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## Klipsun Magazine, 1989, Volume 22, Issue 06 - December

Vicki Lee Stevens  
*Western Washington University*

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DECEMBER 1989

# KIP SUN



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# *THE* EVOLUTION OF THE ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK

BY  
ERIK K.  
JOHNSTON

Fantasy  
Football  
Brings  
Fans  
Closer  
To The  
Action

**T**he scoreboard clock shows :04 remaining in the game. Detroit Lion's rookie sensation Barry Sanders is handed the ball on a sweep around the right end and breaks four tackles as he rumbles into the endzone for a touchdown.

The television announcer exclaims, "Six points for Sanders!"

David Brewer, commissioner of the Western Fantasy Football League (WFFL), and owner of the Waves team, leaps out of his chair shrieking, "Four more points for Barry!"

The announcer stifles the commissioner's joy saying, "Uh-oh, there's a yellow flag on the field. This one's coming back."

Brewer stops... watches the referee spot the ball 10 yards back from the line of scrimmage. Brewer returns to his chair where he hangs his head in disbelief.

A holding penalty has nullified the touchdown. The game clock runs out on the next play in which Sanders is stopped for no gain.

Aaah, life in the world of fantasy football.

But what is fantasy football?

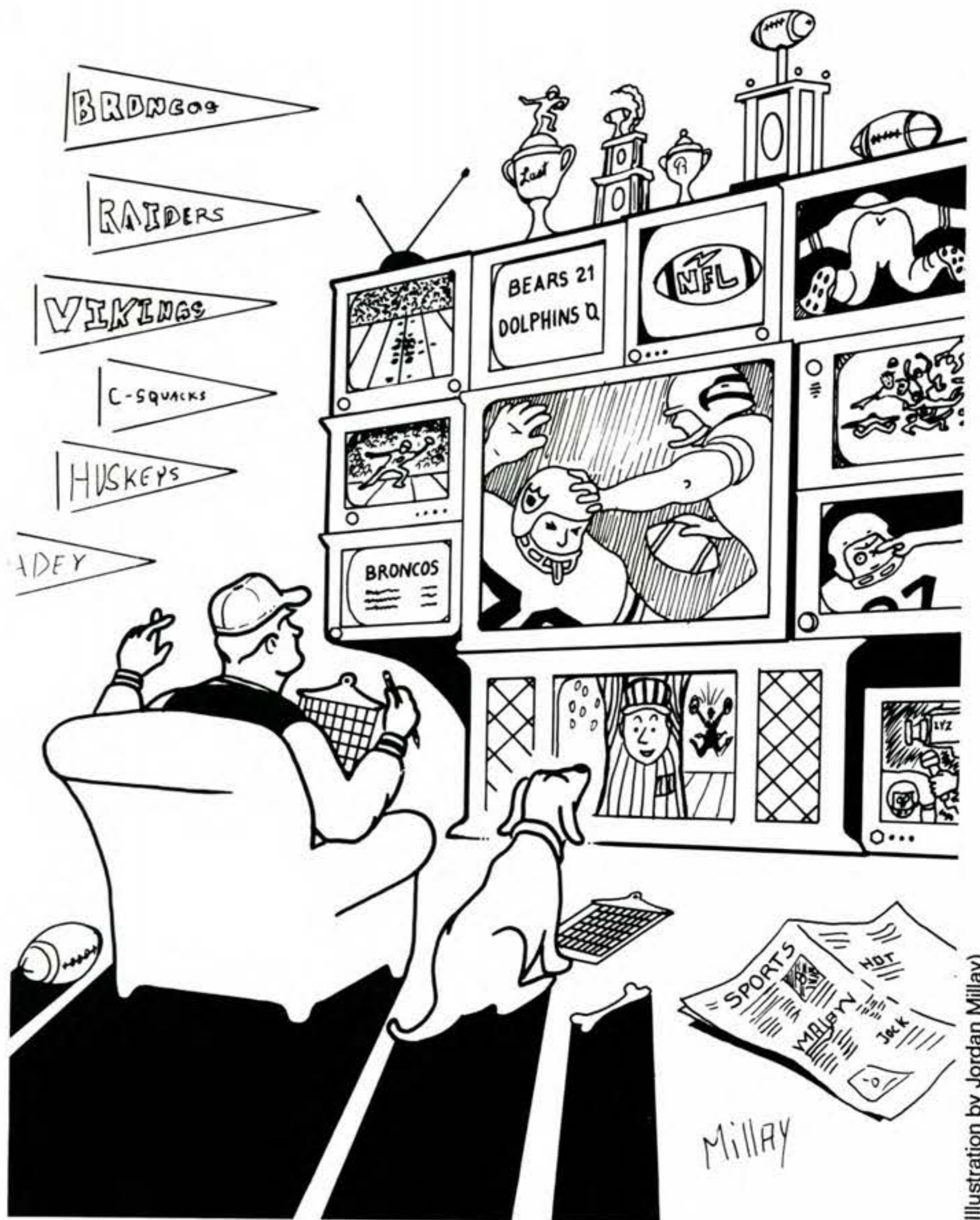
The premise of the game is that with a little bit of luck, some uncanny foresight and a lot of knowledge, anyone can put together a football team (composed of current NFL players) that is virtually unbeatable.

In fantasy football the owner chooses 20 players for the season from any NFL team. Each week the owner picks seven players to start in four different positions. Based on the true performances of the players the owners choose, points are awarded and the team with the most points each week wins.

"Yardage and touchdowns are the only things that matter," said Rob "Woody" Woods, Warriors owner.

"If your players put up the good numbers, your team will probably win the games. I should know, my team hasn't done that too often."

Fantasy football winners are the teams with the most points. Players receive one point for every 30 yards passing or 15 yards rushing and receiving. Touchdowns are worth two points. Interceptions cost a team the loss of a point.



(Illustration by Jordan Millay)

Here is an example of how the scoring works: If Indianapolis Colts' running back Eric Dickerson rushes for 120 yards and gets 30 yards receiving, with one touchdown, he will have scored eight points rushing, two points receiving and two points for the touchdown. His total is 12 points (not a bad day).

Kickers score points in relation to the length of their kicks: one point for a point after touchdown (PAT), two points for 29 yards or less; three points if

the the kick is 30-39 yards; four points for 40-49 yards and five points for more than 50 yards.

"If I ever got any points out of my kicker, I'd love it," said Adam Plymale, a sales representative from Kent who owns the Anarchists.

"It might be the most important position on the team. I have the Dallas Cowboy's Roger Ruzek and he sucks. I'm used to penciling in one or zero points next to his name. A good kicker would help a lot."

**T**o start a fantasy football league, round up a group of football fanatics to draft and manage their teams.

An even number of owners is required because the game involves head-to-head match ups each week. (I recommend eight or ten teams.)

Select a commissioner to organize current rosters, keep track of scheduling, compute weekly statistics and conduct the draft.

