

Summer 1993

## UA68/13/5 InSync

WKU Student Chapter of National Press Photographer Association

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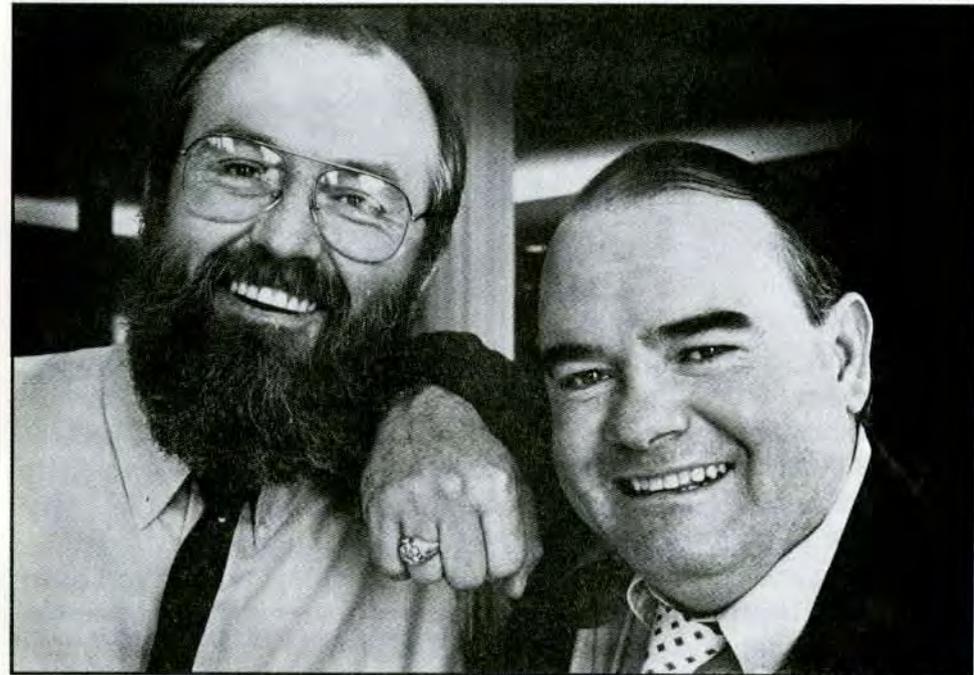
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# InSync

A publication for WKU photojournalism alumni



*InSync/ Joe Garcia*

Dave LaBelle, (left) and Mike Morse, mug for the camera. LaBelle, a photojournalist-in-residence in Western Kentucky University's photojournalism program, is leaving to pursue his dreams. See story page 10

## Summer 1993

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**Western alumni offer helpful hints to PJ students**  
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## Morse seeks to change with the times

*InSync/ Stephen Perez*

The photojournalism program at Western Kentucky University is entering a new phase in educating its students. With the influx of electronic darkrooms in many newsrooms across the nation, Mike Morse, head of the photojournalism program at Western, has begun to introduce ways to better prepare grads for the future.

"Computers are definitely going to be the way we do our work in the future," Morse said. "Right now, in the real world we are seeing a shift away from the chemical-based darkroom toward electronically massaged images. It's moving faster than expected. What has happened in two to three years is what many expected in five to six years."

The changes occurring within the industry have created a mandate within the program to move ahead with implementing new technology. The problem facing us today is how quickly the new changes can be integrated into the curriculum. "We are obviously going to go to electronic processing of images," Morse said, "which brings up a basic issue. When will we no longer use chemical darkrooms and should we quit teaching chemical printing entirely?" Currently, the plan is to discontinue wet darkroom work altogether in some advanced classes within the next two to five years.

A \$300,000 capital equipment proposal put before the university recently by the Journalism Department is for a fully electronic classroom. The 20-station imaging lab would be used for the Electronic Picture Editing and Design class as well as for components of several other classes. Software which has become the industry standard, such as Adobe Photoshop and QuarkXpress, will be utilized for classwork. "The time to make an investment is now," Morse said. "The technology works and we want to prepare students to use it well."

**InSync is published by the Western Kentucky University student chapter of the NPPA**

**Western Kentucky University**  
Photojournalism Program  
Garrett Conference Center Rm. 215  
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Western photographer Larry Powell travels to Vietnam to show the effects of the war he fought 24 years ago as a young soldier.

