher Education reported the results of a study on the diversity of colleges and universities undertaken by Robert Birmbaum of Columbia University.

"In his study of diversity, Birmbaum compared the number and types of institutions of higher education in eight states in 1960 and again in 1980. "Comprehensive institutions offering liberal arts, professional and other types of training were the most successful. The number of such institutions doubled over the 20-year period, and by 1980, they represented almost three of every five campuses in the sample," the
In the October 28 interview, Ross said "Western is a comprehensive university."

"The quality of education matters. If we were known as the very best liberal arts school in the state, the fact that we didn’t have a business and technology program wouldn’t matter," Connie Faulkner, Fairhaven professor, said.

**Need For Technologists**

"We can’t sit on the hill and contemplate our navel while local industry is hiring technology grads from elsewhere," McRandle said.

Speaking at a joint conference of the American Council on Education and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Secretary of Education Terrel H. Bell condemned "pragmatic vocationalism and careerism" in higher education. Some colleges are in danger of becoming little more than "glorified work preparation institutes," he said.

"We may be witnessing a drifting away from the prime purpose of higher education. We ought to be examining whether we have distorted the priorities of our colleges and universities," Bell said.

**Career Panic**

Bell said he was "concerned about the trend toward earlier and ever earlier entry of college students into job-related specialization, often at the expense of courses in the arts and humanities." Some faculty members say they are concerned about the criteria with which students choose their educational programs. "The students are frightened and more conservative than faculty, and that’s saying a lot," Larner said.

This "vocational panic" is causing students to make "disastrous mistakes," Larner said. Chances are the reason students choose the fields they do is because they perceive them as "safe," but they probably will not be "safe" by the time the students graduate. Those students who have narrowed themselves will have "failed to learn flexibility, and their opportunities are severely restricted," Larner said.

**Student Demand**

President Ross said that one reason he wants to see technology expanded is to meet student demand.

Student demand has affected a general increase in size of applied departments here since 1971. Faculty allocations alone demonstrate this increase.

According to figures released by Vice President for Instruction and Planning, James Albers: The business administration department has increased from 6.5 faculty members, when it was started in 1976, to 17.0 faculty members in 1982. Conversely, the English department decreased from 46 allotted faculty in 1970, to 21.9 last year.

The College of Arts and Sciences has lost, in total, 105.5 faculty members since 1970, while the College of Business and Economics gained 17.6.

In the budget cuts of 1981, the College of Arts and Sciences lost 18.7 faculty members allocated. The College of Business and Economics lost 4. The technology department lost .9 faculty during that period.

"President Ross wants to strengthen those programs that have an applied orientation," Elich said.

Rainey, in a *Front* article dated October 11, 1983, said that hiring new faculty would depend on existing faculty decisions, but new members probably would number no more than eight.

In an October 18, 1983 *Front* article, he estimated the "base salary for a professor with the necessary credentials and experience for an accredited program at $38,000 in an 11-month contract period."

"Technology is a costly program," Provost James Talbot said. The Legislature has already allocated money to draw up plans for remodeling the Art-Tech building. "We hope to put an integrated plan before the Legislature in the ’83 to ’87 session," he said.

"Many programs already have had budget cuts and faculty reductions...expanding a program at the
expense of restoring those cuts is counterproductive," Weiner said.

Talbot said that the questions really are separate. One is: "How do we come back from budget cuts?" and the other: "Where do we put new resources?"

It has been suggested the technology department could help recruit industrial support for Western. President Ross said that he doesn't know if any companies besides the John Fluke Company, which may supply some equipment for the tech program, have been asked for such support.

Some faculty members are concerned that the turn towards applied fields gives business too much influence over broader educational concerns.

Outside Advice

Elich has said that Ross has had "extensive" sessions with industry leaders and the result is that he has determined there is a need to develop technology here.

Ross invited John Fluke, president of the John Fluke Company, and an electronics manufacturing lobbyist, to visit Western's technology department.

"Ross asked him to visit Western. He really encouraged him, because he wanted to impress the electronics community with Western's program," Hackler said.

"I hope that Rainey and Ross realize that this [the proposed tech department expansion] is not with the philosophy of the Texas oil fields, but it is for the more catholic needs of the Northwest," McRandle said.

