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Man robbed, murdered near campus

Police have no suspects

BY JEREMY S. LOGSDON
Herald reporter

A Bowling Green man frantically phoned 911 Sunday night after he was shot in the back of the head and allegedly robbed in the front yard of his Chestnut Street home.

Kevin Ragland would die shortly after arriving at the Medical Center at Bowling Green, becoming the city's second murder case this year.

Police are still investigating the circumstances surrounding

To report information:

Anyone with information on the murder can call the Bowling Green Police Department or Crime Stoppers at 270-761-CLUE.

the robbery and murder of the 29-year-old. They have no suspects.

An injured Ragland made it to a phone and called 911 at 10:35, according to police.

A Western student narrowly missed the shooting.

Trying to help, neighbor Ryan Robinson, a Bowling Green senior, ran onto the scene. Robinson could not be reached for comment.

Bob Carrioco, who lives across the street from Ragland, heard the shot and ran to his front door to investigate. He said he only saw outlines of people on the lawn, but didn't look further.

Police aren't releasing many details of what happened that night. According to the police report, Ragland told his girlfriend who arrived at his apartment later, "I've been shot and robbed." The girlfriend's name was not released.



Kathleen Flynn/Herald

A police officer investigates 1341 Chestnut St., where Kevin Ragland was shot Sunday night. Ragland was able to call the police after being shot, but later died at The Medical Center at Bowling Green.

An autopsy was to be performed yesterday in Louisville, police said.

Many other neighbors were surprised by the outburst of violence in the peaceful area known as the College Hill Historic District.

"This is a safe neighborhood," next-door neighbor Jennie Melden said. "If you look, mostly families live here."

The apartment complex where the murder occurred is four houses down from the North Wing of the Thompson Complex.

The area of Chestnut between 14th and 15th Avenues was blocked off for several hours

Sunday night while investigators worked on the scene. Bowling Green Detective Mike Case is leading the investigation.

This is the first confirmed murder in Bowling Green this year, but the second murder case. In April, 20-year-old Amanda Kelly turned up missing from her Nashville Road home.

This year's total is actually fewer than in some recent years.

Though there was only one reported murder last year, six were reported in 1997, said Bowling Green Police Sgt. Bill Key.

The recent criminal activity around campus is raising safety

concerns with many students.

"It sounds like it's getting pretty tough to live around here," said Columbia freshman Jeremy McClister.

Campus safety is one reason some students chose to come to Western, especially Jason Simpson, a sophomore from Booneville, Ind.

"I went to Indiana State, then I transferred. I moved out of Terre Haute down here because it was safer," Simpson said from the Pi Kappa Alpha house on Chestnut.

"Murders and stabbings happen every other week up there. I'm kind of scared since it was so close. I'm going to get some guys

together if I go out walking from now on."

Natalie Fields, a freshman from Hendersonville, Tenn., said crime seems to be getting worse around campus.

"Here lately it doesn't seem very safe with the threatening phone calls and the robbery," she said.

Melden wants out of the once-peaceful Chestnut Street neighborhood.

"I move out in December," she said, "but this makes me want to move out quicker. It's just weird."

Herald reporter Brian Moore contributed to this story.

Big-name concerts may arrive on campus

Committee to evaluate prices, facilities

BY MATTIAS KAREN
Herald Reporter

Big name bands could be coming to Western as soon as next spring — if the money and facilities can be found.

A university concert committee has been formed this semester to look into the possibilities of bringing big concerts to Western, something many say is impossible because of a lack of facilities.

But the possibilities are there. Student Government Association President Amanda Coates said, it's just a matter of putting up the money. And after Coates raised the issue with Scott Taylor, the student activities and organization director, the committee was formed to see what the campus' capabilities are, and what the

fixed cost of putting on a concert would be.

"I think everyone would like to see a fall concert and a spring concert," Taylor said. "Now, making that happen is easier than saying it."

Coates, a Brownsville senior, said she was frustrated with the university spending money on several unknown bands to come to campus instead of one big name. She said almost half of the University Center Board's \$75,000 concert budget was spent over the summer without student input for tailgating bands and other smaller concerts.

"You're not going to get a major band here for under \$50,000," Coates said. "To come back to school and see half our money for concerts gone is just a little too much."

Taylor said he didn't know whether students had been involved in booking bands over the summer, but the tailgating

Women plagued by mice

Bemis Lawrence Hall infested with rodents

BY CAROLINE LYNCH
Herald reporter

It's been a while since some women in Bemis Lawrence Hall have had a good night's sleep. It isn't the train or loud music from across the hall that is keeping them up — it's the pitter-patter of mice paws running through the vents and walls.

Though the footsteps of the tiny field mice aren't loud, Tameka Lovett and Robin Aniton are sleeping with one eye open to watch for the rodents walking up the trash chutes and in through the vents.

"It's just gross," said Aniton, a Louisville junior. "We shouldn't have to live like this. We pay too much money for these dorms." Aniton and her roommate, Lovett, a Louisville sophomore, had heard rumors from past residents, but last week they saw for themselves.

"One day I saw one running

behind the TV," Lovett said. "We've seen one about three different times, but we hear them all the time. The custodian was telling me that they have a real big problem with mice in the building anyway."

But Lovett wasn't going to settle with a rodent-ridden room. She started making calls that day and she filled out a maintenance report. There was no response for three days. When maintenance came, they set down "cheap" traps and poison for the mice, Lovett said.

"With all of the money that lady spent on her furniture, you'd think they could put some of it toward decent mouse traps," she said. Lovett was referring to an unrelated purchase of more than \$18,000 worth of office furniture by Huda Melky, Western's Equal Opportunity/ADA Compliance Officer.

Lovett soon had a dead mouse under her desk. But when she went to the front desk to report it, she was told that it would be a day or so before anyone came by to get it. So they did it themselves.

SEE MICE, PAGE 5

INSIDE

Sealed with a kiss

Pucker up and prepare yourself. The lip balm you use could be considered addictive. Support groups exist for the malady. So do people who think it's a lot of hokey.

PAGE 7

Candidate for chief visits

Bowling Green police, Capt. Jerry Wells came to campus today to interview for the campus police chief job and to field questions from students, faculty and staff.

PAGE 6

Tipoff time on the way

Junior guard Nashon McPherson has big expectations for the upcoming Hilltopper basketball season.

PAGE 14



Weather forecast

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
58° 41°	56° 42°	61° 37°	65° 37°	64° 35°
Partly cloudy	Mostly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy	Partly cloudy

T: 56°/38°, cloudy
W: 57°/41°, cloudy
R: 60°/38°, cloudy
F: 64°/39°, cloudy
S: 62°/35°, cloudy

Louisville

• Lexington

T: 60°/39°, cloudy
W: 58°/40°, cloudy
R: 60°/38°, cloudy
F: 64°/39°, cloudy
S: 62°/35°, cloudy

Owensboro

T: 56°/38°, cloudy
W: 57°/41°, cloudy
R: 60°/38°, cloudy
F: 64°/39°, cloudy
S: 62°/35°, cloudy

Paducah

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W: 59°/45°, cloudy
R: 61°/40°, cloudy
F: 65°/42°, cloudy
S: 63°/40°, cloudy

Nashville

T: 60°/40°, cloudy
W: 58°/41°, cloudy
R: 61°/39°, cloudy
F: 65°/42°, cloudy
S: 63°/40°, cloudy

Weather information provided by StormCenter 12, where you can get an updated forecast at 6 tonight.

STORM 12
CENTER

Clearing the Air

A story in Thursday's Herald once Faculty Regent Mary Ellen Miller.



Cara VanLeuven/Herald

Happy days: During the intrasquad meet at the Preston Health and Activities Center, (from left to right) sophomore Nicole Fisher, freshman Meredith McCauley, junior Lisa Cummins and freshman Deanne Thomas cheer for the white team before the first heat of timed finals.

Crime Reports

Arrests

◆ Amanda Marquise Blair, Bolton Schoolhouse Road, was charged Sunday with DUI. She was released from the Warren County Regional Jail the same day on a \$500 unsecured bond.

◆ Ashcon Karbasi, Halls Chapel Road, was charged Saturday with alcohol intoxication. He was released from the

Warren County Regional Jail after five hours.

◆ Troy Keith Watson, College Street, was charged Friday with alcohol intoxication. He was released from the Warren County Regional Jail after five hours.

◆ Kevin Wilson Scott, Kentucky Street, was charged Friday with DUI under 21, disregarding a traffic control device, possession of alcohol by minor and operating a

motor vehicle without an operator's license in possession. He was released from the Warren County Regional Jail on a \$1,000 unsecured bond the same day.

Report

◆ Richard E. Catrett, Barnes-Campbell, reported Thursday a gold necklace, valued at \$600, stolen from his dorm room that day.

