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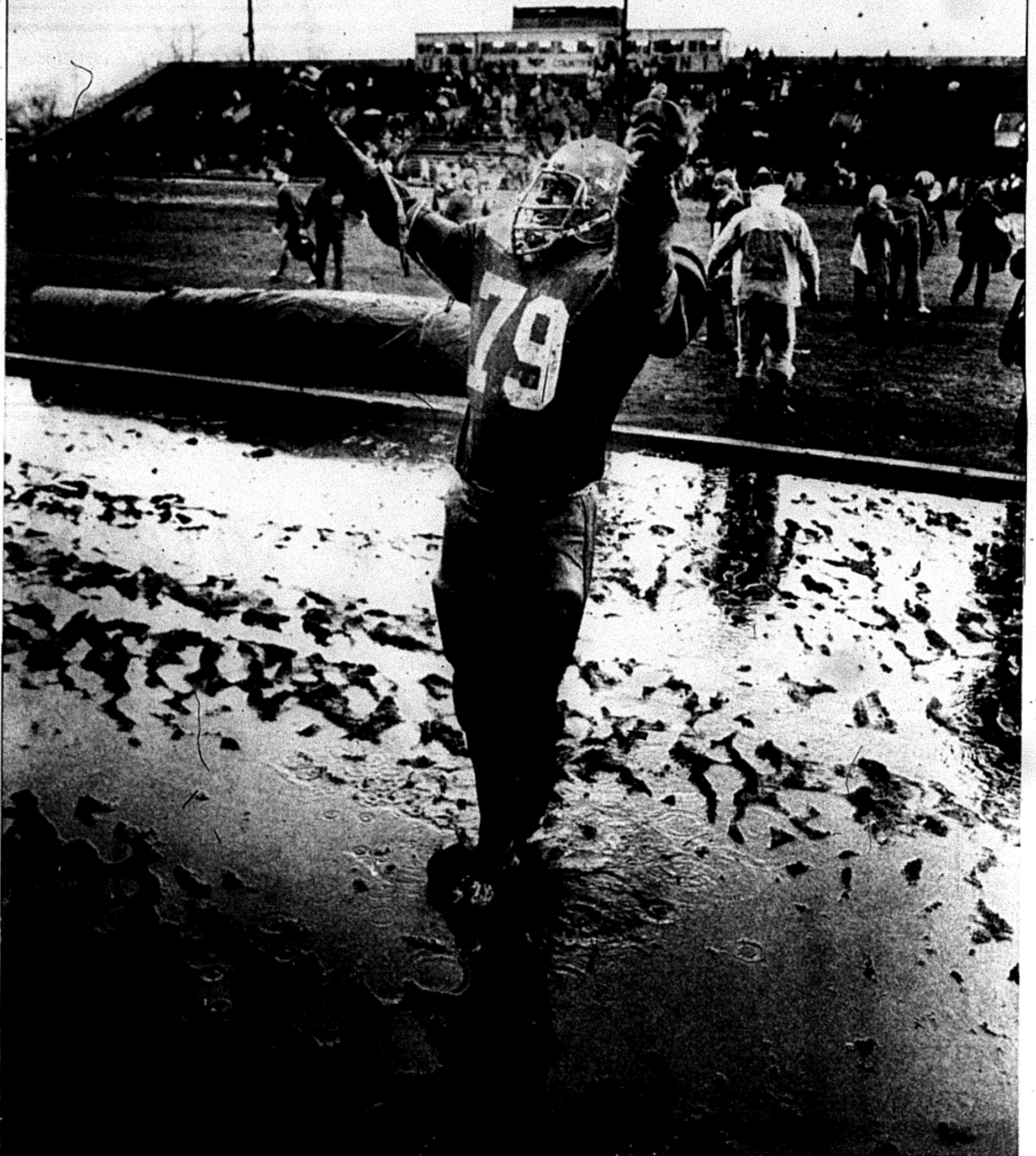
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Hillside

College Heights Herald Magazine

Thursday, September 30, 1993

75 *and* COUNTING



Hillside

College Heights Herald Magazine

Page 3 : What do movie star Charles Napier, Black Crowes drummer Steve Gorman, California Angels catcher Chris Turner and Minnesota basketball coach Clem Haskins all have in common? They are Western alumni. *Stories by Chris Poynter and Tom Batters*

Page 4 : Western's first president didn't allow social Greek organizations on campus. *Shhh!...don't tell Henry Hardin Cherry, but despite his ban, fraternities and sororities did exist secretly. Story by Julie Grundy*

Page 5 : It's been 75 years since Topper football began with a resounding win over Elizabethtown High School, 20-0. Over the years, Western has fielded some great teams, players and coaches. *Story by Jeff Nations*

Photos courtesy of University Archives and Sports Information

Cover photo : WKU 14 - Northern Iowa 12. Sheriod Barrett celebrates the 1975 NCAA playoff victory.

