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Space Voyage

BY RYAN CRAIG

In orbit there is no up, down, left, or right, only a free fall in space around the gravitational pull of Earth.

It would be hard to understand how a telescope that is constantly falling at a little more than 27,000 miles per hour could work at all, much less record images that span the spectrum from visible light to infrared.

Developed by astronomers and NASA more than 20 years ago, the Hubble Space Telescope had a shaky start because of questions about cost (\$2.5 billion) and fuzzy images returning to Earth shortly after its launch in 1990. But after some corrections, the telescope has sent back images beyond anything possible from Earth.

Space has no atmosphere, the stars don't twinkle from the hot and cold pockets of air, and light isn't distorted from dust. In space, there is nothing to block the clarity, the sharpness of Hubble's images.

Those images will visit Western at 8 p.m. Monday in Van Meter Auditorium.

Man in Charge

From his office in Baltimore, Robert Williams, the lecturer who will present the images, sends a message to Western students.

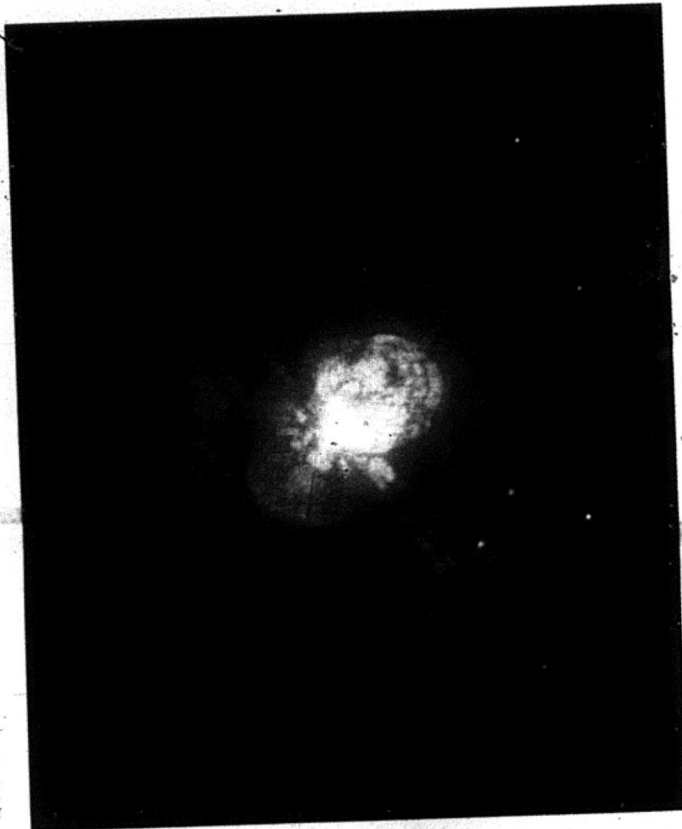
"Tell them Bob Williams said that if they come, they will leave with an appreciation for the value of astronomy and the beauty for what's out there in the universe," said the director of the Space Telescope Science Institute and man directly in charge of Hubble.

Williams said it's Hubble's bird's-eye view of astronomical phenomena that will be a good portion of his slide show and lecture.

"There is the comet Shoemaker-Levy that slammed into Jupiter in 1994," he said. "The telescope captured incredible exploding star images, and for two weeks we pointed Hubble into deep space. We could see light that was 10 billion light years away or about 93 percent of the way back in time to the big bang."

Richard Gelderman, a

SEE SPACE, PAGE 10



The picture of material being expected from Eta Carinae (above), one of the most massive stars known, was taken by the Hubble Space Telescope. The mass of this hot supergiant is 100 times that of the sun. At right is Robert Williams, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute, who will speak at 8 p.m. Monday in Van Meter Auditorium.



Western finds RAs easily, pays less

BY CHARLIE LANTER

To be or not to be a resident assistant, from school to school across Kentucky, is the question for many students.

Western hasn't had much of a problem attracting RAs in recent years, other schools, even those offering more benefits, haven't been so lucky.

Brian Kuster, director of Residence Life, said Western's ability to attract students to the leadership position changes from year to year.

"It goes in cycles," Kuster said. "Different years we need more males, other years we need more females."

But regardless of gender shortages, Kuster said there were about 40 applicants for next semester's nearly 25 openings.

This may seem odd considering Western is in the bottom half of Kentucky's eight public universities for RA benefit package value.

Eastern Kentucky University offers a package worth only about \$400 less than Western's, but Robby Morton, director of Residence Life Education at Eastern, said he's had problems recently finding RAs.

"It stems from not enough benefits, and also I think the position is so often seen as a police person, and a lot of students don't want to be seen that way," Morton said.

Kim Vance, assistant director of Residence Life at Northern Kentucky University, said it's all about location for that school.

Even though her school offers dollar for dollar the most valuable benefits in the state, Northern Kentucky also has trouble finding qualified applicants.

"We're located in a large metropolitan area where there are a lot of part-time jobs that pay really well right now," Vance said.

Northern Kentucky provides RAs with a free private room, a meal plan and \$25 a week in spending money -- worth about \$800 per semester more than Western's package.

"We know that other schools do this, and we're looking at a way to increase benefits and still hold costs steady," Kuster said.

RAs at Western pay \$620, a little less than the double rate, for their private rooms and get

SEE RAs, PAGE 8

SGA votes for 24-hour visitation in more dorms

BY MISTY R. WILSON

The Student Government Association passed a resolution Tuesday asking the university to allow 24-hour visitation for all but three of Western's dorms.

Congress members say they hope the policy, if adopted by the university, will allow Western's on-campus housing to be competitive with off-campus living, as well as with the policies of other universities.

"We want students on campus to have more freedom," said SGA President Keith Coffman, author of the resolution which passed unanimously.

"I've talked to administration and Dean (Howard) Bailey, and he didn't think it would be a problem to pass with the options available," said Coffman, a Russellville senior.

Bailey, dean of Student Life, refused to comment on the policy at this time.

The options include leaving one male dorm and one female dorm, as well as New Sorority Hall, with limited visitation hours. That will allow housing for students who do not prefer to live with the proposed policy.

"My concern is what the students on campus want," said Brian Kuster, director of Residence Life. "Just because the majority wants it, is it best for students to develop mentally?"

Students' reaction was posi-

live. "The reason I moved out of (the dorm) is because I couldn't keep people in at odd hours," Elizabethtown sophomore Joe Stuecker said. "I think it would keep people on campus."

Campbellsville junior Amy Yates agreed.

"As long as people are given a choice and not forced to live in a dorm with 24-hour visitation, I think it's OK," she said.





Kuster said students already

have dorm options, including five coed dorms which offer the 24-hour policy.

"If a first-year student wants to live in a 24-hour coed dorm, they have that option today," Kuster said. "I don't know how passing this would increase the options that students already have."

Coffman said his next step will be taking the resolution to the Administrative Council by next Tuesday.

Herald forecast

			
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
62° high	50° low	57° high	44° low
66° high	42° low	72° high	45° low

Just a sec

President to be selected

The Council on Postsecondary Education will hold a special meeting Monday to select its first president. The meeting, which will begin at 2 p.m. (EST), will be held via teleconference. The primary site, where Chairman Leonard Hardin will preside, will be the CPE conference room in Frankfort. Western's site will be in Tate Page Hall, Room 109A. There are no other items of business. For further information, contact Debbie McGuffey at (502) 573-1555.

Scouts to navigate rope course

Western's Campus Scouts are looking for a few brave souls who want to get high — about 50 feet high.

On April 18 and 19, the Scouts are taking a trip to Camp Stem, Ind., to navigate the high rope course.

This course consists of several rope paths and obstacles through treetops to prepare people for the final obstacle — rappelling down a 50-foot sheer drop.

Campus Scouts President Heather Watt said the only equipment adventurers will have to provide are their boots, a sleeping bag and a pillow; everything else is provided for them.

The trip will cost \$10 per person to cover the cost of climbing equipment, trainers, camping equipment and two meals.

For more information or to confirm attendance, contact Heather Watt at 745-7188 or Will King at 782-3910.

The deadline for confirmation for the trip is Tuesday.



Photo by William Goodwin II

Voices: John Carmichael conducts the symphony, "Voices from the Margin," Monday at Van Meter Auditorium. The composer, Cincinnati senior William T. Compton, wrote the piece for his senior honors thesis. It was inspired by his sister and his wife, both victims of domestic violence.

For the record/crime reports

Reports

- ◆ Chris L. Ledford, McDonald, Tenn., reported March 21 he and Tracy L. Gleason, also of McDonald, were assaulted by three unnamed males following a horse show at the Agricultural Exposition Center.
- ◆ Allison M. Coffey, McLean Hall, reported March 21 her truck's passenger-side window valued at \$200 broken.
- ◆ Robert L. Marshall, Salem,

reported March 22 he was assaulted by Andrew Combs of Carothersville, Tenn., following a horse show at the ag expo center.

◆ Elaine J. Powell, Grise Hall, reported April 3 an office sign, valued at \$20, broken on the fifth floor of Grise.

◆ Timothy Miller, Community College, reported April 6 a calculator, valued at \$60, stolen from the Community College building.

It was later recovered, and there are no suspects at this time.

◆ Nancy L. Priest, Institute for Economic Development, reported April 6 a fax machine, valued at \$1,125, stolen from an office.

◆ Melody K. Gravel, Institute for Economic Development, reported April 7 a television and VCR, totaling \$577, stolen from an office.

Herald

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Plans for Ransdell's inauguration moving ahead

BY CHARLIE LANIER

Invitations have been sent, lots of food will be prepared and the plans for the ceremony are being finalized, but this is no wedding — it's a marriage of a different sort.

President Gary Ransdell will be inaugurated as the ninth president of Western on May 8, and Julia Roberts, director of the

Center for Gifted Studies, is trying to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Inauguration activities will last the entire week, beginning on Sunday, May 3, and concluding Friday, May 8.

"We want this to be a special event that brings the university and the community together," said Roberts, chairwoman of the inauguration committee.

To ensure the inauguration is just that, Roberts and the faculty, staff and administrators assisting her have divided their workload among committees.

Registrar Frieda Eggleton is coordinating the inauguration ceremony itself.

Eggleton said she's using previous Western ceremonies and a book published by the Council for Advancement and Support

for Education as her guide. She said the ceremony will be "full of pageantry," complete with banners, processions and a really, really big crowd.

Lucinda Anderson, of Special Events, said about 2,500 invitations have been sent out, and those are just formalities; an invitation is not necessary to attend the ceremony.

In fact, almost every event

during the week-long celebration will be open to the public, from the picnic with the president at the Preston Health and Activities Center on May 3 to the Inaugural Gala on DUC South Lawn following the ceremony.

The inauguration ceremony itself will be at 2:30 p.m. May 8 in the amphitheatre in front of the Ivayn Wilson Fine Arts Center.

