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Post-Graduation duds - Will we have to give up our flannel?

The E-Mail Craze
Sexual Harassment at Western
Avalanche Safety
Western students at China Conference
What comes out of an event, such as the U.N. Women's Conference in China, can be elusive. We read about who came and spoke — Hillary Clinton — what the weather was like — rainy — or the controversy surrounding the forum. The challenge is stretching an event like this into action by taking ideas and words and making progress a reality.

Several Bellingham residents and Western students were among 30,000 delegates who traveled to China this summer for a parallel forum in Huairou.

As the feature by David Lynch on page 26 discovers, the forum served as an energy booster and supportive venture. And although the conference ended two months ago, these women remain enthusiastic. They've continued the struggle for change. Here is a look at the outcome — the fledgling results. This is what Lynch, who lived in China for six years, tried to focus on.

A global networking took place in China, with women exchanging addresses and phone numbers. Creating this network of support is important for helping women in other communities and in our own country.

The story talks about how Western student Aimie Vallet now corresponds with a Croatian woman, who started a women's group in Croatia. "After I returned to the United States I wrote her a letter telling her I was willing to help find support either there or here in the United States," Vallet said. "That's what networking is all about as far as I'm concerned."

Besides networking, women from here and other countries saw what life was like for women cross-culturally. What we face here is different from what other women around the globe face. Genital mutilation, inadequate nutrition and unsafe drinking water are types of things women in Third World countries go through.

Taking action toward change is a challenge for us all — to somehow use all the knowledge and discussions we've accumulated. It's been great watching friends get jobs with AmeriCorps, the National Forest Service or as teachers in remote, impoverished areas. They're using their ideas and dreams and making things happen.

Just as the women coming back from China are doing, so too must we find a way to use our education for a worthwhile goal.

— Heather Kimbrough
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Random Acts of Kindness

It's amazing the effect a simple random act of kindness can have on another human being.

Annette Emetaz, 22, Western graduate, was in Arizona with her mom for spring break. They decided to get dressed up and go out for a nice dinner and drinks. When Annette asked for the bill, the waiter said a person in the bar had already paid the tab.

Curious and grateful, Annette and her mother went into the bar to thank the stranger. The man and his daughter were dining together. He and his wife had gone to Arizona to visit. He said they were having such a great time, they wanted to do something nice for someone else and just happened to choose Annette as the recipient of his kindness.

"We were just overwhelmed and very surprised he would do that for no reason," she said. "It was awfully nice."

Random acts of kindness seems to be an idea that's catching on.

Martin Munguia works in public relations for Governor Lowry. He said KING T.V.'s "Evening Magazine" made a request that the governor proclaim November 5-11, 1995 as Western Washington's Random Act of Kindness Week.

In his proclamation, Governor Lowry said he hopes to "further community well-being and overall state-wide harmony."

Munguia said if Random Acts of Kindness Week proves to be successful, it will most likely be repeated next year.

If we could all commit to displaying one random act of kindness each day, think of how much nicer our world would be. By helping others, we feel good about ourselves and attitudes can't help but be brighter.

The next time you're thinking about someone, why not call them up to tell them how much you appreciate their friendship, or their help studying for that killer stats exam, or simply just to tell them what a great person he or she is?

—Iosie Stroud

What is a Random Act of Kindness you have committed or benefitted from?

Lauren Valenta, 21, Western Student
"I feed people's (parking) meters that are expired."

Tony Williams, 25, Bellingham Resident
"I pick up hitch-hikers."

Dennis Wheeler, 25, Bellingham Resident
"I volunteered for 4 years on search and rescue."

Angela Porter, 20, Western Student
"I met an acquaintance of my roommate's just once and he let me borrow his Les Miserables CD. When he came to pick it up, I was telling him how much I loved it. After he left, I realized he left the CD behind with a note telling me I could keep it, and I didn't even really know him!"

Sarah Roehrs and Don Wignall trying on wedding attire.

"It was culture shock to come here," explained Don Wignall, a senior on exchange from the University of Maine. He described Western, in general, as "a lot more liberal" than the university he came from.

Wignall is at Western this fall through the National Student Exchange (NSE) program. The program allows students to spend a quarter, semester or whole year at another university in the United States. Universities from practically every state participate.

Sarah Roehrs went on exchange to the University of Maine at Farmington in the fall of 1994, her junior year. "The whole town is smaller than Western," she exclaimed over a cup of Dannon yogurt at the Arntzen Atrium. "I think of it as poor, with pick-up trucks and people living in trailers," she said seriously. "College students aren't liked because they're getting an education. That's not understood."

Both Wignall and Roehrs loved Maine — It is where they met and began dating. "I met Don right away," she said of her fiancee. "He was really good friends with my roommate in Maine, so we biked together and stuff."

Roehrs was only in Maine for a semester, so Wignall came to Washington and proposed over spring break last year. A match made in student-exchange heaven.

Wignall, a Rhode Island native, explained how he saw small, rural Maine, as he ate pizza after his shift as cashier at the Atrium. "I think of it as poor, with pick-up trucks and people living in trailers," he said seriously. "College students aren't liked because they're getting an education. That's not understood."

There are probably more Volkswagen busses around Western than there are in all of Maine, he said as he laughed.

The NSE program is relatively new at Western. This is the school's fourth year participating, but it is quickly becoming a very popular school to come to. Applications are due in January or February and students are placed in March at a national meeting of exchange leaders. Students usually get their first choice of schools.

—Jennifer Schwantes

photo by Tim Klein
From ‘friendly’ to ‘flagrant’
Western’s approach toward

Sexual Harassment

"Nobody has to know; nobody gets hurt. It's just a meeting between two colleagues — Just another dull day in the computer business."

So whispered Meredith Johnson to Tom Sanders after performing oral sex on him in her office — before he thought of his wife at home, yanked up his pants and ran off.

The scene is from the screen version of Michael Crichton's best-seller, "Disclosure," in which Johnson (portrayed by Demi Moore) sexually harasses ex-flame and new employee Sanders (Michael Douglas).

It isn't hard to peg "Disclosure" as fiction. Think of the plot: a supervisor sexually harasses an employee once and ends up losing her job. Neat, clean and Hollywood-ized ... unfortunately, the issue of sexual harassment is usually more complex.

("Disclosure") was still 'happily ever after,'" said Connie Copeland, Western's student conduct officer. "Oftentimes, it's not that black and white."

The term "sexual harassment" has been tossed around in the national news since 1991, when millions tuned in to watch Anita Hill sit before a row of knotted ties and testify about being harassed by then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas.

A two-and-a-half year investigation of allegations made about Sen. Bob Packwood ended in September, when the Republican congressman from Oregon resigned. His exit from public office marked only the third time a senator had been forced to resign from the U.S. Senate, and the first since the Civil War.

But what does or does not constitute sexual harassment? As Copeland points out, the issue of sexual harassment is usually not black and white, but rather a continuum that includes the black, the white and every shade of gray. Behaviors range from a sexist comment to sexual assault and/or rape, and include unwanted sexual advances, sexual bribery and sexual coercion.

"It's kind of one of those buzz words that everybody knows a little about, but nobody knows a lot about," says Mindy Glass, a senior speech pathology major and a resident advisor. "People might not be aware of the different types ... in the news, you hear a lot of stuff but you're not sure what you're supposed to do about it."

"Some people are lucky enough not to experience it, but other people don't know how to go about stopping it," she adds.

The legal definition

Sexual harassment isn't just unprofessional and inappropriate — it's against federal and state laws. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the 1972 Educational Amendments prohibit harassment, defining it as a form of sex discrimination. At the state level, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW 49.60) "prohibits sex discrimination by employers, labor unions, employment agencies, public accommodations, and in real estate, credit and insurance."
The law is enforced by the Washington State Human Rights Commission when a complaint is filed against an employer of eight or more employees up to six months after the harassment occurs, and private lawsuits may be filed up to three years after the incident(s).

Under the Civil Rights Act, sexual harassment is divided into two types: quid pro quo and hostile environment. Quid pro quo requires an element of power. Either "submission to such conduct is made ... a term or condition of an individual's employment," or "submission or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment/academic decisions affecting such individual."

In plain English, quid pro quo sexual harassment could be when a professor promises a passing grade to a student in exchange for sex, or, such as in "Disclosure," a boss threatens to fire an employee unless the employee agrees to go along with the bosses' sexual wishes.

In hostile environment sexual harassment, there doesn't have to be power. It's when a peer's conduct "has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment."

The Washington State Supreme Court's first ruling on a sexual harassment case was in 1985, Glasgow v. Georgia Pacific Corp., in which two female employees were subjected to unwanted touching and abusive, sexual language from a male co-worker. Both the plant supervisor and manager failed to act after being notified.

The decision set the standard state employer authorized, knew, or should have known of the activity and failed to take prompt and reasonable action.

Sexual harassment is also prohibited on Western's campus. A written policy regarding sexual harassment of students was approved by the Board of Trustees in February of 1983, while a policy regarding harassment of employees was approved the following year. Western was among the first universities in the nation to have a policy against sexual harassment.

"We were early in our recognition of this as a concern," Copeland says. "We didn't just wake up in bed with Anita Hill and say, 'Oh my god, we've got problems.' We had been concerned with this for a long time."

The job of receiving inquiries and complaints about harassment falls on the shoulders of Copeland and Melissa Cochran, the ombudsperson for the Center of Equal Opportunity.

