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Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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Grad receives honors as her passion for learning brings success

McManus to hold book signing at EWU

McManus signs his new book for fans at his last EWU book signing session in the Showalter Auditorium Rotunda on April 11.

Good Luck Grads!
No more pencils!
No more books!
No more teacher’s dirty looks!

During the spring of 1998, Eastern was thrust into a struggle to maintain its independence as a regional comprehensive university. Due to low enrollment and internal dissonance within the administration, there was some question as to whether Eastern should be dissolved into a branch campus of Washington State University. The university was required to host a full-scale, ten-year site evaluation visit for the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC), its accrediting agency.

Never the less, EWU escaped from its impending doom, and under new leadership has changed its focus. Six weeks before, the university hosted a focused interim evaluation, a three-day visit to enable Patrick O’Rourke, Ph.D. NASC site evaluator, to assess the progress made in addressing the accreditation agency’s 1998 recommendations for improvement at Eastern.

If one were to pick a reasonable time to host a full-scale accreditation evaluation visit to Eastern Washington University, it certainly would not have been in the spring of 1998,” said O’Rourke in his report following the recent re-evaluation. “Should the same evaluation team visit Eastern today, its members would find a dramatically different institution; one that has re-found its way and has made substantial progress,” O’Rourke continued. “Improvements are evident throughout the university, and a very different and much healthier emotional climate prevails today. Board, staff, faculty, and administration all seem to be pulling in the same direction and are making progress toward their goals. It is, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, an institution well on the road to recovery.”

Lynn Hartly, assistant to the provost and vice president for academic affairs, would like to congratulate the campus community “for a job well done in pulling together to make Eastern the institution of opportunity that it is today.”

O’Rourke’s full report can be accessed on the university website at www.ewu.edu/provost.

Finals Schedule

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English 100/101 Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Math 101, 104, 105, 106, 200 Tuesday, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Spanish 103, 203 Tuesday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Evening Courses First regular meeting day of finals week

In the spring of 1998, despite its history, Eastern found its future uncertain. In a recent re-evaluation, the university was found to have made significant progress since the original ruling that might have made EWU merely a part of Washington State University.

Eastern’s future history secured

McManus to hold book signing at EWU

EWU student Cheri Leng has a passion for learning, and it shows—in her 3.99 grade point average, in the host of awards she will receive in next week’s commencement, and in the fact that she will be graduating at the age of 19.

"I just enjoy [school] so much. I really like what I’m doing and what I’m learning,” said the pre-med major. “I see school not necessarily as an end in itself, but as the beginning of a lifetime of learning.”

Leng attributes this self-discipline and passion for learning to the fact that she was home-schooled. As a direct result of the qualities she gained in home school, Leng, in college, never does just the minimum needed to get by in a class.

“Home school motivates you to learn because you want to, not because some teacher is making you.”

Leng was born in California, after her parents immigrated to the United States. Her mother, Alice, is originally from Hong Kong, and her father, John, is from Malaysia. Leng also has two younger brothers, one of whom attends Eastern.

“I just enjoy [school] so much. I really like what I’m doing and what I’m learning,” said the pre-med major. “I see school not necessarily as an end in itself, but as the beginning of a lifetime of learning.”

Leng’s family and church are also very important to her. She uses these hobbies as a way to keep perspective and balance in her life, and to not let school consume her.

"You don’t let one part of your life crowd out everything else, which is easy to do in school.”

Leng said her greatest challenge has been staying focused and maintaining her love of learning. She has also had to have a great amount of self-discipline. These obstacles haven’t been hard for Leng, as she has been taught these qualities from a very young age.

Leng’s mother, a nurse, gave up her work to home school Cheri and her brothers.

“She has just given so much of herself to the three of us. She is very strong emotionally. That really helps when things get difficult.”

Leng attributes her self-discipline and passion for learning to the fact that she was home-schooled. As a direct result of the qualities she gained in home school, Leng, in college, never does just the minimum needed to get by in a class.

“Home school motivates you to learn because you want to, not because some teacher is making you.”

