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Selig tackling athletics' hefty deficit

Taking a close look at Western's athletics budget

BY TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

The numbers scared Wood Selig. On Sept. 1, when he moved into his office beneath the upper level of Diddle Arena, and officially started his job as athletics director, it might as well have been Oct. 31 — the numbers read like the script to "Halloween."

ended about \$2 million over budget for the previous fiscal year.

The script: The athletic department's budget last year was \$3,299,427, including \$745,093 in private gifts. Its expenditures were \$5,327,359.

This year's numbers estimate a total of \$1,492,000 in revenue and \$5,443,233 in expenditures, but the final numbers haven't been calculated yet. Those numbers don't include the university's contribution to the athletics budget, which has ranged from \$470,000 to \$680,000 during

More coverage inside

- ♦ Coaches Dennis Felton and Leslie Phelan came from much different financial situations at their previous schools. **Page 8**
- ♦ How fundraising and marketing support an athletics program. **Page 8**

the past three years.

"That wasn't appealing at all," Selig said. "I'd rather have a budget that's so fat, like, Florida, to where it would be, 'OK, how are we going to spend all this?'"

"I didn't jump for joy. I knew it was going to be a challenge, an educational process and a matter of taking some hard stances and hard looks at how we're spending money, how we're raising revenue."

He said there are three ways to deal with such shortfalls. There is a university contingency fund, a nestegg built through-

out the years, for emergency situations. When a department doesn't balance its budget, money from that reserve fund is dispersed. Selig said athletics has a debt to pay \$500,000 borrowed from Western over the past two years.

He said another course of action is accountability for individuals who develop, maintain and monitor their respective budgets. Then, the department has to decide if it can honestly accomplish its objectives with the funding available.

Whatever the route, the cast in this drama is feeling the effects: The athletic programs breathe through tighter budgets. People are shifted within the department.

SEE DEFICIT, PAGE 8



Jeremy Lyverse/Herald

Frankfort sophomore Conrad Davies debates his interpretation of Bible scriptures with Jim Gilles of The Campus Ministries of Evansville outside Downing University Center on Friday afternoon. "The spirit of God that's in me, I couldn't stand what he was saying," Davies said. **Story, Page 9**

Building delayed 6 months

Bids for journalism center over budget

BY ABBEY BROWN
Herald reporter

Groundbreaking for the new journalism and technology building, which was originally scheduled for Friday, will be delayed for at least six months, said John Osborne, the assistant vice president of Campus Services and Facilities.

Bids for the project were opened in Frankfort on Thursday and provided a nasty surprise for Western.

coming in about 25 percent over budget. The state has allocated \$15.05 million for the actual construction of the projected \$18.5 million building. Bids came in between \$16.9 million to \$22.2 million.

♦ The state legislature gives Western a surprising \$10 million for a new research building. **Page 3**

In a campus-wide e-mail sent out Friday, President Gary Ransdell said he felt "extreme disappointment" about the delay.

"I don't know why the architects missed it so badly," Ransdell said yesterday, "so I'm anxious to find out what the problem is."

Yesterday, campus officials and project leaders Arrasmith, Judd & Rapp, the principal architects for the building, met to discuss what they were going to do to get the building rebid under budget.

No Arrasmith representatives could be reached for comment. Ransdell's e-mail, however, indicated that the firm had some explaining to do.

"The architect assured us on numerous occasions that this building was being designed in a responsible manner even to

SEE BUILDING, PAGE 13

It's back to the store for unused desk

Melky, mum for most of the controversy, to talk today

BY JIM GAINES
Herald reporter

Twenty-two months after Huda Melky began buying \$18,619 worth of furniture for her two-room office, the one unused piece — an executive walnut desk, bought for \$1,677.52 — has been returned.

Melky, director of the Equal

Opportunity/ADA Compliance office, placed three orders between June 16, 1998, and June 21, 1999. She bought three desks at \$1,677.52 each, seven storage units at more than \$1,000 each and an assortment of other items. Her old furniture went into storage.

Using the same catalogs as Melky, the Herald found furniture similar to that in many administrative offices for thousands of dollars less.

Melky and her assistant, James McCaslin, each use one of the desks. But the third sat unused in the Supply Services building, still in its box, until last Friday.

"Given the controversy over this furniture, the desk was returned," Chief Financial

Officer Ann Mead said Monday. Western lost about \$100, but got back the rest of the \$1,677.52.

The decision to return it was mutual, Mead said.

"We worked with Huda to try to help her, since we thought that was a better resolution than the Herald calling and asking if we had the desk," Mead said. "We knew you'd be back."