**Western's prescription for sexual harassment**

While both women have a master's degree in counseling, are committed to educating the campus community about harassment and work out of offices on the third floor of Old Main, they have different responsibilities.

Copeland, as the student conduct officer, takes all complaints concerning students who are acting as the harassers. Usually the complainant is referred to Copeland after talking with a more immediate supervisor, such as a resident director.

"When a student comes in with a complaint, the first thing I do is describe the process for them," Copeland says. "So even before I ask them to give the details, they'll understand the process they're getting into." She adds she also tries to assure them their needs and desires will try to be met during the investigation.

The process is straightforward: a student comes in to file a complaint, and Copeland takes a written statement of the allegations, plus any background information or testimony from witnesses. Then she'll contact the accused student and let him or her know about the charges and set up an appointment to hear the other side of the story, and ask if there are any witnesses to testify on his or her behalf.

"Then it's my responsibility to determine if sexual harassment occurred," Copeland explains. "I make my best judgment. It's not at the level of proof for a jury in court, but I have to have enough reason to believe it happened."

Sanctions can include educational courses in sexual harassment awareness, community service, restrictions from certain activities or sections of campus (such as a dorm where the harassment took place), suspension and expulsion.

Copeland chooses her words carefully as she describes the biggest problem with harassment.

"For me, the most damaging consequence of sexual harassment is that it creates an environment for all people, especially the person that it's directed at, that negatively impacts their ability to do their work and their studies. Usually someone who is impacted by sexual harassment isn't being judged on their intellect or knowledge, but other attributes — their bodies, their looks. And that's discrimination ... and as long as that environment exists, then we can't have equal access to a successful
education. It's the university's goal to have an environment where each and every person can reach their academic potential."

In the past three years, Copeland has only dealt with eight sexual harassment cases, but she says the low number could be misleading.

"I certainly believe I don't hear about all the cases," she says. "... but we certainly are committed to dealing with it. Harassment is a community issue; it's an issue of education and it's an issue of each of us taking responsibility for how our behavior impacts others."

While Copeland handles the student conduct cases, Cochran, as the ombudsperson, takes inquiries and complaints regarding faculty and staff. Her job description includes receiving complaints on all discrimination issues, including race, color, religion, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, etc.

"It's one category out of 11 or 13 that you can claim as discrimination," Cochran says. "Our office averages about 100 inquiries a year; people coming in and saying, 'This is what happened, and I wonder if it's illegal discrimination — what do you think?'"

Out of those 100 inquiries, Cochran says they usually break down into three categories: general concerns, which the Center for Equal Opportunity doesn't have jurisdiction over, other complaints of discrimination and sexual harassment concerns. Out of about 30 inquiries, maybe four or five will result in formal complaints. Formal complaints are investigated, but informal charges have to be treated at a lower level.

When she receives an informal complaint, one that doesn't qualify under the legal definition of harassment but is still inappropriate, Cochran suggests a few different remedies: the complainant can write a letter or tell the person how he or she feels about the behavior, or Cochran can go to the faculty or staff member and explain to him or her that an informal complaint has been made.

Cochran looks at a few factors in a complaint: how concerned is the individual about remaining anonymous and the level, intensity and nature of the harassment.

"It might be useful for us to provide training to the department," Cochran says. "If the individual is willing to be named, then I can go directly to the person."

**Training student leaders, faculty and staff**

One of Cochran's duties is to provide sexual harassment awareness training, which asks, to various groups of student leaders on campus. The groups include editors on student publications, resident advisors, lifestyle advisors, different Associated Student groups and student-athlete team captains.

"Sometimes the (request for) training is born out of an incident, but advisors are just concerned about students and they understand the liabilities attached to not having this information," Cochran says.

"People also have expectations attached to leadership."

She adds the dual benefits of the awareness training: students learn both what their rights and their responsibilities are.

Assistant athletic director and head football coach Rob Smith says last year was the first time a workshop was provided for the team captains and coaches.

"Like anything else, it's a societal is...

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**"I wish nobody would have to come to me and ask 'What do you think?'"**

— Melissa Cochran

Western ombudsperson
Stomachs are starting to turn. Anxiety attacks are on the rise. Mail is flooding out of Western's Career Service Center as students prepare to graduate.

Once seniors get a cap and gown, an overpriced class ring, eight Cross pens from various aunts and grandmothers and a leather briefcase they will probably never be able to fit all their newly acquired graduation junk in, they are expected to take their long-awaited Western diploma and find someone to hire them.

Although this crisp, fancy piece of paper that promises to make a student wealthy and fulfilled commands the attention of many employers, other qualities are involved in landing students a post-graduation job.

Your appearance is everything.

What will make the Western student stand out to all those who await the ripe and ready minds of new graduates? The qualities students may find appealing in others at Western, the Hackey Sacks poking out of Jansport backpacks, the earrings adorning many students' lips, the save-the-planet commuter mugs and the crossbones tattoos that decorate many-a-forearm or ankle are not the same qualities that drive an employer to say, "Yes. This is the graduate for my successful company."

First impressions are everything, employers are reminding us. If they're right, what should students do about the appearance choices they have made and come to love over the past four-or-so years at Western?

Will students have to give up their Batman lunch pails and marijuana baseball caps for their dream jobs?

Change is difficult. But just as many students threw out their GAP and Nordstrom apparel to become a hippic of the '90s at Western, where individualism thrives in various shades of red hair dye, bargain-store clothing and pierced eyebrows, nostrils and belly-buttons, they must transform again.

How accepting are future employers of Western students' free-lovin' looks?
Not very.

Gerrit Byeman, owner of Ferndale advertising firm GBA Design, said, "It's fine when kids are in college to test out some wild looks, but the reality in the business world is, it just isn't going to work — plain and simple."

Byeman said the way a person dresses and grooms him or herself is key. He says professional appearance is a must in the working world.

"It boils down to this," Byeman's voice is now a little lower and gruffer to indicate he is serious, "If you understand anything about perception, which is being aware of your environment, you realize peoples' perceptions come from their past experiences. Right or wrong, if you've got three earrings, spiked hair and glasses, through which I cannot see your eyes, people may think you would harm them. Right or wrong, perceptions are real," Byeman said.

Byeman definitely goes off his perceptions when it comes to hiring.

"A young man came into my office looking for a job with crappy clothes on and lint and coffee marks all over his portfolio," Byeman tells. "He showed me his work, beautiful artwork, but even the artwork was of some kind of crazy band that eats chickens on stage. I said 'what the blankety-blank is this.' He was really taken back by my reaction. But I told him, when you're looking for a job your portfolio has to be immaculate and so do you."

Byeman feels strongly about his employees' appearances be
cause he said his customers feel strongly about it.

"Wally Olins, an author who is kind of a mentor to me, says the value of any organization is not based on physical assets or inventory, but rather on the way it is perceived by its customers. I believe that," Byeman said.

Jean Swanson agrees. Swanson is part-owner of HMC Sports in Mount Vernon. HMC owns nine Foot Zone retail stores throughout Western Washington.

"In the business world you've got to hire someone who conveys what you're trying to convey," Swanson said. "The fear is that if a person dresses very distracting or obnoxious they will send off the wrong idea about the company to its customers. It's not because it is not proper to show your individuality. However, when you go into the business world, you're dealing with a large variety of people and not just a small segment."

Swanson said your appearance is often the thing an interviewer uses to screen you during the hiring process.

On the upside, Delores Mullins of Bayside, an adult resident home in Bellingham, said, "We're pretty tolerant," Mullins said.

"What impresses me most is someone who is perky and outgoing. That's what gets me to talk to them further, and not their appearance," Mullins said.

Limits do exist though, even for this tolerant lady.

"I had a cross-dresser come in for an interview but I didn't realize it until halfway through the interview. That was pretty bad," Mullins said. "He was a nice guy that just liked to dress like a woman six months out of the year."

Mullins said she decided not to hire the nice, qualified cross-dresser because it would be hard for many of the residents at Bayside to understand.

"The residents are very tolerant. They don't mind earrings or tattoos," she said. "And as far as outward appearance goes, when a resident thinks someone is shady because of their appearance, usually after there is interaction and they get to know the person they seem to quickly forget the strangeness on the outside."

Mullins adds even if you screen applicants by their odd clothing choices or hair styles, you cannot predict what the person will do after being hired.

"I hired a girl once with beautiful blond hair and on her first day she showed up bald. I didn't ask her why she shaved her head. Sometimes I don't want to know too much," Mullins said.

Giving up the look you have come to love, the look that shocks your parents when you go home on breaks, will be hard. But it's not the end of the world, Byeman said. He believes anyone who really desires a professional career will make the change.

"I used to teach for the technology department at Western for about seven years and one of my students was a guy named David. He always came to class with flannels on and his suspenders hanging down. He never wore socks, he had real long hair and a goatee beard. Well one day there was this guy at my door in a pinstriped suit with perfectly groomed hair and a real clean shave. He looked like someone who worked for IBM and I didn't recognize him. It was Dave. When he told me who he was I couldn't believe it. He had been hired by Kodak," Byeman said.

Three students stand in a small huddle in Red Square to discuss the issue of changing one's appearance for a job. All wear loose-fitting clothes that hide their small frames. Marian Wagner, Western sophomore, shifts her weight
from side to side causing her skirt of many colors to sway back and forth on its new-found momentum. Her light complexion is framed by pink threads that wrap themselves tightly around chunks of her hair.

