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Ransdell thinking about keeping VP

Student Affairs position may stay after all

By REX HALL JR.
Herald reporter

President Gary Ransdell has reconsidered his stand on the vice president of Student Affairs position. Ransdell said Saturday that he expects to keep the position, which has been held by

Jerry Wilder since 1986.

After Wilder submitted his resignation in October, Ransdell said he wanted to eliminate the position because of financial restraints on the division of Student Affairs to pay Wilder's new teaching salary. Wilder will return to full-time teaching after he leaves the post June 30.

SGA held a protest in November to show its disagreement with Ransdell's decision and circulated peti-

tions asking that the position be kept.

Ransdell said student support to keep the position did cause him to rethink his opinion.

"I made it clear in December that SGA had good points and my decision would reflect that," Ransdell said. "It's not that I wanted to eliminate the position. I'm always looking for ways to streamline administrative overhead. I was fearful that Academic Affairs would have to eat the cost of

the new faculty position."

SGA President Amanda Coates said she is thinking positively about the situation.

"I'm glad that he is working with us to reach a compromise and do what is best for the students," Coates said, adding that SGA will still, however, remain vigilant until the final decision is made. "We are going to continue to circulate the petition and get some more names. It's really our job to keep it on the front burner."

Wilder said he and Ransdell had fairly lengthy discussions in October about the situation. Wilder said he made it clear to Ransdell which organizational structure he thinks best serves the students.

"I'm extremely hopeful that he has had the opportunity to rethink his position," Wilder said.

Ransdell will discuss the mat-

SEE VP, PAGE 11



Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

Kentucky Wesleyan College President Wesley Polling reflects over a journal found in a water-soaked box while standing in what was once the attic in the president's home on the campus. Most of the roof was blown away in the F-3 tornado that hit Owensboro on Jan. 3. This was the first time the president and his wife had the opportunity to evaluate what could be saved from their life memorabilia.

Out of the Rubble

Tornado ravages Daviess County, where more than 700 Western students reside

By ABBEY BROWN
Herald reporter

OWENSBORO — When Kentucky Wesleyan College freshman Tiffany Gallagher left for work last Monday morning, she didn't know it was going to be the last time she would see her home the way she had always known it.

But when she came back the next morning, her house was

condemned, like most of the houses in the Tamarack area. Her home was one of more than 100 destroyed by the F-3 tornado that roared through the town at about 4 p.m.

Most of the windows had blown in. The roof was lifted and then placed back down. The fence was sucked up and still hasn't been found. Much of the roof above the attic is missing, and the garage door was mutilated. A

lawnmower even landed on Gallagher's fiancé's truck windshield.

"Right now, I'm past the shock," Gallagher said. "I just want to get past all this and put the pieces back together. Right now, I have to deal with not having a house."

Gallagher is not the only one having to deal with that.

SEE TORNADO, PAGE 7

♦ Classes at Kentucky

Wesleyan College have been delayed, and the president's home was destroyed as a result of the Jan. 3 tornado.

For story, see Page 8

OTHER NEWS

Western has a new regent

On Dec. 22, Gov. Paul Patton appointed Beverly Harper Wathen, a 1958 Western graduate, as the school's ninth regent. She will begin on Jan. 28. Page 10

Lady Tops play Miami tonight

The Western women's basketball team looks to gain momentum from Saturday's 58-54 victory over Florida International by beating Miami (Fla.) at 7 tonight in Diddle Arena. Page 19

The Forum page is back

The Herald has decided to liven its opinion pages by bringing back the Forum page, a place where students, staff and faculty can express their views through commentaries. Page 5

Western considers new arena

Renovation of Diddle also being pondered

By BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

Western basketball may soon get a new arena — or at least a drastically-renovated one — pending a feasibility study to be completed this semester. President Gary Ransdell said Friday.

The athletic department sent proposals in December to 45 firms throughout the country inquiring for proposals to do a feasibility study to determine what the best course of action would be, a new arena or renovation. Responses will be accepted until the end of January. The department will evaluate the responses and hire a firm around March 1 to do the study.

The study will take 60 to 90 days and cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000, which will be paid for through private funding. The study will answer a range of questions about what type of arena the school and city can support.

Diddle's legacy

A look at the 36-year legacy of Diddle Arena, which has been home to many defining moments in Hilltopper and Lady Topper basketball. Sports, page 19

"We're going to have to look at what the pros and cons of a renovated arena would be, and the pros and cons of a new arena," Athletics Director Wood Selig said. "There's probably going to be one best course for Western Kentucky athletics and we'll go with that."

The study will tell whether a renovated Diddle Arena or new arena would be best for Western and what size facility would be best. The study will look at possible locations and determine the number, size and cost of luxury boxes that could be supported, as well as determine how many events a new arena could attract and the expected revenue it could generate.

"I think our coaches would prefer to have an arena that could be filled every game and provide a strong home court," Ransdell said. "I would expect

SEE ARENA, PAGE 10



Weather forecast

| Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | |
| 39° 52° | 32° 67° | 48° 63° | 37° 54° | 34° 56° |
| Partly Cloudy | Partly Cloudy | Partly Cloudy | Partly Cloudy | Partly Cloudy |

T: 44°/51° partly cloudy
W: 34°/62° partly cloudy
T: 45°/60° partly cloudy
F: 32°/50° partly cloudy
S: 34°/53° partly cloudy

• Louisville

• Lexington

• Owensboro
T: 38°/51° partly cloudy
W: 33°/65° partly cloudy
T: 47°/60° partly cloudy
F: 32°/50° partly cloudy
S: 34°/53° partly cloudy

• Paducah
T: 39°/50° partly cloudy
W: 37°/61° partly cloudy
T: 46°/59° partly cloudy
F: 32°/50° partly cloudy
S: 34°/53° partly cloudy

• Nashville

• Knoxville

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

STORM 12
CENTER

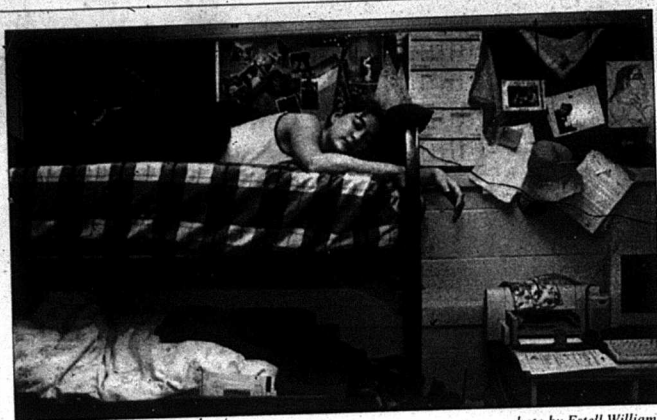


photo by Estell Williams

ZZZZZZ... Grayson County freshman Heather Tarrance rests in her East Hall room after getting settled in on Saturday.

Campus Briefs

University Boulevard construction halted

The ongoing safety improvements on University Boulevard are ahead of schedule in every respect but one.

Construction has been halted until a delivery of bricks comes in.

"Everything is going very well," said Ed West, facilities management director. He said the bricks should be in by the first or second week of February.

West said as soon as the bricks come in construction will resume by putting up fencing and the bricking. The landscaping and general laying out of the project is complete.

The project should be complete by mid-March, West said.

"We would have liked to have had the brick sooner since we are ahead of schedule," West said. "But there is a lot of building going on right now so we will have to wait."

The area will remain closed off until construction is complete.

—Abbey Brown

The concert will feature "a rapid fire sequence of varied ensembles and musical selections that will be staged in different locations in the performance hall, coupled with lighting and other visual effects," a Western news release said.

The WKU Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Basketball Band and Clarinet Choir are some of the ensembles that will perform.

Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens while general admission tickets are \$10. All tickets can be purchased at the WKU Music Office and several other outlets, or at the door.

—Mattias Karén

Rape Crisis line needs volunteers

The Rape Crisis and Prevention Center in Bowling Green needs volunteers. Volunteers will undergo a training session, after which they will answer the center's 24-hour hotline and provide support and information for victims and other people affected by rape.

The center recommends a one-year commitment, and volunteers must be at least 18. A training fee of \$20 is required. To apply call 782-5014.

—Mattias Karén

Kentucky feminists to read at Barnes & Noble

About a dozen poets will be

reading from "Writing Who We Are: Poems by Kentucky Feminists" on Jan. 20 at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Bowling Green.

The book, published by Western, is a collection exploring feminist issues and is written by authors of all ages. The book was edited by associate English professor Elizabeth Oakes and Women's Studies Director Jane Olmsted.

"Writing Who We Are" is available at the WKU Bookstore, the Kentucky Museum Store and Barnes & Noble.

The reading will begin at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Olmsted at 745-5787 or Oakes at 745-3634.

—Mattias Karén

Internet and e-mail service disrupted

A routing loop in the Cable and Wireless network caused Internet and e-mail access to be disrupted on Jan. 6. The routing loop causes information to go around in circles until it falls out. Network Computing and Communication Director David Beckley said.

"The problem was caused by a network router," Beckley added. "It was a Cable and Wireless problem, not a Western problem."

The problem was resolved around 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

—Rex Hall Jr.

WKU to host PRISM Concert on Jan. 21

The fifth annual PRISM Concert will be presented by Western's department of bands at 8 p.m. Jan. 21 in Van Meter Auditorium.

Crime Reports

Arrests

Michael Lovearne Riggsbee, Brign Street, was charged Saturday with violation of parole. He was released on the same day on a court order.

Reports

Larry McCrobie, Keen Hall, reported harassment in Keen on Sunday.

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#128/129
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Any Number of Toppings**
\$10.99

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#110/111
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#103
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Big name concert might come this spring

Decision left to UCB

By BRANDY WARREN
Herald reporter

The possibilities for having a big name concert on Western's campus are growing. A concert may occur as early as March, according to university officials.

Although the newly-formed University Concert Committee has not met since its first meeting in October, it has been working. "We're trying," said Scott Taylor, Student Activities and Organizations Director. "We want to do something."

Taylor said he has been in contact with several artists recently and hopes to have a concert sometime in March.

The committee is hoping to have a concert at the end of March or early April, something that would please SGA President

Amanda Coates, who has been pushing hard for a big concert to happen.

"I hope we can, but it lies on the shoulders of (the University Concert Committee)," Coates said.

The UCB is looking into finding out what bands students are most interested in seeing.

"It looks very hopeful," said Thomas Grinter, the executive chair of UCB.

Taylor also said the University Concert Committee is not a group that will meet on a regular basis.

The committee will meet as possibilities for concerts are created.

The committee consists of Taylor, Coates, Grinter and Bennie Beach, the Student Activities and Organizations Coordinator. It also has representatives from Facilities Management, Public Safety and various student groups.

The committee met last October to discuss the two main factors in scheduling an arena concert: cost and scheduling.

The price for a smaller name artist to come to Western would be around \$60,000. That cost includes a fee for the artist, production costs and publicity. The cost would increase for more popular artists, possibly growing to more than \$200,000.

