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UA64/25/4/4 Scrapbook

WKU Army ROTC

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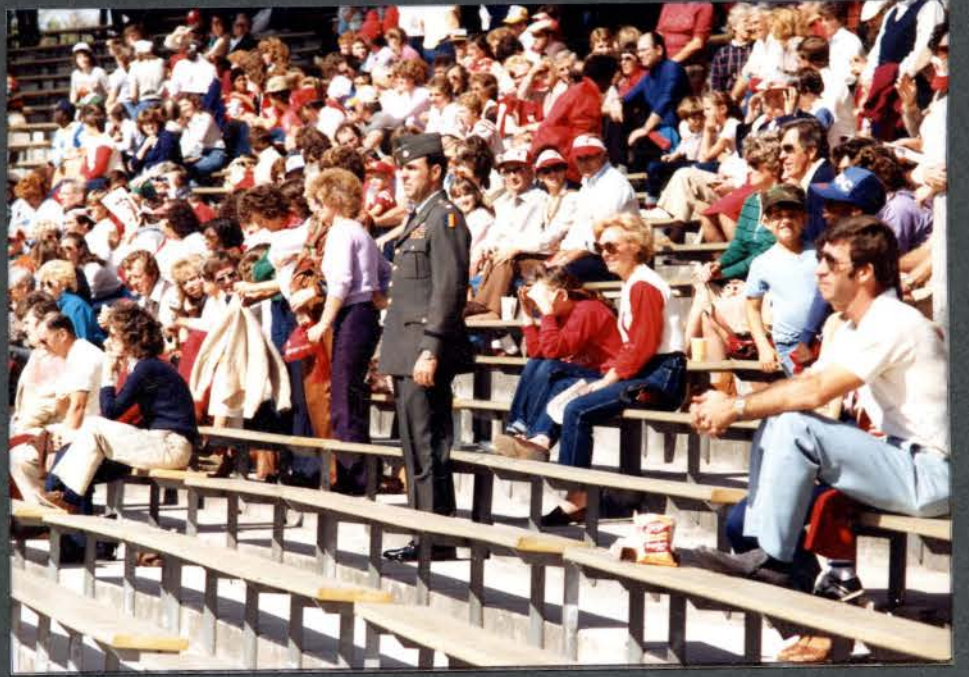
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Rick Musacchio/HERALD

C-food

The ROTC department provides a free lunch of Army C-rations to the faculty and staff who worked during arena registration. Jo Byrd, an instructor of health and safety, tries a taste of peanut butter from Dr. Earl Pearson, an associate professor of chemistry. About 180 took advantage of the free lunch Monday.

Faculty gets taste of military life

By TERRI JANISSE

Faculty members did not have their usual cafeteria lunch Monday. Instead, they got a real taste of military life.

That day's lunch consisted of military rations.

The combat meals were canned and boxed. The cans were placed in boiling water and heated for 10 minutes.

Capt. Rick Cavin Jr., adviser of the Red Knights and an assistant professor of the military science department, came up with the idea last Thursday. He received 250 meals from Fort Knox.

A menu for Monday's lunch was given to faculty. Each meal included a main course, such as pork, ham, beef or spaghetti, and assorted fruit, cheese, peanut butter, jelly and desserts.

Not many people refused the free meal served in Diddle Arena, Room 104. Dr. Marilyn White, an assistant professor of modern languages and intercultural studies, said, "Can one argue with a free meal?"

The food is considered as a maximum energy source, but it contains more calories than a well-balanced home-cooked meal.

Every meal is high in nutrition, containing all of the vitamins and minerals needed for a well-balanced diet.

Those who were willing to try the combat food were surprised to find that they actually liked the idea. Dr. John Reasoner, a chemistry professor, said, "It's not bad at all, and it is a neat idea."

Cavin had hoped that his idea would make people more aware of the ROTC programs on campus. Cavin said the meal turned out to be a huge success, and he would like to set up another combat meal for students

For the record

Reports

Todd Grant Jones, Pearce-Ford Tower, reported Tuesday that four Rally Wheel hub caps, valued at \$108, had been stolen from his 1971 Chevrolet while parked in the Bemis-Lawrence lot Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

Dr. Eugene Emerson Evans, Apache Way, reported Dec. 17 that his office keys and two other university keys had been stolen from his office in Grise Hall. Evans left the keys in the door while getting a cup of coffee, and the keys were missing when he returned.

Accidents

A 1977 Dodge driven by a non-student, collided Monday with a 1974 Toyota driven by Pamela J. Beezley, Blue Lake Way, in Diddle Arena lot.

