Klipsun Magazine, 1988, Volume 19, Issue 06 - December

K. L. Hansen
Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: https://cedar.wwu.edu/klipsun_magazine

Part of the Higher Education Commons, and the Journalism Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Student Publications at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Klipsun Magazine by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.
SLUMMING IT
Housing Crunch Squeezes Students
DECEMBER 88
EDITOR'S LETTER

The December issue, as well as incorporating a contemporary new look, examines several student issues, such as acquaintance rape and securing affordable housing.

Rape is by far the most prevalent violent crime committed on college campuses nationwide. More than one in every four college women were victims of rape or attempted rape last year, according to a survey of more than 6,000 students at 32 universities and colleges. One out of every 15 men surveyed reported committing a rape or attempting to commit rape last year. Ninety percent of these victims did not report their assaults to police.

Silent victims are affected psychologically, socially, academically and developmentally. In the article "Date Rape: When Trust Turns to Terror," author Linda Dahlstrom gives a voice to several victims, female and male, of date and acquaintance rape at Western.

Another important concern for students is finding a decent place to live.

Our three-part series on student housing examines the current crunch for rental units in Bellingham. The demand for housing greatly exceeds the supply, creating an imbalance of power in favor of landlords.

Staff writer Michelle Hurst dug into the economic growth and exploding development that has diminished the supply of affordable housing for students in "No Place to Call Home." Writer Darlene Obsharsky investigated "Nightmare on Rent Street" and uncovered some landlords who lease dangerously decrepit housing to desperate students. Rob McDonald, staff writer and formerly homeless this fall, takes a humorous look at being a student without a home in "Homeless."

On the cover: Bellingham's exploding population, expanding economic base and increased development have created a housing crunch, forcing many Western students to rent sub-standard housing. KLIPSUN explores the causes, effects and a humorous side to the student housing issue beginning on page 19.

Cover photo illustration by Alycien Van Droof. KLIPSUN Magazine is published twice quarterly and is printed by the Western Washington University Print Plant. KLIPSUN is supported by student fees and is distributed free.

KLIPSUN Magazine is a Lummi Indian word meaning "beautiful sunset." Copyright December 1988 Volume IX, Issue 6
CONTENTS

2. Date Rape
   - When trust turns to terror

5. Baby, you can drive my car
   - A maintenance guide for married students

8. How I spent my summer vacation
   - Some Western students find new meaning to the saying, "Beating the summer heat"

11. Pencils and Pompons
    - Western student balances studies and the Seahawks

14. The Washington Grizzly
    - The cave bears' elusive descendants quietly live on in the Cascades' mountain reaches

16. Seafood Feast
    - Nothing beats the affordable harvest of fresh seafood in Bellingham

19. No place to call home
    - Bellingham's housing crunch leaves students out in the cold

20. Nightmare on Rent Street
    - Students struggle to awaken from the bad dream

24. Tenants' rights 101
    - Knowing the basics can ward off rental problems

25. Homeless
    - One student's humorous look at the housing situation

27. Granoladisco
    - Fear and loathing in the Square Cow Fun Bar

28. Fading Images
    - Photo essay

30. Long Distance Love
    - Trying to stay close when you are far apart
When trust turns to terror

By Linda Dahlstrom

Two years ago, Alison, now 26, received a phone call, never dreaming it would end in rape.

Was the caller a hardened murderer dialing a random number? A mentally-ill rapist going through the phone book?

No, the man on the other end of the line was a business acquaintance calling to see how Alison was doing. He said he was in the area and wanted to come by and see her. After he arrived, they talked for a while about problems she was having with her boyfriend. Suddenly, he began kissing her and became very aggressive, tearing her shirt open and biting her breasts. He ignored Alison's pleas to stop as he violently raped her.

"He threw me to the floor. It was almost like two animals wrestling. I was fighting for my survival; he was fighting to subdue me. For weeks I had bite marks and bruises on my face, chest and arms. I had fingerprint marks on my neck," Alison said, her voice rising as she touched her hand to her neck.

Before leaving, he apologized and asked if they could be friends.

A rare occurrence? Unfortunately not. Acquaintance rape, or date rape, is defined by Western's Counseling Center as sexual intercourse or sexual contact without mutual consent between people who know each other. According to Rape Relief, a counseling service for sexual assault victims, over 50 percent of all rapes fall into this category.

A Counseling Center pamphlet, *Rape Among Friends*, states approximately one in four women will be raped by the time she reaches age 24.

Laura, 21, was raped by her date eighteen months ago after he invited her to his house for a drink before she went home.

"He asked me if I wanted a tour of his house, so to be polite I said, 'okay.' We got to his basement and he started kissing me. I didn't really think that was unusual, but then he started to get more aggressive," Laura said.

"I said that I didn't want to do this and started physically struggling. Then he dragged me to his bedroom and pinned me down. He was really strong. I tried to get away and he punched me in my temple."

Only a small percentage of all date rapes are reported, Don Giddings, a Western counselor, said. Many victims believe somehow they sent a message that what was happening was okay, and therefore are uncomfortable prosecuting, he said.

Laura said she chose not to report her rape at the time because she wanted to try to forget it and completely remove herself from everything that would remind her of it. Now she says she wishes she had pressed charges.

"I'm angry that someone can do that to someone else and not face consequences... I would like to have made him pay. What really scares me is that he didn't ever see anything wrong with what he'd done," Laura added. "I wonder how many other times this will happen, or how many other girls he'll do this to before he does realize."

Linda Barry, a crisis worker at the Whatcom Connection and a former Rape Relief advocate, said some rapists do not realize...
they have committed rape, especially if alcohol was involved.

"Some men don't realize what they did last weekend to the drunk girl down the hall by ignoring her protests and violating her rights," Barry said. "They still don't see themselves as rapists."

If victims were drinking when assaulted, they may have feelings of guilt and confusion, and be unsure of whether they gave sexual consent. If victims are not fully coherent because of alcohol or drug use, and are unable to resist or consent, sexual acts are considered rape, according to Washington State law.

"Especially when alcohol is involved, (victims) tend to feel really guilty. But choosing to get drunk is not choosing to be raped. Choosing to hitchhike is not choosing to be raped and choosing to go out on a date is not choosing to be raped," Barry said.

Date rape occurs with startling frequency and has the power to destroy victims' feelings of security, trust, control, and most devastating, their sense of self.

"What really scared me is that I didn't feel like I had any control over what was happening," Alison said. "The thing that I hated so much about it was that my own person was thinking 'Was it my fault?'

Giddings said date rape is, in some ways, harder to deal with than rape by a stranger. Victims of date or acquaintance rape often feel guilty and convince themselves that somehow they must have provoked the incident by giving some sort of message that they wanted to have sex.

"It's easier, I feel, to con-
The response of family and friends can add to feelings of guilt, Giddings said. They often feel angry, frustrated and helpless. Sometimes they focus their anger on the victim, or deny the incident occurred.

"The most loving parents in the world do that," Giddings said. "What happens is that we are shook up ourselves because we recognize somewhere deep down that it could happen to us and to try and prove that it's not possible for it to happen to us by saying, 'It's not true.'

"It is important to educate people that 'no' means 'no,'" he said.

"That whole macho bullshit that you have to warm her up and encourage her (is outrageous)," Giddings said. "The truth is, 'no' means 'no.' No one has the right to read someone's mind and change a word like that.

"A few years ago, at a workshop on campus, someone said that a woman ought to be able to walk stark naked down the middle of Holly Street at high noon, from one end to the other, and be safe," Giddings said. "It's a wild example, but it's true.

The victims of date rape are not always women. Keith, 20, was raped by a young woman when he passed out after an off-campus party last spring.

"I started thinking back and realized what had happened and was just so horrified," Keith said softly. "It was like somebody had just reached up inside of me and pulled everything out. At that moment I could understand, as a guy, how vile a thing like rape can be. It's not too often a man is raped in this society. I was victimized and degraded.

Keith said the people who knew he had been raped often saw the incident as a joke.

"My roommates teased me about it. I tried to put up with it for a while but it was just too much," Keith said. "The reactions I've gotten are just like, 'Why do you take this so seriously? Why can't you just get over it?'"

The percentage of male rape victims is difficult to estimate because men are generally more reluctant to talk about it than women, Giddings said. They are more likely to pass it off as something they initiated, he added.

Keith said at first he tried to forget what happened but could not.

"It's not something I can just click on or click off. It gets worse the more I think of it," he said. "Then I think, 'Oh, God, did I come into contact with an AIDS carrier?'

Victims of date rape have been violated in the most overpowering sense; their entire sense of identity may be undermined.

"A sexual incident like that just changed my life," Keith said. "I am more skeptical of women now and have my defenses up. I used to be the kind of person who was always on the prowl, or trying to meet other people whether you made physical contact with them or not. I got tagged for it. I tried to avoid people at first. I'd tried to deal with it head on but it was just too major of a thing. I turned to books and schoolwork to try to avoid thinking about it."

In Allison's case, her attitude toward relationships was affected.

"Sex before was always something very nice, very pleasurable. To have that (the rape) happen changes it all," Allison said. "I'm afraid to get anywhere into my life enough to get into my realm of vulnerability. I hate having those feelings."

It takes a lot of courage for victims to become intimate with someone after a rape because they have been physically and emotionally brutalized. Rape isn't an act of sex, it is an act of violence done through sex, Barry said.

"To have an aspect of an intimate relationship ruined by something violent and heinous and then to face rejection after it by the people you need most is devastating," she said.

Barry and Giddings each stressed the importance for rape victims to get professional help. Both the Counseling Center and Rape Relief provide free counseling to students. Rape Relief offers not only free support and counseling for victims, with either female or male counselors, but also provides services to help friends and family cope with the trauma.