Taylor said it would be hard to bring a big-name act to Western, not only because of cost, but also because most big name acts would not be able to perform in Diddle.

"We cannot do a major show, not because we don't want to, but because the building won't allow us to," Beach said.

Diddle has defects in the roof and cannot hold any more weight than it already does. Most major bands use hanging lights and sound. If the added weight of lights and sound were put in Diddle for a concert, there is a risk that the ceiling would collapse or crack. These bands often will not change their show in order to accommodate different are-

nas. If the venue does not meet their standards, they will not play there.

While Diddle is capable of holding concerts, other on-campus locations include the Downing University Center theater, Van Meter Auditorium, the Colonnade outside the fine arts center and Garrett Ballroom.

SGA and UCB are also planning to build an estimated \$20,000 stage on DUC South Lawn. The new stage would not be used for major concerts, but for bands that perform during tailgating.

Another option for a concert in Diddle would be to use stacked sound. In this type of concert, the speakers are placed on top of one another. Some smaller name bands and most country performers use the stacked sound setup.

The problem with bringing smaller name acts, such as Fiona Apple, is the financial risk. Because small-name performers are not as well known, it is not

guaranteed that a concert would be successful and money could be lost.

Scheduling has also become a major problem in bringing a concert to campus. If the concert were held in Diddle Arena, scheduling must be worked around sporting events. January and February would be almost impossible because of basketball. March may also prove to be difficult because of Spring Break.

While the question remains as to whether there will be a spring concert, the University Concert Committee is continuing to set high goals. In the future, they hope to increase the number of campus concerts from zero to three in one year. The committee would like to schedule one at the beginning of the school year, one during Homecoming week, and one concert in Spring.

"Our students deserve arena concerts," Taylor said.

Wick pleads to lesser arson charge

By JASON RAGAN
Herald Reporter

Charles Joseph "Jody" Wick II went to trial Dec. 16 after several delays, and entered a plea for a lesser charge and no time in jail.

Wick, a former Western student, was arrested and charged with first degree arson after a fire destroyed the Kappa Alpha house in November of 1998.

In a plea agreement, Wick was charged with third degree arson. The special plea means Wick does not admit to any guilt, but realizes there is enough evidence to convict him. He will serve five years of probation and 500 hours of community service. If he had been convicted of first degree arson, he could have faced up to 20 years in jail.

Wick is also not allowed to live in the Warren County area and can not re-enroll at Western.

Neither Wick nor his attorney Alan Simpson were available for comment.

Wick first pleaded not guilty to the charge on Nov. 20, 1998, after having been arrested 34 hours after the fire. He was supposed to stand trial last Nov. 17, but the date was postponed.

Wick was first heralded as a hero the morning after the fire, because he helped his sleeping brothers get out of the house. Wick told Herald reporters on the morning of the fire that he had forgotten his keys in the house and had spotted flames coming from the base of the house when he went back to get them.

After his arrest, Wick underwent treatment for alcohol abuse after being evaluated for a possible problem. He was released from the Communicare Drug and Treatment Center in Elizabethtown on Dec. 30, 1998.

Kappa Alpha president Josh Ballard, a Bardstown senior, is glad to see Wick's case come to an end.

"I was surprised about the plea bargain but glad to see it over," he said. "We can move on and he can move on."

Ballard added that despite the plea, Wick's bond to the fraternity has not been broken.

"We still would like to believe him, we still stand behind him as one of ours," he said.

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Opinion

New semester yields answers to old questions

Wait and see.

Perhaps that should be the theme for this semester as the new year could bring closure to some old news at Western.

One of the biggest questions that could be answered is whether the Hilltoppers will continue playing in Diddle Arena.

Western's administrators are accepting proposals on whether to renovate Diddle or build a new facility.

While it could be years before the process is complete and a decision is made, the impact this choice will make on Western athletics will make it a story to watch.

We'll also keep an eye on the athletics department as it ponders ways to get out of the red.

Athletics Director Wood Seig wants to balance the departmental budget without cutting programs — a process sure to keep him busy since the athletics department looks to run a deficit for the third straight year.

And speaking of debt, the newly-created Student Life Foundation has taken over ownership of the university's dorms.

The move opens the door for new money which translates into renovations and improvements, beginning with McLean Hall.

Spring also means the Student Government Association will elect new officers.

Will this year's contest be as scandal-ridden as last year's?

All signs point to yes since the organization has done little to improve the process.

Even without SGA, there will be no shortage of scandals this semester.

Part-time psychology professor Virginia Pfohl's racial and sexual discrimination case against Western was scheduled for a court date in February.

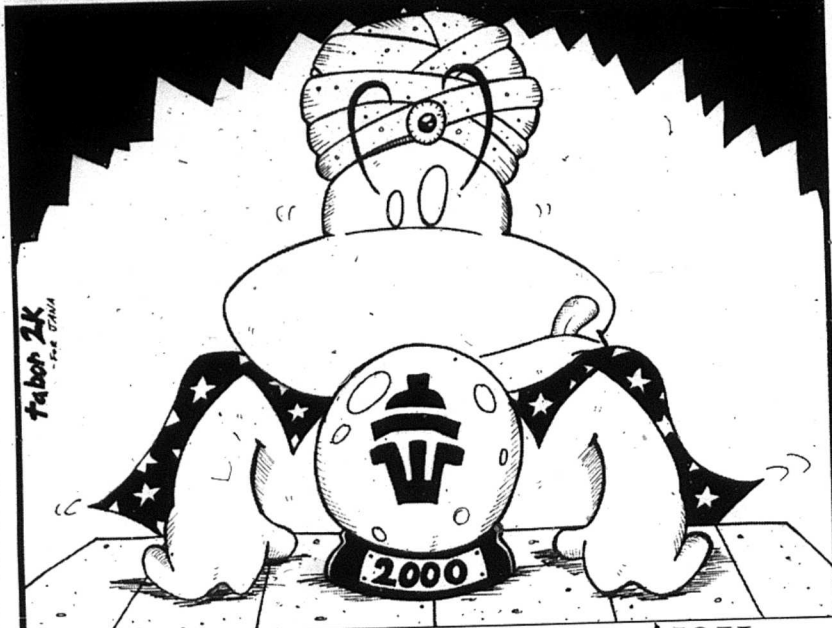
And later this year the case against Western regarding former Glasgow campus director C. Wayne Jones' alleged sexual harassing of students goes to trial.

As for Western's new police chief, Robert Deane, there are two questions to be answered: Will relations improve between the department and the administration, and will Deane succeed in improving department morale?

A new Greek village may increase morale among fraternity and sorority members.

We'll be watching this semester for results of a feasibility study of the new Greek housing complex on Chestnut Street.

You've waited long enough. Be sure to keep an eye on the Herald this semester as these stories and others unfold.



The Herald's opinions from Y2K to solving University Boulevard safety

We don't know about you, but we...

- ◆ are glad to be back.
- ◆ were excited the world didn't end on Jan. 1.
- ◆ think Western officials deserve a pat on the back for keeping the university's computers from going haywire.
- ◆ can't wait for that Dave Matthews Band concert. We're holding our hope that Student Government Association president Amanda Coates wasn't just trying to get elected when she made that promise.
- ◆ wish the University Concert Committee would listen to Coates and make an effort to bring a big name band to Western.
- ◆ wonder if Dennis Felton will ever win again.
- ◆ would like to see the Lady Toppers expand on that one-game winning streak.
- ◆ were surprised to see the refrigerators still in our dorm rooms.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be less than 250 words, typewritten and signed by the author. Please include your phone number, hometown and class identification or job title.

The Herald reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Also, the Letters to the Editor section may not run in every edition because of space constraints.

Submit your letters to the editor or commentaries from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Herald office in 122 Garrett Conference Center. Or you can send them via email to herald@wku.edu.

- ◆ could really use some new furniture in the Herald office. How about it Huda Melky?
- ◆ hope the state General Assembly keeps Western in mind when putting together a new budget this session.
- ◆ have already broken most of our New Year's resolutions.
- ◆ wonder how many millions of dollars President Gary Ransdell will bring in this year.
- ◆ plan to enjoy our last semester of flip Fridays.
- ◆ would like to welcome Western's newest regent, Beverly Wathen.
- ◆ hope she understands Kentucky open meetings and open records laws, unlike some of her colleagues.
- ◆ think any safety improvements on University Boulevard are a good idea. But we doubt the current efforts will work better than a skywalk.
- ◆ hope that by semester's end you agree the Herald is one of the best college newspapers in the nation.

What do you think Western will be like in 3000?



"Nothing but computer programs. Teachers will be computers."
Lorenzo Suter
Stanford freshman



"Technological. Hopefully it'll still be here."
Derrick Phillips
Louisville sophomore



"Maybe you'll be in your own home taking classes."
Mildred Williams
office associate
Development office



"Maybe a little bit more advanced. As much as anything else will be."
Jennifer Walker
Louisville freshman



"It'll be exactly the same."
Jessica Baldwin
Bowling Green senior

College Heights Herald

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Forum

Letter to readers from Herald's Dynamic Duo

Just when you thought it was safe to crawl out of Y2K hysteria, you notice that the editor-in-chief of the Herald has hazel and brown eyes, long and short hair, male and female organs.

Your spring 2000 Herald editor watches Monday Night Football and Ally McBeal, shaves facial hair and leg hair, wears perfume and cologne.

-OK, OK. If you haven't glanced at the mugshot for this column, please do so now.

So, now ya get the catch, huh?

For the first time in 30 years, the Herald has co-editors. We plan on using this as an advantage and making this paper even better.

We operate jointly. No one editor is more powerful than the other. Leadership is not divided, but shared at the top.

We're not great math students (is there a journalist who is?), but we do know that two is more than one.

Twice the communication, twice the time, twice the commitment.

Over the next few weeks, we will be

contacting different organizations to ask for the opportunity to speak about the Herald and discuss what the paper can do to better represent the campus community.

Our vision for the Herald is to be the ultimate source of hard and soft news for Western. We think we're pretty good at the hard news, but from a soft news standpoint, we want to get to know our campus even better. We especially want to tell the stories of students who don't get a lot of recognition.

But this is a mission that cannot be done without help from the entire campus. If you have story ideas, please share them with the Herald. We don't promise to run every story that you pitch, but at least you can say you tried. At the bottom of this column will be information on how you can reach us and the section editors



Jerry Brewer and Shannon Back

of the Herald.

Now, let's talk a little about how some of the sections of the Herald operate.

The features section is vastly different on Tuesday and Thursday. The philosophy for the Tuesday section is to be extremely campus oriented. On Tuesdays, we hope that you find stories on

issues affecting students, Greek life, student activities, etc.

The Thursday section is called Diversions. It is mostly an entertainment section designed to tell you about week-end happenings and entertain you with quirky cover stories.