A 1974 Chevrolet driven by James C. Hiser, Pearce-Ford Tower, collided Monday with a 1983 Ford driven by Betsy J. Caulk, McCormack Hall, in Diddle Arena lot.

Lee Ann Nelson, Rodes-Harlin Hall, reported Sunday that her 1982 Honda had been hit while parked on Pioneer Drive.

12 Herald 1-19-84

Hilltoppers visit Murray in contest of top squads

By STEVE KOONTZ

Sgt. Clyde Roark has a humble approach to his job as rifle coach. "I really only did it because I had a fascination with being a coach," he said.

When Sgt. Gene Chaffins was transferred to Korea last spring, Roark got his chance to coach.

And his fascination has paid off as he takes the nation's ninth-ranked team to Murray Saturday to face the traditionally powerful Racers.

Although this match will only be a practice or "shoulder to shoulder" meet, Roark said a win "during the regular season against them may put us in the top four."

The team, consisting of seniors Chris Lair and Dan Pyle, and freshmen Todd Blacketer, Mary Crutcher and John Boyd, has put hard work and practice in its efforts. The squad has been practicing two to four hours a day at the rifle range under the parking structure.

Although Western is nationally ranked, the team's efforts remain

Riflery

relatively unnoticed.

However, the lack of exposure hasn't prevented the team from giving the sport the concentration needed for the meets.

Lair, the team's top performer, said he made the correct move in joining the Western team. "I was lucky that I had a friend from home that was on the WKU rifle team," said the senior from Jenks, Okla. "He said he really liked the university, so I decided to attend Western, too."

"Being on a scholarship and on a top-ranked team for doing something you like is just great," he said. "I know I made the right choice."

Another fascination for Roark is the team's secret weapon — freshman walk-on Crutcher.

"She has potential and continues to improve," he said. "I would encourage her to try out for the Olympics somewhere down the line if he keeps improving."





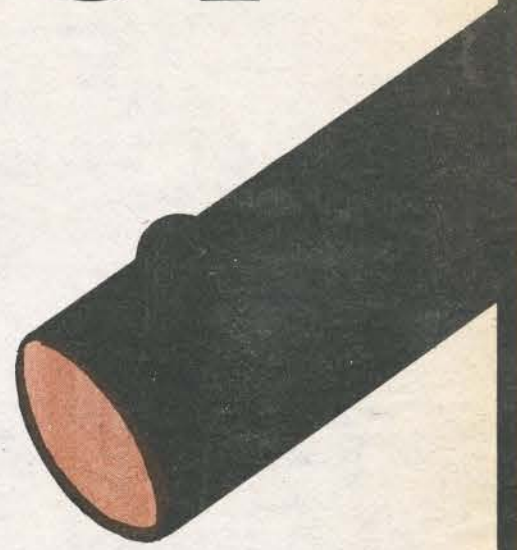








ROTC TURKEY SHOOT



You don't have to be a marksman to win. All faculty, students and staff are challenged to demonstrate their shooting ability at the ROTC Turkey Shoot. The highest scores will win turkeys-five to be awarded to students, and five to be awarded to faculty and staff. All winners will be announced Friday, Nov. 18. In case of tie, there will be a shoot-off between 9 and 11 a.m. on Nov. 18.

Place: The WKU Rifle Range next to the University laundromat in the parking structure.

Time: 3-5 p.m., Nov. 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Cost: 10 shots for just \$1.00.