## A trek back to Vietnam

*By Chris Poynter*

*Reprinted with permission by The College Heights Herald*

He was a young soldier — a fit 20-year-old who'd settled at Fort Bliss, Texas, to serve in the army that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather served in. He was only recently married and his wife was pregnant, the baby due in two weeks.

And then, from the United States Army chain-of-command, came the order that would forever change Larry Powell.

"Sgt. Powell, you have been ordered to serve your country in Vietnam. You will report in two weeks for training and depart for Vietnam afterward."

It's been 24 years since Powell was that soldier. Now 46, he's sitting in his office in Western's photography lab reflecting on his 388 days in Vietnam.

## Photography becomes an awakening for Vietnam Vet

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He came to Western in 1988 after having brain surgery due to a war injury. He came looking for something to do, and he thought he'd learn how to take better pictures of rocks, trees and animals, Powell said.

Photography was only going to be a hobby. But now he's using it as a social tool and instead of running convoys in Vietnam he is fighting the war's effects with his camera.

In December while everyone was settling in for Christmas, Powell went back to the land that 24 years ago was the enemy's territory.

He shot about 8,000 frames and is in the process of putting his best shots together as part of a series of slide shows on Vietnam he's been working on since 1989.

Powell has spent most of the last five years trying to show people that there's more to war than killing or being killed. He's made 18 trips to photograph the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington and the people whose lives are touched by it. He has taken all those photos and formed a powerful seven-minute slide show that's packed with powerful images — a son leaning on his father as together they stare at the wall, a boy sitting on a soccer ball with his elbows perched on his knees as he stares at the massive black memorial etched with 58,000 names.

When Powell first came to Western, Dave LaBelle saw a man who wanted to shoot sunsets, rocks and trees. Powell has matured into a photojournalist who is out to send a message.

"Photography became almost an awakening for him to express what he felt about Vietnam," LaBelle said.



*InSync/ Larry Powell*

Retrieving and selling pieces of scrap metal left over from the war is one way people make money in Vietnam. This boy wears dogtags he found while digging.

## Kodak donates money for workshop

*InSync/ Staff*

As part of its continuing support for the Mountain Peoples Workshop, Kodak has donated \$4500. The money will be used to print the book resulting from the work produced in the next workshop.

Through the years Kodak, as well as other manufacturers, has

helped with film, paper and technical support. "It's a really a wonderful gesture on their part," said Mike Morse, sequence coordinator for photojournalism at Western. "We are very pleased that Kodak saw the workshop and the book as worthy projects."

***"We think Mike Morse and the program are doing an amazing job."***

**Ken Lassiter  
Manager of Photo Education  
Eastman Kodak Co.**

"We have given the workshop products over the years,"

said Ken Lassiter, manager of photo education for Kodak. "It's something we believe in. We think Mike Morse and the program at Western Kentucky University are doing an amazing job with the resources they have available."

## Mountain Peoples Workshop book documenting Monticello, Ky., first to be bound in hardback

*InSync/ Staff*

A hardbound edition of The Mountain Peoples Workshop book made its appearance this year for the first time. Donors who contributed \$100 each to the project received one of the 60 hardcover copies documenting Monticello, Ky. About 1300 perfect bound softcover copies were also printed.

The workshop hopes to continue offering hard bound copies of the documentary book in future editions of the project. The Monticello book was paid for completely with community and corporate contributions.

## Down from "The Great White North" WKU attracts Canadian photographer

*InSync/ Stephen Perez*

Coming to Kentucky from Canada was something of a culture shock for Dave Smith, 35, originally from Kingston, Ontario. "It's so different here from Northern Canada," Smith said. "My first two weeks I spent trying to understand everyone. They're real genuine here."

Smith's first encounter with Western came in 1991 while working at *The St. Albert Gazette* near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. It was while working there he noticed the involvement of Western students and instructors in the NPPA. "Everyone's so into photography here," Smith said referring to the students in the photojournalism program.

