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Photography, *fo-tog'ra-fe*, n: Drawing with light

**Larry Powell tells women's story with exhibit**

"Woman They Left Behind" will be presented at the Capitol Arts Center from Nov. 4 - 30. The opening reception on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. will include a slide presentation and lecture by Larry Powell.

By Linda S. Morris

One can only imagine the photographic stories Larry Powell might have told if he had been involved in photography during his 388 days in Vietnam during the late 1960s.

But looking at his work today, it's hard to believe that Powell never shot a picture until seven years ago.

This Friday night an exhibit of his work will open at the Capitol Arts Center. His photography focuses on women who visit the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall and it's titled "Women They Left Behind."

His pictures show the emotion they experience at the Wall, due to the loss of a loved one.

One can be easily convinced that the emotion Powell feels about his experiences in Vietnam help him tell this story in pictures.

Powell served near Hue, in the Northern Province of South Vietnam as a radio operator for ground forces.

About 20 years later, in the late 1980s, Powell started taking photography classes at Western as a hobby while he was recovering from brain surgery as a result of injuries suffered in Vietnam.

"I thought I would take pictures of rocks, and flowers and trees and so forth," he said.

However, his professor, Dave LaBelle, encouraged him to do more.

"He pushed me a little bit — to say something with pictures," he said. "And I would say I have."

Powell first visited the Vietnam Wall in 1988 but he was sort of reluctant to go because of the memories it would invoke.

Then he became aware that most of the parents of Vietnam veterans are in their 70s and 80s and they would soon be dead. Also, most of the veterans are in their 40s and 50s. Powell said he thinks people who visit the Wall in the future won't have the same emotion that's there now.

"What's going on now will be lost. It will become another Washington monument," he said.

"I think documenting social things is very important."

Larry Powell

So he created a photo essay of people visiting the Wall.

"I wanted to document it so people could understand what's going on," he said.

Sometime later, Powell said he noticed there were a lot of women, young and old, who were dealing with the emotions of the Wall.

"Most think of the veterans, but the women — they had to give up the most," he said.

Powell went back to Vietnam in 1992 and interviewed and photographed women for three weeks.

He said he thinks it's important to keep a record what the women are going through and have gone through with regard to the war: how it changed or affected their life.

That's why he created the documentary, "Women They Left Behind."

This exhibit will be at the Capitol Arts Center from Nov. 4 - 30. The opening reception, on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m., will include a slide presentation and lecture by Powell.

He said Bill Moats, who works for the Capitol Arts Center, was in a basic photography class at Western and saw Powell's work, remembered him and he helped find the grant money to put on the exhibit.

Usually Powell can be found in the equipment room of the photo lab or giving support to photojournalism students.

Powell volunteers his time to the photojournalism department because he enjoys it and because he said he felt the department had a need he could fill. He likes volunteering because it allows him time to work on other projects.

Powell is planning another documentary involving a portrait of poverty, called "Gracie and Flossie."

This focuses on two women in their 80s and 90s who are in the depths of poverty. They have no water or electricity in their house and live under very poor conditions — within 15 minutes of Bowling Green.

Another ongoing project is about racism and the Ku Klux Klan, titled "Incident in Janesville" (Wisconsin).

"I think documenting social things is very important," he said.

One time he received a message that his photographs helped someone deal with an issue the individual had trouble with.

"I think that's what so great about this... you can have some kind of meaning in somebody's life," he said.
Homecoming '94 brings Herald and Talisman editors from the past back to campus

Many past editors and staff personnel from the Herald and Talisman came back to Western to visit friends during Homecoming weekend.

Bob Adams, Student Publications Director, said nine states were represented by alumni: New York, West Virginia, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.

Some of the alumni who came back for Homecoming and who were associated with the Herald and/or Talisman at least 12 years ago were:

- David B. Whitaker, Herald Editor, '42 and again from '46 to '48. He was also head of the Department of Journalism and Office of Publications. He is now retired.
- Dr. Vernon Stone, Herald Editor, '50-51. He is now a distinguished professor at University of Missouri. He is "possibly Western's premier researcher in the communication field," Adams said.
- Bob Adams, Herald Editor, his wife, Susan Adams (who was a reporter when Adams was Editor) and Assistant Editor, Finley Willis Jr., all from Spring, '64. Susan has been an elementary school teacher in Park City for many years; Finley owns WKYL-FM radio station in Lawrenceburg, Ky., and Bob liked Western so much he's still here.
- Steve Russell, Herald Editor, Fall '73 and Spring, '74. He has been a copy editor at the Courier-Journal for many years.
- Al Cross, Herald Editor, Fall '74, and his wife, Patti Hodges Cross, was Advertising Editor the same year. Al is the political writer for the Courier-Journal. Patti is self-employed in the public relations field.
- Tom Caudill, Herald Editor, '75. He is now the Assistant Managing Editor at the Lexington Herald-Leader.
- Judy Wildman Hughes, Herald Editor, Spring '77. She now works at University of Louisville in the public relations office.
- Tom Eblen, Herald Editor, Fall '78. He is now the Assistant Business Editor at the Atlanta Journal and Constitution.
- David T. Whitaker, Herald Editor, Fall '79 (son of 1940's Editor). He is an attorney at the Fruit of the Loom, World Headquarters in Bowling Green.
- Linda Dono Reeves, Talisman Editor '81 and Herald Editor, Fall '82. She is now a representative for the Delmar Printing Company, which prints Western's yearbook.

Adams said that there was a lot of interest even among the people who don't come back and that it's often quite an undertaking for those who do.

"Many papers operate seven days a week, so it is significant that they make the effort to come back," Adams said. "It's one of the most exciting days of the year."

Whatever happened to...?

Here's an update on recent graduates from the advertising area:
- Todd Engel, '81, is president of Camille Engel Advertising, a design studio in Nashville.
- Tracy Keplinger, '94, is an advertising sales representative for the Sentinel-News in Shelbyville, Ky.
- Jeff Darks, '94, is a sales representative for the Hendersonville Star News in Hendersonville, Tenn.
- Miles Steenberg, '78, is a graphics designer for Home Depot in Atlanta.
- Michael Arvin, '94, is working for the Advertising Network Inc. in Louisville.
- Cassie Halloran, '93, is a sales representative for the Courier-Journal in Louisville.
- Terri Evans, '80, is president of Leslie Evans Creative, Atlanta.

If anyone should have information about recent graduates, please leave a message in Linda Morris' mailbox in the Herald office.

Celebrate:

Craig Fritz is the 1994 Kodak Professional Imaging Scholar

The Link

The Link is published every two weeks and contains information about events, lectures, awards, meetings and people in the Department of Journalism. It is distributed to over 600 journalism students, faculty and administrators.

The deadline schedule for submitting news items is posted in the journalism office and The Herald office.

Send your news items, comments, compliments and complaints to:
Linda S. Morris, Editor, c/o The College Heights Herald. 122 Garrett Conference Center or call 2855 (Herald) or 782-6186 (home).

Corban Goble, advisor