Turkeys donated by

HOUCHENS
FOOD STORES

College Heights Herald

Vol. 59, No. 18

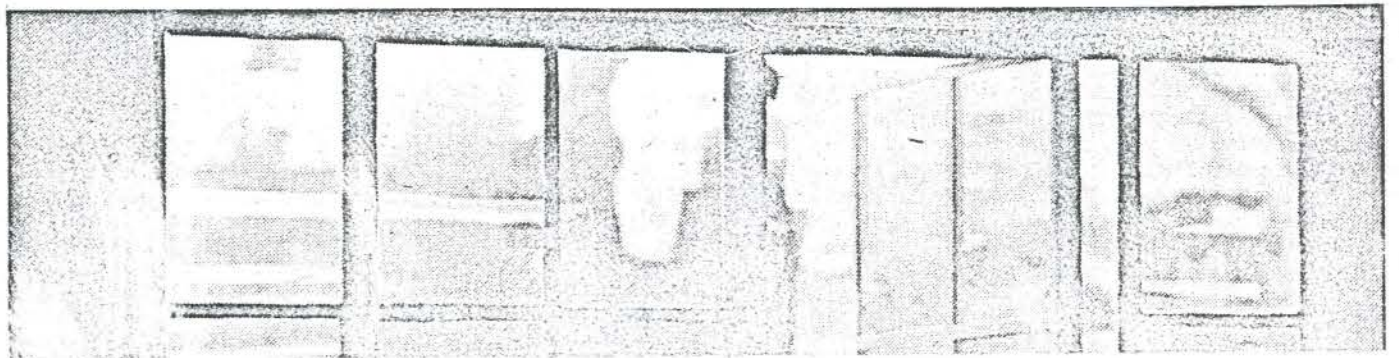
Western Kentucky University

Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 1983

Teachers see attack as outrage

By GARY ELMORE
and MARY MEEHAN



2 Herald 10-25-83

Teachers see attack as outrage

— Continued from Front Page —

Minutes after the "suicide bomber" destroyed the American building, a similar bomb exploded at a building housing 100 French soldiers.

Dr. George Masannat, head of the government department, said the situation in Lebanon is especially volatile compared to other American bases around the world. But he said he doesn't expect similar attacks to occur elsewhere.

American peacekeeping forces could be protected better, Payne said, if they were given more freedom to react to potential danger.

"Because they are a peacekeeping force, they have no offensive posture whatsoever," Payne said. "They're cops."

Army Capt. Jackie Hamilton, assistant professor of military science, said, "The only way you can be invulnerable is to give everyone a submachine gun and have them

hide in bunkers."

Because of the nature of the United States' role in Lebanon, such an attack was likely, Hamilton said.

Hamilton blames the bombing on the same sort of militant Islamic fundamentalists who were responsible for the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the taking of the American hostages in Iran and the occupation of the holy mosque in Mecca.

Despite the attack, President Reagan has vowed to keep the force in Lebanon.

According to Masannat, who is from Jordan, the United States' options are "quite limited."

"It would not be in our best interest to withdraw all of our forces," he said.

"To stay there, although it is risky, will provide Lebanon and other countries friendly to the U.S. with confidence in our abilities to carry out our promises," he said.

Lebanon has "been unstable for a long,

long, long, time," Masannat said.

The conflict began after the country's civil war in 1975. The majority of the Lebanese are Moslems "seeking their fair share" of the Christian-controlled government, Masannat said.

The danger to American troops is "always there," he said.

"And the danger will remain as long as the political problems have not been resolved."

The flag over Diddle Arena hangs at half-staff in memory of the Marines who were killed in Beirut, Lebanon. About 200 Americans died in the bombing.

Photo by Mary Ann Lyons

See TEACHERS
Page 2, Column 1

attention

Paul Bunch, public safety director, said that 35 buildings on campus could be used as fallout shelters to house more than 33,000 people.
But food and water were removed.

Introducing...
The
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Former student hurt in Grenada

"I really don't know what happened. Something knocked me down as I was getting out of the helicopter. I was knocked over on my stomach. I looked, and there was half of my leg just hanging there."

— 1st. Lt. William Eskridge

By MICHAEL COLLINS

William E. Eskridge doesn't remember much about the two-helicopter crash during the U.S. invasion of Grenada in which his right leg was ripped to shreds by a rotor blade.

He can only vaguely remember the operation in which the company medic amputated what was left of his leg under Cuban fire.

And he was so heavily sedated during the next week that he isn't sure when he arrived at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, where doctors predict he will remain for at least two months.

About the only thing Eskridge,

who graduated from Western in 1980, does remember about the crash is yelling for help, clutching onto a .45-caliber pistol — and praying not to lose consciousness.

Now, about three weeks and six operations later, Eskridge, 25, insists the crash hasn't changed his perspective on life.

"Why should it?" he said in a telephone interview last week. "I'm alive — that's the big thing."

Eskridge, a member of the second ranger battalion of the 75th Infantry, was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge for bravery for his role in the assault.

The helicopter crash occurred Oct. 27 after the pilot — who was leading a four-helicopter assault on the Caligny Military Barracks near Egmont in the southern portion of Grenada — was killed by ground fire. The aircraft went out of control, crashing into another helicopter in midair.

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Former student hurt in Grenada

— Continued from Front Page —

Three men from Eskridge's platoon were killed, and 19 were injured.

Although military officials said some of the men jumped from the helicopter before it struck the ground, Eskridge remembers only that he was knocked down and something struck his right leg.

Five minutes later, the platoon's medic removed Eskridge's leg from just below the knee while other rangers continued the raid.

"There wasn't much left," Eskridge said. "If they hadn't taken it off, I'd probably be dead by now."