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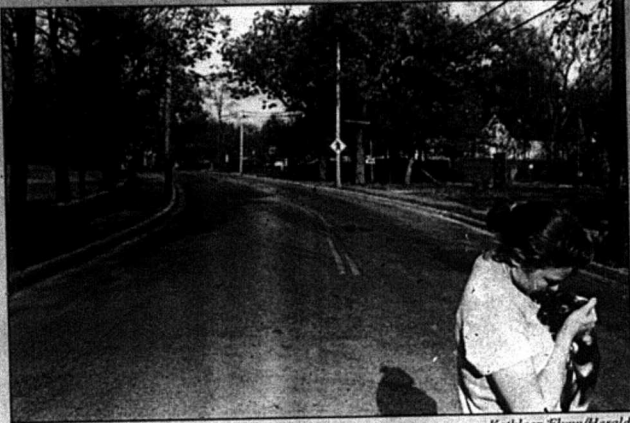
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Kathleen Flynn/Herald

Puppy love: Bowling Green sophomore Susan Scariot escorts her 8-week-old puppy across Chestnut Street last Monday. "I went with a friend to get him a dog, and I ended up taking Casey home because she was so cute," she said.

Professor Profile

Teacher has music in his heart

By KATE CORCORAN
Herald reporter

In an age of profit-at-all-cost businesses and eager-to-make-a-buck employees, it can often seem that loyalty has gone the way of Alf and New Kids on the Block. That's why there's much to be said for being "true to your school."

That old Beach Boys tune must be running through David Gibson's head a lot these days. This music appreciation and voice teacher has returned to Western to teach in the same building he once sat in as a student in the exact same room he taught in as a graduate student two decades ago.

It seems like a time warp to be back, Gibson admitted, although there are some obvious differences. Before he graduated in 1977, the current music department had yet to be built, and he is surprised at how old many of the campus' other buildings look. Many aspects have remained the same, though.

"There is a wonderful music faculty here," he said. "They give enormous individual attention."

That dedicated staff is one that Gibson has been a part of since the spring of this year.

Although it's only recently that his life has led him back to

Western, it was a journey that began more than 20 years ago.

Gibson was "a good student and a good actor" said his former mentor and voice and music teacher, Virgil Hale.

Before he graduated with a bachelor's in music education and a master's in music and vocal performance, Gibson composed

"There is a wonderful music faculty here. They give enormous individual attention."

— David Gibson
music instructor

and directed an opera called "Anthony and Cleopatra," the opening night of which he called his "favorite memory involving music."

He also landed the lead in two Western operas — "The Barber of Seville" and "Rigoleto." The double casting led the dean to question Gibson being able to undertake both tasks despite what Hale called his "tremendous talent."

Today Gibson is a full-time minister of music at Bowling Green's Presbyterian Church, and is teaching again at Western after

a 12-year foray into public school teaching. He also founded and became the first conductor of the Southern Kentucky Opera Guild and, the Bowling Green Community Chorus as well as being a frequent lecturer on the relationship between art and spirituality.

Gibson knew he wanted to teach though, because he said he wants to pass along his love of music. He loves the interaction with students that teaching gives him, but admits with a laugh that he hates grading papers and tests.

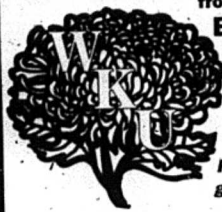
His approach to teaching is summed up in one word — "enthusiasm." It is a trait he carries into all aspects of his job whether it is in lectures to his classes of more than 70 surveys of music students or private voice technique lessons.

"When I'm enthusiastic, so are my students," he said.

Hale always encouraged his young prodigy to pursue a career in music because he saw an "uncanny ability to pull students" in the direction he thought they needed to go.

Whether it's teaching young children or Western students, directing an opera or a church choir, Gibson is a man who knows the meaning of keeping a song in his heart, because as Hale put it, "music is where his heart is."

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Happy Birthday

Happy 21st Birthday Jennifer Holland

Opinion

Crime report delayed with lame excuse

In self-defense, one of the most important weapons is awareness. Students' safety is severely hindered when they aren't told what's happening on their campus.

Last week, when a student reported he was held at gunpoint and robbed in the parking structure, students had no clue. Despite the release of several other readily available crime reports that day, Western's Police Department claims it couldn't release the incident report because the department's typewriter was broken.

How convenient. If members of the Herald staff hadn't heard about the alleged robbery through the "friend of a friend" system, students might have never known about the incident. Students have a right to know what's happening on their campus.

The department didn't violate any open records law, but that's not the point. The point is the safety of students is at hand. More accurately, the safety of the students is in the police department's hands.

If a robbery, an assault or other violent crimes takes place on campus and no one knows about it, chances are someone else is going to get hurt.

Western's police department has always lauded itself as a professional police department. Well, the Bowling Green Police department and the Kentucky State Police release their reports the day of the event, if not the next. Why should Western's department act differently?

Western's police department must act responsibly. That means releasing all police reports promptly so students are aware of everything that happens on campus: the good, the bad and the ugly.

No one is protected when negative incidents are kept under wraps, except maybe the university's image as a safe school. And even then, students can't trust that image when rumors are flying about what might have happened.

If the information is out in the open, rumors are squelched and students can trust what they're told.

The issue: Campus police claim a broken typewriter prevented the prompt release of an armed robbery report.

Our view: Student safety depends on their knowing everything that happens on campus.



Letters to the Editor

Advice from an undergrad

I'm spending this semester in Bristol, Conn., on an internship. As an outsider looking in, things on campus seem just as messed up as ever. How can such varying degrees of intelligence be together in such a small town or on a campus of higher learning?

First off, is it just me or are the people in high places turning on students? What about the furniture fiasco? Aren't students still getting tagged on University Boulevard?

Here's a solution to both problems from Western's lowest of the low, an undergrad... to President Gary Ransdell. Sell Huda's \$18,000 love seat and pay the salary of a year-round crossing guard. Do the math, it works out.

If we can afford a shopping spree by a wannabe Martha Stewart this year — with tuition rising — why can't we afford a crossing guard? Eighteen thousand dollars is a whole lot of money to pay someone to stand in the road and stop traffic, so it shouldn't be hard to find someone. Or how about

paying students \$5.50 an hour do it?

I'm just a peon. Students and I can think this stuff through. What are we paying the administration for?

The next blatant act of stupidity was recorded in last Thursday's Letter to the Editor section ("This is good discrimination," Oct. 14). Eric Chesley says being compassionate to the gay lifestyle is the same as being compassionate toward terrorists and sex offenders. I think that's the most ridiculous thing I've heard all year, including the Student Government Association's pitch to bring Dave Matthews Band to campus.

Loving someone outside the norm and releasing toxins in a subway are in no way related. They aren't even in the same ballpark. He said not judging others was dangerous, and discriminating against gays was good discrimination.

Mr. Chesley, you shouldn't shield your twins from the gay couple in 2B. You should guard them from your views.

I can't wait to get back on campus. And who knows? Maybe I'll be the first

student hit on University Boulevard in the year 2000. What an honor.

John Darr
Junior from Jeffersonville, Ind.

Distasteful photo offensive

In the Oct. 14 edition of the Herald, a disturbing scene jumped out from the front page. (It's a photo) a guy in white skirt was relieving himself before his big stage debut. Is this the standard that the Herald is trying to set for future heirs to the newspaper throne?

The Herald has been lauded as an award-winning university newspaper. However, the sophistication of those awards wasn't shown in the "tactful" picture placed on the front page. The picture insults the intelligence of Western's students. I don't recall The New York Times or The Courier-Journal resorting to distasteful plays to sell newspapers.

If the Herald is trying to legitimize itself as a serious publication, that picture has set the newspaper back a few years. Please showcase the best of campus life and leave the tabloid drama to the National Enquirer.

Joyce Walker
Louisville junior

Do you feel safe in the parking structure?



"Yes, I guess I'm just too naive to think something would happen."

Alisha Wassermuehler
freshman from Evansville, Ind.



"Not at night. I don't feel like I could take care of myself if something happened."

Kelley Hergert
Bowling Green sophomore



"Yes, I've got that 18-year-old ego that makes me think nothing can hurt me."

Kyle Langhear
Bowling Green freshman



"Yes, There's not a lot of violence on campus."

Eric Logan
Madisonville sophomore



"Not at night. I'm a girl and I don't really know my way around yet."

Shelley Brown
Owensboro freshman

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► Campus News

Ground breaking in Glasgow

Lt. Gov. Steve Henry will be among the dignitaries breaking ground in Glasgow tomorrow for the South Regional Postsecondary Education Center.

The ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. tomorrow on the site next to Barren County High School on Trojan Trail. Henry, a Western graduate, will join President Gary Ransdell, Michael McCall, president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Freddie Travis, Barren County Judge-Executive; and Glasgow Mayor Charles Honeycutt.

The Glasgow center is one of five created by the 1998 General Assembly. It will include space for Western's Glasgow campus and for the Glasgow campus of Bowling Green Technical College.

—Matt Batchelder

EMS Academy appoints first director

Western's Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy has appointed Lee Brown as its first director.

The EMS Academy was formed last year to provide continuing education courses for EMS personnel. The academy plans to develop a bachelor's program in paramedicine in pre-hospital services at Western. The first degrees in an associate paramedicine will be awarded this December.

—Jason Ragan

Western grad joins Library of Congress

Peggy Bulger, who received a master's degree in folklore from Western in 1975, was appointed director of the American Folk Life Center for the Library of Congress. She started on July 6.