Weiner's demotion in 1977, from the position of Dean of Huxley, is a demonstration of how business can influence the inner workings of a university.

It seems that Weiner raised the ire of local business because of her acidic criticism of their environmental policies. A "powerful" local business person went to the university's president and soon, Weiner was demoted. This demonstrates that businesses "have a little more power than they should have," Weiner said. Weiner also said that "Western's response to the business community is all out of proportion to what it actually gets from that community."

PART III: Western's Mission

Wright doesn't see Western solely serving the interests of business. "We have a strong liberal arts tradition" that guards us from that, she said.

Another question raised by the faculty is: Are there jobs available for Western's tech majors?

The largest expansion in the tech department would probably be in electronics/manufacturing because those firms are now moving to the Northwest, while at least three large electronics firms in Everett are planning to expand their employment of technical workers by four or five thousand. Fluke, who was impressed with Western's faculty and curriculum, announced last October his plans to hire 2,300 more employees beyond the present 1,100 by 1995.

Two other major electronics firms, L-Dec Corporation and Hewlett-Packard, which Hackler guessed employ 5,000 workers in the Everett area, plan to expand their workforce by similar amounts, he said.

"The forecast is that the Northwest is attracting the same kind of industry that has grown in areas like the Silicon Valley in California for the past 50 years. There's going to be a strong regional need for these kinds of workers," Hackler said.

Unstable Market

Boeing, this state's major employer of technically trained people, has dramatic payroll swings. In recent years the company's employment has gone up and down by as many as 30,000. Weiner said, "I am not sure that qualifies as a stable job opportunity."
"I don't believe that local businesses, or even those within this state, are necessarily going to hire engineering graduates from a place like Western," Faulkner said.

"We can't predict our enrollment from one quarter to the next, so how can we second-guess the job market?" Weiner said.

Faulkner went to school on a National Defense Scholarship. She received it in order to study the Persian language because the Persian language was "declared critical" by the military. In this way they "saturated Middle East studies within five years," she said. The last time she went to an Asian Studies conference, there were "more unemployed than employed — PhDs with lots of publications," she said.

This is similar to the way we have produced too many teachers, and then too many lawyers, and then too many public administrators, and we now are in danger of producing too many technology specialists. Foisy said.

The university's roles and missions statement says, on the subject:

"The university will be continuously sensitive to the relationship between the content of its professional programs and the expectations of the various fields to which they are preparatory. Questions of accreditation, certification and external guidelines must be answered in the context of the university's own standards of general education and academic accomplishment. As changes occur in the requirements for a given field or in its opportunities for employment, Western must adjust its programs to meet such changes."

Some confusion exists about the size of Western's job region. When Elich was asked, he phoned someone else for advice. Steffens said that the region is the Pacific Northwest. Others say that it is just the northwest corner of the state. Ross said that it reaches to the western mountains and along the I-5 corridor.

Who To Serve

There within lies a problem in defining just who Western is supposed to be serving in this region. Steffens said that everyone is included, the rich and the poor. Elich said that our regional responsibility is to meet the "educational needs of the people in that community," and to be responsive to the needs of industry in that region.

Weiner said that our regional obligation really is to provide education at low cost — to provide a place for taxpayers to send their kids without breaking them. "Western Washington University is here to serve prospective students, not prospective employers," she said.

Elich said that offering a technology program is serving regional residents because the traditional industries, logging and fishing, are declining locally. Having a tech program might serve to attract new industry. Foisy agreed that this might happen, since industries are attracted to areas with good schools and a high quality of life. Bellingham also is attractive because of its deep-water port, its mild climate and its recreational opportunities, he said.

Conclusion

And so the push for tech continues, but some don't see it as a trend in education. The push for tech, like the push for science after Sputnik in 1959, is just a "blip or convulsion" on the surface of education, Weiner said.

The nation has just one general policy, Weiner said, that of providing free basic education. The advent of land grant colleges and the beginning of the GI Bill helped make higher education accessible.

Weiner said the only policy made regarding education is de facto — as opposed to "by right." We have made teaching a poorly rewarded profession. America is "not a nation that values its education at all," she said.