In fact, the day before the desk was sent back, the Herald sent Melky an e-mail asking about it.

When the Herald e-mailed Melky on

SEE DESK, PAGE 7

OTHER NEWS

Hindsight with Coates

Student Government Association President Amanda Coates has had an eventful year serving Western students. Here is a look back at her tenure, now that the end of the semester is a week away. What did she accomplish? What does she regret? **Page 6**

FEATURES

Writing the great American Novel

Fancy yourself to be the next Mark Twain?

The Herald explains how to get your literary musings published in magazines or literary journals and how to survive if you get rejected.

Page 15

SPORTS

Mansfield is Female Athlete of Year

Junior forward ShaRae Mansfield has been named Western's Female Athlete of the Year. She averaged more than 18 points and 10 rebounds this past season. The All-American from Louisville talks about why she was dead set on coming to the Hill and her WNBA aspirations.

Page 19



Weather forecast

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
65° 41°	65° 42°	72° 49°	76° 51°	76° 54°
Scattered showers	Sunny	Partly cloudy	Sunny	Partly cloudy

T: 68°/43° showers
W: 60°/44° cloudy
R: 64°/49° cloudy
F: 69°/51° cloudy
S: 72°/54° cloudy

• **Louisville**
T: 63°/40° showers
W: 48°/42° cloudy
R: 52°/46° cloudy
F: 56°/50° cloudy
S: 62°/51° cloudy

• **Owensboro**
T: 69°/41° cloudy
W: 50°/44° cloudy
R: 50°/50° cloudy
F: 72°/52° cloudy
S: 75°/53° cloudy

• **Paducah**
T: 69°/42° sunny
W: 61°/45° cloudy
R: 73°/53° cloudy
F: 73°/53° cloudy
S: 79°/56° cloudy

• **Nashville**
T: 62°/49° cloudy
W: 59°/45° cloudy
R: 71°/51° cloudy
F: 73°/53° cloudy
S: 75°/53° cloudy



Andrew Otto/Herald

Rainy days: Russellville senior Lee Humble waits under the Preston Health and Activities Center's breezeway for a ride back to the Kappa Delta sorority house Monday afternoon. "I hope it doesn't rain for graduation," Humble said.

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



Crime Reports

- ◆ Hope McKinney, McCormack Hall, reported Friday a scratch on the passenger side door of her 1992 Honda Prelude. The estimated cost of the damage was \$200.
- ◆ Sandra Grace Hardin, fine arts center, reported a two-seat couch stolen from Room 302 in the fine arts center. The couch is valued at \$200.
- ◆ Ethel Christina Quarles, Bemis Lawrence Hall, reported Friday that her purse was stolen from Downing University Center.

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Western given \$10 million for new research building

Money comes unexpectedly

By JACOB BENNETT
Herald reporter

Western got a pleasant surprise when the state legislature ended its session — \$10 million it didn't even ask for.

The money, which caught both the university and some state officials off guard, will be used to build a new research building on South Campus. The state legislature decided Kentucky needed more research centers and that Western was a good place for one.

President Gary Ransdell said the university didn't request the money because there were other capital projects they wanted to complete first. But when it found out it was available, Western was quick to go after it.

"We have a lot of research under the Program of Distinction that frankly we were struggling to find space for," he said. "We needed this research space, and we just meshed well with the state's needs."

Provost Barbara Burch said she will meet with faculty from Ogden College to discuss what will go into the new building, but that nothing is certain yet.

"We are pretty sure that the Applied Physics Research Institute needs to be relocated," she said. "It will probably be relocated to the South Campus."

2000-2002 Budget Highlights

- ◆ \$10 million South Campus Building
- ◆ \$15 million Thompson Complex renovations
- ◆ \$500,000 (2001) Math & Science Academy
- ◆ \$4,589,000 Endowment Trust Fund (matching funds for private donations)
- ◆ \$4,738,900 (2000) Total operating increase

The Applied Physics Research Institute currently sits at the corner of Campbell Lane and Nashville Road.

Construction Management Services Director Ed West said he didn't know for certain what other programs would be in the new building because he wasn't expecting to get it.

"It popped out of the blue," he said. "It was very short notice, but we're glad to have it."

George Graves, spokesman for the Council on Postsecondary

Education, was also surprised by the grant.

"This isn't the way the process is supposed to work," he said. "The university is supposed to propose an idea to us, and we are supposed to recommend it."

"The first we heard about (the \$10 million) was a couple of days ago. We were scratching our heads saying, 'what the heck is that?' This could be a perfectly good idea, it could be needed, it could be needed by Western, but if an institution doesn't come to us and propose it to us, we don't know."