The commissioner has the final word on serious in-league disputes, but does not have an enormous amount of power.

"It's wise to remember that the commissioner is only a puppet who's strings can be cut by the rest of the league at any time," said Adam Plymale, a sales representative from Kent who owns the Anarchists. "He's just the one of the eight owners who does everybody's stats."

In the Western Fantasy Football League (WFFL), the draft

order is based on the previous year's final standings with the last place team selecting first and the defending champ last. In a new league, draft order is chosen by lottery. The selections go as follows: one through eight and then eight through one, rotating order until all 20 roster spots have been filled.

Once a player has been drafted, that player cannot be picked by any other team later in the draft.

An owner's starting lineup, consisting of the names of one quarterback, two running backs, three receivers and one kicker must be turned in to the commissioner by Friday at 9:00 p.m. or the owner will be forced to start the same players as the week before (whether the players are healthy, benched or whatever the case may be).

To make the game more interesting and add incentive to the fantasy owner, money can be incorporated as a reward system

for the winners.

In the WFFL, a \$20 entry fee is a requirement for owning a team. At the end of the season, the money is distributed to the team with the most points at the end of the regular season and to owners with the top players at each position.

But money is merely an incentive to push owners toward improving their team.

"It would be great if we had more money in the league, but it's not that important," Warriors owner Rob "Woody" Woods said. "The fun of the game is trying to beat the shit out of all your friends' teams every week. God knows I'd love to beat Dan (Larkin, owner of the Marauders)."

A fantasy football league is easy to set up and provides a lot of good times. Hey, how can you complain about owning a football team for only \$20?

A lot of thought goes into choosing a fantasy football team. Those knowledgeable in the world of real football may think pre-draft preparation is not important in creating a winning team.

But fantasy football is not real football. It is a different type of game in which the owner watches in a completely different way.

An example is an owner may know Seattle Seahawks' Steve Largent is, arguably, the greatest receiver of all time and want Largent for his team. This is where preparation comes in.

Remember: fantasy football is based on yardage and touchdowns.

The owner who does pre-season homework knows leadership ability and a 150-game consecutive catch streak does not win games in fantasy football. Two touchdowns and 150 yards by an underrated player such as Indianapolis receiver Bill Brooks does win games.

Fantasy football owners must know the entire league, draft on

hunches and try to predict the future.

"Generally, the successful fantasy football owner knows the starting quarterback, running backs, receivers and kickers for every NFL team," Brewer said.

The game consumes the owner with the desire to win. Four months of the year are devoted to daily readings of the owner's handbook, a.k.a. the *U.S.A. Today* sports section.

They must follow the daily transaction log to check for any of their players who were suspended or injured during the week.

Friday's weekend sports section is the most important for selecting a team's starting lineup. It includes an analysis of every team in the NFL, ranking each team's offense and defense in relation to the run and the pass.

Selecting the starting lineup each week is the only real control an owner has over his team's success.

"A fantasy owner cannot make his starting quarterback throw more passes or give his

running back more carries. It's up to the real coach, and that gets frustrating when you need a few more points," said Dan Larkin, a Western graduate from Seattle who owns the Marauders and has played fantasy football for eight seasons.

Owners watch ESPN's NFL Primetime to recap the scores and highlights. Sometimes, owners make poor decisions. An example is when Tampa Bay Buccaneer receiver Mark Carrier, who the owner had decided not to start, scored three touchdowns and had 122 yards. The result was 14 points the owner could only wish he had.

Larkin said, "Remember this phrase, because you will use it often: 'If I had only started so-and-so'."

Fantasy owners spend all day in front of the television, watching the games that have their starters in them. They fall deep into the fantasy world. They don't root for NFL teams, only for their starters. They begin to hate the opposing players.

It's a whole new way to watch football.

# THE POWER OF *PLASTIC*

BY  
KRISTI  
WARREN

**W**hen you're a student with a minimum income and a maximum zest for living, much can depend upon a magnetic strip and a series of plastic plated numerals on a 2- by 3-inch rectangle.

Credit is useful: it helps to establish a credit history, helps in emergency situations and to purchase expensive items. Many students forget, however, that there is a price for this freedom of spending.

"Credit is an impossible temptation," said Karen Matson, budget and debt counselor for Whatcom Opportunity Council.

It is a temptation many students take.

Students come from families who have long accepted credit as a normal means of payment and have a standard of living they want to maintain.

"It's hard to organize desires,





needs and money all at one time and still not feel poor," Matson said.

Sandy Daniels, a 23-year-old education major, said "They hold a lot of unlimited power that some of us aren't used to having."

"I haven't had a problem paying for them yet, but I will soon because I have no job. When I was working it was fine, but now that I'm student teaching, I can't work."

Daniels has six cards - two Visas, one Mastercard, three retail-chain cards and a \$4,000 debt.

"When I get my bills I know I'm paying for impulses that need to be controlled. They give objective evidence of my (spending)," Daniels said.

Credit seems to be becoming more accessible to college students. Applications are posted all over campus and some require no past credit history.

Students are good prospects for credit card companies because of the large amount of personal spending they do during the school year.

Fortune magazine reported in it's April 10 issue undergraduates spend \$10.5 billion each academic year.

Bob Evans, a 21-year-old speech communications major said he knows how easy credit cards are to obtain.

"I've grabbed pamphlets but never went through with the business of

filling them out. I think they're great for people who can manage money, but not for

me," Evans said. "When you have cash, you know what you can spend."

People who find the saying "credit is required to get credit" is true, may not be looking in the right place.

Many banks offer special student credit cards.

A SeaFirst Bank policy allows full-time students enrolled in a four-year college or university, who are juniors or above, to get credit. Applicants must prove they have \$200 each month, in addition to rent, tuition, utilities and food money.

Richard Newton of SeaFirst Bankcard Services said SeaFirst hopes students who receive early credit access will continue to do business with them after graduation.

However, even these qualifications may be too stringent for some students.

Student incomes are often

low and many have spent limited time in the work place -- two criteria crucial for credit approval.

Bryn Hocevar, a 19-year-old environmental science major, said she has applied for credit but has been denied because she has no fixed income.

"They're a good way to get credit behind your name," she said, adding she is frustrated by repeated denials.

Establishing a credit history takes time, said Bill Langstraat, Bellingham branch manager for Seattle First National Bank. Good payment practices with your first utility bills or rental agencies can build credit.

Students may also become a co-signer on an established credit card to associate their name with credit responsibility.

Students still need an income to support spending habits, noted Betty Justus, manager of the Consumer Credit Council.

Student incomes are generated by part-time jobs, parental support or financial aid -- money which often comes in lump sums and is difficult to budget, Matson said.

"All of a sudden you're really rich," she said. Students are tempted to spend their money when they have it and forget bills piled up in the drawer.