Magazine editor: Scott Lajoie
Photo editor: Tracey Steele

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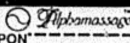
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From students to stars, alumni make it big

◆ By Chris Poynter and Tomi Batters ◆

An astronaut, editors of major newspapers, inventors, corporate executives, researchers, powerful congressional leaders and professional athletes.

All are part of the network of more than 50,000 Western alumni who live throughout the world.

Here are a few alumni names that might just surprise you.

◆ **Larnell**
Harris has won five Grammy awards for his Christian music and recorded numerous top-selling albums. He graduated in 1969 with a music degree and is considered one of the best Christian singers in America. He even performed at the White House in 1991 for President and Mrs. Bush.

◆ **Andy Stahl** has 18 television movies and nine television series to his credit. He has a part in the movie "The Real McCoy," which opened last month. The 1979 graduate is now working on the upcoming film "The Client," which is based on the book of the same name by author John Grisham.

◆ In just a few months, 1975 graduate Terry Wilcutt is scheduled to board one of the

space shuttles and be thrust into orbit to do work for NASA. He's a major in the Air Force and an astronaut for the space program.

◆ **Steve Gorman**, the drummer for the rock group The Black Crowes, attended Western in 1988-89. He left the Hill to join the band the "Mr. Crowes Garden" before the group changed its name and became one of America's most popular rock bands.

◆ **William Natcher** holds a lot of power in Congress — he serves as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He holds a Guinness Book World record for never missing a day or a vote in Congress since he was elected in 1953. Natcher lives in Bowling Green and is a 1930 graduate.

◆ **Frank Etsorn** invented the nicotine patch, which has helped thousands of people stop smoking. The Habitrol patch has made Etsorn a millionaire and he's been featured on numerous television shows including 20/20, Prime Time Live and The Today Show. He received his bachelor's degree in 1971.

◆ **Bill Sanders** is considered one of the best editorial cartoonists in America. He is

retired from the Milwaukee Journal, has authored several books and has had his cartoons syndicated. He graduated in 1957 and played football at Western.

◆ **Todd Buchanan** is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photo-journalist who graduated in 1983. While covering the Gulf War he was captured by Iraqi soldiers. He recently left the Philadelphia Inquirer to become a freelance photographer.

◆ **Don White**, a 1979 graduate, is assistant sports editor for The Washington Post.

◆ **Charlie Napier** has acted in several television series, made appearances in the "Rambo" movies and played the prison guard in "Silence of the Lambs." He graduated from Western in 1961 and began his career by starring in pornographic movies.

◆ **Tommy Wallace** has directed several movies including the HBO film "The Boys of Summer." He also worked on "Fright Night" and the Halloween movies with John Carpenter, who attended Western for two years.

◆ Several alums have made it to Broadway. **Leo Burmester**, a 1970 graduate, created the role of the Innkeeper in the musical "Les Miserables." **Becky Ann Baker**, a 1975 graduate, was the lead actress in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas."

◆ **Joe Bugel**, who wore a Topper football uniform from 1960-63, is the head coach of the Phoenix Cardinals. Bugel, who

was also an assistant coach at Western, is in his third season at Phoenix.

◆ **Chris Turner**, who recently started playing well, has been labeled a top prospect for the California Angels. Turner, a 1991 graduate, is hitting .294 and could become the Angels' starting catcher next season.

◆ **Kenny Perry** recently had two consecutive top-20 finishes and has made more than \$1 million in his seven-year PGA golf career. Perry played golf at Western under Coach Jim Richards from 1979-82.

◆ **Darnell Mee**, one of the heroes of last year's NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 team, is in training camp with the Denver Nuggets. He was selected 34th overall in the NBA draft.