Western cited for illegal dumping

◆ University thought Glen Lily Road dump site was approved, attorney says

BY LEIGH ANN MOORE

Western was notified earlier this week that it is in violation of a Kentucky dumping statute for the disposal of coal ash and tree and shrub debris in an unpermitted site.

University Attorney Deborah Wilkins said the university was under the impression that the landfill, located at 5823 Glen Lily Road, was a permitted landfill.

"We were told this was a permitted site and had no reason to believe otherwise," she said. Wilkins said it was her understanding that even the landowner thought it was a permitted site.

Phil McDonough, environmental inspector for the cabinet's Waste Management Division, said he had no knowledge of the landfill until it was discovered that Western was using it as a dump site.

McDonough said that in order for a landfill to become permitted, the owner must

express his interest to the Department of Waste Management and submit an application.

"If it is approved and everything is okay, you can say you're permitted," he said.

McDonough said the owner took no steps to notify the department of his intentions to have a landfill, and that is what created a violation.

"I think that it was a miscommunication between the university, us and the landfill owner," McDonough said. He said that the ash (waste material from the university's boilers) is approved for re-use by the university farm.

"When it goes somewhere other than the farm or a permitted landfill, it is a violation," he said.

McDonough said that though it is a violation, this is not a particularly major situation due to the types of materials disposed of and the fact that the site is not an open dump.

"This is something that can easily be corrected, and something that we anticipate will be resolved in the next two weeks," he said. "I think the university will take the appropriate actions to correct the problem."

McDonough said that the university now has 14 days to move the ash and debris it has dumped at the site to a new, permitted location. If it needs to, the university can also seek an extension for meeting the terms of the notice.

Wilkins said the university is currently working on a plan to remove the ash from the site and dispose of it in another way, and reuse on the university farm as one of those options.

"We're trying to work with the farm and see if we can mix it with gravel and use it to improve the roads out there," she said.

Wilkins said that Mark Struss, director of Facilities Management, has been calling other universities with similar problems to see if there are other solutions to the ash disposal.

No matter what the solution is, Wilkins said it will cost the university "several thousand dollars at a minimum."

"The main fee will be the fee to take it to either one of the permitted landfills in the county," she said. Other options could help save the university some money on the clean-up of the dump.

Early visitors frighten building attendants

BY MATT BATCHELOR

Two building services attendants said they feared for their lives Tuesday morning when two men tried to muscle their way into Cherry Hall.

Here is the story they told police.

A building services attendant, who asked to be known only as Barbara, reported to her shift a little after 5 a.m. Tuesday, when she met two men, mostly obscured by darkness.

As she unlocked the back doors to Cherry Hall, the two tried to enter with her. She said she quickly locked the doors behind her and went for help.

Fellow attendant Tim Garmon returned to the back doors with her to ask the men what business they had in the pre-dawn hours.

The two said they needed keys to Garrett Center. Garmon said he wasn't authorized to issue them. Neither man had identification.

Garmon said one of the men said he needed to enter Cherry to make a phone call and was again turned down. The men then left in a white Chevrolet pickup truck.

"If I see him, I guarantee I can identify him," Garmon said. "He

has long hair, a squagly beard, blue jeans and old tennis shoes."

The other man was in shadow and couldn't be identified.

What really scared the two is when, minutes later, they discovered that two men had earlier escaped from a state prison in Marion County. Garmon said he was convinced the building would be robbed.

"I'm sorry, but at 4:30 or 5 in the morning you're not going to do anything else," he said.

They called campus police an hour after the incident.

Police aren't sure any crime was actually committed. They allayed fears that the men were the jail escapees, because of differences in the description the attendants provided.



"What I really regret about the incident is that it wasn't reported right away," Wallace said. "We find it disturbing and wish we had found out earlier."

Garmon said he'll take precautions from now on like not unlocking the doors until it's light. "All that man had to do was pull a gun from his pocket and he could blow us away," he said. "I fear for your safety as well as my own."

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Opinion

Students shouldn't miss chance to learn

College is supposed to be about more than going to class every day and memorizing facts for the next test. Learning can go on outside the classroom.

Robert Bly, a world-famous poet,

was on campus last week. Many students attended the programs, but compared to the number of students enrolled, attendance was disappointing. Even

• The issue:
Western has brought many prominent speakers to campus.

• Our view:
Students should take advantage of these programs and the opportunity to learn something.

though most of those students came because they had to, many left the Bly program having learned something. Bly's lecture challenged people to think, which is what college is really about. It's too bad so many missed out. Especially since the university paid Bly and other speakers this semester about \$10,000 each to speak at Western.

The university should be commended for bringing these speakers in to help expand students' minds. But the students should want to expand their own minds. They shouldn't waste the university's money, or an opportunity to learn, by not attending these programs.



Students should try to take time out of their busy schedules, if at all possible, to attend programs, even if they

don't have to do so. They'll be glad they did.

No matter how much money the

university spends on famous speakers, it's up to the students to attend the programs.

Ransdell shows commitment to openness

Problems can be better solved through good communications, and President Gary Ransdell knows this.

That's why he scheduled a meeting between Judith Hoover, the Women's Task Force's chairwoman, and Jay Sloan, Human Subjects Review Board chairman, April 14 to resolve the conflict over the task force's report.

Now it's up to Hoover and Sloan. Both should go into the meeting willing to give a little.

The meeting shouldn't be about agendas. It should be about informing the public about the problems affecting women on campus, the reason for the task force in the first place.

In February, when the report was completed, the review board decided that all anonymous

comments, which make up a substantial part of the report, should be removed.

Ransdell should be commended for being willing to address this conflict.

He is showing courage in admitting the issue is not resolved and trying to do something about it.

A meeting will allow more open com-

munication between the two sides and will help them to reach an agreement that is suitable to both.

It will allow the issues concerning women to be out in the open and will ensure that the \$19,000 and 13 months spent on the study was not just wasted time and money.

Ransdell is sticking by his pledge for a more open administration with the commitment to openness he has shown in this situation. Let's hope he keeps it that way.

• The issue:

President Gary Ransdell has scheduled a meeting to resolve the conflict over the Women's Task Force report.

• Our view:

He is showing courage by addressing the issue.

People poll

◆ What would make you want to see speakers on campus?



"More free time."

Helen Yeoman, Bowling Green junior



"Making it possible to find out about them."

Christy Havens, Morgantown junior



"If they were publicized better."

Scott Moore, Bowling Green senior



"I have a lot of extracurricular activities. It's the time factor."

Alicia Wheeler, senior from Gallatin, Tenn.



"If they could put them at a convenient time when there is no conflict with any department activity."

Wade Cox, Frankfort senior

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Forum

Students shoot it out over gun control

Responsible gun control laws create safer society for youth

I was staring up the barrel of a gun the other day. Thank God it wasn't loaded.

It scared me to death. Tuesday night, attending the campus police's citizens academy, I had the chance to handle a real firearm for the first time. Sure, I've handled BB guns and the like—but, luckily, my house never had a gun.

It wasn't much fun. It wasn't a blast looking into a barrel of pain and suffering, known only too well in Paducah and Jonesboro, Ark., or any of hundreds of places murders occur.

But reality is worse than any thought I can conjure. What's most scary to hear is what many political pundits said after the school-house shootings: Guns don't kill people; people kill people.

It's a lame politician's statement. Sounds profound until you think about it. Maybe I'm a little slow, but doesn't it take people and guns to kill?

Apply this fallacious logic to most anything with disastrous results.

Consider this: Rohypnol is a drug rapists use to stealthily knock out their victims. But, when the Food and Drug Administration outlawed it, did these same pundits defend Rohypnol? Did they say, "Rohypnol doesn't rape people; people rape people"? Are these same activists against banning Rohypnol?

Of course not. Gun-related deaths take a person and a gun. One without the other doesn't make a gun-related death Right?

The National Rifle Association lobby doesn't want you to hear that. It believes gun control is Big Brother's first attempt in taking all our guns away and ending the Second Amendment.

Actually, the Second Amendment says "a well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

Do we have militias today (besides some crazies who like to dress up in old Air Force jackets and roll around in Montana mud)? The Second Amendment says we should. But, as the NRA doesn't realize, militias existed before an effective National Guard was formed in their place. Once the guard appeared, the amendment lost its purpose. Kind of like that original constitutional statute that calls freed

slaves three-fifths of a person for the purpose of representation.

Europe and East Asia don't seem to have nearly the firearms problem, though guns are heavily restricted. In Britain, cops don't even pack heat. They're completely banned in Japan, but does that nation have its kids turning guns on each other every two weeks? Nope.

The fact is, the very presence of a gun suggests it must be used. Harebrained ideas like arming teachers, installing sharpshooters on schools and forming state militias aren't solving anything.

Statistics show that houses with guns are more prone to violence than those without them. And the perils of gun-related violence go on and on.

How is this society to end violence by the production of the means of the violence?

Let's talk solutions—realistic solutions. This society will never ban guns. Never. The gun lobby is a staple of American life.

What we can do is license guns. We should simply require people who own firearms to meet minimum standards before buying them. The Brady Bill's mandatory background checks are a good start, but only half of the solution.

We must rigorously screen and train their users. Gun buyers should meet many, if not all, the same requirements—psychiatric exams, strength tests—that we expect our police to maintain.

Why should civilian gun owners live to different standards?

But what to do with kids like the Jonesboro shooters? First, hold parents accountable for what their kids under 18 do. Ban guns to kids under 21. Why 20-year-olds can't drink but can own guns is a complete mystery.

Ultimately, the nation should take action to control guns and succeed, as other nations. Returning to the wild west is not an option.

Or will we stand by while more of America's children are slain in the very schools in which they're mandated to learn?

Will we ever learn?
Editor's note: Matt Batchelder is a sophomore print journalism major from Bardonia.

Matt Batchelder
Commentary



History proves that gun control laws don't protect, but oppress

Two weeks ago, the nation was stricken with horror after an 11-year-old and 13-year-old allegedly ambushed their school, killing four classmates and one teacher and wounding 10 others.

This was the third tragic attack at schools within recent memory. On Dec. 1, 1997, a 14-year-old allegedly shot down three students and wounded five others in western Paducah.

The previous October, a 16-year-old allegedly killed two classmates and wounded seven others in Pearl, Miss.

And after the shock faded and the tears dried, the usual gaggle of self-serving politicians stood on their self-righteous soap boxes and begged the American people to surrender their firearms "to save the children."

Everyone in his or her tight mind wants to see children safe and healthy.

For this reason, we must resist efforts of those who seek to disarm us. The anti-gunners' plea to ban guns sounds humanitarian in the wake of these tragedies.

Unfortunately, there are far more devious elements at work.

Every dictator in world history has disarmed his subjects before butchering them.

"Lethal Laws," published by the Jews for the Preservation of Firearm Ownership, compiles a frightening collection of gun control laws passed in the 20th century.

As soon as guns were removed from the law-abiding people, oppression and genocide began.