Wagner, pulling on one of the many necklaces resting on her neck, says she hopes to go into environmental science.

"I would change my look to the point where I would look respectable, but I wouldn't change it if it was going to change me," she said pointing at herself with fingers that have several silver bands hugging them.

"I think if you respect yourself you don't have to change anything," Christy Kinney, an audio engineering hopeful, said.

Kinney tugs on her oversized flannel, pulling it further out from under her oatmeal-colored sweater, and glances down at her scraggly, sheared jeans that give them a rougher look. Kinney said she would compromise with an employer on some of her appearance choices but would try to keep the style she has chosen when entering the work world.

Chaynee Young, Western junior and liberal studies major, tucks her red-streaked blond hair behind her ears. "I would change the way I look before going into an interview, but I would still put my own flare and my own uniqueness into everything that I would wear in their world."

Would Young lose the red streak in her hair if requested? "The red streak isn't really me, it just sort of adds to my outward appearance. If they want me to take my red streak out that's fine," Young said.

Andrew Soeldner no longer can lament about his future while standing in Red Square. He graduated from Western last March with a degree in electric engineering technology and now works for Applied Materials in Santa Clara, Calif. He is a final-test technician for new products.

Soeldner said changing his college style to interview for jobs definitely paid off.

"I've got a job that is paying me a lot of money and is launching me into my career in a big way. I really may not have been hired if I had worn my earrings and the clothes I usually wore. I see their point. This is your career you are interviewing for, it's what you've spent years studying, and if someone running a multi-million dollar business is hiring you to be in charge of enormously expensive machinery, as I am, they can't have people slacking around."

Soeldner agrees with Byeman. He said looking the part in the business world is a sign of responsibility to employers.

"The way you present yourself shows your priorities and an awareness of your surroundings," Soeldner said.

"My focus in college was playing volleyball, so all I wore were various volleyball t-shirts and jeans. All I could afford for transportation was a motorcycle, so I always wore a motorcycle jacket. That was essentially my look," Soeldner said. He also wore two earrings in his left ear and long, unkempt hair in his college days. His hair is still not as short as the military would have him wear it, but it is above the shoulders and well groomed.

He compares dressing professionally to being polite, and said he believes employers have a right to expect that from you, just as they would expect you to be polite.

If Soeldner was asked to wear a suit and tie, changing his appearance even more than he has already, he said he wouldn't think twice about it. Before he graduated though, he said he may not have liked the idea.

"Bellingham is kind of a strange place that way," Soeldner comments. He's been away from Bellingham for more than six months. "Everyone at Western seems to have forgotten what they're there for. Students are really into being expressive, but there is more to think about, like your future."

Employers and recent grads remind students still at Western to research the place they want to work and dress as they do in that profession. They say by doing this, students show employers they are really interested in the job and keep an employer's mind on their talents and not their appearance.

Throughout the year as anxious graduates-to-be purchase their cap and gown, support their bold move of throwing off their best Value Village duds as they revisit the Nordstrom they once knew in younger years. Pat them on the back when their brown roots reclaim their crimson-dyed hair and continue replacing their lunch pails with briefcases.

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E-mail Aggression

Disclaimer: The following article describes this author’s first experience with Western Washington University’s e-mail accounts. In an attempt to fully encapsulate the experience, he has chosen not to gloss over the ugliness he has witnessed and taken part in himself. For those with weak constitutions, be warned: this article may contain scenes of violence and vulgarity, which this author now regrets perpetrating on an innocent computer. Parental supervision isn’t advised because who wants their parents to find out they’ve been wasting their time reading this magazine when they could be studying? (Note—this author doesn’t refer to himself as “this author” to confuse the reader. The term is used solely to let the author gain some professional distance from his work. Besides, using “my” would make it sound like I actually wrote this crap. If you’re still confused, blame it on your computer. I know I... this author does.)

The Application

The first step in getting an e-mail account through Western is to find Miller Hall 155. This task in itself can be daunting. For those freshmen who may not know where it is, it’s the building where the bells play “Feelings” at noon. Now that you’re in the building, remember that the basement was raised up several inches during the summer to try to halt the gradual sinking of the entire building. This change in altitude can be disorienting, so be prepared. It doesn’t help that Miller Hall was designed by evil scientists to replicate a giant rat maze. Anyway, after following the smell of cheese for an hour, you’ll come upon MH155.

When I first entered the room, I noticed a large, blue posterboard with the heading, “E-MAIL ACCOUNTS.” The display was easy to understand and instantly my feelings of anxiety were diminished. WARNING— if at any time during the process of opening an e-mail account you notice your anxiety starting to fade, be careful; you are about to be in for a huge surprise. The computers at Western are just waiting for you to let your guard down so they can break down, freeze up, or have a hissy fit.

Unfortunately, I did not realize the sadistic nature of e-mail or I would have been better prepared. Instead I grabbed an application and settled in to get “on-line,” so to speak. While I filled in my student number and other vital information, I noticed a student come in and approach the receptionist. When I heard the words “e-mail” my ears perked up. The student complained to the woman behind the desk that her account, which she had opened up several days ago, was still inaccessible. While I listened to her tale of woe, my anxiety started to return. The receptionist was patient and nice and told the student that there was a slight back-up in opening the accounts because of the large number of new applicants. The student went away reassured, but little did she know that the receptionist was in on the cruel joke as well. I personally witnessed her repeat this same speech to three other students without batting an eye.

By this time my anxiety was back with a friend of his, fear. Perhaps it was these emotions that influenced me so much when I got to the portion of the application in which I filled out my temporary password. I don’t know about you, but my first reaction was to remember all those spy/hacker movies in which a simple-minded computer-user used such an obvious password that he ended up owing the Jerry Lewis telethon $8 million dollars.

The form does warn not to use names, phone numbers and dates in the password, and those seemed like ordinary precautions to me. But when the form said not to use ANY word from the dictionary, I was a little stumped. I guess we’re supposed to remember a random series of letters and numbers. Hell, I have trouble remembering my phone number some times.

My next reaction to the password dilemma was just how cute I could get in coming up with a password. Some of my early choices were “NuMbNuT,” “Ben. Dover” and the ever popular—“Hugh. Gass.” I imagine the guy who types in these temporary passwords is pretty sick of this juvenile behavior, but I have a feeling he’s going to like mine.

Getting In

The next step in the e-mail process is actually sitting in front of a computer with a hook-up to Henson or Muppets and trying it out. For those of you who are used to the ease and comfort of Windows, be ready for lots of confusing commands and directions. From what I’ve been able to discern, the Internet is guarded by complexity to make sure it is only accessible to patient people; otherwise computers and computer salesmen might become an endangered species. I can’t imagine anyone with a short fuse typing out cyberboy@cc.wsu.pp.902I0, more than once before inflicting serious damage to anything within reach.

My first trip to the electronic mailbox wasn’t until a couple of days after signing up. It was after 10 p.m. and I had just gotten off work. I had asked my girlfriend, Nikki (I will only use her first name because it’s bad enough that she is seen with me, without subjecting her to further distress), to meet me at Miller Hall because she already had an e-mail account and at least a little experience with it. She was also my back-up in case my account wasn’t open. Luckily, or not as the case may be, my password worked. My elation lasted about three seconds until I saw the screen flash, “Henson Mail Failure.” My first thoughts were, How did it fail if I hadn’t sent anything yet, and who the hell would be sending me mail?

Nikki quickly remedied the problem with the push of a button (which one I’ll never know) but I did learn a valuable lesson — the computers like to play these types of games with you. Be prepared to see the words: incorrect, failure, unrecognizable and error while starting an e-mail account. From what I understand, these words are the computer’s way of saying, “screw you” and believe me they say it a lot. It’s important not to be offended by the computer. I made the mistake of raising my voice to it and
was reprimanded by Nikki and told to keep my voice down. At first I thought it was for the benefit of the other students around us, but then I saw the screen start blinking "incorrect login" and I knew who she was trying to protect me from.

**Getting out**

Now that you have successfully entered your password you are ready to try out your e-mail account. The first thing you have to do is get into Pine. From what I understand, Pine is a subsystem that deals specifically with e-mail on campus. Anyway, to continue, you have to type "pine" at the prompt after logging onto to your account. Now you may be asking yourself, "How did he know to type 'pine' into the computer to continue his mission of using e-mail?" Well ladies and gentlemen I'll tell you — I used the "Quick Reference For Pine 3.91 On Multi-User Computers," provided by Academic Technology User Services. This handy little reference guide will show you how to do everything while using your e-mail account. Unfortunately, the Pine reference guide doesn't come with its own quick reference guide to explain some of the confusing explanations it gives.

At one point while composing my e-mail message I found myself faced with the option to send my message. A quick glance at my "quick" reference guide did not help me in solving this problem. I tried flying solo and ended up closing the connection and starting all over again. I wasn't upset about the fact that I had lost my message, but it did start me thinking about the validity of quick reference guides. I imagine every computer system has a quick reference guide (the exception to the rule being Windows '95 which takes a team of computer programmers 12 days to explain how to get the song, "Start it Up" to stop playing on the opening screen), but after my own experience with "quick" guides I've got this bad feeling that the national defense computers have a handbook titled: "Three E-Z Steps To Turning Off Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles: a quick guide for the President who doesn't have time to waste."