Medallion for academic excellence and outstanding leadership. Only 21 graduates in the university will be winning the award.

This fall Leng will be attending medical school at the University of Washington. She is not really sure what branch of medicine she wants to go into, but she definitely wants to work with patients rather than concentrating solely on research.

“Medicine is so diverse. The problem with me is that I’m interested in everything.”

This is evident in Leng’s extracurricular activities. Aside from being a member of Phi Kappa Phi, she is also a member of Phi Sigma—the biological honors society, and the pre-med, pre-dent society. She is the first (hair in the EWU orchestra, has been a teacher’s aide for several professors in the chemistry department and also gives free music lessons to people who cannot afford them.

“She is just a special young lady. She is very bright, and has a great future in front of her in medical school,” said Marty Zyskowski, conductor of the EWU orchestra.

Leng has many interests outside of school also. She uses music as a way to rejuvenate herself.

“It is a great release.”

She also likes any form of art, gardening, cooking, and loves the outdoors. She likes to do anything from camping and hiking, to downhill and water skiing. Leng’s family and church are also very important to her.

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Wondering what you're going to do this summer?

Be a Peer Leader!
A weekend away peer educators retreat,
July 28-30, 2000, is a fun and exciting opportunity for both youth and adults.
If you'd like to volunteer as an adult peer educator
Contact Jodi @ 324-1587 or Sharlynn @ 324-1466
Strange Days
Indeed
by Darren Beal

Much 'adieu' about nothing

One more for the road that leads from the palace of wisdom to the valley of mediocrity.

One last column. That's all. Just squeeze out the last shades of Linton S. Thompson and his surreal brand of journalism. A last, verbi-verb, mind-vending trip through that warped time-space continuum which begins with the EWU sign on the west side of town and ends somewhere just short of Medical Lake.

Imagine Cheney in your rearview mirror. Imagine Ex-policeman Gardner running your license plates just one more time. Imagine your BA or MA or Doctorate of Journalist level. The product of years of sweat and misconduct, being held up by the registrar's office because of the $545 in parking fines you've neglected to pay for the last four to nine years.

Imagine publishing yourself as a garbage journalist sullied and despoiled by weeks of responsible behavior, drinking non-fat milk and eating soy burgers, carefully bagging up your doggie's doings in Stryton Park, turning down offers of even the most pithy kinds.

Imagine there's no heaven... only a vast, unexplored world beyond college, where two plus two still equals four and weekends are made for Michelob.

Imagine Shires Lemac, trapped in the first stall in the Hargreaves basement men's room, screaming bloody murder because someone swapped all the toilet paper again.

Imagine you had a copy of your favorite college paper... Imagine unemployment. Imagine flipping burgers for a living. Imagine, if you will, a place beyond our normal conception of time and space, where crows and sparrows don't hover outside your six a.m. Saturday window, drowning out all possibility of catching up on the weeks lost sleep.

A place where 40 hours of work equals something close to 40 hours of wages.

A place where a Thursday night beer does not require a 20 minute commitment to stand in line behind a bunch of drunken yahoos shouting "Brian, Brian, Brian..."

A place of beauty, perfection and reasonableness, not unlike Peoria, Illinois.

Or, my old (and now future) home, Walla Walla, Wash., where, against all probability, I've been hired as a professional journalist.

As I watch Cheney fade in my rearview mirror, I'll remember many people and a few good times. I'll remember many people and a few good times.

The Easterner staff and its good-humored, if ill-advised antics.

The faculty, staff and president of EWU, for their ill-humored, if well-advised, intentions.

The other friends I've made, including, but not limited to, Triah, Lori, Lisa, Joe and Leslie, Haley (blessings to the baby), Jipiltalo and Maresha, Martin, Curt, the unaskable Molly Murray, Evil Darwin and Angelic Lynne, Betsy, the owners of Willow Springs, Bill's Tavern and Showies, my ex-Puerto Rican attorney Carlos Acevedo (at long last, his true identity is revealed - he's my loyal doggie-sitter and friend Norma, my newly engaged Canadian neighbor, my new and engaged fiancé, and all those I've offended. Or not offended.