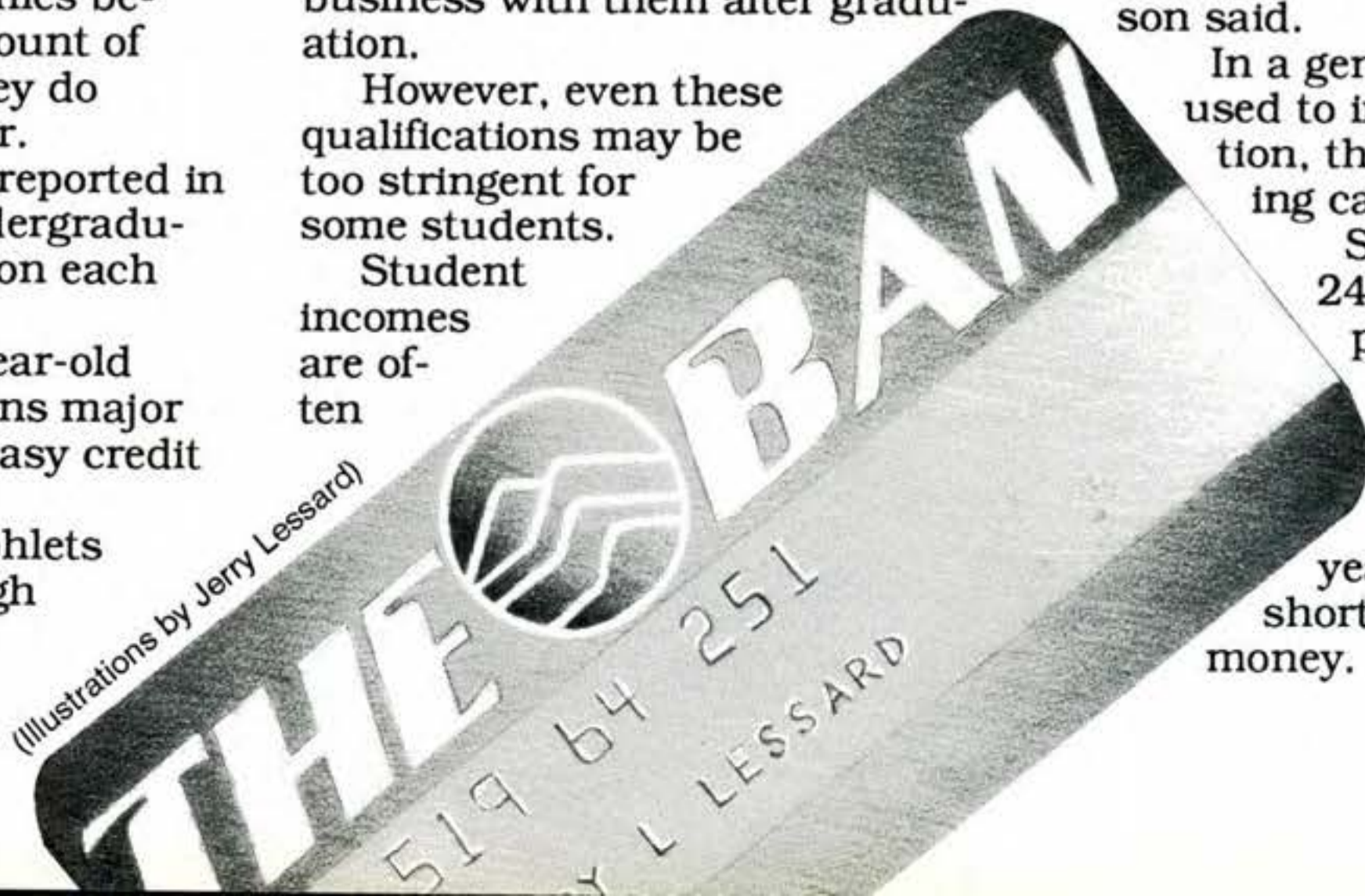
But Friday night's bar tab, next weekend's new outfit, bread and eggs and the new stereo that went on sale this week (as well as tuition and books) all have their price.

"With credit, college life can be bought in an instant," Matson said.

In a generation of people used to instant gratification, the price of charging can take its toll.

Scott Moeller, a 24-year-old anthropology graduate student, and

owner of four credit cards, said, "A couple of years ago I was short-handed on money. I was on financial



(Illustrations by Jerry Lessard)

aid and had to make it through Christmas ... and the charges piled up on my credit cards."

"It took until the next summer to catch up. It was a little bit of a strain -- not too much. It was the interest that surprised me," he said.

Credit cards companies make money from cardholder spending. They are not a free service. Interest ranges from 9 to 21 percent, depending on the credit company. So, in the long run, the interest on a sale item may cause the total price to be more than the full price would have been.

For those who had no problem getting credit, the result may be a wallet packed with maxed-out plastic, without any loose change.

Denial of credit debts is a serious problem, Justus said.

"Generally, people don't get to us until they're in real trouble," she said. Many students feel ashamed, guilty and scared when they can't meet the demands of their creditors, Justus and Matson agreed.

Consumers should be aware of the contract they make with the creditor to control their financial position, Newton said.

"Students don't start off getting the money management skills they need, either at home or in high school. Once you begin having financial responsibilities, you are having to make decisions you've never had to make," Matson said.

This insufficient knowledge leads students to the door of credit disaster.

However, help is available.

Both Whatcom County Opportunity Council and Consumer Credit Council offer services to straighten out credit hassles. Both non-profit organizations operate locally, offering debt repayment plans, budgeting skills and advising consumers in the debtor/creditor relationship.

Justus said the credit-concerned services are free.

"We don't have debtors prisons anymore," Justus said.

"But, you can go to jail for not paying your debts if you let it go that far."

When people evade payments, creditors often give the account to collection agencies. The agencies might garnish salaries. If an agency gets the case, it will tarnish a person's credit history, which makes it difficult to establish good credit in the future.

Credit practices now will affect students' ability to purchase a car, home or business after graduation, Justus said.

A credit history includes information about residence, employment, credit payments and loan

installments.

Many creditors will not extend credit to consumers with a history of delinquent payments, repossession or bankruptcy, the Bureau of Consumer Protection says.

Credit can be a useful tool for college students. The problem with credit cards in college was summarized by Mike Loyd, manager and co-owner of North Washington Collections, who said creditors are willing to lend and students are willing to spend, but some students are unable to pay.

**I**t's easy to fall into a credit spending trance. Could your spending habits lead to a financial nightmare? Take this quiz to determine your credit risk:

- 1)** Do you spend more than 20 percent of your take-home pay on monthly installment bills (not including rent or car payments)?
- 2)** Are you juggling payments to your creditors?
- 3)** Have you recently had to borrow cash with your credit card to meet household expenses?
- 4)** Do you find it impossible to get money into a savings account?
- 5)** Do collection agencies call you?
- 6)** Do you worry about your debts every day?

**7)** Is there stress in your household because of late bills?

**8)** Have you reached the limit on some or all of your credit cards?

**9)** Do you borrow money from friends, relatives or future paychecks, so a portion of your income is committed before you get it?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions you might need credit or debt counseling.