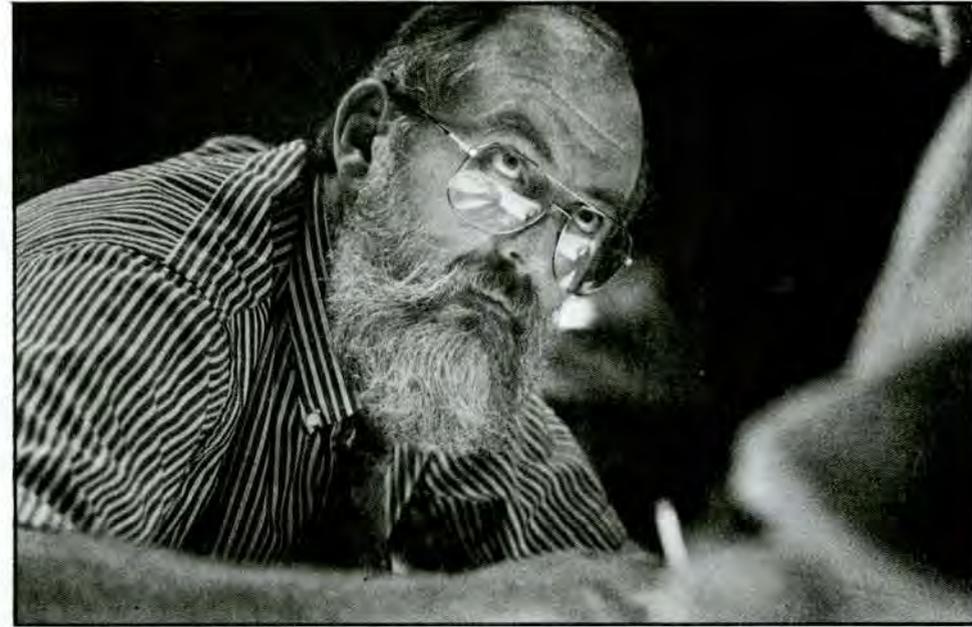
He was further convinced of coming to Western after listening to Dave LaBelle speak at the Flying Short Course in Seattle, Wash., and to the Western Canadian News Photographers Association in Edmonton.

Photographers from the WCNPA invited LaBelle to a Mongolian



*InSync/ Joe Howell*

Canadian photojournalism student, Dave Smith of Kingston, Ontario, watches a pop-up during a recent WKU baseball game against Jacksonville University



*The San Diego Union/ Mike Franklin*

Dave LaBelle checks over portfolios while doing consulting work at *The San Diego Union*. LaBelle is leaving Western at the end of the Spring 1993 semester. Although his plans are not totally set, he does plan to continue with photography.

## LaBelle leaves to pursue other goals

*InSync/ Stephen Perez*

For Dave LaBelle to be absent from the photojournalism department at Western seems almost inconceivable. Yet, this spring semester was his last here on the hill. LaBelle announced his decision recently to leave and pursue other goals.

LaBelle, 41, photojournalist-in-residence at Western for the past six years, has taught hundreds of students in Basic, Color, Photojournalism, and Photo Editing classes. "You take on a little bit of everyone for the good or the bad," LaBelle said, speaking of the lives that have touched his while teaching at Western. "A lot of the students have had an influence on my life and really caused me to think, to reevaluate where I fit in this world. It's one thing to say, I care, I love, I'm giving, but it's another thing to practice that. I'm forever trying a check up on wanting to do that better."

LaBelle's methods of teaching students have always stressed the responsibility to keep students interested in the process of learning. "I feel an obligation to educate but also to entertain," LaBelle said. "I really feel that entertainment is part of the education process."

*“A lot of the students have had an influence on my life and really caused me to think, to reevaluate where I fit in this world.”*

Dave LaBelle, photojournalist-in-residence



## LaBelle focuses more on God

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One of the most important aspects of LaBelle's life has been his belief in God and his preaching. "It's a little different when you're teaching a class, I think I have to hold back some," LaBelle said. "I can't totally reveal myself. I can't totally pour it out, because I don't think this is the forum for it. I'm going to say what I feel with passion, but I still want people to make their own decisions."

"When I'm preaching, I'm more sure of what is right or wrong," LaBelle said. "I'm a carrier of that message. I'm going to say it as emphatically as I can. As a preacher I'm much more serious. There's very little humor in my preaching. It's the time when I'm most focused, most serious. In class there is a lot

more humor, and you can have a lot more fun."