For the first time in about two years, the Herald is bringing back its Forum page. The Forum page is open to all students, faculty, staff and administrators. This page is designed to be an outlet for people who want to write commentaries about issues in the community. The sec-

tion will run every other Tuesday. Please refer to the policies on how to submit and be aware of the deadlines. (Those are spelled out clearly in the middle of the page).

One final thing we'd like to inform readers of is our Website. You can read the Herald Online at herald.wku.edu. This semester, we plan to do several things to improve our online newspaper, including adding audio feeds from certain events and exclusive online columns and reports.

There are all kinds of exciting things going on at your newspaper this semester. We will do everything to get you involved and informed. If you need us, here is how to find us:

Office phone — 745-5044

Jerry's e-mail — brewdown@aol.com

Shannon's e-mail — backdown@wku.edu

Snail mail — 122 Garrett Center, Bowling Green, Ky., 42101

Shannon Back and Jerry Brewer are senior print journalism majors. Shannon is from Mt. Sterling; Jerry is from Paducah.

Here's how to give us your two cents

What is the Forum page?

The Forum page is your opportunity to speak your mind on issues at Western. It's a page you can submit commentaries or editorial cartoons for, and the Herald reserves the right to edit your work for space and clarity. We will not edit your opinion, but we will not publish any derogatory material or commentaries that degrade other people.

Lively opinion pages are staples in great newspapers, and the Herald wants people on campus to have an outlet to express their views and ideas on life.

When it runs

With the exception of Spring Break, the Forum page will run every other Tuesday, beginning today. Here are the seven other dates the page will run during the semester: Jan. 25, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 7, Mar. 28, April 11 and April 25.

How to submit

You can submit your commentaries in three ways:

1. E-mail your commentary (be sure to distinguish it from a letter to the editor) to us at herald@wku.edu.

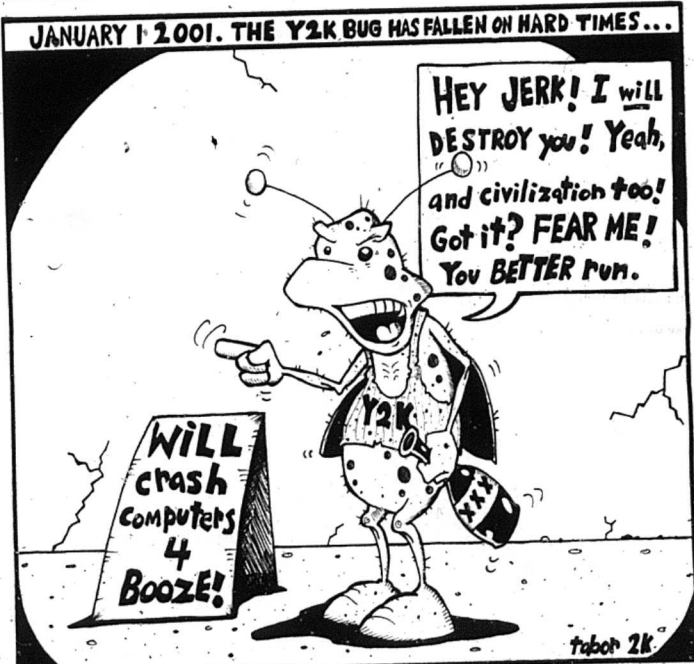
2. Mail the commentary to Opinion Editor Charlie Lanter, 122 Garrett Conference Center, Bowling Green, Ky., 42101.

3. Come to the Herald after talking with Lanter and write the commentary on one of our computers. If you need to reach Charlie, call 745-6011.

This is a newspaper, of course, and there is little space. The Herald will run the best work, and simply submitting material does not mean it will run in the paper. But we will do everything we can to find space for your work, if it is of good quality.

Commentaries and/or cartoons are due one week before publication. For instance, the next Forum page will be Jan. 25. If you are going to submit, you must do so by Jan. 18 — no exceptions.

All non-Herald staffers must have their photo taken before publication of the commentary, so leave us information on how you can be reached.



Maybe next millenium University Boulevard will be safe

BOWLING GREEN, Jan. 11, 2000 — Western officials said yesterday university computers were not affected by the infamous Y3K bug.

Technology staff were concerned that professor droids would become confused on New Year's Day and begin teaching as though it were Jan. 1, 2000. The problem would have devastated Western's nationally-recognized history department.

Richard Kirchemeyer, former vice president for Information Technology, was thawed from cryogenic freeze to deal with the problem. Kirchemeyer helped Western survive the Y2K bug 1,000 years ago.

"The bug was really just a bunch of media hype anyway," Kirchemeyer said. "There was never really a threat."

Western students will, however, return to the 1,000-year-old flip-Friday schedule because new Banner 3000 software was not Y3K compliant.

Tops drop 10th in a row

The men's basketball team fell to 0-10 over the Christmas break with a 108-69 loss to Georgetown College.

Western was demoted to Division III in 2040 after 41 consecutive losing seasons.

Fans had hoped playing in the newly-renovated Ransdell Arena would be something to cheer about, but it looks to be another 1,000 years before Western's men's basketball makes it to the Final Four.

Band finally to perform

The James Matthews Band, descendants of 1990's rockers Dave Matthews Band, will play in Barbara Burch Auditorium this weekend.

Amanda Coates, former president of the now-defunct Student Government



Charlie Lanter

Association, talked about bringing the band's predecessor to Western during her 1999 campaign for president.

Her failure left SGA with so little credibility that the organization was disbanded one year after she left office.

University Boulevard problem solved

Kentucky's General Assembly yesterday approved funds for a skywalk over University Boulevard.

More than 2,000 students have been hit by cars on the road since 1992.

State officials decided to take action

last year, when Hell froze over.

Tuition on the rise

Western's Board of Regents will vote later this month on another tuition increase.

The proposed 2 percent increase would bring the rate to \$136,528 per semester.

Regents will also consider a proposed hike in dorm fees.

The increase is needed to install fire sprinklers in the university's newest dorms, Jerry Wilder Hall and the 75-story Cornelius Martin Complex.

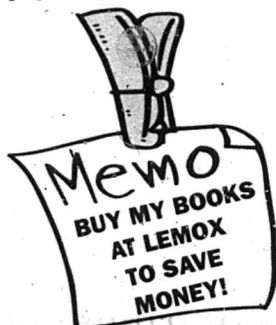
Housing and Residence Life director Tweedle Dum said the department forgot to have the sprinklers included in building designs.

"We have no problem passing that cost on to the students," he said.

Charlie Lanter is a senior print journalism and government major from Lexington.

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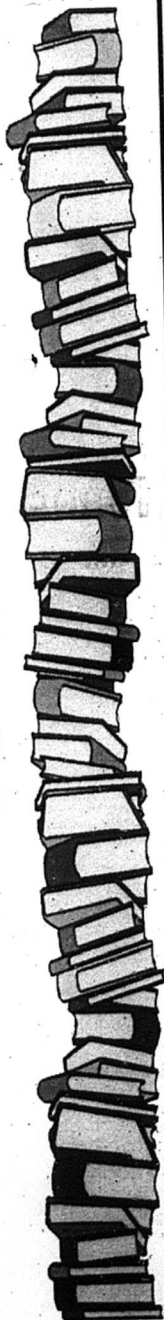
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photos by Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

Members of Firststar Bank of Bowling Green unload cleaning and food supplies collected in Bowling Green. They transported them to Owensboro last Friday to a collection point, which directly delivered the supplies into the neighborhoods most in need.

TORNADO: Bowling Green residents contribute supplies

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

More than 800 homes suffered severe to moderate structural damages, and there were about 8,000 residents without electricity — many of whom are still without power today, OMU said.

There are 754 Western students from Daviess County and most were affected by the tornado in some way.

Last week, most residents seemed to want to move past the destruction and put their lives, along with their homes, back together. A sense of community was evident as people pulled together to cleanup.

Western sophomore Courtney McNulty was a part of a church group from Blessed Mother Catholic Church in Owensboro that helped pick up debris.

"People seemed to be looking on the bright side," McNulty said. "Most were happy their families were alive, and they were looking forward to getting all of this behind them and cleaned up."

Many Bowling Green residents and Western students contributed funds and supplies that have been sent to the Red Cross.

Firststar Bank regional president Craig Browning said the bank, in conjunction with the Red Cross, collected nonperishable food items, duct tape, cleaning supplies, water and other supplies at Greenwood Mall on Thursday. Browning said the collection was successful.

Firststar also has a tornado relief fund where people can deposit contributions at any Firststar branch.

"In addition to us assisting our neighbors in Western Kentucky in Owensboro," Browning said, "we felt the need to assist our Firststar colleagues and employees over there."

An elderly woman sat on one of her dining room chairs in the middle of her yard as her family and church members stacked her home in a pile.

"I just feel blessed by God that



Owensboro sophomore Courtney McNulty helps clean a resident's yard near the Tamarack Park area in Owensboro last Friday. The area was one of the hardest hit by the tornado. A group of Owensboro Catholic Middle and High School students joined together and walked the streets to help anyone who needed it.

everyone was safe and that I have these people here to help me," she said.

Dozens of service organizations were going house-to-house to help.

The police have been very protective of the perimeter of the damaged homes protecting people from the downed power lines and protecting the property from looting.

The national guard has said everyone must be out of the area by dark each night.

A few houses down from Gallagher's home with only one room left standing. A neighbor said a woman and her son were

hiding in that room during the tornado, but when a dog ran out of the room she chased after it and was struck by a flying object and broke her neck.

The woman's injury was the most severe from the tornado. She was released from the hospital on Friday with no permanent injuries.

One resident said he didn't own a single puzzle, but jigsaw puzzle pieces were embedded all over his walls. There was even a stop sign driven into the middle of someone's yard.

Gallagher was at work at the Green River Heart Institute at Owensboro Emergency Health

Systems when the tornado hit.

"As we were sitting in the hallways of the hospital with the patients, I heard it hit in the Apollo area, right where I live," Gallagher said.

"There was no electricity, it was pitch black other than the lightning," Gallagher said. "The thunder and wind were so loud and the streets were flooded."

The Gallagher family, along with Tiffany's fiancée, Jeremy Smith, stayed at Lisa Gallagher's home during the night, although there was no electricity or heat.

The next morning Gallagher and her mother headed to Tiffany's house in Tamarack Park.

"On the way we kept passing all these houses with the roofs blown off, trees fallen on top of them and some that were totally leveled," Gallagher said. "I still hadn't seen mine, and I wondered, 'Oh God, I wonder what my house looks like.'"

Gallagher and Smith are staying with the Gallagher family until they can find a new house to rent.

"Our families, mine and his both, have really pulled together to help us out," Gallagher said. "This is a total disaster and everybody is hurting from it; we are just trying to stay together and take it day by day."

Regents discuss future options

Greek Village and Diddle-on agenda

By JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

As students finished their last exams and headed home on Dec. 17, the Board of Regents held a special meeting to discuss the proposed "Greek Village" and plans for renovating or replacing Diddle Arena.