—Jason Ragan



Kathleen Flynn/Herald

Watching the planes dive on Saturday, spectators who came to the "Wings Over Bowling Green Airshow" experienced a fast and dynamic show with formation aerobatics for free.

MICE: Western has full-time pest control

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Their Resident Assistant, Rena Van Zee, had a similar problem a few semesters ago, but said the mouse in her room was quickly caught and disposed of. She said the problem seems to be getting better.

"It's been better, but it's only halfway into the semester so I don't really know yet," the Russellville junior said.

Last Tuesday Louisville freshman Jessica Volz, who lives in Bemis

Lawrence, saw a mouse run across her CD player. Volz's roommate called the hall director, but no one has been by to set traps or poison yet.

Brian Kuster, director of Housing and Residence Life, suggested that students turn complaints in at the desk if they have problems.

"If students don't report it, we don't know about it," Kuster said. "We've had one report from one resident this year."

He said Pest Control Director Larry Johnson works full-time to rid the campus of pests.

"This time of year it isn't unusual for mice to try to come inside, that's why we have someone at Western that deals with those issues," he said.

Johnson was on vacation last week but said the maintenance department takes care of pest reports right away.

"I know for sure that when they are caught and we are called they aren't left there for a day or two," he said.

Johnson said the only thing they can do for mice infestations is set traps and poison, because there are too many ways for the pests to get in.

David Lisanby, technical director at Nick's Termite and Pest Control

Inc., offered a few tips for residents.

Putting a door sweep on the door, putting food and silverware in plastic containers and covering vents with hardware cloth can help fend off the pests.

Lisanby said it's important to keep mice out because they are unsanitary.

"Basically what you are looking at is contamination because they... urinate constantly. It could be on your silverware and you wouldn't even know it."

—David Lisanby

Nick's Termite and Pest Control

help fend off the pests.

Lisanby said it's important to keep mice out because they are unsanitary.

"Basically what you are looking at is contamination because they dribble, or urinate, constantly," he said. "It could be on your silverware and you wouldn't even know it."

So far only Bemis has reported rodent problems, and Johnson said the situation will get better instead of worse as the cold weather comes on.

We Love Our New Initiates!

Emily Adams	Shelley Davis	Courtney Miller
Ginny Appleby	Heather Dickerson	Heather Minton
Rachel Batey	Sarah Duffer	Amanda Patrick
Christy Beck	Andrea Gonterman	Jessica Phillips
Brittany Benson	Ann Green	Brooke Sanders
Miranda Bloyd	Alison Hamerstadt	Lesley Smith
Julia Bodine	Tammy Hancock	Sandy Soria
Kelly Bright	Alison Johnson	Ellen Suwanski
Lauren Brindle	Sara Lusk	Abby Terry
Sarah Caraway	Laura McGown	Kristin Thomas
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Computer conquest starting at Western

Those who doubted the prophecy in numerous science fiction movies in which computers take over the world and enslave the human race should open their eyes and look at Western.

The conquest's roots have already begun as computers have decided the flip-Friday schedules — preferred by many students and faculty — must go.

It's a slippery slope. What's next?

The human race should have been

alarmed in 1997 when the "Deep Blue" computer delivered a crushing defeat to world champion chess player Garry Kasparov. But we ignored it.

Now it hits home.

Students may be forced to attend classes at 7:30 a.m. (that's A.M.) next year under the proposed new schedule, which would extend classes to 75 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday, and lower to 50 minutes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Student Government Association President Amanda Coates has said the change is better for commuter students. But why waste space trying to refute this logic? It's self-evident.

At least faculty leaders are showing good sense. Faculty Regent Mary Ellen Miller correctly calls this the "worst possible way in the world to make a decision. I think the decision about the length of class times should not be mandated by technological considerations."

Faculty Senate chairman Ed Wolfe asked the most obvious

question: "Why did you buy software that you knew wouldn't handle the current system?"

Yes, the human race is to blame for creating — and then becoming dependent on — these monsters.

Even as many are up in arms about the Y2K problem, we have ignored a warning about the impending dangers of this conquest. In "2001: A Space Odyssey" (that's almost one year away) HAL took over the spaceship. In "War Games," a

computer almost started World War III, and in "Terminator" they had already taken over. Maybe I sound paranoid, but just look at the evidence. First scheduling, then what? Where will it end? Beware of this technological tyranny.

Mystery solved

This is one unsolved mystery Robert Stack hasn't bothered to answer. What is a credenza?

We know it's a piece of furniture that Huda Melky, head of ADA/Equal Opportunity at Western, spent more than \$1,000 on to decorate her office. But since we've never really explained what it is, I feel an obligation to inform the public, especially after inventing the term "credenazagate."

Webster's defines credenza as a legless cabinet or sideboard. It has also been defined as a large storage unit with doors instead of drawers or a cross between a desk with a lot of drawers and a narrow table.

The public had the right to know. Especially since they paid for it.



NEWS & NOTES

Fred Lucas

Wells interviews for chief position

BY BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

Campus police chief finalist Jerry Wells isn't intimidated by the department's lack of funding, but he would like to see its operating budget increase if chosen as chief.

Wells was on campus yesterday to interview for the job and to attend forums held by the Government Student Association, faculty and staff and state and local law enforcement representatives.

Wells said he would like to see the university provide funding for the department to retain the three officers whose salaries

are being paid for by a federal Community Oriented Policing Services grant (COPS). The department currently is short three officers after a COPS grant ran out in 1997 and the university did not provide the funds to retain those positions.

The university received another COPS grant which will expire in May. Wells would like to see the number of officers return to 26, the number an independent study said the department needs. The department currently has four police cruisers in operation.

"The study said they need six cruisers," Wells said. "I think that six is not an unreasonable

number. You always need one or two for reserve in case one of the others goes down."

Wells said if the department kept the cruisers five to seven years, they would gain about 90,000 miles. If they gained more than 100,000 miles, they would not be able to be resold. He recommends a "proper rotation" of cars that would provide the university needs to buy one new car per year.

Wells is a native of Buffalo. He worked two years with campus police. He has been with the Bowling Green police department for 23 years and currently has 30 officers under him as captain.

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CONCERTS: Matthews Band debate continues

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

bands have been very popular so far this semester.

The new committee, with representatives from SGA, Alumni Relations, the UCB and other campus organizations, will have its first meeting next week, Taylor said.

Meanwhile, the Alumni Relations office is also increasing its efforts to fund a big-band concert. said director Gene Crume. Crume said one alumni had agreed to pay the bill to bring John Mellencamp to campus this Homecoming weekend, but the plans fell through because of scheduling problems.

Crume said now the office is hoping to arrange a concert of the caliber "our student body has not experienced in quite a while" this spring, if the money can be raised.

"We need to become more aggressive in recruiting a better level of concerts to come to Western," Crume said.

For Coates, this is a step closer to coming through on one of her major campaign issues when running for SGA president. After seeing performers like Dave Matthews playing at Murray State University and Eastern Kentucky University last year, Coates wanted to bring them to Western, too.

So Coates contacted Mad Booking, the booking agency in Nashville that brought Dave Matthews to those schools to see if the same could be done here. According to Mad Booking President Marcie Allen, it could. Allen said artists like Matthews, Fiona Apple, Tori Amos and Ben Folds Five could "easily" come to Western — for about \$50,000.

And as far as facilities, those should not cause a problem either, Allen said. The main concern at Western is the aging Diddle Arena, which can't support large speakers and lighting equipment in the ceiling. UCB advisor Bennie Beach, student activities and organizations coordinator said "that takes away about 90 percent of the bands that I know of."

But Allen said many artists can stack their speakers on the floor, eliminating that problem. "That's not a big deal at all," she said.

And Matthews, who is currently on an acoustic tour, only plays theaters that hold less than 2,500. That fits the description of campus facilities like the Garrett Conference Center Ballroom which fits about 1,240 people and Van Meter Auditorium, which seats about 1,000, Beach said. The amphitheater seats around 3,000, he said.

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Features

Kiss My Addiction

*Lip balm leaves lips
longing for more*

By ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

There's an addiction that is sweeping across the country. It moves silently, but there are certain tell-tale signs: constant lip licking, dry, cracked lips, a tube of cherry goo in a pocket. Lip balm addiction is out there.

Believe it or not, there are people out there who claim that yummy lip balm which never leaves people's pockets could be a nasty habit.

Addiction is a serious claim, but to lip balm? Can a person really become an addict? Some people believe so. For many people out there, it is a serious habit, and some others may not even know it.

"I use it at least twice a class period on the days I carry it," said Christian Alexander, a freshman from Mt. Juliet, Tenn. "It's soothing and I don't want chapped lips."

The temptation is certainly out there for Alexander and others with the same problem. There are at least eight major brands of lip balm all with five or more flavors or types. One company, Bonne Belle, carries more than 30 different flavors.

According to Lip Balm Anonymous, a support group for supposed abusers on the Internet, Carmex

brand lip balm is the brand of choice for most sufferers. It's Alexander's choice as well.

Paul Woelbing, the controller for Carmex and the grandson of the Carmex founder said that the belief about Carmex being addictive is a myth.

"What some people call an addiction is just a tendency to use something that works well for them," Woelbing said.