***"What I do with photography, you won't have to search for some kind of subtly. It will be obvious in what I'm saying."***

Dave LaBelle  
Photojournalist-in residence

LaBelle has touched students' lives in many ways as an instructor at Western. "The biggest thing about Mr. LaBelle is that he expects a lot from me," said Rex Perry. "That pushes you to go beyond what you're doing. I've seen that in myself and in a lot of other people. The expectations don't run in terms of shooting but in life." Perry is a Fall '89 graduate, and a staff photographer at *The Tennessean* in Nashville. He has worked with LaBelle on several projects including "The Great Picture Hunt" and LaBelle's newest book project, "Lessons in Death and Life."

"He takes an interest in you, which makes you feel special," said Cindy Green,

a freshman from Franklin, Ky., currently in LaBelle's Basic Photography class. "He's made me realize what I want to do and also helped me think about many new things."

LaBelle's plans for the future, although not entirely set, still include photography. "I'm not sure, whatever I do, I'm going to focus more. I want my photography, my life, my words, my being, focused more on the things of God," LaBelle said. "What I do with photography you won't have to guess for meaning, you won't have to search for some kind of subtly. It will be obvious in what I'm saying."

Newspapers have prepared him to do the things in life that he always wanted, coming to Western has prepared him for what lies ahead for him. "This may have been just that," LaBelle said. "The education I received at Western helped me become not only a more complete person but more able to accomplish those dreams I had when I was 18 or 19 years old. My dreams have never really changed. I want to use every single ability that God has blessed me with, every talent for his good and for man's good."

## Western summer internships for 1993

Jonathan Adams  
Robin L. Buckson  
Joey Carwile  
Veronica Crane  
Sally Eaton  
Deirdre Eitel  
Russ Elsevier  
Francis Gardler  
Leah Hogsten  
Rachel Griffith  
Tricia Hoffman  
Joe Howell  
Jason Koski  
Rick Loomis  
Tor Mathiesen  
Eric McCandless  
Jana Menefee  
Cheryl Meyer  
Eric Parsons  
Teak Phillips  
Marc Piscotty  
Tina Rossell  
Toni Sandys  
Kathryn Scott  
John Simpson  
Patrick Witty

*The Muskegon Chronicle*, Muskegon, Mich.  
*The Wichita Eagle*, Wichita, Kan.  
*The Flint Journal*, Flint, Mich.  
*Capulin Volcano National Monument*, Capulin, N.M.  
*The Southwest Newsweek*, Louisville, Ky.  
*The Standard Examiner*, Ogden, Utah  
*The Springfield News*, Springfield, Ore.  
*Patuxent Publishing Co.*, Columbia, Md.  
*The Charleston Gazette*, Charleston, W.V.  
*The Saginaw News*, Saginaw, Mich.  
*Minute Man National Historic Park*, Boston, Mass.  
*The Knoxville News Sentinel*, Knoxville, Tenn.  
*The Ithaca Journal*, Ithaca, N.Y.  
*Syracuse Newspapers*, Syracuse, N.Y.  
*The Bold Region Leader*, Ft. Knox, Ky.  
*Beaver County Times*, Beaver, Pa.  
*South Bend Tribune*, South Bend, Ind.  
*Washington Post*, Washington D.C.  
*The Indianapolis News*, Indianapolis, Ind.  
*Messenger-Inquirer*, Owensboro, Ky.  
*Albuquerque Tribune*, Albuquerque, N.M.  
*Portland Press-Herald*, Portland, Maine  
*Herald Times*, Bloomington, Ind.  
*The Oregonian*, Portland Ore.  
*The Times Dispatch*, Richmond Va.  
*Piqua Daily Call*, Piqua, Ohio



**Williamson departs program** — Mike Williamson has moved to the *Washington Post* as a photojournalist after teaching Basic Photography and Advanced Photojournalism at Western. Williamson, formerly of *The Sacramento Bee* came to Western as a temporary photojournalist-in-residence sharing a job with Dave LaBelle for two alternating semesters.



*InSync/ Andrew Cutraro*

Western students focus on Bowling Green emergency personnel at a fatal accident scene on Russellville Road recently.

## Western alumni offer tips to current PJ students

### This issue: *Covering spot news*

*InSync/ staff*

The approach professional photojournalists take in covering spot news varies in style from region to region. But one factor remains the same for many photojournalists: Their own street savvy and experience help them accomplish the goal of returning with a photograph which properly represents the spot news scene.