President Gary Ransdell, who called the meeting, proposed early in December 1999 that the university buy two lots next to his Chestnut Street house. He suggested that up to eight Greek organizations could have a central location there to build new houses. The board bought the land with \$750,000 from the university's reserve fund, and the purchases will be closed this month.

Ransdell said Greek organizations have until April 1 to come up with a plan to buy the land from the university. If Greek organizations cannot buy the land, the university would probably build apartment-style student housing on it, Ransdell said. If neither option is feasible, the land will be sold, and the money put back in the reserve fund. A final decision will be made by the May regents' meeting.

For now, a group of administrators headed by Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Wilder is figuring out what options the university will present to Greek organizations. Late last fall, they met with the 18 Greek organizations that now rent or own in the area about a possible "Greek Village" site, said Charles Pride, student activities and organizations coordinator. He said the committee should have options worked out by early February.

The committee discussed the possibility that the Student Life Foundation, the new owner of Western's dorms, could buy the land and build Greek housing there, or that Western could keep the land and lease building sites to Greek organizations, Pride said.

Student Regent Amanda Coates said she's heard "nothing but positive feedback" from other students about the Greek Village so far.

The board also approved spending \$50,000 to \$75,000 to study whether to renovate Diddle Arena or build a new arena, possibly off-campus. Forty-five companies were invited to bid on doing the study, which the winner would have to complete by the May Regents' meeting.

Diddle, which is more than 30 years old, cannot host major concerts or similar events due to structural problems. Even if it is renovated, it still wouldn't be practical to air-condition it, Ransdell said.

In other business, the board selected a committee comprised of Board Chairman Cornelius Martin, Peggy Loafman, Kristin Baile and Ron Sheppard to conduct Ransdell's annual performance review. They will present their findings in April, for approval by the board at its May meeting.

Wesleyan suffers from tornado

Damage estimated at about \$5 million

By ABBEY BROWN
Herald reporter

Western students returned yesterday to a campus that looked just the way it did when they left for Christmas break. But for Kentucky Wesleyan College students, their campus will never be the same.

Damage to the school from last Monday's F3 tornado is estimated at about \$5 million, and every campus building was damaged in some way, said Wesleyan Vice President for Development and Public Relations Donald Hines.

The small campus, sitting by a large lawn some ways off the nearest road, looked like a battle field after the storm, Hines said. The drive leading up to the president's home was once lined with trees, but now most had to be chopped down from the tornado damage.

The campus was practically empty Thursday. The only people around were cleanup crews and administrators assessing the damage.

Tim Murphy, who was working

on the campus cleanup, said there seemed to be a real sense of community and a lot of outreach on helping get things cleaned up.

"It is sad that it takes a disaster like this to bring people together," Murphy said. "But they seem to really have pulled together and comforted each other during this rough time."

The dean of students, Scott Kramer, checked each of the student dorms for damage and found that only five rooms were severely hurt by the storm.

Hines said resumption of classes will be delayed until at least January 17. Electricity to Wesleyan is the biggest factor in determining when the campus will open again. Right now, the school is operating on a closed campus policy, allowing only necessary people onto campus.

While the beginning of the semester will be delayed, Hines said students will still get their full 15 weeks of classes.

Hines said there was a large number of Western staff at Wesleyan assisting with the cleanup.

Western and Wesleyan both have contracts with Sodexo Marriott for facilities management, and other schools contracting with them are helping with tornado damages.

One of the buildings hit hard-

est at Wesleyan was the president's home. Since it is pre-furnished, all of the family's belongings were in the attic. But because the roof was severely damaged, most of those belongings were lost or damaged.

Wesleyan president Wesley Polling and his wife, Carol, were walking around their roof Friday afternoon, trying to reclaim some of their belongings.

The president found pieces of his journal from a high school exchange program in Sweden all over campus. He said their wedding album was destroyed, and many toys they were saving for their grandchildren were not even salvageable.

A number of off-campus apartments occupied by many Wesleyan students and staff were destroyed.

Former Western student Dan Hieb lived in Eagle Place apartments right by Wesleyan's campus.

"When I came out of the bathroom and realized that nothing was broken in my apartment, I thought 'Okay, maybe the tornado missed my building,'" Hieb said. "Then I went out in the hallway and still didn't see any damage at first. But when I got to the end of the hall and looked outside, it looked as if my entire neighborhood had been bombed."

City News

Mayor will not seek re-election

Bowling Green Mayor Eldon Renaud stated in a Dec. 21 press release that he will not seek re-election for a second term.

"I have enjoyed my tenure as Mayor and feel like I've had a positive impact on city government," Renaud said. "In my final year in office, I will continue to work hard to represent all residents to ensure that Bowling Green becomes a better place to live, work, learn and worship."

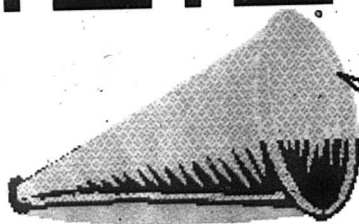
New movie theater coming to Bowling Green

A new 14-screen multiplex movie theater will soon be built in Bowling Green.

Alliance Entertainment, a Louisville-based theater company, announced its plans to build the new theater in a Dec. 21 press release. The theater, called Great Escape 14, will feature stadium seating in all auditoriums with nearly 2,500 seats in each theater, the press release said.

"We are very excited to be able to offer this kind of facility to moviegoers in Bowling Green and Western Kentucky University," said Anne Ragains, president of Alliance Entertainment.

—Mattia: Karen



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Western grad joining board

Owensboro woman will take seat Jan. 28

By JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

Western has nine regents again. Gov. Paul Patton appointed Beverly Harper Wathen of Owensboro to the vacant seat on Dec. 22.

The job has been vacant since May 1999 when Sara Hulse, also of Owensboro, resigned for personal reasons. Wathen will serve the rest of Hulse's six-year term, which ends in 2003, said board Chairman Cornelius Martin. She will take her seat at the next regents' meeting on Jan. 28.

Wathen is a retired music teacher who graduated from Western in 1958 with a bachelor's degree in music education. She taught choral music at Southern Junior High School in Owensboro, then gave private piano lessons until a few years ago.

Her background as a music teacher makes her interested

"I think if I remember the story right, they said they would like to see a woman Republican."

— Beverly Harper Wathen
Regent

in promoting the arts, she said. She believes an introduction to music and art is vital for a well-rounded college education.

Wathen said she remembers friendships most from her years at Western, and still gets together with some fellow music majors.

"I am still very nostalgic about that," she said.

Her friend, Daviess County Judge-executive Reid Haire, suggested her name when the governor's office called asking for nominations.

"I think, if I remember the story right, they said they would like to see a woman Republican," Wathen said.

She worked with Haire 10 years ago and supported him in his campaign for county judge-executive.

Although Wathen gets gener-

al information on Western as a member of the Alumni Association, she doesn't yet know details of current campus issues, she said. She awaits a packet of information from the administration to fill her in on board business.

Wathen said she hasn't met any of the other regents except Earl Fischer, who went to school with her husband, Ed, and has been a friend for years.

She also hasn't met President Gary Ransdell, but said she has "only heard good things" about him and the current administration.

She has spoken to Ransdell by phone, though. He called her on Jan. 3, but she was distracted from the conversation by the tornado tearing through Owensboro at the time, she said. Her house suffered no damage from the storm.

Martin also said he knew nothing about Wathen, but expressed confidence in Patton's choice.

"We welcome her with enthusiasm, and I'm sure she'll make an outstanding regent," he said.

ARENA: Decision expected by end of spring semester

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the size of a new arena to probably seat about 12,000."

Selig says Western would like to attract NCAA regional tournament games as Diddle Arena once did. Other factors like an adequate number of hotel rooms and a sizable airport are necessary in hosting a regional, he said.

Selig could not pinpoint a definite time line for a final decision, but said the department will work as quickly as it can on the project. Ransdell believes a decision will be made by the end of the semester.

A new arena would likely boost recruiting and local interest in Western basketball just as Diddle Arena did after its opening in 1963.

Women's basketball coach Steve Small said he realizes there are concerns about building a new arena.

"Do you take Diddle Arena and redo it, put skyboxes in and make it look good?" Small asked. "Or do you get a new facility, which gives new life and hockey and WWF (World Wrestling Federation) and a better sound system? If you do that you're gonna still have to do a

lot of things to Diddle Arena to keep it upgraded."

Small said he hasn't been asked for input on the situation and that the coaches aren't the ones that really need to be involved. He said the decision is more about what's good for Western and he remains impartial to the issue.

"I'm just hoping if they would build a new building it would have that kind of atmosphere and still be named E.A. Diddle Arena," he said. "I'd hate for it to be named anything else, because that's what I've grown up around, that's what I've watched and that's how I feel. I get a great feeling walking into Diddle Arena."

Several former players have expressed interest in a new arena. Clarence Martin, who played for the Toppers from 1982 to 1987, says he'd like to see Western move on to the next level.

"I think a new arena is best," he said. "We'll have to go to a movable floor so we can have other events. We can't have a rodeo in Diddle. We can't put dirt on top of the basketball court."

—Staff writer Travis Mayo contributed to this story

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Y2K problems pass by world, Western with minor glitches

Computer staff planning pays off

By JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

After months of Y2K hype, the dreaded date passed smoothly around the world. Troubleshooters dealt quickly with the few minor problems that surfaced, and Western was no exception.

Information Technology staff came in on Saturday, Jan. 1, to fix any emergent problems but found themselves with little to do. They spent their time fixing a few non-Y2K-related problems, Vice President for Information Technology Richard Kirchmeyer said in an e-mail to faculty and staff.

"Thanks to a lot of people in the Information Technology division, we came into Y2K relatively unscathed," he said.

That's because the department worked for months anticipating problems and preventing them, said Jim Sanders, academic technology director. In his department, it appears they did a thorough job.

"If there's a Y2K problem anywhere in student computing, I don't know about it," Sanders said.

There have been few calls to the Information Technology Help Desk since it reopened Jan. 3, said Dave Beckley, network computing and communications director. The majority of those

"Just because we rolled over doesn't mean everything's fine. It just means major operating systems ... are OK."

— Gordon Johnson

administrative computing services director

have been questions, not problems.

On Jan. 6, Western's Internet and e-mail access broke down for a few hours, and went down again briefly on Jan. 9. But neither of those problems were Y2K-related, Beckley said.

The Jan. 6 problem was caused by Cable and Wireless, run by MCI, which used to provide Western's Internet access. Western's old connection was reassigned to another user but not reactivated, so information coming from Western ran into a dead-end loop four steps down the line. On Sunday, the second stage in Western's connection, through the state Department of Information Services, broke down but was soon restored, Beckley said.

Elsewhere in Western's computer system, planning and prompt action paid off again.

"We actually had one fairly significant Y2K problem the morning of Jan. 1, but we were able to resolve it within about three hours," said Gordon Johnson, administrative computing services director. It was an older piece of software, so they simply ordered a new version

from the vendor.

