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THE EASTERNE R

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EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VOL 52, ISSUE 22

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2001

Rally for not: A failed anti-tuition rally left the media hanging. See page **2**

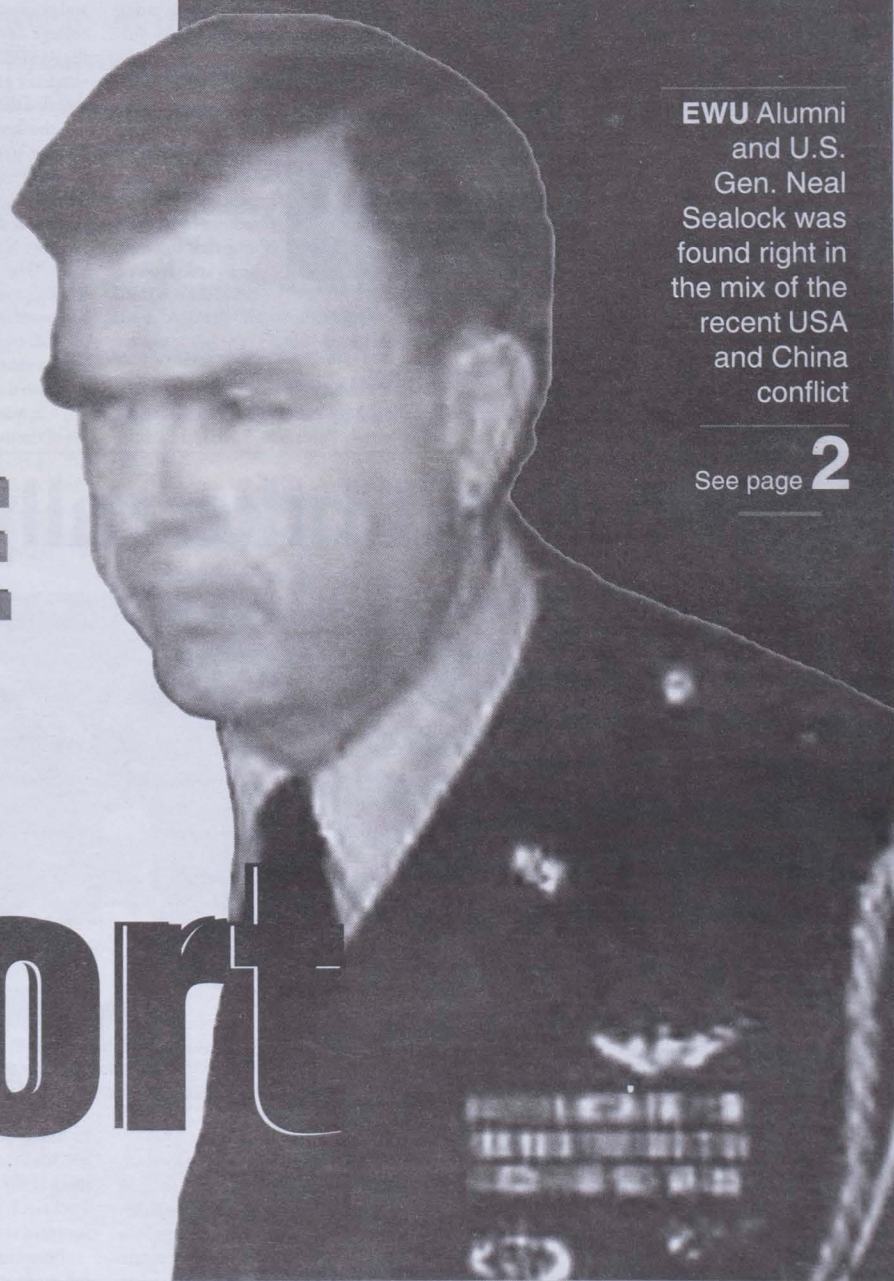
EWU Alumni
and U.S.
Gen. Neal
Sealock was
found right in
the mix of the
recent USA
and China
conflict

See page **2**

HOME
based



effort



An Uncle's concerns
with a murder in the family

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EWU student Ramsey Denison's award-winning
Independent Film to hit public television.

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EWU alumni plays vital role in standoff

General in Beijing recalled as being "down to earth" while at Eastern

Steven J. Barry
Assistant Editor

The world was watching as the saga surrounding a downed EP-3 spy plane unfolded between the U.S. and China. At Eastern and all over the rest of the West Plains community, all eyes were especially focused on Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, the U.S. Embassy defense attaché in Beijing. Sealock is a 1974 graduate of Eastern and a 1970 graduate of Medical Lake High School.

Sealock had been visiting the 24 crewmembers of the EP-3 forced to land on the Chinese-owned island of Hainan. The plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet that had moved to intercept it. The pilot of the fighter is missing and presumed to be dead.

Sealock's role in the standoff was to check on the crewmembers, whom he visited five times since they were first put into Chinese military custody. Sealock reported that they were being held in something like a military guest house or

hostel, with two to a room. The pilot was even given a private room.

The crewmembers were released today after the White House sent a letter, in which it said they are "very sorry" for an unauthorized landing and the death of the Chinese pilot.



▲ Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock in 1997.

Lt. Col. Charles A. Green, Jr., Eastern's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) battalion commander, said he's not surprised to see Sealock in the position of responsibility he's in today.

Green said Sealock was the Distinguished Military Graduate in 1974, an honor that can only be awarded to a cadet in the top third of the order of

merit list and the top half of his or her academic class.

Sealock was also able to attend the army's elite Ranger school course between his junior and senior years. Before 1975, cadets had the

opportunity to go to Ranger school instead of Advanced Camp (a less-intensive, five-week course) for leadership training if they qualified. Attending the course in lieu of Advanced Camp was considered quite an honor.

"You could see already that he was ahead of the pack, so to speak," said Green. "Evidently he was a leader in a lot of aspects."

Billie Jean Hall, a university employee at the admissions office, trained and graduated with Sealock during his college days. Hall was a member of the ROTC Sponsor Corps, a women's auxiliary group to ROTC. She commanded the group for one year, holding the honorary rank of Colonel. During her time there she said she worked with Sealock on an almost daily basis.

"He is a really nice guy. I just remember Neal as being very nice," Hall said. "He was very serious about ROTC; it really meant a lot to him. He conveyed that."

Hall said Sealock was highly respected by the other cadets during his time at Eastern, and he was recognized as one with a bright future in the army.

"He was very highly-respected," Hall said. "A lot of them [cadets] really looked up to him."

Sealock was also an athlete. Throughout high school he played baseball, football, and he wrestled. He earned a letter from Eastern in baseball.

Sealock visited Eastern's ROTC program in September, just before the start of the 2001-2002 school year. He spoke with cadets about

the various paths their military careers could take, and told them to always keep an open mind about the directions their careers could go.

"Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way," he had said.

Sealock seems to have done exactly that in his career. He has served in an unusually wide variety of positions, from airborne infantry officer to attack helicopter pilot to cavalry officer, and finally as a defense attaché.

Hall said she was confident working directly on behalf of the White House is a position very fitting for Sealock.

"I think he is very diplomatic, very level-headed, and I think an analytical person, too," she said.



▲ Sealock in 1974.

Anti-tuition hike rally in mall fizzles

ASEWU announces rally, changes to petition-signing in light of ill-preparation

Egraine Jack
Reporter

There was some disappointment and confusion Friday as students and local news media showed up for a rally to oppose tuition increases. The rally was canceled without notice leaving many wondering what went wrong.

Channel Four News camera crews, Cheney Free Press staff members, and Easterner staff members arrived to find the EWU Mall, advertised as the sight of the event, empty except for a small gathering on the front steps of the Pence Union Building.

Instead of a rally the ASEWU council held a signature drive. The signature drive, planned as one of several activities, became the central focus as efforts to rally were abandoned. Bree Holsing, ASEWU President, was not able to attend because of a Board of Trustees meeting in Spokane, leaving the final decision to rally or not in the hands of fellow council members left to run the show.

According to Holsing, her people knew there was a chance she would not be able to make it back

from the Board Of Trustees meeting, and that they would have to conduct the rally themselves.

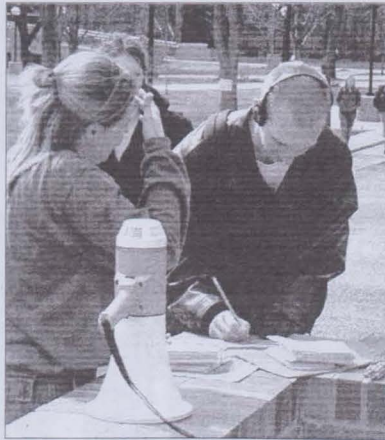
Stating she didn't know exactly what happened she explained, "I don't know, maybe something happened in their lives that day, but they didn't feel comfortable."

Holsing also said the readjustment to a regular schedule after Spring Break played a part in the confusion.

"We were in poor shape with Spring break coming just the week before," said Holsing, "but as far as I know, people were confident they would be able to carry it through."

Based on that, contact was made with local media assuring them the rally would go on, she said.

The timing of the proposed rally further hampered the council's efforts. The Washington State University Student Council, who aimed at a statewide response from student bodies, chose the date. Rallies and signature drives advocating afford-



▲ A student signs a petition while Stephanie Reed looks on. She is next to a megaphone that didn't see much use Friday.

able higher education were held Friday on all state campuses with the exception of Evergreen College. The Washington State Lobby and the University of Washington primarily organized the effort.

"We are supportive, and excited to be part of this," said Holsing.

The signatures will contribute to a statewide effort to oppose tuition hikes.

"The students are going

to end up paying more for about the same, if not less, services than they received before, and the whole thing really stinks," said Mike Johnson, ASEWU legislative liaison. "We need to find a good dedicated source of revenue like K through Twelve has."