"You can have all the support in the world from family and friends, and that's great, but it's important to talk with someone who can be objective," Barry explained. "The family and people close to the victim also need support, because in a sense, they've been violated too."

Barry added that although rape is a terrible, traumatic thing, the victim can heal.

"How you choose to react to it is up to you. You can live a normal life again," Barry said. "You may look at things differently, but you can recover from it and get on with life."

Giddings said he hopes attitudes will begin to change as people are educated about rape and rapists are held accountable.

"I think that if people aren't held responsible for what they do, it's almost tantamount to saying it's okay," Giddings said.

However, sometimes even education and attempts at prevention do not help.

"I'd read an article shortly before (I was raped) on how to avoid date rape," Laura said. "It listed all these things to do, like bring your own car, meet there and pay for your own dinner, tell someone else who you're going out with and so on. I thought about the article after and realized I had done all those things and it still happened."

According to the pamphlet, Rape Among Friends, "Nothing a woman does justifies rape. Rape is always wrong and always a crime regardless of the conditions or situations. 'No' always means 'No'."
BABY, YOU CAN DRIVE MY CAR

A maintenance guide for married students

By Lori Lee Morse

Some travelers start on a trip only to realize three days into it they left something important behind. Others are set back because their traveling buddy insisted on a side road which took them 200 miles off course, or because their map reader responded to the question: "Which exit do we take?" with, "Ummm, the one we just passed."

Haphazard planning and last-minute schedule changes are frustrating and dangerous, but following the basic rules of the road can enable drivers to have a smoother trip. Similarly, married students can benefit from observing the same rules on their journey through life.

There are three basic rules of the road — driving defensively, following a road map and practicing preventative maintenance — which, if observed, can lead to successful road travel and pave the road for peak performance in marital relationships.

The first principle of defensive driving: Don't exceed the recommended limits.

Many college students can testify there is usually a price to pay for pushing a car beyond its reasonable limits. Most married couples have learned that they cannot live beyond their finances without similar consequences.

Bonnie and Jaret Vosburgh, both education majors, have been married for one year. To establish their independence as a couple, they wanted to make it with as little help as possible from their parents. The educational financial aid they received has helped. Bonnie, who said she never had to worry about finances as a single college student, has found the transition difficult. Before, whenever she needed something, she would call her parents and money was on the way.

Mike Woodruff, the pastor for The Inn, an on-campus Christian organization, counsels many engaged and married college students each month. One of the largest problems these students face is underestimating their finances. Money problems are the root of most marriage failures in the first three years, and students must realize they can no longer maintain the lifestyle of their friends who are financed by Mom and Dad, he said.

Woodruff laughed when he recalled the first experience he and his wife, Sheri, had with a budget.

"When we were first married, I was working at a lumber mill and Sheri was student-teaching. We needed to save money. I remember one two-week period when we only had $1.50 a day for all our meals; 25 cents for breakfast, 50 cents for lunch, 75 cents for dinner. Coke was too much of a luxury! Sheri and I would go to McDonald's and split a hamburger. I'd be thinking, 'Good night! I can't even have a Coke!'

Finances played a big part in James and Rochell Johnson's lives. They were newlyweds when they moved to Oak Harbor from Texas in July 1985. Their luggage...
was minimal: one black-and-white television and the clothes they were wearing. Johnson, who played basketball at Western last year and is an assistant coach this year, wanted to be financially responsible enough so his wife did not have to put him through school. Because he did not want to be burdened by any student loans, he sat out of college for a year and did odd jobs. In 1986, he was able to return to school because of a basketball scholarship he received, which paid his tuition.

"I had to find a way to get back into college without her financial help," he said. "If it took me having to take a loan, then I knew that I was not ready yet. And I made the coaches aware of that, too."

Ann Heaps, administrator and counselor at the counseling center at Western, stressed the importance of staying within one's physical limits as well as living within one's budget limits. Married students need to realize they cannot always carry 18 credits, maintain a 4.0 G.P.A., and work 20 hours a week and still give the relationship the attention it needs, she said.

"Despite what they say, we can't have it all!" Heaps stressed.

The second principle of defensive driving: Don't tailgate!

Johnson believes that giving each other space and room to grow is important. He said one day after they were married, he had to go someplace, so he wrote his wife a note saying where he was and when he would be returning. But it felt uncomfortable because he didn't like the idea of having to tell Rochell every move he made, and he realized it would be a double standard to expect her to do the same.

"There isn't a person who likes to be kept tabs upon. If I want her to know where I'm going, I tell her. If not I just say I'll be back in a minute," he said. "If I don't want Rochell knowing every move I make, I shouldn't expect her to tell me every move she makes."

Heaps agrees couples need to give each other space and that it is not realistic to expect the spouse to meet all the needs of the other.

"When you're not sure who you are and where you're going, it's not a time to be sharing your life with someone else," Heaps said. "Two people not feeling okay about themselves as individuals will not make a healthy marriage."

The third principle of defensive driving: Signal in advance.

Jaret Vosburgh's upbringing in a very independent family made signaling a challenge at first to his relationship with his wife, Bonnie.

"If I wanted to go do something I'd just say 'bye' and walk out the door," Vosburgh said, grinning. "But Bonnie's family is very close. Lots of interdependence. Telling each other what they're doing, where they're going. A husband and wife can't just take off and do their own thing.

Scheduling is a lot more important now, he said. "You can't just work, play and eat whenever. You learn to talk about things first."

"You can't just work, play and eat whenever. You learn to talk about things first."

-Jaret Vosburgh

defensive driving: Keep your eyes wide open.

Eric and Kim Ode have been married for one year. They know this principle well. Kim said working while Eric goes to school has made him appreciate him more.

"I have a sense now of what it's like for him when he wants to do something nice, buy something for me, but there's not enough money," she said.

For the Johnsons, being sensitive to the other's feelings is an integral part of their relationship.

When they first moved to Washington and Rochell was working, James did the housework. He said he could not stand to see stuff pile up around the house.

"Instead of fussing and arguing with Rochell, (I thought), 'I've got two able hands', and since it's me who doesn't like it, I figure why don't I do it?" he said.

In addition to washing dishes and doing the laundry with Rochell, James changes and bathes their one-year-old son, Timothy, and gets up at night with him.

Fred Sherril, who has been married to his wife, Lori, for two-and-a-half years, emphasizes the
importance for couples to keep their eyes fully open to the other’s needs and to let their own needs be known.

"It’s hard for some because they are not vulnerable with each other - holding back, not totally open. Marriage is not 50/50. It’s 100/100, giving everything to the other person,” he said.

So many people say their honeymoon is over, Fred said, but he believes people can change that notion.

"The honeymoon doesn’t have to end. Ours hasn’t. Don’t stop doing for the other.”

-Fred Sherril

The Vosburghs encourage everyone to go through pre-marriage counseling. Bonnie found the discussion about finances particularly useful.

"You need to talk about what you can expect to spend money on because money is a big problem for people,” she said.

“You need to make sure where each other stands.”

Jaret Vosburgh said discussing expectations was illuminating.

"It brought up things,” he said. "I learned a lot more about Bonnie. Lots of times I was saying, ‘Really? I never knew that.’”

Heaps agreed communication is an important aspect of maintaining a realistic outlook on marriage.

"Most of us are very naive about relationships and there’s no laboratory to teach us about marriage,” she said. "We grow up hearing la-la land stories in movies and fairy-tales that are not very realistic. If married couples spent as much time on relationships as on other things, it would make a difference, because it’s hard work everyday.”

Heaps explained that society makes relationships look so easy, and as a result, more and more people are finding it easier walking out of a troubled relationship instead of staying and working out their problems.

Heaps is encouraged that people are waiting longer to marry because with maturity comes emotional development. The latest statistics show the average marrying age for women is 23 and for men, 24, she said.

"When you're not sure who you are and where you're going, it’s not a time to be sharing your life with someone else,” she said.

The third rule of the road is: Practice preventative maintenance.

Marriages, like cars, should have their problems dealt with as soon as they surface to increase efficiency and diminish the need for repairs. This is the first principle of preventative maintenance. Woodruff cautions students against putting aside their problems until after exams, because it sets up a poor pattern for the rest of married life. It is good to deal with things as they come up and to not let the sun go down on your anger, he said.

The Sherrils also place high priority on communication. Lori, who now refers to Fred as her best friend, compares learning to communicate with learning a new sport.

"It's hard at first. But once you start communicating, it gets easier,” she said.

For the Odes, communication goes hand-in-hand with being open.

"He’s my best friend and we talk very openly,” Kim said. "It’s an honest, open relationship. We don’t hide things from each other.”

Tune-ups are another aspect of preventative maintenance, Woodruff said.

"I do a follow-up on couples one month after they're married,” he said. "Ninety percent of pre-marriage material bounces off them because they don’t hear what’s being said.”

Finding time to be together is preventative maintenance for the Johnsons. James lives in Bellingham Monday through Friday because of his schooling and basketball participation during the academic year. He goes home to Oak Harbor to be with Rochell and Timothy on weekends and Rochell finds time to attend all of his games.

"When I do go home on weekends, I take no homework home,” he said. "I figure I am here at school with all night to study, so there’s no excuse for not getting it done here.”

Many couples have learned by paying attention to certain signals many accidents can be avoided; although accidents, in relationships as well as on the road, are bound to happen. But chances of survival improve when there is mutual commitment to the principles of driving defensively, following a map and practicing preventative maintenance.

The honeymoon doesn’t have to end.
HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

Gail Wer
Some Western students find new meaning to the saying, "Beating the summer heat"

By Steven Biggs

Twenty-mile per hour winds push the wall of flames outside the fireline; the forest fire is out of control. Like tentacles of an octopus, the flame reaches out as if feeling its way along, starting new fires wherever it touches. The smoke, once billowing up to the sky, now lies down and blankets the forest like a dense fall fog, so thick the sun is but a dim orange spot in the sky. The crews work feverishly as night sets in.