◆ **Steve Crocker**, a 1985 graduate, was ranked as high as fourth in the world last year in swimming. He also finished third in last year's Olympic trials, but missed the Olympics because the United States only takes the top two. He's now teaching swimming to kids and helping coach at the University of California at San Diego.

◆ **Clem Haskins** has become one of the top Division I basketball coaches since leaving

the Hill as a player and a coach. The 1965 graduate has led Minnesota to the post-season in the last three years.

◆ **Dale Lindsey** has become widely known as a coach after playing football at Western from 1962-64. Now an assistant coach with the San Diego Chargers he has also been an assistant with Green Bay, New England and Tampa Bay.

◆ **Riley Ware** is playing for the Cincinnati Rockers in the Arena Football League. Ware played for the Toppers from 1987-89 and had a short stint in the NFL with the Detroit Lions.

◆ **Renee Westmoreland**, who graduated last year after leading the Lady Toppers to four straight NCAA Tournament appearances, is playing professional basketball in Greece. Westmoreland ranks in the top 10 all-time for scoring and assists.

◆ **Tellis Frank**, a 1987 graduate, is back in professional basketball. He is currently in training camp with the Minnesota Timberwolves. He also has played with the Miami Heat and Golden State Warriors.

Editor's Note: Information for this story came from Sports Information and Alumni Affairs.



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A SECRET NO LONGER

Greek life has come far from the days of hiding behind President Cherry's back

◆ Story by Julie Grundy ◆



Photo courtesy of Mike Owsley

Members of the first pledge class of Delta Kappa Nu wore red berets to distinguish themselves on campus. On Oct. 2, 1965, the group was installed as the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Mike Owsley can only laugh as he looks back at his days of "brotherhood."

He recalls the parties, the hazings and the stupid pranks, but most of all, he says, he remembers a strong sense of pride and tradition.

For Owsley, a 1964 graduate and Bowling Green attorney, his fraternity was his family — he's even kept a photo album to remind him of the time shared with his brothers.

But before flipping through the pages of Owsley's family album, it helps to know a little of the background that surrounds Western's Greek system.

During its early years, Western had fallen behind other universities in the establishment of Greek organizations.

As Western historian Lowell Harrison explains in his book, "Western Kentucky University," the school's first president came prepared with an agenda that barred such groups from campus.

By the 1930s, however, students began to fight back, forming off-campus groups that Henry Hardin Cherry still refused to recognize.

"The Barons, organized in January 1934, were the first," Harrison wrote. "Their existence was a widely-known secret, but it was considered somewhat daring to do such an undercover group."

Exactly why Cherry did not approve of such organizations, Harrison did not know. "I suspect from what I have heard that

he was inherently undemocratic when it came to such things," Harrison said. "He believed Western couldn't even have an honors society with a Greek name."

Cherry's ruling continued through the next two administrations before a committee under President Kelly Thompson recommended the establishment of national social fraternities and sororities on Western's campus, Harrison wrote.

By 1962, 10 groups had been recognized — one of which was Owsley's old fraternity, Delta Kappa Nu, known today as Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Owsley said there has been an "evolution" in Western's Greek system over the years, and though some of the traditional activities may have been lost along the way, it was "probably for the best."

Owsley talked of eating goldfish, dropping people off in the woods and leaving them, and "administering licks" to the new pledges. Some of the other traditions were probably "better left unsaid," he added.

"There's been a big change over the years," Owsley said. "I think there's a lot less hazing now, with more emphasis on scholarship these days."

But Owsley insists even the hazing wasn't as bad as rumors may have it. "Most of what we did was not really destructive," he said. "It was just pretty fun."

See Greeks, page A10

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The 1920 football team was Western's fifth football squad. Western played one game that year — Morton Elliott beat the Toppers, 0-13.

COMING *of* AGE

Eck Branham just doesn't know when to quit. It's been 60 years since he first hitchhiked to Bowling Green to play football for Western, and he still hasn't left the program, volunteering as the kicker's coach for the second straight year.

Branham is originally from Prestonburg, a town roughly 300 miles up the road to the east, where he was a three-sport star in high school. "A guy from the Courier-Journal came up and asked me where I was going, and I said I was thinking about Marshall or maybe West Virginia University," Branham said. "He asked me if I was thinking about Western, and I'd never heard of Western."