Ransdell said the areas of research in the building will be guided by the various programs of distinction, but they still have to decide on the specifics.

"We're just getting a hold of the legislation that created the money, and we're making sure we're consistent with the spirit of the project," he said.

Right now there are not even plans as to how big the building will be.

"We were given an amount of money. We're going to build what we can with that amount," West said.

John Osborne said the university was too early in the programming phase — which he defined as "determining the amount of space and the activities and functions that will be in that space" — to talk about the design of the building.

"We are so early in the programming phase that we don't even have design consultants yet," he said.

Faculty salary raises increased

Increase still less than other schools

By JACOB BENNETT
Herald reporter

Faculty and staff can be expecting slightly higher salary raises for next year than was originally decided.

Western ended up with \$171,000 more in their base budget from the state than it expected, and all the extra money is going toward employee salaries.

The average merit raise was going to be 3 percent, but after the state legislature allocated the extra money, the average is up to 3.5 percent.

The faculty obviously took the extra money, but Ed Wolfe, chairman of the Faculty Senate, said some would still be upset that the increase was less than the average other universities receive.

"I think it's human nature that all of us want more money than less money," he said. "I'm sure that some people will think it's not enough."

The faculty was comparing its money to salaries at Western's benchmark institutions, which are schools comparable to Western. The 3.5 percent increase is low compared to these universities.

Math professor and budget council member Claus Ernst said those universities give out more money because they can afford to. Western ranked in the bottom five of the 20 benchmark universities.

"This is about the best we can do," he said. "There are many things that are underfunded in this university. Hardly anyone gets everything they ask for."

He noted that of the benchmark universities, Ball State was the best funded. In 1996-97, Ball State had \$11,368 per student in tuition, state money and student fees. Western had

\$7,369. Housing and meal plans were not included in those figures because they are supposed to be self-sufficient.

Faculty regent Mary Ellen Miller said she thought the raises should be more.

"No faculty member is ever going to say it's enough, so as their representative I'm not either," she said. "I always think the academics side of it is underfunded."

President Gary Ransdell said he would like to increase salaries even more, but the current budget would not allow it this year.

"I think we're absolutely underfunded," he said. "We'll just have to keep fighting and make up more ground at the 2002 General Assembly."

The increase is the largest in three years, during which raises have been steady at 3 percent.

"It's Christmas in April," Wolfe said. "It's kind of a small Christmas, but I think a lot more people will be happier at 3.5 (percent) than 3."

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Campus News

Travel specials to air on Western's TV station

WKYU-PBS, Western's public television service, will show a series of travel specials May 1. Travel expert Rick Steves will tour sites from Amsterdam's historic canals to Switzerland's Alps and will also visit England, France, Germany and Italy.

The best destinations from "Travels in Europe With Rick Steves I" are combined into a one-hour show which airs Monday, May 1 at 7-p.m.

It will be followed by "The

Best of the Mediterranean With Rick Steves," where Steves circles the Mediterranean from Egypt to Morocco, with stops along the way in Jerusalem, Turkey, Greece, Italy's Amalfi Coast, the south coast of France, Spain's Costa del Sol and Barcelona and Gibraltar.

WKYU-PBS will also be airing "George Jones: Live in Tennessee," a performance by the legendary country singer, Sunday at 7 p.m.

Recorded in May 1993 at the Knoxville Civic Coliseum, Jones sings 15 of his hits, including his biggest hit, "He Stopped

Loving Her Today." Country stars Mark Chesnut and Tracy Lawrence also make appearances during the concert. An added bonus to this one-hour performance special is an on-camera introduction by Alan Jackson.

Jones sold 1,665,000 concert tickets in 1993, the year he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

WKYU-PBS is the public television service of Western Kentucky University. It can be seen on broadcast channel 24 and on cable television systems in Southcentral Kentucky.

Opinion

Officials will be busy over break

If only the Herald could publish during the summer.

A lot could happen over the break this year, and, as we each head off to internships, there are issues we're concerned about.

So here is a list of things for everyone to keep an eye on while we're gone.

◆ When is Collegiate Health Care going to start building its new health care center? First, it was to have opened early next semester. Then it was December. Who knows.

The Herald may be publishing again before ground gets broken.

At any rate, watch the land between Poland Hall and the Preston Health and Activities Center for signs of construction.

◆ Next semester, the prices will change for the student health center, new building or not. If Collegiate is even remotely responsible, it will release those numbers before it starts charging them.

