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Cara VanLeuven/Herald

A student walks past South Hall, which is to undergo renovation changes along with the 17 other residence halls over the next three years in order to modernize them.

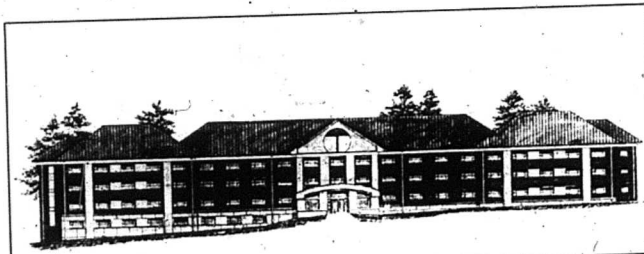
First sketch for dorms complete

Proposal offers four types of rooms

BY ABBEY BROWN
Herald reporter

After one semester of existence, the Student Life Foundation's plan to improve student housing now has a face: fewer, but bigger and more luxurious, rooms and suites.

At least that is how Western's dorm rooms will look in three years, according to preliminary floor plans from Louisville architectural firm Luckett and Farley. In the company's proposal, there will be four room options available in most dorms: a single, quad, suite or double. The single rooms will have one bed and a bath. The quad includes four beds, a bath and a living room and will take up three



A proposed drawing shows how South Hall may look in a few years.

existing rooms. The suite has four beds, a bath and a living room, taking up four existing rooms. The double room has two beds, a bath and a living room and will take up two existing rooms. Still, none of these plans are final.

Because of the larger rooms and suites, the proposed plan would include about 650 fewer beds than today. Currently, Western has 5,300 beds with 4,500 occupied. But revenue should remain the same, since the university is counting on close to a 100 percent occupancy rate.

But along with higher quality comes a higher price. When President Gary Ransdell announced the plan to give the dorms to the foundation, he said dorm rates would increase by 5 percent per year for the next 20

SEE DORMS, PAGE 6

Ransdell set to keep VP

Coates happy with president's decision

BY REX HALL JR.
Herald reporter

President Gary Ransdell is likely to announce next week that the vice president of Student Affairs position will be kept.

Ransdell and Student Government Association President Amanda Coates met yesterday to discuss the future of the position.

Afterward Coates wouldn't say what Ransdell told her, but said, "I'm happy with the direction that this is heading."

"I'm very glad to have a president who is so willing to listen to the input of the students," Coates said. "I am very confident that the students will be pleased with his decision."

Ransdell said earlier this month he expects to keep the position.

Coates was very critical of Ransdell when he announced last semester that he wanted to combine the VP position and the dean of student life into one chief student affairs officer.

SGA held a protest in November to show its dissatisfaction with Ransdell's decision. SGA has since circulated petitions asking that the position be kept.

Ransdell said earlier the student opposition caused him to rethink his opinion.

Ransdell said he will not discuss the matter until meeting with the Board of Regents in a closed session. After the meeting he plans to speak with the individuals involved before making a public announcement.

"In a week, I will probably be able to clarify where we are heading," Ransdell said. "By Thursday or Friday of next week a decision will be made."

Jerry Wilder, currently the vice president of Student Affairs, will leave his post June 30.

SEE VP, PAGE 3

Western to honor former basketball great Saturday

Haskins feels at home after leaving coaching

BY TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

Standing in front of a firing squad for the past year, one of Western's basketball giants has lost his head coaching job at Minnesota and has had his coaching reputation scarred. But Clem Haskins is not in exile. He's only come home.

"I'm home," Haskins said last night. "This is what I planned on doing all my life, retiring back here; it just happened about a year or two sooner than I expected."

"I've seen all 50 states and all the continents. I've been very, very fortunate that God blessed me to do that. There's not a better

place to me than Campbellsville, Ky."

Saturday night in Diddle Arena, he'll come home again, to the place he dominated for three seasons in the 1960s. The three-time Ohio Valley Conference player of the year and former Hilltopper coach will see his No. 22 jersey unveiled at halftime of Western's game against Louisiana-Lafayette.

Then he'll be home, forever.

"Whatever controversy and whatever trouble that coach Haskins has seen at Minnesota, retiring his jersey is a no-brainer — it's about what happened here," Western coach Dennis Felton said. "He's brought nothing but acclaim and honor to this university, and a lot of enjoyment. He always, always represented this university with class, with excellence and with great enthusiasm for what he was doing."

"And he was one of the best ever at doing it, at playing the game here and had a major impact on some of the best teams to play here. It's as simple as that; that's what it's about. He

played here and he was a great success; he coached here and he was a great success."

Success breathes too short and doesn't finish the story: Haskins lost only 15 games during his three years as a Hilltopper. He and the late Dwight Smith were the Hill's first black players.

He was an AP first team All-American his senior year, when he averaged nearly 23 points and 11 rebounds per game. His 1,680 career points are the seventh-best in school history. He dropped 55 points on Middle Tennessee in January 1965, still a single-game record.

Haskins listened to Ed Diddle's pregame speeches that would motivate a soldier to nonreluctantly trudge into war, and remembers the legendary teacher telling his team not to use the bathroom after warmups but before tipoff. That nervous energy could be saved for the court. He heard three years of

SEE HONOR, PAGE 15

INSIDE

Faculty OKs new senate

In a two-day vote, the faculty of Western approved the new University Senate by four votes. The new body will replace the Faculty Senate and the Academic Council.

PAGE 3

Baseball set to open season

Western's baseball team, coming off a 38-24 season, travels to Tallahassee, Fla., this weekend for a three-game series with Florida State, last year's national runner-up.

PAGE 11



<http://herald.wku.edu>

Weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
28° 15°	29° 22°	35° 22°	38° 23°	39° 42°
Mostly Sunny	Chance of PM snow	Chance of snow	Chance of wintry mix	Chance of AM mix

R: 25/19° sunny
F: 29/25° on
S: 34/28° snow
M: 35/29° sun

• Louisville

R: 25/19° sunny
F: 29/25° on
S: 34/28° snow
M: 35/29° sun

• Owensboro

R: 25/19° sunny
F: 29/25° on
S: 34/28° snow
M: 35/29° sun

• Paducah

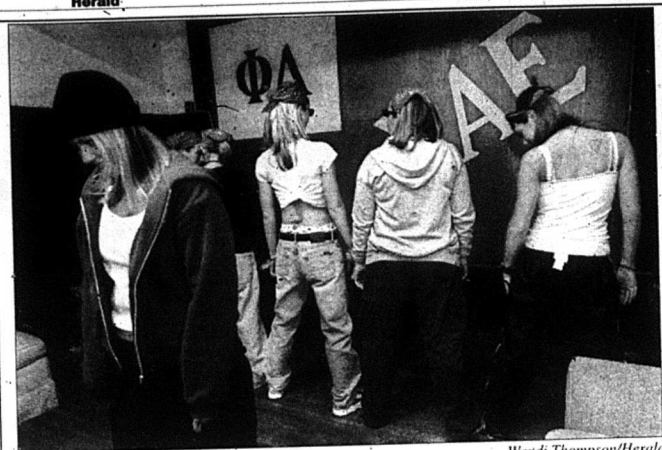
R: 25/19° sunny
F: 29/25° on
S: 34/28° snow
M: 35/29° sun

• Nashville

R: 25/19° sunny
F: 29/25° on
S: 34/28° snow
M: 35/29° sun

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

STORM 12
CENTER



Wendi Thompson/Herald

Say what? Jessica Helton, a junior from Leawood, Kan. (left) and fellow Alpha Omicron Pi sorority sisters perform a song and dance routine at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity's hip sync contest on Monday night. The event is part of Spring Rush festivities.

Crime Reports

Arrests

◆Shelley Caryl Davis was arrested Monday for second degree wanton endangerment and disregarding a traffic officer. She was released the next day on an unsecured bond.

Reports

◆Allison Lee Cochran, McCormack Hall, reported Saturday that two men attempted to steal her purse between Gilbert Hall and the heating plant.

◆Toss Greg Scott reported a traffic sign stolen from the corner of State Street and the Planetarium.

◆Lori Beth Wade, Gilbert Hall, reported harassing phone calls on Monday.

◆Brittany Renee Wilson, Sorority Hall, reported scratches on her car. The damage is valued at \$550.

◆Tea Chunga Milegu Nukazwe, South Hall, reported threatening phone calls Monday.

◆Kathy Elizabeth Nappier, Bemis Lawrence Hall, reported Monday that a cell phone and

cash were stolen from her room. Total value of the items was \$138.87.

◆Greg Michael Rubick reported Monday that his wallet was stolen Monday. Total value of theft was \$43.

◆David L. Boone and Ryan T. Hoskins, State Street, reported at 2 a.m. Saturday that two unknown subjects broke into their house, smashing two windows, damage value \$200, after a party. The subjects also allegedly stole a watch, value \$100, earlier at the party.

No suspect has been named and no charges have been filed.