In any case, Western's commitment to education is valuable and must be protected by policy that encourages "lots of free and open discussion and rational efforts to persuade one another," Wright said.
"Coffee, of Course"
Confessions of a Caffeine Junkie

by Laurie Jervis

It was the last handful of chocolate-covered espresso beans that did it. With the final course of the coffee meal digested, I grabbed the pen and began to outline my story — due in less than five hours. My inspiration: coffee, of course.

A year ago I might have said, "Coffee? Nope, can't stand the taste." What did everyone find fascinating about coffee, anyway? I was a tea person, with herbal as my preference. Sugar? No thanks, dear, this tastes lovely.

Then, last March, I was converted. It was during the execution of an 800-mile trip between Bellingham and Sacramento. The scene of my initiation was a 24-hour family restaurant in Medford, Oregon. There, my 22-year resistance cracked. Immersed in the melancholy background muzak and surrounded by large families with screaming urchins, I unconsciously downed three cups of coffee. Black.

My traveling companion, Deanna, and I floated out of the restaurant, into the car, and joined the waves of headlights beaming south. Five hundred more miles? Noooo problem. The caffeine began zipping through me; with visions of a 20-minute, non-stop excursion flashing through my thoughts, I stuffed a cassette into the tape deck.

As Deanna controlled the wheel, I perched in the co-pilot's seat. Strapped in for safety and bounced to the rhythm of Beat It, I discovered my feet erratically smacking the floorboards and rocking the car. Motionless again, I stared blankly out the windshield, but soon was bored by the consistency of the night-blackened hills.

My eyes scanned the car's lighted interior for a color fix. "Road maps," I thought, pulling a handful from the glove compartment. My eager hands unfolded each one, stacking them for easy perusing. Roads pulled my attention in every direction. My head swiveled like an office chair. Hey, ever been to Polebridge, Montana?

The freeway exits passed in a blur — Dunsmuir, Redding, Chico... Gradually, my thoughts wound down. The avalanche of caffeine slowed to a trickle. Just outside of Sacramento, we fed the car and refueled ourselves: two huge Styrofoam cups of take-out coffee. Black, of course. After a few sips, we were on the road and into high gear. Soon, it was easy to forget the pool of acid accumulating in my stomach.

Home at last in Sacramento, I coasted to my bedroom and landed prostrate on the mattress. Two hours later, I lay awake again. So, tiptoeing to the kitchen, I made myself some instant coffee. I was hooked.

Vacation ended, soon I was back in Bellingham again, seated at my typewriter. I skipped the first few temptations to break for coffee, determined to kick that "unhealthy habit." But within 24 hours, I concluded that health wasn't everything. Without coffee, the effort required to propel my body through the day outweighed the cost of caffeine.

After all, student coffee drinkers are an elitist, respected bunch. No more having to settle for some unheard-of exotic tea because the restaurant is out of my favorite, "Red Zinger." Espresso, it seemed, offered the same ultimate results — a finely-tuned high matched by no other legal drug.

To date, it's been just 10 brief, hysterical months since my caffeine initiation. Now, after one or two draughts of creamy coffee, a cheerful optimism swells through my veins. The days are mine to conquer. Walking uphill to class is close to effortless, and once there, my weaving through the mass interclass migration resembles changing lanes along Chuckanut Drive at 70 mph.

There are limits, however, to every kind of self-indulgence. Although I usually can discern when I've reached my caffeine tolerance, sometimes others make the first observations about my lunatic behavior.

Like, when friends grin knowingly as I attempt serious conversation, I know that my speech likely has accelerated into an endless sentence and needs immediate modification; or when my cat launches himself out of the kitchen as I invade it to make another cup of coffee; or when my housemates stomp on the floor upstairs to remind me that sane people don't dance to Miles Davis after 4 a.m.; or, when dinner consists of a mug of coffee, a bowl of cafe mocha ice cream and a handful of beans — chocolate-covered espresso, of course. The story? I just finished it. ♦
Every day the same bus driver watched Mark Dinelt and an autistic girl board the bus going to the Central City Learning Center in Tacoma where Dinelt worked. One day the bus driver said, "You know, what that girl really needs is a home environment. She needs someone to live with her to teach her." Dinelt, who planned on making a career in education, was intrigued with the idea of providing 24-hour-a-day care for people who, like her, did not qualify for residence in government group homes, yet because of their developmental disabilities, needed intensive, professional care.