Consider this: In the Ottoman Empire, the Turks banned Armenians from owning firearms in 1866 and again in 1911.

The result? One million dead. Stalin's Soviet Union: 20 million dead. Nazi Germany: 13 million dead.

China: 20 million dead. And the list continues. "Lethal Laws" counts up to 56 million people slaughtered in this century, all shortly after gun-control laws were passed.

Thomas Jefferson said, "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

No one should be so arrogant to believe that, because we are Americans, we will never face the threat of genocide in our own nation from either foreign or domestic powers.

Theodore Haas survived three hellish years at the Dachau concentration camp.

He said while imprisoned he and the other inmates regretted obeying the gun registration laws in Nazi Germany.

When asked how he felt about other survivors who favor gun control, he said, "You cowards. You don't deserve to live in America. It was the stupidity of these naive fools that aided and abetted Hitler's goons and thugs."

The Second Amendment states, "A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

The Second Amendment isn't about the National Guard or duck hunting. It's about freedom—freedom from oppression, freedom from foreign invasions, freedom from fear.

After the Tiananmen Square massacre in China in 1989, a student held her dying parent.

Her parent's last words: "Tell the American people never to lose their guns. As long as they keep their guns in their hands, what happened here will never happen there."

Gun control isn't just stupid, it's evil.

Editor's note: Phil Yochim is a senior print journalism major from Louisville.

Phil Yochim
Commentary



◆ Letters to the editor

Comments should remain confidential

As a former member of the Women's Task Force, I am responding to your editorial entitled "Task force report needs to be released."

As required by federal regulations and overseen by the Human Subjects Review Board, informed consent was obtained from the participants.

The informed consent document described the procedures for protecting respondents, including blacking out references to individuals, transcribing the responses into a database, destroying the originals and finally "... access given only to authorized members of the Task Force."

In short, elaborate procedures were implemented to allow respondents to write in confidence.

Presumably such language was included so that respondents would feel free to express their thoughts.

Respondents were instructed not to make allegations

about other individuals and to follow university procedures if they wished to lodge complaints.

The time frame covered by the comments was unspecified, and no attempt was made to verify the comments.

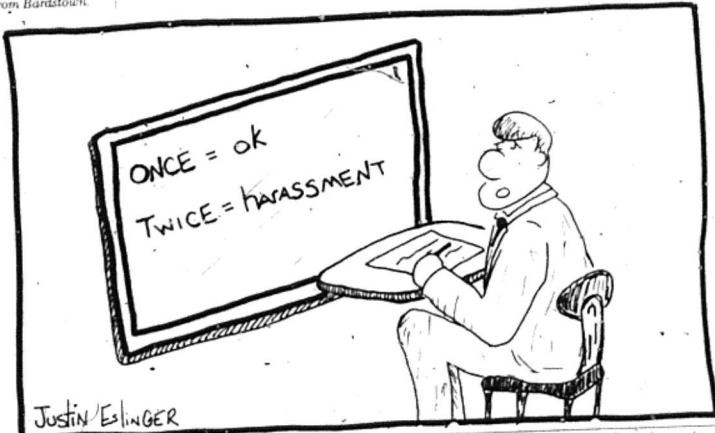
The task force had no way of knowing which comments were true or false, recent or old. Publishing such unsubstantiated comments violates the promise made during informed consent and is both negligent and unethical.

The potential use of these comments led me to resign from the task force prior to completion of the final report.

If the final report contains quotes or other "raw data," the president's decision is prudent, responsible and consistent with the promise made to the respondents.

If the final report is free of "raw data," then I believe it is the president's obligation to make the report public.

Dan Roenker,
psychology professor



How to reach us

The Herald encourages all readers to call in, whether to complain, to tip us on story ideas or to tell us how we could service the university better.

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Endowment to support women's studies program

BY MOLLY HARPER

After years of supporting the women's studies program with their time and energy, long-time faculty members Catherine and Robert Ward have given the program a gift that will last long after they've left the Hill.

The Wards recently donated property valued at nearly \$110,000 to create the Robert E. and Catherine C. Ward Endowment Fund, an endowment with the potential to support the women's studies program permanently.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted," said Jane Olmsted, who will be taking the position as program director of women's studies in May.

The Wards have a history of giving to women's studies. Catherine Ward was instrumental in the development of the academic program and served as its director from 1991-94.

Olmsted said in the last six years, the total amount donated by the couple is somewhere around \$147,000, including the property gift.

"This is the biggest single gift they've given," Olmsted said. "I believe over time they've been giving quietly and getting no recognition for it."

The Wards' support of the women's studies stems not only from their personal involvement with the program, but from a firm belief that studying women's issues can broaden a student's horizons.

"A knowledge of women's studies research and thinking has the power to change men and women permanently," Ward

said. "It absolutely changes almost every perception in your life."

Ward said she and her husband chose to create the endowment now because women's studies is at a "turning point."

"At this point the program is in the position to go forward because of Jimmie Price's leadership. Jane Olmsted's taking over the program, a strong student body and faculty," she said.

Because the money is going to be administered by the WKU Foundation, the program will only be able to use a certain amount per year, approximately 4.5 percent, to put toward guest speakers, visiting professorships, scholarships and lecture series.

"What it won't be used for is equipment or salaries, temporary things that will get used up," Olmsted said.

Olmsted said she hopes that gifts of this size will become a trend. She said in most cases, when people see others have confidence in a program, they'll have confidence in it, too.

"No one wants to put their money in a sinking ship, but if that ship is rising and they believe in — the vision of the program and where they're heading, they're willing to support it," she said.

Catherine Ward also hopes that other faculty will be encouraged to give to women's studies. She said she's happy to provide permanent security for the program whose benefits will be constantly spreading.

"This will never diminish," she said. "It will only grow. It's like a seed."

Faculty award their own

BY MOLLY HARPER

RELATED INFO

Western's faculty took time out to acknowledge excellence in their peers in an informal reception yesterday hosted by Academic Affairs.

Three professors from each college were recognized for outstanding contributions in the areas of teaching, research/creativity and public service. The award winners received a \$500 check from their college and became finalists for university-wide awards to be announced at commencement.

"It's a time here at Western when we like to let everyone know that we have a great faculty that are involved in teaching, but are also involved in wonderful research and service," said Luther Hughes, associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

"It's a recognition of those who have gone the extra mile; that's what these awards are about. They've gone beyond just the minimum and have done a yeoman's job at excellent."

The nominating process began months ago when students, faculty, and staff began turning in names of professors they deemed worthy of special recognition. Those nominations were collected by Academic Affairs and sent to the appropriate colleges, where a faculty committee, led by the dean, reviewed the nominations and selected the winners.

For the award winners, receiving recognition from their colleagues makes the award even more special.

"It's absolutely wonderful," said educational leadership assistant professor

Award Winners Teaching

Catherine Carey, Business; Karen Westbrooks, Education; James Martin, Ogden; Joseph Trafton, Potter; Lee Emmanuel, Community

Public Service

Brian Sullivan, Business; Alice Mikovch, Education; Susan Jones, Ogden; James Highland, Potter; Nancy Baird, Libraries

Research/Creativity

Zubair Mohammed, Business; Frank Wyatt, Education; Robert Holman, Ogden; Richard Weigel, Potter; Marvin Leavy, Libraries.

Karen Westbrooks, who won a teaching award. "I don't know how to describe it, really. It's like riding on their shoulders after a game."

"There are many excellent teachers in the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, so it was really quite an honor to have this special recognition."

Teacher education assistant professor Alice Mikovch, a public service winner, said she thinks the awards aren't what spark faculty to do good work, but they are an added bonus.

"Our role here is to seek excellence in every aspect of education," she said. "But this is a great way to find out what your peers really think about you."

'Our Town' scheduled April 16-May 3

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Public Theatre of Kentucky will present Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" from April 16 through May 3 at the Phoenix Theatre.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays.

Managing director Mike Thomas said the cast includes 20 local actors. The production was included in the PTK season in celebration of Bowling Green's Bicentennial.

"This is the perfect play with which to reflect upon the simple truths of everyday life in a community," Thomas said. "It is a celebration of the past, the present and future."

Though Wilder's play is set in New England during the early 1900s, the play's themes are universal.

As Wilder explained, the play is "not offered as a picture of life in a New Hampshire village, or as a speculation about the conditions of life after death."

Along with Thomas, the production is directed by Alexis Combs and Mark Funk. Thomas and Funk are also among the cast members, along with light designer Andy Duff.

The audience will also be drawn into the production to fill out the play's population.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for students and seniors and \$6 for children ages 12 and under.

For reservations, call 781-6233.

Pulitzer Prize winner to show work

HERALD STAFF REPORT

A two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer will be speaking Wednesday about her experience as a staff photographer at The Washington Post.

Carol Gury will talk about her extensive documentary work in Haiti and Africa at 7:30 p.m. April 15 at the Capitol Arts Center.

Her appearance is sponsored by Western's photojournalism program.



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The Newman Center is located at 1403 College St. (one block below Cherry Hall). For more information, call Fr. John at 843-3638.

Race for PR post heating up

BY MATT BATCHELDOR

The hottest race in the Student Government Association elections this year was one that went untested last year.

Three SGA members are vying for public relations director this year: the current PR chief, Alvalton senior Heather Rogers, ran unopposed in 1997.

Louisville junior Amy France, Central City junior Brad Sweatt and Chattanooga Miller, a junior from Hendersonville, Tenn., have nothing but acclaim for Rogers. In seeking her post, they all said they want to continue her promotion efforts.

"I think Heather did such a good job this year, she made it look easy," Miller said.

He said that's the reason a job nobody wanted last semester is suddenly heavily contested.

And now there are three. Besides the fact they're all juniors and even friends, they have differing agendas for this month's election.

Sweatt has an immediate vision of what he'd like to accomplish as next year's PR front man.

"The first issue I was thinking about tackling was a parade for Homecoming week," he said. "I think it would give the campus something to build on to take pride in."

He said he wants SGA to get significantly more in your face.



"I would love to try to install a bulletin board for SGA in every academic building on campus," Sweatt said. "That way, (students) aren't blind sided when they hear about something that has already been voted on."

On a personal note, Sweatt is a biology and chemistry major who wants to get a graduate degree in public relations. He's a resident assistant who is trying out today to become the next Big Red.

France is a biology and chemistry major and is also active in campus organizations. Next year, she'll promote Tri Beta, a medical student honors society. She said she wants to extend that promotion experience to SGA.

"I've been really active in different committees," France said. "This year we've had a lot of really hard workers."

Her SGA resume includes stints on the academic affairs and student affairs committees.

"I think I'll do the best I can to just get people active in what we're involved in," she said.

She, too, has some specific goals if she's elected to publicize SGA.

Chief among them is an idea,

Rogers couldn't implement — a banquet to recruit high school students to SGA and Western.