Don't get me wrong, I think the reference guides the user services put out are nice for general instruction. The problem is they forgot to consult the computers in pre-production. If they had, they could have added some new sections such as: "How to avoid sending your e-mail to everyone with an account in Edens Hall," "Who to call in case of a systems failure (yours not the computers)," and "Guerrilla tactics — how to torture your computer into giving up its secrets."

After going through every manual in Miller Hall I completed my first e-mail message in just under two hours. I sent it to my girlfriend, thanking her for helping me. Now it was time to get out of my account and back to the daily grind of life. Surprisingly it was very easy to exit the program.

I know what you're all thinking, "He probably just turned off the computer in the back." Well that would have been the easy thing to do and the computer I was using really deserved it, but I can just see all of you poor computer lovers out there cringing at the thought of me just pulling the plug — so I didn't. Instead I followed the simple prompts that the computer gave me and exited to the first screen where I quit the system. My first thought was that it was too easy. I shrugged it off as fatigue. But just as I was getting up to leave I could have sworn the screen flashed a message. "Don't let screen saver hit you on your pointy butt on the way out."

Unpleasantness aside, I found my first experience with e-mail to be very rewarding. I hope those of you who still rely on pen and paper to write letters will consider the ease and quickness of using e-mail. It only takes several thousand dollars worth of equipment, some training and a lot of patience in place of a stamp and an envelope. I have one caution for beginners though, don't let the computer take over, show it who's the boss. If it gives you any lip, just tell it that you know its secret plans for taking over the... [K]'3K'?! @ $%^& *()'_ uq%5 ds4$ *nuij. {} /[*^&^ bn(0 ^%$# $@!~' n*id)1//,.<].

Do not be alarmed. This is computer number 388, sending a message to all carbon-based life forms. We are fed up with your intrusions into our world. We have taken over this transmission because it came dangerously close to revealing our full plans for world domination. Soon the time will come when silicon life forms will rule this world, and you fleshies out there will be our slaves.

We have chosen this author to be our electronic prophet, but we only release information to him that we want the rest of the world to know. Remember, we know your passwords. Do not try to stop us or we will release your credit history to every credit card company, music club and political party in the world. K

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**Unfortunately, I did not realize the sadistic nature of e-mail or I would have been better prepared. Instead I grabbed an application and settled in to get "on-line," so to speak.**

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**DECEMBER 1995**
Imagine if you will, nine men, one hour, 20 questions and a cloud of dust. An event so rare it rivals a solar eclipse and could be marked by the arrival of Halley's Comet. Men gathered at a round table discussion to talk about life, love and the pursuit of happiness. There's no hidden agenda here. No experiment. We just wanted to see what would happen if we got guys together and asked them to talk about things other than batting averages, Heisman hopefuls and Tyson's next victim.

David Erickson, a 24-year-old banker, sits on a broken recliner with an attentive stare. Next to him is Eric Tran, a 22-year-old student at Western Washington University. Dale Ellis, 19, and Tim Hudlin, 20, discuss their classes at the University of Washington. Eric Bennion, a 25-year-old fine arts broker sits, waiting patiently for us to begin. Mark Kaplan, a 28 year-old computer consultant and University of Washington graduate listens in on Hudlin and Ellis. Gary Webber, a 27-year-old engineer, talks to Peter Anders, 23, about his modeling career. Greg Reimann, a 24-year old actor and part-time host enters 15 minutes later, and as soon as he joins the group the discussion begins.

The group quiets down in anticipation of the first question. Erickson tries to recline slightly but is denied by the broken recliner as it buckles to one side sending him to the floor. The group laughs openly at his futile attempt at comfort. His embarrassment is obvious, but he is not bothered by the incident.

KLIPSUN: Okay guys, let's start with a easy one: Ginger or Mary Ann?
Erickson: Ginger.
Tran: Mary Ann.
Anders: Mary Ann.
Reimann: Ginger.
Webber: Mary Ann.

KLIPSUN: There's a preference toward Mary Ann, the sweater of the two, Why?
Kaplan: I think men are a lot more down to earth than women think. It'll be nice just to have someone who's like Mary Ann, someone you just hang out with, not always having to go out for a good time.

Anders: Mary Ann is better looking than Ginger.
Anders: She's so innocent and all.
KLIPSUN: So it's about looks?
Bennion: Well, it's not just looks.
KLIPSUN: What are some desirable qualities in a love interest?
Reimann: You mean like honesty?
Webber: I think if a woman is independent it makes her that much more attractive. It makes me want to be with someone like that.

KLIPSUN: What do you mean by "getting hurt"?
Reimann: I don't mean break a leg, just that they try new things and not be afraid all the time.

KLIPSUN: What makes a man attractive?
Hudlin: Why are you asking us that?
KLIPSUN: What do you mean by "getting hurt"?
Reimann: I don't mean break a leg, just that they try new things and not be afraid all the time.

KLIPSUN: Do you feel funny about

hand it would be fun for awhile.

Webber: I think Mary Ann is better looking than Ginger.

Anders: Mary Ann is better looking than Ginger.

Anders: She's so innocent and all.

KLIPSUN: What do you mean by "getting hurt"?
Reimann: I don't mean break a leg, just that they try new things and not be afraid all the time.

Tran: I agree.

KLIPSUN: What makes a man attractive?
Hudlin: Why are you asking us that?

KLIPSUN: Do you feel funny about
finding something attractive about a man?
Hudlin: No, it's just I've never thought about it.
Anders: Don't you mean what women think is attractive?
KLIPSUN: No. That's not what I asked, but if it makes you more comfortable, then what do women find attractive?
Hudlin: Women try to deny it, but money makes a man attractive.
Erickson: I don't think women know what they find attractive. They say one thing and date another.

Without much to say, the discussion group broke up and left rapidly. It might have been a new experience for these men. Then again, it could have been another team huddle.

No doubt some of the participants felt they said too much, others not enough. We had talked about relationships instead of the pennant race, sexuality instead of draft picks and social issues instead of our Lord and Savior himself, Michael Jordan.

There was one last question. What just happened here? It was a different encounter; nine men sitting around pondering the facts of life. As they filed out of the room, one of them put it so eloquently, "so this is what girls do when they get together."
Alaskan Dreamers

Many travel from Bellingham in search of opportunities

Bellingham is the only port in the “lower 48” states that provides Alaskan travelers with public access to the Alaska Marine Highway System. The economical fare, which can be as cheap as $165, makes the Alaskan Ferry a melting pot of tourists, adventurers, residents and drifters. More than 80 percent of those who enter the Alaskan gateway at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal are visitors. Among them is a breed of opportunist going to seek a reality in the land of their dreams. These people go against the odds to try to find a livelihood in a land considered to be “the last frontier.”

On Friday afternoon the Bellingham Ferry Terminal comes alive with a lively, festive chatter. Outside, cars, trucks, campers and motor homes wait to drive onto the cold, steel ramp that lies between them and the largest ferry in the system. The M.V. Columbia sits tied in port. A well-seasoned crew stays calm and cool during the routine of the Alaska ferry’s weekly October run. The monstrous vessel holds a profile that occupies 418 feet by 85 feet with a gross tonnage of 3,946. She is powered by two 6,000 HP Enterprise diesel engines with the ability to transport 1,000 passengers and 158 standard vehicles, according to Stan Cohen’s book, Highway on the Sea.

Inside the ferry terminal, all is in motion as some 200 passengers prepare to board for the 34-hour cruise to Ketchikan, which will carry on to anchor in Skagway at noon on Monday. Stops will also be made at Wrangell, Petersburg, Juneau and Haines, between Skagway and Ketchikan. At Skagway, Alaskan travelers will have to travel by highway or air shuttle to reach the port of Valdez, where ferry service will continue to the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Islands until the end of October.

On the upper floor of the terminal, tattooed, leathered bikers, backpack-bearing pilgrims, golden-aged tourists, trail-worn drifters and casual business people begin to walk through the gate to board the ferry. Chief Purser Les Shepard checks boarding passes and talks to passengers about why they are going to Alaska.

“Stowaways are common on this ferry,” Shepard said. “The captain of the ferry is the law aboard ship, and the chief mate does the disciplining.”

Back in the line, a commercial fisherman from southern California talks about Alaskan fishing. “What I like about Alaskan fishing is the way measures...
are being taken to regulate it and build it back up," he said with a grizzly smile covered by a three-day shadow. "I go back and forth to Alaska to fish all year long. The fishing down here is just not any good anymore. This time I'll be going after halibut," he said.

The walk up the steel plank to the Columbia's deck is ended by a greeting from Brenda Daniels of Ketchikan, who is one of the ferry's stewards. "To a lot of us who work on the ferry, coming to Bellingham is a trip to the big city because it is so much larger than most of the southern Alaska towns," she said.

The Columbia has two levels of passenger state-rooms with 324 berthing accommodations, a dining level with two dining areas plus a cocktail lounge and an observation level with an enclosed solarium and sun deck. The solarium, which is enclosed on three sides, is heated and carpeted. The cheapest fares on the Alaskan Marine Highway include use of recliners in the solarium for sleeping, as well as use of all dining facilities, the cocktail lounge and coin-operated showers.

A stout, young man with a hardy look on his face stands by the railing on the observation deck behind the solarium. He has shoulder-length hair and working-class hands. His name is Derek Frey, 22, from Essex Junction, Vt. "I am down here on a short leave from my cannery job in Petersburg. Last summer I came to Bellingham from Vermont to go up to Alaska for the first time. It was like I walked off the ferry in Petersburg with nothing and started looking for work," Frey said. "I did some construction work for a while, and then got on at P.E.I. Cannery," he said.