Eight years later, the idea became reality: Dinelt had earned a degree in special education and a teaching certificate from Western Washington University. Soon after, he met Dan TenKley, Jim Joy and Mark Gansler at Redwood Park School in Bellingham, where he worked after graduation. Although they were developmentally disabled, they were ineligible for intensive-care government group homes. They lacked basic skills such as learning how to use language and care for themselves, and they had spent their lives with their families instead of enrolling earlier with government programs.

"I knew that as they got older they would be harder to place," Dinelt said, remembering how the Evergreen Home got started. With the help of the young men's parents, Dinelt formed a corporation to set up an independently supervised intensive-care home for them.

Dan TenKley, 20, is outgoing and extremely echolalic: He imitates noises, machines, people and animals indiscriminantly, and sometimes, it's difficult to tell Dan from the real thing.

Mark Gansler, 19, is severely retarded and also is autistic. He doesn't seek out much contact from people, Dinelt said, and although he can speak won't initiate conversation. He frequently makes hand-flapping movements and rocks back and forth agitatedly.

Jim Joy, 21, has perceptual difficulties. He has little ability to discern depth-of-field, which makes it difficult for him to gauge distances when he moves, walks or sits. Jim knows the words to most of the songs on the radio, and likes cartoon characters such as Spiderman and Superman.

All three of the young men are classified as severely retarded, with I.Q.s in the 20 to 35 range.

Evergreen, a comfortable, well-cared-for home located on a large piece of property off of Meridian Drive, has two live-in staff members to care for the small group, and draws its staff and volunteers from Western's special education students.

"Volunteers are shocked sometimes," Dinelt said, "to find out just how much the guys cannot do: You can't tutor the guys in reading or math, for instance. The volunteers have to work on adjusting their vision to playing very simple games like stacking building blocks or putting an eight-piece puzzle together."

At the Evergreen home, the small group learns appropriate behavioral skills: washing hands, brushing teeth, and other tasks which represent what Dinelt called a "realistic attempt" to teach them things within their grasp. The home has a van, and Dinelt plans trips for them to parks, theaters, pizza parlors and other places around town.

Dinelt said the move away from their respective homes has helped Dan, Mark and Jim. "In general, I don't think it's a real positive thing for them to stay at home. There are other things to be learned by moving on to other experiences. And I think they like it here. Their parents tell me that when their sons visit, they seem restless at home. They get anxious to come back here."

"The main reason that I helped to set up this home is that the guys didn't have any other plans. Another reason is that I had a strong desire to do something significant. This home is something that
didn't exist before and I don't think it would have existed without me."

Dinelt has made a commitment of three years to this job. After that, he said, he probably will return to teaching. He is not completely sure what will happen to the Evergreen home when he leaves, but he is looking for funding through private foundations and government programs. In the meantime, he is providing the young men with the training they need should they be able to move on.

(Top left) "Being like a parent is the most difficult part of the job. I don't have enough time to do the managing of the home and to work with these guys, too. I've helped a lot with their personal growth, but perhaps they need to learn to work with other people as well," Dinelt said.

(Above) Getting dressed without assistance is one of the chores that Jim Joy is learning to accomplish. Daily repetition of basic tasks is an important method of reinforcing learning at Evergreen.

(Left) Live-in supervisor Gregg Dootson reprimands Jim Joy for telling someone to "shut up."
(Left) Mark Gansler fixes lunch with Western practicum student Dyann Seidl.

Mount Baker: The Wilderness Everyone Wants

by Karen McCrackin
Mount Baker is an active volcano. On the surface, it's a quiet one. But, in recent years, its inner rumblings have been detected from Olympia to Washington, D.C. The controversy shaking this mountain has nothing to do with its potential for eruptions. The "steam" comes from the battle to preserve Washington's only unprotected volcano.

With 235,000 acres, the Mount Baker wilderness area is just 1 percent of the land environmental groups hope to preserve through the proposed Washington lands bill. If passed intact, the lands bill will put 2.5 million acres of federal land into a "wilderness" classification. Wilderness is land where humans may enter, but not remain, and may leave no lasting imprint. No houses may be built, no trees logged, no roads paved.