A recruiting visit from then basketball coach E.A. Diddle quickly raised Branham's awareness of Western Kentucky, and he is now one of the oldest living alumni of the football team.

"Sixty years. It sounds long, doesn't it?" he said. "It seems short."

But Western Kentucky has a football history that goes back even further than Eck Branham's memory. This year, the Toppers are celebrating their 75th season of football. That translates into 694 games entering Saturday's contest against Jacksonville State. In that time, the Hilltoppers have racked up 399 victories for a winning percentage of .575.

The beginnings of a football program sponsored by Western, then called Western Kentucky State Normal School, took root for good in 1913. Before that time, the sport was opposed by none other than Henry Hardin Cherry.

See Football Page A9



1914 football team.

After 75 seasons, 694 games and 18 coaches, Western football is ...

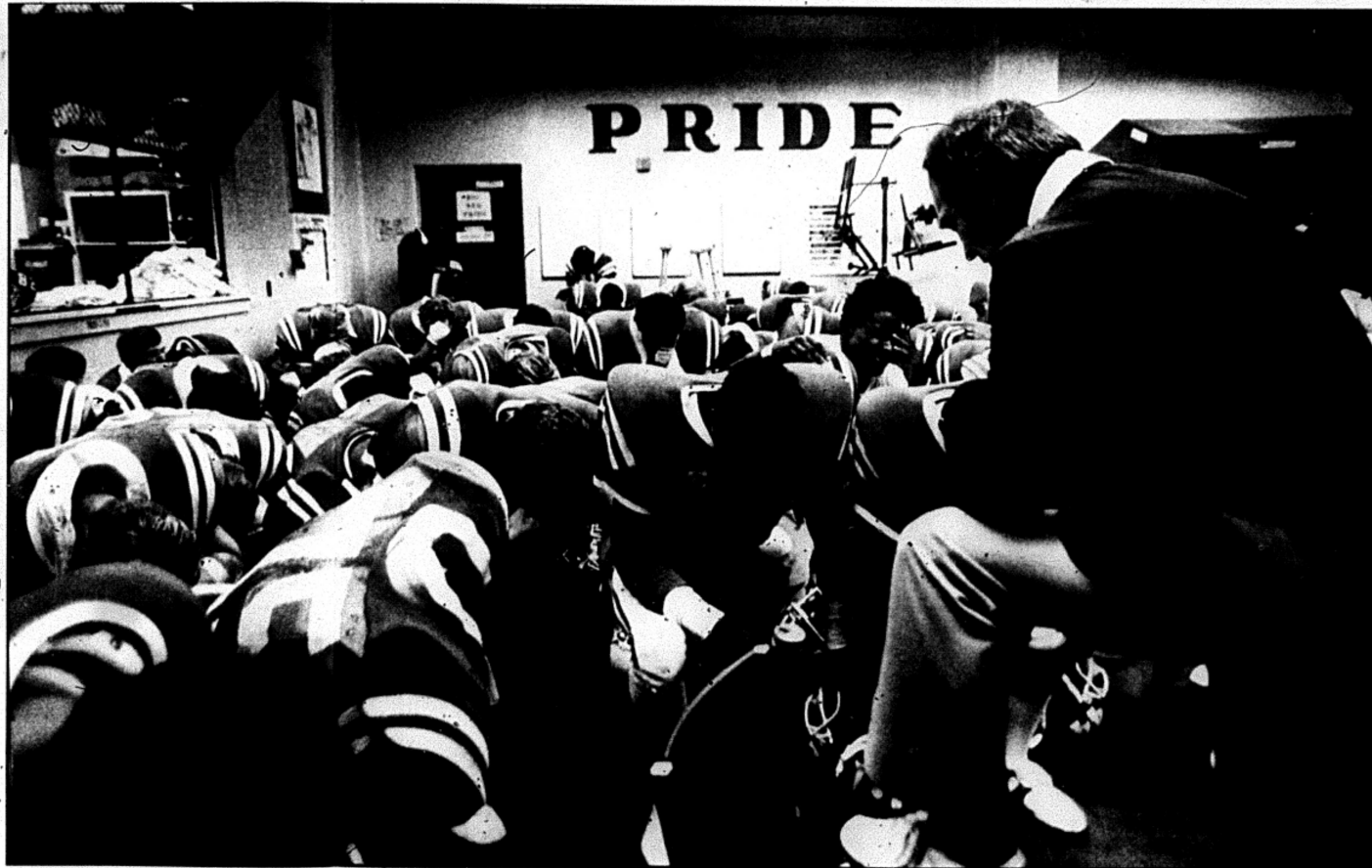
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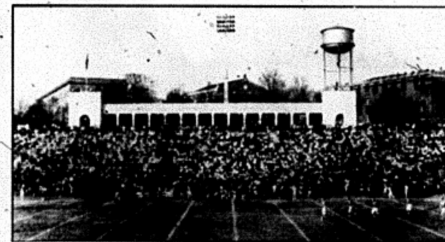
Sharon Miller, quarterback and MVP, and team co-captains Harold Chambers and Joe Bugel display the championship trophy after winning the Tangerine Bowl in 1963.