If you're ever drifting through the tranquil, if still, Walla Walla valley, look me up. I'll buy you a draft of Penitentiary Porter. On me. No Kidding.

U-Views

Scholarship' Pageant?

Brigham Young commentator
Karen Lee says Miss America contest should actually honor academic achievement, as its name implies, rather than phony fingernails and other falsies.

(U-WIRE) PROVO, Utah — The official name of the annual parade of octogenarian clad women is now "The Miss America Scholarship Pageant."

I think that a scholarship that doesn't truly measure the knowledge one has, but merely the beauty one possesses, should be done away with.

When I think of a phrase containing the word "scholar" I think of knowledge. However, when the word "scholarship" was added to the official title of the Miss America Pageant, I believe there were ulterior motives.

Pageant directors were trying to get away from the idea that the pageant was just another beauty contest. Therefore, they changed the name of the pageant but didn't do much about the criteria used to judge those who were striving for the title.

Elements of the pageant still include: talent, which counts as 40 percent of the total score, interview, which accounts for 30 percent of the total score, and swimsuit at 15 percent and swimsuit at 15 percent of the total raw score.

Pageant directors wanted to portray the idea that pageants are won based on merit and inner beauty and not on outer appearances.

However, when 30 percent of a contestant's score is based on walking in high heels from one side of the stage to the other wearing either a fancy gown or just a swimsuit, the idea of merit and inner beauty fizzes.

I'm sure judges aren't looking at the so-called "inner-beauty" of a contestant. This is evident when most competitors use stuffed bras, fake nails, inch-thick layers of makeup, wrap their bodies in masking tape to give the appearance of thinness; and have skin that looks like leather from fake tanning.

The idea of merit also fades far, far away when the pageant is looked at on a local level. On this level a contestant is not even required to have a platform statement — a cause the contestant is trying to champion in her community.

The whole idea of the platform is not even thought about until after a contestant wins at the local level.

As far as academic merit is concerned, those contestants who are still in high school are only required to have just over a 2.5 GPA.

Most students with a GPA in that range would easily be overlooked for other scholarship opportunities.

And while speaking of academic merit, I'm not even going to answer the question of how knowledgeable one has to be to parade around in a swimsuit wearing high heels.

I'll admit I have had my fair share of competing in pageants, and I've even won before. But I would have to say that never have I felt more like a potato salad with files hovering overhead waiting for their chance to pick me apart while competing in a pageant.

Those files were mostly the judges, but occasionally other contestants possessed maggott-like qualities that were used to tear me apart behind the scenes.

I sometimes wonder if the money earned by pageant winners is really worth the amount of time, effort and money they put into the pageant themselves.

While it is true that winners are given scholarship money, it is also important to consider the amount of money a contestant has to pay just to compete.

Every contestant, be it on the local, state or national level, needs an outfit for the production number, talent routine, interview and evening wear portion of the competition, as well as a swimsuit. Each of the outfits also requires shoes and other accessories, pushing total costs of competing into several hundreds of dollars.

Other expenses may include makeup, getting music cut for a talent number or obtaining a live accompanist, not to mention the income lost for getting time off work to attend all pageant practices.

Not counted in dollars is the vast amount of time spent by each contestant practicing up for the big event.

Contestants not only spend time practicing their talent numbers and interviewing skills, but also their high heel walking capabilities, as well as time exploring their make-up and hair styling options.

Unlike the Miss America Scholarship Pageant, most scholarships don't require you to spend money at all, and may only require you to fill out an application or submit a piece of work you have done in order to be considered.

Although it is not likely this scholarship pageant will be done away with anytime soon, it is my hope that a more appropriate title could be arranged. I think a good name would be something more along the lines of "The Miss America, High-Heel-Wearing, Money-Coutning, Time-Spent-Practicing, Outer-Beauty-Judged Scholarship Pageant."
Good friends and a bottle of wine

Allen Moody

All that stands between a dear friend of mine and graduation is a bottle of wine. Well, make that several bottles of wine. While filling out her application for graduation, we were horrified to find out that the senior capstone requirement had yet to be filled. A quick glance at the summer course listings showed two different capstone classes offered; the first, “Enology of Washington Wines” and later on in the summer, “Rails to Trails.” Naturally, anyone trying to graduate as soon as possible is going to take the first class offered and get out of this useless waste of time.