◆ More construction. We thought we'd see groundbreaking for the new journalism and technology building this semester, but apparently there are some problems with the bid.

We're probably biased on this one, but it sure would be nice to see that much-hyped building finally go up. It looks like work will begin between now and next semester, but considering the health center building's timeline, we're not holding our breath.

◆ It's also likely Diddle Arena's fate will be decided in the next couple of months. A firm is currently "studying" whether it would be better to remodel Diddle or build a new off-campus facility.

It doesn't take a mental heavyweight to figure out how this one's probably going to come out. It's pretty much better for everyone involved if an off-campus arena is built.

We know that. Decision-makers, you know that. But

they think it's best to spend money examining the ideas before officially announcing they will build a new arena.

◆ There's a good chance Western administrators will sneak through their plan to require meal plans.

The ludicrous ploy to milk us for more money has since been reduced to requiring freshmen to purchase the plans, but don't be surprised to hear when you get back that this has been implemented. They may even sneak sophomores back into the requirement.

Either way, this won't be the last time that issue is mentioned on this page.

◆ The Vice President for Student Affairs job should be filled over the

summer. We hope Jerry Wilder's replacement is as dedicated to student interests as he was.

◆ Here's an over-the-summer suggestion for Cassie Martin, the Student Government Association's president-elect-Recruit.

Membership in SGA continues to decline, as does student interest in the organization. M.A.S.T.E.R. Plan, held each August for incoming freshmen, will give Martin the perfect chance to attract some fresh blood.

◆ A note to Bennie Beach, student activities and organizations coordinator: Try not to spend so much of the students' money this summer on concerts no one will attend.

◆ Rodes-Harlin Hall is finally supposed to get new elevators over the summer. Anyone who lives there knows the current system rarely works.

We hope those who last until the hall gets renovated by its new owners, the Student Life Foundation.

◆ Finally, be careful crossing University Boulevard this summer. Campus police will still be issuing those \$67 fines for jaywalking.

The issue: A lot will happen around Western this summer.

Our view: Here's a list of things to watch for.

Well, sir, UMM...it APPEARS to be a list of things you should accomplish over the Summer.

LIST?! Who am I supposed to be, SANTA?



Real world can't be worse than this

When the semester ends, I imagine most of you will be more relieved than a man at an interstate rest stop. I know I will be.

I've still got another year to go, but I imagine life after graduation has to be easier than this. For college students to really accomplish everything that we need to in one day, the day would have to be about a week long.

A typical college day starts with the shriek of an alarm clock, which to me sounds like a howler monkey getting an anal probe. Hit the snooze button and a few minutes later we tear ourselves from bed.

After a few minutes of half-hearted preparation, it's time to climb Mount Western to get to class. Most of us take at least five of them, each requiring a minimum of 12 hours of study each night.

Then, many of us go to work for

several hours so we can make money to buy Ramen noodles. And beer.

By the time we get off work, it's got to be 9 p.m., and there's still those 60 hours of homework we have to do. We might as well have saved our money on the beer.

So despite what my parents say, it has to get easier after college.

If it doesn't, I don't want to be a part of society. I think I'll drop out now and try to be a porn star. My name would be Jake "The Snake." If I worked in porn, I wouldn't mind leaving the house

at 9 a.m. and getting back at 9 p.m. Heck, I'd work overtime.

But life after graduation shouldn't be that bad. We'll have to go to work, and come home and watch television. That's it. I'll finish writing my Pulitzer Prize-winning articles for the Utah Daily News, come home to my wives (remember, I'm in Utah), put my feet up and watch "Baywatch" reruns. What could be better than that?

Sure, there will be responsibilities, and we'll have bills to pay. But we'll actually have steady jobs that we presumably like, since we spent four years studying to get them. That means I will probably be able to quit my job at the Golden Acres Retirement Vista/Erotic Massage Parlor.

Jacob Bennett is a junior print journalism major from Brandenburg.



Jacob Bennett
commentary

► What would you do to improve the Herald?



Ben Alderdice
Somerset sophomore



Derek Crafton
Franklin freshman



Shanita King
senior from Columbia, S.C.



Ray Hubbard
Louisville freshman



Jeff Warwick
junior from Baltimore, Md.

"Honestly I think you all do a good job."

"I don't know if you could improve anything."

"Add a section to it dealing with topics that are more related to students."

"I think it's pretty good as it is."

"I'm happy with it."

College Heights Herald

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Four years, many commentaries offer life lesson

I'm not going to do it. I'm not going to try to go all profound on you in my last Herald commentary. I'm not going to wax poetic about the things I've learned at Western and how I'll carry them with me throughout life, drawing strength from my days on the Hill.