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New senate passes by four votes

By JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

Western's faculty turned out en masse Tuesday and Wednesday to vote on creating a new University Senate, a unified voice to replace the Faculty Senate and Academic Council. At the final count, the new senate passed by four votes.

As they counted the votes last evening, the staff of Institutional Research sat among a dozen onlookers from faculty and administration.

Director Bob Cobb sat at the middle of the table, stacking blue ballots.

"I hope there's nothing ticking in here," he muttered, reaching into one envelope after another.

"I'm only here for the real fun stuff," said Institutional Research staffer Jay Sloan as he sliced into envelopes by the hundreds. "Can you imagine anything more fun than this? — root canals barred."

All the while, Sharon Hunter and Tuesday Helbig kept a running total, both on tally sheets and calculators.

At 6:45 p.m. yesterday, the count was complete. 492 ballots cast out of 555 eligible faculty. With 88.6 percent participation,

248 voted to approve the University Senate charter. 244 voted against.

"This is obviously the voice of the faculty," with almost nine out of ten eligible voting, said accounting and finance professor Ed Wolfe. Wolfe, the Faculty Senate chairman, has been one of the most vocal critics of the University Senate plan.

"Obviously, I would have preferred the vote to have gone the other way," he said. "but the wonderful thing is the turnout of the faculty."

He was echoed by philosophy and religion professor Arren Vos, who headed the committee that wrote the University Senate charter.

"I'm really pleased with the turnout," Vos said. "And now we'll move forward together."

"I hope this will turn out to be good for the university and the faculty," he said.

The count was close all across the university. Potter College of Arts and Humanities split evenly, voting 70 to 70. The College of Education vote was also close at 44 yes, 58 no. The Gordon Ford College of Business voted heavily against the University Senate, but University Libraries, Community College and Ogden College of Science, Technology

and Health voted strongly in its favor.

A few faculty marked both options, or voted but refused to sign the sheet accounting for all ballots. Their votes were discarded, but every ballot was accounted for. Cobb said the balloting ran smoothly.

"I think the real credit goes to the office associates who kind of ran it." They and their department heads worked hard, he said.

The charter calls for a body to combine the functions of the Faculty Senate and the Academic Council, delegating some of their business — like most curriculum changes and faculty welfare — to committees. Some administrators will be non-voting members, and there will be three voting student representatives.

Now the charter goes to the Board of Regents for approval at its meeting tomorrow. The charter has already passed one regents' committee, and the board will probably approve it without difficulty. Faculty Regent Mary Ellen Miller said.

The current Faculty Senate and Academic Council will serve out their terms and disband, while a new University Senate should be elected late this spring and seated next fall.

VP: Wilder, Bailey yet to hear from president

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Wilder said yesterday Ransdell had not contacted him to discuss what was said in the meeting with Coates. Dean of Student Life Howard Bailey also said he had heard nothing from Ransdell.

Wilder submitted his resignation in October and will return to full-time teaching

But Ransdell said last semester Wilder's new salary will still have to be taken from the Student Affairs budget because there is no extra money in the Academic Affairs budget for the new faculty position.

If the vice president position is kept, Academic Affairs will have to find the money for Wilder's new salary.

Campus News

Women of Achievement nominations sought

The Bowling Green Human Rights Commission and the Women of Achievement Awards Committee are asking for nominations for the Women of Achievement Awards.

The awards are part of the commission's celebration of Women's History Month in March and will be presented March 30. Awards are handed out in several categories: Creative Arts, Business, Community Service, Education, Entrepreneurship, Posthumous, Science & Health, Women of Distinction, Women's First, Youth Achievement and Women Reaching Higher. Deadline for nominations is 5:30 p.m. Feb. 15.

—Mattias Karen

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College Heights Herald

KD Bulletin Board

Congratulations to Sarah Cleveland, Tammy Hancock, and Miranda Bloyd on their pearlings.

Congratulations to Megan Davis on her ATA lavalier and Erin Wilkins on her FH lavalier.

Congratulations to Mary Banks on her engagement.

Congratulations to Kim Mattingly on her engagement.

Congratulations to Katie Staples on winning National Polled Hereford Queen.

Alumnae of the month: Ande Bird and Allison Bernard

Professor of the month: Larry Danielson

Watch Feb 4 for Miss KY, alumnae sister Jolene Youngster, in the Miss USA pageant. We love you and are so proud of you, Jolene!

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Opinion

Former coach deserves to be remembered

Western will retire a jersey in honor of Clem Haskins, former All-American basketball player and coach, on Saturday night.

He is the fourth of six Hilltopper basketball greats to be recognized this season — a ceremony long overdue.

It's about time Western recognized those whose names we'll never forget.

Many have passed through Diddle Arena, but only a few have earned the right to be called legends. Haskins has earned that right.

Unfortunately, the ceremony to honor him may raise questions about whether alleged mistakes he's made have tarnished his image.

Most of us only remember Haskins for the controversy an academic scandal involving basketball players that he allegedly knew about, ignored and sometimes encouraged — that led to the end of his head coaching job at the University of Minnesota.

We forget that he was an All-American guard for the Hilltoppers in the 1960s. We forget he was one of the greatest basketball players ever to step onto the hardwood in Diddle. And we certainly forget that he coached the Hilltoppers to two consecutive Ohio Valley Conference titles.

Put simply, it's a no-brainer that Western should recognize one of the greatest contributions to basketball in university history.

In fact, Haskins' legacy runs deeper than points scored or games won.

Haskins and the late Dwight Smith were the first two black athletes at Western.

The two of them broke new ground in 1963 even while many throughout the country were still arguing that ground shouldn't be broken.

It was a move that took courage, incredible courage that should never be forgotten.

Haskins' reputation as a coach may have been damaged by the scandal at Minnesota, but his place as a Western legend remains untarnished.

Saturday is your day, Clem. Keep your head high as you walk down that red carpet to take your rightful place in Hilltopper basketball history.

What's done is done. We're not ashamed to call you a hero, and you shouldn't be ashamed to be one.

The Issue:

Western is retiring a jersey in honor of Clem Haskins.

Our view:

Despite his alleged mistakes, Haskins deserves to be honored.



Who wants to be a white male millionaire

Quick. Put these types of people in order by how often they appear on the hit ABC quiz show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

- A) Caucasian females
- B) Homosexual Caucasian males
- C) Heterosexual Caucasian males
- D) Other

Now, I obviously can't tell you who got it the fastest. But if you have watched the show even once, you should have been able to answer this question very quickly very simply.

Here's a breakdown of the correct order.

As is true with many other American things the good of apple pie-eating, heterosexual white male is more frequent in the limelight of "Millionaire" than any other type of person. Take Sunday's episode. Three white men got into the "hotseat" where a contestant can win up to (insert Dr. Evil voice here) ONE MILLION DOLLARS. Now, I'm not really sure if two of them weren't gay, but I know one was, so we'll just assume the other two weren't.

The second most common contestant is the homosexual male. This is where "Millionaire" may actually be doing a public service. Unlike most TV shows and films, the show portrays a positive

image of homosexuality, not the self-righteous, flaming-queer stereotypes that have saturated the tube for years.

So how do I know they're gay? Well,

I'm not making some redneck assumption based on earrings or crossed legs. I don't have gay-dar or anything else. Every one's trailer-trash uncies talk about it.

It's simple. Regis always introduces the person who has accompanied the contestant, and when one of the gay white males is in the hotseat, Regis always refers to the other person as "your partner." By making the "partner" reference, Regis is making a point it's OK to be gay.

I have no problems with homosexuals. But it's at least worth mentioning that more gay white males have appeared on this show than women of any sexual preference.

Third on the list are white women. Women appear even less often than a

much smaller group, gay white males.

Are women inferior to men? I don't think so, but there are probably a lot of chauvinists out there spouting "Millionaire" data, trying to convince people with an ounce of common sense to think otherwise.

Last on our list is the colored man (or woman). Not black, necessarily, but anyone whose skin is a color other than the computer that I'm typing this on. Why have there been virtually no non-Anglo contestants on this show? Maybe it's because white people are the only ones getting sucked in by the hype; therefore, they would be the only ones calling in, trying to get on the show. Maybe it has to do with the questions, which often seem aimed at white America.

No matter what the reason, something should be done about "Millionaire" racism.

It's obvious that there's a pattern on this show: white people rule.

Gay men have a better chance than gay women or straight women, or even black, red or yellow women.

ABC would probably say it's a coincidence.

Sure, and Kathie Lee can sing. R. Justin Shepherd is a freshman print journalism major from Shepherdsville.



R. Justin Shepherd
commentary

What are you doing on Super Bowl Sunday?



"I have no plans."

Feng Ho
graduate student
from Cheng Du,
China



"If I'm not working, I plan on watching the game."

Anthony Wilson
Munfordville
freshman



"I have to work and then we're having a Super Bowl party."

Candace Wright
sophomore from
Coeur d'Alene,
Idaho



"I'm not into sports."