Johnson anticipates finding some problems later on, not just at Western but worldwide. Problems will be found until systems run through a complete business cycle, up to those functions used only once a year, he said.

"Just because we rolled over doesn't mean everything's fine," Johnson said. "It just means major operating systems ... are OK."

For example, Western's student information system programs contain over 1 million lines of computer code, not all of which are actively used at once. So problems may lurk for months in little-used sections of Western's digital superstructure.

"We'll catch little things, I'm sure," Johnson said.

Since Jan. 1, the administrative computing staff has found two or three very minor problems, like reports dated 1900 instead of 2000, but nothing that involved important calculations, he said.

Preparing for Y2K took lots of work and attention, but it wasn't wasted, Johnson said.

"The problem was real, but we were prepared."

—Herald reporter Rex Hall Jr. contributed to this story.

Need help?

If you think your computer on Western's network is having a Y2K problem, call the Information Technology Help desk at 745-7000.

VP: Ransdell to talk to board about decision

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ter with the Board of Regents on Jan. 28.

"I would expect to communicate with the board about what to do," Ransdell said. "Sometime shortly after that meeting a decision will be made."

If the VP position is kept, Ransdell expects it to have a different configuration in the future.

"I feel the need to find ways to strengthen the position," he said. "I'm looking at several options to make us more efficient administratively."

Ransdell did not say exactly how he plans to strengthen the position.

The financial problem involving the position arose when the university planned to pay for Wilder's teaching salary with money from the Student Affairs budget.

If Ransdell does decide to keep the VP position, the task of financing Wilder's new salary will fall on Academic Affairs.

"It's not a question of financing the (VP) position," Ransdell said. "The question will be: How will Academic Affairs finance that unbudgeted faculty line?"

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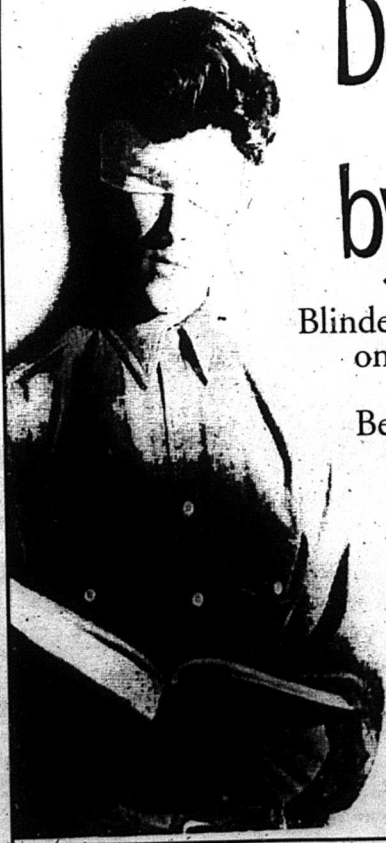
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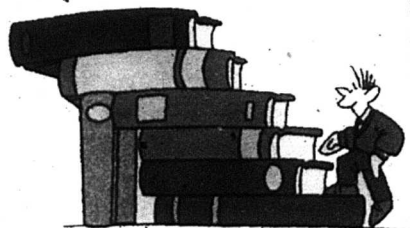
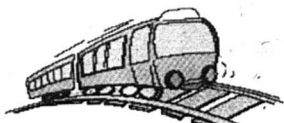
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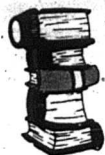
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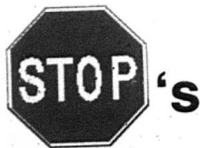
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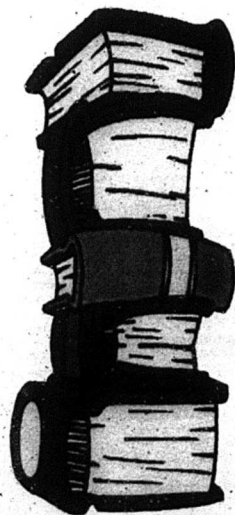
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Features

P O W E R



B E A D S

Eleven-year-old Rebecca Rhoades, bottom left, and 10-year-old Jessica Waldvogel, right, both of Bowling Green, look at a variety of Karma Beads for sale along with 13-year-old Sha'Kera Brooks, also of Bowling Green. Saturday afternoon, the girls were shopping at Claire's in Greenwood Mall. The store saw strong sales of the beads throughout the Christmas season.

STORY BY CAROLINE LYNCH ♦ PHOTO BY ANDREW OTTO

Getting good grades, finding the perfect romance or making more money at your job this semester may not be as difficult as you thought. A quick trip to the mall and a \$10 quartz bracelet may bring you success in love, friendship, courage, peace, knowledge or wealth.

At least that's how manufacturers are selling the latest trend in jewelry — power bead bracelets.

The power beads, or karma beads, began appearing in accessory stores a little more than a year ago. New York designer Zoe Metro decided to market the power beads after seeing the Dalai Lama wearing wooden beaded bracelets.

The beads range in price from \$2 to \$40. They are most popularly worn as bracelets of polished semi-precious stone or glass, though they are also worn as anklets, necklaces and rings.

For Elizabethtown senior Mary Renfrow and many others, the bracelets are a new adventure. This December, Renfrow purchased a pink rose quartz bracelet that is supposed to offer good luck in love. She also bought a gray hematite bracelet for happiness. She was skeptical about their powers, but purchased them anyway because she thought they were pretty.

"It's kind of like a horoscope," she said. "You don't necessarily believe that it is true, but it would be nice if something did come of it."

Erika Brady, associate professor of Folk

Studies, gave credit to buyers like Renfrow, saying though the bracelets may or may not have the power to change things, they might work simply because the wearer believes they will.

"Whether they are intrinsic and have a biological basis or whether their value is learned, they do have some effect," Brady said. "We have no idea whether the beads will cheer you up because they have intrinsic value, or if it just serves as a reminder, like a string tied around your finger."

Somerset freshman Sarah Cannon has a blue bracelet that is supposed to bring harmony. She thinks the trick is in the mind:

"If you buy it and you think it will bring you harmony, then you are in that mindset and it might work for you," she said.

Cannon said she notices the bracelet because it makes noise, and that when the beads clink together, she is reminded of their purpose.

Though power beads are a new fad, the ideas behind them are not, Brady said.

"It's a commercial fad, one from which people are profiting," she said. "But the idea that certain colors can have an effect on you physically, spiritually or emotionally is ancient."

Most cultures also associate colors with certain meanings — but not always the same meanings.

"In this country, white is the symbol for purity and rejoicing," Brady said. "In larger regions it's not true. Red is a color for rejoicing. You can imagine how people would react

if you wore red at your wedding."

But in the fashion industry, color association isn't an exact art.

The tag on the green power beads at Afterthoughts says that they represent life or joy, but green beads from Claire's are supposed to bring you wealth.

Holly Finn, a sales associate at Afterthoughts in Greenwood Mall, said it doesn't matter what the colors stand for anymore, because people are more interested in the jewelry due to its aesthetic value.

"At first I think people bought them because they thought they would work," she said. "But now I think it's more of a fashion statement."

Fads like this one that turn into profit are usually short lived, Brady said. Though power beads are selling fast, they may soon be gone because manufacturers looking for a profit will move on to something new when the fad wears out.

"The difference that is most striking in our culture is the extent to which the trends are commodified," Brady said. "People get wind that a profit could be made and suddenly you find them on every street corner."

Renfrow, whose beads are still fairly new, is hoping that her bracelets might still come through for her. She said her outlook has been a little happier since she bought her gray bracelet, but her romance bracelet just hasn't started working yet.

"Maybe around Valentine's Day it will pick up," she joked.

More Info

According to Jenn's Gems Earthly Treasures, an online natural jewelry dealer (www.jennsgems.com), the following can hold these meanings:

- ♦ Crystal (Clear) - Intellect or Clarity
- ♦ Rose quartz (Pink) - Romance
- ♦ Aventurine (Green) - Luck or finances
- ♦ Smoky Quartz (Grey) - Strength
- ♦ Turquoise - Protection or Peace
- ♦ Amethyst (Purple) - Happiness or Truth
- ♦ Garnet (Orangish-red) - Compassion or Love
- ♦ Jasper (Red) - Happiness or strength
- ♦ Onyx (Black) - Courage
- ♦ Lapis (Dark Blue) - Knowledge
- ♦ Wood (Brown) - Friendship
- ♦ Opal (White) - Strength
- ♦ Amber (Light Brown) - Harmony

Professor honored for invention

Vourvopoulos invents Pelan

By ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

George Vourvopoulos may not be as well known as Edison, Bell or Gutenberg, but his invention could quite possibly save the world.

The professor of physics and director of the Applied Physics Institute was the recipient of the 1999 University Research/Creativity Award for his development of methods used to identify drugs or explosives in various containers.

"It gives me a tremendous satisfaction of accomplishment," Vourvopoulos said.

Vourvopoulos' methods, called Pelan, are the first and only that have detected explosives with 100 percent accuracy. Pelan, as well as another of Vourvopoulos' inventions, a coal analyzer, is about to become commercial.

Vourvopoulos had help in developing his methods and devices from his colleagues at the Applied Physics Institute. He also modestly shared his accomplishments with the institute staff.

"The people at the institute are the most talented people in Kentucky," Vourvopoulos said.

Currently, there are about 10 Western students and several alumni who work at the institute under Vourvopoulos.

"We need to utilize all the talent we can find at Western," he said.

Douglas Humphrey, a colleague of Vourvopoulos for 16 years, thinks that Vourvopoulos is a perfect candidate for working with local talent.

"Students find him to be a good person to work with," Humphrey said. "When they come to work with him, they know they are going to actually be doing something rather than just sitting around. Then they end up giving presentations and gaining experience and application of the physics they learn."

Vourvopoulos' students are the ones who will have to follow in his footsteps. None of his three children is involved in the science field.



George Vourvopoulos

"One child is a journalist, one is in banking, and the other is in marketing," Vourvopoulos said with a laugh. "They all told me science was too hard."

However, his family and colleagues are very supportive of his work.

"I think he was very deserving of the award based on his work," Humphrey said. "He is very creative and hard-working."

Before coming to Western 16 years ago, Vourvopoulos was the physics department head at Florida A&M University and a faculty member at Vanderbilt. He has also been a researcher and nuclear physicist for almost 30 years.

He looks at his work as a way to help the world today.

"It may sound corny," he said, "But I have come to the point where I want to pay back society. We are looking at some very essential problems today, including drugs or environmental problems, so I will do anything I can to help prevent them."

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Resolve to keep resolutions in new millennium

Realistic goals key to getting results

BY KATE CORCORAN
Herald reporter

Ask Morganfield junior Aurelia Spaulding about New Year's resolutions, and you can expect to be there for a while.

"Oh, my gosh, I have, like, 12," she said, taking a deep breath.

"I'm going to stay away from long distance relationships, find and keep a job for a whole year, stop talking on the phone so much, strengthen my faith..."