Numbers on this issue are in from the Senate, but as of yet nothing has been received from the House of Representatives. It is feared students

will be paying forty percent more over the next four years in education costs. Already the related bills students incur are so high many find themselves working more, and studying less. Tuition hikes this significant could mean the end of post-secondary studies for some.

Negotiation began from the Governor's budget "and we've been fighting and fighting and fighting over in Olympia to get that number down as far as possible," said Johnson.

"These grass roots movements are necessary," Holsing said. The council is planning a future rally to possibly coincide with one of the outdoor concerts coming up.

Over two hundred signatures collected Friday on pieces of red and white paper became part of a linked chain of school colors representing student's voices against tuition hikes.

"It was empowering to see over 3000 links of red, white, blue, gold and purple, all linked together," said Holsing, who participated in the assembly of the great chain. The chain will be hung on Capitol grounds Thursday in protest.

Regarding media relations after what could be interpreted as crying wolf, Holsing stated that her relations with the actual people who attended the event are still good.

"I'm doing what I can to call them and send them stuff, you know, to tell them, 'Hey, look, sorry, sometimes things happen,'" she said.

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Stone rallies EWU against child murder

Uncle of victim fights for harsher legislation against killers

Slain 9-year-old niece Valiree Jackson inspires speaking

Lucy Dukes

Reporter

"A person is a human being. A child is a human being," said John Stone, an Arizona based child abuse prevention activist and uncle of Valiree Jackson, a nine-year-old Spokane murder victim. "They're defenseless, and yet they're not covered under the law."

Stone came to Eastern Washington University at the request of the School of Social Work and the African American Education program to promote the inclusion of children under the Capital Crime Law, which assigns the law's harshest punishment to those in vulnerable professions, such as law enforcement and firefighting.

The event brought together Spokane child abuse prevention and family support agencies in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Stone's speech capped the proceedings.

"You can't just stand back and not take action," said Connie Harden, who was instrumental in putting the program together. "We wanted to bring someone from in the community to say 'we will not tolerate the

abuse of children."

Stone charged no fees, and did not even request EWU cover his food and lodging costs, said Erin McNeely, who helped organize the event.

He sold copies of his book, *Find My Baby! The Inside Story of Valiree Jackson*, after his speech, but any money that he makes goes back into his child abuse prevention organization, the Valiree Jackson Foundation.

Children need the Capital Crime Law's protection because they are vulnerable all the time, he said, even more than adults in dangerous professions. "Would you rather be a police officer in the line of duty with a firearm, or a five year old in an abusive situation?" he asked.

Stone is the force behind an initiative to give the death penalty to murderers of children under 12, and life sentences to those

who kill children under 15.

The initiative failed its last time through, but Stone is still promoting it. Part of the problem, he said, is that "politicians don't

want to put themselves in positions to lose votes," he said.

Approaching the death penalty is politically risky because it polarizes the voting public, which makes Stone's initiative controversial.

The death penalty debate should not stop

us from protecting those who need it though, said Stone. "When we allow the public opinion to keep rights from our children...that's got to stop," he commented.

"We need to show our children how valuable they are," Stone said, by protecting them and giving those who hurt them the harshest punishment allowable by law.

Children are now "second class citizens,"

Stone said, and he wants to change that. No state has laws mandating the death

sentence for child killers, and most people don't realize that, he said. "A lot of people think those laws are already in place," he said, but they're not.

"Let us go out and put our best foot forward in bringing equality under the law to children," he said.

Stone began his activism after his niece's murder. There on the hillside, when police found Valiree's body, his life stopped, he said. "I said 'this does not happen. It's not supposed to end like this.'"

A firm Christian, Stone said that God spoke to him then. "I heard a voice," he said. Since then Stone founded the Valiree Jackson Foundation, an organization that works with law enforcement, the Nation's Missing Children Organization and Center for Missing Adults, and with victim's families. Its goal is to fight child abuse and assist in locating missing children.

One of its programs is the VJ Bench Alert. In prominent locations, the Foundation places benches that display pictures of missing children. The Foundation also publishes *The Exposure Gazette*, "solely devoted to publishing pictures of individuals who are missing and/or endangered," says the Valiree Jackson Foundation brochure. The Foundation also tries to educate the public and give funding to child abuse prevention programs.

"Would you rather be a police officer in the line of duty with a firearm, or a five year old in an abusive situation?"

-John Stone

Uncle of Valiree Jackson

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Council appoints two to fill vacant seats

Nick Nash

Reporter

The Transportation and Safety, and University Advancement council positions which were vacated at the end of the winter quarter by Brad Pugh, due to his move to law school, and Renon Losse, who became the finance vice-president elect, were both filled with unanimous votes from the council last week.

Colleen Miller, who was recently elected to the position of Transportation and Safety for the 2001-2002 school year, will now hold that position for the remainder of this year. Miller said that the experience she will get from holding the position for the remainder of the year will be useful next year.

"I'm a freshman here at Eastern, and since I was recently elected to the position of transportation and safety, I think it will be really good experience for me to hold the position for the rest of this year," said Miller.

The position of University Advancement was filled with the appointment of Brandon Schinzel who was also recently elected to hold the position for the 2001-2002 school year.

Student Services representative Ryan Kroum commended Schinzel on his hard work to become involved in the activities of the Associated Students and his efforts to gain experience for his job next year.

"Out of all of the people elected to positions this year, Brandon has shown the hard work to become involved with AS. He's really stepping to the plate. He came out and asked what he could do to get involved and he has been doing a great job so far," said Kroum.

With the appointments of Miller and Schinzel, there will now be six of the 12 2001-2002 ASEWU council positions filled by returning members, providing an experienced council for next year.

This number including the President elect Christian Shook, Executive Vice-President elect Dan Clark, Finance Vice-President Elect Losse, and Student activities elect Jeff Boekelman who is currently holding the position of Public Relations representative.

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Board of Trustees selects new members

Tracy Stephens
Reporter

Two of Eastern Washington University's Board of Trustee members said goodbye when their terms ended in the fall.

"We want to acknowledge and give thanks to Jean Beschel and Joe Jackson, who together have given 32 years of valuable service to this university," said Michael Ormsby, Chair of Eastern's Board of Trustees.

"Their dedication to Eastern is clearly apparent and of great value."

Beschel, of Spokane, and Jackson, of Pasco, served 16 years after being appointed to the board in 1985.

To fill the empty seats, EWU Alumni Ines Zozaya-Giest of Richland and Kris Mikkelsen

of Spokane were named to the board by Governor Gary Locke on March 16.

"We welcome Ines Zozaya-Giest and Kris Mikkelsen to the board," said Ormsby. "Both are dynamic individuals with very successful careers and strong records of community service. We are pleased that they are returning to their alma mater as members of the governing board."

Born and raised in the Columbia Basin area, Zozaya-Giest graduated from Connell High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration with a major in Management Information Systems and a minor in Spanish. She is currently a senior consultant with Lockheed Martin Services, Inc. in Richland. Before her position with Lockheed Martin, Zozaya-Giest was the manager of Telecommu-

nications Management Systems and the manager of the 300 End User Computer Center at Richland's Boeing Computer Services.

Among her other qualifications, Zozaya-Giest was Boeing's Woman of the Year in 1996 and is a graduate of the Boeing Executive Potential Program. She is a well-known speaker in the computer industry, with over 12 years experience in customer service, telecommunications, computer support management and operations.

Zozaya-Giest is also very involved with the community volunteering many hours to the March of Dimes Walk America and Wonderwalk. She is married and has two young children.

Mikkelsen has been the general manager of Inland Power and Light since March 2000. During her 20 years with the company, she has served as the general manager for finance and

administration, controller and accounting supervisor.

With a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Professional Accounting from Eastern in 1981, Mikkelsen is a certified public accountant. She is on the Spokane Neighborhood Action Programs Board of Directors, as well as the Spokane Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee.

Welcoming the new trustees, President Jordan said "with their strong business backgrounds and demonstrated commitment to Eastern, they will make significant contributions to the university. I look forward to working with them."

The two new Board of Trustee members' terms will begin immediately and end September 30, 2006.

Council focuses on parking, WSL issues

Nick Nash
Reporter

Associate Vice-President of Business Services Rick Romero spoke to the ASEWU council this week about the new parking policy in a meeting which also saw the discussion of WSL news and departmental reports from Academic Affairs, Athletic Affairs and Legislative Affairs.

In an attempt to clear up the confusion around the ever-changing parking situation at Eastern Romero repeatedly apologized to the ASEWU council and took responsibility for the miscommunication about the new policy.

"I know there has been a lot of confusion and misunderstanding about what's happening with parking and there has been some miscommunication between myself and some of the staff in parking," Romero said. "My job is to make sure we're all on the same page and that obviously didn't happen here, so I apologize."

"The change that was making in parking is really a fairly simple and straight forward change. What we're looking at doing is simply enforcing the meter spaces in lot 10 in the evening hours and on the weekend," said Romero.

ASEWU president Bree Holsing apologized for the rally to protest Washington States plans to raise tuition that turned into a signature drive last Friday when she got stuck in Spo-

kane. Holsing focused on the positive aspects of the event and discussed what is being done with the signatures that were collected.

"I apologize for the rally last Friday but we're really excited about the signatures we collected. On Thursday there going to be put together with the signatures from the other schools and draped across the area between the House and Senate buildings," Holsing said.

Holsing also talked about the change in the WSL bylaws that were made in the past week to include community colleges in the organization, which works as a lobby to support student views in the Washington state legislature.

"We changed the bylaws, and I'm very excited to say that community colleges are now a part of our group and we have been divided up into two assemblies, one for the baccalaureate colleges and one for the community colleges. I'm going to be working on getting area colleges involved," Holsing said.