Jonny Davenport
sophomore from
Lander, Wyo.



"We're going to gather at the apartment and watch the Super Bowl."

Jill Ford
Owensboro junior

College Heights Herald

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WKU insurance in \$1 million deficit

Premiums rise, plans may be cut

By JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

Western's self-insurance plan for faculty and staff ran a million dollars in the red during its first year in operation.

The Board of Regents will hear details tomorrow from Human Resources Director Tony Glisson and discuss what to do.

When self-insurance passed the board on Sept. 25, 1998, Glisson projected a \$600,000 surplus the first year. That surplus would have gone into a slush fund to pay for years when care was higher.

That time has already come. Instead, the difference was covered by reinsurance, said accounting and finance professor Joel Philhours.

"It is usual when you self-insure that you're not 100 percent self-insured," said Philhours, a member of Western's health insurance com-

mittee. The committee, chaired by Glisson, advises the Board of Regents.

The university contracted with an outside insurance company in case this happened, Philhours said.

"I may be wrong, but I'm almost sure that Western isn't going to be out any more than Western has collected from its employees and the money Western has budgeted," he said.

On Jan. 19, President Gary Ransdell sent a detailed memorandum to the Board of Regents, the Administrative Council and a few key faculty and staff members. The memo, prepared by Human Resources a week before, outlined the university's cost for health insurance in 1999: \$6.54 million, \$1.07 million over budget. Only \$22,000 of the reinsurance has been received so far. One million more is due in April.

Human Resources enumerated several reasons for the cost overrun. The biggest surprise was prescription cost, about twice the industry average. But more employees signed up for high-end plans than expected, there were more and higher claims than anticipated — one

"I actually think that our university is in about the worst demographic position you could be in for health care."

— Shelly Arsenault
government assistant professor

ran over a quarter of a million dollars — and even the least expensive plans offer excellent benefits.

One of those benefiting was Shelly Arsenault, a government assistant professor. She took the least expensive plan for herself, her husband and her daughter, but still found it reasonable compared to the private insurance Western had previously.

"I was satisfied enough with it," Arsenault said. "I think, as I recall, there were a couple of things that were better than they were last time."

"I actually think that our university is in about the worst demographic position you could be in for health care," she said, since so many faculty are nearing retirement and so many

more are young teachers with growing families.

The memo also spells out how Human Resources is trying to cut costs. The Medical Center agreed to increase discounts it gives patients with Western insurance, but Western also wants to eliminate some plans and cut some benefits.

Premiums have already increased by a quarter of a million dollars for the year 2000.

Arsenault knows. Her premiums went up by about 10 percent, she said. Her co-payment for prescriptions and doctor visits increased, too.

"While these employee cost items have been increased, Western's plans still offer very good coverage and value" measured against premiums for comparable coverage from Anthem Blue Cross, the memo stated.

Human Resources concluded that self-insurance is still a good idea for both financial and administrative reasons. But Western may yet change the percentage of the premium that the university pays.

Western already pays less per employee for health insurance than its benchmark schools

do, and also pays lower salaries, Philhours said.

And when Western's deal with its reinsurer runs out at the end of 2000, he said, university employees can expect their premiums to rise drastically.

Other regents business

At noon tomorrow, the Board of Regents will welcome its new member, Beverly Harper Wathen from Owensboro.

The Academics and Student Affairs Committee will recommend creation of bachelor's degrees in Applied Technology, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Construction Engineering and Management.

The committee will also recommend adoption of the new intellectual property policy and the charter for a new University Senate.

The board should approve the renovation of Garrett Conference Center and Downing University Center and the adoption of student fees for the 2000-2001 academic year.

Ransdell will also report on the state of the feasibility study of Diddle Arena renovation or replacement.

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DORM: Demand likely to increase

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

years. That number is still correct for double rooms, but students choosing to live in suites may have to pay much more.

"Is it likely that most students will spend more than 5 percent more per year?" Ransdell said. "Probably... but that is what many students tell us that they want."

The university sent a survey out to almost 4,000 students last semester to see what kind of improvements they are looking for, and Ransdell said more surveys will be sent out to make sure the

planned improvements are in line with those desires.

"All the way along, students will be calling the shots on this," Ransdell said. "This is all about pleasing the students."

The demand for on-campus housing is expected to increase dramatically when the renovations are finished, which could eventually result in the requirement for sophomores to live on campus being dropped, Ransdell said.

The exterior of some dorms would change dramatically as well, according to the plans

According to a preliminary rendering of South Hall, it will get a totally remodeled roof, an arch-like entrance and other external changes.

Overall, the foundation's work is on schedule, said Housing and Residence Life Director Brian Kuster, adding that he's pleased with the developments so far.

"I am excited," Kuster said. "This is an opportunity we will only have one chance at. There is no other way Western can make a bigger impact on the residence halls."



February 16, 2000

7p.m. @ Southern Lanes

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4-6 people per team

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diversions

FENG SHUI QUICK COURSE

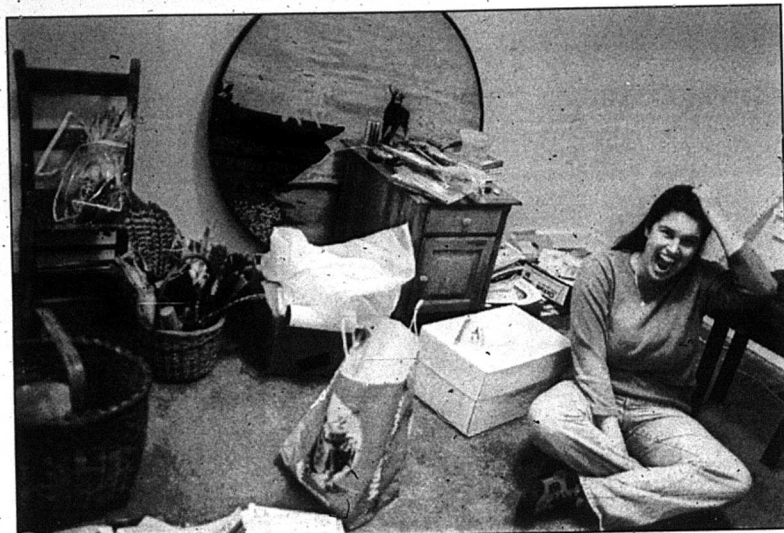
Though living in a dorm may limit your Feng Shui options, here are a few simple things you can do to rid that nifty institutional look from your room.

- ◆ White is considered the color of mourning and can make a room harsh and uncomfortable. To break up the monotony, use colorful touches like potted plants and posters.

- ◆ Warm, subdued colors are best. Cool colors can make a room seem harsh. Using too much of any color can throw the harmony of the room.

- ◆ Mirrors can make a room bigger and brighter. But using too many mirrors can disrupt the serenity of the room, making it too lively and awake. Electrical appliances like computers and TVs can have the same effect. Try keeping them in an enclosed cabinet or throwing a sheet over the set at night.

- ◆ Keep the surfaces and edges of furnishings round and smooth. Furniture with sharp edges can disrupt the energy flow of a room.



A room filled with clutter often creates a feeling of confusion and will immediately put people in a bad mood. According to the art of feng shui, clutter breaks the positive flow of energy and disrupts harmonious vibrations.

EVERYBODY Feng Shui TONIGHT

Insight into the Chinese art of achieving harmony and balance in the home

STORY BY LINH TRAN
PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS BY CARA VANLEUVEN

Feng shui. No, it's not an Oriental side dish. It's a way of life for many people.

What is feng shui? Feng shui (pronounced fung shway) is the Chinese art of arranging furniture and colors in your room to achieve harmony and balance.

It literally translates to "wind and water," which is about enhancing the environment or the energy around you for a more tranquil home.

Joyce Rasdall, a Consumer and Family Sciences professor, has been teaching at Western for about 20 years. She said the Chinese will actually hire a feng shui expert before building or buying a home.

Rasdall said feng shui deals with a lot of interior design concepts, but she doesn't know if it's a trend that will stick.

"There are a lot of trends in interior design," she said. "Only time will tell if it will be a lasting trend."

How to feng shui your space

Just because students live in small dorm rooms or apartments doesn't mean feng shui cannot be applied to their lives.

Though Scottsville sophomore Daniel Hagan is unfamiliar with feng shui, he is looking for ways to change his North Hall room.

"Sometimes I change things around in my room to make things more uplifting," he said.

It doesn't take a lot of work to rid your room of that harsh institutional feel. For instance, the principles of feng shui state that a television set has no place in the bedroom. The same rule applies to exercise equipment and computers, because they are all symbols of activity and wakefulness and prevent rest.

But living in a dorm room doesn't allow for much leeway on these kinds of things. Instead of getting rid of a TV set, try putting the set inside an entertainment center that can be easily covered at night, or toss a sheet over the set.



A room arranged in the proper feng shui style has five elements to balance: wood, fire, water, air and metal. Rooms with healthy plants, beautiful objects and clear lights attract people, putting them in a settled and rested mood.