I have absolutely nothing against alcohol, and have even been known to consume my fair share on numerous occasions, but have difficulty seeing how the university can justify a graduation requirement course centered around alcohol.

While Larry Kiser, director of integrated studies, and James Hoffman, the course instructor, are both true Romantic poets, the idea of wine tasting is only a portion of the class, the fact remains that some EWU seniors are being literally coerced into a class that offers little or no redeeming benefits. Is the ability to say a wine smells like “cat pee” or a “sweaty sock” (their categories, not mine) really going to prove beneficial to students in the long run?

A course that is alcohol-based also appears to go against everything Eastern supposedly stands for. EWU gives the impression of being extremely concerned about alcohol awareness. Hell, the Easterner office has even been searched by the campus police for alcohol after receiving a tip from “an anonymous source.” Naturally, no alcohol was found, but if the university is so willing to let the campus police go snooping around our office because “somebody” says we have alcohol, some deserve to die in a disapprove of drinking. Perhaps the university only disapproves of drinking when they don’t stand to make any money off it.

The Easterner

Opinion

Mike Willard, Opinion Editor

Students a source of teacher inspiration

Carolina Carlessi

Learning can be a two-way street says one instructor

Spring quarter had just started. I was about to teach my World. Masterpieces 212 class when someone stopped me at the door. One student took the steaming cup of green tea from my hand, and the other blindfolded me. The cold hand of a young man led into the darkness only guided by the pull of the shoulder of another human being making me dependent and insecure.

Not being able to see is a disturbing act, not knowing if people see you or not is also disturbing. There is no confirmation of our own existence. Our relationship to the passerby is powerless. They might be watching us, but we don’t know it. We formed a circle, watching us, but we don’t know it. We formed a circle around the central mall. "Now find your partners by voice," the leader said, and a collective shout was heard. I shouted, and my partner, Alegra Thornsburg found me. The blindfolds off, I could see sparks in the eyes of my students and the first buds of spring on the trees.

While Larry Kiser, director of integrated studies, and James Hoffman, the course instructor, are both true Romantic poets, the idea of wine tasting is only a portion of the class, the fact remains that some EWU seniors are being literally coerced into a class that offers little or no redeeming benefits. Is the ability to say a wine smells like “cat pee” or a “sweaty sock” (their categories, not mine) really going to prove beneficial to students in the long run?

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The Easterner

"Censoring something you find distasteful is far more offensive than what you wanted to censor in the first place."

-- Allen Moody, Easterner Editor

The First Amendment

The Easterner Staff

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech; or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"Censoring something you find distasteful is far more offensive than what you wanted to censor in the first place."

-- Allen Moody, Easterner Editor

(4/1/99 - 6/1/00)
Going out with a whimper

Alien Adams
Managing Editor

To everyone expecting us to do something completely outrageous for this, the final issue of the year, my apologies. There are no tableaux, no parading shots of anybody or no purposeful attempts to piss anybody off. Sure, the urge is there, but out of respect for Steve Blewett and Bill Stimson, it’s better to go out quietly.

I urge anybody undecided on his or her major to consider enrolling in the journalism program. The year that I spent in the journalism courses was one of the most enjoyable periods of my life.

I can’t say enough good things about Steve and Bill, so I’ll just say “thanks guys.” You’ve been instructors, advisers and more importantly, friends over these past three years, even though I certainly didn’t make things easy on you at times. I owe you two a lot and appreciate all you’ve done for me.

While most of my writing this year about EWU has been on the negative side in the opinion section, there are plenty of good things about the university, most notably the personnel. Tom Mullin, Scott Finnie and Dan Turbeville have been three of the best instructors anybody could possibly ask for. While I piss and moan about math more than most, I have to give credit to graduate instructors Roseann Collins, Karen Folger and most of all, Mike Monke (who had the audacity to fail me) for getting me through algebra. Thanks, and best of luck to you.