Only lands with little or no human impact can be considered for wilderness designation. Although current developments will be thwarted in preserved areas, people and settlements will not be displaced.

Howard Apollonio, chairman of the Mt. Baker Wilderness Association, said current uses of the mountain will be unaffected. "Wilderness is the most benign classification there is. You just don't do anything with it."

The Mt. Baker Wilderness Association is spearheading the drive for Baker's inclusion in the lands bill. The 100-member organization formed in 1979 in protest of Baker's exclusion from a recommendation for wilderness areas in a federal study presented to the Carter Administration. The association has worked to compile enough evidence to include Baker in the next wilderness area recommendations.

"The preservation of Mount Baker is crucial for reasons that range from the selfish to the altruistic," Apollonio said.

One seemingly altruistic motive is the protection of the wildlife depending on old-growth (virgin) forests for survival. But Apollonio said this issue deals with more than altruism; without wilderness, some animal species such as the spotted owl, wolverine, grizzly bear and woodpecker would disappear. These species cannot withstand human encroachments, and need the old-growth for reproduction.

Most mammals within the proposed wilderness area are solitary, nocturnal and occupy remote habitats; the muskrat, the western gray squirrel and the masked shrew are examples. The Mount Baker area also supports 13 different species of bats, which are an integral part of the predator/prey balance. The beaver and marmot are probably the most common of the area's medium-sized mammals, while others distributed within certain habitats are the mountain lion (cougar), coyote and red fox, to name a few.

Fur-bearing mammals are just now making an appearance since their legal protection from hunters and trappers. Mink, bobcats, elk, mountain goats and wolverines are such examples. Large animals such as the deer and black bear also make the Mount Baker area their home.

"These species must exist to continue productive evolutionary processes," Apollonio said. Species interact with each other in a myriad of complex ways — the removal of just one species could cause a chain reaction which would affect numerous other species, and perhaps even the entire habitat itself.

"They're planting a lot of Wonder Bread forests out there," Kathleen Beamer, public affairs administrator of REI Co-op in Seattle, said. She explained that the "gene pool" is destroyed when the variety of naturally-occurring species is artificially limited. Once an old-growth forest disappears, displaced wildlife must move on to the few and impacted remaining old-age tree stands.

If all the lowlands are logged on a rotating basis, the lowland-type of habitat will disappear, and so might the vulnerable wildlife, environmental groups said. In addition, the wildlife needs species-specific territory and migratory routes — two areas that must remain undisturbed.

"Anyone who thinks this forest is forever is crazy."

— Bob Payne, vice-president, Worker-Owner Plywood Association

Gordon Iverson, logging manager of the Bellingham division of Georgia-Pacific Corporation, said he is opposed to preserving more land for wilderness use in general, and Mount Baker in particular.

"It's a lot of plain conjecture saying (wildlife) will disappear," Iverson said. "I haven't seen that proven. But they want a thousand acres of old-growth forest for a pair of spotted owls. That's an incredibly high price to pay for a couple of birds."

The spotted owl establishes permanent hunting, roosting and nesting territories in Western Washington and Oregon's Cascade mountains. The Washington State Department of Game considers the spotted owl a threatened species.

Some timber industry officials view the preservation of species such as the spotted owls as a threat to millions of board feet of lumber once the land is preserved or "locked up." Although the timber companies currently do not use the Mount Baker land, they view the preservation of more wilderness as a cut into their economic base.

Bob Payne, vice president of the Worker-Owner Plywood Association, and a Mt. Baker Plywood employee, said it is the small lumber companies who lease logging rights from U.S. Forest lands that will be the most affected by the lands bill. Larger companies own their own tracts of land, and aren't dependent on public lands.

Payne admitted the industry now has a three-to-
four-year backlog of lumber because of the recession; however, Iverson said that such a surplus is only minimal insurance for companies investing millions of dollars into factories.

Wilderness groups said that in recent years, timber companies have logged less than the U.S. Forest Service's allowable cut, and they question the "need" to open up new lands to logging.