“ am really not interested in much outside of football and Western. I tell people I have two loves in my life — my wife and my school.”

— Jimmy Feix,
football coach 1968-1983



After a 1979 football game, Coach Jimmy Feix prays with the team inside the locker room.



Above, before Smith Stadium was built, football games were played at the Colonnade.
Dickie Moore led the nation in rushing and touchdowns as a junior for the Hilltoppers. Photo circa 1965.

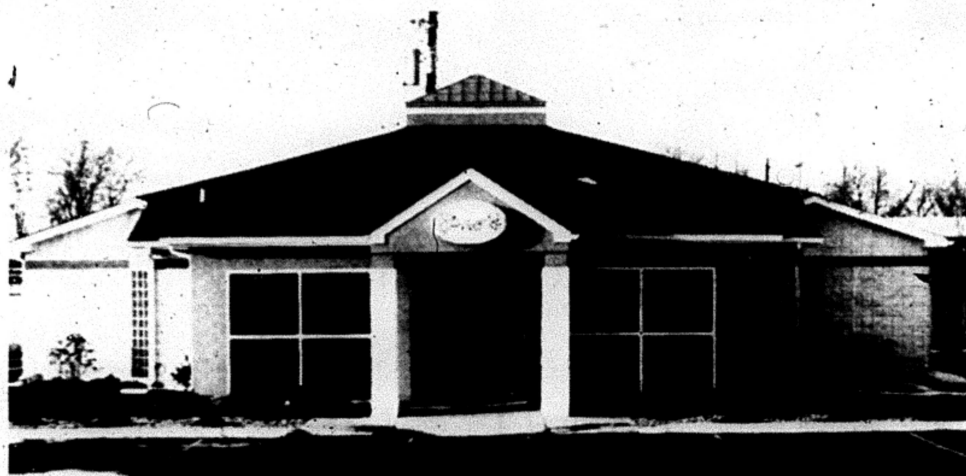
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Football: Over the years, Tops have overcome many difficulties to win

Continued from A5

In his book *Western Kentucky University*, Western historian Lowell Harrison quoted Western's first president from a commencement speech he gave in 1900.

"The school 'has and will continue to advise against the organization of football teams and recommends instead frequent nature excursions into the hills, woods, and on the rivers, that the soul may commune with God through nature.'"

Harrison writes Cherry's concern that neighboring institutions were progressing ahead of Western, coupled with his natural competitiveness, drove him to hire a coach in 1905. Six games were reportedly played that year, but their results have been lost.

In his 1943 master's thesis entitled "Athletics at Western," Kelly Thompson, who would later serve as Western's president, interviewed several of the original players from that 1905 team. According to them, Thompson wrote, "The team lost to Franklin Military Academy and three times to the Vanderbilt reserves."

"Their game with Southwestern Kentucky College at Hopkinsville ended in a squabble with both teams claiming victory by a 12-0 margin, and their final game against Cumberland was won by a score of 6-5."

Scheduling difficulties and class conflicts killed the program until its revival in 1913.

On a cold day in December, the Hilltoppers, who would at that time have been known as the Pedagogues or Teachers, faced the lads from Elizabethtown High somewhere in the hills of Kentucky and sent them home losers, or possibly returned home as the victors. Information on this first recorded game is sketchy — no date or location is known, only the score: Western, 20, Elizabethtown, 0.

Sports Information Director Paul Just, said the lost information on that game and even the contests of 1905 is out there to be found. "I think the probability of my finding that information is very strong," Just said. "I just haven't had the time to do it."