*InSync* contacted some former Western photojournalism students working in various parts of the country to get their insights on covering spot news situations. This is what they had to say.

*"Keep your head and read the situation first. Watch the way the EMT's are handling the accident. How they are reacting to you and the accident will determine how close you can get and with what you can do"* Scott Miller, WKU Fall 1987 to Spring 1989, *The Andalusia Star-News*

## *Tricks of the Trade*

*"It depends on the situation. I like to use a long lens when there are too many people around. I try to be invisible with a long lens and even a short lens. You just got to be smart and aware of your surroundings. You must also be consistent, cautious and aware of all that's happening around you. Try to be aware of the police, EMT's and the other media."* John Dunham, WKU Fall 1989 graduate, *The Evansville Press*.

*"One of the things I do is talk with my editors and ask them about trying something that is different.*



*InSync/ Jim Roshan*

*Some of the best pictures come from getting a different angle, a different perspective. When you're working in a big city, you're always going to be running in a big pack. It's important to get along with the people in your town or your market. These are the same people who can help you when you're on the scene."* Todd Buchanan, WKU Fall 1983 graduate, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Rick Musacchio, a 1985 Fall graduate now with *The Tennessean*, photographs an accident scene when he attended Western. Musacchio stresses the importance of knowing your city and the emergency personnel on the scene.

*"You have to get to know your city where you're working and get to know the firemen and police. You should*

*also set your scanners systematically to mirror fire and police so that when they switch you can follow them easier. Friends at the fire and police departments will help you find them (the right frequencies)."* Rick Musacchio, WKU Fall 1985 graduate, *The Tennessean*.

*Tricks of the Trade* is a regular feature in *InSync*. Next issue will focus on food illustrations.

## *InSync* seeks to make a connection with alumni

*InSync* is searching for former photojournalism students to add to our mailing list. If you are aware of any alumni who would like to receive this newsletter, please write or call *InSync*.

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(502) 745-6292.



InSync/ Stephen Perez

**AP transmitter at WKU**— Rick Loomis (left), photo editor of *The College Heights Herald*, and Joe Stefanchik (right), a freshman from Princeton, N.J., begin setting up a transmission of a photo taken at a recent WKU women's basketball game. The transmitter was installed by AP last year and is used regularly by students to transmit features, news and sports.

## Canadian student finds WKU a genuine experience

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restaurant in Edmonton, where Smith spoke to LaBelle of the possibility of attending Western in the spring.

Living in Barnes-Campbell dormitory in the fall semester, he has found it to be a challenging experience. "Dormitory life takes a bit of adjusting, eh?" Smith said in his native Canadian slang.

Even though Smith has worked for several years as a professional photojournalist in Canada, he still felt compelled to start the program in the beginning with Basic and Intermediate Photo. "I came here with the assumption, I don't know anything," he said. "I came here to learn." Smith's only real difficulty after coming to Western is his inability to find "a good cup of cappuccino," one of his personal pleasures.



InSync/ Corianne E. Vizi

**Waiting for the light**— Andrew Cutraro, a sophomore from Milwaukee, frames a photo for his "play on light" photo assignment for Mike Morse's Intermediate photography class.

## James Kenney new photojournalist-in-residence

After a search which lasted most of the spring semester and included 38 applicants, the photojournalism program has named a new photojournalist-in-residence. He is James Kenney of Syracuse, N.Y. Kenney is finishing his master's degree in photography at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication at Syracuse University. He received his undergraduate degree from California State University at Fresno. Kenney worked as a photojournalist at *The Hanford Sentinel*, *the Reno Gazette-Journal*, *the Las Vegas Sun* and *the Las Vegas Review-Journal*. He is married and has a three-month-old son.

Mike Morse, head of the photojournalism program, said, "I am thrilled to find such an outstanding person to hire. James brings a great deal to our program that is hard to find. He is well trained, an excellent shooter, has great enthusiasm and, best of all his number one goal is to teach. I consider him an investment in the future of the program."

Kenney said in a phone interview, "I'm excited about this opportunity! I'm looking forward to working with the great students and faculty at WKU. I am glad for the opportunity to work in such a good program."