Athletic Affairs Representative Dan Clark reminded all in attendance in

his departmental report that sign ups for intramurals end on Friday April 13th and start next Monday. He also spoke about the success of the win-

ter outreach workshop that was held on February 9th at the Spokane Juvenile Detention Center.

"We talked about utilizing leader-

ship skills, goal setting, overcoming obstacles, and the pitfalls of drug use. It went really well."

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR EASTERNER EDITOR 2001-2002

Applications are being taken for editor of The Easterner, EWU's student newspaper, for the 2001-2002 academic year starting Fall Quarter 2001. This is a paid position.

The editor:

- ❖ Hires and manages a staff of reporters and photographers
- ❖ Writes and edits news stories and editorials
- ❖ Oversees production of the weekly newspaper.

The editor **must** be an EWU student.

Recommended Qualifications:

1. Have completed journalism courses in news writing, reporting, editing and law, **or**
2. Served as editor of a community college newspaper for at least two quarters, **or**,
3. Worked as a professional journalist

Applicants should submit a letter of application, a resume, examples of published writing or a newspaper they have edited, and at least two letters of recommendation to:

Student Publications Board
C/o Journalism Program
Spokane Center, Room 313, MS 1
Eastern Washington University
Spokane, WA 99201-3909

Deadline for applications is May 1, 2001



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Fair aims to help child abuse prevention

Lucy Dukes
Reporter

Child abuse prevention begins with promoting healthy families, said Amy Swanson, a representative

for the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery. Healthy family development was overwhelmingly the most important theme at the Child Abuse Prevention Resource Fair put together by Eastern Washington's School of

Social Work and the African American Education Program.

"A lot of people don't know about these services," said one of the event organizers, Erin McNeely. Children are silent, she said, and the re-

source fair is "a way to let them know there are voices out there speaking for them."

The Nursery was one of the many agencies brought together in conjunction with John Stone's speech in support of Child Abuse Prevention month. It gives childcare day and night for those in explosive situations. The Crisis Nursery tries to make families healthier. It also provides daycare referral and parenting classes.

SCAN, Support Care and Networking for families, also tries to prevent child abuse by helping families. Its goal is to educate parents to prevent child abuse. Families "shape children into who they become," said Amal Ericson, an intern with SCAN, "If we disrespect them, then they're not going to become healthy adults."

The Children's Home Society is another that works to create healthy family environments, said Katie Nesbitt, a parent educator with the Society. It houses different programs, providing mental health counseling, children's counseling, and information to parents to show alternatives to violence and ways to reduce family stress levels. Its overall philosophy, said Nesbitt, is to try to build on family strength.

Some of the agencies at the resource fair had more specialized functions, although all support children's welfare. Lutheran Social Services, for

example, has a therapeutic foster care program. It places special-needs foster children in homes appropriate to their needs. These are traumatized children, "kids who need more than a safe home," said Brandi Seekins, a recruiter for Lutheran Social Services. The children given counseling and the foster parents support. "In our program a foster parent is not alone, you're part of a professional team."

Alexander Morton represented the Division of Children and Family Services at the resource fair. The state organization helps prevent child abuse through Child Protective services, and also through programs such as Family Reconciliation Services. This program protects family integrity by promoting good relationships between endangered teenagers and their families. They try to keep a teenager in the home, in a good relationship with his or her own family."

One of the most specialized organizations was Stand for Children. The agency goes to decision makers at a local level, to school boards and city councils, to try to make changes. Right now, for example, Stand for Children is lobbying the Central Valley School to hire full time counselors, said Danyll Van Lierop. "We're founded on the approach of organization," she said, "it takes organization to make change."

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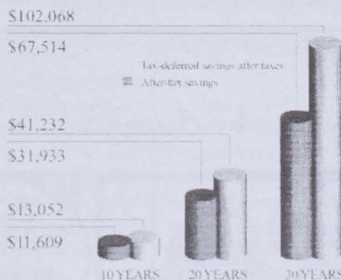
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Online registration finally a reality with EagleNET

Jeremy W. Kramer
Reporter

Put those walking shoes away and hang that coat up, because now you don't have to walk all the way to Sutton to obtain your personal student information. Last month, Eastern started up EagleNET, an on-line information system.

With EagleNET, you can register for classes, check your schedule, look at your grades, find out course information, view your transcripts, connect with financial aid resources, and view your personal information—all from the comforts of your home computer.

EagleNET is available from midnight until 10 p.m. seven days a week. Maintenance on the system occurs after 10 p.m.

For those who might be skeptical

about personal information given out over the computer, information is encrypted before it is transmitted over the Internet. You must provide a Student ID and PIN before any personal information is accessed. Data is encrypted before it is passed between the web server and your computer. The site also offers other ways to protect your personal information; for example, the site automatically shuts down when not in use for more than 15 minutes.

Use of EagleNET requires Internet Explorer 4.0 or above or Netscape 4.51 and above. You also must have the use of cookies [information that a web site puts onto a hard drive so that it can remember certain preferences at a later date] and JavaScript enabled.

To access EagleNet, go to eaglenet.ewu.edu.

visit us at www.easterneronline.com

Tuition hike rally? Or "Survivor" challenge?

Steven J. Barry
Assistant Editor

You may have noticed that the mall and various tack boards around the PUB were adorned with signs advertising the big FIGHT TUITION RALLY, to take place last Friday.

What do you picture when you think of a rally? In my mind I see ogles of people from various walks of life, banded together by a common cause, holding up big signs with big letters. It's first amendment liberties used as the founding fathers intended them to be. The people crowd around one speaker on a pedestal, living or dying by his or her every word. You can just imagine it:

SPEAKER: What do we want?

STUDENTS: Lower tuition!

SPEAKER: When do we want it?

STUDENTS: Now!

Friday's "rally" in front of the mall didn't end up quite like you would imagine a rally to be, though. There was no speaker, there were no signs, and, most importantly, there was no crowd. There was plenty of press coverage, though. The local news even showed up. It ended up a little something like this:

STUDENTS: What do you want?

ASEWU: We want you to sign a petition!

STUDENTS: When do you—...what? I thought this was a rally.

ASEWU: Well, it was going to be, but we didn't really have time to organize that, so we're just gathering signatures instead. Would you like to sign?

STUDENTS: That's kind of lame, but I guess so.

ASEWU: Thanks. (Turn heads to camera crew) Hey, where

are you guys going?

CAMERAMAN #1: We're leaving. You suck!

CAMERAMAN #2: Yeah, what a lame rally! You suck! See if we ever give you news coverage again.

Where were the members of the student council? Why would they organize a rally and then not even bother attending themselves?

It's starting to smell a little like Survivor again. This so called "rally" is obviously the latest and greatest challenge issued to the student council, to see which tribe will get the immunity idol.

Student Services Representative Ryan Kroum openly confirmed suspicions that the council was playing "Survivor."

When asked if the council was playing survivor, Kroum responded with a simple "Of course we are."

Kroum would not, however, offer any information concerning which council member is in which tribe, or who the tribal leaders are.

ME: Can you tell us who the tribal leaders are?

KROUM: Not 'till the end of the year, no. It's kind of like the real "Survivor." It doesn't play out until the end.

ME: Can you tell us which tribe you're in?

KROUM: Hmm... No, I can't tell you.

ME: What do you think of last Friday's failed rally?

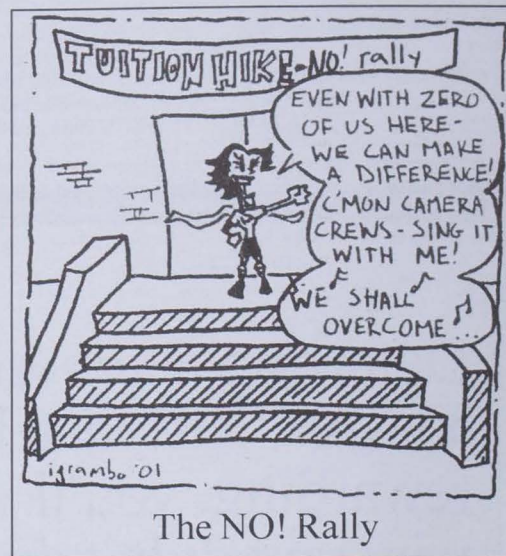
KROUM: The Workalottas should've been able to pull it off.

ME: So, you're in the Dontadocrappa tribe?

KROUM: No comment.

Smells kind of fishy to me. Or, should I say wallaby-y?

One unnamed source said that Danny Pugh, the alleged host of the secret show, tried to sabotage the efforts of the Workalotta tribe by ensuring that their alleged



The NO! Rally

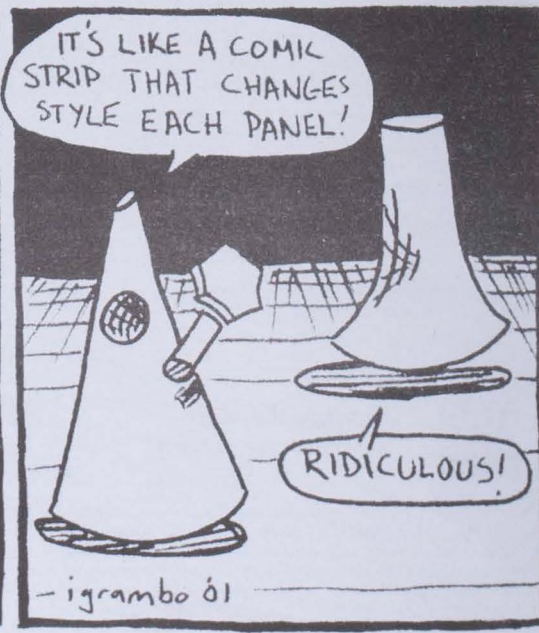
leader, Bree Holsing, would be booked during the "rally."