Eskridge, originally from Falls of Rough in Grayson County, said his main objective during the ordeal was struggling to remain conscious. "I was afraid I wouldn't wake up," he said. "And I stayed awake the whole time."

He was flown to a mobile army surgical hospital on the other side of the island and then sent to The Guam, a ship waiting about 10 minutes offshore. Another operation was performed on an aircraft carrier, The Independence, about 45 miles off the coast.

He was shipped to a military hospital in Puerto Rico, where he stayed for a day and another operation before being sent to the Texas hospital Nov. 3.

The wound became infected, and doctors eventually had to remove a portion of his leg about eight inches above the knee.

His mother, Margaret, 61, wasn't sure that Eskridge had been sent to Grenada until she was notified that he had been injured and was being shipped to Puerto Rico.

But intuition told her he was there.

"I heard it on the television that the rangers from Fort Lewis were there," she said. "I knew he was there, I just had a feeling."

"I think — now I'm not sure — but I think I saw him on television. They had just gotten off the chopper and were running with their guns. I know how my son runs."

Mrs. Eskridge had wanted her son to stay close to home, but she didn't argue when he decided to follow family tradition and join the military.

His father, who died in July, was a second-class retired chief warrant officer in the army. An older brother is retired from the navy, and another brother and a sister are in the military.

Eskridge, whose fiancée is a first lieutenant in the Navy, said his parents never encouraged him to join the military. He didn't decide to make it a career until he enrolled in the ROTC program at Western during his freshman year.

"It was just something my family had always done, so I just followed tradition," he said. "It was something I wanted to do."

He was awarded a three-year ROTC scholarship his sophomore year that paid for books and tuition. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in military science.

Two history professors who taught Eskridge remember him as a high-B student with a keen interest in the military.

"He participated in class more than most students do," said Dr.

Jack Thacker. "He got along well with classmates, and they respected his opinions."

"Obviously among the military science classes, he was recognized as a leader. Among the ROTC students I teach, I always divide them into groups that I would like to see serve the country."

"He was one of the ones that I felt would make it as an officer."

Dr. Jesse Harrington said Eskridge seldom talked about his interest in the military, but he always used military mannerisms — answering questions with a polite "Yes, sir."

"Whenever the military things came up, that's when he seemed to perk up," Harrington said. "He was dedicated totally to the military."

After graduation, Eskridge served 2½ years in the Ninth Division in Fort Lewis, Wash., before joining the ranger battalion there — an elite fighting unit trained to deploy on a moment's notice and conduct raids deep into enemy territory.

Capt. Frank Kearny, commander of Eskridge's battalion, describes him as a leader whose greatest strength is his ability to communicate.

"He was able to communicate well with soldiers at his level," Kearny said. "He communicates with them so they think they are the one who had the idea, and they're more willing to support it."

"He's not an overly powerful leader — he's just quiet and gets the job done."

Eskridge won't say when he learned that the rangers would be sent to Grenada, calling it "classified information."

He defends the United States' involvement in the invasion.

"It's easy for someone to sit back and criticize when they're sitting here," he said. "They don't know what they're talking about. If they had been there, their minds would have been different."

The accident hasn't changed his plans — he still wants a military career. "There are lots of things I could do — maybe teach," he said.

Information officers at Brook said he is progressing well, and those who have visited him at the hospital said his outlook on life hasn't changed.

"He has his good days and his bad days, but he's hanging in there," his mother said. "He's on crutches and he's been on the parallel bar."

Eskridge's uncle Joe Salmon, who attended ceremonies honoring Eskridge at Saturday night's basketball game with the Turkish National Team, describes him as "a determined boy."

"He's the type of person that feels if you're going to do anything, why not be the best," he said. "Everything to him is a challenge."

Kearny describes Eskridge as a leader, a professional officer — and a hero.

But Eskridge sees himself differently.

"I just consider myself a soldier who went down there and did his job," he said. "I wouldn't do anything differently because I could be dead right now, bud. I'm just happy I'm here."









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By Dr Dwight Pounds

DATE: JANUARY 24, 1984

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Army life is the good life for some women

By STACY TOWLE MORGAN
Daily News Staff Writer

From head to toe, they're just what the Army ordered. Every scuff mark on their black boots has been rigorously shined away. Every wrinkle in their fatigues is ironed out. There's only one thing that distinguishes them from the majority of students in the ROTC program at Western Kentucky University. They're women.

When Sgt. Leslie Stewart of Russellville walks by a fraternity house, the members salute her. Sometimes they yell "I love women in uniform," or they ask if she's strong enough to beat them up.