(Quiz questions compiled from information from Whatcom County Opportunity Council and "Get Out of Debt Now," written by Fred Graver.)

# G C r a t u i t o u s g r e e t i n g s c r e a t e *confusion*

BY FRANCINE OTT

**I**t seemed like an easy task. I just needed to pick a card -- a simple greeting card.

But upon entering an average card store, I was bombarded with thousands of selections, 493 square feet of choices to be exact, all vying for my attention. And every single one was so incredibly specialized.

The first section that caught my attention read "To an Exciting Man." I picked up the card in front of it which read, "It's your birthday, so don't lift a hand." Inside, it read, "unless you're holding a glass," with a rather plump and homely man pictured, who was lounging in a lawn chair holding a can of beer.

Yes, that's exactly the image I get when I think of an exciting man. But since I'm not lucky enough to know any men as enticing as this, I deemed the card inappropriate and ventured further down the aisle. I looked for a section advertising cards "for just a normal guy," but I suppose that was too



general. Not that I was buying a card for just any guy, but I felt the card business and I had different ideas of what an appropriate card for a decent guy should be.

Amazed at how particular the card trade had become, I began the search. They had cards suitable for "A Single Mother," "Preteen Niece," "Teenage Godchild," "Religious Grandmother," and even for "Sis," not sister, but "Sis."

"It's your birthday son! Yee-hah!" shouted a colorful card that was really a small booklet. The booklet described what the Backwoods Bumpkins from Cootersville would be doing because, "It's yur burthday." It was filled with phrases such as, "Have a gol durn great day, y'hear? So son, git with it, join the bunch -- jest hoot 'n holler, too, cuz, after all, this cellybration's speshly meant few yew!"

That's exactly the kind of card I would give my young child. He could refer to it for tips on spelling and grammar. His young, impressionable mind would benefit so much from it.

Since I don't have any children and still hadn't found the message that could relay my sentiments, I pushed onward.

The atmosphere of the '80s was apparent: the store had an entire area devoted to "Coping." Six square feet was filled with a vast array of cards dedicated to the unfortunates teetering on the edge of a nervous breakdown. I had already sent my mentally-unstable acquaintances tidings, so I continued the quest.

I suddenly saw something that might have been just what I was looking for: "Between You and Me -- real feelings, honest words," it proclaimed. But what did "real feelings" mean? Is there such a thing as unreal feelings? And what about honest words? How can words be dishonest? People can use words to lie, but words in and of themselves cannot be dishonest. Or else how could we trust a dictionary?

I picked up another card hoping to quell my confusion. "I never knew love 'til I met you" it proclaimed. The promise of "honest words" wouldn't hold up

if I sent this to just anyone. I picked up another. "I want to be your everything" it announced. Now wait a minute. Isn't there such a thing as plagiarism in the card business? Didn't the high-pitched cries of the Bee Gees captivate the sequined disco queens of the '70s with this line?

I wasn't going to be a part of this. I threw the card back into the bin and made a mental note to call one of the brothers and alert them of this scheme to blacken their good names.

Next to this was another sentimental batch of cards called "Intimate Afterthoughts." I wondered when people bought these cards. Do they buy them before they go out with someone, so in case something intimate happens, they'll have a handy afterthought ready? Or do they run to the store with the intimate moment fresh in their minds? I stood around and waited to see if anyone would buy one so I could get more insight into my questions, but no one did. I was left to examine them myself.

"It only takes a moment" read a pink and lavender-colored card. I feel sorry for the man who receives this as an intimate afterthought. "No matter how long it's been" and "It only takes a thought" read two more. I obviously wasn't going to find anything to buy in this section.

Out of the corner of my eye I spied some crayons and construction paper -- a pack of 48 bright colors and a stack of heavy-duty sheets to express myself. I could use my own mind, my own feelings, either real or unreal, and best of all, I could spell my sentiments correctly.

I had already spent 45 minutes searching for an acceptable card, (I had long since abandoned the idea of finding the "perfect" card) and had yet to find anything. I decided the "simple task" I had set out to do was far from easy.

So I bought crayons, construction paper and even got crazy and threw in some glue.



(Illustrations by Jean Kroll)

Jean Kroll



(Illustration by R. Scott Randall)

# GETTING ON-LINE

**T**he night before a term paper is due is usually early enough for Dave Campbell to begin writing. He enjoys the challenge, and yes, even the excitement, of staying up all night to write a nine-page report. But even with adrenalin pumping and a nighttime supply of coffee brewing, he said he'd never be able to do it without his computer.

"Last year I did a report on witchcraft that I started about midnight the night before I had to turn it in," said Campbell, a junior psychology major.

"I stayed up 'til around five in the morning working on it. I knew I was in a bad way for time, and I didn't have time to be slow. I couldn't have done that without a computer--there's just no way."

Like a lot of other students, Campbell found that buying his own computer was a convenient alternative to spending long hours pecking at a typewriter or sitting in the computer lab all day.

As with any other household necessity, buying

**BY  
MICHELLE  
PARTRIDGE**

a computer can be a challenging task. Most personal computers look alike and have similar capabilities, which makes the job of choosing the right computer even harder.

Apple, IBM, Commodore and Zenith are just a few of the companies that offer computers that could serve the needs of just about any student. For most students, though, the choice comes down to a matter of cost.

George Elliott, general manager of the Student Co-op Bookstore, said the most popular computer on campus is the Apple MacIntosh Plus. He said the MacIntosh is fairly inexpensive and very easy to use.

"Students can learn how to use the MacIntosh in a couple of hours," Elliott said. He added that with other computers, the instructor's manual alone could take a couple of weeks to learn.

The basic MacIntosh system, which includes the computer, keyboard and monitor, costs \$993

at the bookstore, Elliott said. Printers are an option and cost an additional \$458.

With the Apple Computer Co. finance program, students can obtain a loan from the company to buy the system and pay only interest on the loan while enrolled in school -- about \$30 a month. Students start paying the actual loan after graduation.

Elliot said most students buy computers for word processing. He said the standard word processor for the MacIntosh is Word Perfect, which costs \$140 at the bookstore.

Most word processing programs have features to check spelling and can organize everything from the title page to footnotes and bibliographies.

"When I graduated from high school I got a typewriter, but after I started college I decided I needed a computer for word processing," Campbell said.

"Having a computer is so much better and faster. The most creative part of writing is getting your words down on paper. With a typewriter, you can spend two-thirds of your time just on rewrites," he said.

Campbell said he bought his computer mainly for word processing. His poor spelling ability was an important motivator to buy his computer.

"It's a real handicap when you can't spell well," he said. "Sometimes you can lose a half or even a whole grade on a paper because of spelling errors."

Although word processing is very important in college, students will probably use their computers for other purposes once they are out of school. Campbell said when he bought his computer he considered his present and future needs.