Instead, I'm going to warn you of the dangers of clowns. Vicious, balloon-toting clowns. Just kidding.

Of course, I'm going to go all philosophical about my graduation! It's almost a prerequisite for a graduating Herald senior. It's like lying to freshmen about how easy it is to get around visitation policies! You have to do it. But you know me, at least I'll make it fun.

OK, so what did I learn? Well, let's start from the beginning. The big lessons.

Freshman year, I just knew that I could keep all those promises I made to write my high school friends every week and to come home every week-end to see them. It didn't happen.

Today, I only speak to one

person I graduated from high school with. And that's OK. Some of my high school friends were rotten bastards. You've got to get beyond that.

Learning how to lose a friend gracefully is just as important as learning to make them.

I've learned how to survive a long-distance relationship. From the very beginning, my fiancé and I went to different high schools and then different colleges. We didn't live in the same time zone for four years.

People made those scrunchy judgmental faces when I said we only talked on the phone once or twice a week and we only went home to see each other once a month.

Seven years later, we're still together. The people who made those scrunchy faces are bitter and alone. Well, not all of them. But the majority of the relationships they were in have since went kablooie. So, there.

I've learned how to wake up 15 minutes before class and still manage to get there on time. Appearance isn't important. Trust me.

When you get out into the real world, your boss won't care about the bounciness of your



Molly Harper commentary

hair or your perfectly glossed lips if your work is half-assed. You'll be unemployed. An unemployed person with glossy lips and bouncy hair, but an unemployed person all the same.

As for the small lessons:

- ◆ Choose your roommates carefully. If on the first day you move in you see them unpacking endless items emblazoned with ANY Disney character, run. Don't even grab the flannel sheets Mom bought for you on your way out. Just get out and never look back.

That goes double if they're unpacking porn. Which leads one to the question — who actu-

ally packs porn? But I digress. It also leads me to my next lesson.

- ◆ When your roommate throws something at you, duck.

- ◆ Always be nice to your professors. It's not just because they're educators and deserve respect just for putting up with undergrads. And it doesn't matter that you're pretty sure their very existence is tangible evidence of evil. There's always the possibility that you'll have them for another class. And if you wrote "00% you very much" on your final, where are you going to be on the first day of that next class?

- ◆ Never taunt the white squirrels. They're quicker and meaner than they look.

- ◆ When filling out those teaching evaluation forms, never make comments on the back phrased exactly like especially caustic snipes you made during class. Professors do remember these things.

- ◆ Notice the nice things about this campus. Watch the sunset from the lawn of McLean Hall. Sit on the ninth floor of Cravens

library when it rains and just watch the water form patterns against the windows. Do anything that makes you realize that this place isn't out to get you.

Enjoy your time here. After this you have to go out into the real world and be a grown-up — which can sort of suck. But don't be afraid of it. The real world is something to look forward to.

Or maybe that's just me. I've written a lot of commentaries for the Herald. Some of them made you call the office and call me a radical feminist smart-ass by the way, I'm going to find you guys before I graduate.

But I guess this is the one where I'm supposed to make some deeply profound statement regarding life.

So here it is. No matter what I've done, I've always had fun. Enjoy what you do, no matter what. To me that's the most important thing.

But again, maybe that's just me.

Molly Harper is a senior print journalism major from Paducah.

Jerry's 'wisdom'

I, Jerry Brewer, being of intelligent mind and sultry body, do hereby bequeath the following to ...

Nah. I, Jerry Brewer, being of yabba mind and dabba do body ...

No. I, Jerry Brewer, being of wholesome mind and seductive body ...

No, no. I, Jerry Brewer ...

Well, I do like that part. I think I'm a senior. I'm nostalgic. I'm surrounded on this page by other nostalgic seniors. I wanted to go high school-style with this column and drop my senior will on a few buddies, but I can't really describe my mind and body.

My mind is tired. My body is ...

is ... how do I break this to myself? — pretty damn large right now.

I got a belly! This is tough for a former 6-foot, 135-pounder to admit. Now I'm about 210 pounds in my drawers.

Hey, they used to tell me I needed to eat more!

Didn't tell me to stop at about 180, though.

They gassed me stomach as a time capsule, see what's inside that sucker in about 50 years.

How, you ask? How did I go from Calista Flockhart's perfect match to Rosie O'Donnell?

Midnight calls to Papa John's. (And you thought those late-night feigning calls were only for the ladies.)

Fast-food French fries instead of a baked potato.

Dr. Pepper made too many house calls. Too much Mountain Dew. And Pepsi. And Mug root beer. And regular beer.