"I think we need to concentrate on people coming to Western," France said. "If we can really get our name out, maybe (high schoolers) will just latch on and stay."

Miller said getting SGA's name out has been exactly what he's been doing for the last year. He's done telephone polls, studied parking issues and distributed designated driver cards (for free soft drinks in restaurants and bars). He's a PR major who said the art of promotion comes naturally to him.

"It fascinates me," he said. "This is something I have done in the past and will do for the rest of my life."

Miller lives near Nashville, where he works promoting the Hard Rock Cafe. He's heading for a PR internship this summer in New York.

"Pulling the campus together" is his main objective, by getting out in public and personally meeting students, he said.

"I think the more informed people are, the more involved they'll be."

Because there are more than two candidates, a primary election will be held April 21. The top two finishers from that race will face off in the general election April 28.

Name:
Amy France
Hometown:
Louisville
Class:
Junior
Major:
Chemistry/
Biology



Name:
Christopher Miller
Hometown:
Hendersonville,
Tenn.
Class:
Junior
Major:
Public relations



Name:
Brad Sweatt
Hometown:
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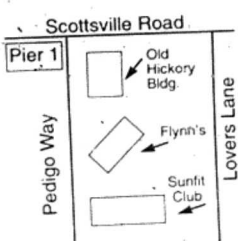
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RAs: Western may add meal plan benefits

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

paid for 15 hours a week at minimum wage.

Kuster said the package hasn't changed in the last five to six years, after the special room rate was added.

The department is considering a plan similar to Northern Kentucky's that would include room, board and a weekly stipend for RAs.

But Kuster stressed that money isn't everything.

"Most of our RAs don't do it for the money," he said.

"We require a lot of them. It's a 24-hour job."

Central City junior Brad Sweatt, an RA in Rodes-Harlin, agreed with Kuster.

"We sometimes get together and gripe about money," Sweatt said. "But the people who come back do so because they love the job."

Like here, being an RA at Morehead State University is a 24-hour job, but RAs there don't have to work the front desk at

their dorms. Western's RAs cover the desk throughout the day and on weekends.

That example goes to show that pay isn't the only difference among programs at Kentucky universities.

Experienced RAs at Western are required to put on seven programs to benefit students

and build community. They also have to participate in two other programs as a "tap in."

Northern Kentucky, where RAs get a better deal money wise, there is no specified number of programs that have to be done.

"If you focus on numbers, you lose the quality of topics they're going to handle," Vance said.

Back at Western, Sweatt said the benefits and programs have nothing to do with being an RA.

"It's the people," he said. "It's not so much the staff as it is the guys on my floor. They're great."

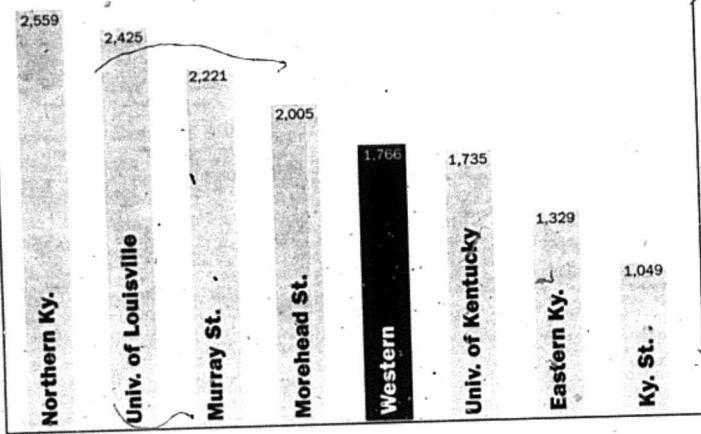
"That's what I love about being an RA."

"Most of our RAs don't do it for the money. We require a lot of them. It's a 24-hour job."

**— Brian Kuster
Director, Residence Life**

Higher compensation

The chart below estimates the pay, food plans, and other benefits resident assistants at state universities receive. Amounts are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

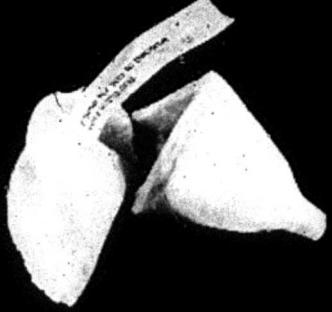


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Senator discusses international policy

BY SHANNON BACK

Sen. Mitch McConnell told about 150 business students yesterday that "anybody going to business school today will be involved in international affairs in some way."

The Kentucky Republican added, "It's important for students to get as involved as they can while still in school."

McConnell's visit was part of the Business College's Executive-on-Campus program. For two years, the college has invited four to six state and national leaders each year to speak to students about business issues.

McConnell answered students' questions about foreign affairs ranging from the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the United States' stance on political issues in Bosnia, China and Yugoslavia.

McConnell, who devoted most of his speech to the expansion of NATO, was challenged with questions from several students concerned that the expansion would cost more than it's worth.

"What I'm concerned about is the cost of not expanding NATO," he responded, pointing out that the cost to the United States would only be a couple 100 million every five years out of trillions the country has to spend.

"No democracy has ever gone to war with another democracy," he said. "The spread of democracy increases the peace in the world."

Also, a lengthy part of the speech involved Americans' impressions of China. McConnell said too many Americans are choosing to focus on China's bad news and ignoring the good news.

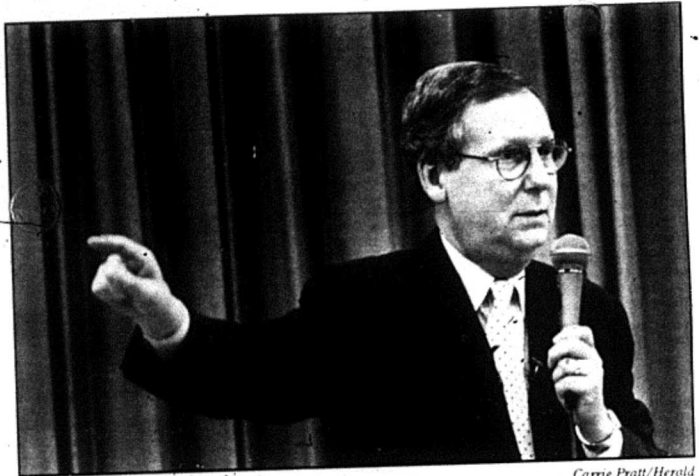
"Most Americans think Russians are our buddies and the Chinese are to be feared," he said, "but actually the Chinese have been better allies."

Mayfield senior Rhiannon Burch said that although she didn't agree with every point McConnell made, she was glad to hear them from him, instead of just studying them in class.

"Sometimes what you hear in the news is one-sided," she said. "It's good to hear what our representatives think about issues that affect us."

Business College Dean Robert Jefferson said he started the Executive-on-Campus program when he came to Western two years ago and so far it has been exactly what he had intended.

"This is the first time we've had a senator come to campus," Jefferson said. "Students get a chance to meet people they wouldn't otherwise meet. Maybe they'll get more interested in jobs dealing with world issues."



Carrie Pratt/Herald

Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell speaks to students in Grise Auditorium about United States policies and international business issues as a part of the Business College's Executive-on-Campus program. "Foreign aid is a very inexpensive way to have involvement, at least on the humanitarian side," the senator said during his visit yesterday.



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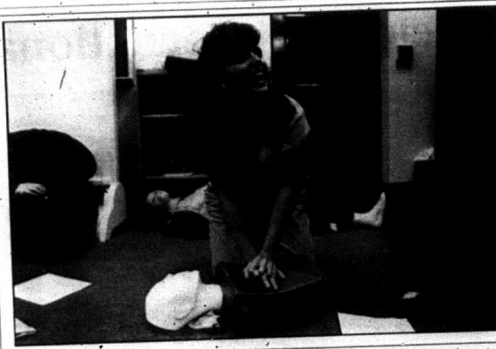
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SPACE: lecture will be like watching 'Star Trek'



Push: Bee Spring senior Julie Hunt takes a moment to check her time while practicing her CPR technique yesterday afternoon in Science and Technology Hall. The technique is part of Hunt's safety and first aid class.

Alyse Preston/Herald

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
physics and astronomy associate professor, said Williams' speech will have something to offer to everyone who goes. "It's not going to be boring science talk, it will be like watching a great episode of 'Star Trek,'" he said.

Research comes from past discoveries

On the wall of Gelderman's office are past pictures from Hubble, but more importantly are the images on his computer screen, he said.

"The images are a very important part of my research," he said, while showing a picture of a galaxy. "The light in this picture took about half the age of the galaxy to get here."

With Hubble, Gelderman said his research becomes literally more clear.

Holding up two images, Gelderman shows the difference between an image shot from Earth and one from Hubble. The earth-bound picture is fuzzy, and it's hard to determine the details of the picture. The same picture taken from the Hubble is sharp, and several small stars that weren't visible before are now easily seen.

"I study far-reaching, exotic things in the most distant reaches of the universe," he said. "These things are so far away that to study something so small is impossible. You're blind to what is really out there, but Hubble gives me that sight."

Williams said because the telescope looks at the spectrum of light, the same images can bear fruit to several different kinds of research.

"It just doesn't take pictures," he said. "It will take light and break it down so we can better identify things. It's like when you take blood to determine DNA, it's that specific."

In his lecture, Williams said he will talk about the bad as well as the good when it comes to the success of Hubble, especially when the first images sent back were criticized for not being worth the price tag, he said.

"They (the media) were hard on us at first, but now I think people are realizing that the results far outweigh the cost," he said. "Besides, one of the most basic instincts we have is exploring."

"A person could go through the rest of their life completely happy and content not knowing a thing about astronomy, but you could say the same about music. Astronomy can be just as life-enriching."

Gelderman said Williams' lecture will give students something they didn't have before.

"I think that through Hubble everyone can see that the universe is amazing beyond what we thought," he said. "It's more incredible, more fantastical than any science fiction."

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Trash Talk



Springer sparks interest with college crowd

STORY BY
SCHERI
SMITH

ART BY
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TABOR

All it takes is one glance at his resume to see that he's nobody's fool. He campaigned on Robert F. Kennedy's presidential campaign and found that he had a knack for politics. At age 33, he became the mayor of Cincinnati. Not only was he one of the youngest mayors in the country, but he also won the election with the largest plurality in that city's history.

Who is this man of high education and political ability? It's none other than the king of talk — Jerry Springer.

What is it about "The Jerry Springer Show" that ignites youthful eyes toward the boob tube in Garrett Center? The answer is simple to psychology Professor Bill Pfohl — violence.

"Unfortunately, people are absolutely fascinated with violence and aggression," Pfohl said. "It represents something wild and crazy for the college population."

Pfohl said it's this bizarre behavior that attracts young people to the show.

"It allows people to see that others can do the craziest things and get away with them," Pfohl said.

But it's not just the violence that attracts Brad Sweatt, a Central City junior, said he likes to watch the show, but it really isn't that important to him.