"After graduation I figured I would either go to graduate school or seminary," he said. "I knew graduate school would involve a lot of writing. After school I plan to use my computer to do my bills and to

write letters."

Students pursuing careers in business should be aware that IBM computers are a standard in the business world, Elliott said. Apple computers are also used widely in the business industry and in education.

Along with different brands of computers, students can choose from a variety of computer luxury items.

One option that is rapidly becoming more essential to computer owners is an internal disk, or hard disk. The hard disk stores a lot more information than a normal floppy disk does.

"I never deal with floppy disks anymore unless I buy a game," Campbell said. "I've had my computer for three years and I've hardly used one-third of the storage space available."

Another popular addition is a modem, which lets the computer call other computers through phone lines. Modems give computer users access to information on other computers they call.

Other popular hardware items include laser printers, color ink jet printers, color monitors and equipment to produce music and video graphics. Also, thousands of programs, ranging from games to desktop publishing to accounting and business packages, are available at varying costs.

While money is no object for some computer buyers, for most students the decision isn't which of the latest games to buy, but whether their money will buy them a computer, a typewriter or a 50-cent ball point pen.

On bulletin boards around campus, a slip of paper rustles in the breeze, slightly damp from the rain.

On it one desperate Western student offers to trade his motorcycle for a good used computer.

"I would rather be driving a MacIntosh," it says.

### Some Computer Costs

#### Apple MacIntosh Plus:

A price of \$993 includes operating system, keyboard, two disk drive and monochrome monitor. A printer costs an additional \$458.

#### IBM:

\$1287 for operating system, keyboard, monochrome monitor and two disk drive. Printers range from \$199 to \$339.

#### Zenith:

Zenith makes an IBM compatible computer for less than \$1000. The computer system includes the operating system, keyboard, monochrome and two disk drives.

#### Toshiba T1000:

This is a laptop computer with MS Dos built in and costs \$800. The complete system in one unit, weighs 6 1/2 pounds, and runs off of a battery.

# BOAT PHOTO ESSAY





**BY  
CHARLOTTE  
ANDERSON**



# the allure of being *ALONE*

BY  
PAUL  
MAHLUM



Mike Vitale is challenged by Taylor Hill.

**B**eing alone and having a limited amount of distraction helps the mind collect itself and revitalize its circuits. Finding times and places to be alone is a necessary part of being human.

Western student Mike Courtier takes a break from his busy life by roaming the docks of Squalicum harbor. Courtier needs these brief moments to escape from a 20 to 30 hour work week and a full class load.

Courtier loves the smell of salt water.

"Smell is such a triggering mechanism for the senses. It's like your first girlfriend. You will always remember the smell of her perfume."

The docks are packed with fishing and pleasure boats. Men toil on the fishing boats, preparing them for sea. Courtier enjoys watching and talking to men doing a job he knows well.

Many of the faces on the boats are familiar to Courtier because he has worked these docks for the past several summers.

When he meets fishermen whom he has worked with, Courtier often swaps fishing stories over a beer.

"You talk about the close

calls. When you almost sank, when you almost got killed."

Ed Cruz, a senior, also loves the salty smell of sea air and often drives alone to Larrabee State Park in search of it.

"Looking out at the ocean is a feeling of openness you can't get anywhere else," Cruz said. "The smell of the cold air is refreshing."

Cruz sometimes takes a more active approach to solving his problems by running around Lake Padden. Cruz said concentrating on school would be impossible without spending time alone.

"I am a loner who doesn't have many words. I only have a couple of close friends."

He said he runs to formulate the questions he wants advice about.

"If you run and run hard, even if you don't come up with a solution to what you've been thinking about, you still get the sense of achievement because you've done something physical."

Mike Vitale feels the same way. Biking up Taylor Hill with its several steep streets, each one steeper than the last, Vitale has only one thing on his mind: making it to the top.

"It is such a tough hill to

climb, such a challenge. To be able to make it without stopping, I have not only conditioned myself, but conquered myself."

"I don't have to answer to anyone else. I can reflect on things I have done and goals I want to set for the future."

While some people use athletics to relax, others find solitude by less active forms of relaxation.

Phil Montague, a Western philosophy professor, relaxes with his artistic hobbies.

When summer is in full blossom Montague works on a bronze sculpture on the back deck of his Bellingham home. The flowers and green grass of the yard and the more distant waters of Bellingham Bay serve as his inspiration. Sometimes,

instead of sculpturing, he carves wood or stone. When fall comes in, Montague moves his art work into his basement work room.

On late afternoons Montague sometimes likes to walk through Boulevard Park along Bellingham's shoreline to sort through philosophical problems. He enjoys watching the waves crash against the shore and the sight of Lummi Island in the distance.

Stacey Matthews sorts through her problems a different way. She picks a Bellingham back road she hasn't driven before, turns up her stereo and takes off.

Her destination is unknown, but her direction is away from the commotion of school.

"I like to spend time

alone. I'm not a real big crowd person."

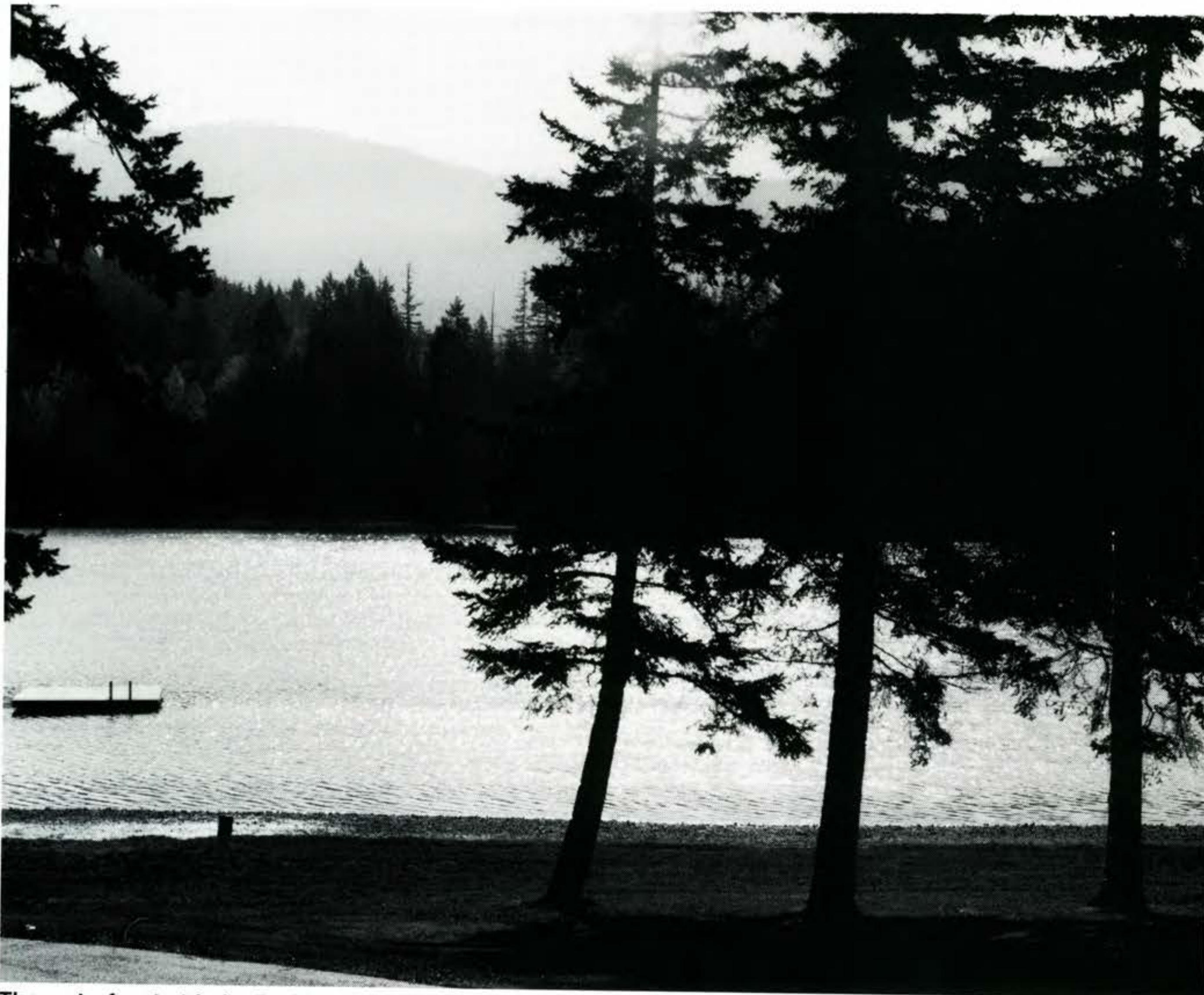
Roads aren't the only places Matthews goes to be alone.