Other people who have been a tremendous help to the paper and myself include Dave Cook and all in his office, Stefanie Pettit, Pam Lichorobiec will make the paper an interesting place to work, to say the least. Rock on guys.

Fortunately, some of us will be on our merry way out of Cheney and Eastern Washington University. Dave will be heading over to the West Coast to work and will be an asset wherever he goes. Best of luck to you.

Daren will be returning to Walla Walla to work for a weekly newspaper. We had some good times, some forgettable times and some times that neither one of us can remember together. Stay in touch, brother.

Jaime, the newest member of the staff, has been an absolute joy to work with. We’ll get you out of this place yet, don’t worry. Get over your cold...we have some decent concerts to go in the next few weeks.

There’s nothing else to say but it’s been fun. Peace.

Ryan Ford, of WSU’s Daily Evergreen, sees a bell weather change reflected in his father’s traditional Texas views

U-Views

Conservative values evolving

Ryan Ford, of WSU’s Daily Evergreen, sees a bell weather change reflected in his father’s traditional Texas views

(U-WIRE) PULLMAN, Wash. — Few people would say my dad is on the cutting edge of society. Born during the last wave of baby boomers, he’ll turn 55 this July.

Of course, his age is not the only reason my dad would be described as conservative — he is from Texas, a highly conservative place where veiled homocentric scenes in “The Talented Mr. Ripley” had audiences booing.

My dad teaches high-school journalism in Beeville, a small town in south Texas, and attends church every Sunday.

Taken together, the age, the job and the culture have led me to believe my dad was as conservative as they come. Somehow, one of our weekly conversations turned to the subject of gay rights about a year ago, to my dismay.

I had been expecting a lengthy dissertation on how the gay lifestyle was wrong and how glad he was that I’m not gay.

So, I was surprised when he stated he was in favor of gay rights.

My dad is only one of a growing number of people standing up for gay rights. Washington is the latest state where people have made themselves heard.

The state Public Employee Benefits Board decided Tuesday to extend health benefits to same-sex partners. According to the Associated Press, “gay and lesbian state employees, including those in higher education, will be allowed to submit an ‘affidavit of domestic partnership’ to sign up their partners.”

The debate over whether to extend health benefits to same-sex partners continues across the country. Vermont was the first state to recognize same-sex marriages, or more accurately, “civil unions,” in 2000.

Washington is the fifth state to extend benefits to same-sex partners. Debate in Olympia has centered around the morality and the fiscal sense of the move. Extending the benefits will result in an approximate cost increase of $2.50 a month for all active and retired state employees.

Those in favor of the move noted that Seattle has offered domestic-partnership benefits for 13 years and finds it actually pays out less in claims for partners than for spouses, according to the AP.

Other people opposed the move on constitutional grounds, stating that the entire issue was an attempt to subvert the Legislature.

I’m neither a constitutional scholar nor an accountant, but these concerns seem somewhat minor to me. Both could be solved if the Legislature would get off its red-taped ass and recognize same-sex partnerships, at least in terms of providing more money for benefits.

Rick Fournier, head of the local chapter of the Christian Coalition, raised the most-often-heard argument against recognizing partnerships, calling homosexuality “the deadliest lifestyle on the planet” and a “com-pulsive addiction,” according to the Associated Press.

I don’t think I can offer an argument against that, at least not one Fournier would accept. He’s nuts. While promiscuity has been acknowledged as a problem within the gay community, that does not make being gay especially dangerous.

But I can say this: South Texas is home to one of the most liberal cities in America: Austin.

My dad hates Austin, describing the city as “corrupted by its own,” though he is often referring to the mechanics of Texas state government when he says that.

It’s not hard for me to imagine my dad — if he watched the show — paraphrasing Cartman in saying, “Damn hippies,” and actually meaning it. But my dad is willing to give gay partnerships full recognition under the law. I am surprised others find the notion difficult to accept.

After all, as my twice-divorced dad likes to say, “If two people — regardless of sex — fall in love, how can anyone say it’s wrong?”