Just said most of the information about Western's early sports history comes from Thompson's thesis, written 50 years ago. The improvements in research materials would probably allow a patient researcher to find the missing information, Just said.

Western played Eastern Kentucky for the first time in 1914, and lost. But later that same year, Western won a rematch, 18-0. By 1915, the rivalry was in full swing. Western's student newspaper, *The Elevator*, reported that "unsportsmanlike tactics" tainted the "laudable spirit of rivalry that should exist between the two institutions, whose work and whose aims are so closely related as these."

For the most part, Western would play football continuously from then on. The only interruptions were during World

War I (no football, 1917-19) and World War II (no football, 1943-45).

Branham said the main rivalry during his years at Western and up into the 1950's was with Murray State University. Branham said one year some Murray students painted their school name on Western's water tower, which incensed the student body into one of the biggest pep rallies in school history. "They didn't try it anymore," Branham said.

Branham is a walking encyclopedia of Western Kentucky football knowledge. One of his favorite stories concerns another game with Murray.

Branham was called to President Cherry's office before the big game. "He said, 'Come in, Branham!' and so I went in and he asked me if we were going to win," Branham said. "I said something like I sure hoped we would, and he said 'Don't say that, Branham! Say you're going to win.'"

"And we did win, but it wasn't an easy game."

About 10 years later, Jim Pickens came to the Hill to play football.

Pickens, who went into the United States Army straight out of high school in 1945 at age 17, remembers his teammates from during his two seasons (1947-48) as unique. "It was kind of a mixed group," he said. "There were a lot of veterans of World War II. Some had been called out of college, so there were some older players on the team."

Just as Pickens, who had played quarterback, was leaving to sign a professional baseball contract, a quarterback from Henderson arrived on campus. His name was Jimmy Feix, and quite possibly no one has had more impact on football at

Western.

Feix said he came down to Western from Henderson with his high school coach, Turner Elrod. "Back in those days, you could actually try out for the team," Feix said. "When I came down here, I kind of fell in love with the campus and the fowl."

As a player, Feix became Western's first All-American when he was named by the Associated Press as the best small college quarterback in the country in 1952.

Behind the accurate arm of number 66, the Toppers went 9-1 in 1952 and won their first ever postseason game, 34-19 over Arkansas State in the Refrigerator Bowl, a small college matchup.

Feix came back as an assistant coach in 1957, working under Nick Denes. In 1963, while Denes was still head coach, Western recruited its first black player, Vincent Shelby.

"We were one of the first southern schools to really have black players," Feix said. "I think it had something to do with our getting ahead of other programs, like at Eastern Kentucky and Murray State."

Feix said that before the 1963 Tangerine Bowl game against the Coast Guard Academy in Orlando, Fla., the manager of the motel they were to stay at refused to take in Shelby. Coach Denes, Feix said, packed the entire team back into the bus and found another place to stay.

Dickie Moore, an Owensboro native, said he came to Western primarily to play for Coach Denes. "Coach Denes came to visit me, and I liked him from the start," Moore said. "He didn't do much talking to me. He did a lot of talking to my grandmother."

Moore, a highly regarded fullback at Owensboro High

See Football, Page A11

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Greeks: 'We're tradition people'

Continued from Page A4

But even more than group traditions, Owsley said the sense of "friendship and school spirit" between his fraternity brothers carried on year after year.

And it is that sense of "bonding," that Alpha Delta Pi President Janet Sparks said is the most important aspect of a social fraternity or sorority.

"That's really what our groups are all about," she said. "A lot of things have changed over the years, but not that."

Sparks, a senior from Gallatin, Tenn., said although sororities and fraternities try to keep the traditions going, they have to "change with changing times."

Cathy Sasse, a 1988 graduate and alumni president of Alpha Delta Pi, said at times it's a struggle to keep up with tradition.

"Sometimes the environment just doesn't cooperate," Sasse said. "You have to be the person responsible for letting the tradition die out, but there are times when there is nothing you can do."

Kappa Sigma knows the feeling. Had Western's football team been eliminated as a result of recent budget cuts, the fraternity would have lost "part of what makes it special to be a Kappa Sig," said president Steve Jones, a junior from Troy, Mich.

Kappa Sigs are easy to recognize on game days, Jones said, as they are usually toting what has come to be known as the "spirit cannon." Since around 1975, fraternity members have fired the 50-caliber canon after every Hilltopper touchdown and at the end of the game.