"Sometimes I want to get away but I don't want to be totally alone. Then I'll go to the mall or walk downtown. In the back of your mind you're thinking out your problem."

"When you go to be totally alone, there is something you need to work out. If it is really heavy thought, I'll have to sit there."

If she wants to bring homework with her, Matthews said she goes to the fishing dock at Lake Samish.

"Since no one's around, it's peaceful, seems like everything's removed."



The waterfront at Lake Padden.



(Photos by Jeff Van Kleeck)

*Courtier, Cruz, Vitale, Montague and Matthews each has a haven to disappear to, a place to be alone. Whether it's a dock at Squalicum harbor or in a car traveling the back roads of Bellingham, the mind is free to wander amid its own thoughts.*

*Courtier concludes, "The enjoyment of it is not really doing anything."*

# Trading

# FEARS

For

# *Faith*

BY  
ANNE  
FOUCH

**W**hen I finally awoke from the surgery in the ammonia-scented hospital room, everything was blurry. The first person I saw was my doctor. Her mouth was moving when I began to recognize her, but I couldn't understand what she was saying. She was in mid-sentence when I blurted out the question, "What do I have?" A long pause hung in the air, and then came a hesitant answer, "You have cancer," she said.

The pain killers had fogged my mind so much that I wasn't able to fully comprehend the reality of her statement. I soon fell back to sleep. It wasn't until about the fourth time I awoke from my heavy slumber that I realized my situation. I had a disease that when simply mentioned conjures up all kinds of thoughts and questions.

"What will it be like? What am I facing? Am I going to die?" I asked myself.

Just the word...cancer...was difficult for me to say. It was something that happened to old people, smokers or just OTHER people. Not ME. But it had happened. And only God knew why. I had a million questions and a sea of emotions inside me.

The most pressing question I had was, why? Why is this happening to me? I knew if I continued to beat the air with that question I would be miserable. That path would only lead to stagnancy and I would never be able to work through the issues that were going to teach me a lifetime of lessons.

I was relieved when I discovered the type of cancer I had was a curable form. I also knew curable meant I would have to go through some kind of treatment.

My doctor and nurse told me the best way to treat this particular cancer type, lymphoma, was with chemotherapy.

The term chemotherapy comes from the combination of two words, "chemical" and "treatment." According to the booklet "Chemotherapy and You" written by members of the Sidney Farber Cancer Institute of Boston, "cancer cells grow in an uncontrolled manner, and they may break away from their original site and spread to other parts of the body." Chemotherapy is the use of anticancer drugs to stop the cancer cells' ability to grow and multiply.

Because so many different types of cancer exist, there is no "best-way" to treat the disease. It depends on the type of cancer and the combination of drugs used.

In the beginning I was frightened. My doctor could not guarantee the treatment would work, but he constantly reassured me it was highly probable I would survive.

I remember laying in my hospital bed listening to him tell

me what was going to happen to me during the next six months. No, I wouldn't be going on an exciting trip to Italy like I had planned spring quarter. Instead I would be in and out of the doctor's office and hospital every other week receiving anti-cancer treatments. My diagnosis came in April, 1989, four days before I was to leave on my trip to study abroad.

If I had ever felt disappointed, it was never at this intensity. But instead of dwelling on the fact that I couldn't go to Italy, I took consolation that some day I would understand the reasons why.

April 22, 1989 journal entry:

"It's going to be a long six months. Mom came into my room to be with me while I threw up. I tried to be strong. But I cried. Why is this happening? I trust God. I know He knows what He's doing. But I have so many questions!"

The chemotherapy treatments began three weeks after I recovered from surgery. The first ones were the scariest because I didn't know exactly what they would be like or how they would feel. I tried, though, to keep a positive attitude, repeating to myself, "It's helping me. These treatments will help."

This ordeal reinforced in me the reality that our lives are much shorter than what comes after them. I began to ask myself questions such as, "Am I engaging in activities I know will help people, or that will give me a sense of achievement?" I evaluated my outlook on life and decided to take notice and appreciate the little things, such as, seeing and hearing and going to school.

It was interesting that whenever I would begin to feel sorry for myself I would be placed in the same hospital room with someone who had an incurable cancer. At least I had a chance at living. These people knew they were going to die soon.

One woman I met had a brain tumor and could only hope and

pray for a miraculous healing, yet she was one of the happiest people I have ever known. Her unshakable faith in God and her warm smile reflected her incredible zeal for life. The purpose for all of her suffering, she thought, was to make her a stronger person. And strong she became. She had to go through months of cancer treatment unsure if it would work.

Because of her I learned to be content with my situation. The many hours of treatments, tests and sleepless nights were painful, but I now understand that everything in life happens for a reason. For me chance no longer exists.

Still, death is a scary thing to face. I was faced with the fact that someday, life as I know it, would conclude and something else would happen. I have discovered through my situation, the reason people fear death is that they don't know when, what, where or how it will happen. I found relief in just knowing that if I was going to die now, it would be from cancer. I wouldn't have to guess at how I would die. It's a comforting feeling.