Not enough exercise. Sure, I could have found more time to exercise. But that's the easy and logical thing to do. I have NEVER done the easy and logical thing.

So, here I am, trying to be a stud while savoring a Milk Dud.

At first, the belly was kind of cute. I could suck it in with no problem.

It became a hassle. So, I did a few crunches after the dreaded Freshman 15. For about a week.

Then, I went on a diet after the Sophomore 12. For a weekend.

Then, I ran a few miles after the Junior 10. I can still remember that weekday! It was Thursday. I believe.

Now, I'm thinking about trimming down. Saw a promotion for the movie "The Nutty Professor II" and noticed that I could probably sneak into the Klump family reunion.

For the time being, though, I've had fun enjoying the company of my belly. It has its benefits.

For starters, people can't stand as close to me as they do with skinny people. I can get all kinds of

free food because people are always asking, "Can you finish this off for me?" On the basketball court, between gasps for air, I can use the weight to shield my defender.

So it hasn't been all bad. I've learned to appreciate this partnership.

When I pass a test, I thank my belly. When I'm hungry, I ask my belly, "You ready to eat?" When a woman hugs me, I make sure the belly gets some lovin'.

Gotta keep the belly happy. Or it might go solo.

And no lying would be worse than the round, pudgy thing walking around campus, telling all my secrets, talking 'bout how my legs and arms secretly wish they were as big. (Oh, Lord, please don't let that happen.)

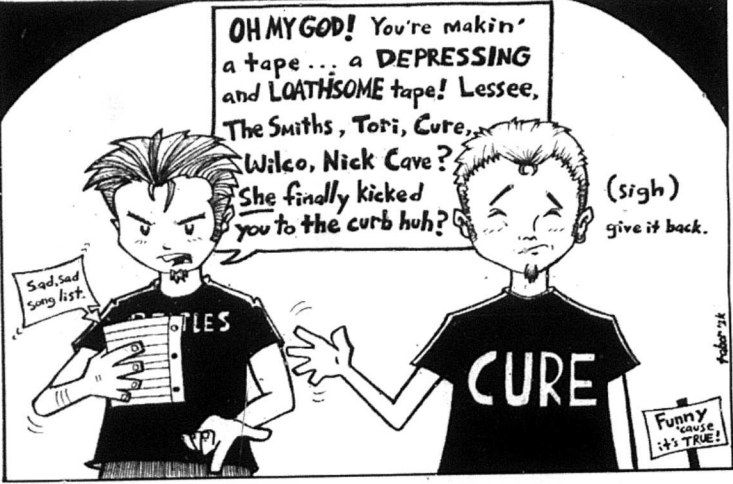
Or maybe I should just drop the damn thing. I mean, I'm still on the market. I'm not supposed to have a belly until after the wedding.

Okay, so here goes. I, Jerry Brewer, being of ice mind and cream body, do hereby bequeath this belly to ...

Nah. That's too mean. Jerry Brewer, who did burn calories while writing this, is a senior print journalism major from Paducah.



Jerry Brewer commentary



Staffer reflects on life at the Herald

It was a dark and rainy afternoon. The Herald office was bustling with activity, since it was a production day. Reporters were calling sources and writing stories, and the advertising folks were busy putting the ads together that you see throughout the following pages.

What was I doing while all this activity was going on around me? Not much.

Being a senior and in my last week of classes, I decided to just sit back and watch the hustle and bustle for a little while and contemplate what my four years of college have taught me. I know I should be really sad about leaving, and I am. But I am also totally excited about leaving. I can't wait to get out in the "Real World" and not be a broke college student. Yes, I already have a job and unlike some people who take a break after graduation, I have already started my job.

But now I'm watching all my little Herald protégés put out one of the last issues that I will be a part of. They are all just worried about

getting their stories done and filling the pages with news that you, the distinguished, loving reader can use.

They just don't know how fast college flies by.

In ways I wish I had a few more weeks to enjoy the slightly controlled chaos that is one of the top college newspapers in the country. I think I would be happy doing the job I'm doing now as production manager of the Herald for the rest of my life. I love the teaching aspect, the learning aspect, and the just plain putting out the paper aspect of the job.

But classes get in the way too much. I'll be in the middle of working something out with the other editors when I look at the clock

and, WHOOPS, I was supposed to be in class five minutes ago.

When finals week comes, though, I'm in heaven. I have so much free time. Sure, I have tests to study for, but I am not working and I am a fast test-taker so I'm only in class for about 30 minutes a day. One time, I played my Sega Genesis for about 14 hours straight after I finished my final for the day.

