

# Looking for a hidden treasure

## Centennial search for the old lifestyle

by Doug Grebenc  
Evergreen Staff

Student life at Wazzu.

We know the basics. Studying at Holland or Owen. Hanging out in the CUB for a cup of extra-strength java. Hitting the Cougar or Moscow for a study break. Scoping merchandise while basking in the late summer heat on Holland beach.

All this and much, much more make our experiences in Pullman lasting memories most of us will cherish as we transfer into alumnus status. But the memories of the thousands of alumni that already exist are of a different Washington State, with different pastimes and standards.

Student life in the past, along with the history of the campus' buildings and activities, is exactly the objective of the Washington State Archaeological Research Center (WSARC) as they proceed in the first phase of the Centennial dig here on campus.

Dale Croes, director of WSARC, is enthusiastic about the future. Digs are scheduled to continue every summer until the college's Centennial celebration in

1990. The state of Washington celebrates 100 years in 1989.

"The program here is being looked upon as a model and is about to be commissioned by the Washington State Centennial Committee for state-wide digs in historic communities," said Croes. Governor Gardner's wife Jean and Secretary of State Ralph Monroe, co-chairmen of the committee, will possibly visit campus to see first-hand the pioneering effort.

As of now, two supervising archeologists, Darby Stapp and Julie Necker, are overseeing three students at the Beef Cattle Barn behind French Administration on the east end of campus. The students dig in one meter by one meter squares that are 10 centimeters deep to keep track of findings more precisely.

They learn to look for not just the unique, but patterns that will lead to a better understanding of life in the past, not to mention method and theory of field archaeology along with the "in the dirt training," others learn in the African desert or American Southwest.

The Beef Cattle Barn was built

in 1923, but burned down in 1924 and was rebuilt in 1925. The barn is the future site of the planned alumni center.

The dig started in the fall of 1984 by narrowing down possible sites for excavation. Croes said through the use of old photos, the schools archives, and interviews with experienced faculty and staff, diversity was a definite criteria.

Stevens Hall, a women's dorm for almost 100 years; Stimson Hall, a men's dorm since 1922; Thompson Hall, built in 1893 and used for the president's office; and the Beef Cattle Barn, part of the reputable agriculture scene at WSC are the chosen sites.

Actually digging began in the spring of 1985 and the first 4 week session began on June 11th. The students follow a schedule that has them in the lab at Commons Hall by 8:00 a.m. cleaning up and cataloging their findings along with comparison of actual sites and squares in hopes of gaining an overall picture of the past. By 10:00 a.m., it's a lecture and then onto the site until about 3:30 p.m. then it's back to the lab to process the days' findings. The students wrap it all up around 4:30 p.m.

Findings so far have been rather ordinary. Fragments of bottles, bubble gum wrappers, broken hair brushes, hat pins, bone fragments, and pens have turned up, but this is exactly what the archeologist is after.

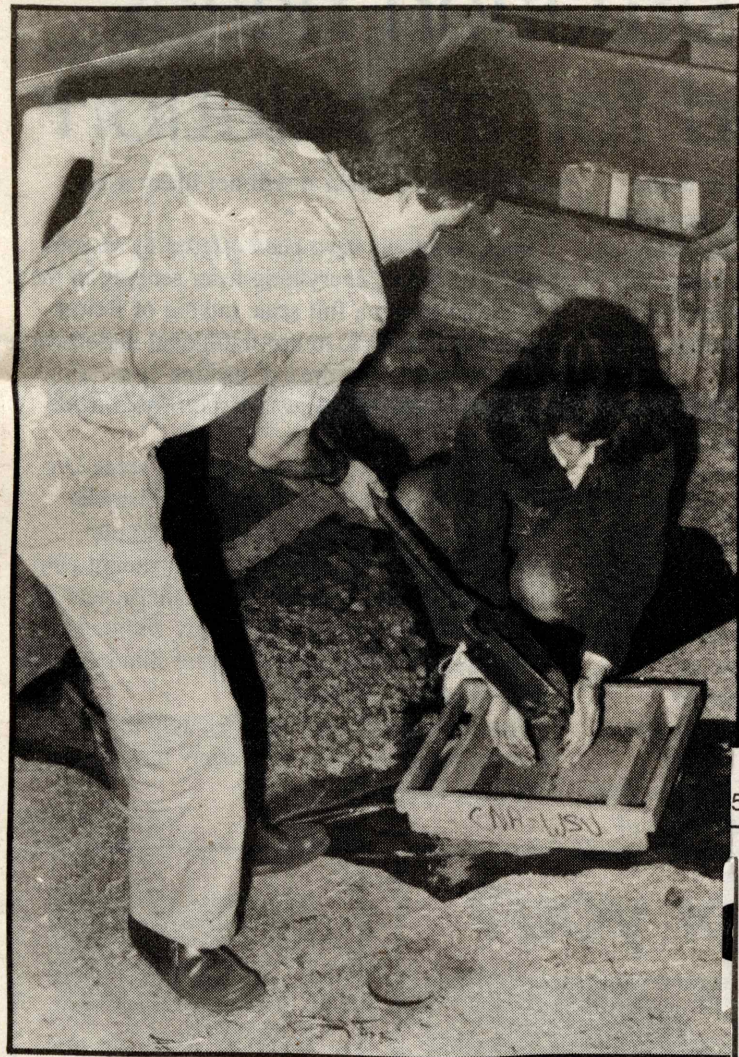
"We record the part of history that usually isn't recorded — things people discarded and historians ignored. The ordinary tools of everyday life," Croes said. He said he hopes the project's findings will help increase understanding of everyday life of the college student at WSC.

The artifacts found will be presented to the public in a display at the Anthropology Museum by November or December of 1985. As the next four summers go by, the dig will continue to compile artifacts and information for the

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university Centennial celebration. Photo and oral presentations by alumni and staff that lived here 40 years ago, will also be a part of the overall picture.

Funding for the project comes partly from the tuition paid by students participating in the dig and University Relations as a part of the Centennial program. Students interested in the second four week session can contact Dale Croes at 335-8566, or the Department of Anthropology for more information. No experience is necessary and all majors are welcome.

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