There are advantages for someone as young as me, 21, to be placed in a situation like this. Because one day we will all have to face the question of death. It was good for me to ask myself questions about it while I'm still young. I have faced the fears that I otherwise would have had to confront later in my life.

One advantage cancer patients have in dealing with the possibility of death, over those with diseases that attack and kill very quickly, is they have the opportunity to plan the final days of their lives, said Louise Granger, registered nurse from St. Joseph's Hospital. They can set goals and work toward achieving them, she said.

After my surgery I went back to a normal life of socializing and running errands.

Four months of chemotherapy went by and in July I was tested to determine

how well my body was reacting to the treatment. Much to my doctor's and my surprise the test came back normal! The anticancer drugs were effectively shrinking what was left of the tumor away, and the prayers were working.

The final two months of treatments were easier because I knew the drugs were working. On the other hand, I sometimes didn't want to make the appointments because I felt nothing was left to be treated. Of course, I understood I had to continue the treatments to make sure all of the cancer was purged from my body.

I never knew two months could last so long. I passed the time visiting with my family in Portland and working in Kent.

Finally it was over. I completed the treatments and only have to see my doctor once every six weeks for check-ups. The cancer is in remission, which means doctors can't find any more in my body. If it doesn't come back within five years, doctors say it will be gone forever.

I was amazed that through all the uncertainty and wondering during this trial, I felt peace. The support and prayers of my family and friends were more important to me than they could ever imagine. This verse from the Bible gave me hope and encouragement through it all.

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*"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

**Jeremiah**

**29:11-13**

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BY MICHAEL THOMSEN

# LIZARDS SEA CUCUMBERS

&

# SHOSTAKOVICH

**S**tudents usually witness at least one funny or unusual incident in class each quarter. Multiply that by the number of years most of Western's teachers have taught and a collection of diverse, humorous and unusual stories emerges.

Teachers, since they are usually the focal point during classes, are susceptible to embarrassment should something go wrong in class.

Biology professor Charles Flora, for example, was on a field excursion with one of his classes at Larrabee State Park.

On most trips, after the students had collected specimens during low tide, Flora would hold up each of the specimens to the students and tell them all about it. Flora said



(Illustration by Kwok Wong)

he enjoys smoking cigars on these field exercises.

"I had this cigar going in my mouth and I picked out of this bucket a little red (sea) cucumber. When they're contracted, they look suspiciously like a cigar. What I did was, I held the cigar in my left hand, and I was holding the sea cucumber up in my right hand and I'm talking about it," he said, "and when I got through, I threw the cigar in the bucket and stuck the sea cucumber in my mouth!"

The rest of that quarter, Flora said he couldn't even mention a sea cucumber without the students' giggling turning into an uproar of laughter.

Retired anthropology professor Herbert Taylor preferred to laugh at the

students in his 38 years of teaching at Western.

At the time, Taylor was working while Angelo Anastasio was the anthropology chairman. When students came to Taylor to get registration permission slips signed, he would not only sign in the space that required his signature but, in the space where Anastasio was supposed to sign, Taylor would write "Angelo," skip a long space and then put "Anastasio."

"Now you go into the chair," he would tell the student, "because he has to sign it also. Unfortunately, our chairman can't write, so you show him where to put his 'X' and he will put his 'X' there."

After doing this to many confused but gullible students, he finally had one who asked, "If he can't read or write, what's he doing as chairman of the department?" Taylor played the joke one step further and replied, "My God, woman, you wouldn't want us to have him teach class if he couldn't read or write!"

Taylor later noted that Anastasio was literate and scholarly.

Another professor who occasionally likes to put his students in awkward situations is biology professor Herbert Brown.

Brown, who's taught at Western for 22 years, enjoys using a live lizard for class demonstrations every once in a while.

But this isn't just any lizard. One day, Brown offered the lizard to some unexpected students. "I'd say 'here, hold this lizard' and as I offered it to them I'd let it bite their finger," he said.

"It's fascinating to let that lizard bite you," Brown said. "It's not going to break the skin," he said, "it just gets a startled response (from the students)."

The fun with lizards doesn't stop here though. Brown said that since the lizard's brain is so small, students get a kick out of holding the animal up to a light and watching the light come

through the lizard's head.

But sometimes the teachers are the ones who end up getting surprised. Karen Iglitzen, an associate professor of music, remembered a time last April when she was coaching Western's string quartet at a national competition in Wichita, Kansas.

On the morning of the competition, Iglitzen and the quartet were having breakfast about an hour before the competition was to begin. A question came up regarding the music they were going to play, so one of the students reached into his briefcase to pull out the music and he couldn't find it.

"So this excited morning at breakfast... rapidly turns into one of the most tense moments you can imagine," she said, "He started more frantically looking and then they all started opening up their instrument cases in the middle of the coffee shop, throwing everything around and hunting for the score."

Many accusations flew between the quartet members, "...and here this nice calm pre-contest mode was completely destroyed," she said.

Iglitzen sent the students to various places to look for the music, with 50 minutes left before the competition. The local university's music library was on the list.

"Even with that, you've got to know when you're beat. You're in Wichita, Kansas, looking for a Shostakovich score," Iglitzen said, adding that the piece they were looking for was rare to begin with.

"Frankly, I didn't think we had a chance in hell, but at least we knew that we'd tried," she said. At 9:30, Iglitzen found the library and got the piece. Finally, at 9:55, Iglitzen raced into the competition with the score and the quartet "played the best they'd ever played," she said. "It's at times like that," she said, "when you ask yourself, 'Why am I a music professor?'"

No one said teaching would be easy.



# CHANGING GEARS WITH DEER AND ANIMAL BEER

BY  
CHRIS  
WEBB

I pushed the rewind button of the AM/FM cassette stereo before I opened the black canvas door and jumped out.

Bending over, I turned the right front hub then circled the front of the vehicle and repeated the same process on the left. Ah, now it was four wheel drive.

I hopped back in, sat down, buckled my seat belt and glanced at the driver.

Slowly moving my head down, I put my hands together and sent

rut-infested hill in front of us.

I unzipped the plastic window and turned up the stereo. The eccentric and laid back music of the Grateful Dead bellowed from the two 5- by 9-inch Kenwood speakers in the back.

One verse from the song stuck in my head.

"I may be going to hell in a bucket babe, but at least I'm enjoying the ride."

Dave Barritt's "bucket" is a 1973 Jeep CJ-5 and "hell" lies between us and the asphalt highway to home.

Barritt, a fifth-year senior majoring in visual communications, bought his Jeep five years ago.

"My old car kept getting stuck in the mud," Barritt said of his 1974 Ford Pinto.

Barritt's Jeep shows evidence of his 25,000 miles of off-road use.

D r i e d  
mud

from  
a

previous trip covered most of the faded orange exterior and some of the small dings.

The wheels are slightly bent and the body is a tad off alignment. But the engine still runs on all six cylinders and it gets him to school and back home everyday.