There’s nothing else to say but it’s been fun. Peace.
Mission Impossible 2, the new summer blockbuster is produced by and starring Tom Cruise (Top Gun, Even Wide Shut) as the Impossible Missions Force (IMF) number one agent Ethan Hunt. This movie has a new fascinating high-tech hand-to-hand combat, special effects that are utterly mind boggling, and action scenes that will leave you speechless. Though this movie is action packed and exciting the plot seems to be missing throughout the whole movie.

The movie also stars Ving Rhames (Entrapment, Con Air) who plays Luther Stickell, the new computer genius of the IMF and the only other actor left over from the first Mission Impossible. Thandie Newton (Be-sieged, Beloved) plays Nyah Nordoff-Hall who is Ethan Hunt’s love interest, a civilian master thief, and a former lover of Sean Ambrose. Dougray Scott (Ever After: A Cinderella Story) plays Sean Ambrose the all around bad guy and target of the IMF. Directed by John Woo (Face/Off, Broken Arrow), audiences will not be disappointed with his new students and action scenes.

The movie begins with Ethan Hunt (Cruise) rock climbing on his vacation. He is interrupted by an emergency summons to Spain where he meets up with the IMF boss, Anthony Hopkins (Meet Joe Black). Sean Ambrose and his team of terrorists have stolen a mysterious German virus called Chimera. Unless they are paid extremely well, they threaten to release this virus. Ethan’s mission, if he chooses to accept it, is to get Nyah to help him find out what Sean Ambrose’s plans are and to track him, to stop Sean Ambrose at all costs, and destroy all traces of the fatal virus.

Ethan gathers up two men from the IMF to complete his mission. First of all, he calls back Luther Stickell. Luther is somewhat of the comedic relief throughout the film spinning off one-liners that makes the audience laugh. “I just put a hole in my Versace.” Ethan also gets help from an Aussie native, and wise cracking agent played by John Polson (The Boys). Everyone in place for the mission to succeed. Though, as we all know, the mission is about to fall apart piece by piece. Nyah ends up injecting herself with the virus, and Ethan must retrieve the anti-serum to save her. The plot is so hard to follow that at times the only thing that saves the movie is the action sequences. The movie skips from “hot and heavy” romance scenes to chasing down the deadly virus. This movie is so jumbled up, that even Sean Ambrose himself has to tell the audience what’s going on!

However, the IMF’s new high-tech gadgets are impressive and stunning. The satellite that can follow anyone in the world was most interesting. The rubber masks are also much more cooler in the sequel because of the advancements in Computer Graphic Imagery. Overall, this movie was ok. The promoters hyped up Mission Impossible 2 so much that many people leave the theater feeling disappointed. The only great thing about this movie was the action sequences that were designed and created by John Woo. My advice, don’t waste six dollars seeing this movie in theaters, wait until it comes out on video.
Mission Impossible: Impossibly complex

Ashley Johnson
Student Life
Missionary Position: Impossible

The line above is supposedly the title of an old Edward Wood porn book he wrote to make ends meet between making bad movies. It has nothing to do with Mission Impossible 2 except I believe Ed would have liked the movie.

Tom Cruise is Ethan Hunt, super spy and sexy guy, and Thandie Newton is the woman who loves him, and Dougray Scott plays a bad man who wants to hurt the world with a super-flu virus, like the one in The Stand. Obviously the priority here is the potentially world-harming virus, but the movie insists it’s the sexual tension between Newton and Cruise. What sexual tension? He bags her in five minutes. I’m not saying she’s a slut because she has sex with Tom Cruise after knowing him for five minutes; hell, I would, I’m just saying it doesn’t interest me with a lot of respect for her character. It really wins Tom over though. Spies are supposed to like their women like they like their whores, but without the money part. Instead Tom starts in with the love crap, not one day after he starts off what could have been a beautiful, purely physical relationship. He spends the rest of the movie trying to save her anorexic ass.