"It's funny, and I like watching it," Sweatt said. "But, it's not like it's something that I would skip class for."

And, just like Sweatt, it seems that many people are watching the show. In November of last year, the Nielsen rating system showed that Springer was ranked third in daytime talk. As of December, he was placed a close second behind Oprah Winfrey.

With all the hype surrounding the show, it may seem hard to believe that Springer is actually a real person.

Born in London in 1944, Springer didn't move to the United States until the age of

5, when his family fled the threat of the Holocaust.

After completing his education, Springer got into politics, which led him to become Cincinnati's mayor. By 1982, Springer decided to try broadcast journalism and became an anchor on Cincinnati's WLWT-TV.

While at WLWT, Springer won seven Emmys and became the top-ranked anchor in Cincinnati. There was no place to go but up, and so the company offered Springer his own talk show.

Even though this may sound like a typical American success story, some people still consider Springer a man who's making a quick buck off the less fortunate.

Tiffany Resha said Springer shouldn't even be on television.

"I just think he doesn't care about people at all," she said. "I couldn't imagine being the host of that show and egging fights on."

SEE CROWD, PAGE 13

Muckrakers look for fame

BY DARRYN SIMMONS

Happy Inn Restaurant, at 1475 Kentucky St., is usually known for its food for the stomach.

However, last Friday, a different kind of food was served there—food for the ears.

The group was there to record the live version of its most recognized song, "Stripper," for an upcoming album, "Forgot to Breathe" which is due at the end of April.

The restaurant was the location of a combination concert and recording session for the Muckrakers—a local group comprised of Louisville senior John Ruby and Murray sophomore Ruby Carpenter.

The crowd of almost 100 people was treated to a mix of music and comedy as the Muckrakers kicked its performance off with "Summer Nights," a tribute to the 20th anniversary of "Grease." Ruby and Carpenter then did a cover of the Van Morrison hit "Brown Eyed Girl," causing chants of "Sha La La La La La La La La La Ti Da" to reverberate up and down Kentucky Street.

After warming the crowd up, it was time for the "Stripper."

The group performed its hit song as the crowd screamed to lyrics like "Man I'm a stripper, it's what I do for a living, taking my clothes off in front of sweaty women."

Because of a train rolling and technical problems, the song required three retakes.

Carpenter kept the crowd into the recording by doing a quick rendition of Hanson's "Ohm-Bop"—complete with a dance that would do the Three Stooges proud.

Meanwhile, Ruby resisted the requests of both men and women to take the song literally with the chants of "Strip, John, Strip!"

After the recording, the Muckrakers played on throughout the night and took requests from the crowd.

Despite the cramped quarters at the restaurant, the audience had no complaints.

"They're great," Louisville sophomore Corey Boston said. "They got a lot of character and a lot of talent."

Boston said he would definitely buy the Muckrakers' album.

Louisville sophomore Jessica Kayrouz said the Muckrakers made a believer out of her.

"I heard they were good, but I didn't believe them," she said. "But now that I hear them, they're awesome."

The recording session and upcoming album is the latest step in Ruby's and Carpenter's career, which has taken several twists.

The group's rise from the muck began when the two met, through a mutual friend two years ago while both were living in North Hall.

"We just got together and jammed in the rbc room and just clicked," Ruby said.

The two of them, along with three others, formed the group "Triple Lundy," but the group broke up in six months.

However, Ruby and Carpenter weren't quite ready to let the music stop playing. They got together and formed the Muckrakers.

"It gave us a chance to play some of the old songs as well as put together some new ones," Ruby said.

To support their dreams, the group has played in small venues such as Happy Inn and also has been selling its new CD on a "pay now and receive later system."

Ruby describes the Muckrakers sound as "a blend of acoustic pop with a little folk thrown in." They have both serious heartfelt songs like "Fool" as well as joke songs like "Stripper."

"It's ("Stripper") definitely our best known song," Ruby said, "which is funny when you strive to make songs from your heart but you're known best for a song about the day in a life of the stripper."

With the impending release of their CD, Ruby said the group plans to continue in the right direction. They'll be performing at Gibson's Cafe in Nashville on April 20 and plan to stay in Bowling Green over the summer and move between the two cities and sell their CD.

However, if the Muckrakers is not destined for the life on heavy rotation MTV air play, there will be no regrets.

"If it goes no further, I've enjoyed it," Ruby said. "We just love playing and want people to have a good time."

Carter tells trials of George Wallace

BY JENNIFER ENGLERT

The issue of race has plagued the nation for years. It has infiltrated the way citizens think, act and, in some cases, how they live. Race has also been an important factor in politics throughout the years.

Dan Carter, a history professor at Emory University and author of the book, "From George Wallace to Newt Gingrich: The Changing Role of Race in American Politics," has been studying this phenomenon and the changing role of race in politics from the 1960s to today.

Carter, who spoke to Western students on this issue Monday night in Gerard Auditorium in Garrett Center, said race is a complex issue.

"It is a daunting task to talk about race," he said. "It is truly a subject with no end."

Carter, in his lecture and book, begins his look at race in politics with the Kennedy administration. He gives examples of the civil rights movements that began in 1962 and 1963. He said he can recall some of those turbulent times.

"Blood would flow into the streets," he said. "I certainly heard that a lot as I was growing up."

Carter said each politician has his or her own style of dealing with race. He said former Alabama Gov. George Wallace was one politician who was bla-

ntly racist.

Carter said Wallace was a "typical redneck politician." Wallace never came out and said "black," but instead used code words. He gave the example of busing and how it is an institution that tears up communities and is a powerful weapon.

Bowling Green senior Anne Guillory said she had the opportunity to hear Carter speak on two occasions while he was at Western.

"I heard him twice and was really interested in his talk about the rise of right wing terrorist groups in America," she said. "I also enjoyed his other lecture because he puts race in a different context in the fact that he is talking about the evolution of using race as a major issue in politics."

History Professor Richard Stone is a longtime acquaintance of Carter's.

"He was always a bright and nice person and a substantive contributor," he said. "He's been very active in television and has played a large role in doing the 'American Experience,' a show on getting people who knew George Wallace on camera."

Stone, who met Carter during graduate school at the University of North Carolina, said one of Carter's strongest assets is his ability to tell stories.

"He has the old Southern knack of telling stories and creating vivid images," he said.

♦ Greek Week

Events begin April 13, and run through April 19.

Monday

♦ Blood Drive, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Preston Center.

Tuesday

♦ Blood Drive, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Preston Center.

Wednesday

♦ Blood Drive, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Preston Center.
♦ Greek, Feud, 8:30 p.m. at Grise Auditorium

Thursday, April 16

♦ Events Day, 3 p.m., at L.T. Smith Stadium and Lighted Practice Field.

Friday, April 17

♦ Tug, 1 p.m., at Agricultural Exposition Center.

Sunday, April 19

♦ Awards Convocation, 7 p.m., at Downing University Center Theatre.

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CROWD: Shock will eventually fade away

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Resha, a sophomore from Old Hickory, Tenn., said Springer should not allow so much fighting and immorality on his show.

"I don't like the show," she said. "All it does is promote violence."

It's that promotion of violence that Pfohl said may be entertaining now, but could have some damaging effects on the people who watch the show.

"People like to watch the show because they live out their lives through other peo-

"People like to watch the show because they live out their lives through other people. It's not healthy at all."

— Bill Pfohl
psychology professor

ple," he said. "It's not healthy at all because it's not getting the emotion out appropriately."

Pfohl said watching violence over and over tends to lead to problems.

Pfohl said evidence of too much television violence can even be seen today.

He said a rise in all kinds of abuse just goes to show that what we watch can have an effect.

Even more of a threat than actual violence is what can happen over the long run.

"People are becoming more desensitized," Pfohl said. "Then people tend not to be personally sensitive to the plights of other individuals."

Pfohl said at the rate we are becoming less sensitive, a return to dropping people in a lion's den for entertainment may be closer than some think.

Jennifer Carter, a sophomore from Bartlett, Tenn., said Springer's appeal is more than just violence.

"He deals with totally outrageous subjects," she said. "College people are just in shock."

But those subjects are what keeps Carter watching when she can, she said.

"It makes people feel good about themselves, I guess," she said.

Elizabethtown sophomore Jody Jagers said the show is nothing but entertainment.

"I think it's funny," he said. "But I always feel bad after watching it."

Jagers said it's sad that people are willing to make complete fools of themselves on national television.

Springer's soaring popularity and ratings don't look like they are going to land anytime soon.

But that's nothing to worry about, Pfohl said.

"He's just another person who's making a quick buck," he said. "I remember a time when people didn't like Geraldo, now everybody watches him."

When it all dies down and people tire of watching trash, life can get back to normal, Pfohl said.

"I think sanity will prevail eventually," he said.

◆ Movie review

'Space' loses all qualities of original

BY RYAN CRAIG

"Danger Will Robinson! Danger Will Robinson! This movie sucks!"

That was the thought going through my mind during the movie adaptation of the old TV series, "Lost in Space."

The movie, which is almost nothing like the series in plot and nostalgia, is one of the best special effects movies I've ever seen, but is also one of the worst plots in the history of sci-fi.

The story takes place in 2058, and the Earth is dying (now that's original) from something that's not really explained. But by the time the ship actually leaves Earth, 25 boring minutes into the movie, you could care less.

The Robinson family is headed up by Professor John

Robinson (William Hurt), who snoozes through his lines in his quest to drag his family across the galaxy to Alpha Prime, paving the way for a mass evacuation.

The oldest daughter, Judy (Heather Graham), the whiny teenager (Lacey Chabert of "Party of Five"), and underused mom (Mimi Rogers) pretty much take up oxygen and are talking props.

The only bright spots on the acting side are from Will (Jack Johnson), Maj. Don West (Matt LeBlanc of "Friends") and the best bad guy in the movies today, Gary Oldman as Dr. Zachary.

While Will and West provide comic relief, Zachary makes life very difficult for the Robinson family. He is not only a traitor, but he lies, sabotages the space ship and manages to belittle every-

Grade D+

William Hurt and Gary Oldman star in a space-action flick based on the old TV series about the adventures of the space-faring Robinson family. Also starring: Matt LeBlanc, Mimi Rogers.

thing in the classic bad-guy style.

This movie, for all its cliché lines and bad acting, does have one thing going — amazing special effects.

Two words: Space Spiders

These metallic arachnids and a scene where the Robinsons' ship flies through a planet blowing up, is almost worth seeing on the big screen.

Almost.

But for those of you that

may be babysitting this weekend or have kids, this movie is worth the money. I know this by observation. A family with three small children sat surprisingly still once the special effects got going.

Outside of Disney flicks, that rarely happens; so parents, you shouldn't pass the opportunity up.

But for those of you who want a plot and some kind of finality at the end of the movie, this is not for you. And for those of you who like great special effects but don't want to spend the \$6.50, wait six months and rent.