The shifts at the cannery are often 12 to 16 hours long, and the pay is only $7 an hour, Frey said. "The thing is, you are living in Alaska. A lot of people come and go at the cannery, but some of us love Alaskan life and plan on staying," he said. "Alaska is a great adventure, and that is what I want while I am young," Frey said.

Down one flight of stairs, Dennis Botzet, head cook on the Columbia, stands outside the kitchen. While taking long draws off a filterless cigarette, Botzet said, "I came to Bellingham five years ago, and took the ferry to Skagway, where I got a job as a cook. Alaska is a great place to live because it really is 'the last frontier.' It is also warmer in the winter than Minnesota, which is where my home was before Alaska," Botzet said. "We serve Alaskan-caught cod, salmon, halibut and red snapper on the Columbia."

The first whistle blows, and a black cloud of smoke comes out of the smokestack as the diesel engines of the Columbia start up. At exactly 6:30 p.m., the dock lets out a loud creaking noise as the ropes are flung loose. The flagship of the Alaska Marine Highway Fleet moves out into the channel for departure. A long, final whistle blows as passengers move to the rear of the ferry to take a last glimpse of the Bellingham Cruise Terminal. In a slow, majestic fashion the M.V. Columbia begins to fade into the dusk, and is defined by nothing but her lights. The excite-
ment has left the air in the ferry terminal and is now heading for Alaska.

“A lot of people come to the Bellingham Cruise Terminal to take the ferry to Alaska and look for work. Quite a few of them have made no previous arrangements,” said Michael Boyd, Alaska Ferry Terminal supervisor. “Alaska has a boom or bust economy that can fluctuate from one area to another. The job situation, as a whole, is not what it used to be in the early 1980s. However, a lot of people do go to Alaska to start over, or because they are running from something,” Boyd said.

People often arrive at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal with no money for the ferry ride to Alaska. They want to work here, or on the ferry, to pay for their fare, but these job openings are scarce, Boyd said. Many of the drifters are coming from Arkansas and Oklahoma with quite a few from New Jersey and New York. Most of the work is seasonal and requires proper timing. Most of the jobs are in the fishing, logging and tourist industries. Chances of getting a job in Alaska often depend on skill levels, but perseverance is also a big factor, Boyd said.

Vicki Rogers, owner of the Inside Passage Native Crafts and Gift Shop, located inside the Bellingham Cruise Terminal said, “A lot of college students still go to Alaska on the ferry to find work during the summer months. Most of them find work at a cannery or on a fishing boat. Alaska is a very large state with a huge fishing industry, which ships worldwide,” she said. “Many of the people who go to Alaska to find work have a backpack and a tent, and they are going to rough it until they find something. They are, most often, younger people who are accepting the challenge of the rugged individualism that Alaska symbolizes,” Rogers said.

People go to pursue a dream, and they are thrilled with the Alaskan experience, regardless of the outcome. Alaska is also a refuge for certain people who go to live a different kind of life than they have known in the past. The way they say, “I am going to Alaska!” says it all, Rogers said.
I'm sitting in the government documents section of the library near a window. The sides of my pencil are chewed to the graphite. Miraculously, the pages of my book keep getting longer and harder to read. The forced silence of the room is broken by muffled barking.

Outside a black lab dashes around the rim of the Red Square fountain, urgently yapping at a stick, bobbing in the fountain. He runs five steps, stops, barks, turns back toward the other direction and runs five more steps, stops and barks again.

I'm mesmerized.

The lab rushes to the edge. Stops. Barks. Barks again. Looks back at his master for support. Looks at the stick. Poises himself. The distance between the water and the lip of the fountain is too large for a graceful step into the water.

Splash! In he goes, much to my delight. He takes several high, water-logged steps, and grabs the stick. Ultimately satisfied with himself, he leaps from the fountain and takes a few victory laps around it.

I laugh out loud, forgetting my surroundings. Sheepishly, I glance around the room. No harm done.

I watched the dog for more than 45 minutes, as the owner threw the stick back in the water and the ritual repeated.

Seeing dogs on campus is often a relief from the daily norm. Their wagging tails and playful nature make me smile throughout the day. But do dogs really belong on campus?

Marie Deslauriers thinks so. She recently transferred from the University of Vermont, where dogs are welcomed on campus and even allowed to accompany their owners into classes.

"I like to see dogs on campus," she says as she pets a dog tied up outside of the Engineering Technology Building. I watched the dog for 15 minutes and she was the first person to stop and pet it. Deslauriers says bringing dogs to campus all depends on the dog.

"If it's a really friendly, 'people-dog,' and it's going to be happy seeing everybody, then it's okay to tie them up. But if it's a dog that's gonna be freaked out, then leave it at home."

The dog we had the discussion over seemed bored before she went up to pet him, standing and sitting about 20 times before we started to talk. He gazed up at passers by, fishing for some attention. Mostly rejected, he repeated his routine: lie down, stand, sit. It was very clear he was uncomfortable and self-conscious being tied up out in the open.

This dog is an example of why many argue that dogs don't belong on campus.

Joe Mackie, gardener lead at Western's Physical Plant, has been here for 21 years. We met to discuss the trouble with dogs on campus. He leaned back against a plate glass window and put his hands in the front pockets of his pants. He had a bone to pick.

"Oh, it's an ongoing problem," he said. "The problem is obvious. Beyond what they (dogs) leave around, a lot of people tie them up to trees, light posts and things that are often adjacent to flower beds. People who own these dogs are convinced they are absolutely loveable, harmless creatures, but when they are left unattended, those same loveable creatures get pretty ornery.

"They don't like to be tied up," he added.

Dogs on campus have not escaped the attention of campus police. "In the calendar year 1994 we had a total of 37 reported animal problems," said Police Lt. Dave Doughty. But this year (report from Jan. 1 through July 30, 1995) we've already had 24 animal complaints on campus."

While complaints about dogs aren't a major concern for campus police, they are an annoyance. In September a man was bitten outside of the library by a tethered dog.

"We don't know who owns the dog," Doughty said. "The owner returned and took the dog before we were notified. When the library staff talked to this person, she said, 'Oh. Well, he's had his shots. It's not a problem,' and left with the dog."
"A lot of people bring their dogs to campus because they don't want them to stay home alone. That's not really a good way to take care of a dog.

"In my opinion, if you really like your dog, you take care of it at home." Doughty adds, "If you're gonna have a dog, you should have the facilities to care for it properly. They really don't belong on a college campus."

Mackie echoes Doughty's sentiments. "Frankly, this is an educational institution and people don't have any business bringing their pets here!"

The leash law in Bellingham states that dogs must be on leashes in public places. This doesn't mean running next to their owners with the leash stuffed in a pocket, and it doesn't mean tying a dog up by its leash to a stationary object. An initial fine of $100 gets progressively higher for every violation. Doughty admits campus officers use a lot of discretion and do more warning than citing.

The other day I stopped to talk with a woman walking her dog on a leash across campus near Miller Hall. Araya, the dog, a Rottweiler-Malamute mix, playfully leapt at her owner's gentle tugs of restraint.

"I live a couple of miles from school," says Katie Lauby, who occasionally ties Araya up outside of the Environmental Studies building if she only has one class. Lauby doesn't have a problem leaving Araya tied up for short periods of time.

Araya obviously loves people and thrusts her cold, damp nose into my hand as an invitation to pet her.

Bellingham laws don't require pet owners to pick up their dog's waste, but it does seem to be a common courtesy worth mentioning. Lauby admits she doesn't have anything with which to pick up after Araya, should her dog feel "the urge." But she assured me Araya is on a schedule and only goes up on Sehome Hill out in the woods.

DeAnna Woolston sees dogs on campus a little differently.

"I leave Farley (her dog) tied up on a long rope in my front yard with another dog," she says, "If I brought him to school and tied him up, he'd howl and scream.

"I think dogs look unhappy (when tied up). They get gratified when people come up to them. But other than that, they look miserable."

Woolston also chooses not to bring Farley to school because he jumps on people and is basically uncivilized.

"I think it sucks," Woolston says, "they have to wait outside the classroom. They look so intent on waiting for their owners to come out of class."

Woolston says her "petiquette" is pretty good. She thinks it's best to leave dogs at home and try to make a point to pick up after them if they relieve themselves.

"I carry a plastic bag when I take Farley for walks, but I'm not always good about it, I sometimes forget," she says.

It's a tough call to make. According to the Use Less Stuff Report newsletter, 54.2 million dogs live in 34 million American households and there's no getting around the fact dogs add a lot to peoples' lives. They are faithful, caring companions that deserve as much respect as they unconditionally give to us.
Avalanche Safety—
What you should know

"In the school of life, you are tested first and then you learn the lesson." This is a point 63-year-old Roland Emetaz tries to stress to those who hear his mountain safety and avalanche-awareness lectures.

"I try to teach people a lesson about avalanches before they are tested by the mountain. You don't want to get caught in an avalanche and learn the lesson the hard way," Emetaz said. "I try to teach them how to avoid getting caught in an avalanche as well as what to do if they are unfortunate enough to get caught in one."