Colors

In feng shui, color represents the elements and energies that can control the mood of a room. When it comes to choosing a color, the feng shui philosophy is the more subdued, the better. Though Housing and Residence Life gets a little antsy about students painting their walls, you can choose the colorful accents to influence the flow of energy.

Green is ideal for a bedroom, says Terah Kathryn Collins, a feng shui consultant who has written several feng shui books including "The Western School Guide to Feng Shui: Room By Room."

Green is considered to be a color of growth, freshness, and peace. But stay away from the dark forest greens and other dark colors that can dominate a room.

SEE FENG SHUI, PAGE 8

ENTER AND WIN: Cupid aims arrows at twelve lucky students



SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK
Matt Batchelder

"Louis, I think this is the start of a beautiful friendship." Those words ended perhaps

the best movie of all time. For the 20 or 30 who came to see it Saturday in Downing University Center Theatre, it was a real treat.

But even those who couldn't applaud the beginning of at least one more beautiful friendship, and perhaps more.

It's between the Herald and New Rock 92, Western's student rock 'n' roll station. And it could be between you and a very spe-

cial member of the opposite sex.

Introducing the Blind Date of the Millennium contest. It's this simple: the Herald and New Rock will collect 12 lucky names from the hat, six female and six male. We'll then randomly match each girl with a guy.

Then it's off for a night on the town. Dinner is courtesy of O' Charley's.

Isn't there a catch? Well, sort of. We matchmakers at New Rock and the Herald want to see if our

results are successful. So, if you win, you might get a friendly call from a reporter who wants to see how things went.

Will you still see that person after the date? Is he or she a jerk? Or Mr. Right? You decide.

A couple other rules: we give you the certificates, you get to set up the date, and let us know how things went. Really, we're pulling for you!

The drawing will be held LIVE on New Rock 92 between 8

and 10 p.m. on Feb. 10. We ask that you go on your date within the next week.

You can't lose! Entry forms are on page 10.

SuperPicks

- ◆ The pick of the weekend? Duh! The SuperBowl!

- Restaurants throughout Bowling Green are gearing up. Think hot wings and beer.

SEE SUPERPICKS, PAGE 8

FENG SHUI: Serenity in space

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Nashville sophomore Heather Trew painted her bedroom green because she liked the color. Although she has heard about feng shui in magazines, she won't be moving her furniture anytime soon.

"My furniture is pretty much stuck where it is because my room is too small," she said.

Collins suggests that cool colors like blues, whites or black shouldn't dominate a room because it makes the space feel cold. White is a color of death for the Chinese, which is a problem considering most dorm room walls are white.

To offset this effect, the feng shui philosophy suggests adding pots of colorful flowers or other colorful touches to the room.

As for the bed, make it sensual, serene and simple. Round pillows are preferable to square ones whose corners interrupt the cycle of energy. It is important not to fill it with lacy, fuzzy pillows, dolls and stuffed animals. This is more of a problem for single women, who may not know that doing this sends out the message that there is no room for a relationship.

Western's own feng shui believer

Journalism professor Paula Quinn said she had always been interested in ancient wisdom, and when she heard about feng shui, it made a lot of sense to her.

About three years ago, she became interested in the philosophy she pronounces "fung schwee." Quinn uses feng shui principles in both her office and home.

Quinn said one of the more important feng shui principles is to have the five natural elements of metal, wood, water, air, and fire represented in your space.

Metals can be anything from using the color gold to a metal lamp. Woods can be represented by plants and wooden furniture.

The water effect may seem difficult to achieve, especially in a dorm room, but it isn't. Water can be represented by the color blue, a small fountain or a picture of the ocean.

Air can be easily represented with candles, music, pictures of angels or butterflies. Candles can also be used to symbolize fire.

In Quinn's home, both her front and back doors are red with gold accents, to welcome any guests with luck and prosperity. This also harnesses positive energy into her home.

Quinn's bedroom is uncluttered with no signs of a television set or any other work equipment. Strategically placed plants and her headboard's smooth curves keep the room's energy flowing in a circular motion.

She said people will keep old mementos they don't absolutely need. This inhibits a person from moving forward with their life.

While you shouldn't throw away everything, Quinn suggested displaying objects that evoke good memories and storing or throwing away those that don't.

To add some life to a room, Quinn suggested some goldfish in a round bowl or adding flowers or plants to the windowsill.

Quinn said that every college student should be able to apply feng shui in their lives.

"Everybody has the things," she said. "They just need to arrange them in a pleasing way."



GONE WITH THE WIND

Starring: Clark Gable

DUC

January 26-29

7:00 p.m.

\$2.00

SUPERPICKS:

Super Bowl is the place to be

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Buffalo Wild Wings (BW-3s to most of us) is holding a huge party. Pregame festivities start at 2 p.m. with a live remote from 103.7 The Point CDs, T-shirts and a raffle drawing for a free Super Bowl dinner for four are for the taking.

Across the street, Tailgaters Sports Bar is having a pig roast in honor of the pigskin. The roast is all-you-can-eat and should get underway after noon. Cost is \$11.99.

If you'd rather stay on campus, you can party for free. As part of "Men's Week," Rodes Harlin and Keen halls are offering free pizza, wings, drinks and possibly prizes. The party starts at 6 p.m.

Can't wait for our blind date contest? Then head to McCormack Hall at 6 Friday night. The hall is holding a "Millennium Matchmaker" at 6:30 p.m. It's described as a close cousin to MTV's "Singed Out." There's a \$40 440 Main Restaurant gift certificate up for grabs for you love birds.

Ever the classic movie fan, I must again point you in the direction of DUC Theatre at 7 tonight through Saturday. That's when the theater will be showing "Gone With the Wind." And on Friday night at 11 p.m. only, the theater is showing the cult film classic "Easy Rider," featuring a young Jack Nicholson and Peter Fonda in the height of the hippie era. Don't miss it. Tickets are \$2.

Think you've had a bad day? Imagine how you'd feel after a tornado destroyed your house. That's what happened to several Owensboro residents a few weeks back.

Fortunately, there's a fun way to help. At 8 p.m. Monday, DUC Theatre will host the Owensboro Crisis Relief benefit concert. The event, originally scheduled for tomorrow, is now Monday. Tickets are still \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Proceeds go to the tornado victims.

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News of the Weird *by Chuck Shepherd*

Not your dad's loan shark

Authorities in Tokyo began investigating the giant finance company Nichiei in November after two debtors reported being pressured by Nichiei loan managers to sell their kidneys and other body parts to meet payment schedules. According to a separate lawsuit, another Nichiei employee demanded that a debtor sell his daughter into prostitution. Nichiei is the country's leading lender to small businesses.

Those wily criminals

In September, Alexander J. Blastos, 34, was arrested in Florida and charged with writing a bad check for \$9,600 to cover the cost of a private jet flight back to Keene, N.H., to his court date on

federal wire-fraud charges.

However, when New Orleans check-forgery defendant Keefe Anderson, 34, tried to post bail in October with a forged check, it worked; Judge Charles Elloie fell for it and also accepted without investigation Anderson's bail petition with bogus addresses. Anderson, who police said is also a suspect in a murder investigation, immediately skipped town.

Practical uses for physics

Pumpkin farmer Hugh Mommson of Rice Lake, Wis., told a reporter that he was ready to step up from his pumpkin catapult which can achieve massive splatter by sending a 30-pound pumpkin 150 feet up and 400 feet out, to the even more powerfully splattering pumpkin cannon. He noted,

however, that the awesomeness of the splat depends not only on the force of impact but also on the variety of pumpkin.

What a cute couple

In June, Jill Mayfield, 21, accepted the marriage proposal of Doyle Kelley, 35, in Joplin, Mo. It would be Kelley's third marriage; Joplin police have charges pending against him for strangling his first wife and drowning the second in a bathtub.

And in April, Lillian Elease Lewis, 42, married Lucien Samuel Sherrod Jr., in Nashville, despite Sherrod's present incarceration on charges that he killed his second wife and an indictment against him for attempted murder of his first wife.