You can best measure the thrill and excitement of four wheeling by how many times "oh shit!" is screamed. Joel Highet, the third

up a  
q u i c k  
p r a y e r  
before looking  
out the windshield  
at the steep, rock- and

(Photos by Joel Highet)

member of our party, and I screamed "oh shit" a few times (as well as a few other words).

"I've had my Jeep in every position possible," Barritt bragged while shifting gears, "except upside down."

"Gee, thanks Dave," I said with a slight screech in my voice. "That makes me feel better."

Just then we began to climb the first part of the hill, better described as a small mountain,

part of a forest.

A slight grind occurred when Barritt reached to the floor and shifted



This peaceful and hushed solitude was partially interrupted after I asked Hight what he had thought of the trip.

"It reminds me of the days when I used to run with the deer," he said in a sarcastic tone.

We burst into laughter at the answer, but only for a moment, and then the small valley was quiet again. I turned away from him, stretched out my legs and locked my fingers behind my head.

The breeze began to numb my face as I gazed into the distance, appreciating the beauty of the surroundings and taking in the fresh, crisp mountain air.

I began to wonder what he had meant by his remark. Then I realized it didn't matter.

The transfer case into low-range. This caused the vehicle to crawl a little faster than idle speed through the twisted narrow trail.

A two-day rain storm made a once dry and legitimate road into an ice arena of mud and water. An ordinary run-of-the-mill car wouldn't have made it 100 yards down the road; even most four wheel drive vehicles would have had some problems.

That's where Barritt's "If it's stuck, give it more throttle," attitude came in, giving Hight and I a new perspective on four wheeling and life.

Our excursion ended where the road did, in the middle of a recently logged clear-cut about 13 miles east of Bellingham.

We parked near the end of the road, next to a stump and got out of the Jeep. We walked to the edge of a cliff and sat down on a rock, about the size of a compact car, that was embedded in the ground.

The fiery colors of maple leaves and deep greens of the Douglas Firs filled the surrounding mountains and valleys. A brisk, cool mountain breeze pushed the thick cloud cover along, causing the sun to make brief appearances.

With the Jeep's stiff suspension, dips in the road hurled me into the air, even with my seat belt adjusted to maximum tightness.

After conquering the hill, Barritt put the Jeep in neutral and reached in the cooler behind the passenger seat.

He pulled out a 12-ounce can of Schmidt, popped the top and took a big swig.

"It relaxes me," he said smiling.

"In that case, I better drink six or seven." I also reached in back and grabbed an Animal Beer.

As we continued our journey, the jars and bumps caused most of my beer to spill on my pants. To my amazement, Barritt escaped from the beer bath.

We continued along the rocky gravel road until we reached the beginning of a dirt trail that weaved through a densely thick and dark

# EUROPE WITH THE TOP DOWN

— BY NICOLE BADER —

**W**hile traveling around Europe this summer I experienced many fun, and discouraging, things. Advice from the numerous travel books couldn't help me with the weird and wild things I saw, ate and did. I often shocked myself. After all was said, eaten and done, I wrote a list of personal advice for people who want to travel in Europe, or any foreign land.

## **DOs:**

1. Jump off the train in the middle of the night with your buddies and sleep on the beach in Greece. You don't need a sleeping bag, tent or pillow for this, just a little Greek Ouzo and a big head rush.

2. Take your top off during prime tanning hours. Most European travelers go nude on Portugal beaches, and showing some bare breasts can give you

that "one with nature feeling."

3. Bring a certain piece of clothing you absolutely love because you will wear the same thing all the time.

4. Talk to strangers and go into the pubs with the locals, especially if you're traveling alone.

5. Be one with dirt, grit and body odor. Learn how to love greasy hair - you'll only get one shower every three days during your great train trek across Europe.

6. Get off the beaten track and visit a religious commune in Switzerland. In fact, join the commune for a day, watch the evening dance ceremonies, gorge on the natural oatmeal for breakfast and do your part by cleaning up the dishes after each meal. However, don't waste any food at these places (even butter) because the spirits will get very angry.

7. Be flexible. Change your travel plans if you meet interesting people you want to hang out with for a while, or if you have to get away from the nag you originally planned to travel with.

8. Be selfish. This is your "once in a lifetime chance" to experience it all in Europe and do exactly what you want to do - don't make sacrifices or compromises.

9. Always have toilet paper with you in your pocket or backpack. Most of the time, train trips will be very long, crowded and stuffy. To make matters worse, the toilet paper in the train bathroom will undoubtedly run out 10 hours before you're due to arrive at your next destination.

10. Break the language barrier with the locals over a bottle of wine in the Italian enotecas (wineries).

11. If at all possible, live with the locals while visiting their town. This is a great way to see new culture in Greece and Portugal.

12. Take boat rides with the locals in Venice. You might even get a free meal of clams, shrimp, wine, cheese and bread. Just don't drink too much wine and lose your camera.

13. If you're in Pisa, Italy and it's raining go ahead and visit the leaning tower, but don't climb it. The tower is made of marble and, guess what, it leans. It is very possible to slip off in the rain and die - the Italians don't appear to have any safety codes.

## **DON'T's:**

1. Don't buy little marble copies of "The David" in Florence or anywhere in Italy.

2. Don't kick a Frenchman, while you're eating pastries, after he has rubbed your leg. Do go easy on these men - they think American women are movie stars, seriously. It's disgusting.

3. Don't carry anything valuable other than your camera, passport, travelers checks and

train pass. Credit cards can come in handy too, so you might want to bring some plastic.

4. Don't get stuck on a small Greek island without travelers checks or cash (unless you have generous friends).

5. Don't buy a bunch of T-shirts in Italy unless you have a small relative that will appreciate an extra-large shrunk to a small.

6. Don't split up from your traveling companions for more than 12 hours unless you have three back-up plans to meet in other places.

7. If you do get separated from your friends, don't wait for them for more than two days. Chances are, they just might go off and have fun without you - like go hiking with an Australian man along a Swiss Alps waterfall - dammit.

8. Don't buy food on the trains; it's too expensive. Go shopping at the local grocery store and make your own sandwiches. Look for a squeeze tube of mustard in Switzerland, so the sandwiches don't have to be dry.

9. Don't carry a flimsy backpack that won't support your back, unless you have a big boyfriend that will kindly carry both packs.

10. Don't steal towels from Paris hotels because they will search your baggage. For that matter, don't leave your towel in a bar to dry, while you drink free beer with Canadian travelers. Everything you have on your trip is usually with you all the time, so it's convenient to dry wet towels in bars.

11. Sometimes you may hook up with a slobbish traveling companion. Try not to always groom them, let the bread crumbs rest where they fall.

12. Unless you're totally into music and can't live without American tunes, leave your Walkman at home.

13. Don't stand in a phone booth with someone who hasn't showered in the last three days and has been sleeping in the Paris train station.



(Illustration by Christy Schoener)