The list goes on and on.

Spaulding is one of many Western students who vowed at midnight New Year's Eve to improve themselves in the much-hyped new millennium.

From studying harder to drinking less, resolutions can be either a simple change of habit or a life-altering decision.

Some students want to improve themselves from the inside out.

"I want to be nicer," said Glasgow sophomore Laurie Vance.

Melissa Holt, a sophomore from Mt. Washington, just wants some peace of mind.

"This year, I'm not going to sing along with (my friend's) teenybopper music," she said.

"No Backstreet Boys. No Britney."

Then there are the resolutions people make every year to improve their health. Quit smoking. Eat healthier. Work out more.

"I want to see the sights of Europe in better shape," Elizabethtown senior Jody Jaggers said.

Matt Green, assistant professor of physical education and exercise physiologist, said that of all resolutions made at New Year's, around 75 percent of them will probably deal with shedding extra pounds.

How many of those people succeed? Green was reluctant to guess.

"But I will say it's probably a small percentage," he said.

Green said a common mistake that can lead to failed weight loss attempts are unrealistic expectations people put on themselves.

"A lot of people try to do too much, too quickly," he said.

"They choose activities for the wrong reasons and stop because they don't enjoy it. Or there's a lack of defined goals."

Louisville freshman Jennifer Keeling has a very specific goal in mind.

"I want to lose 20 pounds by March, for Spring Break," she said. "I'm also going to try to be in bed by 12 at least three nights a week."

"A lot of people try to do too much, too quickly... or there's a lack of defined goals."

— Matt Green
exercise physiologist



Photo illustration by Cara VanLeuven/Herald

Making a New Year's resolution is easy. The challenge is sticking it out. When trying to diet, start an exercise regimen or give up drinking, the pressure increases when those around you indulge in what you can't.

Green suggests setting reasonable goals for weight loss and writing them down. Establish a rewards system to treat yourself for an accomplishment. This will reinforce good exercise habits.

Block off a 30-minute time period three times a week for exercise, and don't let anything interrupt that.

"Time is the number one excuse people give for not exercising," Green said.

"But when you think about

it, half an hour three times a week, it's only an hour and half. It's just a matter of making time instead of finding time."

Green also suggests choosing exercises and activities that you enjoy, so you'll be more likely to stick with an exercise regimen.

"Also work with a partner so there's an accountability there," he said. "If I know you're waiting for me at the gym, I'll be more likely to go."

While Green doesn't promise

absolute results, he said applying these principles to a weight-loss program will improve your chances.

But if the whole resolution process eludes you, don't feel alone. Some students refuse to set themselves up for resolution failure.

Mandi Starck, a sophomore from Franklin, Tenn., has decided to forgo the idea entirely.

"I'm resolving not to make resolutions," she said.

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January 11, 2000

Herald

'The Green Mile' is touching, surprising

Grade: A-

BY CAROLINE LYNN
Herald reporter

Seven dollars and 25 cents.
Three hours and 17 minutes.
If I've figured correctly, each minute that I spent watching "The Green Mile" at Tinseltown in Louisville cost me about four cents (or 3.68 cents to be exact).

I would have happily paid a New York rate for my movie ticket.

Based on Stephen King's dramatic series of books, "The Green Mile" is the story of the inmates and guards on death row in a circa 1930s Southern penitentiary.

Tom Hanks is magnificent, as usual, as Paul Edgecomb, the head guard on the block. He is the quintessential good guy, just trying

to keep peace among men who are facing their last days. He is also suffering from a painful urinary tract infection which adds comic relief to the movie.

On the other end of the spectrum we meet spiteful, immature guard Percy Wetmore, played convincingly by Doug Hutchison. Wetmore tortures the prisoners and gets a kick out of seeing them fry in "Old Sparky," the electric chair. You'll hate this guy.

In the middle is an enormously large black man, John Coffey, new to the Green Mile. Coffey, played by Michael Clarke Duncan, stands about 6' 5" and looks like a professional boxer. He's big, scary, and he's in for the rape and murder of two young girls. But his only question when he's brought to the block is if they will leave a night light on for him.

After a startling incident with Edgecomb, it is learned that Coffey

has a special power for helping and healing. Hanks can't figure out how this gentle giant could be a rapist and murderer. He goes on a quest to find out more about Coffey.

Expect the twisted reality that is so classically King to show through in some especially cover-your-face gruesome scenes. But in contrast to the harsh reality of death, capital punishment and mortality, there is a humanitarian side to this movie that is especially touching. And surprising.

The themes aren't new. The end won't shock you. And some scenes are played up for us desensitized moviegoers. But the story will catch you. The actors will convince you. And the themes behind the entertainment are ideas truly worth wrestling with.

So forget the critics, this movie works.

WARNING: 'Green Mile' surprises spoiled

Grade: C-

BY LINH TRAN
Herald reporter

For over three hours "The Green Mile" pulls emotional and intellectual teeth as it unsuccessfully tries to be a dramatic thriller worthy of its \$7 ticket price.

Okay, so I didn't cringe the whole time I was viewing this joke of a movie. There were some good parts. I laughed a lot. It was a pretty successful comedy.

Only that's probably not what director Frank Darabont or screenwriter Stephen King were going for.

The positive things about this movie: good actors. Negative things: everything else. In other words, it didn't make any darn sense to me.

How can an enormous man like John Coffey, played by Michael Clarke Duncan, have special powers to heal people and keep it a secret for as long as he did?

How can he be found guilty of raping and murdering two girls and no one know that he was just trying to save them? Show them your powers, silly.

Of all the cheap attempts at stirring emotion, the most annoying gimmick was the pet mouse, Mr. Jingles. If I wanted to see a movie where one of the main characters was a mouse, I would have opted to see Stuart Little.

The effects were sad. Coffey sucking the "pains" out of the sick and chucking out glittery confetti as the light fixtures exploded was a funny sight. It didn't look real and it didn't feel real.

Although the actors got sucked into a pathetic storyline, they made the best of what they had.

Tom Hanks is his usual Academy Award-winning self as Paul Edgecomb, the sensitive head guard of The Green Mile. He relates to the inmates and comforts them as they await their electrocutions.

The best of this movie lies with the bad guy. The believably evil Doug Hutchison plays guard Percy Wetmore. His character is calculating, vicious and spiteful. He enjoys tormenting the inmates and takes pleasure in the electrocution process.

He even sabotages an inmate's electrocution so he ends up dying a very long and painful death. He represents the evil in this world and he does it very effectively.

Sorry, I probably ruined the plot for those who haven't seen this movie. But trust me, I'm doing you a favor. Save your money and time for something more worthwhile.

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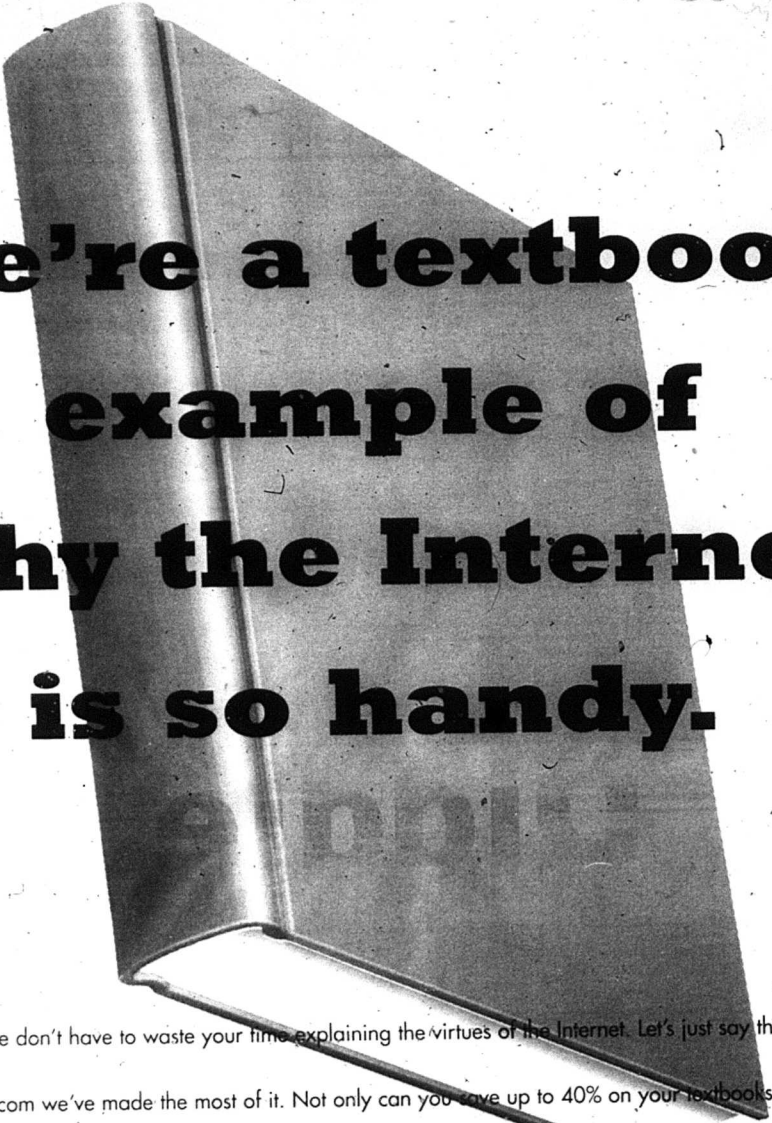


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Sports



Andrew Otto/Herald

Matt Parr, a freshman from Columbia, Tenn., shoots some hoops in Diddle Arena Sunday afternoon while waiting for the men's basketball team to return from Saturday's game in Miami. Parr is one of the team's managers.

deconstructing Diddle

Renovation or new arena, Diddle still special

BY BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

The footsteps of E.A. Diddle, John Oldham and Clem Haskins bounce from the rafters of Diddle Arena's tin roof. The temperature blazes near the century mark as heat builds in the un-air conditioned facility during the summer months.

Tales of postseasons past grace the banners set aglow by rays of sunlight protruding the

everlasting blue, red, green and yellow stained-glass window surrounding the upper concourse. The wooden red and white seats tuck in the original hardwood.

Eleven rows of rolled up bleachers sit above it all, waiting for the day, any day, when the Hilltopper faithful can cheer again.

Despite its history and tradition, Diddle Arena may soon meet its final days as Western's primary sports venue. Athletics director Wood Selig is now accepting responses from firms around the nation bidding to do a feasibility study that will determine if a new arena is in the cards.

Western put its permanent stamp on the college basketball landscape and honored one of the game's all-time greatest coaches by opening the arena, which Diddle coached in for one season before retiring, in 1964.

Thirty-seven years later, Western is considering a move to a newer, state-of-the-art basketball pad, and the memories of many former players have begun to flow.

They remember the excitement throughout, Bowling Green and the Commonwealth when Western unveiled the 8,500 seat jewel box, a structure possessing a significant home court advantage and

recruiting bonus.