Some find rumors of Holsing's leadership hard to believe, especially after an online poll conducted by "The Easterner" has Holsing pegged as the next to be voted off. But Holsing doesn't seem to think the poll's results matter at all, and said she remains determined to survive.

"I'm continuing to under promise and over deliver," she said.

Sex & Violence ch-ch-ch-changes!

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College attendance policies: just a sad attempt at remote parental influence

Natalie Stephenson

Reporter

Flashback: it's 1994, 7 A.M. I hit the snooze button for the 18th time and roll over in bed. Five minutes later, my mother sticks her head in my bedroom and says, "Wake up! Can't miss your first class!" She repeats this procedure as many times as necessary to get my lazy bum out of bed and into my car on the way to school.

I was 16 then. I'm 23 now, and Mommy is still nagging me to get to my classes.

Call me crazy, but I assumed back when I first started college that I was now an adult, free to make adult decisions and accept the consequences for my actions. Well, I guess there's a good reason why the word "assumed" contains the word "ass," because I truly felt like one when I figured out I was still being parented in absentia. Instead of being able to make my own choices and mistakes, I could now count on at least half of my instructors laying down strict rules about exactly how much class I could miss before they would arbitrarily fail me. They call it a "policy"; I call it a thinly disguised form of babysitting.

Grades should be based on knowledge, not the ability to doggedly and blindly follow arbitrary attendance policies. Most of us are no longer minors. We don't need to

be nagged anymore, and if we do, that is our own fault. Maybe some of us are slackers, but hey, even Dante and Randall managed to make it to work in *Clerks*, didn't they?

There are some pretty creative excuses for the institution of attendance policies. Let's take a look at some of the most popular ones. I was told at one point that the reason certain departments have these policies is that since this is a state institution which receives state funds, the state and its taxpayers need to know that we are going to our classes every day. Hmmm. I can just picture some taxpayer out in Sagebrush County tossing and turning in his bed at night because he's worried that a few cents of his taxes went to a student who might not be in contention for a Perfect Attendance Award. The truth is, nobody cares, and that's one of the real-life lessons that we need to learn anyway.

Another popular explanation is that since tests cover mostly lecture material, attendance policies need to be in place or else we won't get the "quality" experience that we need to do well in the class. The thing is, if I don't need to attend class to pass the tests, I'm either a genius or the tests are too easy in the first place. Of course, most of us can figure out on our own that if we miss too much class we'll get a bad grade. I'm just waiting for a policy to come out that says, "Life may not be fair," so I'll know what to expect.

The only explanation I've heard so far that makes some sense is that if a class includes a large chunk of time working on group projects, absenteeism needs to be discouraged because the person missing class will be jeopardizing the rest of the group. However, I have a simple solution for this troublesome problem: cut out group projects. They're usually just a waste of time. [Ever try to write a paper with three or more people? The thousand monkeys with the thousand typewriters could do it faster and better.]

I could elaborate on that point—since we're the ones who have to pay to come here, we should be the ones to choose what we want to get out of it, but I've found that most of the authorities don't like that argument very much. So, for the departments that insist on babysitting adults through their classes, indulge me here for a second: what kind of education is more valuable? One that encourages perpetual adolescence, or one that forces people to learn that you get out of life what you put into it?

We don't need babysitters telling us that we could fail a class for missing a few days even though we're earning A's on the material. The departments need to let students be responsible for themselves, and free their professors to do more important things with their valuable time than sticking their heads in our bedrooms to wake us up in the morning.

Easterner



Letters to the Editor

Bible Jim gives Christianity a bad name

Dear Editor,

During my time here as a Freshman at EWU, I have seen a lot of different types of proselytizing and preaching in front of the PUB by people who call themselves Christians. I do not doubt the good intentions of these people, or the difference they are trying to make. Even I must confess that I have heard pieces of sermons on my way to class, and found them somewhat interesting. However, to the great displeasure of others and myself, there have also been "Christian" messages of intolerance preached in front of the PUB.

I consider myself a Christian, and I find these messages of intolerance incredibly embarrassing. However, I am more concerned that non-Christian students may interpret what happens in front of the PUB as what the Christian faith is all about. Over the years, Christianity has gotten a bad rap. The modern image of a Christian today seems to be that they are closed-minded, anti-abortion, Republican, sexist, homophobic, totally infatuated with the religious right, and obsessed with what people should and should not do with their genitals. What is worse is that the messages of intolerance people hear from "Christians" on television, the ra-

dio, and the sermons in front of the PUB only contribute to the problem.

I would like to take the liberty of saying that Christianity is not what I have just described. First and foremost, Christianity is about love. In addition, one of the most fundamental aspects of love is tolerance. The head honcho of the faith, Jesus, sifted through the societal dumpster of his time, reaching out to the unloved, the poor, and the religiously disenfranchised.

If a "Christian" thinks it is their duty to harass women in front of abortion clinics, or oppress homosexuals in the name of God, then they have obviously missed the point of their faith.

What would Jesus do for a homosexual or a Lesbian? Treat them like a human being. What would he do for a woman who had an abortion? Show her love.

This is the message of God's love which Jesus taught and practiced, and it knew no boundaries. The best description of Jesus' message that I have heard is this: God loves the person on death row as much as any saint.

This is extremely hard to fathom. In fact, it is controversial. Love is controversial.

How do I know this? The Bible tells me so.

Respectfully,
Andrew Phillips

Jeremiah and Bible Jim had the right idea to provoke thought and discussion

Dear Editor,

The evangelists that came to Eastern were right. Their message, according to the errorless Bible, was that everyone needs a savior. I believe the same thing. I just don't preach about it in the same manner.

As a Christian, my first thought when I saw the evangelists was, "Oh great, they're going to turn people off to Jesus." This thought was quickly replaced by wonder though as I approached the throng of people in front of the PUB. The spectacle was amazing. There was shouting, finger pointing, and a college student standing in the cold wearing only a towel and a homemade cross.

It was encouraging to see people respond so emotionally to an important issue. As a person who believed the exact same message as the two preachers, my heart was glad to have people taking such a vested interest into what they were saying, even if the interest was negative. To me, simply getting people to talk about what they believe is hard.

The event was a huge success for the preachers because they accomplished their mission—to provoke thought.

The radical evangelists, Jeremiah and Jim definitely did their job. In the past week since they came, I have talked nearly a dozen people about their religious beliefs. I have been able to witness to them (in a less demonstrative manner) and share the good news of Jesus. And let me tell you, it IS good news. The gospel of Jesus is freeing and life-changing. It fills the gap inside each and every person that is present. The Bible says that we all have sinned and fallen short of God (Romans 3:23). Even Jeremiah and Jim. Even me. Even you.

So, to the students of EWU, I end with this: Be stirred by what the two evangelists said. Let it encourage thinking inside of you. And most importantly, know that not all Christians are message-carrying, screaming, in-your-face radicals. We are, however, radical about Jesus.

Sincerely,
Brandon Kaffen

The Easterner

Letters to the Editor

Please type your letter, restricting it to 250 words. Include your full name, signature and telephone number for verification. We reserve the right not to publish letters, and all printed material is subject to editing. Letters must be received by Tuesday at 3 p.m. to be published in the following Thursday issue.

Send letters to:

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Depp's new role might not 'blow' you away

Natalie Stephenson

Reporter

April 8, 2001: I have an epiphany. Drugs are bad.

I might never have figured this out were it not for the movie *Blow*, released last weekend. The *Blow* experience was not unlike that of seeing *54* a few years ago: eye candy, a good soundtrack, sex, drugs, rock and roll, and the downside of the glamorous drug life.

Like *54*, *Blow* is based on a true story. It is based on the life of George Jung, an infamous cocaine importer in the 1970's. Jung, played by Johnny Depp, is your typical small-town American boy who, instead of following in his construction worker father's footsteps [Ray Liotta], moves to California to experience the sunshine-and-marijuana good life of the West Coast. He gets sucked into the fast, hip lifestyle of the drug scene and is a very profitable weed dealer until he gets busted.

In prison, Jung meets Diego Delgado [Jordi Molla] and Pablo Escobar [Cliff Curtis] who are insiders and big wheels in the Colombian cocaine trade and talk to Jung about the bigger money he could make selling coke instead of marijuana. Once he is on the outside again, he becomes the country's biggest dealer in cocaine and makes tons of money, having to buy a bigger house to store all his cash. Delgado and Escobar also introduce him to party girl Mirtha [Penelope Cruz], whom Jung marries and has a child with.

Then—surprise, surprise—he starts to discover that there is a bad side to drug dealing and that he doesn't stand much of a chance of setting a good example for his daughter Kristina. Just as he is trying to get out of the business, he gets busted again, and this time for good.

Not that the predictable drug tragedy doesn't have its worthy points. The acting is great, and Depp and Cruz make a nice, sexy couple. The movie is entertaining, and it doesn't lose the interest of the audience, but it is definitely not anything new. If you've ever seen a movie about drug dealers, you've seen *Blow*.

My personal high point in the movie was seeing Paul Reubens



▲ George Jung (Johnny Depp) and Mirtha (Penelope Cruz) make for a nice, sexy couple.

[formerly known as Pee Wee Herman] play Jung's gay friend and business partner. That is worth the price of admission right there, if you were ever glued to the set on Saturday mornings watching Pee Wee's playhouse as a kid. Pee Wee, oh Pee Wee; we hardly knew ye.

I give it one and a half opposable thumbs up. It is fun to

watch and \$4.50 is not excessive for the amount of entertainment the movie provides. Just don't expect to see anything new. I personally would have had just as much fun going to the video store and renting *GoodFellas* for the 30th time, but hey, it's nice to get outside once in a while. It is definitely better than paying to see that stupid Jerry O'Connell movie.