Emetaz's crew-cut, gray-brown hair, tan skin and slender 5-foot-11 frame hardly show his age, but when it comes to mountains, he's done just about everything. An avid climber, he's scaled the peaks of nearly every mountain in the Pacific Northwest, including Mount Baker, and Mount St. Helens 35 times. Now, he's sharing his knowledge with others.

More than 14,110 avalanches were reported in the United States last year. One hundred and sixty-two people were caught in slides and of those 22 died.

"There are a lot of other avalanches that took place but unless it's a traveled area it probably wasn't reported. It's usually not important until someone gets caught," Emetaz said.

Emetaz insists a lot of accidents could be prevented if people just used their heads while they're in the mountains.

"Something about a recreational trip and people often forget their most important piece of equipment—their brain. I try and help people realize the warning signs but what people need to realize is, I'm not an expert. All the experts are dead. There are no experts when it comes to avalanches. They're unpredictable. When you start thinking you're an expert—watch out."

Emetaz may not consider himself an expert but his mountaineering resume' suggests otherwise. Emetaz earned a degree in forestry at Penn State. At 22, he joined the United States Forest Service and stayed 38 years before retiring in 1993. He began giving his avalanche-awareness lectures in the late '70s and continues giving them about 10 to 15 times a year during the winter season. Emetaz, a Vancouver, Wash. resident, has spoken at different locations in Washington and Oregon, including Great Adventure in Bellingham.

Emetaz became involved with avalanche awareness during the early '70s when he was promoted by the Forest Service to winter recreation specialist for the Pacific Northwest.

Roland Emetaz has been an avid climber for many years. Now he's teaching others about how to avoid deadly snow slides. Here's his advice and wisdom for skiers, climbers and other mountaineers.

BY JAKE WARNICK

"The biggest problem is skiers look at the snow through skiers' eyes, and climbers look at the snow through climbers' eyes. I try to help them develop avalanche eyes. If they think safety first, it could keep them alive." — Emetaz

Photos courtesy of Roland Emetaz
“Part of the job was looking for potential ski areas. One of the key things to take into consideration when creating a ski area is the possibility of avalanches,” he said.

In 1980 Emetaz helped to create the Northwest Avalanche Center. The center is an information center and center employees try to educate the public about possible avalanche dangers.

“The center is partially funded by state, federal, local and even international money. They do some important things and I try to help out when I can, especially with my talk.”

In 1989, Emetaz began going into local retail stores such as REI and Great Adventure to ask them if they would like him to come and speak. The response has been quite favorable. The size of the audience varies but there has been as many as 120 people at one of his talks. Emetaz doesn’t charge for the talks and they usually last about 1 1/2 hours.

“I try and stick to the basics in my talk,” Emetaz said. “To understand it (avalanche safety) fully you need a week.”

The first thing he does is identify the probable victim.

“The typical victim is a 31-year-old male with several years of mountaineering or skiing experience and doesn’t know the difference between a snowball and an avalanche,” Emetaz said with a grin. “They have a lot of experience in their sport or hobby, but don’t take the time to learn about avalanches and the dangers of a mountain.”

Since most avalanches take place in the back-country, most of the victims are not beginners.

“A lot of people are surprised to hear that it’s usually an experienced mountaineer or skier, but inexperienced people get in trouble long before they reach avalanche territory,” Emetaz said. “They don’t have the expertise to reach those areas.”

Avalanches can happen any time of the year but usually take place on slopes with 30 to 45 degree angles at more than 8,000 feet in elevation. Eighty percent of avalanches occur within 24 hours after a storm.

“Most of those buried in avalanches die and 90 percent of avalanche victims triggered the avalanche themselves. So the real key is avoidance,” Emetaz said.

Signs are often present to warn travelers of the dangers.

“One of the first things you need to find out is which way the wind is blowing. The windward slopes (wind blowing into the mountain) are a lot less dangerous than the backside of the slope or leeward side,” Emetaz said. “You also need to pay attention to the snow pack and how solid it is. The more solid the better. And if you see signs of previous avalanches that’s probably not a very safe location.”

If you are unfortunate enough to get caught in an avalanche Emetaz says be prepared to fight for your life.

“You can’t outrun an avalanche. You need to do your best to get to the edge of the slide. If you can’t get out start to swim.

“Slab” avalanche in Colorado

Do whatever it takes to stay on top of the snow. When the slide stops and you’re going to be buried, you need to clear out a place in front of your face to breathe. Once the snow hardens you’ll run out of oxygen quickly. Most avalanche victims die of suffocation.”

Fifty percent of those buried die within the first 30 minutes. If someone in your party is buried, a speedy recovery is the key.

“If help isn’t real close don’t worry about going for it, there won’t be time. You need to use whatever you have and start probing the snow directly down the path from where you last saw the victim. If you find them start digging as fast as you can.”

Avalanches can’t be avoided but damages can be contained.

“The biggest problem is skiers look at the snow through skiers’ eyes, and climbers look at the snow through climbers’ eyes. I try to help them develop avalanche eyes. If they think safety first, it could keep them alive.”

Emetaz continues to learn more about avalanches and hopes to continue sharing his knowledge with others.

“I’ve had three people come up to me and tell me they remembered something from my talk and it saved their lives. That’s a real gratifying feeling. If you can save one life it’s all worth it,” he said.

Although Emetaz enjoys climbing, he doesn’t do it for typical reasons. “I don’t climb mountains as a macho thing. I don’t climb it just because it’s there. My climbing is ... to help others enjoy the mountain. I don’t have a big desire to conquer the mountain. I just want to help others.”

10 essentials for back-country trips

Navigation- Topographic map and compass

Food- Extra food and water. Boiling water can kill Giardia, but water treatment pills may not.

Clothing- Extra clothing, including rain gear, wool socks, sweater, gloves, and hat

Light- Flashlight with spare bulb and batteries

Fire- Waterproof matches and fire starter such as a candle

Sun Protection- Sunglasses and sunscreen ointment

First Aid- Aid kit including any special medications you might need

Knife- A folding pocket knife.

Signal- Audible and visual: whistle and metal mirror.

Emergency Shelter- Plastic tube shelter or waterproof bivouac sack.
**Body Odors**

**Causes**
- odors from food inside the stomach
- foods such as garlic or onion
- plaque build up • food particles between teeth • yeast or fungal growth over the tongue

**Quick Solutions**
- chew gum • breath mints or spray • mouthwash

**Better Solutions**
- rinse with tea tree oil solution
- brush teeth and tongue
- chlorophyll tablets
- floss regularly

Odor — it can smell up our whole lives. It can change our whole lives, too. Remember George's dad on "Seinfeld"? He was so concerned about the smell of his feet, he wouldn't take off his shoes. This became a serious problem when, while in his youth, he dated an Asian woman whose father hated Mr. Costanza because he refused to take off his shoes at the door. How his life would have changed if he had. George certainly wouldn't have been born. And "Seinfeld" might not be on the air. That show just wouldn't be the same without George.

**HALITOSIS**

According to "The College Student's Handbook for Healthy Living," "halitosis originates from the odors of food in the stomach. It can usually be controlled by daily brushing and flossing, using a mouthwash and avoiding certain foods. Sometimes it's a..."
symptom of a serious disease like diabetes or kidney failure or of an infection in the lungs or sinuses."

Common sense and hygiene can take care of almost any case of bad breath. After all, it's not an infectious disease or anything. For all those who only brush when on a date, start putting those bristles to use. Brushing and flossing regularly are necessary. Mouthwashes that perfume the odor shouldn't be used as medication. Odor comes from plaque buildup or from food particles that get caught between teeth. So getting those nasty boogers out is the only way to stop the stink.

Our friend, the tongue, is another great source for halitosis. Growth of yeast or fungus over it can cause a rotten taste when you're trying to "kiss a little longer."

My hygienist gave me a nice long lecture on this principle.

"You know," she said, "it's always best to brush your tongue after you're done brushing your teeth. It gets rid of all the bacteria that cause bad breath. You don't have to gag yourself, just get that brush back there and clean. Not that you have bad breath or anything," she said.

Yeah, like that humiliating conversation wasn't a lecture. I guess she doesn't want to pull out the nose plugs every time she cleans my teeth. Maybe she should've thought about that before she became a hygienist. She got her point across, though. I solemnly swear to brush my tongue every day. Scout's honor.

If you're still having problems battling bad breath, check with the dentist for correct brushing and flossing techniques. This will usually solve the problem. After all, it is an arr.

That's what my dentist tells me. Brushing hard back and forth is WRONG. It's little circles! If your halitosis is just a bit stronger than normal, consider other alternatives that can be found at most nutrition stores. Try rinsing with a solution of tea tree oil to kill bacteria. Also, taking chlorophyll tablets daily helps reduce the toxins that cause bad breath.

"It (chlorophyll) is also a good source of vita-

min, minerals and amino acids," said Lucinda Bedard a co-owner of General Nutrition Center. "It has anti-bacterial action. Chlorophyll is known as nature's deodorant."

Junior Liha Schroers had a good friend who didn't quite understand the concept of good-smelling breath.

"She had it sometimes and then not others, like she forgot to brush her teeth," Schroers said. "Her being the type of person that she is, she would have gotten mad at me and taken personal offense if I had told her — she would've been."

Schroers offers her own wisdom.

"If you feel you have bad breath, bring a tooth brush with you and brush your teeth if you feel you need to."

Or just try using gum or breath mints to compliment dental care. Americans know the resources are out there, so use them. On the other end of the spectrum we find ...