Also, there are no addictive substances in the ingredients.



tabor '99

Woelbing told the Lip Balm Anonymous support group that part of the misunderstanding that Carmex is addictive may have come from a misprint on the label.

Carmex contains salicylic acid, a drying ingredient used to help clear up cold sores. At one point in time, the ingredient list split the two words, ending the first line with "salicylic" and beginning the next line with "acid," Woelbing told Lip Balm

Anonymous. Carmex received calls wondering if the word acid meant there was LSD in Carmex. Needless to say, that is not the case.

"There's a very small percentage of people who react to the salicylic acid, but in that case I would just advise them to use a non-medicated product," Woelbing said.

From a medical standpoint, most doctors agree lip balm is not addictive, according to Lip

Balm Anonymous' web site. However, most chap stick junkies are lip-lickers. Licking your lips dries them out, and that is where lip balm comes in.

Eve Main, a nurse practitioner for Student Health Services, said she doesn't see lip balm addiction as real.

"I have no scientific knowledge of the subject, but in my personal experience, if you started using a product that made your lips feel good, and get good results, you might want to continue using it," she said. "I wouldn't consider that an addiction. It's smart."

Despite the medical opinion, some people still believe they are addicted and unable to break the habit.

According to the web site, Paula Begoun, a beauty industry critic, told Lip Balm Anonymous the tingling sensation caused by ingredients in some lip balms is drying and irritating, which causes a user to lick their lips. Lip-licking begins the whole cycle again.

Lip Balm Anonymous offers suggestions on how to overcome the "addiction." Their web site,

www.kevdo.com/lip-balm/, contains a 43-question quiz to determine if there is an addiction and also a 12-step program to help kick the habit. The site also offers opposing views about lip balm addiction.

So if there's a chance of addiction, don't despair, it is possible to overcome the problem.

"I've gotten better," Alexander said.

Two minutes later, she unconsciously reapplied her lip balm.

Campus Life

Some webpages a waste of cyberspace

While doing some research on the Internet, it struck me how many people out there have devoted a little acre of cyberspace to the wonder that is... themselves.



Molly Harper

commentary

There are millions of personal homepages out there which leads me to this question: Does everybody's personality really merit a webpage?

In this society where we seek fame in any form it will come, the homepage has become a way to package and market our lives.

It's as if we think our humdrum little existences can be justified and made interesting with blinking graphics and hyperlinks.

I'll admit it, even I have fallen into the seductive draw of "Cyber-shrines to Keanu," and appreciated the obsessive detail with which the proprietor chronicled Mr. Reeves' career, but I don't think I was as spiritually enlightened as I was supposed to be.

We're becoming so dependent on our computers even corporate America is catching on. Perhaps the most irksome aspect to the Internet is the rise of the corporate homepage. It seems like every product — from aspirin to toilet paper — has its own webpage. Now in some cases, this is smart marketing. "The Blair Witch Project" probably wouldn't have been the phenomenon it was if its web site hadn't kept the hype going.

But some products' tie-ins are just time. Tell me, am I ever really going to need to use www.tampax.com/? Is there any

information on the webpage I won't be able to read on the box or figure out for myself?

Are we really so computer-dependent that we can't figure out this stuff on our own? What's next? www.breathing.com, for people who can't remember on their own? With a big animated graphic of an air-flow chart of someone's head that blinks: "In the nose, out the mouth?"

I'm coming to understand the rise of the homepage is inevitable. You can be anyone you want in your own little universe.

But as we become more socially dependent on the

Internet, we're losing the ability to communicate face-to-face. It all has to be through email and chatrooms. We can't just talk about our interests any more; we're more comfortable hiding behind pithy little handles and talking to people who are so far away they couldn't possibly judge us.

I don't know, maybe I'm being an antiquated snob. Maybe we should immortalize every thought and impulse we have on the Internet. Post your comments on my homepage, www.whiner.com.

Molly Harper is a senior print journalism major from Paducah.

Student loans no free ride

By JENNIFER WALDRIDGE
Herald reporter

As her May graduation approaches, Glasgow senior Patti deHaas not only looks toward a career, but also paying off student loans.

While she knows it won't be easy to pay off such a large amount of money, she said she knew it was inevitable.

"I realize I have to pay it back," she said. "It's not that I can't pay it back, it's just knowing that I have to."

Unlike deHaas, some students may think getting out of paying off student loans is as easy as declaring bankruptcy or joining the Peace Corps. But don't go jumping on a boat anytime soon. The rumors aren't true.

While bankruptcy can delete past debt, it only works if there's a history of seven years of delinquent bills.

Kelly Stinson, a corporate borrower services representative with the Sallie Mae Foundation, an organization that lends money to students, offered some tips to help students keep from digging a bigger financial hole than they have to.

"College seems to be more expensive and parents don't have all the funds necessary to pay for it," Stinson said. "But before going the route of a loan I would check other options like grants and scholarships because there are a lot of scholarships out there that students don't know about."

Stinson explained that students can save money by paying anything on their loan as long as it is within the time period the loan is deferred for, and is subsidized meaning the government pays the interest.

For example, if a student just happened to have a little extra

cash, they could go ahead and pay a few bucks on their loan. That would save money on interest in the long run.

Paying while in school goes toward the principal, which is the basic balance, excluding the interest. Stinson said paying on the loan while still in school decreases the balance and decreases payments later.

"One thing students should know is they should try to put as much money on a loan as possible while still in school," she said. "It saves a lot in the long run."

Stinson also explained how payment plans work. Generally,

"College seems to be more expensive and parents don't have all the funds necessary to pay for it,"

— Kelly Stinson

representative for Sallie Mae Foundation

there will be a set monthly payment that must be paid. But students can also pay any extra amount that they are capable of paying at the time. This also saves interest.

Sallie Mae also offers the option of paying directly from the individual's bank account. The foundation gets the person's information and once a month takes the payment amount out of the account. Borrowers never have to worry about their payment being on time and they also receive quarter percent interest rate decrease.

Sallie Mae also offers an incentive called Great Rewards. If all-loan payments have been on time after 48 months, interest is

dropped by 2 percent. And if payments continue to be on time, the rate stays the same.

"Call whoever owns your loan and ask for incentives like our Great Rewards plan," Stinson said.

deHaas has chosen her lender, but hasn't consulted with it about her payments. She has, however, considered both sides of payment plans.

"It's a plus to be able to set your own payments, but at the same time, I think people would kind of work harder if they had a set amount," deHaas said.

But the options don't stop there. Students can also consolidate loans. If they have at least \$7,500 in loans, they can consolidate it into one big loan. Borrowers will pay more interest, but will have more time to pay. Plus, payments will be considerably lower.

Students on the Hill may or may not be terribly worried about their financial future, but many will have to face the burden of repaying a loan. Steve DeBaugh, a junior from Baltimore, isn't particularly concerned.

"I think it will be pretty easy to pay it back," DeBaugh said. "I don't think it will be devastating."

DeBaugh also offered his own tips to help his fellow students out financially.

"Don't get too many credit cards and don't try to spend what you don't have," he said.

Whatever the philosophy, staying informed can help a person stay on top of things. Stinson said students should simply be knowledgeable about their financial situation.

"Students should try to educate themselves about loans," she said. "If they call and question it, they should be OK."

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Around Campus

Saturday Sabbath

The Jewish Student Organization will be sponsoring a Sabbath at 9:30 a.m. this Saturday in the Downing University Center, room 305. This is open to everyone.

Candlelight Vigil

The Barren River Area Safe Space, Inc. will hold an annual Candlelight Vigil to mourn the memories of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence. The memorial is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the fountain in The Square. For more information, call 270-781-9334.

Nurses Career Day

The annual Nurses Career-day will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 26 at the south campus. For more information, call Career Services Center at 270-745-3093.

Arts and Crafts Showcase

The Barren River Region Arts and Crafts Showcase will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 12 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. All proceeds will benefit the local Special Olympics. For more information,

contact Pam Coleman at 270-393-3381 or Brent Belcher at 270-393-3249.

College Republicans Meet

The College Republicans will meet at 6:30 p.m. this Thursday in DUC, room 349. For more information, contact David Adams at 270-796-1949.

BSU Coffee House

The Baptist Student Union is sponsoring a coffee house this Friday "Grounded" is open from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Student Center across from East Hall.

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Mr. Neutron won't bore his audiences

By JUSTIN ESLINGER
Herald reporter

Fordville senior Mike Farmer is a walking contradiction.

He is a big, goofy-looking white guy with thick glasses. He's a couple weeks late with his last shave or haircut.

But what you really notice is the plastic kitchen clock slung around his neck, and a big black wrestling belt wrapped around his head that says, "Thug Life." Then you notice a twinkle behind the Coke bottle glasses, and Farmer assumes his alter-ego, Mr. Neutron.

Mr. Neutron is a Bowling Green musical anomaly. He raps, sings and plays his keyboard, all while drawing his audience to the fine line between taking complete offense at his act or laughing their butts out of their seats.

And this can all be experienced tomorrow night at the Java House. The show starts at 10 p.m. with opening act The Fracasos. Admission is \$2.

"Expect a cross of Flavor Flav and Ray Stevens," Farmer said about his act.