The scene begins to take on the look of a battlefield. Large crews walk in line to and from their areas of the fire and bulldozers with their tank-like treads punch fire lines around the fire. Engines with their precious water attack hot spots, rush to flare-ups outside the main fire and feed hose lines, which lie like veins around the fire. From the air, bombers drop payloads of slimy, red retardant to slow the spread of the fire. Helicopters buzz around like busy bees, carrying crews, delivering equipment or 500-gallon buckets of water to distant points.

But just as in war, the main battle against a forest fire is fought by the men and women on the line -- many of these people on the front lines are college students.

Western senior Joe Cleary spent this past summer fighting forest fires for the state's Department of Natural Resources. Robert McDonald, a Western junior, spent the summer of 1987 working on a Nez Perce tribal fire crew in Lewiston, Idaho.

"Ninety percent of the summer work force for Washington fire crews is made up of college students...It's about the same nationwide," said Joann Gustafson, fire dispatcher for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

This summer was Cleary's first fire season for the D.N.R. He worked on an initial-attack engine based out of Sedro Woolley.

An initial-attack engine is a two- or three-person crew with a 250- to 700-gallon tanker truck and is usually the first to respond to calls. These crews fight local fires, but in the case of a project fire they can be dispatched to any part of the state. A project fire is a fire too large for the local region to handle with its own forces, so outside crews must be called in.

Cleary and his crew boss, Jeff "Opy" Buchanan of Sedro Woolley, spent most of their time on small local fires, but when the call came for a project fire it was time to pack the bags and head out.

Crews often are summoned to a project fire at the end of the work day. By the time crews arrive, night has fallen. If they are lucky, they get to catch a couple hours of sleep. After finding a flat area, his crew set up tents in the dark. Later, another crew came in and slept in the same area. During the night, there was a crash and some swearing. The next morning Cleary found the groups had settled in on the trail leading to the outhouses.

"You learn to appreciate a good hot shower.

- Joe Cleary"
As McDonald’s crew began fighting through a burning area, crews on the ridge above worked furiously to help, felling smoldering, blackened snags in an effort to clear a trail to safety. The falling snags hit with earth-shaking impact, with one landing a mere four feet from McDonald.

“One tree actually bounced over one guy. I didn’t realize how dangerous it really was until we got out,” McDonald said.

Strength-draining heat and smoke also take their toll on the firefighters.

Carl “Skip” Scheifelbien, an engine leader for the D.N.R., talks of being “buried” by intense heat and smoke. The superheated smoke burns its way into the lungs, choking a firefighter’s every breath. It scorches their eyes, causing a sort of blindness; they only can open their eyes for a few seconds before the pain forces them to squeeze them shut.

Nightfall means additional dangers, because in unfamiliar country, at night, and with a forest fire burning nearby, tromping around in the brush can be hazardous.

For those working this shift, the blazing nighttime scene is viewed through the confines of small, yellowing beams from headlamps on their hard hats. The temperature shift between day and night can seem like the difference between summer and winter. Scorching hot days bring the risk of heat exhaustion, while chilly nights can bring on a bout with hypothermia because crews working with fire hoses get wet.

“I didn’t realize how dangerous it really was until we got out.”

-Robert McDonald

Western senior and D.N.R. firefighter.

Gibson remembers starting out early in the morning with a frozen canteen of water on her back to provide cold drinking water in the sweltering heat of the day.

“The sun was just coming up and the fog was starting to burn off. It was really beautiful to see, but then it was time to get to work putting the fire out.”

Cleary’s biggest concern was stumpholes. Old stumps burn down into the ground, leaving a spot of white-hot ash on the surface. The fire continues underground, burning out the roots and creating invisible fire traps.

“If you walk over these and the ground caves in, it’s like falling into an oven set on broil,” Cleary said.

Unwanted guests attracted by fire camps also pose dangers. Yellow-jackets are everywhere — in the food as well as the tents. In some areas, firefighters shake their boots before putting them on because a scorpion may have crawled in during the night looking for a warm place to sleep. In other areas, firefighters try to avoid sleeping on the ground, lest they awaken with a rattlesnake curled on their warm chests.

Some firefighters describe their work as a love-hate relationship.

“I’ve seen crews working at night save a hot spot, in the area they are working in, to warm themselves,” said Keri Gibson, a

“Firefighters have to push their minds and bodies way past the normal limits and not everybody can do this kind of work. It doesn’t make them any less of a person, just different.”

-Carl Scheifelbien

“I’ve seen people really get into being on a fire crew. Then they come home from their first fire and you never see them again,” Gibson said.

McDonald said, “It was a great experience and I’m glad I did it, but I didn’t like it. I won’t do it again.”

Scheifelbien said, “Firefighters have to push their minds and bodies way past the normal limits and not everybody can do this kind of work. It doesn’t make them any less of a person, just different.”

For Cleary, fire fighting means always being dirty. The mouth and nose are always full of dust, eyes are scratchy and red from the smoke and dust, while feet are constantly blistered.

The hours are long and the work is hard, dirty and dangerous, Cleary said. "But I like it."

As the sun makes its appearance on the horizon, a pale blue returns to the sky. With the dawn of daylight it is evident the fire was stopped. But the damage to the forest is also visible. Trees touched by the arms of fire stand together like soldiers at attention, yet all look separate, stripped of foliage and life.

The crews are released. The firefighters, with blackened faces, red, swollen eyes and dust-choked throats, drive wearily home to rest up for another day, another fire.

“Remember, only you can prevent forest fires.”

-Smokey the Bear

For Cleary, fire fighting means always being dirty. The mouth and nose are always full of dust, eyes are scratchy and red from the smoke and dust, while feet are constantly blistered.

The hours are long and the work is hard, dirty and dangerous, Cleary said. "But I like it."

As the sun makes its appearance on the horizon, a pale blue returns to the sky. With the dawn of daylight it is evident the fire was stopped. But the damage to the forest is also visible. Trees touched by the arms of fire stand together like soldiers at attention, yet all look separate, stripped of foliage and life.

The crews are released. The firefighters, with blackened faces, red, swollen eyes and dust-choked throats, drive wearily home to rest up for another day, another fire.

“Remember, only you can prevent forest fires.”

-Smokey the Bear
PENCILS AND POMPONS
Western student balances studies and the Seahawks

By Jennifer Wynn

The 60,000 shoulder-to-shoulder, hip-to-hip sports fans screamed so loudly that if the Kingdome were popped with a needle it still would be sailing over the Soviet Union. The squad members were suited. They had warmed up and received the director’s pep talk. It was a few minutes before the game when they picked up their gear and vertically lined themselves at one end of the field. It was time.

Western junior Sara Campbell and the rest of the Sea Gals, the Seattle Seahawk cheerleaders, pranced in synchronization to the 50-yard line to kick a pre-game number like the hybrids they are — crosses between the Rockettes and Solid Gold Dancers.

Throughout the game, 10 cheerleaders on each side of the Dome shook their gear — shimmery, blue and green pompoms — as they executed precision-step dance numbers to snappy tunes played by a small band tucked in the stadium corner.

Checking the squad with a magnifying glass wouldn’t have uncovered an ounce of cellulite. No pimples either. Just 20 coiffed cheerleaders helping to inspire ripple after ripple of the Kingdome Wave.

The Sea Gals and other professional cheer squads are the tea and crumpets of the beer and nuts game of football, and a gametime necessity. A team without cheerleaders is like new pill containers without cotton. It just ain’t done.

But Campbell’s life is not all glittery pompoms and stadium lights.

It was a Saturday and the Kent native sat by Fisher Fountain. The backless, short, white-skirted cheer uniform, trimmed with shiny epaulets, had been traded for snow-white sweats and tennis shoes. Her long, blond, wavy hair bounced a little as she talked about cheerleading.

It was fate that led the 21-year-old, 5’2” marketing major to try out for the Sea Gals three years ago.

“I heard they were having tryouts on the radio,” she said, opening her blue eyes wide and eyeing her pink nail polish. “I had never even been to a Seahawks game.”

As a fresh-faced, freshly-graduated 18-year-old, she decided to put to work her four years of high school cheering. She tried out. So did 200 other women.

“Sometimes it was tough because you had another girl next to you that was doing really good. Or you’d look over and see someone mess up and it made you mess up. The last cut is the most frightening because all the media is there. And so are the football captains,” she said.

Campbell’s nine years of ballet and smattering of jazz and modern dance classes came in handy. She outlasted three cuts — a dance routine, pompon routine and final dance number — and officially was baptized into the world of professional cheerleading.

Campbell stands ready during a Seahawks v. Saints game
A world, as she put it, of 28 dance numbers a season, consisting of new pre-game programs for each home game, "blurbs," done during short breaks, and "features," done after each quarter and two-minute warning. Of Tuesday and Thursday practices in a cramped room in Kirkland, when the women don workout garb and white uniform boots to rehearse two-and-a-half hours to taped band music. And also a world of new experiences, including her first time in the Dome that was near to a religious revelation, the world of professional cheerleading.

"It's SO loud in the Dome. It's deafening. The first time I saw the Wave I was in awe. It was really fun. It was a blast," she said, with a laugh.

She leaned forward. "But it's so neat to see the fans get into it because it really pumps you up, too. The fans are really supportive of the Seahawks. (But) it's much more difficult to cheer when the team is losing."

"You're more down and you're more wanting to watch the game. I can't really explain it." She paused. "But the crowd is leaving and there's two minutes left to play and you're thinking 'stay, stay.'"