Meanwhile, MI2 is directed by John Woo, which means every single kick and bullet is seen in slow-o-o-o-o-o-o-mootion, which surprisingly doesn’t get old. The tragedy is that Woo has resorted to the VOLUME AS DRAMATIC INSTRUMENT METHOD OF DIRECTING, which directly contradicts the “Show Don’t Yell” rule they teach at film school.

Perhaps I’m biased toward this new movie because I watched Terminator: Judgment Day, the greatest action sequel of all time, a week ago. Both of the lifel ess cyborgs have more character than anyone in MI2, though neither had Tom’s cool, hippie hair. And I can’t shake the feeling that there wasn’t a single scene in T2 which was the equal of the weakest action scene from T2. The motorcycles came close, but no Cameron.

Cruise plays Ethan Hunt, a seemingly unstoppable agent with seemingly endless hair.

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Have A Great Summer!!
Boo Radley's: store offers strange selection

Boo Radley is a variety store that offers unique books, toys and other items.

John Mason

Boo Radley's was the last customer Andy Dinnision expected to see in Boo Radley's. But when you own the best gift shop in Spokane according to The Inlander since 1995, meeting new and interesting people is inevitable.

In "Carrie Fisher was in Spokane a couple of years ago for Women Helping Women's conference," Dinnision said. "And at the end of her speech, she asked the crowd to direct her to a cool place to buy things for her kids." A lot of women told her to try Boo Radley's. Fisher came into Dinnision's store and proceeded to pile a bunch of items on the sales counter, including a number of Princess Leia-related merchandise.

Dinnision said he asked her to sign one of the shirts we were selling at the time, as well as a Princess Leia statue in the Metal Biks in the store. "You know, the one with a chain around her neck."

Boo Radley's (located on the corner of Howard and Spokane Falls Blvd.) is an anomaly in the small business realm of downtown Spokane, born out of Dinnision's desire to have "non-cookie-cutter, abnormal stuff" available to customers who tire of shopping chain retailer stores. And he's passionate about promoting his market.

"Spokane doesn't need more national chains. With the downtown mall, we're not lacking fun, unique shops where the local stores owner can make a decent living."

The idea came to Dinnision several years ago. After managing at Auntie's Bookstore, he was working as a representative with a Seattle-based group who dealt with several lines of books, toys and gifts that no one was selling in Spokane. "I decided that there is an audience for specialty, novelty stuff like Boxing Nun puppets or Wizard of Oz collectibles, and this was a chance to bring it to the city."

In August of 1993, Boo Radley's appeared, on the anniversary of Elvis Presley's death - "not on purpose, just an eerie coincidence." As for the ambiguous name of his store, Dinnision didn't want to be pigeonholed into carrying any specific kind of product. So he and his wife turned to one of their favorite books, "To Kill A Mockingbird," and chose the name of their favorite character, Boo Radley.

"In the book, no one understands Boo Radley, and everyone is disturbed by him," Dinnision explained. "But by the end of the book, you realize that being different isn't so bad."

Spokane agrees with Dinnision, as Boo Radley's has quickly become the popular place to buy non-hallmark greeting/gag cards, nostalgia, collectibles, alternative music (Pink Martino, Buena Vista Social Club, The Eels), and "weird stuff."

"We're not the most practical gifts, but ones that definitely make an impression," said Dinnision.

"We're not better than other gift shops but we're definitely unique for selling the funky, fun things." Among the "funky, fun" things that Boo Radley's has been known to carry: children's books like "Everybody Poops" and "The Cat in the Hat, vintage movie posters from classics like "A Clockwork Orange" and "The Sound of Music," retro model kits of movie characters like Robby the Robot and the Three Stooges; old '50s comic books and magazines like "Mad Magazine," imported Japanese toys like dolls from "A Nightmare Before Christmas.

But just like its namesake, Boo Radley's is sometimes misunderstood.

"I hear rumors of people who just don't get the store. It confuses them," said Dinnision. "Some people are offended by the stuff we carry here; even though I do draw a line of decency. There are times I've crossed it, and times when I wish I could push it further. But then, others assume since we carry head-turning stuff and income, we also carry bongs, which isn't my intention either."