A vigilant self-promoter, Farmer didn't stop there describing his sound: "It's avant-garde hip-hop, uneasy listening, and post-millennial-extemporaneous boogie," he said with a slight deepening of his voice at "boogie."

For those of you unexposed to the lyrical and musical onslaught of a Mr. Neutron show, Leslie Weiler of the Java House said to expect something completely different than you have ever seen.

"It's different, it's unique, it's totally different," she said. His music is very different. Inspired by artists such as Frank Zappa and Public Enemy, Neutron writes and sings about subjects long ignored by the mainstream.

"By (Zappa) making a great song and not being serious about it kind of showed me the way," he said about the "Mothers of Invention" leader.

Farmer performs lots of songs. And they're as varied as "My Two Gay Dogs," "Country Life" — a song about his roots and rednecks — as well as his parody of the Village People classic "YMCA" in "Why MTV?"

Neutron's live act is just as unusual. He has been known to throw broken Michael Jackson records into the audience or barricade himself behind a table for the duration of his set. He's even walked out the door during the middle of a show just to surprise the crowd.

— Mike Farmer
Mr. Neutron



Fordville senior Michael Farmer, a.k.a. "Mr. Neutron," will be performing his unique style of music tomorrow at the Java House.

Because I'm one guy as opposed to being in a group, I have a lot of flexibility," Farmer said. "I can improvise new sections, and if I just want to stop a song in the middle of it, I can just quit."

His type of confrontational performance art grew out of seeing bands that were just "boring."

"When I go see bands there really is not any danger, you expect them to play their songs," he said. "That's boring. I don't like it when it is boring."

The history of Mr. Neutron

Farmer began performing under the name of Mr. Neutron in mid-1997. The name comes

from a "Monty Python" sketch, he said.

"Mr. Neutron was the most powerful, most dangerous, most intelligent man in the world. I thought the idea of being the most dangerous man in the world was a rather attractive idea," he said.

Which makes sense, considering his goals in life are "world domination or world destruction."

But, Farmer said, there is a distinction between the onstage persona of Mr. Neutron and Mike Farmer.

"Mike Farmer goes to class and chills with his family," he said. "But Mr. Neutron goes to

the shows, goes out and dances and socializes. You know I'm talking about myself in third person. That's kind of dangerous."

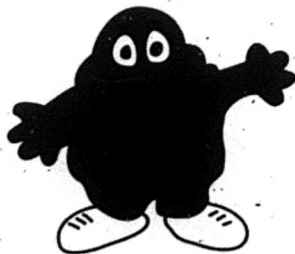
Farmer has played in several venues around the area from Owensboro and Nashville to here in Bowling Green. He was a regular at the short-lived local club Dugger's.

Smitty Hines, who has seen Mr. Neutron on numerous occasions, said his act is so unique it shouldn't be missed.

"If you've never seen him before, you need to see him once," the Bowling Green resident said. "Even people who don't like his music think he's funny."

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Taste of Thai an intimate experience

Taste of Thai Grade: A

BY RACHEL SLOAN
Herald reporter

The first thing that comes to mind about Taste of Thai is contradiction.

Located at 410 East Main Ave. next to the Capitol Theater, the restaurant looks like nothing special from the outside. It blends in with the rest of the store and restaurant fronts of The Square. But once you walk through the door, it is anything but ordinary.

The first thing I noticed is the floral gold and red wallpaper. Then as I was seated at one of the small informal tables, I looked up to see a ornate gold ceiling.

But now it is time to order. Here is where the contradictions continue. As I sat in the beautifully-decorated restaurant, I opened the menu — expecting to pay prices that matched my opulent surroundings.

I was pleasantly surprised to see I would not have to break the bank. Prices for entrees range from \$5.50 to \$10.95.

The service was prompt and

courteous and also added to the atmosphere. Although the restaurant appears to be very elegant, the various little children running around with the waitress overshadowed that.

My Sweet and Sour Chicken arrived within 10 minutes, as did my roommate's Pad Thai.

The only complaint I had was I requested no tomatoes on my chicken, but the entree looked and smelled so good I was willing to pick around them.

The dinners were enough to fill up one person and still take some home, which comes in handy when staying on campus over the weekend.

As we ate dinner I noticed how empty the restaurant was. There was a family of three seated beside us, and four adults behind us discussing Western's chances at a win on Homecoming this Saturday.

Other than that, the place was desolate, which added to the intimate atmosphere.

Overall, the restaurant is a perfect place to take a date, or just to go have dinner. Whether dressed-up or casual, you won't feel out of place. The surroundings are intimate but non-threatening.

Taste of Thai is elegant yet casual, intimate yet open. But it's well worth the confusion.

Campus Movies

Tuesday
9 a.m. The Out of Towners;
10:45 a.m. Interview With A Vampire; 1 p.m. Cape Fear; 3:15 p.m. Cruel Intentions; 5 p.m. Sneakers; 7:15 p.m. Planes, Trains and Automobiles

Wednesday
9 a.m. Idle Hands; 10:45 a.m. Crimson Tide; 1 p.m. Go; 3 p.m. Mo' Better Blues; 5:15 p.m. E.T.; 7:15 p.m. Big Bully

Thursday
9 a.m. Beverly Hills Cop III; 11 a.m. Weird Science; 2:45 p.m. Virtuosity; 4:45 p.m. Message in a Bottle; 7:15 p.m. I Know What You Did Last Summer

Friday-Sunday
9 a.m. The Cutting Edge; 11 a.m. From Dusk Till Dawn; 1 p.m. 200 Cigarettes; 3 p.m. True Crime; 5:15 p.m. Mod Squad; 7 p.m. Screen

Healthy habits help fight cancer

BY JENNIFER WALDRIDGE
Herald reporter

When Henderson junior Kelly Gifford returned from her spring break trip to Florida, she expected to return to college life as usual, but a phone call from her family changed her plans.

Gifford's father was diagnosed with cancer.

While many college students haven't been in a situation like Gifford's, that doesn't mean they shouldn't be prepared for it.

October is Cancer Awareness Month and for students like Gifford, it has become a part of everyday life.

"I knew something was really wrong because they wouldn't tell me on the phone," Gifford said. "I didn't know how to feel. I was just numb."

The challenge of not being with her family makes things harder, but she also doesn't have the burden of seeing her father's pain everyday, Gifford said.

"I've lost the will to be here, but I don't want to be at home," she said. "I want to be able to support my family."

Gifford's father had a bone-marrow transplant on Aug. 23 (the day before classes started) and he has been at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis since then.

"They say he's doing better than any other bone-marrow transplant patient," Gifford said. "There are always a couple of problems, but he's doing okay."

Teresa Edmundson, assistant health educator at the Student Health Service, said cancer is preventable.

"Cancer awareness and prevention are good things to develop at a young age so you can develop healthy habits," she said.

Cancer is more prevalent than many college students may realize, even though its affects aren't seen until later. Edmundson said there isn't really one type of cancer that affects college-aged people, but certain risks do affect the chances of cancer later on. Some of the risks that increase the chances of cancer in college-aged people include exposure to the sun, smoking and an unhealthy diet.

Some healthy habits students should develop, according to Edmundson, are good nutrition, including low fat and high fiber, exercise, getting plenty of vitamins A and C, and moderate alcohol consumption.

Self-breast exams for women, and testicular self-exams for men should both start around age 20. Knowing your family history and protecting yourself from the sun can also help prevent cancer.

Greenview Regional Hospital sponsored some cancer-related activities in Bowling Green, including Mammogram Awareness and Cancer Coalition, both of which target women's health concerns, said Susan Cherry, director of oncology services. In September, the hospital conducted prostate

screenings for around 200 men. She stressed ongoing education and the importance of self-exams.

"Ninety percent of lumps and bumps are found by women during their own self-breast exams," Cherry said.

The chapter of the American Cancer Society in Bowling Green is also sponsoring some activities, said Cancer Control Projects Manager Julie Wyant.

Most of the society's events also focus on continuing education and self-exams. "Tell-A-Friend" is a program that encourages women over 40 to get regular mammograms. "Reach-to-Recovery" is a program that trains breast cancer survivors to counsel women who have recently been diagnosed before and after surgery. "Man-to-Man" focuses on educating men about prostate cancer.

But some people may still wonder why they should be concerned about cancer? Wyant knows why.

"I am 23 years old and I am a cancer survivor," Wyant said. "It can affect anyone."

Wyant was diagnosed at age 19.

Edmundson said if anyone has a friend or family member with cancer, or is dealing with it, the best thing is to know the facts.

"Knowledge is power," she said. "Also have patience and understanding."

For more information about cancer and community resources, call 1-800-ACS-2345, or visit www.cancer.org.

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Sports

Tech topples Hilltoppers 23-10

Western mistakes cost dearly

By RYAN CLARK
Herald reporter

Bobby Sippio just wanted to make something happen.

After scoring 10 points in the first half of Saturday's game against Tennessee Tech, Western's offense had been unable to change the score board in the second.

And Sippio, a freshman, wanted to do something spectacular.

Standing on Western's 23-yard line, he waited to receive a kick from Tech punter Billy Dorsey, but disaster struck when the ball slapped off Sippio's hands and fell to the ground.