EWU to host Washington Alliance for Theater Education festival

Jadd Davis

Reporter

The Washington Alliance for Theater Education [WATE] festival will be taking place at EWU on April 20-21. The annual festival is designed to give high school and middle school students involved in theater a chance to learn more about all aspects of theater, film, and television.

More than 600 students from across the state will be attending, performing and mingling with their peers.

"The opportunity for students to get more involved in the arts is the primary objective of the festival and the WATE organization. Obviously, it shows theater students that there are many other people, just like them, all over, who are interested in, and are doing theatre," said chair of the Eastern Theater Department Gene Engene.

"The festival is not a competition," said head theater secretary Linda Douglas. Douglas and Engene stress the importance of learning and bonding in a common interest over winning and losing.

"At these festivals, new friendships are established, and old relationships are renewed," said Engene.

The WATE festival has existed for over 20 years, but has been held on the East side of the state for three. After its first trip to Eastern in 1998, the festival was invited back for 1999. The 2001 festival was scheduled elsewhere, but due to a conflict was welcomed once again to EWU.

Many of the participating students have never been on a college campus before. The WATE festival will give them a chance to explore Eastern's campus and utilize many of its facilities for performances. Students will participate in workshops, present audition pieces, have their one-acts and play cuttings adjudicated and present musical theater auditions and cuttings in various halls including Showalter auditorium and rooms 109, 201, 201, LA Hall, Theatre Building, Music Building, Recital Hall and the RTV Studio.

The Theater staff hopes to recruit new students through the festival.

"Across the two days the students will have a chance to see what kind of a place Eastern is. This will, we hope, form a positive impression in their minds when they begin to think about choosing a college to attend," said Engene.

All theater majors will serve as staff for the festival along with others from the music and electronic media departments. The theater department will be hosting workshops on talent management, stage combat, Summer Theatre for Youth tryouts and the EWU Department of Theatre scholarship tryouts. The RTV side of EMTF is doing a workshop entitled Acting for the

Camera.

The opening ceremony for the festival takes place in Showalter Auditorium at 8:30 A.M. on Friday, April 20 and will close at 4:00 on Saturday. Performances will take place throughout the two days of the festival and are free to the public. The performances are relatively short, usually running only about half an hour. Gene Engene and Linda Douglas encourage Eastern students to attend.

"Theater has always been for everybody, not just a select few. Take a break, go see some theater!" said Engene.

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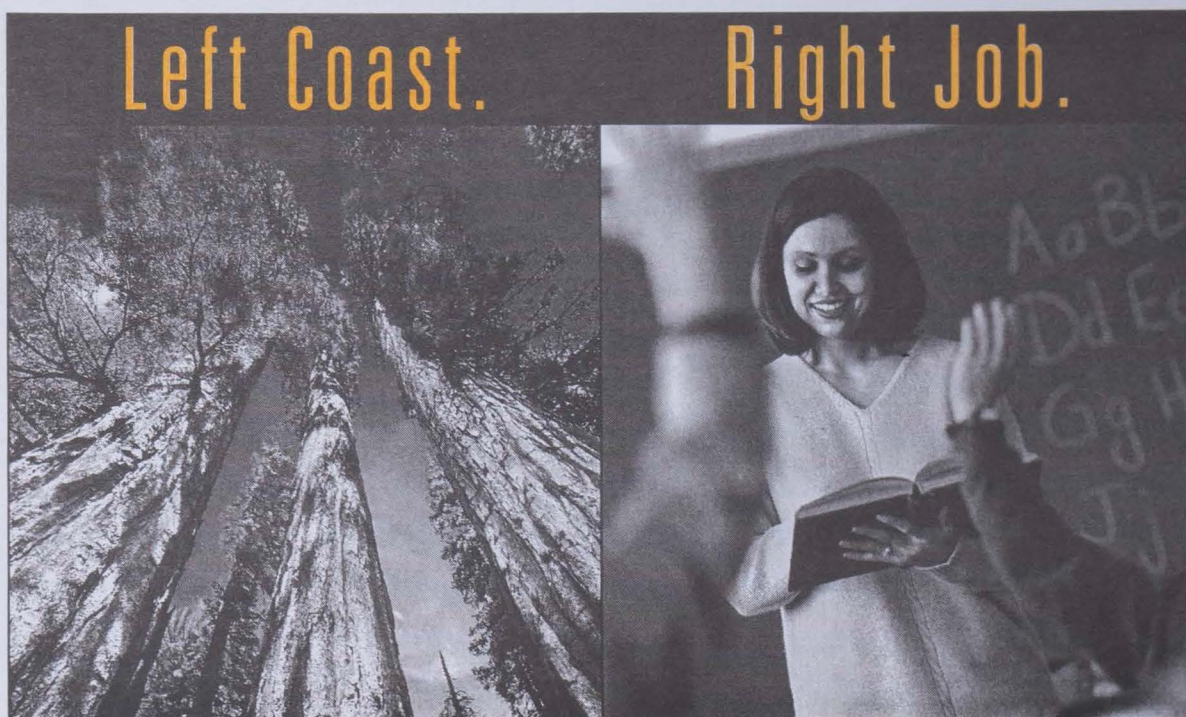
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EWU student releases documentary

2mT wins awards in festivals in Greensboro, SC and Rochester, NY

Natalie Stephenson

Reporter

EWU student filmmaker Ramsey Denison recently won two awards for his documentary "2mt" at film festivals from around the country. The film was selected as the staff favorite at the Carolina Film and Video Festival 2001 in Greensboro, SC and just this weekend won the "Shoestring" award at the Rochester International Film Festival in Rochester, NY. 2mt has also received positive reviews from both The Spokesman-Review and The Local Planet, and will be airing on the KSPS PBS local affiliate station in June.

Denison made "2mt" by himself with a budget of \$3,000. It is about a former art gallery in Downtown Spokane that was a sanctuary for fringe artists and outsiders until it was closed down for lack of funds. I spoke with Denison this week about his recent success with his documentary.

NS: How did you become interested in film?

RD: When I was about 17, I got a job as a master control operator at a TV station, which is the guy who puts the programs on the air. All of a sudden I had access to over \$100,000 of free equipment, and since I worked at night, I was kind of unsupervised most of the time, so I made a bunch of [film] shorts. I had a half-hour to myself between shows, so I'd be running around making films in the station. Sometimes I missed airing the programs, but luckily it was a station that hardly anyone watched.

NS: Was this when you were still in high school?

RD: Actually, I was in my first year of college. I did early admissions and got out of high school a year early. And so I was going back and forth, putting programs on the air and making these movies in between. It was wild.

NS: Did you start college here at Eastern?

RD: I actually finished community college in Cocoa Beach, Florida. After that, I came up here, because I love this area and despise Florida. People find that really strange, like, why would anyone from Florida come to Washington, but to me, Washington's very beautiful. You have seasons, and you don't have to run your air conditioner during December. You don't go on Christmas swims. I could get residency tuition here because my mom lives over here, so it just made more sense. Originally I went to WSU for seven months, but I was kind of lazy and didn't do my research. If I had, I would have found out that while it's a good program, it's more geared toward broadcasting than film, and that's about the farthest thing in the world from what I'm interested in.

NS: What are you interested in?

RD: I'm interested in making narrative films and documentaries, films where you take a year to really craft projects, and at WSU you had to do the news and I hate the news. I was unhappy and I ended up just coming here because it was either go back to Florida or stay here, and I knew I didn't want to go back to Florida.



▲ Ramsey Denison in his element.

NS: Tell me about the festival where you won your latest award.

RD: I was in the documentary category, up against movies funded by PBS and CPB, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with like 40 or 50 people working on them, and here I was, a guy with a low-budget camcorder documentary.

NS: What kind of a camera did you use to shoot the film?

RD: I used a Sony TVR-7, or maybe it was a TCR-7. I used the Mini DV format.

NS: How is it different from regular VHS or 8mm camcorders?

RD: Mini DV is a real revolution in filmmaking technology. It gives out a broadcast-quality image for nothing, for peanuts. Prior to that, about 4 or 5 years ago, if you wanted to get on TV you would have to use a \$20,000 camera. Now you can get a

Mini DV camcorder for about \$1,500, maybe \$3,000 for the higher-end models. You can make a documentary, like I did, for a couple thousand bucks, which is nothing, and get it on PBS. It's probably the biggest revolution in filmmaking in 30 or 40 years. But that's only part of the equation; the other part is that you can edit on a computer. [Editing software] would have cost you \$100,000 ten years ago and now it's down to about \$2,000. You can sit at home and do it yourself—I used Adobe software on my PC.

NS: So you weren't bent over a Moviola [editing machine] for months and months?

RD: No! Moviolas are a pain in the ass and I hope I never have to deal with them. With this newer technology, you can just sit at home and edit at your own leisure. The most tedious part was having to log everything, type out every single word that was spoken and every action that was performed. I ended up with about a thousand pages of transcript. So that part was tedious, but then during the editing process I could find a particular clip of film just by using a keyword search.

NS: What is the film about?

RD: It's about these artists who come to this really strange art gallery, people who put glue in their hair to make devil's horns, these really colorful characters. Ninety-nine percent of the people they encounter reject them, don't like them, regard them as freaks.

NS: What's next for you? I understand you just accepted an offer to graduate school.

RD: At San Francisco State University, yeah.


NS: What kind of opportunities do you hope to find there?

RD: For one thing, San Francisco will have lots of resources, lots of actors, and the school itself has great resources in terms of equipment. I'm not going to school to be taught anything by anybody, I'm going to use the equipment and make films. For the practical filmmaker whose papa isn't Donald Trump, it's a great school.