"That's when you want a miracle to happen."

But a miraculous day will be for cheerleaders when their pastime is not equated with chronic bimbo-ness, come-hither looks and "shake your groove thang" productions.

Cheerleading is not synonymous with those terms, Campbell said. Almost all the Sea Gals are attending college or have degrees, she said.

"We are professional dancers. We dance. We entertain. We aren't there to be-bop around. We are not out there being seductive, like we're sex symbols," she said as she cynically shimmied her shoulders.

"All we're doing is performing. We want people to watch us and say, 'Hey, those girls are good dancers.' The thing I like is when you have the ladies come up and say, 'You girls looked really good out there.'"

Looking good is part of the job. The cheerleaders must wear style-stage makeup in the forms of bright lipstick and heavy eyeline and shadow.

"We have to make a good appearance. Our director doesn't want us to look like drowned rats. We have to wear theatrical makeup so the people in the 300 level can see us," Campbell said.

"But we probably look like clowns to those in the 100-level," she said jokingly.

It is not a joke entirely. Makeup cannot hide the extra weight the Sea Gals are expected to keep off. Alternate cheerleaders take the place of those who don't keep trim.

"When I was on the squad the first time, we were weighed before every game. It really hurt the squad, because, some of the good dancers couldn't make weight and they wouldn't be allowed to perform. Well, if we were dancing with partners, and if my partner couldn't dance, I couldn't perform either," she said.

The policy has changed. This season, cheerleaders were weighed once after the final cuts and before the first game. A cheerleader will be weighed again only at the director's discretion.

Campbell does aerobics three times weekly, in addition to practices, and said she doesn't have to watch what she eats.

Being pretty does have its drawbacks once in a while, as shown by the beer-frothing man who occasionally shouts a philosophical, "Hey Baby." But it is all part of the public relations to keep the Pepsodent smile, and anyway, she said, those guys are in a vast minority.

"You get things from the crowd. There's those comments from the guys who have had one too many King beers," she said.

"I've gotten a few letters before through the Seahawks office, though. Nothing bad. Just, 'Hey, I saw you perform and thought you were cute. I'd really like to take you out,'" she said.

Although the cheerleader image is glamorous, she insisted it's not how she wants to be viewed.

"I don't even know when I'm on TV. I'm embarrassed. A friend will say I was on TV and my first reaction is, 'What was I doing? I wasn't picking my nose or anything, was I?' No just kidding."

-Campbell as a Western student

-Alycia Van Droof

"We have to make a good appearance. Our director doesn't want us to look like drowned rats."

-Sara Campbell
thinks she's great.' Up here, I'm just Sara. My friends usually don't even realize I'm a Sea Gal at first."

At Western, she is busy as a 10-credit student and will be even busier when she starts perfume modeling for The Bon Marche during Christmas break.

"It's a matter of managing your time. You've got to not go to that party and (stay home and) study," Campbell said.

In her spare time, she is a "normal college student." She sometimes goes to the bars, sometimes parties or just bums around.

Campbell's part-time occupation garners much support from family members.

"My family is very proud of me. They say the best part is getting free tickets to the game. Sometimes it's hard, though, divvying out the tickets."

Campbell gets the Seahawks' fans cheering in the King Dome

"I once signed autographs for two hours at an AM/PM promotional thing and got $90. I can handle that."

-Sara Campbell

though it isn't always rah-rah on the social life, she said.

"It's hard on him, when all those people are watching, but he's been really supportive. He's been really great, especially when I get stressed out."

Most of the cheerleaders are married or have boyfriends. They are not attached, mentally or physically, to the players. Sea Gals are not allowed to date players and are cut from the squad if they do, she said.

"It's my opinion that you don't want people to think it's all just a big association, a dating game. They want us to look professional," she said.

Sea Gals aren't Sea Gals for the money. They can't be; they aren't paid. They do receive benefits, though, which makes it a far chant from high school cheering, where almost the only money involved was parental allowance.

For commuting to practices and home games, Sea Gals are given two tickets to games, $50 worth of coupons from the Sea Galley sponsors and paid $45 an hour for outside promotions.

"I once signed autographs for two hours at an AM/PM promotional thing and got $90. I can handle that," she said, nodding her head.

She also was paid $300 for being a background cheerleader for the newly-released Hasbro VCR football game.

"(The money) helps with the expenditures on weekends, or I just save it for something special," she said. "My parents are paying for my college, but they expect me to pay for my groceries and stuff. (The money) helps out there, too."

Being a Sea Gal may help the easy-going cheerleader in more ways than spare weekend change. Her promotions and continual networking may help her achieve the marketing or public relations job for which she aspires.

"I really want to get into the Seahawks organization. I think the people there are great. It seems like they're always having fun and I love to work with people. It's a fast-paced life. Being a Sea Gal is an honor to some people, but it was an INSTANT honor to me."

"My family is very proud of me. They say the best part is getting free tickets to the game. Sometimes it's hard, though, divvying out the tickets."

-Sara Campbell

Campbell said.

"It looks good on a resume to show that you have had public relations experience and you feel that you have been an asset to the company. I want to stay with it. Right now, I know I'll try out next year. I like it so much because I meet so many new people."

If the Seahawks go to the Super Bowl, count on the Sea Gals being there too, performing on the sidelines for sports fans. New owner Ken Behring promised that. He also promised the Sea Gals more benefits and recognition when he took them all to dinner about a month ago.

Sara Campbell is one of the lucky ones. She wanted the glamorous, part-time job of cheerleading and got it.

She's playing with the big girls now, and it's a long way from the girlhood chant of "firecracker, firecracker; boom, boom, boom."
The cave bears' elusive descendants quietly live on in the Cascades' mountain reaches

By Rich Royston

Puzzled by the unfamiliar smells and sounds disturbing his berry eating, old Silvertip effortlessly raises up on his hind legs for a better view over the top of his berry patch.

Slowly moving his massive head from side to side, he tests the scents coming to him on the faint breeze. The great bear's keen sense of smell and eyesight warn him humans are very near. Uttering a half-muffled growl, he drops down on all fours and silently ambles back down the ridge, away from the approaching intruders.

The Cascade Mountains, including North Cascades National Park, are habitat to a small, almost invisible grizzly population. Between 10 and 50 are estimated to live in the North Cascades. Wildlife biologists estimate fewer than 900 grizzlies live in widely scattered areas of the Northwest United States.

The grizzly bear, Ursus Arctos Horribilis, and his ancestors have been living continuously in the North Cascades since the end of the region's last ice age, said Jerry Flora, a biology professor at Western.

Flora speculated today's grizzly bears are descendants of the ancient cave bear, and have inhabited the region since the mammoth Vashon glacier retreated from the Whatcom County area over 10,000 years ago.

The discovery of a grizzly carcass at Cascade Pass late last year by a North Cascades
National Park back country ranger is added proof this often misunderstood bear still roams the Cascades.

Make no mistake, grizzly bears can be dangerous, said Lance Olsen, president of the Great Bear Foundation in Missoula, Montana. Humans and bears can get along in the wild if people are willing to try to understand the bear, he added.

A five-year, interagency study designed to determine whether there is sufficient habitat to support a viable grizzly population in the North Cascades has become the center of controversy in recent months. Erroneous news articles and letters stated more than 400 grizzlies will be imported into the Cascades. This triggered vocal opposition from some local hunters, hikers and back country enthusiasts concerned more bears would pose a danger.

Jon Almack, a Washington Department of Wildlife biologist who has spent more than 10 years researching, studying and tracking grizzlies in the Northwest, said most negative reaction to the grizzly study is the result of ignorance and misinformation. During intense searching over the last two-and-one-half years, Almack has not spotted a single grizzly in the North Cascades.

Almack said emphatically that his group will not import any grizzlies.

"Grizzlies have been here all along; there is no need to import more," Almack said. "Mother Nature will provide more bears, not us."

The grizzly importation rumors came from a series of letters to the editor appearing in half a dozen regional newspapers written by Robert DeGraw of Kirkland.

Almack is not pleased when he hears of people taking guns into the back country. He fears a nervous, excited hiker may accidently shoot another hiker. Experts on grizzly behavior say the bears do not like human company and will usually leave without making their presence known. There has been no recorded grizzly-human conflict in the Cascades, Almack and other experts said.

Washington's first settlers, arriving here in the early 1800s, saw grizzly bears roaming much of the state, with the exception of the Olympic Peninsula and the lowlands below the west slope of the North Cascades. Old records and folklore indicate the grizzly population was about 1,000.

Explorers Lewis and Clark, on their 1804-1806 expedition, estimated the population was 100,000, according to *Wild Mammals of North America* by J. A. Champman and G. A. Feldhamer. The bears' range covered the northern limits of North America, about half of the plains of the Midwest and well into Mexico.

Now an endangered species due to indiscriminate slaughter, the bears are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act and the Washington State Endangered Species Act. It is also against federal law to carry firearms in the national parks.

There are strong indications the grizzly carcass found near Cascade Pass last year was illegally shot by a game poacher.

Almack, who is investigating the bear's death, said he suspects the bear was shot, but wants to examine the skeleton for conclusive evidence. Back country ranger Jim Ohlstein, who found the bear and brought its skull to Almack for identification, said the carcass was buried and apparently wild animals unearthed it. Almack estimates the bear was 13-years-old when killed over a year ago.

Almack is a member of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), which coordinates federal, state and private research and management programs for grizzly bear conservation. Other agencies involved with the grizzly program are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Cascades National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and the British Columbia Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Visitors to the mountains should follow these common sense rules when moving about in bear country:

* Store all food in vehicles or high in trees and away from sleeping areas.
* Deposit garbage in refuse containers or store as you would food. Never bury it!
* Don't surprise bears. Make noise; whistle, sing or talk loudly when hiking in bear country.
* Menstruating women should avoid wilderness areas. The scent attracts bears.
Nothing beats the affordable harvest of fresh seafood in Bellingham.
Come here for just that reason,” Blank said.