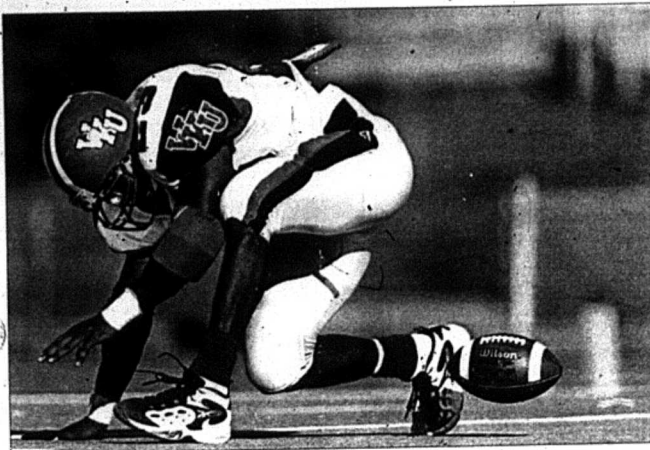
Tech recovered and promptly scored the deciding touchdown in a 23-10 victory.

"I screwed up," Sippio said after the game. "I should've just let the ball go into the end zone. But I just wanted to score. I wasn't concentrating on catching it — I was trying to do too much."

But Coach Jack Harbaugh said the team couldn't play a mistake-free game and still had their hands full.

"That Tennessee Tech team was a good team," Harbaugh said. "They deserve all the credit in the world. Sure, we made some mistakes, and we didn't capitalize in certain situations, but they played a great game. I think they just wanted it more."

Tech (4-1, 3-0 OVC) showed how much they wanted to win on the first play from scrimmage. On first and 10 from their own 13-yard line, Tech quarterback Grant Swallows connected with wide receiver Tony Fragale on an 87-yard touchdown pass. A field goal early in the second quarter gave the



H. Rick Mach/Herald

Senior fullback Rod Smart scrambles for a loose football after fumbling in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game against Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tenn. Western lost 23-10.

"I should've just let the ball go into the endzone. But I just wanted to score."

— Bobby Sippio
freshman safety

Golden Eagles a 10-point lead.

But the Hilltoppers kept their composure and mounted a seven-play, 70-yard touchdown drive to pull within three. A field goal by senior Jeff Poisel, and a blocked field goal by sophomore Mel Mitchell sent Western into halftime with a 10-10 tie.

"It really showed a lot of character for us to come back like that, the way we did," Harbaugh said. "But we really didn't see some of that fire — that sense of urgency — in the

second half."

The third period started with a trick play. Having to kick off, Poisel pooch-kicked a ball high and down the left sideline. Senior running back Rod Smart, disguised as a defender, streaked down the sideline and caught it, giving the Hilltoppers possession at the Tech 27. A personal foul penalty pushed the ball back to the 42, where Western started its drive.

But another costly mistake turned the Hilltoppers' fortunes

On second down and 20 from the Tech 22-yard line, sophomore quarterback Jason Michael ran an option to the right, deciding to pitch to junior running back DeWayne Gallishaw. But just as Michael released the ball he was hit by Tech linebacker Chad Evitts, forcing a fumble which was recovered by the Golden Eagles.

The game would never be the same.

"That was just a simple play and we should have scored," Michael said. "This was like last week. We just didn't execute the way we needed to."

Tech coach Mike Hennigan felt the game came down to critical mistakes at critical times.

SEE TECH, PAGE 13

Soccer splits weekend matches

Western loses to ranked opponent

By LYNDSAY SUTTON
Herald reporter

Western's soccer team took the wrong set of keys on its road trip this weekend. Somewhere between games in Des Moines, Iowa, and Omaha, Neb., the Hilltoppers (11-2, 1-1 Missouri Valley) lost the most important key of all. They misplaced the capitalization key, the one that could have unlocked a win over No. 14 Creighton (8-2-1, 2-0 MVC) on Sunday.

Instead, the Bluejays took advantage of Western's defensive mistakes to end the Hilltoppers' 10-game win streak in a 2-0 shutout.

Sophomore goalkeeper Ryan Lossie said Western's backfield just wasn't settled when a Creighton player passed the ball across the field to another Bluejay to score their first goal. "That first goal really took a lot of steam out of us," Lossie said.

After that goal at 18:01, Western kept Creighton from scoring again until 56:47, when senior forward Mike Bustos took a cross from senior midfielder Danny Madrigal.

"During the course of the (Western's winning) streak, we had some breaks and things went our way," Western coach David Holmes said. "Usually, that balances out."

SEE SPLITS, PAGE 13

Athletes, coaches should avoid cliches of sports world

OK, I just finished (covering) my sports event. Does the media have any questions?

Jerry, could you assess your performance today?

"I wasn't mentally focused. I didn't step up at key times. Coach kept telling me to write aggressively, but I didn't listen."

How big of a setback is this for you?

"It's frustrating. But it's early in the season. I just need to take things one day at a time."

How frustrating?

"(Sigh) ... man ... I don't know. It's rough. I'll tell you that."

What was said after the game?

"I was just told that I didn't compete. The other writers gave a gutsy performance. I just didn't write with heart, you know."

Was this particularly painful?

(Wiping away tears) "Naw, I mean, any time you don't do your best it hurts. You just have to go on."

You were going pretty good for the first part of your story. Then, at about the midway point, you got into a rut. What happened?

"I didn't come ready to play. I

didn't come ready to write. Division I is very competitive. Don't come with your A game, and you can be beat."

What would you have done differently?

"Writing stories is a game of inches. One bad sentence, it's over. I didn't make good transitions to my quotes today. I normally average 20 inches per story, and I only got 12 today. I give the other writers a lot of credit. They kept me off balance."

So, you'll be covering Western versus Tennessee State on Saturday. What will you do differently?

"I'll take it to another level." Could you talk a little bit about what the Daily News did that was effective against you?

"They had a good game plan, and they stuck with it."

(Pauses)

"Hey, man, you told me just to talk a little."

Did you overlook them?

"Nah, I just wasn't consistent. I lacked consistency. I did alright, but I just didn't do it con-



PLAYGROUND NOTES

Jerry Brewer

sistently."

What will you do in the Tennessee State game?

"Be consistent."

Will it be tough for you after such a disappointing loss?

"Every Division I game is a battle. I'll be ready to play. I'll be focused."

Are you in a slump?

"Everybody has ups and downs. Covering sports is a rollercoaster ride. I just have to get mentally prepared."

Why didn't you do better today?

"I was outmanned. I couldn't handle the media's double-teaming of me. I just had a

rocky ride today."

How is the chemistry with you and your teammates?

"We're young. We're still working on chemistry. And consistency. We're not pleased, but, like I said, we're just taking things one day at a time."

The quotes in your story weren't great today. What happened there?

"Things just didn't click. You live ... (sighs) ... and die by the quotes."

What are you most disappointed about today?

"We didn't get our respect out there. We're young. We're a staff in the making. But we were too inconsistent. We didn't step up. We needed to get respect. We'd love to have a chance at this game later in the season."

What would that second chance be all about?

"Revenge. We're going to go back, look at some film and correct our mistakes. We want sweet revenge."

Is there a columnist controversy at the Herald?

"Why would you say that?"

You and Travis Mayo are split-

ting time, right?

"There's no controversy there. Our sports section is just searching for an identity right now. Sometimes I get the job done sometimes I don't."

Are you comfortable with splitting time?

"I know my role."

What's your role?

"You'd have to ask coach, er, editor."

What would he say?

"I can only speak for myself ... I think my role is to just go out there and compete. I'm a competitive person. I have that desire. I just try to practice hard and learn from my mistakes. I want to prove my critics wrong."

(Pauses)

"Any more questions?"

Thanks, Jerry.

"Man, y'all almost caused me to miss my ride."

Jerry Brewer's column runs Tuesdays and occasionally Thursdays. Call him at 745-6291, or e-mail him at brewdun@aol.com.

Hilltopper swim teams hope to be unbeatable this season

Western wants to win conference in spring

BY LYNDAY SUTTON
Herald reporter

They were both there, laughing and doling out high-fives just like the other members of Western's men's swimming and diving squad. They were at the Preston Health and Activities Center to support the other swimmers, just like the last four years.

But Travis and Pete were dressed in street clothes, not speedos. Travis Mandigo, Western's 1999 Male Athlete of the Year, was there along with Pete Carey. Both captains for Western's 15-0 undefeated men's team last season were fans this time at the Hilltoppers' men's and women's swimming intrasquad scrimmage at Preston Center this weekend, and not a part of the team.

As the Hilltopper swim teams gear up for the dual-meet season, just two weeks away, the men prepare to do battle without Carey and Mandigo. And Coach Bill Powell, now in his 31st season at Western, said it won't be

that easy for the men to repeat with an undefeated dual-meet season.

"It's not unrealistic, but it's going to be an uphill battle," Powell said. "It's tough to go back-to-back undefeated because you get a little complacent when you go undefeated and every team points for you."

"Every team will be pointing for us this year and the kids don't understand that, until it happens."

Even without Carey, Mandigo and Corrie Bumps, who each ran out of eligibility, Powell is excited about what the men's squad can do this season.