NS: Do you have any idea what to expect after grad school? What does one have to do to get into the business? Are you

See "Denison," next page


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Along Came a Spider doesn't quite kiss the girls

Lucy Dukes
Reporter

Morgan Freeman is Detective Cross again in the mediocre *Along Came a Spider*, a



▲ Monica Potter as Jezzie Flannigan

prequel to *Kiss the Girls*. When a senator's daughter is kidnapped from an exclusive private school, her kidnapper calls Cross, inviting him to give chase, making him part of the case.

Cross works with a beautiful and apparently guilty-feeling secret service agent from the school to track down the kidnapper, foil his plan to kidnap the son of the Russian president, and eventually pay a \$10 million ransom in diamonds.

The trouble is, when the kidnapper shows up at Cross's door, he doesn't know much about the ransom. Nefarious school secret service agents, including Cross's new partner have outfoxed the crafty kidnapper, stolen the girl from under his nose and demanded money in his name.

Ever-clever Cross is a mere step behind, and in the end rescues the girl from her second—and more dastardly—set of kidnappers.

Any of this sound familiar? Try this: Evil kidnapper/criminal calls really smart detective to match wits in commission of mind-bogglingly complex crime. Clever cop follows clues to unravel case. Good triumphs over evil. Victim is rescued moments before death.

We've seen this one before. It wasn't a horrible movie though, especially if you like the genre. *Along Came a Spider* is never slow. The kidnapper's clues and Cross's detective work are always intelligent. *Along Came a Spider* is aware of its reliance on the formula too, making it smarter than many of its ilk. The movie tries to manipulate the genre with the secret service double cross twist, but that doesn't quite lift the movie out of cliché. The deviation was too standard to work. The wicked woman sex siren pretending to be a good girl is an old story in the movies too.

Another problem is the kidnapper's invitation to Cross to solve the case. Why Cross? The connection remains a mystery. Did the secret service know he would be included? Again, we never find out.



▲ Morgan Freeman as Alex Cross

This week

Friday-April 13

Bookstore Easter Egg Hunt: 9 a.m.

Investment Club Meeting: PUB 357 at 12 p.m.

Saturday-April 14

Free Movie: "The Judas Project" sponsored by Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: PUB MPR at 7 p.m. For more info, call Bob at 235-5017

Arrow Head Dance sponsored by the Na-

tive American Student Association: Hotel Lusso from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. For more info, call 484-0413

Sunday-April 15

Easter Celebration Service sponsored by Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: For more info, call Bob at 235-5017

Monday-April 16

Christianity 101 sponsored by Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship: 1st floor lobby in PAT at 6:30 p.m. For more info, call Bob at 235-5017

Tuesday-April 17

Bible Study: PUB 321 at 12 p.m.

Wednesday-April 18

WYSIWYG- Jaazz Fashion Show: PUB MPR at 7 p.m. For more information, call Alicia at 359-4839

"Demons of the Etruscan Underworld" lecture by University of Puget Sound Professor, Helen Nagy: Patterson 155 at 12 p.m.

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship meeting at 8:10 p.m.

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JAZZ Salon & Day Spa
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April 18th @ 7:00 pm
Clothes by Hot Topic

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Denison: Eastern Student produced "2mT," a documentary that won two awards, and will air on PBS in June.

From previous page

writing screenplays too?

RD: I'm planning on just going for it and making films, and try to get them out there. I do write, but I'm not planning on pursuing that because screenwriters don't get any respect. You get paid a lot of money, more than about any other writing profession, but you don't have control over your work. You hand it over to this studio system where people look at it and say, "hey, this film needs a gorilla, and a sexy woman!" and your name ends up on something that isn't really yours and might even be really embarrassing to you.

NS: How did you go about getting your film in this festival?

RD: Research. There are thousands of film festivals all over the country, but not all of them are going to want the kind of film you have to offer. So you have to check them out and see what they're looking for. I've submitted it to a lot of different festivals. It's also going to be screening at the Athens [Ohio] film festival, and on PBS, which I'm most excited about because thousands of people are going to see it.



▲ A few of the artists featured in Ramsey Denison's film, "2mT."

NS: When is it airing?

RD: June sometime...early June. Possibly the first, I think that's what it says in the contract. It's going to air three times. I think my greatest accomplishment is getting it on PBS. I mean, I went into [station manager] Bill Stanley's office, and I looked on his desk and there's a stack of videos two feet tall on it, and I felt like I'd really accomplished some-

thing, because this man has to view so many movies and only a few make the cut.

"2mT" will be airing on PBS in early June and will be shown at the upcoming Punk Not Rock Tour in Spokane on April 25th at 8 pm along with another film. The airing will be at the E Gallery at 401 W Sprague Ave.

Visit us at www.easterneronline.com

Band makes the Pavilion Delirious

Brian Triplett

Copy Editor Extraordinaire

This Wednesday, the British Christian rock sensations "Delirious?" Played a concert to a well-mannered, yet very enthusiastic crowd in the EWU Pavilion. The concert was partially sponsored by Spokane's KTSL, a local area Christian music station specializing in a pop/rock format. Perhaps because of the radio exposure, Delirious? got a bigger turnout for their show than Everclear did when they played here at the beginning of Fall quarter.

Draw your own conclusions based on that statement, but to me that implies that people in the Spokane-Cheney area are far more discerning than I realized. Delirious? sounds incredible on their CDs, but they sound even better live. Even if you don't accept their uplifting spiritual perspective, it is still possible to lose yourself in their finely honed arrangements, ethereal musical timbres, and the dynamic singing of lead vocalist Martin Smith.

Guitarist Stuart Garrard throws in dashes of everything from searing blues-based solos to country flavored hard rock, to cathartic ambient textures. He creates some of the most beautiful electric guitar feedback I have ever heard, and he is a remarkably good slide guitarist. The formula of Stewart Smith's sophisticated drumming, Tim Jupp's tasteful keyboard playing,

and Jon Thatcher's active, melodic bass playing sounds even better through a concert sound system than it does on their albums.

They used samples to reproduce some of the textures in the songs from Glo, but the pre-recorded elements were not obtrusive. The band did a great job of maintaining the energy of a live show despite having to play in sync with recordings. Not having the cello and bagpipes from Glo did not diminish the music from that release in any way. The slightly more straightforward concert versions of the songs pleased the crowd and sounded great pumping through the air above the basketball court.

However, the message is the real reason why they put on such impressive concerts. Martin Smith encouraged the members of the audience throughout the night with surprisingly eloquent statements such as "We're gonna see churches with 20 year olds and 50 year olds coming together. We're going to see women preaching... I see people here becoming politicians and making a difference in the world. It starts with learning how to be a dancing generation [dancing before God]. It starts with all the generations coming together."

The coolest thing about Delirious? is that they worship God without taking themselves too seriously. Martin Smith joked around throughout the evening and generally seemed like an affable and easily approachable fellow.

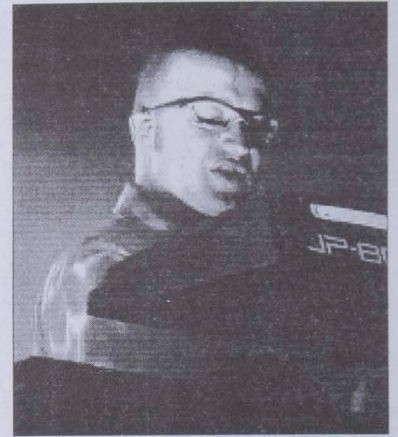
When his vintage electric organ wasn't working properly, he wryly quipped "We bought it in America."

All the band members were clearly having a great time. Tim Jupp couldn't stop grinning. Garrard [fondly referred to as Stu G.] acted like a ham occasionally and goofed around with Jon Thatcher. Martin Smith built an amazing rapport with the crowd. He reminded me of Bono back when U2's outspoken front man was still young and idealistic. Smith danced and gestured expressively, accenting serious thoughts with graceful movements and dancing like a punk rocker when it seemed to fit the mood. Twice, he stood out in the front rows of the crowd, held up by the hands of his fans. He was mercurial while retaining his authority as a herald spreading the Bible's gospel message.

If you have a chance to see Delirious? in concert, do yourself a favor and take it. You will not regret it. You might even think about Christian beliefs in an entirely new and refreshing way.

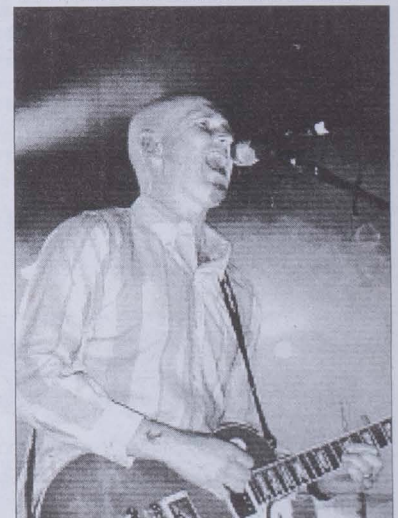
Delirious? are currently on the North American leg of a tour supporting their newest album Glo. Smith announced that they have another album almost finished that should be available soon, and a new single that is about to be released in the United Kingdom. He also mentioned that they will soon be touring in England and Scotland with Bon Jovi and Matchbox 20 as part of Bon Jovi's "One Wild Night Tour." The band had a number one single in the United Kingdom for over 22 weeks, which is pretty impressive for anyone, but even more so for a Christian band. Their music should appeal to just about anyone who can appreciate strong melodies, dense soundscapes, and simple lyrics equally appropriate for a church or a loud car stereo.

For more information about Delirious?, you can go to their web site at www.delirious.net, or you can ask about their music at local area Christian bookstores.