MADAME MOONBEAM'S PREDICTIONS

ARIES (March 21 - April 19) If your life has been reduced to disorder, this is the week to slap it all back into place. Use a sudden upswing of energy to clean out the black-hole of despair that is your closet.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 21) Your waning bank account is on your mind, and that's where it should be. You can treat yourself and some friends to some much-needed cheap fun, but don't drain your assets in the process.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) The cold weather is taking its toll on you. Your body may not be working at peak performance lately, so take extra time for proper nutrition and treating yourself right. Don't skimp on the orange juice.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) The slacker siren's song of the television is luring you towards the rocks of academic ruin. As tempting as those syndicated episodes of "The Cosby Show" are, focus your energy back to your studies.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22) Now is not the time to barrel into a situation with your typical mindless bravado. Put your superman cape away for a day or two and practice caution. You can still laugh in the face of danger, but then try hiding until it goes away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) A typical Virgo, you mean what you say and say what you mean. And while this honesty is admirable, it'll probably offend a new acquaintance. Save the scathing wit for people who are used to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) A minor oversight is coming back to bite you. Live and learn; do not ignore the details next time. Pay attention and make a mental note of who you can count on in a time of crisis.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 22) Inner and outer forces are going to make demands on your time and attention. Take ten minutes out of every day to remember. Spring Break is less than eight weeks away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21) Try something new, whether it's learning a new language or learning to love Thai food. Life-altering change? No. A way to kill the mid-winter blahs? You betcha.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20) Avoid Super Bowl Weekend mishaps. Don't bet. Don't play football with your gargantuan friends if you weigh 90 pounds. And no matter what your drunk friends tell you, beer and darts don't mix.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) Just when you thought you'd ditched the Yuletide season, your spirit of generosity is about to be tested. A simple favor for a friend could snowball into a major time-consuming project.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - March 20) Ignoring a conflict will not make it go away. If anything, it will make it fester. A crucial relationship is being challenged. Show your maturity and be the first one to apologize.

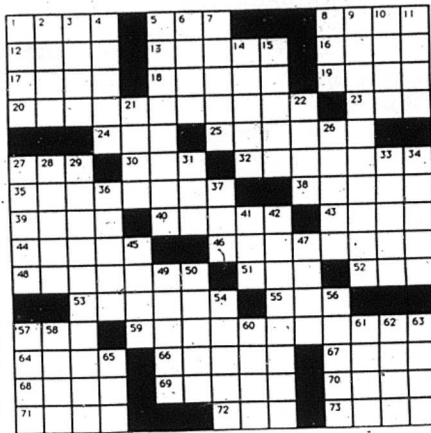
Plaza Six

Eye of the Beholder — (F) 7, 9, 15 (S&S) 1, 15, 3, 30, 7, 9, 15
The Hurricane — (F) 7, 10, 10, 10 (S&S) 1, 10, 4, 10, 7, 10, 10
Any Given Sunday — (F) 6, 50, 9, 40 (S&S) 1, 4, 6, 50, 9, 40
Galaxy Quest — (F) 7, 10, 9, 20 (S&S) 1, 30, 3, 45, 7, 10, 9, 20
The Talented Mr. Ripley — (F) 7, 9, 45 (S&S) 1, 10, 4, 7, 9, 45
Bicentennial Man — (F) 6, 50 (S&S) 1, 3, 45, 6, 50
Supernova — (F, S&S) 9, 30

WEEKEND SHOWCLOCK

Greenwood Six

Down To You — (F) 7, 15, 9, 15 (S&S) 1, 15, 3, 15, 5, 15, 7, 15, 9, 15
Girl, Interrupted — (F) 6, 50, 9, 30 (S&S) 1, 3, 45, 6, 50, 9, 30
Toy Story 2 — (F) 7, 9, 15 (S&S) 1, 30, 3, 45, 7, 9, 15
The Green Mile — (F) 8 (S&S) 1, 4, 30, 8
Stuart Little — (F) 7, 15, 9, 20 (S&S) 1, 15, 3, 15, 5, 15, 7, 15, 9, 20
Play It To The Bone — (F) 6, 50, 9, 30 (S&S) 1, 20, 4, 6, 50, 9, 30



ACROSS

1. Sound of mirth
5. Drink
8. Unlawful operation
12. 1/3 of a deck
13. Realities
16. Street sign
17. Place to spend dinars
18. Mignon
19. Cut
20. Consecrated anew
23. Cereal
24. Oedipus
26. Panic
27. Man's nickname
30. Nat'l. Security Act apcy.
32. Adds flavor to
35. Baseball team awards
36. Secret society
39. ... two turtle doves, ...
40. Forest clearing
44. ... lit? words to a technician
46. Trade
48. Cellos and violas
51. Exclamation of surprise
52. Agosto or septiembre
53. Herds
55. Word with time or weed
57. 10/31 greeting
59. Charges
64. Not at all moist
66. Student's concern
67. Confidante
68. Game of chance
69. Got up
70. O
71. Oustard ingredients
72. Initials for the author of Kidnapped
73. Body parts

DOWN

1. Head covering
2. Farmer's division
3. Leader
4. Actor Ed
5. Attaching
6. Of the pew people
7. Dazzling display
8. City divisions; abbr.

© Puzzle Features Syndicate

9. Former anesthetic
10. Operatic highlight
11. Dog
14. French noggins
15. Cubic meter
21. Numerical prefix
22. Small amount
26. Siouan language
27. Extends across
28. Belief
29. Experiencing
31. Ocean; abbr.
33. Relation
34. Abbrs. in mail-in rebate offers
36. Low point
37. Pouch
41. Retriever
42. May birthstones
45. Celebes ox
47. Protein source
49. Bodies of water
50. In two
54. Grown nifo
56. Fairy tale character
57. Make tarts
58. "Beaver State"; abbr.
60. Place for a British coin
61. Novel set in the South Seas
62. 2 and 3 and 4
63. Spots
65. Musical notes

Answer to last week's puzzle:

MALTA	CROW	LAPP
ALIEN	LANA	ARLO
RIVET	OPERATION	
SEE	LEET	BIDDY
TEB	PLAN	
DESTIRE	BAIT	SPA
OVALL	EUSEE	MRS
SIBERIAN	ANHUSKIES	
ELL	AORTA	ELER
SSE	STES	REAGENT
	SHAD	DONS
SAUTE	MUTT	GER
APPORTION	EMADE	
ROTO	ELLE	AVEN
IDOL	ALES	STENO

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Concert will rock the Hill, benefit tornado victims

National and local talent to perform

By ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

It may not be quite the concert that some Hilltoppers had in mind, but the Owensboro Crisis Relief benefit concert will do more for some students than providing a couple hours of good music.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the Owensboro/Davess County Relief Fund to benefit the victims of the tornado that recently swept through Owensboro.

Kathy Estes of Owensboro Disaster Relief thinks that the concert is a great idea.

"I think it's wonderful," Estes said. "It takes a long time to rebuild and cleanup. There are over 100 homes that are damaged and over 100 families who lost not only their homes,

but everything they own as well. I just think it's wonderful."

Ben Ewing, a representative for South Central Bank, which is the financial underwriter for the concert, set the concert up because he believed that the people of Owensboro could use a helping hand.

"With the new year and all the fuss about Y2K, Owensboro kind of got forgotten about," Ewing said. "Being in the entertainment business, I was in a position to make some phone calls and help out."

Ewing is the booking agent for some of the acts that will be jamming on Monday. Acts include Jack Ingram, Eric Heatherly, Daylon Wear, some members of the Kentucky Headhunters and local talent Pat Haney.

Ewing described the acts as coming out of the alternative-country-Americana mode of music.

"We are thrilled to have ended up with the acts we did," Ewing said. "Everybody's heart

is in the right place."

All the entertainers are playing for free, and the production costs are being taken care of by South Central Bank so that all ticket proceeds will go directly to the relief fund.

People all the way from Bowling Green to Evansville know about the concert, and Ewing would love to see the theater completely filled.

Ewing got the whole concert together because he remembered how horrible he felt when a similar storm ripped through Bowling Green about three years ago.

"I remember walking out my door when we had a tornado and the awful feeling I had," he said. "I wanted to help."

If you go

What: Owensboro Crisis Relief benefit concert

When: 8 p.m., Monday

Where: DUC theater

Admission: \$10, \$5 for students



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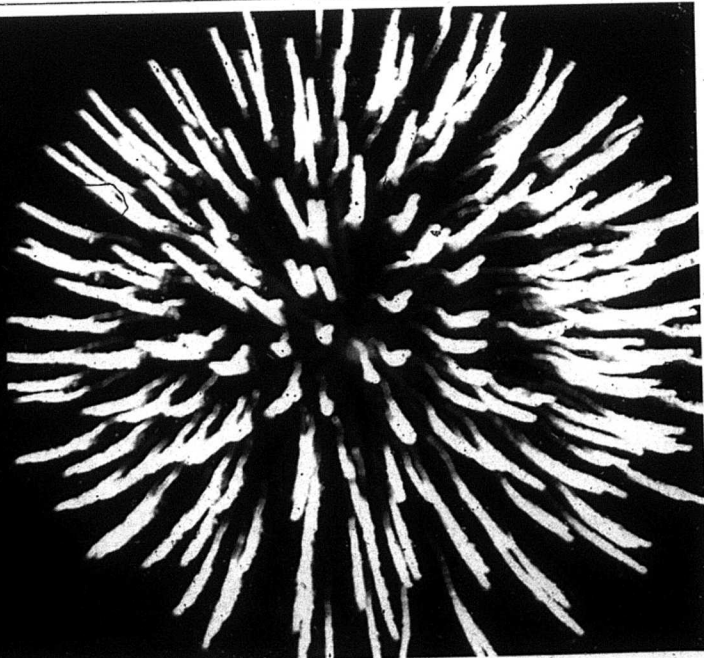
CELEBRATING