Senior captain Kicker Vencill, who finished with six of Western's top times last season, returns along with sophomores David Tucker and Gord Veldman. All three have qualified for the Olympic Trials in their respective countries; Vencill and Tucker in the United States and Veldman in his native Canada.

Powell said the men's strongest events will be the sprints with Veldman and Tucker and the backstroke with Veldman. But he said he didn't get the events filled with freshmen swimmers that the team needed to fill.

"It's tough to go back-to-back undefeated because you get a little complacent when you go undefeated and every team points for you."

— Bill Powell
Western swimming coach

"For example, one of our strongest events last year was the backstroke, of course with Gord," Powell said. "Our best freshman recruit's a backstroke. And it's great to have him. We're just going to be that much stronger in the backstroke."

"But we've got to strengthen our distance events. We've got some holes to fill in the distance freestyle."

Powell said the swimmers will also need to step up in both the butterfly and breaststroke events that the losses of Mandigo and Carey left open.

"We have returners, but we still don't have anybody to fill in the depth," Powell said. "We just need the team to step way up and swim way better than last year."

The Hilltoppers' schedule includes tough road meets at

Ball State and Wright State. Western also plays at Butler, where former Hilltopper Scott Cummins is the head coach.

Western expects to be more competitive in the diving events this season with three freshmen divers. In years past, the Hilltoppers have had just one diver in a season, putting more pressure on what the rest of the team has to do in the pool, Powell said.

"They (divers) take a little bit of the edge off," Vencill said.

Vencill's goals for the team are an National Independent Conference championship and an undefeated season, especially since Powell has never had back-to-back undefeated seasons at Western. And what Vencill saw at the intrasquad meet over the weekend assures him that this team can meet those goals, without Mandigo, Carey and Bumps.

"After what I saw at intrasquad, we're completely ready to fill those guys' shoes," Vencill said. "We're doing a pretty good job of picking up the pieces and putting the puzzle back together."

Women fill roster with freshmen, transfers

Powell filled his three-year-old women's swimming and diving

squad with several key transfers and freshmen in the offseason to put his Lady Toppers in a position to go undefeated in dual-meets.

"I would love to see the women go undefeated in dual-meets," Powell said. "And I would love to see them move at least into the top three at the NIC's."

The Lady Toppers return everyone from last year's fifth place NIC squad, except would-be junior J.P. Pilot, who left Western and the team for personal reasons.

Freshman Beverly Robertson is a breaststroker who's the Scottish National champion in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke events and Powell said she will be tough to beat.

Sophomore Megan Zerhusen, a former Kentucky State champion in sprint events, transferred from Pittsburgh and will sit out this season. Julia VanAntwerp is a sophomore transfer from Stanford with freshman eligibility. She ran cross country for the Cardinals last season.

"Our freshmen girls are really strong," junior co-captain Nicole Temples said. "I'm positive we'll go undefeated."



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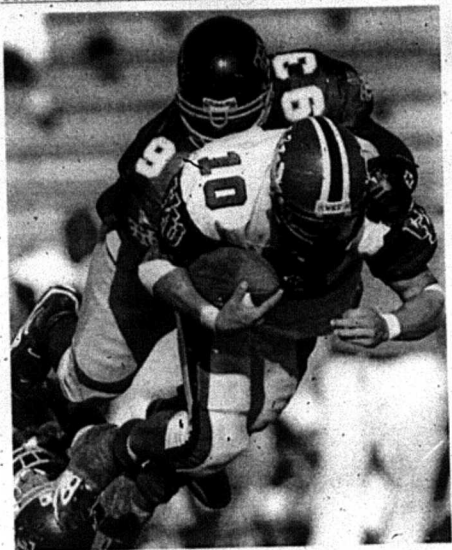


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H. Rick Mach/Herald

Sophomore quarterback Jason Michael is tackled from behind by Tennessee Tech freshman defensive tackle Jason Bradford during Saturday's game in Cookeville, Tenn.

TECH: Hilltoppers drop second straight game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"Western made some mistakes and we capitalized on them," he said. "It was as simple as that."

Swallows and Fragale both had highlight reel days for the Golden Eagles.

Swallows completed 14 of 21 passes for 239 yards and two touchdowns, while Fragale had six receptions for 130 yards. Fragale caught both touchdown passes.

Western (4-3, 3-2 OVC) was led on defense by senior defensive end Ben Wittman, who tallied 10 tackles, including four for loss and a sack. On offense, Michael completed one pass for 32 yards, while

rushing 23 times for 85 yards. Smart gained 86 yards on 12 carries and senior fullback Shane Ricketts had a career day, gaining 87 yards on 17 carries.

But it wasn't enough.

"I think this was another step for this team," Ricketts said. "We're really young now and every situation is new. We just have to get better."

And fast. Tennessee State, ranked No. 2 nationally, will come to the Hill on Saturday for Homecoming, bringing their high-powered offense and strong defense with them.

"We just need to go out and have a strong set of practices this week," said Mitchell. "This game is over."

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SPLITS: Western faces next ranked opponent Friday at Lovers Lane

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Holmes said senior midfielder Matt Hawkey narrowly missed scoring an uneven volley that scraped the top of the goal. Early in the second half, junior forward Steve Brown's header missed the left upright on the goal post.

"Western Kentucky is really the up and coming team in the conference and they did a fantastic job of pressuring us," Creighton coach Bret Simon said.

Despite the loss, Holmes and Lossie each said the team isn't discouraged.

"Team morale is strong," Holmes said. "We're anxious to have another crack at a top 25 team, which we'll get Friday night."

The Hilltoppers host No. 8 Southwest Missouri State at the Lovers Lane Complex on Friday.

Western downs Drake

The Hilltoppers won their first MVC match-up Friday against Drake (3-10, 0-2). The 3-0 score gave Western its 10th straight win and its sixth shutout of the season.

"It was a good team win with contributions from everyone," Holmes said.

Five players had one shot on goal, and sophomore defender Kyle Wuchterl led the team in the game with two shots on goal.

Brown and sophomore forward Andy Fertick each scored goals resulting from throw-ins in the first half. Senior defender Bryan Robbins scored the third goal in the second half on a penalty kick.

"We all feel good about the win," Lossie said.

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Topper one part of hopes for gold

Junior guard has
high expectations

By TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

If Nashon McPherson's college basketball career were a roller coaster, it could break records.

The steepest hills to climb, the fastest up and down turns and loops that swirl your stomach into a frenzy. Wicked streaks into dark tunnels, and hectic speed the likes of tornado winds.

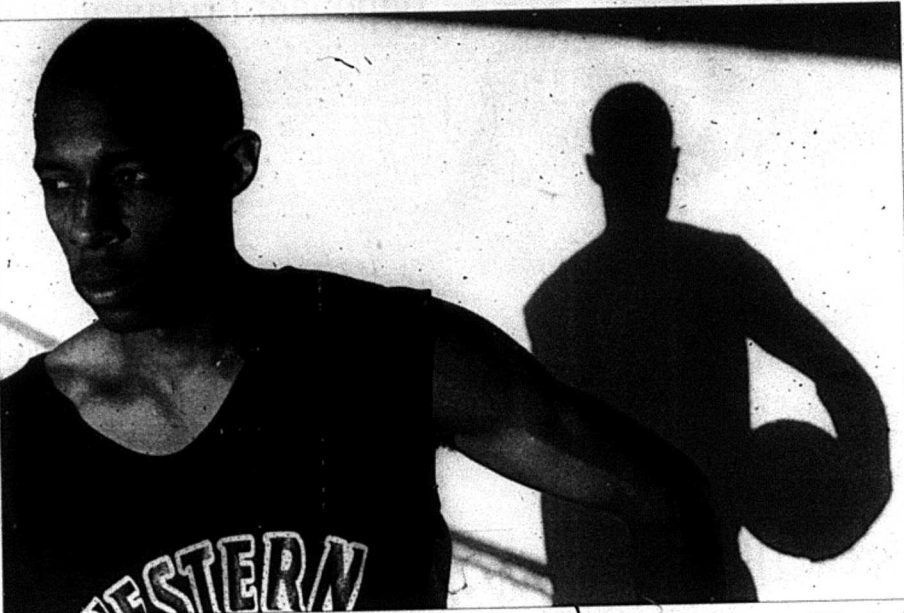
It's a career the 6-4, 200 pound junior guard started as a bystander, watching from the sideline in 1996-97 with an injured left wrist. He had come off a New York All-State senior year at Springfield Gardens High in the Queens area (26.7 points, 8 rebounds).

From bright lights, big city to no lights, small town — the first downward spiral.

Then came a bit of a hike, under then-coach Matt Kilcullen. But it was cut short when Kilcullen exited stage left and McPherson found himself trying to settle in a program being run by co-coaches. He chipped in for 6.5 points in just more than 17 minutes per game.

But the real venture uphill came last season, with a new coach from Clemson controlling the reins. With Dennis Felton etching the plays on the bench, McPherson took his spot as one of the babies of the new program.