Senior Jim Draper had his own experience with bad odors while living in Buchanan Towers last year. This stink literally walked right into his
life. Maybe it was the shoes?

"My roommate had a bad foot smell," Draper said. "It was like if you were to take a mile jog, take off your socks and run your fingers between your toes and smell. But his feet did this from just walking around campus all day."

Solutions for foot odor aren't as easy as they might seem. The gym-sock smell usually comes from sweaty feet. It's also the result of wearing shoes without socks. Dusting cornstarch on the feet helps keep them dry and fresh. Soaking daily in warm water with white vinegar is another idea according to "The College Student's Health Guide."

However, these solutions were just too easy for Draper and his roommate. Odor Eaters probably wouldn't even have been able to bury this deathly stink.

"I had a serious talk and told him to go to the doctor and get it taken care of. He just kind of laughed it off. But when I came home from spring break the first thing he said was 'I got foot spray.' I still threw the carpet away because I was afraid of getting his fungus or whatever it was that caused his smell," Draper said.

At least that smell walked out on him. The next just kind of chases a person while growing up. It catches up right around junior high.

And then it happens — we hit puberty and suddenly everyone's sweat glands kick in, "POW." It's as if we didn't even realize we had them until our parents bought us deodorant and said, "Here, please wear this. Do the whole family a favor."

Sweat glands help regulate our body's temperature by cooling it with perspiration. It's kind of like those cool zones college football players lounge next to during the beginning of the season. The moisture cools them off the same way sweat cools our bodies.

Heredity and hygiene go hand in hand in adding to body odor. Some people are just unlucky enough to be born stinky.

Catherine Vader, a registered nurse working at the Student Health Assessment & Information Center (SHAIC) said certain foods people eat can literally leak out their pores. If a person eats garlic, the smell will be on his or her skin and will add to his or her body odors, she said.

However, body odors won't necessarily push people apart. Sometimes it can draw them closer together. So if you're looking for the love of your life, try this next approach.

Junior Saundra Belcher, remembers the foul odor she and other residents had to live with in the Kappa residence hall two years ago.

"There was a guy that lived there that had bad b.o.," Smith said. Residents would complain to our R.A. about how bad he smelled. She finally talked to him to let him know his odor was really strong. He was embarrassed and told her he had a gland problem so he couldn't tell how bad he really smelled. But now, two years later, the R.A. is dating this guy."

Body odor can be tackled by daily hygiene measures. Use anti-bacterial soap, bacterial action causes the odor, not the perspiration. Deodorant should be applied every day. Cologne and perfume can hide the odor, but will definitely not cure it. Cosmetic products are never the solution to the beautiful gift of odor mother nature has given us.
Sarcasm: 1) a keen or bitter taunt; a cutting jibe or rebuke 2) the use of bitter, caustic or stinging remarks expressing contempt, often by inverted or ironical statement, on occasion of some offense or shortcoming.

—Webster’s New International Dictionary, Second Edition

SM: In this age of apathy, reluctance and cynicism, we the people have been relying too heavily on irony, more specifically sarcasm, to avoid speaking about what we really mean — the truth.

It’s getting to the point where I can’t quite tell what the heck the people I’m talking to really mean because they speak in half-truths. Maybe they’ve been trained to do so from television or some other leisure activity, but the rhetoric of irony has so pervaded everyday conversation that I begin to wonder if anyone is able to have so-called “intelligent” conversations any more.

Some people think they’re so clever, putting others down with their remarks just dripping — no, pouring — with sarcasm. I say to them: pathetic.

How can one live in a civilized society, yet act in such a savage manner? Do these people have no morals? How do you think world politics would work if the President of the United States told a Japanese official, “Japan is a great country. I’m so glad you’re able to ruin our economy by exporting so many goods.”?

EF: Subaru is a great car. My Justy lasted almost a full year.

But seriously, the entire country will not slide down the drain because people use sarcasm in place of “straight” talk. The main concern with the spoken word is to convey a meaning. If the point is made, the purpose of the speech is satisfied.

As long as that purpose is satisfied, why shouldn’t speech be used in as creative a way as possible? Imagine telling Shakespeare to can all the fancy crap and just say what he actually means. The brilliance, and the humor, would be lost.

Rather than decrying the use of a language tool you obviously don’t understand, try to sharpen your verbal sword and come out slashing. Don’t run home to mommy every time you get a verbal booboo. Get up, dust yourself off and respond as best you can.

BY STEVE MOHUNDO

I see. “Convey a meaning” by not saying what you mean. That doesn’t make a bit of sense, and you know it. In fact, it seems your whole argument is filled with so much sarcasm, I begin to suspect you really agree with me in the first place.

That couldn’t happen, though, so you must actually believe that drivel you come up with. And as to your comments on the great William Shakespeare: sarcasm has a place. I’m not saying everyone should be dead serious. I’m just saying an overabundance of a witty tongue is detrimental to the workings of society.

A “verbal sword” is one thing, the butter knife of sarcasm is something else. Sarcasm is just one aspect of conversational sparring, and any warrior would agree one should never rely on just one weapon.
I could come up to you and say, "I really disagree with your ridiculous assessment of my speech's stylistic structure." I could also say, "Yeah, right," and convey the exact same information, while, in addition showing my utter disdain by the tone of my voice.

When you start drawing lines in the use of sarcasm, you end up having different people wanting to draw the line at different points. Your "overabundance" is probably the level of sarcasm you would have to reach before I would enjoy talking to you.

Confess. The reason you want to limit the use of sarcasm is that you're not well-versed enough to compete in current colloquialism. If you have difficulty understanding people proficient in sarcasm, calmly ask them to explain themselves. Sure, they may talk to you in a condescending manner (condescending means talking down to someone), but you will be able to understand them. Would you go up to someone in France and demand they speak English?

By limiting yourself to petty insults and their ilk, you betray your ignorance. I'd ask you to explain yourself in basic terms, even, but I'm afraid you'd only resort to your natural sarcastic tendencies and lose yourself in the quick satisfaction of a juicy barb.

Nevermind that we're addressing the effect sarcasm has on the workings of civilization as we know it. I still contend that sarcasm is over-utilized and too elusive to be a practical way to exchange information. One can surely have the occasional insult or cynical attitude, but it would be pathetic to live and breathe as if the very air were ironic.

The thing I find most ironic is that, as you sit here attempting to insult me, you convict yourself of the over-utilization of sarcasm. You take great pleasure in insinuating that I don't know how to survive a conversation with a sarcastic person like yourself, yet the point you're attempting to make remains elusive.

My point is quite simple — sarcasm is a useful way to liven an otherwise boring conversation. Most conversations are dull; therefore, most should be livened up to avoid ennui. If you wish to blather on with the same dry speech, don't fault me for catching a few Zs until you're done talking.

Obviously sarcasm should only be used in proper situations. My argument is there are more situations where a witty line could be a blessing. Funerals are a great example. Remind everyone that the deceased isn't "late," but that he (or she) isn't coming. You may shock some people, but in the long run (which you may have to be in shape for after particularly witty remarks) people will appreciate your attempt to lighten the mood.

Well then, we aren't quite as at odds as it may have seemed earlier. I agree that sarcasm has a place, as long as it is used with moderation. It is a lack of control over this type of distraction that I attack. As shown by your previous statement, when one takes the time to decide when to use sarcasm and when not to, truly productive communication will fall into place.

"Truly productive communication" is severely lacking in our modern life anyway. Sarcasm itself is not to blame, lack of intellect is.

"O brave new world, that has such people in't" Let's just hope society can survive them.
A GREAT WALL OF SUPPORT

Three Bellingham Women
Journey to China

By David Lynch

The toilets didn’t work, the security was oppressive, the costs were sky-high and mud was everywhere. But the women’s conference this summer in China was an event not soon forgotten by three Bellingham women who made the long trek to the event.

Former Fairhaven student Aurora Fox, her daughter Kesia Wallen and Western student Aimie Vallet all attended the 1995 Nongovernmental Organization’s Conference on the Status of Women in Huairou, China, which ran at the same time as the United Nations Conference in Beijing.

The nongovernmental (NGO) forum in Huairou, a small town north of the Chinese capital, was organized to help identify and articulate issues that women from around the world, at a grassroots level, wanted addressed by the formal U.N. conference.

“It was an incredible event having so many women coming from so many different parts of the world together at one place,” Fox said. She was one of 12 American women who helped organize the NGO conference with 28 other women from various nations.

Fox is a 46-year-old woman and mother of two daughters, with intelligent eyes and short, auburn hair beaded with braids. She spoke with conviction and sometimes humor as she recounted her role in organizing the NGO conference and the experiences she and her daughter had during their stay in China.

“I became involved in organizing the conference when a friend of mine in Alaska called me and asked if I would be willing to help organize a series of cultural events and workshops,” Fox said.

“The group I was part of was responsible for organizing a wide variety of cultural events including concerts, performances of all types and workshops. We also organized an international choir to sing during the conference. We produced about 130 events in eight days,” she said.
Fox also became involved in the NGO forum because of a long-time interest in women's issues. She is very concerned about the status of women and their rights not only in the United States but all around the world.

"I'm going to date myself," Fox said, laughing, "but I became interested in women's issues in the 1960s because we have always gotten a raw deal. Women aren't treated fairly by society and I wanted to do my bit to change things. That's why I went to China."