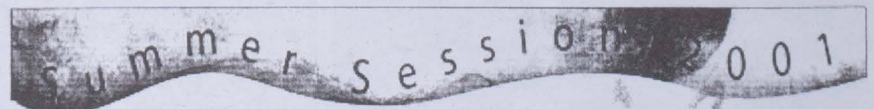


▲ Tim Jupp gives the ivories what-for

▼ Guitarist Stuart Garrard raises his voice



▲ Front man Martin Smith raises some hands, and some roof.



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Northwest

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Pittsburgh
@
Washington
on
ESPN
4:30 p.m.

GOLF



Eastern Washington University Men and Women will be at the Juniper Hills Golf Club in Pocatello, Idaho on Monday, April 16 to Wednesday, April 18 for a round against Idaho State University.

TENNIS



WOMEN
April 12-14
@

Big Sky Mountain
Division Regional
Championship in
Missoula, Mont.

TRACK and FIELD

WOMEN

At University of Montana in Missoula	
EWU	100
UM	95
EWU	84
ISU	120
EWU	94
MSU	99

Saturday, April 14
EWU vs. WSU, UI @
Pullman

MEN

At University of Montana in Missoula	
EWU	96
UM	77
EWU	88
ISU	99
EWU	78
MSU	106

Lady Eagles top Montana

Tom Fox
Sports Editor

Despite athletes setting their best marks of the season, and one of the most entertaining throwing events, the Eastern Washington University Women's Track and Field team dropped two of three matchups last weekend at the University of Montana in Missoula.



Saturday, April 14
EWU
vs.
IDAHO, WSU
@
Pullman

Senior Christi Horning finished second in the 100 with a time of 12.32 and long jump

[18-10], both of which were season best marks.

On both occasions, she finished behind the respective indoor champion.

"Christi is a team leader," Eastern coach Marcia Mecklenburg said.

"With Christi we're expecting some big things from her at the end of the year."

Freshman Katie Jacobson won the discus with a throw of 142-10 and senior Kim Van Dalsen leaped 5-5 for the victory in the high jump. Jenny Sargeant stuck a 136-foot javelin throw to place first.

Sargeant is leading the conference in the javelin.

"She's expected to win," her coach said. "But with a freshman you're not sure how they're going to do, but she's pulled through so far."

But it was the hammer throw that Mecklenburg described as the best she'd ever seen.

"That was the best hammer throw contest ever," Mecklenburg said.

Julie Neilson set a school record when she heaved the hammer 182-8, but finished second to Moraine Griffin [198-5] of Idaho State University.

Neilson's last throw boosted her from fourth to second, while breaking her personal best.

Griffin's throw was a provisional national qualifying mark.

"Overall we did really good," Mecklenburg said.

The fact that Eastern nearly defeated hearty Montana State, who won the indoor conference championship this winter, is a victory in itself according to the Eagles coach.

Other than the loss to the Bobcats, Eastern knocked off Montana 100-95, and lost to perennial power Idaho State 120-84.

"We don't have a lot of depth in all areas," Eastern's coach said.

MSU and ISU have more consistency throughout their programs.

This weekend, Eastern will travel to Pullman to take on Washington State and the University of Idaho.

"WSU has an excellent women's team, and so does the University of Idaho. It will be difficult for us to beat them."

"It will be a great opportunity for the kids to achieve personal goals," Mecklenburg said.



▲ Eastern's Julie Neilson also throws the shot put.

Gardner named Big Sky golfer of the week



Eastern Washington University freshman Kelly Gardner earned Big Sky Golfer of the Week honors with a 75.2 scoring average in five rounds of play. She earned a first place finish at the Inland Empire Women's

four birdies en route to a four-under-par 32 on the 2,904-yard front nine. She closed the tournament with a 37 on the 3,002-yard back nine, including one birdie and a pair of bogies. With a two-round total of 143, Gardner edged Portland's Megan Radonich by one stroke.

At the Vandal Spring Invitational Gardner shot a 17 over par 233 to place second and help the Eagles to a third place finish.

She leads Eastern this season with a 79.4 scoring average in 22 rounds. Her rounds of 74 and 69 Monday were her best rounds of the season, with the previous best a 75 at Idaho last week.

Intercollegiate Golf Tournament and a second place finish at the Vandal Spring Invitational.

Gardner had a first round total of 74 in the morning of the Inland Empire Tournament before embarking on the tournament's second and final round in the afternoon. She had

Gardner is a 2000 graduate of Gig Harbor (Wash.) High School. She leads Eastern this season with a 79.4 scoring average in 22 rounds. Her rounds of 74 and 69 Monday were her best rounds of the season, with the previous best a 75 at Idaho last week.

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Easterner Weekly Baseball Rankings

for Week Ending April 11, 2001

It should be no surprise who tops this week's poll as the Yankees come into the week with the best record in baseball with teams approaching the 10 game mark of the season. Check back weekly to see how your team fares in our weekly poll.



John
Lichorobiec
Online Editor

No. Team	Record
1. NY Yankees	(7-2)
2. St. Louis Cardinals	(5-3)
3. Houston Astros	(6-2)
4. Seattle Mariners	(6-2)
5. SF Giants	(6-2)
6. Toronto Blue Jays	(7-3)
7. Philadelphia Phillies	(6-2)
8. Minnesota Twins	(6-2)
9. Montreal Expos	(6-3)
10. Boston Red Sox	(5-3)
11. Los Angeles Dodgers	(5-4)
12. Chicago Cubs	(5-4)
13. Chicago White Sox	(4-4)
14. Pittsburgh Pirates	(4-4)
15. Anaheim Angels	(4-4)
16. Baltimore Orioles	(4-4)
17. Atlanta Braves	(4-5)
18. Texas Rangers	(4-5)
19. Cleveland Indians	(3-5)
20. NY Mets	(3-5)
21. Arizona D-Backs	(3-5)
22. Colorado Rockies	(3-5)
23. Cincinnati Reds	(3-6)
24. Milwaukee Brewers	(3-6)
25. Oakland A's	(2-6)
26. Kansas City Royals	(2-7)
27. Detroit Tigers	(3-5)
28. Florida Marlins	(2-6)
29. San Diego Padres	(3-5)
30. Tampa Bay D-Rays	(2-7)

■ Division winning picks in bold

2001 National League baseball preview

NL East

1. Atlanta Braves – The Braves have restocked themselves and are looking to make another run for the NL pennant. A healthy John Smoltz, along with Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine give them the top pitching rotating in the NL. After being swept in the NL Divisional Series, the Braves are looking for post-season redemption.



Strengths – Experience is the biggest strength the Braves possess, and they'll be relying on that experience heavily to carry them through to their tenth straight post-season appearance. If Smoltz, Brian Jordan and Brian Jordan are able to bounce back from injuries, these will be the same ole Braves that baseball has become accustomed to seeing.

Weaknesses – It remains to be seen if John Rocker will be able to shake past demons and return to his pre-2000 form. He did have 24 saves out of 27 chances last year, so the Braves are staking their lot with him for the time being.

Outlook for 2001 – Punch their ticket right now for another NL East title and another run in the playoffs. Their health will dictate how far they progress in the playoffs.

2. New York Mets – The Mets can thank the Cardinals for their World Series appearance last year. Had they faced the Braves in the NLCS, chances are the Braves are the team losing to the Yankees again instead of the Mets.

Strengths – Being the second best team in New York can't be half bad. Their lineup remains relatively intact from last year and they'll have to put up similar numbers to make a similar run this season. The good news for Mets fans, is no one really overachieved so repeating those numbers shouldn't be too difficult. The bullpen remains solid as well.

Weaknesses – Losing Mike Hampton was a crushing blow to the Mets. Is Kevin Appier a suitable replacement? Only time will tell if that's the case.

Outlook for 2001 – The Mets should be in contention for another NL Wildcard run but will have to play significantly better against the NL elite teams to once again advance deep into the playoffs.

3. Florida Marlins – The Marlins have made strides the past two seasons since going from the penthouse to the outhouse, as the only team not named the New York Yankees to win a World Series since 1996. Their youth movement continues, but playing in the same division as the Braves and Mets won't help their chances to compete for the NL Wildcard.

Strengths – Ryan Dempster and Brad Penny are stars of the future for the Marlins young pitching staff. If guys like Preston Wilson and Derek Lee continue their improvement, the Marlins could be better off than expected.

Weaknesses – The uncertainty of whether or not the Marlins will get a new stadium looms large on the Marlins horizon. If they get the new digs, the team should be given time to develop. If not, will we see another fire sale in Miami?

Outlook for 2001 – Too much uncertainty in the immediate future for the Marlins will make it difficult for them to make a serious run for the NL Wildcard, but a new stadium could cure what ails them.

4. Philadelphia Phillies – The 2001 Phillies exemplify the differences between the "haves" and the "have nots." Philadelphia fans are notoriously harsh on their teams that don't produce, and will learn what teams like Cleveland and Seattle know all too well. Jose Mesa is not the answer to solve a much-maligned bullpen.

Strengths – Mike Lieberthal, Scott Rolen and Bobby Abreu lead the youth movement in Philadelphia, but unfortunately none of the above are pitchers.

Weaknesses – Ask Cleveland and Seattle how much better off they are post "Joe Table?" When Jose Mesa and Ricky Botalico are they best solutions for this anemic bullpen, you know that being mediocre isn't so bad considering the pieces the Phillies have at their disposal.

Outlook for 2001 – Larry Bowa will motivate this bunch of "under-achievers" but not to the level necessary to make much improvement over last season. If the Phillies will 75 games, they will have made a 10 game improvement over last year, but still no where close to playoff contention.