"I think to have a structure of that quality and importance has meant a great deal to the university and community," said former Western president and basketball standout Dero Downing (1939-43). "The fact that it carries the name that it does gives it more stature. Coach Diddle is a legend. His name is known... all over the world."

The arena was named after Edgar Allen Diddle, whose longevity at Western still impresses the most critical basketball aficionados. Diddle guided his teams to 759 victories.

SEE DIDDLE, PAGE 20

Western, Felton get tossed out, 93-63

Florida International
seizes second half

BY TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

MIAMI — Behind a slender glass window Saturday night, Dennis Felton stood frozen, his right arm crossed and left hand resting on the side of his face.

Western's men's basketball coach had been forced to be on the outside looking in, courtesy of three technical fouls and a spirited ejection. And his Hilltoppers had been forced to do the same, courtesy of a Florida International explosion midway through the second half.

By the time Felton raced to midcourt to protest a blocking call with 6:36 remaining, Western (2-9, 0-1 Sun Belt Conference) had lost control of what once was a close contest. Just more than seven minutes earlier, the Golden Panthers (6-6, 1-0) were barely a palm leaf ahead, 44-42. When Felton picked up one technical,

SEE TOSSED, PAGE 22

It's tough being a Topper fan



PLAYGROUND NOTES

Jerry Brewer

It could be worse. You could be a Cincinnati Bengals fan. You could be a Florida Marlins fan. You could be one of those closet Chicago Bulls fans.

You could be struggling through the hair-yanking experience of watching Army's men's basketball team (0-11) play. You could be wondering what happened to the once-proud program at Loyola-Marymount (0-11). You could be following the women's program at Morehead State (0-11).

See, you're lucky. You're fortunate. Aren't you? Sure, you're forced to eat heavy portions of losses, but at least you can scrounge up a few leftover wins.

SEE TOWN, PAGE 24

Lady Toppers open home stretch against Miami

Team returns to
Diddle tonight

BY LYNDSAY SUTTON
Herald reporter

ShaRae Mansfield pulled her red and white practice jersey to her face, wiping away the sweat of yesterday's early morning practice as it dripped down her nose. It was the kind of sweat only confident players produce, the kind that results from an effort only hungry players understand.

The Lady Toppers have played through this injury-riddled season with heart that has pushed their bodies to the brink of exhaustion, practice after practice, game after game.

For the first 12 games this season, the Ratings Percentage Index has ranked Western's schedule as the 12th-toughest in the nation. Other indexes have them ranked as high as seventh.

Playing against that competition with, at times, just eight players and no more than 11, the women's basketball team has given an effort deserving a purple heart, as much purple for courage as it is for the bruises and wounds.

The Lady Toppers (6-6, 1-1 Sun Belt Conference) begin a three-game home stretch, first meeting Miami (Fla.) at 7 p.m. tonight in Diddle Arena.

During this stretch, the team hopes to spark a blissful union between effort and personal confidence.

"I think we have the personnel, honestly," said Mansfield, a forward and Western's junior All-America candidate. "I think a lot of people don't believe in themselves. I think that's the main thing. It's all in our minds."

"We can get it done, it's just believing in yourself and then doing it... We've got the talent to get the job done."

Lady Tops vs Miami

When: 7 p.m.
Where: Diddle Arena
Radio: 107.1 The Gator

The Lady Toppers want to improve their rebounding, something they were better at during Saturday's 58-54 victory against Florida International. The Golden Panthers (5-6, 0-1)

SEE MIAMI, PAGE 24



Andrew Otto/Herald

Associate head coach Mary Taylor Cowles watches her team sprint the length of the court in Diddle Arena during a women's basketball practice Monday morning.

DIDDLE: Arena was forerunner to new athletic facilities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

32 conference titles and 11 post-season tournaments in 42 seasons presiding over the court.

Known as an "Academic-Athletic" building, Diddle includes more than 30 classrooms, an Olympic-size swimming pool, offices, an auxiliary gym and enough space to accommodate a plethora of physical education classes. Its use for educational and athletic purposes made it exceptionally unique.

"It was the forerunner of many larger indoor facilities," Downing said. "Institutions came from all over the country to study the configuration and usage of that facility. It is still very impressive, although it could use some refinements."

Diddle Arena has hosted men's NCAA Tournament Midwest Regional first and second-round games, women's NCAA regional championships, the Kentucky girls' high school Sweet Sixteen, an NBA exhibition and hosted a visit by former President Ronald Reagan in 1988.

Dee Gibson recalls playing for Diddle in the 1940s in the Red Barn gymnasium, now known as Helm Library. His collegiate career, interrupted after two seasons when he and many of his teammates were sent to World War II, included playing games in rather hostile environments.

"Being surrounded by a sea of red as capacity crowds erupted in the Red Barn were of the norm," Gibson said, but it was time for Western to move on to bigger and better things.

"In 1963, we needed a larger gym," he said. "If Western had not built Diddle it would have hurt from a recruiting standpoint. It gave the program prestige and national attention."

Coach Diddle retired from coaching in 1964, but remained a fixture in the arena at Hilltopper games for the next several years. In a close game with Dayton in 1968, Diddle jumped on a press table to motivate the crowd to cheer the Toppers on. A reporter grabbed at his ankle telling him to get off the table, not realizing he was the man the building was named after.

The arena's unusual tin roofing amplifies the noise inside, providing a home court advantage too

great to overcome in many cases. In 1965, Lady Topper Lillie Mason nailed a jumper as the buzzer sounded to give Western a 92-90 victory over undefeated and top-ranked Texas in an NCAA tournament regional championship game.

Texas coach Jody Conradt, the all-time winningest coach in women's college basketball and a member of the Hall of Fame, remembers that game 15 years ago.

"That arena always gave Western Kentucky a tremendous home court advantage," Conradt said. "Western Kentucky drew great crowds before it was fashionable to watch women's college basketball. It remains one of the toughest places our team had to play in. That tin roof is something else with the sound and the noise just ricocheting off it. I won't be sad if that building goes since we suffered one of our most devastating losses in history there in 1985."

Many have grown to love

Diddle Arena for its tradition and significance, but realize a number of issues have halted its development. The idea of a new arena is accepted by many former players and current students.

Former Topper great John Oldham (1942-43, 1946-49), whose jersey was recently retired, said the arena aided recruiting greatly.

"That's one of probably 25 to 25 things prospects look at," he said. "I felt so inspired by the arena I put a picture of it on the outside of envelopes we sent to recruits. I think the mistake that was made was it should have been built off campus. We've lost a world of fans because of a lack of parking. When students are there, there's not much available."

However, some former players would not like an off-campus facility.

"I love having a gym on campus," Dee Gibson said. "Students can walk 300 yards to the gym. It is bad for parking, though. If everything could be worked out some-

how, I'd like to keep the gym there on campus."

Clarence Martin played for the Toppers in the mid-1980s and would like to see a new arena built.

"It's all a money concept. Bottom line," he said. "I feel that we have gotten the full capacity out of Diddle Arena. I think looking back on all the great things that have happened in that building even Mr. Diddle himself would say 'Job well done.' I think we all (former players) want Western to move to the next level."

If a new arena is built, the legacy of E.A. Diddle and the arena would be in question. Downing and Martin say Diddle's legacy would not be affected, but Gibson and athletic director Wood Selig believe the legacy could suffer somewhat.

Said Gibson: "It would detract to some degree certainly. And I'd hate that phase of it. People don't know Coach Diddle and what he meant to Western. He loved his

players and all the students."

Downing doesn't believe a move to a new arena would affect the legacy at all.

"That could never happen," he said. "That legacy will live on regardless of what decisions are made. He is a part of the tradition and heritage of Western."

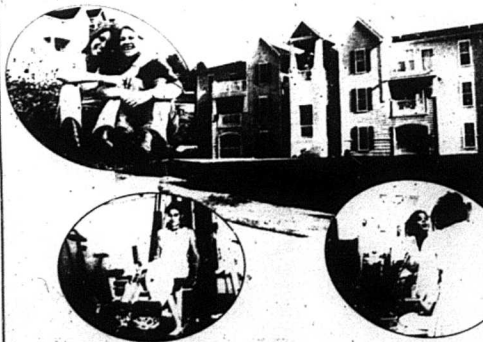
Several students have said they don't feel Diddle Arena is suitable any longer for college basketball. Most questioned by the Herald said they would like to see a new arena built, but realize what Diddle once meant to Western.

"It seems no one can consider themselves a true Western student without attending a class in Cherry Hall," Fulton freshman Cory Ramsey said. "Likewise, no one can call themselves a true Western athletics supporter without having experienced the air of reverence that hangs within the rafters of Diddle Arena. However, the place is showing its age. I'd like to see a brand new facility."

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Lady Tops overpower FIU in early conference game

Britt leads Western to 58-54 win

By Travis Mayo
Herald reporter

MIAMI — As the Lady Toppers ran off the Golden Panther court Saturday night, a contagious celebration cruised into the locker room.

High fives were like the flu, spreading from person to person wearing red and white. Western coach Steve Small handed out a few to anyone who came near. A group so worn and weary from a day of flight from Arkansas, so tired that they skipped Saturday's shoot around to save legs, were springing around.

The reason? The Lady Toppers (6-6, 1-1 Sun Belt Conference) had pocketed one of two conference road wars by defeating Florida International 58-54.

"I just think some people have given up on the Lady Toppers and feel sorry for us," an elated Small said. "People don't realize when you've played the schedule we've played — you've lost at Oregon, Missouri, tournament in Florida, Vanderbilt, Arkansas State (ranked seventh by WBCA/Summerville Index). To

get a split on the road in the Sun Belt, against a team that's supposed to be second in the Sun Belt, is a huge, huge win."

Western came out firing, as senior forward Jamie Britt's three-pointers started a lead the Lady Toppers wouldn't lose the entire first half. It was also the beginning of Britt's 13 points in 18 minutes on 6 of 10 shooting. With strong moves close to the basket, Britt pushed Western to as much as a 9-point nod. And by sliding a pass between defenders into junior forward ShaRae Mansfield's hands for a last-second baseline jumper, she helped send the Lady Toppers into the break ahead 35-28.

"I felt like playing," said an exhausted Britt, "but the first half, I felt like I played the hardest I could play and the second half I just ran out of gas."

And Western ran on fumes much of the second half as the Golden Panthers climbed back into the game and took their first lead with 10:32 left. But Florida International never seemed to have complete control of the contest. When Western's senior guard Jaime Walz, plagued with poor shooting much of the night, sank two free throws with five ticks showing, the high fives were waiting to ooze out.

"It felt great," said Walz, who finished with 13 points on 2 of 11 shooting but hit 4 of 4 from the

line. "I wasn't shooting the ball too good outside, but I converted my free throws. When the time's running down and it's a close game, I want the ball in my hands, because I know I can convert the free throws."