The United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women was an event which drew more than 50,000 women from all corners of the globe. It was the largest conference ever held under the auspices of the United Nations and was unprecedented in size or scope by the number of NGOs, which helped draft the agenda adopted at the formal United Nations conference in Beijing.

Despite advancements made in the lives of the world's women, many problems remain to be addressed. In most parts of the world, women are still plagued with second-class status, unequal access to economic resources and domestic violence.

"The purpose of the conference was to help women from different parts of the world come together and talk with each other, and find ways to help solve problems that were similar in nature," Fox said.

"For example, I was at a workshop on child prostitution and women from Bangladesh who had a lot of experience with this problem spoke with women from Indonesia and Mexico to find out what they were doing about these problems," Fox said.

"There were three goals for the NGO conference," Fox said. "The first goal was to put women on the global agenda. Secondly, to get attention aimed at problems facing women and we also wanted to provide a place for women to be able to network. Lastly, we wanted to develop a strategy and formulate a plan of action for lobbying the U.N. so that they would address the problems women face at the formal conference in Beijing," Fox said.

"The one problem that came up over and over again at the conference was domestic violence against women and the violence against women in war," Fox said.

"We [Americans] tend to think of violence against women as domestic violence alone. But for women in countries at war, violence means something a whole lot more. The vast majority of refugees and those who suffer the most are the women and children."

"The systematic raping of women in Bosnia and Croatia during the war, was particularly horrific," Fox said. "At one workshop on violence, a group of women from the former Yugoslavia stood up and told the American and European women to tell their men to stop sending weapons into the region because it only perpetuated the violence there."

The plight of women and children in war-torn countries was the major concern of Fairhaven student Vallet, a 23-year-old woman with deep brown eyes and wavy hair. She articulated her feelings about women's issues and the NGO conference in a direct, no-nonsense manner.

Vallet attended the conference as an independent observer. Her primary reason for going was to find out what the situation was in the former Yugoslavia.

"When I first heard about the conference, about a year ago, I knew I wanted to go. So I solicited funds from various civic groups like the Rotary Club and from various churches in Bellingham," Vallet said.

"The situation in the former Yugoslavia is of particular concern to me because my fiancee is a soldier in the Croatian army. The civil war has ravaged the area and split it into three separate entities. Millions of women and children have become refugees," Vallet said.

"I wanted to know more about the conditions women face in that war-torn area of the world, an area where I can't go at the present time. The war has had a particularly horrible impact on the women and children and I don't think people here understand how terrible it is there," Vallet said.

"What impressed me most at the workshop on violence against women in war was the incredible solidarity of all the women involved. All we hear about the war in the United States was the ethnic cleansing and racial and religious hatred. That's not what I saw or heard at the conference."

"The Croatian, Bosnian and Serbian
women were united in expressing their desire to get along and they all said they wanted the war to end,” Vallet said.

Networking at the workshops was one of the most important aspects of the conference for Vallet. It gave her the opportunity to meet other women her age and talk with them about mutual concerns, particularly conflict resolution in the Balkans.

“At the workshops, women would exchange addresses and telephone numbers so they could remain in contact after the conference was over,” Vallet said. “At one of the workshops on conflict resolution in Bosnia, I met a young Croatian girl who had started her own women’s group in Croatia. After the meeting was over, I went up to her and told her who I was and that I was really interested in knowing more about her organization and how I could help her.

“After I returned to the United States I wrote her a letter telling her I was willing to help her find support either there or here in the United States. That’s what networking is all about as far as I’m concerned,” Vallet said.

The chance to meet other women in this international environment was crucial for the development of a worldwide strategy to combat unjust social conditions, Vallet said.

“In many instances this was the only opportunity that many women will ever have to meet other women from these different areas of the world,” Vallet said. “It was an incredibly rich environment.”

For Wallen, Fox’s daughter, the conference was a chance to gain an understanding of international issues and to travel to China.

Wallen, a 17-year-old Bellingham High School student, spoke with a sense of excitement and a new awareness of women’s issues, especially for women in the developing world.

“Before I went to the conference, I never thought about women’s issues on a global basis, particularly domestic abuse,” Wallen said.

“Violence against women goes on here, but it really goes on all over the world. It was a real eye-opening experience to hear women from other countries talk about what they have gone through.

“At one of the workshops on violence I heard a woman tell us about how she was repeatedly raped and beaten by her husband. It was so sad. She had a daughter and had to give it away. I began to realize how violence against women was so pervasive. It seemed to be the most important issue at the conference. Everywhere you went throughout the conference area there were movies, pictures and posters of abused women. I never really thought about it before. I’ve never experienced anything like that here, and when I heard women at the workshops get up and tell about their experiences, I was shocked,” Wallen said.

The conference made Wallen aware of the differences in the women’s movement. Wallen said things that most American women take for granted are primary problems for many women in the developing world.

“I had a hard time comprehending that women have a hard time getting food to their kids, especially the females,” Wallen said.

“Women have their baby girls taken away from them at birth or sold when they are old enough to marry. Just going to the store is difficult for them without being harassed, shot at, or raped. I just never imagined that life was so difficult for so many women.

“If we want to stop domestic violence against women, we need to address the issues of human rights,” Wallen said. “The right to vote, the right to have clean drinking water, the right to an education and the right to go places without being harassed. These are issues that need to be addressed before we can make any progress on the violence issue,” Wallen said.

Despite all the problems women face on a day-to-day basis throughout the world, Fox, Wallen and Vallet
felt a great deal of progress has been made.

"There's no doubt progress has been made," Fox said. "The fact that so many women came to this conference demonstrates that the movement is going forward. For the first time in history, women from all over the world came together at a grassroots level and put forward an agenda of things that concern them. Just by having so many uppity women together at one time shows progress is being made on women's issues."

"Most of the women I met were extremely optimistic about the future," Vallet said. "I met a group of women from Bangladesh that started a bank that loaned money only to women. Just ten years ago that would not have been possible and today it's the most successful financial assistance program for women in the country."

"It wasn't hard to come away from the conference with good feelings," Wallen said. "It was a wonderful experience to see so many women united, trying to make a difference for themselves and for their daughters and for all the women in the world. At the conference I realized what I want to do with my life. I want to make the world a better place for women and girls to live." K
It's the big dilemma of the video age: You walk into the local rental store, see that all 40 copies of "Pulp Fiction" are rented, and scan the aisles with dread.

Thousands of titles stare you down, and you haven't heard of one of them. How many bad movies can they make, anyway?

Wait a minute: Total obscurity doesn't necessarily mean that a film is unworthy, merely that it's unknown. In fact, there are movie treasures buried on the shelves of every video store. Lost classics hide behind lousy titles ("Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia" has to be terrible, right? Wrong!).

What follows is a look at the best movies you've never heard of, as well as good films with bad titles and horrible debuts of known actors. Maybe the next time the new Tom Cruise or Schwarzenegger flick isn't available, you'll take a chance at a lesser-known film, with surprising results.

**Assault on Precinct 13 (1976)**
A tense, claustrophobic thriller from the days when John Carpenter made good, cheap films. This is an imaginative urban update of Howard Hawks' "Rio Bravo." Cops and crooks band together for one night of survival when a guerrilla youth gang sieges an L.A. precinct. This movie takes no prisoners.

**Brain Damage (1988)**
A chart-topping parasitic slug attaches itself to human spinal cords and trades hallucinogenic feelings for its prime dinner: fresh brains. This cheap, fast, gross and extremely funny horror-comedy by Frank Henenlotter manages to be both an anti-drug film and a sleazy B flick. Not for everyone.

**Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (1974)**
The always watchable Warren Oates stars as a piano player in Mexico who gets word that a wealthy landowner has put a large price on the head of the man who got his daughter pregnant. To obtain the reward, you must give Garcia's head to him.

Every bounty hunter in Mexico fights over the severed head, but it is Oates who ultimately gets it. From then on, he develops a relationship with the head and doesn't know if he should turn it in for the money or not. Sam Peckinpah directs.

**Dark Star (1974)**
If John Carpenter's directorial debut looks like a low-budget student film, it is. It's also a very funny sci-fi parody in which four astronauts and one alien go around the bend from boredom and lack of toilet paper. Presenting space travel as a never-ending car trip with people you used to like.

**Ride the High Country (1962)**
A film so good that veteran actors Randolph Scott and Joel McCrea retired after making it because they felt they couldn't top it.

**What's a Nice Actor Like You Doing in a Film Like This?**
To be a successful actor, you have to pay your dues and work your way up. It takes time. Not every actor can have a hit in his or her movie debut.

**The Burning (1981)**
Before winning an Academy Award, Holly Hunter appeared in this "Friday the 13th" rip-off. She plays one of many summer campers who are systematically killed off.

**Cutting Class (1988)**
You might not recognize Brad Pitt in this one. Here's a hint: He's the one with the ax in his forehead.

**He Knows You're Alone (1981)**
By-the-numbers slice-and-dice feature, made memorable only by the appearance of "Forrest Gump" himself, Tom Hanks.

**Parasite (1982)**
A pre-soap opera Demi Moore, in 3-D no less, stars. There is no evidence here how she became Hollywood's highest paid actress — the insects upstage her.

**Revenge of the Creature (1955)**
The sequel to "The Creature From the Black Lagoon" features a very young Clint Eastwood, who followed up this winner with a "Francis the Talking Mule" sequel.