Previews continued on next page



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2001 National League baseball preview

5. Montreal Expos – Is it time to finally pull the plug on this once proud franchise that now finds itself on life support? If certain owners have their way, Montreal and Minnesota are the two likely franchises to be eliminated to bring the league back to 28 teams.

Strengths – Jose Vidro, Vlad Guerrero and Fernando Tatis are quite the 3, 4 and 5 slots in the Expos batting order, but there isn't much of anything else for Expos fans to get behind this season. Closer Ugueth Urbina could find himself on the trading block to teams like the Rangers or Yankees if the price is right.

Weaknesses – Ownership is unwilling to put the proper pieces together to make a serious run as a legitimate ML franchise. Filipe Alou has done wonders developing the youth within the Montreal organization. Problem is, you'll see those future stars playing for other organization because the Expos can't afford to keep them.

Outlook for 2001 – It's about time to put the Expos out of their misery. If baseball's brain trust really thinks the league will improve thru subtraction rather than addition, then this is a good place to start.

NL Central

1. St. Louis Cardinals – The Cards lost to the Mets in the NLCS last season which leaves a bitter taste in their mouths as they thought they were the better team last year. This year, they attempt to go out and prove it.

Strengths – No denying the potency of the Cardinals line with Mark McGwire, Jim Edmonds, Ray Lankford and J.D. Drew solidifying the offense and can each put up big numbers. The rotation is very solid with Darryl Kile, Dustin Hermanson, Matt Morris and Andy Benes.

Dave Veres is developing very well as the Cards closer.

Weaknesses – Which Rick Ankiel will we see this year? The pitcher who threw nine wild pitches in the playoffs last year, or the brilliant, young lefty with tons of potential? Injuries could also be a problem with McGwire as he missed signifi-

cant time with a bum knee.

Outlook for 2001 – If the Cardinals can stay healthy and Ankiel returns to form, a World Series bid just might be in the cards?

2. Houston Astros – The Astros are looking to rebound from an ugly 2000 that saw Jose Lima have the worse season of his career, and lost pitchers Billy Wagner and Mike Jackson to injuries. Wagner and Jackson are healthy once again and Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio are on the prowl.

Strengths – Bagwell, Biggio, Moises Alou, Richard Hidalgo and Brad Ausmus provide the base of a solid line-up that can produce plenty of runs to keep the fans at Enron Field very happy. The return of Wagner and the addition of Jackson and Doug Brocail add much needed depth to the Astros bullpen.

Weaknesses – Like the Cardinals wonder about Ankiel, the Astros wonder about Lima. How can a pitch go from 21 wins in 1999 to just seven wins last year? How the Astros bounce back with the return of their injured players will dictate how far the Astros go in 2001.

Outlook for 2001 – While health remains as issue, expect the Astros to bounce back in a big way and make a serious bid for the NL Wildcard.

3. Cincinnati Reds – Is Ken Griffey Jr. really better off in Cincinnati than Seattle? The Mariners lost to the Yankees in the ALCS while "Griff" was at home watching the playoffs. How many years of losing in Cincinnati before Junior asks to be traded again?

Strengths – Griffey Jr. and Barry Larkin have another year to gel and playing in the newly revamped Cinergy Field could pay big dividends if guys like Sean Casey and Dmitri Young come thru with solid seasons.

Weaknesses – Pete Harnisch in the only proven starter in the Reds rotation due to the money spend to get Griffey Jr., and to keep Larkin. If the rest of the patchwork Reds pitching staff doesn't produce quality innings, it could be a long season in the Queen City.

Outlook for 2001 – Pitching will dictate how legitimate the Reds will be in 2001. The cash strapped Reds won't be looking to add and more high salary players to their roster, so they'll have to win with what they've got.

4. Chicago Cubs – The boys from the south side of Chicago will always be fun to watch with Sammy Sosa and Kerry Wood, but what were they thinking by not re-signing Mark Grace?

Strengths – Sammy Sosa got the contract extension out of the way and Kerry Wood is returning from injury. The pitching staff will be led by Wood, Kevin Tapani and John Leiber who all could win 15+ games this year.

Weaknesses – Playing 81 games in Wrigley Field is a disadvantage no matter how you cut it. Losing Grace's leadership in the locker room will be tough to replace, but Sosa and Todd Hundley will have to step up and fill that role.

Outlook for 2001 – They'll be better than they were last year, but that's not saying much. If the Cubs are a .500 team, that will say something after losing 97 games last year.

5. Milwaukee Brewers – Newly built Miller Park could finally generate enough money for the Brewers front office for them to pursue quality free agents and turn the team around. The question remains whether enough

fans will support the new park enough in these lean years to generate the revenue to get top-flight players to win in the future?

Strengths – For a team that fell just short of reaching the .500 mark last year, players like Jeromy Bernitz, Geoff Jenkins and Richie Sexson who all popped 30+ home runs last year will need to produce similar numbers to reach that goal. Jamey Wright and Ben Sheets lead the starting rotation, and Curtis Leskanic looks to be slamming the door shut to save games for the Brewers.

Weaknesses – The Brewers set a team record in allowing 728 walks last year. That number will have to drop for a run at .500.

Outlook for 2001 – The Brewers appear to be a few years away from any serious playoff contention, but with the new ballpark and a couple of breaks, .500 isn't out of the question, but not very likely.

6. Pittsburgh Pirates – The Pirates also open up the brand new PNC ballpark but until they fix their pitching woes, it doesn't matter where you play. The Pirates suffered plenty of bad luck last year with many of their

pitchers spending time on the DL. Will the PNC Park bring them any better fortunes?

Strengths – Jason Kendall continues to be one of the best young catchers in all of baseball and his experience should help the young pitching staff mature. Willy veteran Terry Mulholland will also help provide depth in the bullpen. Brian Giles looks to be a superstar in the making but not much else in the starting lineup.

Weaknesses – The health of pitchers Kris Benson, Todd Ritchie and Jason Schmidt are all potential question marks. Until they can prove they're past their injuries, the pitching will continue to struggle.

Outlook for 2001 – Things aren't so bright in Pittsburgh these days, but owner Kevin McLachey couldn't get out of the old Three Rivers Stadium soon enough. The Bucs are still a few years away with the right acquisitions.

See NL preview on next page



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NL preview: arms rule West

From page 15

NL West

1. Arizona Diamondbacks – The D-Backs are loading up and looking to make a legitimate run for the playoffs and beyond, but do they have enough to get there?

Strengths – Randy Johnson, Curt Schilling and Brian Anderson gives the D-Backs three stud pitchers in a division where the team with the best pitching should be able to punch their ticket to October. Mark Grace will add valuable leadership to the Arizona clubhouse.

Weaknesses – In games that Reggie Sanders starts, the D-Backs will have eight regulars over the age of 30 in the starting line-up so health could be a key concern.

Outlook for 2001 – The Yankees are doing just fine with a 30+ line-up, so there is no reason to think the D-Backs can't do the same. The probably won't make it to the World Series, but they should be the best in the NL West.

2. San Francisco Giants – The Barry Bonds contract should be interesting to watch being played out and it just might cause enough distractions to let the Diamondbacks slip past the Giants for the NL West title.

Strengths – Barry Bonds are quite the 3, 4 punch in the middle of the Giants line-up and that combination has put up great numbers the past couple of years and there's no reason not to expect the same again. Rob Nenn is an elite NL closer and could prove to be the difference.

Weaknesses – The uncertainty of what the Giants will do with Barry Bonds could be a cause for great consternation in the Bay Area.

Outlook for 2001 – The Giants are a better team on paper than Arizona, but unless they resolve Bonds situation, they could be on the outside looking in come October.

3. Los Angeles Dodgers – Gary Sheffield has put his problems with management behind him, but will the rest of the club rally around him, or is already too late?

Strengths – Sheffield and Shawn Green provide plenty of pop for the boys in blue and the potential for RBI could be bountiful if Sheffield has indeed righted his ship. Kevin Brown and Chan-Ho Park are among the league's elite starting pitchers.

Weaknesses – Outside of Sheffield and Green, the rest of the line-up can be pitched around. Chris Donnels and Alex Cora are not the answer for what ails the Dodgers left side of the infield.

Outlook for 2001 – In a perfect world, the Dodgers could contend for the NL Wildcard, but we've learned long ago that this isn't a perfect world.

4. Colorado Rockies – How Mike Hampton and Denny Neagle adjust to the thin air of Colorado will dictate how the Rockies will fare in 2001. The offense should be consistent, but the pitching is bound to be inconsistent in the typical 13-10 Coors Field epics.

Strengths – The starting rotation no matter how inconsistent should be a strength for the Rockies. Any rotation that has Hampton, Neagle, Pedro Astacio and Brian Bohanon has potential to be solid. Todd Helton will put up big numbers, but to ask him to duplicate the numbers he put up last year would be hard pressed.

Weaknesses – Although the Rockies are use to playing in, and winning 13-10 games at home, over the course of the season, it can wear down a pitching staff unnecessarily. Jose Jimenez as the Rockies closer is not the answer, but will have to do for the time being.

Outlook for 2001 – The Rockies will be fun to watch if you like high scoring baseball, but don't make any travel plans to Colorado for post-season baseball.

5. San Diego Padres – Will this be Tony Gwynn's swan song in San Diego? It appears to be the case and there are questions as to whether Gwynn will remain healthy enough to finish out the year.

Strengths – Trevor Hoffman is one of the best closers in all of baseball, but the Padres have to get to the eighth or ninth inning with the lead to take advantage of Hoffman. It doesn't look to happen too often for the Padres this season. Woody Williams is the best Padre starter, but what about the other four slots in the rotation?

Weaknesses – The Padres outfield production is expected to be very limited with Gwynn just a shell of his former self and newly acquired Mark Kotsay and prospect Mike Darr slated to be regulars shagging flies.

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