Norm Hunt, owner of Norm’s Bait and Tackle in Bellingham, said the best time for crabbing with a star or ring net is before the commercial season opens in October.

“July through September, there is lots of good crabbing,” Hunt said.

The most effective way to catch Dungeness crab from shore is by casting a star or ring net off of a fishing dock or a rock jetty. Star and ring nets lie flat on the ground. Crabs are attracted to bait fastened inside. Pulling up the net traps the crabs.

At most local sporting goods stores, star nets can be bought for less than $7 and a ring net for less than $20.

“The best thing to bait your net with is fresh fish heads or chicken or turkey wings. The fresher the bait the better. People think just the opposite, but crabs are picky eaters, they don’t want food that is rotten or smells bad,” Hunt said.

Another way to catch crabs is by wading out around rocky outlets and netting them. It is possible to find rock crab in rocky nooks and crannies. In addition to rock crabbing, an abundance of other animal and plant life makes for fun shallow-water exploration.

About two miles north of Larrabee, toward Fairhaven, is the unofficially named Teddybear Cove where an outlet provides a haven for rock crab.

Just to the north of Teddybear Cove is a sandy strip which makes for easy clam digging. The only difficulty is a treacherously steep hill people must climb with their buckets of clams and shovels to get back to the road.

People who have been to Teddybear Cove before are not surprised to see an abundance of bare bodies there, as it is an area frequented by nude bathers.

Clams can be found by looking for holes on the surface of the sand. In a good clamming spot, clams shoot water up out of the holes frequently. Diggers should begin at a hole and dig down quickly, usually one to three feet below the surface, until clams are found. As many as a dozen may be in any one hole.

One should feel around the sides and the bottom of the hole for clams. It is very important to the beach environment to refill the holes and diggers can check the sand for clams as they refill the holes.

“I was kind of scared to put my hand in the hole at first because of the sand worms and stuff, and I wasn’t sure if the crabs would bite me. But I did it and it was fun,” Western junior Kim Hanses recalled of her first clam digging experience.

The crabs didn’t bite her.

Blank said Larrabee’s clam population has been depleted because of the beach’s popularity.

“If I were going to dig clams around here I would go to Birch Bay. It’s fantastic,” he said.

“The best thing to bait your net with is fresh fish heads or chicken or turkey wings. The fresher the bait the better. People think just the opposite, but crabs are picky eaters, they don’t want food that is rotten or smells bad.”

-Norm Hunt

“Semiahmoo Park in Blaine is probably the best place for clam digging.”

Blank said Larrabee State Park is in the process of purchasing Clayton Beach, one mile south of Larrabee, where the clamming also is good.

During January and February, some of the oyster seeds from an oyster company across the bay drift over and settle on Samish Island, Blank said.
During this time, people can gather oysters from the beach at Samish Park. Blank said, however, oysters are generally scarce at the park, which is located just south of Edison, 16 to 18 miles south of Larrabee.

Frank Uhrig, owner of Yeager’s Sporting Goods and Marine in Bellingham, said the best time for clamming is when there is a minus tide — the lower the better.

Shellfish seekers can find a Bellingham-area tide table toward the middle of the 1988 Pacific Northwest Bell telephone book. Blank said he suggests people choose the beach to which they are going, and know in what county it is before gathering shellfish. Having that information makes it easy to call the Red Tide Hotline at 1-800-563-5632 and make sure the area is not contaminated.

Hunt said someone recently was in his shop who had gathered some shellfish before he called the hotline. When he did call, he found out what he had collected was contaminated. Hunt said it is vital to know the shellfish is not poisoned because contaminated shellfish can be lethal.

All shellfish have size regulations and/or amount restrictions. The Washington State Department of Fisheries puts out the annual *Salmon, Shellfish, Bottomfish Sport Fishing Guide*, which can be obtained at local sporting goods stores, including H & H, Norm’s, Payless and Yeager’s.

Because of specific size laws, Dungeness crabbing requires a measuring gauge that can be bought for less than $2 at the previously mentioned sporting goods retailers.

“We want people to be informed. We will answer any questions people might have. People run into trouble when they are not informed and there are many people who don’t know the rules,” Blank said.

It is important to follow guidelines set by the fisheries department to protect natural resources so future generations will also be able to enjoy the beaches, he added.

Once a person has their tasty mollusks and crustaceans, then what? First, they will probably want to go home, take a shower and hose down their dirty clothes. But there is still more dirty work.

If a person is not planning on steaming the clams, they will need to shuck them and it is cleanest to gut crab before cooking it.

Joel Bernbaum, a junior at Western, works in the summer as a cook at Daniel’s Broiler, a seafood restaurant on Lake Washington.

“Crab and clams are very appropriate for fettuccine,” Bernbaum said.

“Basic Seafood Fettuccine” is a recipe from Bernbaum’s personal files. Often no measurements are given for the ingredients.

“Taste it and then season it how you like it,” Bernbaum said.

---

**Basic Seafood Fettuccine**

**Ingredients:**

- extra long egg noodles
- 3 T. butter
- 1 pint whipping cream
- 1 c. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 T. sour cream
- crushed garlic
- pepper
- garlic salt
- dried parsley flakes
- fresh clams/crab meat

Begin cooking noodles.

In a sauté pan, cook clams lightly, but not thoroughly, as they will cook in sauce. Drain clams and set aside.

Warm a large sauté pan over low heat. Add 3 tablespoons butter. Do not use margarine because it will not blend. Vigorously shake 1 pint of whipping cream and pour into pan, being careful not to scorch it. Also add 1 beaten egg yolk, 2 tablespoons sour cream, crushed garlic, garlic salt, freshly ground pepper, seasoning salt and dried parsley flakes. Cook until mixture thickens.

Keep the pan moving and add the cooked noodles, seafood, and 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese to cream sauce. Continue cooking until the clams’ meat is firm and no longer transparent.

Plate it up. Garnish with Parmesan cheese and parsley flakes, then serve and enjoy.
Bellingham is experiencing a burst of economic growth that is creating mayhem in the city's housing situation.

No longer is a Western student able to amble into town in early September with a truck full of potluck furniture and find a vast assortment of residences from which to choose.

"Since 1986, around the time of Expo, the housing market has become increasingly crowded," said Randi Hueston, owner of Property Management Professionals. "The kids just can't do that anymore."

According to real estate agents and landlords, Whatcom County's population is growing faster than its existing housing can accommodate.

"The market is being absorbed before the students have a chance to get to it," said Rick Ballard, owner of Bellingham's Ballard Management Company.

The most visible force attracting newcomers is the Beilis Fair Mall, which opened this August. More than 1,000 employees are expected to work at the mall and related commercial development by the end of the year, according to an article in the Sept. 7, 1988 edition of The Bellingham Herald. Many of the mall employees have moved from other cities and some have brought families with them, the article stated.

Another reason for the population boom is that Bellingham's assets have been "discovered," said Laurie Ehman, owner of Chuckanut Property Management. Tourism has remained strong since Expo and a number of people have decided to stay.

Ehman said she also has noticed an influx of people from major metropolitan areas who intend either to settle into Bellingham's growing labor force or to retire in areas such as Birch Bay and Sudden Valley.

"People are taking advantage of the old architectural charm and the 'bargain basement' prices of many of the homes around the campus," Ballard said.

The price of rentals has jumped because of the demand increase. So far this year the rental rate is 10 to 15 percent higher than from previous years, Hueston said.

"Not only is it hard to find a place to live, but once you do they (landlords) want a bundle for rent. Bellingham sure isn't as economical as it used to be," Dean Lee, a former Western student, said.

From 1987 to 1988, the average apartment rental price soared 4.1 percent, to $282, according to a survey published in the Whatcom County Real Estate Research Report.

Real estate agents agree the housing market will be replenished within the next few years but the whole process of renting will remain altered, including the rent cost increase.

"In the past, rentals in this town weren't profit makers, they were more for investments and tax purposes," Ehman said. "Now they are getting up to par with other cities and they'll probably stay this way."

Landlords, following the policy in other cities, are beginning to require the first and last months' rent, plus a deposit prior to move-in.

Ehman said instead of six- or nine-month leases, which cater to the student, 12-month leases will become commonplace.

Landlords are making it tougher to get into an apartment, Massey said.

"More and more landlords are expecting a list of good references before even considering you," he said.

The supply and demand in housing is expected to become more balanced in the next few years as people purchase homes and new houses and apartments enter the market.

Whatcom County is experiencing the biggest housing boom in 10 years as judged by the number of housing permits approved, said Mike Barnhart, president of the Home Builders Association of Whatcom County. In September, the waiting list for permits was six months long.

"We can hardly finish a home before it's bought," Barnhart said, as quoted in the Sept. 7 Herald article.
Most people say you get what you pay for, but some student renters say this is not true. A shortage of rental units in the Bellingham area has created a sweet dream for landlords and a nightmare for renters.

The housing crunch has created an environment that forces many students to grab any apartment available, regardless of its condition. "During the summer I heard the horror stories about students not being able to find housing," Pete Kendall, a Western senior, said. "I quit my job early to come to Bellingham and start house hunting."

He described his search as "desperate" when he realized how extreme the housing shortage was. Searching for a nice place to live turned into a race to take any acceptable rental available. Kendall was certain the housing crunch would ease up later in the quarter and hoped to find a better living situation then.

The lease agreement he signed required a nine-month occupancy period.