Now, he's the leading returning scorer from the 13-16 team that nearly snuck into the NCAA Tournament. He averaged 9 points and nearly 4 boards a contest. He nailed down two double-doubles and hit 32 percent from long range. And he set up lofty expectations, ones as high as he can



Daniel Wallace/Herald

Junior guard Nashon McPherson, Western's top returning scorer, is looking to make good on an off-season of hard work. The Jamaica, N.Y., native has had a roller coaster of a career at Western.

leap. And he can sky, proof courtesy of the rim.

"Me, as a player, I've always had high expectations," McPherson said before the second practice of the season. "I don't know whether or not everyone has high expectations. I just know about myself."

"I do expect to go out there and play as hard as I can every day. That's just what I expect of myself. I drive myself very hard."

That drive kept McPherson going at full-steam during the off-season. He can't tell you how many shots he fired each day. Nor can he recall how many laps he jetted around the gym. It was an advantage to be on the Hill most of the summer, so he could work out beneath the same lights of Diddle Arena that he'll be playing under.

"This was my summer just to see how far I wanted to go," McPherson said. "Every time I would get tired out there, I would just say to myself, 'How bad do you want it?' I just tried to do the best I could so I can try to make the team better."

When he rolled home to

Jamaica, N.Y., for a little while, he didn't drop a step. He wanted to stay in the habit, so he won't drop a step from the first tipoff to the final whistle. He kept running, when he thought he had sprinted enough, he ran some more.

When most have left the red-and-white-flanked Diddle, McPherson usually stays behind. Like last week, when he and freshman guard Filip Videnov battled in a game of make-it-take-it. It was 10 o'clock at night.

"Nashon is the hardest-working person on our team," sophomore guard Tremaine Rowles said. "There'll be nights when we'll go back to the room and he'll stay up here all night long, working on something, even if it's passing, shooting or just pivoting his feet ... anything."

And he's becoming more vocal as he climbs, not hesitating to convey the team's message: win. It hasn't surprised Felton, who has liked McPherson's approach from the beginning. He's looking for this veteran of the system to be effi-

cient on both ends of the floor — for McPherson to get more done with less, because he's a smarter ball player now. Now, it's just a matter of putting on some finishing touches.

"He could be someone's worst nightmare defensively, because of his size and willingness to play defense," Felton said. "He was very undisciplined when we got here, but he's come a long, long way. So, I'm looking for him to take another step up and get close to becoming that nightmare on defense."

"Offensively, he's really changed and developed his game since we've been here to become more of a guy that gets more done without the ball, so that when he catches the ball he can do what he does best and that's shoot."

McPherson will do anything to get the Hilltoppers on the right side of the win-loss column. That means scrounging for rebounds and swiping for steals — first, during practice, where mistakes are tossed aside like bad meat; then, when it counts like a solid pitching arm in

October. It's practice which will determine if his own expectations become concrete realities.

Then, the whisper in the locker room could become screams.

"Like you'll hear from every one in that locker room — we expect to go out there, play as hard as we can and bring home the gold," McPherson said. "That's one of our goals. We wanna win. We're a young team, full of energy, and hopefully we'll have good things to show to Bowling Green and across the whole nation."

If what he says comes true, be sure to keep your arms inside the car at all times.

Editor's Note: This is part of a series of stories spotlighting Western men's and women's basketball players, leading up to preview sections. Check out Thursday's Herald for Lady Topper Natalie Powers' hopes of shining in what's expected to be a bigger role for the sophomore, after much time out, with injuries.

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Lady Toppers outlast field, win

By CHRIS YEO
Herald reporter

This weekend's team victory at the Pre-NCAA Championships makes it two in a row for the women's cross country team.

The Lady Toppers ran in a field of 19 in the non-seeded section at Indiana University's course. The meet included teams from Miami, Georgetown, Ohio State, Indiana and Illinois.

An injury in last month's Sam Bell Invitational forced sophomore Terri Hennessy to drop out of the race, and contributed to the women running in the non-seeded race this weekend.

"Very pleased with the win," Coach Curtiss Long said. "They ran well as a team under very difficult running conditions. It was hot and dusty and dry."

Although it doesn't show up in the results, freshman Olga Cronin went out very hard, so hard that she needed medical attention due to heat exhaustion. Cronin still managed to hold onto 20th place, even though she was passed by a considerable number of runners once she began fading.

"She ran hard. I think she was

"when she passed me with 150-200 meters left to go," assistant coach Michelle Scott said. "I knew something was wrong because her legs buckled underneath her."

At the finish line, Cronin was assisted by the medics. Her gutsy performance was good enough to make her the second Lady Topper across the finish line, behind senior Valerie Lynch, who finished second overall with a time of 19 minutes.

The narrow win over second-place finisher Air Force Academy was sealed by senior Evelyn Corona's strong effort late in the race.

"The team is starting to come together and gain confidence" with every race," Long said.

The men spent their weekend imitating John Candy and Steve Martin running around in the movie "Planes, Trains and Automobiles." A routine five-hour drive to Fayetteville, Ark., turned into a surprisingly eventful game of frogger for the men, as they were shuttled from vehicle to vehicle in their attempts to reach the meet.

From the university van to a Clarion Hotel courtesy van, back

to the university van. Into a state trooper car and two local police cars, then into the back of a U-Haul van. Then eventually leaving the university van in Conway, Ark., and driving back to Bowling Green in an Enterprise rental van, arriving at 1:30 a.m.

Through all of that, the Hilltoppers finished sixth at the Chili Pepper Invitational, a meet hosted by the best cross country team in the nation, the Arkansas Razorbacks.

South Alabama freshman David Kimani — a foe that the Hilltoppers will have to deal with at conference this year — won the Chili Pepper Long believes he's a legitimate contender for the nation's individual championship.

Long said this race was a chance for the Hilltoppers to measure themselves against perennial champion Arkansas, who eventually dominated the meet. At this point in the season, the tapering or peaking process begins; miles ran are shortened and the speed at which the miles are ran is increased.

"We've built the base of the pyramid, now we're trying to put the top on," Long said.

WESTERN SPORTS SCORECARD

Team	W-L	Next
Football	4-3	Saturday vs. Tennessee State
Volleyball	11-9	Tomorrow at Cincinnati
Soccer	11-2	Friday vs. Southeast Missouri St.
Women's golf	7-20	Oct. 25 at Waynesville, N.C.
Men's golf	48-26-1	Today at Louisville Intercollegiate
Men's cross country	*	Oct. 30 at Sun Belt Championships
Women's cross country	*	Oct. 30 at Sun Belt Championships

* Cross country does not keep a win-loss record.

Topper Tidbits

Women's golf finishes ninth at Eastern

Western's women's golf team placed in the top 10 this past weekend in the Eastern Kentucky Fall Invitational. The Lady Toppers finished seventh place after the first round, but were unable to hold on and fell to ninth. The loss puts the women at 7-20 on the season. Freshman Mariqn Bungo and junior Jamie Hagedorn both shot a low of 79 in the first round to help the Lady Toppers claim seventh. This was a career low for Bungo, whose previous low was 80 during the Lady Racer Classic. Western's next tournament will be the Lady Catamount Intercollegiate in Waynesville, N.C., starting Monday.

— Travis Williams

Volleyball team continues slide against conference competition.

By JERRY BREWER
Herald reporter

The Western volleyball team is slipping into the obscurity it once dreamed.

It's not great evening attire. It's as inconsistent as wearing all black with navy blue shoes.

With consecutive Sun Belt Conference losses on the road this weekend, the Lady Toppers — believed to be on the road to their first ever NCAA Tournament — have now lost six of their last 10 matches.

On Friday, Louisiana-Lafayette 8-12, 3-4 in Sun Belt beat Western 10-15, 15-3, 15-10, 14-16 and 15-10.

On Sunday, Arkansas State beat Western 15-11, 15-13 and 15-6. The Lady Toppers' record is 11-9, and they've split eight conference matches, which has them teetering between the upper and lower echelons.

The question is not how they're going to celebrate history, but whether there is time to regroup and make history.

Western's woes this weekend were puzzling because it seemed to have solved some of its prob-

lems two weekends ago. The Lady Toppers were not playing with bounce, with pride, with conviction.

Then, after getting drubbed by Sun Belt newcomer Denver, it appeared Western was tired of watching its pride get spiked. So, they played inspired volleyball in blowout victories against a couple of conference cellar dwellers — South Alabama and New Orleans.

And then to come back and lose to Louisiana-Lafayette?

"We battled hard tonight, but it takes more than that to win matches," Western volleyball coach

Travis Hudson said after the match. "It's a matter of execution. They did it, and we didn't do it. It's as simple as that."

Western is playing without senior middle hitter Kim Carpenter, the reigning Sun Belt Player of the Year. Carpenter injured her knee during a match about a week ago. It is unknown when she will return.

One problem has been winning on the road. Western is 6-9 away from home, compared to 5-0 at home.

"When we play at home, we get more pumped," sophomore left

side hitter Tara Thomas said. "It's like we have something to defend. We go on road trips, and we don't feel that way, and little things fall apart."

It doesn't get easier for Western. The Lady Toppers visit Conference USA power Cincinnati at 6 p.m. tomorrow. Then they'll be at home for Homecoming weekend and will meet Louisiana Tech at 7 p.m. Friday.

Western will meet conference frontrunner and three-time defending champion Arkansas-Little Rock at 1 p.m. Saturday.

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