Sadly, for those of you who want something that resembles that funky, but cool, TV show of yesteryear, watch the Sci-Fi channel every afternoon and get a dose of the real thing.



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Threat of tornadoes no real reason to lose sleep over

I have to apologize to people who saw me yesterday. I'm sorry there were circles under my eyes and my hair was frizzy and that my overall attitude was kind of sour.

All right, I admit I was pretty scary. But, like always, I've got an excuse. You see, I must not be living right. Tuesday night I hit the sack at about 11 p.m. in great anticipation of good sleep.

Much to my amazement, there was a pounding at my door at 2:30 a.m. I immediately screamed at my neighbor. I thought it was another one of her pranks. But this time the alarm was legit.

It turns out the resident assistants caught wind of a tornado warning and made the entire dorm file into the middle stairwell. I didn't mind at the time because it was all in the name of safety, right?

But yesterday I found out that no one else had to waste 45 minutes of level 2 sleep. And, it even came to my attention that a tornado didn't even form in Warren County.

The more I thought about it, the more angry I got. It wasn't even necessary for me to waste that sleep and look like a crack addict the next day. I scared small children and students for no reason.

I guess some of you are thinking it's better to be safe than sorry, but I would much rather a tornado hit and I die in my bed than in the stairwell with a bunch of cranky college kids.

This whole tornado scare has really got me wondering about the safety of our buildings. I've noticed that the



WEEKEND SUPERPICKS
Scheri Smith

bricks aren't staggered, so they have less support.

I can just imagine waking up one night and finding myself buried in the rubble that used to be Rodes-Harlin.

Well, instead of pondering on that sickening thought, let's concentrate on the cooler things in life, the weekend.

It's the battle of the local bands this weekend, kids. There are two all-ages shows that sound pretty cool. So, crawl around your room and find at least \$4 in change and support the arts.

• **Punk Fest-On Saturday** beginning at 6:30 p.m., Half Sloppy and Fimp Slap will be performing at Diggle's on Old Louisville Road.

The show is for all ages and is \$4 at the door. Come on, all the cool kids are doing it, so you should too.

Call 782-8993 for more information or directions.

• **Punk 'Strikes Again—Seven Limbs** will be playing Saturday night at the Bowling Green National Guard Armory. This all-ages show has been deemed a "rock 'n' roll revolution" and is affordable at only \$3 at the door.

Other artists performing will be Dark Dominion and Luther. Also, Bowling Green's own Sixth Floor will be featured.

◆ Campus line

◆ **The Department of Physics and Astronomy** will present "Searching For E.T.," a program designed to explore the possibility of alien life.

It will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at 2:30 p.m. on Sundays starting April 14th in Hardin Planetarium.

The show is free. For more information contact Hardin Planetarium at 745-4044.

◆ **WKU Women's Studies Program's International Film Series** will present "Two Women" at 7 p.m. April 9 in Gerard Auditorium, in Garrett Center.

The movie is a survival story about a woman and her 13-year-old daughter in war-torn Europe.

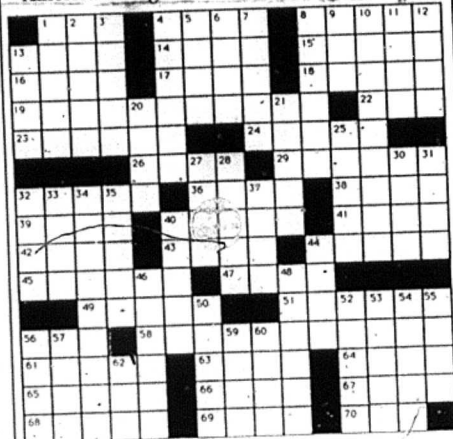
This 1951 film won actress Sophia Loren an Academy Award for Best Actress.

The film is 99 minutes long and in Italian with English Subtitles.

◆ **Dr. William W. Forgy, M.D.**, will be speaking at the WKU-HOSA Lecture on Health Care April 18th at the Institute for Economic Development. Dr. Forgy will be speaking on wilderness and survival medicine.

The lecture is free. For further information contact Bob Fulton at 745-3325.

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Across

1. Drs.' group
4. Suffix for game or young
8. At ___ in any event.
13. Slope lift
14. Lifted with effort
15. Mixed substance
16. Reduce tension
17. Pointed arch
18. Betray the confidence of; slang
19. Impeded by refusal to cooperate
22. Resident's ending
23. Washington group
24. Source of power
26. Gold and silver
29. Pressing
32. Castro, for one
36. Noted anthropologist
38. To ___ exactly
39. Once's follower, in tales
40. Let
41. Shore bird
42. Laurel
43. Suffixes for materials and revolution
44. Oval characters
45. Medicine
47. Structure with pillars
49. Blood pigments
51. Foot part
56. Paid player
58. Government benefit
61. Contraction
63. Throb
64. Film dog's name
65. Tabulae
66. One on the move
67. Courses; abbr.
68. Standing
69. Adam's grandson
70. Paver's stuff

8. Pantry
9. Guide's high note
10. Height-measuring instrument
11. Black substance
12. Actress Daly
13. Novel heroine
20. Jacket style
21. Musical number
25. Playing marble
27. Scottish uncles
28. Theater necessities
30. Notorious emperor
31. Bills
32. Part of a tooth
33. ___ date; modern
34. Marina structure
35. Hit Broadway play
37. Auxiliary; abbr.
40. Cloth made of flax
44. First name for a western writer
46. Breakfast order
48. Houston
50. Performer's spot
52. Chic
53. Seed covering
64. Become a part of
65. Orgs. joined by many teachers
56. Final conflagration
57. Laugh loudly
59. Religious image
60. The Cosby Show role
62. Resinous substance

Answer to last week's puzzle:



Down

1. Dwindle
2. Word with free or stone
3. Center of activity
4. Abundant flow
5. Old robe
6. Daredevil Knievel
7. Goes around and around

SHOWCLOCK

Greenwood 6

- Lost in Space — (F) 7:15 (S&S) 1:30, 4:15 & 7:15
- City of Angels — (F) 7:15 & 9:50 (S&S) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 & 9:50
- Primary Colors — (F) 7 & 9:45 (S&S) 1, 4, 7 & 9:45
- As Good As It Gets — (F) 7 & 9:45 (S&S) 1:15, 4, 7 & 9:45
- Titanic — (F) 7:30 & 8:30 (S&S) 1, 2, 4, 4:45, 7:30 & 8:30

Pizza 6

- Species II — (F) 7:45 (S&S) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45 & 7:45
- My Giant — (F) 7:15 & 9:30 (S&S) 2, 4:30, 7:15 & 9:30
- Odd Couple — (F) 7:45 (S&S) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45 & 7:45
- Mercury Rising — (F) 7:30 & 9:50 (S&S) 2:30, 4:45, 7:30 & 9:50
- Grease — (F) 7:30 & 9:40 (S&S) 2:30, 4:45, 7:30 & 9:40

- Good Will Hunting — (F) 7:15 (S&S) 2 & 7:15
- U.S. Marshals — (F) 9:40 (S&S) 4:30 & 9:40

Martin Twin Theatre

- Hard Rain — (F) 7:30 & 9:30 (S&S) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 & 9:30
- Spice World — (F) 7:45 & 9:45 (S&S) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45 & 7:45

DUC Theatre

- Full Monty — (F&S) 7

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Sports

Topplers look for 'golden' season

◆ *Western's offense won't be satisfied until the gridiron Tops win a I-AA Championship*

BY TRAVIS MAYO

It's etched in the minds of Hilltopper football players, a thought that could be there until the end of 1998.

It's the color gold, not to be mistaken with the color silver, a lesser element. It's what makes the Tops goal ever more desirable — wearing gold on their fingers at season's end, representing a national championship.

With the help of an offense that has the chance to be as explosive as ever, Western's football team hopes to bring home the biggest trophy in Division I-AA football in 1998.

Silver rings just won't be acceptable.

"We don't want to go out with a silver ring this year," senior fullback Jade Gummer said. "We want to go out with a big gold one."

Gummer will be filling big shoes in 1998, replacing senior fullback LaTravis Powell. Powell finished his last season when the Tops lost to Eastern Washington in the playoff quarterfinals last December. He rushed for 448 yards and eight touchdowns last year and was the go-to man in short-yardage situations.

Powell also blocked defenders to open holes for the running game — all part of the equation that resulted in the nation's top rushing offense.

Western coach Jack Harbaugh said he knows the loss of Powell means new things for the offense.

"LaTravis probably had the single-most influence because he's an excellent blocker from the I-formation standpoint," he said. "And he's gone, so we've got to change a little bit from what we've done in the past."

The Tops will run from a flexbone formation, allowing more runners in the backfield. All but one of the tailbacks are coming back.

Freshman Verron Haynes, who rushed for 305 yards last season, quit the team. Freshman Rod Smart was Western's leading tailback in 1997 with 496 yards.

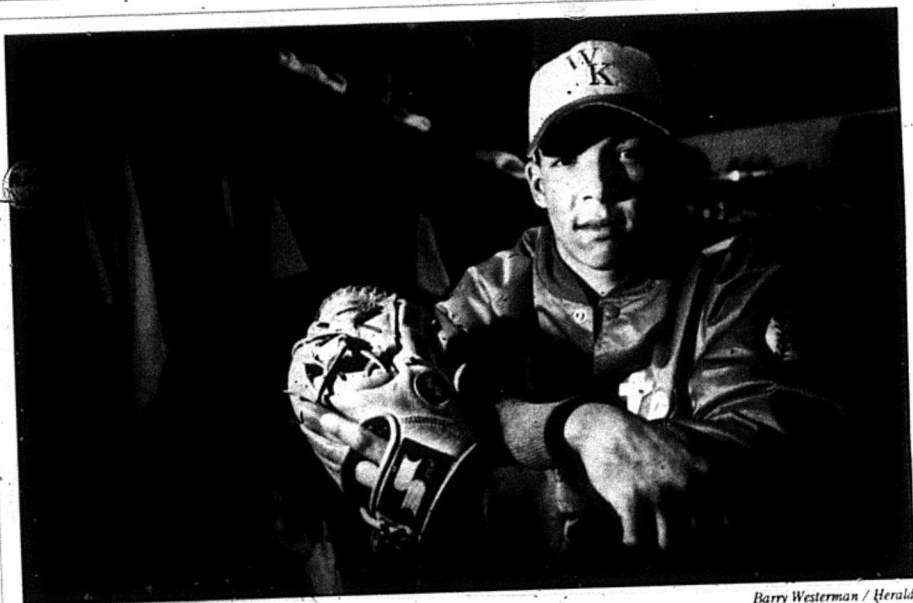
Also returning are senior tailback Jammie Kyle, who rushed 87 times for 472 yards and five touchdowns, and junior Mitchell Randle. Randle finished the year with 355 yards on the ground.