"The realtor didn't give any indication that they would let me slide out of the contract," Kendall said. Because he had no previous rental record, he was required to have his parents co-sign the rental agreement. The options for getting out of the lease agreement seemed bleak. For a while he considered working to have the real estate agent evict him because of lease violations. However, after several months he was able to find someone who was willing to sublet the apartment.

"The (housing) situation made it too easy to sign that contract for a place I knew I didn't want to stay at for a long period of time," Kendall said.

Marcia Dillard, supervisor of Bellingham's Community Resource Center, said, "It's always been tricky to find housing in the summer when students are coming back to Western, but there has been a dramatic increase (shortage of off-campus housing) in the past two years."

The number of area rentals hasn't declined, she said. The root of the current housing crunch is the city's burgeoning population. More people simply are moving here because of the new Bellis Fair Mall and other construction projects in the area. In addition, enrollment has increased at Western and area community colleges. People arrived in the area before it was ready to handle the influx. "(Bellingham) is an area that is growing," she said. "People arrived prematurely for the boom."

The problem isn't a shortage of housing, but a shortage of affordable housing, Margaret Davis, co-founder of The People's Organization for Welfare Rights, said. "There are some landlords who own several rental units near Western's campus who flagrantly abuse the Residential Landlord - Tenant laws."

-Margaret Davis

The Landlord-Tenant Act, passed in 1973, leans toward the side of the landlord, she said. The tenant has little recourse when the system breaks down, which creates an atmosphere of deceit and "rip-offs" rather than honesty. "There are some landlords who own several rental units near Western's campus who flagrantly abuse the Residential Landlord-Tenant Laws," Davis said.

During the 1987-88 academic year, Davis was coordinator for Western's Legal Information Center. Landlord-Tenant disputes comprised 65 to 75 percent of the center's approximately 500 cases, she said.

She said the problem tenants most frequently brought to the center was that their landlords did not return their deposit money. The center also advised students on a wide variety of landlord-tenant concerns such as: landlords not making repairs in a timely manner, unfairly charging for damages, entering the premises without proper notice, intentionally shutting off utilities, confiscating tenants' personal property, landlords locking tenants out of their homes and renting units unfit for human habitation.

For some, taking a shower by candlelight may seem romantic and out of the ordinary, but for Western student Mark Wilson, it was neither. During the summer and part of the fall of 1986, he was forced to use candles because the electrical plugs and a light socket in his bathroom went out. He described the wiring and electrical plugs as being "from the 1940's, very outdated, with bare and frayed wires." He said during this period he contacted the landlord.
wiring was," Wilson said.

According to documents filed by the city's Planning and Economic Development Department, the inspector found the bathroom wiring to be illegal. On October 7, 1986, the inspector notified Wilson's landlord, Dave Hanson, owner of Lakeway Realty, of the condition of the bathroom wiring and several other safety hazards, which included: a lack of electrical outlets in the kitchen, ungrounded three-wire outlets, overfused circuits and a faulty smoke detector.

Hanson never responded to the first letter. Two weeks later a department follow-up inspection showed the repairs still had not been made. The inspector notified Hanson he had two more weeks to make the necessary repairs or the electricity would be disconnected.

One day before the electricity was to be disconnected, Hanson sent an electrical contractor to make the repairs.

Wilson, who still lives there, said the interior hallway leading to his apartment has a large hole filled with several loose pieces of wood. The floor was ripped up last summer to make some plumbing repairs, he explained. The Bellingham realty company decided just to fill in the hole, rather than fix it properly, because it would be easier to make plumbing repairs in the future, he said.

Repeated attempts to contact Hanson at Lakeway Realty were unsuccessful, and Hanson failed to return several messages.

Western student Stacey Warren, found in order to get the heat and shower working in her rental unit, she had to put the heat on the landlord by showering him with a barrage of phone calls and letters.

The first hint of trouble came when cold weather set in and she discovered the heating system did not work. Each day, she would call the realty office, and each day she was told someone would be out to fix it.

When a repairman was sent, he told Warren it was the gas company's responsibility to fix the heating system. But the gas company told her it was the landlord's responsibility to fix the problem.

After two weeks, she hand-delivered a letter to the landlord that cited the provisions of the Landlord-Tenant Act stipulating the time limits for restoring heat to a rental unit.

The heating system was repaired by the next working day.

Warren encountered the same problems when the shower needed repairs. She made phone calls to the realty company about the problem with the shower. When she went to the realty office to pay her rent, Warren reported the problem to the person taking the check. Each time she notified someone of the problem, she was told someone would be sent to make repairs.

It took three months to have the shower fixed.

When Warren gave notice she would be moving out, the realty company said they would pro-rate the rent for the last month. She gave her forwarding address at the same time as she gave them her notice.

Not only did the realty company fail to return a portion of her last month's rent, but it also failed to return her deposit money. When Warren contacted them she was told the last month's rent would not be pro-rated because one of her apartment-mates moved out without returning the key.

The realty company claimed the check for the deposit had been mailed — to her former house a month after she moved out.

Unable to locate the deposit check, Warren went to the office to get another one, but was told the owner was not in to sign a check. She was able to get her deposit money back only after paying the realty company $10 for putting a stop-payment on the previous check.

Warren already knew what kinds of problems to expect from her landlord when she rented a house this year, because the housing crunch forced her to rent from the same company.

New tenants often find it nice to have people over for a party. It was not so nice when it happened to Western student Linda Dahlstrom. She was getting ready for bed one night when she
Somedone used a key to open her locked door and a herd of drunk people poured into her apartment. They went through the kitchen, up the stairs and into the bedroom. As they filed past, some muttered a quick hello and ignored the shocked look on her face. Finally someone said more than a passing greeting.

"Oh shit man," the partygoer said. "Somebody's living here now!"

When Dahlstrom had looked at the apartment, the previous renters where still there. They asked her when she would be moving in. Believing it was just small talk, Dahlstrom told them she would move in when school started.

They had given a key to a friend who played in a band. This apartment had access to the roof, so when the band members wanted to practice or throw a party, they would just breeze through the apartment and up to the roof.

Dahlstrom called the realty company the next day about changing the locks, and getting several other repairs made. Arrangements were made for her to go to the realty office to pick up a new key the following weekend. However, when she arrived at the office, not only was there no key, but her locks were never changed.

It took more than two weeks for the realty company to change the locks, she said.

Getting the realty company to make repairs proved to be an even more time consuming and frustrating project for Dahlstrom. When she rented the apartment the month before returning to school, she had to keep prodding the realty office to clean and repair the apartment.

The company “fixed” a broken oven door by putting a hasp, the kind through which a padlock is secured, on the oven door. The company made another “repair” when it disconnected a stove burner rather than replace a faulty switch.

"Repairs" to the shower included knocking a hole through the kitchen wall to get to the pipes. The hole was patched by affixing a turquoise-colored pressboard over it. The rest of the kitchen was white.

Dahlstrom said when she moved in, bugs were everywhere. She used two tubes of caulking to seal up cracks around the door and the frame.

The first thing I did when I moved in was get a bunch of roach traps," Dahlstrom said. "A kind of roach motel, where they check in but don't check out. I set up this roach trap on the nightstand in the bedroom. When I woke up the next morning there were these little feelers sticking out of it. That's when I went out and got the caulking and sealed all the cracks in the apartment," she said.

"Sometimes I call it The Apartment from Hell," she joked. "I'm not into the ultra-modern. I like things with a little bit of character, but I think this place has got a little too much character."

In addition, the toilet was broken for about a week. Water kept running non-stop. She called about six times to get repairs made. A repairman came out, looked at it and said "Yeah, it's broken, but I don't have the stuff to fix it with me right now."

Still nothing has been done about the toilet, she said.

The front porch light hangs precariously from a wire. Each time someone opens the screen door, it hits the dangling light. Most of the electrical outlets do not work, so Dahlstrom uses extension cords to make up for the lack of plugs.

Still a mystery to her are the two electrical wires that stick out of the living room wall and are covered with masking tape.

Getting out of the apartment proves no easy task. The outside stairs are broken, uneven and parts have no railing. Dahlstrom said, adding the lack of outside lights makes leaving even more dangerous.

The building has only one metered washer and dryer, but the dryer doesn't work, Dahlstrom said.

"I've just about given up asking for repairs," she said. "I call only when it's something essential and I can't fix it myself or get a friend to help fix it. It's really awful when I have to ask a friend to fix things when I have a realtor whose responsibility is to take care of these things. I would love for them to just listen to us. I'm not asking them to remodel the whole building. I'm just asking them to fix the basics."

For some tenants the nightmare doesn't begin until they move out.

Joel Bernbaum, a visual communications major at Western, thought he was a perfect tenant.

"We always paid our rent on time, we cleaned house, and never let garbage accumulate," he said. "We kept the place as sanitary as could be expected.

“We were first-time renters and we learned our lesson: that you can get screwed.”

- Joel Bernbaum
Linda Dahlstrom looks out her back door as the broken porchlight dangles overhead on a wire.

with four guys renting (it).”

Apparently, the property management company did not share this opinion. After three-and-a-half weeks Bernbaum and his housemates received a notice from the realty company. The notice informed them they would not get any of their $250 damage deposit back, and an additional $300 was tacked on for damages that the regular damage deposit didn’t cover.

“We were first-time renters and we learned our lesson: that you can get screwed,” Bernbaum said.

One charge was for the replacement of doorknobs that had fallen off. Bernbaum said they were old doorknobs that became stripped and fell off because of normal wear-and-tear. They were charged for a new battery for the smoke alarm, replacement of a glass fixture that had fallen off the bathroom wall, cabinet doors that had loose hinges, cleaning under and behind the kitchen stove and refrigerator, and excessive garbage and trash and beer cans in the bushes around the property. There was also a $15 fee for mowing the lawn.