"The economy's been in a real depression in the last couple of years," Payne said. "A lot of available land has been bid up to high prices, so companies couldn't afford to take lumber out. If the economy picks up, we'll log right away. There's very good timber in the (Baker) area."

This good timber is found in the old-growth lowland areas. Apollonio said timber companies prefer to log these areas rather than return to reseeded forests.

"The first generation cut is a real pocketful. It's really easy to see the money value of the timber now. But, it will take 300 to 500 years to reproduce those stands."

Payne said people don't understand that the 300 to 400 year-old forest actually is dying. "Anyone who thinks this forest is forever is crazy. Everything isn't lost when it's logged — it comes back. We can reseed and harvest again in 60 years for small lumber.

But, defining "proper management" of clear-cut areas, including reseeding practices, has been a debate for some time. Without proper reseeding, the watershed of Mount Baker might be irreversibly altered. Land erosion and subsequent soil wash-off into streams and lakes could increase siltation and destroy the breeding and living grounds of fish, and pollute the mountain water base, researchers said.

But, timber officials said the U.S. Forest Service requires reseeding of an area within three years. "At some point we have to realize that man has the ability to manipulate and help nature to use resources for man," Iverson said.

Apollonio disagreed. "The process of reseeding is imperfect. Full rotation takes two to three times longer than when letting nature take her course. And the physical damage to soil can be dramatic. Soil erosion leads to damage to plant communities."

"I know of plenty of places that have been replanted five or six times because the land has been stripped of its nutrients (decaying logs)," Karen Fant, co-director of the Washington Wilderness Association, said.

"This argument about the nutrients not being put back into the soil — so what?" Iverson said. "We could put fertilizer back on...which we do. But, why worry about nutrients on land if it's not producing anything anyway? And wilderness isn't."

What timber does produce is jobs, timber industry officials said. Iverson said the number of jobs threatened by the lands bill is between 450 (jobs directly related to logging) and 900 (jobs indirectly related). In addition, he estimated that $2.5 million in timber
revenue will be lost — "along with the taxes that are earmarked for schools and roads."

Apollonio conceded that job losses may occur, but also said it's time to dispel the economic argument. Statistics show a potential loss of about 60 to 80 jobs. "but not a single job loss has been identified," he said.

Environmentalists claim it isn't the increase of wilderness lands that is hurting the timber industry, but rather a decrease in the lumber demand. In addition, Fant said, if lands were properly managed, and if the industry's technology was updated, timber waste would decrease as would the need to log new lands.

"I think there's room for both," she said. "We need to have protection of wildlife and wilderness, and at the same time, have strong industries such as timber."

Mining is another industry that will be affected by the bill, but less so. Mining corporations were given a 20-year grace period to explore and stake claims, and mining will continue on claims staked before January 1984. However, mining operations will face additional restrictions if the bill is passed, such as stricter requirements for mine restoration.

Corky Smith, Jr., mining engineer president of Olivine Corporation, a mining company working an Olivine mine on the Twin Sisters mountains in the Mount Baker area, said wilderness bills calling for a "single use at the exclusion of all others is a crime."

Smith said his main concern is the possibility of a currently worthless metal becoming valuable in the future, and then being inaccessible to miners.

He cited Olivine as an example. Olivine, an iron ore useful to industry because of its ability to endure high temperatures, was once thought to be worthless.

Smith said his mine uses less than two acres in its projected 20-year operation.

"They say you need all the wilderness you can get, because you can't make it again. But, with my reclamation process, I am making it again. What I'm going to do in a hundred years, Mount St. Helens has done ten thousand times over in a natural environment, and I reclaim it all."

"But, once it's locked into wilderness, it's such a job to get it out. It would never get out. It'd take an act of Congress to do that."

Environmentalists said a human-made law is easier to change than a law of nature. They echo Senator Dan Evans' sentiments when they said they'd rather err on the side of wilderness for now, because once a road is added or a forest is clear-cut, the wilderness is gone.

"By permitting wilderness, we are helping to protect other industries," Fant said.

Tourism, especially, benefits from wilderness. It's the third largest industry in Washington, with timber close behind. Apollonio said that two-thirds of the people who visited the state said they did so to
see natural areas. It's an attraction to photographers, campers, fishermen, hikers and hunters alike.