Gummer played wingback in '97, rushing for 295 yards. He also had 179 receiving yards for five scores.

Western's running backs will have an experienced offensive line in front of them. Senior offensive lineman Andy Hape and junior center Patrick Goodman lead the list of those returning. Hape said the line's experience should make it stronger than last year, something he hopes will help attain a national title.

As for the passing game, the Tops are losing senior wide receiver Joey Stockton. The two-

SEE GOLDEN, PAGE 17



Barry Westerman / Herald

Luis Rodriguez, a freshman from Rio Piedres, Puerto Rico, was recruited last year to play shortstop for the Hilltopper baseball team. "I love the competition of college baseball," Rodriguez said.

LIFELONG DIAMOND

◆ *Freshman shortstop Luis Rodriguez has always added his own flair to the game he's played most of his life*

BY TRAVIS MAYO

Luis Rodriguez has been playing baseball for a while.

He threw baseballs against walls inside his house in Rio Piedres, Puerto Rico, as young as 3 years old. The artificial sounds of the crowd were his creation while he played imaginary games.

"I just did what little kids do," Rodriguez said.

It's not imaginary baseball anymore.

The freshman shortstop began playing baseball when his late father, David Rodriguez, bought him a glove, a baseball and a bat at an early age. After many games of catch in the yard, Rodriguez started playing little league ball when he was 8. He came to

the United States his junior year of high school as part of the Fajardo Royals American Legion team, won the batting title and was named Rookie of the Year on the squad.

And then came the choice of where to go next. Rodriguez and his parents made getting a scholarship and earning a college degree the top priority. Western offered the perfect package in a good business administration program and an athletic scholarship.

The kid, now all grown up, made his way to the Hill.

Since his arrival at Western, Rodriguez has started 27 games at shortstop and is hitting .310. He's fit into the Topper baseball program and has become a crowd favorite in the process. Walking to home plate for at bats, Rodriguez is likely to hear chants of 'Luis! Luis!' echoing in the background. Maybe it's his name and maybe it's his origin — Rodriguez doesn't mind the attention. He also doesn't want it to stop.

"It pumps me up," he said,

laughing. "When I used to play, my parents screamed for me, but I didn't have fans screaming like here. It makes you give more effort to the game and play harder."

Rodriguez's actions on the field are just as noticeable as his accent. His quick reaction time to plays sometimes even leaves himself amazed.

And then there's the hop when he's in the field, jumping from one foot to the other and anticipating the batter to hit the ball in his direction. It's Rodriguez's trademark, something he's done since the games inside his house. There's no explanation for the hop because it comes natural. It also helps keep Rodriguez warm in what is sometimes cold weather. But, most of all, the hop is part of his game.

"I just try to stay in the game at all times," Rodriguez said. "When you play in field, you have to keep moving, and the hop just keeps me in the game."

Western coach Joel Murrie.

who first saw Rodriguez during American Legion play, thinks he has improved since his arrival on the Hill. Murrie said he thinks Rodriguez is moving along the right path and correcting mistakes all freshmen make on the field. He's also doing things the right way off the field.

"He works very hard," Murrie said. "Playing college baseball and going to school is a very difficult chore. When English is your second language, that makes it even more difficult."

"Sometimes he has to work twice as hard as other people in the classroom just to get the same results."

Rodriguez brings much more to the Tops than just his hop and foreign accent. Murrie said he's a team player — one that could be the best player on the team and go unnoticed.

"Luis never tries to be any different than anyone else on the field," Murrie said. "He's

SEE DIAMOND, PAGE 17

Baseball Tops to spend Easter on field

BY TRAVIS MAYO

Forget the Easter egg hunt. Western's baseball team will be hunting for wins after losing four of its last five games.

The Tops will host Sun Belt Conference foe Arkansas-Little Rock this weekend at Deneb Field. The series against the Trojans begins with a doubleheader at 2 p.m. Saturday. The two teams will play again at 1 p.m. Sunday.

While the Trojans' 2-12 conference record ranks the team last in the standings, Murrie said his team never underestimates opponents. This weekend won't be any different.

"They are the most improved team in the league,"

Murrie said. "They beat us twice last year, which was very upsetting, because we failed to go out and be aggressive and play the game hard."

Last year's loss is still on sophomore pitcher Josh Novotney's mind. Novotney (2-4), who will likely start one of the games Saturday, remembers what losing to UALR in 1997 did to the rest of the season.

"It turned the whole season around," he said. "We were thinking third or fourth place, and they kind of ruined our season. It's kind of a little bit of payback when they come here."

Tops lose two straight

Western was part of a mile-

stone last night. It just happened to be for the wrong side.

Austin Peay coach Gary McClure earned his 300th career win at the expense of the Tops. Western couldn't shake the Governors, losing 9-8 in 10 innings.

The Tops led Austin Peay (15-22) 7-5 going into the bottom of the sixth. The Governors tied the game in the seventh, but Western answered with a run of its own in the ninth.

The one-run lead wasn't enough. Austin Peay sent the game into extra innings, winning in the 10th.

Western freshman pitcher Brian Houdek (2-2) gave up the winning run and picked up the loss.

The Tops were led by junior first baseman Lorenzo Ferguson, who went 3-for-5 and had two runs batted in. Ferguson also hit his third home run of the year in the second. Freshman shortstop Luis Rodriguez also hit 3-for-5, with two RBIs.

Vandy beats Tops

Vanderbilt (19-14) doubled the score on Western on Tuesday night in Nashville, 14-7.

The Tops led 7-3 going into the bottom of the fourth inning. That's when Vanderbilt scored four runs on three hits to tie the game. The Commodores added five more runs in the sixth and another in the eighth to seal the game.

Hilltoppers adjust to Felton's intense coaching style

◆ **Tops awake at 6 a.m. for conditioning and exercise as they prepare for a new program under Felton**

BY GEORGE ROBINSON

In two and a half weeks as coach, a young, high-energy former assistant from Clemson has labored in molding his version of the Hilltoppers.

Dennis Felton has taken no time in reshaping the attitudes, work ethic and expectations of a team that has withered over the past three seasons.

"This has already been an enormous undertaking and will continue to be until we get this program back on its feet," Felton said. "I've been trying to take care of business since I've been here, and believe me, it's been hectic."

After attending the NCAA Final Four on March 28, Felton has been on nonstop recruiting

trips for not only players, but for his coaching staff.

As of now, Ken McDonald is the only member of Felton's staff. McDonald was also a product of Rick Barnes' staff at Clemson.

"Ken's kind of been my right-hand man," Felton said. "He's the only one that's been in the trenches with me thus far."

Felton is in between recruiting periods, having just completed the April 15 period, and will be busy during the week of the 10th through the 15th. NCAA rules allow times which coaches use for recruitment. In the time between April 5 and 10, coaches aren't allowed to have any contact with recruits. Felton said he will hold off naming the rest of his coaching staff until after the recruiting process is over.

After spending weeks on the road trying to sew up the future of the program, Felton now has the task of changing his team of the present.

The team had expressed the lack of discipline and commit-

ment during former Coach Matt Kilcullen's tenure, but with Felton, it's only taken half of a month to realize what it'll be expected to do.

The players get up at 6 a.m. for conditioning that includes wind sprints, endurance training and agility exercises. By 7 a.m., they eat breakfast, followed by weight training (depending on class schedules). During the afternoon, they play pick-up games in Diddle Arena, followed by dinner in the early evening.

"Our days are pretty much booked," junior guard Kyle Chapman said. "It's been something we've all been adjusting to because we just didn't do these things with Kilcullen. But this is what I think it takes to bring success to any team."

For Felton, success doesn't just come in terms of wins and losses, but in what the players dedicate to themselves during the off-season.

"I plan on running this program for 12 months," Felton

said. "Success starts when you enter classes for the first time during a semester, and so much of basketball is determined by what you do outside the court. We've got to learn how to win, and I'm going to challenge them like they've never been challenged before — mentally and physically."

Right now, scholarship commitments are full, and because of NCAA regulation, coaches are not allowed to talk about any potential signees until they officially sign with a team, but Felton has expressed his pleasure with the recruiting process.

In the short period of time that the new coach and his team have had to talk, most players are pleased with the change.

"I haven't really gotten a chance to talk deep down with him, but from what I can see is that he is real intelligent and is a student of the game," junior guard Monty Latimer said. "I look forward to learning how he actually teaches us about the game. That was something we

really didn't have — a teacher."

Strong dismissed

When Dennis Felton took over as head coach at Western he was brought in with the hope of making an immediate impact. According to junior center Maurice Strong, Felton has wasted no time in making an impact decision.

Strong said that as of last week he has been kicked off the team because of disciplinary reasons.

"I'm just as surprised as everyone else," Strong said. "I'm still searching for an answer."

According to Strong, Felton dismissed the 6-foot-9 native of Memphis because of breaking a team rule of having facial hair. Strong also overslept during a team meeting.

"Maurice knew what was to be expected from him," Felton said. "When he didn't perform certain duties, I made the decision to release him. It's as simple as that."



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GOLDEN: Taggart to return

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

time All-American and "play-maker," as Harbaugh called Stockton, caught 39 passes for 722 yards last season. He also had 644 return yards.

While the loss concerns Harbaugh, he said the new offensive scheme will enable more players to get into the passing routes.

But that's no reason to erase an option attack that brought the Tops a 10-2 record in 1997.

"To go away from the (option) would be something wrong," Gummer said. "We're just going

to keep plugging away at the same thing we've been doing, just from a different formation.

"We've got to fix a few things here, and we've got to fix a few things there, but when it rolls around to September, we're going to be just as powerful — hopefully a little more powerful."

And the leader of the option is back. Senior quarterback Willie Taggart is expected to graduate in August and regain the year he lost as a Proposition 48 freshman.

He rushed for a school record 1,257 yards last year and

scored 16 times.

Taggart's at the top of the Western career quarterback-rushing list with 2,664 yards and enters 1998 ranked second on the NCAA Division I-AA quarterback list behind Jack Douglas, who rushed for 3,764 yards at the Citadel (1989-92).

Taggart said he knows this will be his last chance to win the gold. He also said he knows it can happen.

"There's no reason why we shouldn't win it all," he said. "We've just got to go out there and play hard every play, and we should win it."

Florida International new Sun Belt member

HERALD STAFF REPORT

Florida International, a former member of the Trans American Athletic Conference since 1990, will begin its membership in the Sun Belt Conference on July 1, Sun Belt Commissioner Craig Thompson said Wednesday.

The Miami-based university sponsors 17 NCAA Division-I sports, including championship soccer teams and a perennial power in women's college basketball.

The women's team has averaged 23 wins per season during the '90s, including a 29-2 mark this season, while topping out at No. 12 in the Associated Press poll and earning its fourth trip in five seasons to the NCAA Tournament.

The men's program completed a 21-8 record, reaching the

conference championship.

The Sun Belt adds Florida International after dropping regulars Jacksonville, Lamar and Texas-Pan American.