But as far as letting the long-standing tradition die out easily, Jones said it wouldn't happen.

"We're tradition people," he said, "and though we're big supporters of all the sports, we would have found some way to carry out the tradition. We would have set our sights on something else."

To look at the success of fraternities and sororities today, some may find it hard to believe there were troubled times on Western's campus. Student Life Dean Howard Bailey, however, remembers his own struggle to become a part of the Greek system.

Bailey, who enrolled in Western in the fall of 1966, said he was surprised at what he found on campus.

"At that time there was pretty much an unspoken rule that Greeks were not likely to accept an African-American," Bailey said. "Some of the national organizations even had by-laws against it."

But Bailey and a few others refused to give in. They began petitioning the university for their own fraternity and looking for those in positions to help them. Finally, they succeeded — a little.

They were allowed to establish an organization that Bailey says "functioned somewhat like a social fraternity, but was not governed under the Greek system."

However, with a little more effort, the group became a fully acknowledged part of the Greek system, eventually becoming Kappa Alpha Psi.

"It was sometimes an uphill battle," Bailey said. "Trying to convince some in the administration there was a need for a black fraternity."

"There were many years when the support from Western's administration didn't go beyond student life," Bailey said. "They're just now playing catch-up for the years the university did not support the Greeks."

Owsley, who has been away from Western for more than 20 years, said he has watched the Greek system go through some very troubled times, but it always seems to bounce back.

"There's your tradition of family and spirit," he said. "It lies in the people, not the activities."

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Football: First black player says skin color didn't matter

Continued from A9
School, became Western's first black football star in his freshman season of 1965, by rushing for 1,055 yards as a freshman. In 1967, Moore led the nation in rushing with 1,444 yards for an amazing 6.9 yards per carry and scored a national high 19 touchdowns.

Moore said his skin color didn't seem to matter to his teammates and opponents. "I'd say it was pretty normal," he said. "There were a few little incidents, but that was all."

Moore still follows Western, but hasn't been able to see them in person lately. "It's been a long time since I've been able to get back," he said. "I'd say it's been about 10 years. I still follow

Western, but I haven't been able to get off work."

In Moore's junior season, 1967, Coach Denes retired and Feix took over as head coach. For the next 16 years, Feix won or tied for the Ohio Valley Conference title six times.

In 1973, Feix coached the Toppers to a 12-1 record. Western had the opportunity to play for the NCAA-II championship, but lost in the Camillia Bowl to Louisiana Tech, 34-0, and ended the season as runner-up.

Feix led the Toppers back to the Camillia Bowl two years later. Once again Western lost, this time to Northern Michigan, 16-14, and settled for second place.

Virgil Livers, who played at Western from 1971-74 and earned

All-American status as a defensive back his senior season, said the Camillia Bowl was the highlight of his college career.

"It was probably the best college game for all of us," Livers said. "Because to get to that point, we had to defeat Grambling, which year-in and year-out had a great program."

Livers, who is now the head football coach at Greenwood High School, said he learned about developing players while at Western, and he hopes to apply the lesson to his job.

"A lot of Western's players were walk-ons; I was a walk-on," Livers said. "A lot of places had the talent we had, but we developed the walk-ons, and we always had people coming in. So

we were building a foundation, and we had a pretty good run there for a few years."

Feix has a different favorite memory. "I like to think we were well-organized," he said. "If I did anything for the school, it was to organize football as a major college program."

Feix was still in charge of Western's football team when the school dropped out of the Ohio Valley Conference in 1981. He said he was surprised to learn of the decision. "I wasn't asked; I was just told this was going to happen. I was of course brought up in the OVC, so I didn't like the idea."

Western's decision to leave the OVC to join the Sun Belt Conference left the football team as an independent, and financial

problems have plagued football ever since.

Coach Jack Harbaugh saw his football budget cut in half in 1992, and felt lucky to be fielding a team at all after the faculty senate voted to end the program and the Board of Regents had a special session to discuss the possibility.

Harbaugh said saving football at Western is the high point of his career here, but almost losing football is the low point.

"I hope we can find a league that we can play in that is comparable to what we can play," Harbaugh said. "Just a level field, where nobody has an advantage or a disadvantage."

"Then hopefully we'll be able to suit up and play another 75 years."

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