This finals week will be different, though. It's my last. I don't know if I'll be happy or sad when I take my last final next Wednesday. I imagine I will be very happy. No more tests, no more studying, no more class. Plus I have a Playstation now. High tech.

Now, as the rain still beats on the big windows of the Herald office, I must say my goodbye to campus, to friends, to professors. Gotta get back to work so this will actually see print on Tuesday morning.

Buh-bye. Scott Sisco is a senior print journalism major from Paducah, at least for the next week and a half.



Scott Sisco commentary

Coates reflects on year as president

By REX HALL JR.
Herald reporter

For Student Government Association President Amanda Coates, the year has been a learning experience, one with peaks of success and valleys of some disappointment.

"I think that I walked into this position a tad bit naive, but I've learned a lot this year," Coates said. "I think that being in this position, being SGA president and student regent, I'm taking so much away from the experience than anything that I could have done. I would never be able to repay the students for putting me there."

As student regent, Coates was also the designated student voice on the Board of Regents. Faculty regent Mary Ellen Miller said she didn't see how anyone could have done a better job representing the students.

"She was always prepared and always had the best interests of the student body in mind," Miller said. "She commands the respect of the other regents."

Amy Caswell, chairwoman of SGA's Hillraisers committee, also said Coates served the students well.

"She had to go up against the university at times, but she always kept the students at heart," Caswell said.

The year has been one of

many victories for Coates. She will leave Western next month having helped saved the vice president of Student Affairs position and, after much compromise with the Faculty Senate, making faculty evaluations available to students.

"We worked diligently to make sure that those things came out to benefit the students," she said.

Staff regent Joy Gramling, like Miller, praised Coates. She said Coates was always well prepared at board meetings and was never intimidated.

"She got to work as soon as she got there," Gramling said. "She hit the ground running. She has been a good leader for students, and I have been impressed by her. I think students made a wise choice when they elected her."

But Coates won't leave Western without some criticism. "The issue of bringing a big-name concert to Western is a cloud that will hang over her head as she exits."

"The one thing that frustrates me the most is that neither SGA or UCB (University Center Board) were able to bring a good concert to the students on campus because the facilities don't exist yet,"

Coates said.

Although they don't exist now, they may in the future. Coates has played an active role in the arena feasibility discussion and helped select the firm that will conduct the study. Coates was also the main force behind a university concert committee being formed, but the committee won't meet again until the feasibility study is finished.

"At least the ball is rolling," Coates said.

Although not getting a big-name concert on campus disappoints Coates, she said she strides she has made in other SGA and student issues means she can leave with pride.

"If (getting a good concert) is the one thing I walk away with that I didn't do, then I think I've had a good year," Coates said. "I think you always walk away from a situation thinking 'I could have done this, I wish I could have done that.' I don't have any regrets. I just wish I could have done more."

Low membership is one thing that has plagued SGA and Coates all year, but Coates said the reason for the low membership is that students have other priorities.

"Students have so much going on and sometimes they

spread themselves thin," Coates said. "I think we have a well-oiled machine when we have a few people who are willing to work hard rather than a bunch of people who are apathetic and not concerned about the outcome. That's not necessarily the best group to have."

Still, Coates said it has been a good year for herself and SGA. Saving the vice president of Student Affairs position and making faculty evaluations available to students ranks high on Coates' list of accomplishments. She said saving the vice president was the most important accomplishment for SGA, while faculty evaluations was the most rewarding.

"We have had a great year," she said. Coates also credits President Gary Ransdell and the administration for listening to SGA and student concerns, although in the fall SGA went as far as having a protest in front of Wetherby, opposing Ransdell's plan to get rid of the vice president, in order to have its voice heard.

"Sometimes students don't realize how great they have got it because we do have a president that will listen to us," Coates said. "Sometimes we have to get a little bit louder and get in a larger group to be paid attention to by the administration, but we do have an administration that cares about what students have to say."



Amanda Coates

Campus News

Future of industrial hemp to be discussed

Industrial hemp and its future as an alternative crop in Kentucky will be the subject of a series of presentations next week at Western.

Two environmental organizations — the Student Environmental Action Coalition and Artists and Musicians United to Serve Earth — are co-sponsoring the presentations that begin at 7:30 p.m. April 25-27 in Garrett Conference Center, Room 103.

Former Gov. Louie B. Nunn kicks off the series Tuesday night with his views on the reintroduction of industrial hemp as an agricultural product in Kentucky.

On Wednesday night, the video "Hemp, Hemp, Hurray" will be shown. The video is a historical look from the farmers' perspective and shows the product markets for industrial hemp.