"This is like adding a better player to your team," said Rob Bernardi, conference assistant commissioner. "Jacksonville, Lamar and Pan-Am just were not strong enough, and we have been planning this for a time."

Bernardi expressed interest in further building the conference with schools he described as major media-market schools.

"We like to bring that attraction to the conference," he said. "We've been involved with talks with the University of Denver and schools that have a major market. You'll be able to see the results next season when you look at our power ratings."

DIAMOND: Shortstop sparks Tops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

been brought up in an atmosphere that you play as a team."

Arms folded across his knees, a gold No. 10 medallion

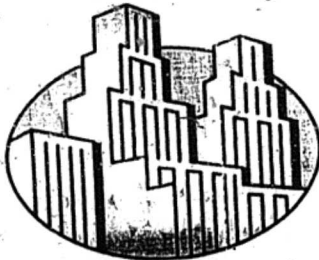
hanging from a chain, Rodriguez said college baseball has been everything he expected. He just wants his team to start winning and make a run for the postseason.

No matter what happens,

Rodriguez will still be playing the same game he's been playing since he was 3. It's more than just a game to this kid-turned-adult. It's a passion.

"I love baseball — always have," Rodriguez said

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8 p.m.

Van Meter
Auditorium



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The Brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha of Western Kentucky University would like to thank the following people for their help in making the Boys Club of Bowling Green Easter Egg Hunt a success:

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Bob Geoghegan
Wayne Orscheln
Big Red (Holly Russel)
Shelina Eakles, Angela England-Sexton,
Stan England, Frank Ragland and the entire staff at the Boys Club

Over sixty of Bowling Green's area youth were treated to an afternoon filled with visits from the Easter Bunny and Big Red, as well as Easter candy and a cookout.

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Johnson ponders pro leagues

By Jerry Brewer

Western senior center Leslie Johnson's request for an extension on signing the WNBA's contract has been granted. She now has until tomorrow to choose whether she wants to be considered for that league.

The WNBA mandates that players sign a contract to enter its draft, which makes them ineligible to compete in the ABL's draft camp.

Johnson has been wavering between the two leagues.

"If I had to say I was leaning one way, it would be to the WNBA," Johnson said Sunday night. "But nothing's finalized. Just a week ago, I was leaning toward the ABL."

Johnson has accepted an invitation to the ABL's draft camp, but she said that does not mean she will go to the ABL.

"I'm still negotiating, trying to figure out where I fit best," said Johnson, who averaged 18 points and 8.4 rebounds last season.

Teammate and roommate Danielle McCulley, a senior forward who averaged 15.2 points and 8.1 rebounds last year, has already announced that she wants to go to the ABL.

The ABL Pro Draft Camp is April 22-26 in San Francisco. The WNBA's camp is April 16-18 in Chicago.

It was previously reported erroneously that the WNBA draft day was April 26. In actuality, it's

scheduled for April 29. Also, the ABL has changed its draft day from May 4 to May 5.

Notes

◆ Former Lady Topper Trina Wilson has been invited to try out for WNBA's New York Liberty. Coach Steve Small said.

Wilson, who played from 1989 to 1993, averaged 4.4 points and 3.1 rebounds in four years as a Lady Topper. She also served as an administrative assistant in 1995 before leaving to become an assistant coach at Delaware.

◆ Small also said pro coaches have asked him about former Lady Topper Michelle Reed.

Reed, who played at Western from 1994 to 1996, averaged 4.8 points during her Western career. Reed left the team midway through her senior season for unspecified reasons.

◆ Western still has two scholarships available for next season. Small said he and his staff are evaluating junior college post players. He said if they can find a post player, who can come in here and earn a starting position, "then the Lady Toppers would sign her."

"We wouldn't sign a two-year player who couldn't come in and contribute," Small said. "I like the team we have right now, so we're not in desperate need of filling those spots."

◆ The Lady Toppers are feverishly working out the kinks in their 1998-1999 schedule. With the

departure of Lamar and Texas-Pan American from the Sun Belt Conference, scheduling has become a problem.

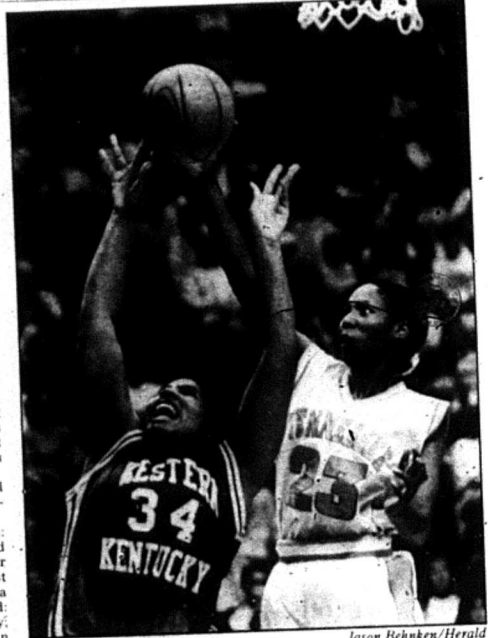
◆ Help has come from Florida International, a women's basketball power, which announced it will join the conference this week. But the Lady Toppers are still having to schedule more out-of-conference games than usual.

"It has been a scheduling nightmare," Small said. "Usually, out of a 26-game schedule, we schedule eight non-conference games. This year, we have to schedule 16."

◆ But some marquee matchups have been already scheduled. Next season, Western hosts Wisconsin and Southern California, traditionally strong teams. Also, the Lady Toppers will renew a rivalry against Vanderbilt on Dec. 31 in Nashville.

◆ At the Lady Toppers' annual banquet on Tuesday, the following awards were handed out:

Co-Most Valuable Players: Johnson, McCulley, senior guard Laurie Townsend and senior forward Sha'Ronda Allen; Most Improved: junior forward Shea Lunsford; Sixth Woman Award: junior forward Kristi Hartley; Rookie of the Year: freshman forward Sha'Rae Mansfield; Coaches Award: junior guard Katashia Witche; Harry Burns Courage Award: freshman guard Natalie Powers.



Jason Behnken/Herald

Senior center Leslie Johnson struggles for a rebound against Tennessee's Chamique Holdscrow in the NCAA tourney. Johnson must decide by tomorrow if she wants to be considered by the WNBA.

Track team prepares for tough meet; women finish strong

By Sarah Ramsey

The Sea Ray Relays have a history of being a vigorous head-to-head competition requiring high individual performances.

Only eight Western track and field members will travel to Knoxville, Tenn., to compete. The rest will enjoy a competition free weekend for the first time in a long time.

More than those eight were selected to participate in the four-

day meet, but because of their physical health, will not risk it.

"This meet is very demanding," Western coach Curtiss Long said. "We're only going to take those things that are working."

The competition will consist of teams that are ranked the best in the South Eastern Conference and Ohio Valley Conference, including Kentucky and Tennessee.

"I have even seen Olympic athletes in the long jump and hurdles

at this meet," sophomore Erik Jenkins said.

Jenkins will be competing in the long jump, while sophomore Valerie Lynch will be in the 3,000-meter run. Both are looking for one good time before the conference.

"A good time will move me up to a faster race for conference," Lynch said.

Emotion results

Western's track and field team

competed over the weekend at the Semotion Relays. The men finished fifth out of seven teams, while the women finished sixth out of seven.

Blick finished second in the javelin throw with a distance of 124.2". She also finished third in the discus throw with a distance of 125.11".

The Toppers finished fourth in the 4X200-meter relay with a time of 1:33.69.

Jenkins finished fourth in the

long jump with a distance of 227.25".

The women's distance medley relay finished fifth with a time of 12:58.10.

Sophomore Parvin Green finished sixth in the shot-put with a distance of 47.1".

Sophomore Laura Wesseling finished eighth in the long jump with a distance of 172.75".

Junior Sonya Butler finished ninth in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.17.

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GREEK WEEK 1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Blood Drive
Monday - Wednesday, April 13 - 15, 12:00 - 6:00, Preston Center

Faculty Appreciation
Tuesday, April 14, Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at 440 Main

Greek Feud
Wednesday, April 15, 8:30 p.m. at Grise Hall Auditorium

Events Day
Thursday, April 16, 3:00 p.m. at Smith Stadium Track

Tug-A-War
Friday, April 17, 1:00 p.m. at the Agriculture Farm

Awards Convocation
Sunday, April 19, 7:00 p.m. at DUC Theatre

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GRASS ROOTS
Jed Conklin

Rio hiking tough but enjoyable

The rising sun woke us up early and camp was broken in short order. The drive to the check-in station, Panther Junction, was 30 miles inside the park. We waited for two hours for a back country camping pass and route to take us through the week.

The three of us hit the trail about 2 p.m. and had a hard seven-mile hike ahead before nightfall. The terrain was desert, and it was hot and dry. All the water we would drink had to be carried. At a gallon a day and nine pounds a gallon, we were looking at carrying 18 to 20 pounds of water each.

When we reached the trail, the trail head read "extremely strenuous, experienced hikers only." The rocky terrain led down a 1,500-foot canyon near the border of Mexico on the Rio Grande River.

One of my trailmates, Brett, was in bad shape during his first hike he had one hell of two days. He was getting weak and tired, his feet hurt, and he was holding us back big time. We had almost decided to stop above the river and camp but luckily decided we were too close to stop.

This last canyon almost killed him, cursing and yelling was all we had left.

The camp, however, was gorgeous. The sunset provided a crimson and burnt orange color to the steep cliffs and canyons. The river turned fire red with the reflection of sinking ember. Time stopped and nature seeped in my every pore. This was the most stunning landscape I had ever walked.

The hike out was hard, and Brett was giving it his all. Booze and my pack weighed 65 to 70 pounds each. Brett's weight: 35 pounds.

We hiked slow to let Brett stay close and turned a three day hike into two days and one night. We now had one night to lay over before we hit the mountains so we stayed at the Stillwell Ranch and got another round of showers, cold drinks and hot meals.

Before we headed to Stillwell, we took a detour to Mexico via a 82 ride on a john boat. The poor community offered little more than cheap beer, high spirits for corn soil and the best three burritos you could buy for a dollar.

The mountains were beautiful. The first tree we had seen in days covered every inch of the mountains. The first day's hike was 1 1/2 miles straight up 2,000 feet of mountain.

The camp was good, and the view on the trip we actually had time to sit and rest at camp during the daylight hours. We lay out on the rocks like sunning turtles and soaked up as much of the sun as we could.

The next day we hiked seven miles and to the highest point in the park. The view is indescribable. Bears, mountain lions and deer use the mountain as a home, so bear boxes are used to store food and stinkables.

Our camp was great and again we had time to enjoy the day. We were sad this was our last night but happy for the chance to experience Big Bend, Texas. The next day we flew off the mountain and to the base camp, where I bought a stickers and a Mountain Dew, sat back and smiled at what we had accomplished.

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