"If you preserved everything that's left, it still wouldn't be enough," Apollonio said. There's a 10 to 15 percent increase per year in tourism growth. The timber industry doesn't begin to grow at this rate."

Fant pointed out that the demand for wilderness recreation has increased at a phenomenal rate — 66 percent from 1965 to 1975. By the year 2030 it is projected that wilderness lands will be at 151 percent of capacity.

"We feel there is a significant economic value in preserving wilderness," Beamer said. REI projects 1983 sales will be $75 million. Figures which include competitors and other outdoor-related vendors, will push the total for recreational sales still higher.

"We all want space and peace in our lives because it's life is so stressful," Beamer said. Opponents of the lands bill say only "elitist hikers" have access to wilderness lands. "You have to consider how wilderness affects the average citizen," Payne said. "Few people visit these areas (by foot) — and they're usually younger. Is it so terrible to be able to visit wilderness without having to backpack for 20 miles?"

He said people don't backpack in the thick brush of lowland old-growth forests — the land timber industries want. The inaccessibility of the beautiful and popular backpacking areas will be enough protection, Smith said.

But Beamer said the real patterns of use show that the lowlands actually get the heaviest use.

"We should have areas where our children and our grandchildren can see what a lowland valley is like," Fant said. "Not everybody can go to the top of mountains."

"The seasons are longer in the lowlands. We want it to be easy for kids and old folks to visit these areas." Apollonio said.

Duncan Howat, manager of the Mt. Baker Ski Area, said he thinks the lands bill is too inflexible. He'd like to withhold some land from logging, and have it remain open for mechanized recreation, such as snowmobiles and trail bikes.

"The greatest good for the most people in the long run," is the philosophy Howat's department operates with. But, his department plans for only 50 to 100 years ahead. "I can only look ahead in my own lifetime. Even if the area stays just the way it is now, I don't see much of an encroachment," he said.

Howat admitted that snowmobiles and motorcycles will disturb the ecosystem, but said that since he rides bicycles, as well as trailbikes, and skis cross-country as well as downhill, he lives on both sides of the issue.

Even without a wilderness designation, Howat said he will be able to get a "wilderness experience." Some beautiful mountains and valleys just shouldn't be logged, he explained, adding that it's up to the forest service to keep those areas untouched by the logger's saw.

Apollonio said the only reason the limited protection now works is because there's no great pressure to use the wilderness land. Environmentalists worry about preservation of any land without the lands bill.

"I don't know of anything in those areas that has outstanding characteristics than anything already existing as wilderness in the country," Iverson said, while Beamer said "there's as much value in saving a pocket of sanity as saving a scenic area."

The timber industries would love to pit environmentalists against their industry — but it's not as simple as that, Beamer said. While the timber industry's arguments revolve around economics, wilderness proponents have more to argue than simple economics.

"We need to have protection of wildlife and wilderness, and at the same time, have strong industries such as timber." — Karen Fant, co-director, Washington Wilderness Association

"There's more to a stand of trees than its economic value," Fant said.

"In the human context, there's the therapeutic value of the experience of wildlands," Apollonio said. "And there's an issue of authenticity. Wilderness can't be duplicated."

"There's a great aesthetic value. Contrast the sense of natural harmony with the sense of discord and cacophonous clash in the clear-cut and roaded areas," he said. "You'll find that even loggers and developers will go the wooded areas for their enjoyment."

And it's no wonder why. Old-growth forests provide the rare experience of seeing trees wider around than two people joining hands can reach. Lush, alpine meadows afford views worth every hiked mile. And every winter, the icicle current of the Nooksack River brings several hundred bald eagles home to feed on spawned-out salmon. Perhaps ironically, it is these resources that attract the seemingly opposing interests of environmentalists and developers.

Developers say no more public lands should be "locked up" — all uses must be allowed to coexist. Environmentalists agree that the land should be for all, but say the only true "lock up" is wilderness' eradication because of too many non-compatible uses. How to simultaneously use and protect the last of the wilderness lands? There are no easy answers.
In the human context, there’s the therapeutic value of the experience of wildlands. And there’s an issue of authenticity. Wilderness can’t be duplicated.

— Howard Apollonio