The win was just another signal to Small's prophecy. He knows there is nothing wrong at all with his crew. Staying in the conference hunt will prove it. And the Lady Toppers did that by beating a Golden Panther team that has been in the NCAA Tournament seven out of the last eight years.

"I've been telling them since day one, when we had seven players, that this is a team of destiny," Small said. "Something good is gonna happen."

It's hopeful that such a belief is contagious, too.

Western (58)

Mansfield 5-8 0-0 10, Chastang 3-5 1-2 7, Powers 5-8 1-2 13, Walz 2-11 4-4 10, Britt 7-13 1-3 17, Johnson 0-1 1-2 1.

Florida International (54)

Slavtcheva 4-19 6-6 16, Nagy 2-5 3-6 7, Camps 2-7 4-4 8, Heller 2-6 2-2 6, Mesa 2-5 2-2 6, Cotton 4-6 3-6 11, Three-point shooting — Western 6-14, FIU 2-18.

Rebounds — Western 35, FIU 36.

Turnovers — Western 19, FIU 14.

Assists — Western 12, FIU 11.

Attendance — 342.

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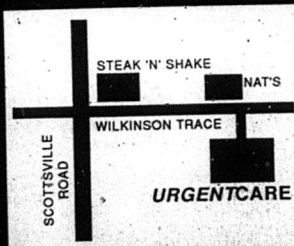
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TOSSED: Hilltoppers drop fourth straight decision

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

then another with a swift kick to the lighted front of the scorers' table, and a final one for storming to midcourt to protest some more, completed with a police escort, high-decibel exit. Florida International had blazed its way to a 72-48 lead.

And from behind closed doors, Felton watched as Western dropped its Sun Belt opener, 93-63.

"That stunt I pulled, in terms of getting the technicals, it was just the best way I could think of at the time to show them how at some point you've gotta say enough's enough," he said. "You've gotta have some emotion and the competitive drive to pull out all the stops and put your foot down, and do something about what's going on."

With senior leader Lee Lampley out because of a turned left ankle suffered last week, the Hilltoppers trailed by only one with 14:31 left when Florida International junior guard Carlos Arroyo nailed his fifth three-pointer of the game. Miami transfer junior guard Lucas Barnes echoed the trey with one of his own a minute later, and then the final golden growl before the roar came when Arroyo dazzled with a fake and a driving layup to push the game to 49-42.

A one-point, half-time battle was quickly becoming a cake-walk, and senior guard Marshod Fairweather glazed on the icing. Coming off the bench, the Golden Panthers' leading scorer averaging 20 points per game was at zero midway through. He didn't score until the 9:18 mark, when he tossed in a three. He would hit five more and get his average by blasting the Hilltoppers for 24, half of the second-half points.

"I'm a streaky shooter and that can happen any time,"

Fairweather said. "The second half, I know it's my game; I just try to take over. I'm just a crunch time player."

Felton had warned his warriors solely about Fairweather's dangerous touch for nearly two minutes in the locker room at halftime. He knew the bomber was itching to score. And with that rapid fire, Florida International kept widening the gap.

"Our whole theme at halftime was to pick up the tempo of the game and get it into more of an

up and down game," Golden Panther coach Shaky Rodriguez said. "I thought their zone was really effective the first half. By pressing and making it a 94-foot game we really twisted it to our advantage."

Western looked frustrated as the left side of the scoreboard kept adding numbers, and Florida International coasted to a 39-point advantage late in the game.

"We're a young team, but that isn't an excuse anymore, because we've played enough games,"

said freshman forward Jimmy Boykin, who had a career-high 15 points. "Tension was high because we really wanted to win. I really don't know what happened."

Sophomore Derek Robinson was tops for Western with 16 points, 10 of which came from the charity stripe. Four Florida International players reached double figures, including Arroyo's 23 and Barnes' 17. The Golden Panthers hit 13 of 25 treys.

A cloudy ending to the sunny

trip had handed Western its fourth straight loss after whipping Murray State and Virginia Commonwealth in early December.

"I just told our team we learned one more new lesson tonight, and that's how quickly you can lose control of a great ballgame," Felton said. "We've gotta get tougher. We've gotta learn how to bear down and make it happen, just by being harder and competing and puttin' your foot down and saying 'This is where it ends.'"



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Topper swimmers celebrate victories

Fisher swims to first collegiate victory

BY TRAVIS WILLIAMS
Herald reporter

It seems like the toughest challenge the Western swimmers have had this season isn't their competition — it's topping their last party.

The swim teams continued to crush everything in their path by destroying the College of Charleston last week.

Then they had a little post-meet celebration the day after they flexed their muscles. "We're just kind of celebrating right now," sophomore Sydney Mountford said of the swimmers get-together Sunday night.

Paving the way for another easy victory for the Lady Toppers, sophomore Nicole Fisher got her first-ever collegiate victory in the 200-meter breaststroke. Mountford was a double winner, taking the 50-meter freestyle and the 400-meter backstroke.

Sophomore Megan Zerhusen won the 100-meter freestyle along with the 800, which, according to Coach Bill Powell she entered "just to give it a try."

The men acted out the role of big brother effortlessly on little brother Saturday. Patrick Derr, who Powell says has been a "pleasant surprise," stepped up to win the 200-meter butterfly.

"They had some good guys but overall it was an easy meet," Derr said.

Gord Veldman won the 200-meter backstroke and Kicker Vencill grabbed his usual 50-meter freestyle, despite a sub-par performance.

"I probably didn't swim as good as I should have," Vencill said. "I was really tired from training but we got some days off and two weeks to get ready for SIU."

While most students were home for the holidays, the Hilltoppers were undergoing strenuous training that included four to five hours of practice each day.

Powell knew fatigue would play a part in his team's performance but said he was confident they would do well.

"These kids are winners. It was ten hours to Charleston then the four-hour practices, but when it comes time to compete they just turn it on," said Powell.

Western will try to turn it on again when it faces Wright State Saturday in Ohio.

Western swimmers ranked nationally

Three members of the Western Kentucky swim team are currently ranked in the top 25 among swimmers nationally.

Richmond senior Kicker Vencill is sixth in the 100-meter freestyle and 10th in the 50-meter. Sophomore Gord Veldman ranks ninth in 100-meter backstroke and 16th in the 200-meter. Fellow teammate Andrew Priest also cracked the top 25 in the 200-meter backstroke, ranking 23rd.

College Heights Herald

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TOUGH: Hilltopper roundball is painful for all fans to follow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Alright, alright. Who am I fooling?

OK, let's admit it. This losing thing is tough. This makes you question your college decision, your very reason for being a hoops fan based in Bowling Green. Your friends from Indiana and Kentucky and even Louisville can talk Final Four and not be slapped.

To you, the Final Four is starting to sound like the fewest number of games between wins.

At this rate, the Hillraisers will soon become a support group for bereaved Hilltopper followers.

Our men's and women's programs aren't raising much Hill at this point in the season. But it has been Hell.

Or close to it.

Our women are 6-6? Our men are 2-9?

We haven't seen mediocrity of this magnitude since the 1929-30 season. That's the last time both programs did not have winning records. The men were 4-12 under E.A. Diddle that year, and the women struggled through a long, grueling 1-1 season.

Normally, if one program is struggling, the other is there to divert the fans. This year, though, it has been rough. The reasons vary for each team.

The men are an enigma. Before the season began, Coach Dennis Felton declared that "the drought is over."

So why am I seeing a mirage

on the Diddle Arena floor?

The Hilltoppers, as youthful as any team in the nation, have sputtered.

"Gotta get tougher," Felton has explained many times.

Gotta get craftier, too. And gotta get back to playing their trademark defense. Ninety-three points to Florida International?

Sad to say, but the most interesting stat in that game was Felton getting three technicals. What must the guy do to fire up his team? Go Orlando Brown on a ref?

The Hilltoppers, in their defense, have played a tough schedule. The Ratings Percentage Index ranks their schedule No. 26 in the nation so far. For a team with seven newcomers, that is brutal.

The Lady Toppers rank No. 12 in strength of schedule on the women's side. The six opponents they have lost to have a combined record of 63-15. For a team with 10 players total and a seven- or eight-player rotation, that is suicide.

Just like the men, the women have no problem with talent. The problem with them has been that they just don't have enough of it.

Everything Coach Steve Small and his staff have done to adjust the team to the low numbers has been admirable. The Lady Toppers, still teeming with pride, are not embarrassing themselves on the court. They are still formidable, but this team is a few pieces short of the

big time.

That is the frustrating part. These teams are trying, but they are missing necessary components. The Hilltoppers need a true point guard. The Lady Toppers could use another explosive bench player and one more post player.

The season is half over, and we're practically buying time until the postseason. It's a different way of thinking, and most fans don't enjoy it.

But don't wad up these teams and throw their seasons away. I'll be the first to predict that the Lady Toppers will win 18 games before the postseason. The Sun Belt schedule dictates it.

The Hilltoppers seem to be in the same hole they were in last season. But, hey, they began 2-7 last season and finished 40 minutes from the NCAA Tournament.

But that is not to say that there won't be many more struggles during the second half of this season.

Oh well. At least you didn't go to Prairie View during its stretch of football futility in the 1990s.

Say, aren't we supposed to have a darn good baseball team this year?

When's the next swim meet?

Jerry Brewer's column normally runs Tuesdays and occasionally Thursdays. Call him at 745-1909, or e-mail him at brewerj@aoi.com.

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Goodman All-American

Senior center Patrick Goodman was named a first-team All-American by TeamLink.com during Christmas break. He was also named to the Division I-AA Athletic Directors Association Academic All-Star

Team. Goodman was a member of the inaugural I-AA Athletic Directors team as a junior in 1998.

This is the fifth organization that has named Goodman an All-American this year.

—Lyndsay Sutton

MIAMI: Game tonight

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

ranked 12th in the country in rebounding, have outrebounded opponents by an average of 42-32 so far this season, but they grabbed only one more rebound than Western (a 36-35 edge) in the conference matchup.

"Even though they had the height advantage over us, we really got the job done on the boards and won the game, so it was definitely a confidence builder," Mansfield said.

The Hurricanes (7-5, 1-1 Big East) are outrebounding opponents by an average of two boards in 12 games this season. Coach Ferne Labati said her team is taking a strong defensive approach to the Western game.

"Mansfield is a great player and we've got to contain her," Labati said. "The other thing we have to deal with is that we have to play really good defense."

"They're (Western) the type of team where if you leave them alone, and you give them uncontested shots, they're going to be able to shut you down."

For Western, the game is about confidence, about seeing effort pay off in the form of a win, especially since the Lady Toppers will be at home for the next three games.

"I think our team has a lot of confidence, but we need to get a lot more wins to gain that confidence, more confidence," junior guard LaVonda Johnson said.

Associate head coach Mary Taylor Cowles added: "Some people may call me silly or whatever but I really think this team's going to be okay. We're 6-6, at an even .500, but we've got great talent on this basketball team. We've got some good senior leadership. And I think this conference season is going to be very surprising to some people."



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