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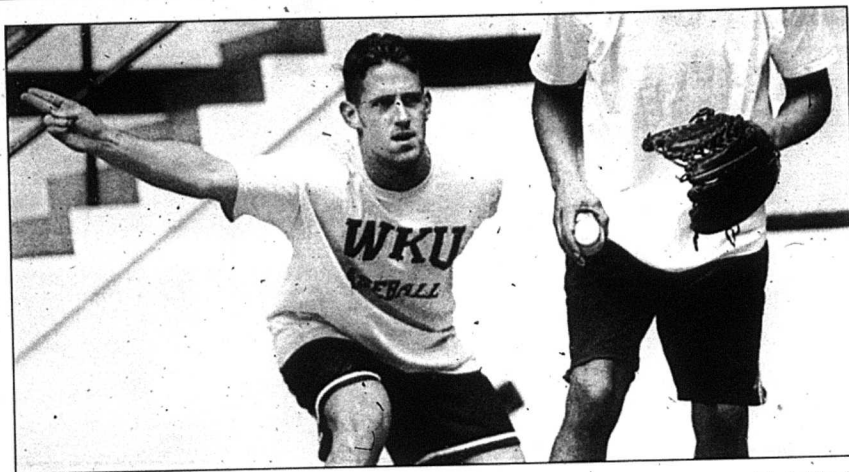
YEARS OF

EXCELLENCE

Covering Western
Civilization Since
January 29, 1925.



Sports



John Lok/Herald

Western pitcher Jay Meyer, left, a senior from Winnipeg, Manitoba, signals a strike during practice on Wednesday afternoon in Diddle Arena. The team is leaving for Florida State today for a three game series that begins tomorrow.

Big game offers big action for Titan fans

Area residents embrace team

By JOE COX
Herald reporter

The attractive blonde sat impassively through Sunday's basketball game. She occasionally clapped and generally paid attention, but the woman never managed to get excited by the Lady Toppers' showdown with No. 3 Louisiana Tech.

Then, in one sudden moment, she wheeled around eyes widening.

"What did he say?" she asked the fans sitting behind her. When told that the PA announcer had just relayed that the Tennessee Titans had won the AFC championship game 33-14 over the Jacksonville Jaguars, thus earning them a spot in Super Bowl XXXIV this Sunday in Atlanta, she thrust her fist into the air.

"Yes," she yelled over the din of the game.

It's obvious that some people in Bowling Green are pretty excited over the Titans' first ever trip to the Super Bowl.

Nashville senior Tina Clark, cares so much about the Titans that she would sacrifice her job rather than miss watching the Super Bowl. Fortunately, her boss has been kind enough to give her the day off.

"I would love to be in Atlanta this weekend," Clark said. "I was excited when we got them (the Titans). Last year, I didn't follow them that much. I think with my excitement I've gotten more people talking about it and watching it."

SEE GAME, PAGE 15

Tops ready for No. 6 'Noles

Keller primed for rematch with alma mater

By BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

When Western takes the field tomorrow for the first in a three-game series against baseball powerhouse Florida State, assistant coach Clyde Keller won't be wondering just how good this Seminoles team is. He won't be anxious to see how many fans will turn out for the early season showdown and he won't be surprised by the local media frenzy.

He already knows Keller will feel right at home after having played two years at Florida State in the

late 1980s. His 1989 team reached college baseball's most coveted prize the College World Series.

The Seminoles lost to Wichita, who went on to win the national championship that year, but Keller learned what it takes to win and he feels this Western club can do just that this weekend.

"I feel very confident in our hitters' ability to score runs," Keller said. "The tough thing for us is really just handling the new environment. It'll be a hostile place to play. Even though they have great pitching, I think we have an advantage mentally. We were 15th in the country last season (in pitching), but I think we're even better this year."

Keller, in his third season coaching at Western, expects

2,000 to 4,000 fans to be on hand for each game of the series. The Seminoles were national runners-up in 1999, losing 6-5 to Miami in the championship of the World Series. They have made 10 trips to the World Series during the last 13 years.

The Hilltoppers will be dealing with a strong Florida State pitching staff and one of the nation's most explosive hitters in All-American second baseman Marshall McDougall. McDougall led the Seminoles with a .491 batting average, 28 home runs and an NCAA-best 106 RBIs last season.

But Western head coach Joel Murrie isn't intimidated.

"McDougall is a fine hitter," Murrie said. "But we're going to pitch to our strengths and we'll see what he can do with that. It's a great test for our ball

club and our ability to execute and develop the poise and competitiveness we need."

Junior pitcher Ryan Hutchison will start tomorrow, senior Josh Novotný Saturday and junior Brian Houdek will close out the series on Sunday. Murrie says the series will show which players are going to step up and produce this season, but the team isn't weighing the series too heavily.

"It's just three games that could propel us to great things," Murrie said.

The first game in the series will be televised live on WKYU-TV tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. Florida State coach Mike Martin says his top three pitchers will throw against Western.

SEE TOPS, PAGE 13

Tops look to keep streak alive

By TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

It seems that Western's men's basketball team is curing its disease of panic. The blood of hoop dreams is now free to roam through healthy veins.

After punching back and climbing over South Alabama in double overtime last Saturday, then clawing back and holding off Denver on Monday, the Hilltoppers have bits of the same attitude of early December. Then, they nearly topped Mississippi State on the road and demolished Murray State and Virginia Commonwealth in Diddle Arena.

"It's just confidence, man," sophomore center Chris Marcus said.

Western is tied for fourth in the Sun Belt Conference standings. But the Hilltoppers still believe they are the league's best team. For some assurance, joining them in that tie is Louisiana Tech. The thing is, the Bulldogs are 11-5 overall, an opposite reflection of the Hilltoppers' 5-11 mark.

And at 7 tonight in Diddle, the still-youthful Western hosts that La Tech squad that's as seasoned as cajun cookin'.

La Tech only lost standout Lonnie

Hilltoppers vs Louisiana Tech

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Diddle

Arena
Bowling Green, Ky.

Records: Western 5-11

La Tech 11-5

Radio: The Gator, 107.1 FM



Cooper from a year ago. Three Bulldogs are scoring in double figures, with junior guard Gerrod Henderson's 18 points per game leading the way. And freshman forward Antonio Meeking is scoring 11 points an outing.

"They're almost the same team as last year, only better," Western coach Dennis Felton said. "They have scary talent. We're going to have to play an outstanding defensive game in order to keep them

SEE STREAK, PAGE 14

Powers healthy, playing well

By LYNDSEY SUTTON
Herald reporter

Injuries are as familiar to Natalie Powers as a common cold.

This sophomore guard has battled an unusual chronic case of injury-itis in her career as a Lady Topper.

Two stress fractures in her right leg limited her to just 23 games in her first two seasons on the Hill, the latter becoming a redshirt year.

This season would be her first real opportunity to prove to her teammates, fans, and opponents that she is finally healthy enough, and ready enough, to play a whole, complete, total season.

Questions surrounded her reentry into the basketball world: Would Natalie be the scorer she was in high school? Would Natalie be ready since she really hadn't experienced what college basketball is all about? What if, just if, she gets injured again — would she be able to bounce back?

Powers can score. She's posted double-digits in eight of 16 games this season. She scored a career-high 17 points in Sunday's 85-61 loss to then-No. 3 Louisiana Tech.

Lady Tops at South Alabama

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Mitchell

Center

Mobile, Ala.

Records: Western 10-7

South Alabama 5-11

Radio: 99.3 Scottsville



Before that, she'd scored 15 points four times, including the season-opener against Indiana.

"I think the Louisiana Tech game really helped me out a lot because I was 0-6 in the first half and then I just came out just stronger, and like I said, with a different mindset," Powers said. "Taking it to the hole and I hit a three, I think and just knocking down a couple of shots helped me get myself into the game."

SEE POWERS, PAGE 14

Murrie, players want championship

The man's cell phone rings the melody to "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," for Christ's sake.

You'd half expect Western baseball coach Joel Murrie to tell you the first diamond he showed his wife was a baseball diamond.

"And on the first date, I put on my pinstripes and bought her peanuts and everything!" Murrie might say. "I wanted to slide for her, but I thought that might be moving too fast."

I'm not a doctor, but I think Murrie's heart pumps fastballs that flow through his veins as if launched from a pitching machine. Say cow and he thinks glove instead of hamburger.

He is an unapologetic baseball lifer, which is not a bad thing. During an interview this week, the man spoke so passionately about the game that I almost wanted to jump up and turn a 4-6-3 double play by myself. But I didn't.

I thought hamburger instead of glove.

Murrie's story is this. Nineteen years ago, he was the hottest coach in college. He took this Western program and won more than 70 percent of his games during his first five seasons. His teams struggled for a couple of years thereafter, but the Toppers rose again in 1988 and won a Sun Belt Conference title.