Despite the occasional misunderstanding, Dinnision works hard to create a working atmosphere that's comfortable and fun for casual shoppers and their family. It's not his desire to freak anybody out.

"I use my mom and her friends as a gauge to see if some of what I carry is offensive. Once in a while she'll roll her eyes and say 'Oh, Andy.'"

Thankfully for Spokane, Boo Radley's doesn't try to "please everyone.

"If we did, we wouldn't be here," said Dinnision.

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Greg Smith Rejoins Giacoletti at Eastern

Greg Smith, a six-foot-10, 265-pound post player from North Dakota State, has signed a scholarship agreement with Eastern Washington University and will reunite with new Eagle head men’s basketball coach Ray Giacoletti.

Smith started 17 of 27 games and averaged 5.6 points and 3.9 rebounds per game as a true freshman last season while playing for Giacoletti at NDSU. Smith is a 1999 graduate of Cottage Grove, Ore., High School.

“He’s a legitimate low-post player who can be a force in the Big Sky Conference,” said Giacoletti of Smith, who will redshirt next season and then have three seasons of eligibility remaining. “He’s a great person with a great work ethic, and has a bright future ahead of him.”

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Smith had season-highs of 31 points -- the most by a NDSU player in a single game last season -- and 13 rebounds on Nov. 23, 1999, versus Minot State. He made 54.3 percent of his field goals and 59.4 percent of his free throws while averaging 16.1 minutes per game.

WORKERS NEEDED FOR 2000-2001 EAGLE ATHLETIC EVENTS:

The athletic department is now compiling names of interested students and staff who would like to help with game management at EWU athletic events during the 2000-2001 school year. Positions include public address announcers, statisticians, timekeepers, mascot, marketing assistants and more. Some positions include stipends, and internships are also possible. For more information regarding opportunities next year, contact Dave Cook (359-6334; dcook@mail.ewu.edu).

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It's that time of year again hockey fans. The Stanley Cup Finals are underway in East Rutherford, New Jersey as the defending Stanley Cup champions from 1999, the Dallas Stars, take on the Devils of New Jersey.

On Tuesday, May 30, the first game of a possible seven-game series was played at the Continental Airlines Arena in New Jersey. The area sold out to a crowd of 19,840. This first game saw the Devils upset the defending champion Dallas Stars by a score of 7-3.

The game started out great with both teams displaying their talents and showing exactly why they are in the Stanley Cup Finals. Jason Arnott scored seven minutes into the first period on a great pass from teammate Petr Sykora. This gave the Devils an early 1-0 lead. Soon after, twelve minutes into the same period, Daryl Sydor tied the game for the Stars as Jason Arnott took a drop pass from winger Jay Pandolfo and fired a shot right past the shaken Belfour. This period ended with the Devils on top by a score of 1-1.

The second period was more of the same, as the Devils continued to beat up on the Stars. The veteran Dallas team was, by this time, frustrated and assumed done for. The Devils scored again as Jason Arnott netted his second of the game. Petr Sykora also scored to give him his second of the game. These two quick goals ended up getting all-star goaltender from the Stars, Ed Belfour, replaced with their backup tender. Soon after he was scored on, and the Stars were in a 2-1 lead. The Stars, frustrated and annoyed, started to mount a comeback when they scored two goals in twelve seconds. The first came from rookie Jonathan Sim. The next goal quickly came from Kirk Muller as he banged the puck past the Devils' goalie, Martin Brodeur. Although the Stars made a valiant go of the last ten minutes, the game ended giving the Devils a 7-3 win and more importantly, a 1-0 lead in the best of seven series.

Game two is scheduled for Thursday, June 1. This game will also be played in New Jersey before heading back to Dallas for games three and four. Don't count the Stars out as they are the defending Stanley Cup champions and they know what it takes to win. Expect the rest of the series to be action-packed with lots of hitting and great goaltending. Both teams have proven that they have what it takes and they know a battle is in store for them both. Hockey fans everywhere will be glued to their television sets as the stage has been set to see who will become the first Stanley Cup champions of the millennium.

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