"I get a surprised reaction," said Cadet Maj. Theresa Sparks of Colonial Heights, Va. "It's not derogatory." And most of the people they meet wonder why they joined ROTC, according to Cadet Lt. Col. Sandy Lanter of Union.

Maybe it's because they don't fit the stereotype of women in the Army. Female soldiers are supposed to be muscle-bound Amazons. They should be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

But Ms. Lanter, Ms. Sparks and Ms. Stewart, three of the nine female ROTC officers in the advanced course at Western, don't fit that description. Sure they can do more sit-ups than most women — at least 45 in two minutes — but they can't be cast into one mold. All types of women join the Army.

That was clear to Ms. Lanter and Ms. Sparks the first day they arrived for advanced camp in Fort Riley, Kan., last summer. "We lived in a barracks with all kinds of women," Ms. Lanter said. "One showed up on the first day wearing a big flouncy skirt and carrying three pieces of luggage." She remembers another getting up an hour early every morning just to apply her makeup.

Some women are weeded out; others learn to adjust. "I think you go a lot further if you just be yourself," Ms. Sparks said.

Ms. Lanter, a graduate student



CADET Lt. Col. Sandy Lanter and Sgt. Leslie Stewart practice marksmanship skills at the firing range on Western's campus. They are

two of nine women in the ROTC advanced course at Western who will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the Army upon graduation.

(Staff Photo by Mark Workman)

at Western, decided to join ROTC after she finished a bachelor's degree in Spanish. Originally she intended to go into international business management, but finding a job wasn't easy. "I couldn't find the job I wanted, so I thought if I got in ROTC ... I'd probably have the opportunity to travel," she said. After fulfilling her three years of required active duty when she graduates, she said she might stay in the Army.

Ms. Stewart is committed to the Army for life. "I was looking for something to dedicate myself to," said Ms. Stewart, an English major. She received a four-year ROTC scholarship after graduating

from high school.

A love for the "dignified, patriotic" way of life attracted Ms. Sparks to the military. Her father is an Army colonel, and while he was stationed in Germany, Ms. Stewart was born at the border of East and West Germany. She also lived in Turkey while her father was stationed there. "My father persuaded me (to be in the Army) in very subtle ways," she said.

One of the incentives for joining ROTC is the money, the women said. Students who complete the four-year ROTC program graduate as second lieutenants with a starting salary of \$11,430, according to Capt. John Payne of

Western's military science program. Not included in that salary is a housing and sustenance allowance and a tax advantage, bringing the salary up to \$22,000.

But Payne doesn't think that any of the women in the program made the final decision because of economics. He believes that they're committed to the Army and says "the women that we have tend to excel in the program."

Although the ROTC program has admitted women into the ranks since 1973, Ms. Lanter was the first woman at Western to hold the highest cadet position as cadet battalion commander. At first she felt some resentment from her

male peers, but she wasn't sure it was because of her gender. It was more likely because she came into ROTC as a graduate student, she said. "Maybe a lot of them didn't think I had proved myself."

When Ms. Stewart went to basic camp at Fort Knox last summer, she was surprised to find some chauvinism. "When I went into basic camp I was under the impression that all people had gotten over the shock of women being in the Army," she said. "Some of the guys up there got a little uncomfortable with the competition."

Civilian men have some of the same difficulties adjusting to a

woman's role in the Army. "A lot of guys, if they're looking for a serious relationship, they're not interested in a girl who is going into the Army," Ms. Lanter said. All three agree that dating ROTC men is easier because they have the same interests and goals.

Payne believes that on the whole the pioneer days are over for women. Women get equal pay in the Army, and the physical fitness standards for men and women are the same. "The adjustments made are strictly physiological," Payne said, adding that a two-year study at West Point determined how many points each gender should receive for push-ups, sit-ups and running. Payne stresses that the same type of push-up is required for men and women.

All ROTC students must take classes in mountaineering, military skills and marksmanship. They also study the organization of the Army. "We go to great efforts to explain how the Army is organized and the career opportunities available to them," Payne said.

An Army career for women isn't as limited as some might think. "You consider, we're our own little world," Ms. Sparks said. "You have careers from cook to mechanic, from artist to musician." After getting a public relations degree, she hopes to be a public affairs officer or an editor of an Army newspaper or magazine.

The other part of their career — the part that trains them to fight — isn't wasted although they are prohibited by law from being commissioned into the armor or infantry divisions. "They train us the same way they do the men because when the enemy comes behind the front lines we have to know what to do," Ms. Lanter said.

The women would rather pursue their careers in peace, but if they have to fight they will. "Part of us wearing our uniform is an admission that we're ready to die for our country if need be," Ms. Stewart said.