After that began The Drought, this sometimes painful, sometimes frustrating 11-year titleless stretch Murrie can be candid about it all, using phrases like "we got our butts beat" to explain some of it, but that doesn't soothe everything.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow, a much-talked-about, expectation-injected Western baseball team will try to prove themselves worthy of greatness against 1999 national runner-up Florida State.

For three games this weekend, the Hilltoppers will be fighting for national prominence. This entire season, they will be fighting for a return to greatness.

Hope that you're ready for



PLAYGROUND NOTES

Jerry Brewer

them. Western. Hope that you flick on the tube tomorrow and see what they have.

"Our players have to go in with an expectation," Murrie said. "It's not OK to lose, not OK to give games away. When you get a mindset like that, teams win. I think we have players who believe this team can win a championship."

He thinks this because of last season's momentum, and his team's reaction to that success. Western finished 38-24 in 1999, won 23 of its final 31 games and was one run from the NCAA Tournament.

"I don't know if there was any hotter team in this part of the country," Murrie said of his team's late-season run after a 15-16 start.

But here's why this season is so expectation-filled, even though the Hilltoppers lost their top four hitters from that club. The players weren't satisfied with that.

They wondered aloud why they began last season so poorly instead of praising the terrific finish. We coulda made it to the tournament! We coulda made it to the tournament!

Western wants more now. How about an NCAA appearance? How about setting this program up for even greater things in years to come?

Murrie was chatting the other day with junior pitcher Ryan Hutchinson — who teams with senior Josh Novotney and junior Brian Houdek to form a balanced and formidable starting rotation — about aspirations. The possibility of him being

drafted came up.

Hutchinson immediately told Murrie that the only way he'd leave school early was if he had fulfilled a promise.

"I'm gonna do my job to bring a championship to this program," Hutchinson told Murrie. "If we don't win a championship, I'm coming back."

It was a conversation that Murrie remembered.

"Over the years, we've always talked about our goal of winning a national championship," Murrie said. "A lot of guys through the years have been like, 'Yeah, right.' Now, that's all they talk about, all they want."

Pitching coach Clyde Keller goes around the clubhouse saying that it will be "the greatest story ever in the history of baseball" when Western wins that College World Series. I know it sounds funny, but, please, try it. It's fun.

The players talk some smack, too. But even more so, they are preparing like winners. "They don't go through practice half-assed," Murrie said, which says plenty about work ethic.

Of course, there are questions. Who's going to spark the offense? Where's the team speed? How will the team respond to being hyped?

Murrie does not have concrete answers for those, but he trusts his team will.

And by the way, skip, who on this team excites you?

"By saying that, I take away from the importance of team," he said. "I'm going to dance around that one. I want 30 players who are going to get me excited. The first five on the field get me excited. The last five to leave, the ones I have to run off, get me excited."

If so, then the man has much excitement inside of him. And if his team does what he believes they can do, then we're bound to see even more.

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

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Swimmers ready for Evansville

Meet features three additional events

By BRETT CORBIN
Herald reporter

This week's swim meet is at home and against a shallow Evansville opponent, but those are advantages the Western swim squad really doesn't need.

But they'll be happy to take one more win. Swimming against little competition is nothing new for the Lady Toppers, who have coasted past the majority of their opponents this season. But no meet is taken as a win before they get into the pool.

"It's still a meet. It's a chance

to race," sophomore Brandi Beckwith said. "Either way, you still get excited to get in the pool and dive off the blocks."

Even with a handful of minor injuries, the Lady Toppers are confident the depth of their team can pull out a win.

"You have to be positive," sophomore Sara Eddie said. "You have to think you are going to win, to win."

The other half of Western's swim team is coming off a good week of training and expects to win, but is not going to let Evansville take anything from them.

"If we don't come out and swim like we can, they're gonna sneak up on us," junior Brent Poland said. "Evansville's not a meet we can completely look past."

According to Western coaches,

Evansville has a few strong swimmers, but they drop off and show signs of vulnerability. Western will not know until the last moment where Evansville will place their top swimmers, as they will make impromptu decisions on Saturday.

Fans can look forward to a tough backstroke race for sophomore Gord Veldman and another close competition in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle for senior Kicker Vencill.

This week's meet is a bit unique since it will feature three more events than usual, making a total of 16. But Western will meet the challenge head on.

"They gave us a pretty good meet last year," assistant coach Steve Crocker said. "We're gonna have to be pretty sharp to beat them."

TOPS: Halliday out for FSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

starting with Jon McDonald tomorrow, Blair Varnes Saturday and Mike Ziegler Sunday.

"I don't think there's any question that our team is very mindful of the great finish Western had last season," Martin said. "I think the main thing is Joel Murrie, Clyde Keller and Dan Mosier. They make up a good coaching staff. They know the game and how to win."

Junior John Halliday, who was slated to be the Seminoles' designated hitter, will not play due to a recent surgery.

The Toppers haven't focused specifically on any part of Florida State's team, despite their No. 5 national ranking by

"They're a good ball club and they don't lose many non-conference games at home."

— Joel Murrie

Western baseball coach on Florida State

Collegiate Baseball magazine. Preparations have been a "crash course" to ready the team for the entire season, Murrie said.

Houdek shares the optimism of his teammates on playing Florida State. They're looking at the series as an opportunity to see where they stand on the college baseball landscape and set the foundation for the season ahead.

"It will be good to come back

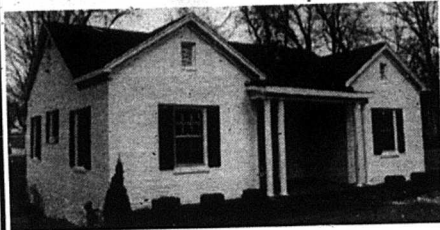
with a win or two or three," Houdek said. "We're gonna take it to them and if we play as a team, we'll be just fine. We'll open some eyes."

Murrie is 1-6 all-time against Florida State. In 1990, the Toppers were swept in a three-game series at Florida State, but Murrie says his team had opportunities to win in the late innings of each game.

The Seminoles also beat Western in the 1980 NCAA South Regional title game, keeping them from moving on to the College World Series in Murrie's first season as coach. The teams split a two-game series in 1985.

"It's a good series," Murrie said. "They're a good ball club and they don't lose many non-conference games at home."

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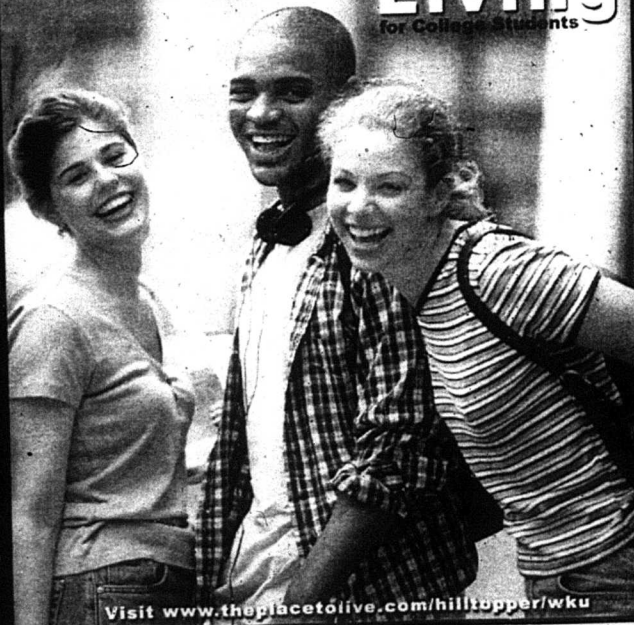
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POWERS: Lady Tops face South Alabama tonight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11



Natalie Powers

Powers is ready for the college game. She averages almost 34 minutes a contest and has started 15 of 16 games. She's

making 75 percent of her free throws (6-8) with five minutes or less remaining, and is hitting 79 percent on the season. Her backcourt mate, senior guard Jaime Walz, said Powers just needs to be more consistent.

"Natalie's gone up and down a lot this year, but I think we're telling her to take her shots when they're open and don't think about it," Walz said.

"Early in the year she wasn't getting her shots up because she was thinking about it. She's wanted to set up the offense, but she's a great shooter and we need her. Everybody's been telling her, 'If you're open, shoot the ball.'"

And, Powers can bounce back from injuries as proven in Western's 75-68 win over Miami (Fla.) earlier this month. She mildly sprained her left ankle

in the first half of the Tuesday game and missed one other game as a result.

Powers returned that Sunday against Arkansas State and scored 12 points, grabbed six rebounds and dished out three assists.

Powers and the Lady Toppers (10-7, 4-2 Sun Belt Conference) play tonight at South Alabama (5-11, 0-5) and at New Orleans (7-8, 3-1) on

Saturday night.