“We always kept the lawn up and we even fertilized it. We always mowed the lawn. We even mowed it the week before we moved out. It was not out-of-hand at all,” Bernbaum said.

“I was a good tenant, then all of a sudden I have a soiled record. I was (considered) a damaging tenant who destroys places,” he said.

The property management company sent several letters stating if the matter was not resolved by the tenants then their parents would be notified. When Bernbaum refused to pay, the company billed his parents.

“The bottom line is that most of us were over 18,” he said.

“This was just a scare tactic (they) like to use on college students,” he said.

Then the property management company notified the tenants it was considering turning the matter over to a credit collection company.

“It’s a matter of principle to us,” Bernbaum said.

He described the house as being located in “party-ville,” where most of the houses are “trashed” and rented “as is.” He said any damages they caused they repaired before leaving.

He said the dispute made it difficult for him to rent from another realty company.

“I had to sell myself,” Bernbaum said, adding he eventually rented from an independent landlord instead of a company.

Landlord-tenant communication and cooperation can ward off rental nightmares before they begin.

“I was a good tenant, then all of a sudden I have a soiled record. I was (considered) a damaging tenant who destroys places.”

-Joel Bernbaum
Some tenants are not aware of their responsibilities in leasing a place, Laurie Ehman, property manager for Chuckanut Property Management, Inc., said.

Although the company was not the subject of any of the complaints mentioned, she was willing to relate some of its experiences with tenants. She recalled a situation when a tenant, who had rented from her company for a year, came in the office with names of new tenants who had been sharing the rental unit. Ehman told him he had reversed the procedure, because the company must first approve any new tenants before they move in.

"Kids are not thinking about the fact that they're not in charge. They need to go through channels," Ehman said.

She said each time roommates move in or out, the company and tenants should inspect the premises in order to avoid future deposit disputes. Another way to ward off possible rental difficulty is to contact the realty company when a problem arises, she said.

"If (tenants) come to us with a beef or complaint, we'll do what is necessary to make the situation right. We are not always going to be right. I represent all these other people (property owners) and I don't have the right or ability to make a lot of the judgments without calling an owner," Ehman said.

She said another problem crops up when some tenants pay their portion of the rent while others do not.

If only one tenant fails to pay the rent, all the tenants may be evicted.

She stressed that tenants must communicate with landlords or management. "If you have blown it and don't have the (rent) money, then at least 'fess up and get on a payment program (if your landlord allows it).

"Don't wait until we come to you because by the time we (do)....we're ready to get rid of you."

Tenants' Rights 101

Knowing the basics can ward off rental problems

By Darlene Obsharsky

With the current housing crunch in Bellingham, being informed of tenant rights and responsibilities is no longer a luxury but a necessity.

Tenants do have rights, and many rental problems can be avoided if they learn what these rights are. The Residential Landlord-Tenant Act of Washington spells out the responsibilities of the landlord and the tenant.

According to the act, a tenant must always give the landlord written notice of needed repairs and allow a reasonable time for the landlord to make repairs. A "reasonable" time to restore heat or water or fix a dangerous condition is 24 hours. Hot water and electricity must be repaired within 48 hours. The landlord has seven days to repair something that costs less than $75 or one-half month's rent, whichever is less. All other repairs must be made within 30 days.

If repairs are not made in a reasonable time after the landlord receives written notice, the tenant may make the necessary repairs, provided the cost does not exceed $75 or one-half month's rent, and the landlord must start repairs within a reasonable time. The tenant may deduct the repairs in a "professional manner."

After allowing the landlord an opportunity to inspect the tenant's repair work, the tenant may deduct the cost (materials and labor) from the next month's rent. However, deductions cannot exceed one month's rent over a 12-month period.

The Landlord-Tenant Act provides other options, and details other responsibilities. Tenants may have to get tough to receive their money's worth in today's housing crunch. However, tenants who know and demand their rights can turn the nightmare of renting into a sweet dream.
A stroll through campus. The morning was cool. Student activity was slow. A student badly in need of caffeine slept like a baby in the reclined front seat of a two-door car.

A thick, patterned blanket knitted by Grandma, and the flattened, saliva-stained pillow to which the rumpled figure clung would have made any street gutter warm and secure.

The car dash resembled a bathroom shelf. It was cluttered with a well-squeezed tube of paste, battery-operated razor and a stale toothbrush.

Socks and sweaters were scattered among brightly decorated remnants of last night's evening snacks. Candy wrappers, chocolate milk cartons and donut crumbs gave the place a lived-in look.

Lived-in is right, but things could be worse. At least 497 people were homeless at the beginning of fall quarter. Fewer are homeless now and things are looking up. It's been done and survived by many before. I know its been over-played but this tune by Bobby McFerrin illustrates my point:

"Here's a little song I wrote. You might want to sing it note for note. Don't worry, be happy."

Students could be found everywhere the first two weeks of the quarter: in parked cars, tents and the ever-popular friend's floor.

Many of the homeless are still out there, they just have learned how to blend in better with the folks that do have homes.

One-by-one, 497 students used the off-campus housing office in hopes of finding a home during those frantic three weeks before classes began. Their attempts often failed because there were too many homeless and too few homes.

The off-campus housing office was a new feature offered by the Viking Union, the actions of which are guided by the motto: "By the students, for the students."

It was a great idea, but summer employees gained a lifetime's experience dealing with homeless, desperate people and sometimes, the parents of the homeless.

It is universally known that a loud mother can be extremely persuasive but please, keep the parental units on a leash.
With no available housing on-campus and Whatcom County facing a shortage of cheap housing, where do students go?

The P parking lots always have been a good housing alternative for students who own cars, plus, it is a great way to make sure no one steals the stereo.

Another alternative, which could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, would be to beg for help from a shelter. The Light-house Mission on West Holly Street seems to be the most popular with students. The attraction may be the similarity of the mission's meals to the food in Western's cafeteria - even though the menus differ.

The shelter receives fresh venison occasionally. It all depends on how often a deer decorates the highway after being turned inside-out by a speeding truck.

"No one has ever been poisoned since I've been around," said Mike Deeney, the mission's resident manager and cook. The director of the mission, Al Archer, will allow students to stay even though he thinks the environment is not conducive to students.

Strict rules of behavior exist to uplift transients and prevent the mission from becoming another dorm building, Archer said. Transients must attend nightly sermons and be engaged in something constructive to avoid the mother of all vices: idleness. Students also must attend sermons, but are cut a little slack because studying is considered constructive, Archer said.

The mission can house 74 people. At least two students were staying at the mission Fall Quarter.

The mission is a great help for Unfortunately, but it must be a bitch to get a job or convince a date to come over to make s'mores.

"In every life we have some trouble. When you worry you make it double. Don't worry, be happy."

One of the more common alternatives students have is to test their friendships with more fortunate buddies who do have homes.

"Sure, no problem. What are friends for? The trouble is, in most cases, people have no idea that being friends and living in the same space is about as relevant as being heterosexual and being afraid to travel to the San Juans because of the type of the boats that carry people out there.

Most get upset if they see a tiny mouse in the house cleaning crumbs off the carpet, but imagine seeing a larger individual who lays on your couch and floor, watches your TV and reminds you of the grade-school hazards of spending the night at a new friend's house.

Perhaps it might be fascinating for a sociology or psychology student to observe the metamorphosis of friends into combatants engaged in a battle to the death, but to most people the clash of the titans is a battle best left unobserved.

Max Beerbohm offered us this: "To mankind in general Macbeth and Lady Macbeth stand out as the supreme type of all that a host and hostess should not be."

A host's behavior easily can be twisted from friendly to fierce after learning the new roomie often gets into heated arguments with the TV, especially Alf, and wears bear-claw slippers while reading Mad Magazine.

Don't forget the inevitable argument of who will clean the dishes, especially the cute plastic dishes from the last microwave dinner.

The temporary guest will always win the battle, but not the war, which will end with the famous last words, "Why should I clean anything? I don't live here..." The homeless one can always dwell on the trivial triumph while sitting on a cold downtown curb.

"Ain't got no place to lay your head, somebody came and took your bed. Don't worry, be happy."

The last resort for shame­less shelter is the great outdoors in a nice tent. The shelter a tent amiably provides against the rain is amazing; the lack of insulation is also amazing.

Most get upset if they see a tiny mouse in the house cleaning crumbs off the carpet, but imagine seeing a larger individual who lays on your couch and floor, watches your TV and reminds you of the grade-school hazards of spending the night at a new friend's house.

Except for not having a shower, an electrical outlet or warmth, a tent is great for homeless students. Particularly because no rent is due. In fact, a tent can't be all that bad because it has been done before.

In the late '60s, because of a housing shortage, hundreds of students started a commune on the lawn in front of Old Main.

"The landlord say your rent is late, he might have to litigate. Don't worry, be happy."

College has developed a great image as a refuge for loud and large parties of people in drunken stupors, interesting and radical friends who expand our horizons and a groveling ground for thousands of single individuals in heat.

Who among the homeless could have prepared themselves to deal with real-life stresses rather than the fairy-tale life that students lead?

"Ain't got no cash, ain't got no style, ain't got no gal to make you smile. Don't worry, beee happy......Be happy now."
Granoladisco
Fear and loathing in the Square Cow Fun Bar
By Sarah Riley

The experience of scooting your mental baggage off the La-z-boy lounger in your brain, looking past appearances and making room for the reality of a person when you meet is just too way cool!
I mean, it's like, I know because it happened to me in the most major way.

Everybody on campus seems to be on some major granola trip, going to Grateful Dead concerts and like, wearing those sandals that are supposed to be so comfortable but totally don't match with any clothes, and riding mountain bikes down Chuckanut, and wearing those tie-dye shirts and crystals and hanging out in Valhalla.