"The one thing she's got going for her is that she's more mature because she's two years older," Western coach Steve Small said. "She's more mature because she sat out and watched. Right now, she has a great attitude toward basketball and toward getting herself ready for a great junior and senior year. She has the possibility of being a great college basketball player."

STREAK: Toppers play La Tech tonight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

from scoring, and we're going to have to be very poised against an athletic defense. That's going to be such a huge game and a huge challenge.

"They're good. They have an answer for everything — shoot it, drive it, rebound it, dunk it, everything."

The Bulldogs like to trap the post, something that Western knows it must combat with the same kind of poise that has won the last two games. Marcus has been ruling the interior, nearly

"We've gotta come out and play with the same intensity every single game."

— **Nashon McPherson**

Western junior guard

averaging a double-double (10 points and nine rebounds). And his monstrous but quiet swats have him atop the league in blocked shots. And senior forward Lee Lamplsey has also

become a feared Sun Belt opponent, dropping about 20 points per game in conference play.

Western is coming off its most solid rebounding performance, cleaning the glass 13 more times than Denver. Both Western and La Tech are hauling in about 39 boards per game.

The dog tags are of the same team that beat Western both times in the regular season last year, both by the tune of 63-54. But the Hilltoppers muzzled La Tech in the conference tourna-

ment, en route to a chance at the NCAA tango.

That was a big game. And when they meet again tonight, like any other game, this one is huge for Western, a team trying to regain and maintain its balance.

"Every game is a big test for us," junior guard Nashon McPherson said. "We've gotta come out and play with the same intensity every single game."

And clear out any congestion, any cough, any pinch of losing.

Check out more information about the men's and women's basketball teams in the basketball notebooks on the Herald webpage at:

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HONOR: Leaving Western gave Haskins opportunities

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

advice from former coach John Oldham, as a player and as a man. When he wanted to talk about marriage, Haskins went to Oldham.

When he strides down the red carpet to midcourt Saturday, he'll be thanking his former teammates, like Dwight Smith, who was killed in a car accident after their senior season, on Mother's Day.

And then there are his parents, Lucy and Columbus. His mother still lives in Campbellsville, in the same house where she raised Haskins. His father died five years ago.

"My father is the greatest man that I've ever met in my life, and I've met the last four or five presidents, kings and queens," Haskins said. "But he is the greatest man I know."

Western will remember him for his athletic ability and his determination to win. It won't easily forget his work on the court, as well as off.

Oldham said Haskins never had a disciplinary problem or class trouble. He recalls signing out basketballs for his players during the summer months. When they came back, one was always more worn than the others.

"If there was one ball bouncing in Diddle Arena in the summertime, you could bet for sure that it was his ball," Oldham said.

Haskins came back as an assistant coach and became the head coach in 1980, when Gene Keady headed to Purdue.

In 1986, Haskins left the Hill. Western wouldn't give him a five-year contract and he'd wanted more than a one-year extension.

"If not for that, I would've never left Western," he said. "But again, it happened, and it's the greatest thing in the world that happened to me. Now I know that I'm at peace with myself. I think we all want to

know where to end. It gave me the opportunity to coach at a great institution like Minnesota and prove to myself that I was worthy."

Haskins has been offered coaching jobs in the NBA, the same league in which he once played, and overseas. But the contracts hitting the millions don't persuade him.

He plans on staying retired. He plans on staying on his 800-acre farm, raising cattle and horses.

He plans on finishing construction of his house on an adjoining farm.

He plans on staying at home.

GAME: Area Titans fans excited about Super Bowl

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Clark believes that, outside of work, she didn't miss a game this season. She even managed to attend two games, including what should stand as one of the greatest games in NFL history: the Titans dramatic and controversial wild-card victory over the Buffalo Bills.

Clark stops short of predicting a victory, though. "I think our playoff game (with the Bills) showed that you never know what's going to happen," she said.

Richard Salisbury, a history professor, is also excited about the Titans' Super Bowl appearance.

"I wasn't a Memphis Oilers fan or a

Vanderbilt Stadium Oilers fan, but I am a Tennessee Titans fan," Salisbury said. He even admits to mentioning the Titans in his classes.

"I try to relate to my students on a contemporary basis," he said. "You've got a pro team right down the road and they're good. I enjoy following them."

Salisbury looks forward to what he hopes is a "competitive game" but also refuses to predict the outcome. "I predicted... an Ecuadorian coup last week, but I'm not going to predict victory," he said.

Rich Smith is equally noncommittal on the outcome. The Winchester union hosts his own talk radio show, "Riding the Pins," which runs every Tuesday from 8-

10 p.m. on WWHR (91.7 FM).

"If they can cause turnovers, they'll win," Smith said of the Titans' chances. He also admits to being "a bandwagon Titans fan."

"You can tell a brand new fan by a newly bent-in hat," Smith noted, adding that he's noticed many of the new hats lately.

Smith doesn't credit the shift in team operations from Memphis to Nashville two years ago as the main factor in the team's popularity, instead, attributing it to the new name, a switch from the Oilers of seasons past.

"Once they became the Titans, they became Nashville's team," Smith said.

One person who might wish the Titans would move back to their Memphis, or even Houston, roots is Bryan Snowden. Snowden works at Little Caesars on 31-W Bypass and said that while "profit-wise it's (the Super Bowl) good for us personally, we don't like it."

Snowden said the Titans will win, maintaining that the Rams "have just had a lucky season."

Snowden said he's not "a true fan" but nevertheless, he's pleased to be able to stay at home Sunday and watch the game.

"I'll probably watch the commercials more than the game," he said. "That's the best part."

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Tennis team hopes for great season

By JEREMY ATWOOD
Herald reporter

The men's tennis team is ready for the 2000 season, coming off a record setting 27-3 season last year. This year the Toppers will face some of the top teams in the country, including Wright State, Louisville and Kentucky. Western opened their season last night at Kentucky, a team they have not faced since 1997.

"We're looking forward to this season," sophomore J.J. Ball said. "Opening with Kentucky is a huge challenge, but I think we are up for it."

Ball will be returning with four other players from last year: senior Christian Kaumanns, junior Michael Lindskog, junior Randy Brooks and sophomore Andrei Makarevitch. The Toppers have added two freshmen to their roster: Wimal Wijenayake and Ewald Jurans.

"We should have a good team this year, but it will be hard to have a record like last year," said Wijenayake.

Like the rest of the team, Wijenayake is ready for the season to get underway. But this season will be a little different for him, since it will be his first season playing in the college level.

"I'm ready to go," Wijenayake continued. "This is totally different than high school. In college, players love to bang and this is improving me as a player."

The Toppers will have a busy weekend as they travel to Eastern Kentucky to play in three matches before a short break. Then they head to Memphis on Feb. 6.

WESTERN SPORTS SCORECARD

Team	W-L	Next
Men's basketball	5-11	Today vs. Louisiana Tech
Women's basketball	10-7	Today at South Alabama
Men's swimming	9-0	Saturday vs. Evansville
Women's swimming	11-0	Saturday vs. Evansville
Track	*	February 4 at Indiana
Baseball	0-0	Tomorrow at Florida State

* Track does not keep win-loss records.

Sports Briefs

Sun Belt announces football bowl game intentions

The Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation announced yesterday that it has placed an application to the NCAA for the Sun Belt Conference to host a bowl game at the Superdome in New Orleans beginning in December 2001. The bowl game would pit the conference football champion (Western is not a conference member in football) against an at-large team.

"This will be a great thing for our league," conference commissioner Wright Waters said. "This will be a great thing for our league," conference commissioner Wright Waters said. "This will be a great thing for our league," conference commissioner Wright Waters said.

"We're now in the business of soliciting a sponsor," Waters said.

—Lyndsay Sutton

Crennel named Browns' defensive coordinator

Romeo Crennel, a former Western graduate assistant and defensive line coach, was named the Cleveland Browns' defensive coordinator Sunday. Crennel has spent the last 19 years working under Bill Parcells and was a member of two Super Bowl winning coaching staffs (XXI, NY Giants 39-Denver 20, XXV, NY Giants 30-Buffalo 19). He coached at Western from 1970-1974.

—Lyndsay Sutton

Women's volleyball posts strong academic numbers

Western's volleyball team recorded a 3.57 GPA (grade point average) with one perfect 4.0 for the fall semester. No Lady Topper posted a GPA lower than a 3.2.

"We've always stressed the importance of academics in building the complete student-athlete," coach Travis Hudson said. "These ladies have shown that you can be successful both in the classroom and on the court. I'm very proud of each and every one of them."

—Lyndsay Sutton

ALPHA OMICRON PI Congratulations to our New Officers!

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Vice President of Academic Development	Marci Graham
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Treasurer of Receipts	Brooke Craig
Panhellenic Delegate	Karleen Horvath
Recording Secretary	Whitney Piercell
Corresponding Secretary	Sara Francis
Recruitment Chair	Erin Brothers
New Member Educator	Jennifer Conine
Risk Management Chair	Becky Lock
Keeper of the Ritual	Jennifer Breiwa
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