I'm so sure! It's like there's only one place in this whole town that other people who don't act and dress so weird go to.

Black Angus is a Prince-Madonna-Debbie Gibson-Stacey Q.-crazed, Corona-with-lime drinking, video watching, mini-skirted, steroid sanity island in the midst of a campus gone Gandhi.

At Black Angus, big-haired, frosty-lipped girls in bouquets of two and three sit patiently at booths or form rings around stand-up, mid-bar tables, sipping Blue Hawaiians, bending and swaying to the buzz-cut boys and black-muscle dudes leave the bar together to get smooth in the parking lot. Ron says it's all right for some people, but he personally never would date any girl he met while bouncing or socializing at the BA.

Frayed, Ron.
Shelley, a senior from Tacoma who never has watched MTV and buys her own Bacardi and Cokes, goes to Black Angus once a week, but not more than that because she doesn't want to make a habit of it.

Okay, like Shelley's really, really good friend, Debbie went to the BA one Saturday night and told every guy who asked her to dance that she was the bar manager there. So like, all she had to do to get out of dancing with some grommy dude with a monobrow was say she had to go sign checks or stock the bar or something, then his feelings wouldn't get hurt for being so butt-sauce ugly.

Okay, so then she met this guy named Calvin, who wasn't grommy at all, and they danced together, and pretty soon they fell in love. Is that romantic, or what? Well, I guess she had to tell him later she wasn't a manager at Black Angus, but he loved her so much, he didn't even mind that she kind of lied because he probably hadn't been totally honest when he said he drove a Beamer 320si and vacationed in Aruba every year during Thanksgiving break.

"After a night of carding, all the faces seem to run together," he explains.

Weird, because everyone at Black Angus has this unique elan, that certain 'Je ne sais quoi' (people who speak French are so exotic) about themselves. But Ron red-shirts for the Viking football team and studies business, so he knows how to read people.

Lots of times he sees chicks and dudes leave the bar together to get smooth in the parking lot. Ron says it's all right for some people, but he personally never would date any girl he met while they were socializing at the BA.

Guyee, Ron.
Shelley, a senior from Tacoma who never has watched MTV and buys her own Bacardi and Cokes, goes to Black Angus once a week, but not more than that because she doesn't want to make a habit of it.

Okay, so maybe lucky stuff like this doesn't happen every day, but if Sean and Madonna can make it happen, why not real live people too?

As a matter of fact, I was at the BA two weeks ago and met this mondo-cool, smoldering babe with a tan. He had this silky, black hair, sort of spiked on top, and kind of looked like Cher's boyfriend, you know, that guy who used to bake bagels.

We met while I was watching the new Pebbles video and sipping a draft (no dudes had offered to buy me a White Russian yet). My Swatch Watch got snagged in my silver hoop earrings when I flipped my hair back, and this total god, who looks like he just walked out of People magazine, saunters over and says, "Do you need some help?" Just like that. Do you need some help? It was just like, mass spiritual.

So, later, we're mashing on the steel dance floor and it's so romantic because all these strobe lights are bouncing off the mirrored walls and I'm thinking we probably should go back to my dorm room, and he majorly starts grabbing my butt. I'm so sure! What does he think I am? (I was still glad I wasn't wearing underwear, because I totally hate panty-lines.) He really got pushy and kept mauling me even when I said, 'no' and really meant it.

Out of nowhere, or probably the men's bathroom, this bohemian-looking guy with a blond ponytail and a peace-sign earring grabs the god by his suspenders and peels him off me. Then, Tony (the ponytail guy) kicks the god off the dance floor, which probably hurt his foot because he was only wearing those oatmeal-colored wool socks under his Birkenstocks.

I wasn't sure I wanted to stand next to Tony because I just don't usually let my friends see me with people who dress so weird, but he had saved me from the pervert. We talked and discovered a mutual love of contemporary French literature and so naturally fell to analyzing various works of Camus and Sartre. (See? I can be literate, too.) He's really into volcano climbing in South America and he road-tripped in a school bus to a Dylan concert this summer. I was just dying to hear more, so we left Black Angus to go to some artsy coffee house (I love that espresso stuff) and like, relate.

He's a business major.
FADING
Architecture stands as a tribute to the passage of time. From the bricks in Fairhaven to the concrete of Georgia-Pacific, it represents both utilitarian purpose and the people's lives spent in its company.

In Bellingham today, a century of architecture is caught in transition. Different generations of it lie one atop the other in tenuous balance. In the vacant alleyways and old railways, from the piers to the cobblestone roads and in the fading ads fronted by "for-sale" signs are the hopes for growth and the fears of loss.

These photos are of Bellingham's fading images caught in growth and loss.

IMAGES

By Don Hunger
LONG DISTANCE LOVE

Trying to stay close when you are far apart

By Roseann Jager

It is 10 p.m. She throws herself on the bed and props her head against the wall. Her piercing, dark brown eyes impatiently dart toward the phone.

The nightly ritual begins. Her roommates know better than to use the phone at this time of night.

At 10:10 the phone barely chirps out a ring as she snatches the receiver.

"Where have you been?" she asks.

"I had to work late," he says.

Long-distance relationships. Can love last?

At one time or another, most people find themselves involved in a long-distance relationship.

For students, keeping up with the stress of college, and possibly working a part-time job, can be strain enough. Even if the love is there, a long-distance relationship can demand more energy than many students possess.

Some people believe long-distance love is not worth the accompanying loneliness, large phone bills, extra effort and time apart.

But Shellie Petrie, an English/secondary education major...
J.D. Phillips, a marketing/economics major, graduated last December and moved to Bellevue.

"We dated five months before he finished school, and I don't know that either one of us thought it would work 90 miles apart," Petrie said. "But it has turned out to be a real positive experience for both of us."

Many couples agree it takes a variety of things for a long-distance relationship to work.

"First thing you have to do is trust them, and if you don't, your mind is going to wonder what they're doing all the time," Phillips said. "You have to really love the person, and make sure they love you as well."

Phillips said, half-jokingly, that spending money on Petrie is what makes their relationship work. Then, in a more serious tone, he said trust and a "good healthy love," are essential, while Petrie stressed the importance of communication.

"I think we tend to talk more than couples who are together all the time, and our phone bills reflect that," she said. Most couples agree the worst part about having a long-distance relationship is the costly phone bills.

Petrie said she and Phillips talk at least once, sometimes twice daily. Petrie estimated she spends between $70-$100 per month in phone bills.

Steve Biggs, a communications major at Western, has dated Chris Chamness for five years. Last May she found a job as a flight attendant in Long Beach, Calif. Biggs' phone bill is also exorbitant.

"We talk on the phone about once a week," Biggs said. "And we see each other at least once a month for three or four days."

"One advantage to our relationship is she can fly up here anytime she wants because she has those benefits," he said.

Biggs said being separated from Chamness by 1,360 miles can have its pitfalls.

"There are times when you just wanna' have your gal with ya'. Or sometimes, when you want to talk and just be together, and you can't," he said.

Some couples may see each other only on weekends or every few months.

Phillips said weekends are best because he appreciates the limited time he and Petrie can spend together.

Petrie believes a big downfall of only seeing each other on the weekends is not being able to share the week's experiences together.

"With a shoulder-slumping sigh, she added, "The really hard part after a weekend together is saying good-bye for another week apart."

"There are so many things that happen in our days, that it is impossible to share everything disappointing or exciting that happens to us," she said. "So sometimes one or the other of us feels left out of the other person's life."

Michael King, Ph.D., associate director of Western's Counseling Center, said when couples only see each other on the weekends, time may be spent getting reacquainted.

"They experience each other when they're on their best behavior and being romantic," King said. "They're not around each other when they're tired, sick or depressed."

"Because time together is usually so limited, couples may pretend everything is okay instead of facing the problems that arise," King said.

"It makes it harder to put things on the table."

He encourages couples to interrupt that pattern and discuss issues that may be important to them.

He also said jealousy and feelings of inadequacy or inferiority can ruin a relationship.

Julie Carney, a 1988 Western graduate, accepted an internship in her hometown of Portland, Ore. last spring. Her fiance almost broke off their engagement as a result.

One person usually gets left behind when school is over for one and not the other, Carney said. Her fiance still was going to Western and he felt she had deserted him.

"He just wasn't busy like I was," Carney said. "You have to look at it realistically and know that it's not going to be easy."

"He really resented the fact that I wanted to leave. He didn't understand why I needed to go home. I wanted to go home to do an internship," she said.

Her desire to spend time in her hometown and get away from Bellingham for a while was important.

"I had to do it," she said.

But time alone can prove to be positive because it allows both people to develop their independence.

"J.D. can devote a lot of time to his career, while I can concentrate on my final and most important year of studies," Petrie said emphatically.

Biggs believes being apart is a positive situation for his relationship because he has one year of school left and Chamness just is starting her career.

"Who knows where we will end up?" he said with a grin.

"We're both doing what we want to be doing at this time. We're both growing ourselves."

They both agree that, for now, being apart is best.

Fran Fritz, 1988 Western graduate, recently found a teaching position in Port Angeles and left her boyfriend of five years in Bellingham.

King believes being apart also gives couples the freedom to develop friendships outside of their relationship.

Fritz said, "You have the chance to meet someone else, and may realize that this person is not the one, or it can reinforce your feelings."

Smiling, she added, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder."

"The really hard part after a weekend together, is saying good-bye for another week apart."

-Shellie Petrie

"You have to look at it realistically and know that it's not going to be easy."

-Julie Carney
Amika attempts to paint over graffiti in Watts, California. She was helping her mother and other members of a group which opposes gangs. Photographer Jesse Tinsley captured this shot while interning at the Los Angeles Times.