On Thursday night, state Rep. Roger Thomas, a Smiths Grove Democrat, will discuss the politics of industrial hemp in Kentucky.

For information, contact Coleman Smith at 796-1810.

— Mattias Karén

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\$95,000 saves police jobs

Funding eliminates further federal grant

By Jason Ragan
Herald reporter

Western's police department will be able to keep all its officers next year, thanks to an additional \$95,000 allocation in the 2000 fiscal budget.

Three of the department's 23 officers were in danger of losing their jobs because a federal grant that supported them ran out at the end of this fiscal year. The additional money will eliminate the need for that federal grant, which Western has used for the past six years.

Since 1995, campus police have been receiving grants from Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) through the U.S. Department of Justice. The grants last three years, and during that

time the university is supposed to find additional funds within its budget. Western failed to do so during its first grant and asked for a second. It was approved in 1997.

If the additional funds had not been allocated, the number of officers would have dipped to 20.

Chief Robert Deane said that dip would "most definitely" have had a negative impact on the force.

"It would have really put a crimp in things," he said. "... I feel very fortunate that (President Gary Ransdell) thought it was necessary to provide us with the money."

Ransdell said budgeting enough money for the officers was a priority for the 2000 budget. He said he was simply fulfilling an earlier promise to Deane that the officers would be kept.

"I gave that commitment to Chief Deane when he was voted in," Ransdell said. "While the \$95,000, which is a permanent addition to the

department's operating budget, allows for the department to have 23 officers, that is still three less than what is considered a full staff for a precinct this size, according to an independent review by Public Administration Service of McLean, Va.

"We can squeak by (with 23)," Deane said. "Twenty-six would be optimal."

As resources permit, Deane said he would like to add those three officers.

"We certainly would," Deane said. "We need to grow as the university grows."

As for the current state of the department, Deane is committed to providing the best service he can.

"We are going to try to do with the best with what we have," he said.

Ransdell could not say when the university will be able to hire more police officers.

"University budget will dictate that," Ransdell said. "We need to take it one budget at a time."

DESK: Questions still unanswered

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Thursday, she promised to respond.

"I will be more than happy to meet with you," she responded by e-mail on Friday. "Please submit your questions in advance so that I can have adequate time to research my records for the answers. Once I am prepared, I will contact you to set up a time."

The Herald submitted two questions on Monday morning: where did the money come from, and who was the third desk for. But Melky did not respond to e-mail or phone calls yesterday. Reached at home, Melky said she hadn't had time, but would answer questions today.

Last December, Melky said the desk was for a planned computer lab for disabled students. But Michael Southern, director of Disabled Student Services — said he had never heard of plans for such a lab. Asked again yesterday, he said it has not been mentioned since.

University budget records do not clearly show the source of the money for the furniture.

The two largest purchases came just before the ends of fiscal 1997 and 1998. Western's fiscal years begin on July 1 and end on June 30. On July 1, 1998, the start of fiscal 1998, Western started allowing offices to carry over money into the next year's budget. The \$5,561.40 used for the first pur-

chase in June 1998 might have been lost if not spent, but not the remaining \$13,057.60 spent the next fiscal year.

Melky's budget for purchases of office equipment over \$500 was \$270 in fiscal 1997. For fiscal 1998, it was \$6,270. In those two years, she spent three times that combined amount.

Mead suggested last fall that Melky put together the money from lapsed salary money, which is left in budgets for unfilled jobs. It's easier to accumulate such money in administrative offices, Mead said Monday, because those funds aren't collected and redistributed for administrators like they are in academic departments. Administrators often use such money to cover big purchases.

"We operate on a very decentralized basis," she said. "That's why we have responsible administrators for each budget."

But collecting lapsed salary money requires having unfilled jobs. According to university employment records, there were only two salaried positions in Melky's office during fiscal 1997: Melky's and that of her assistant, Anna Robertson. In a comparison of the university budget and salary lists, the budget for pay in her office exactly equaled Melky's and Robertson's salaries.

They remained the only salaried employees in fiscal 1998. Robertson left near the end of June 1998, but James McCaslin was hired to replace her before

she left. He was hired at a lower salary, but between his hiring and Melky's last furniture purchase only 17 days elapsed. In that time, only about \$350 could have accrued in lapsed salary.

Mead said the purchase was legal, and in accord with university policy at the time. Melky had the authority to spend her budget for whatever she wanted.

That changed after her purchases were reported.

Reacting to the furor over the furniture, President Gary Ransdell announced a new spending policy for administrative offices on Sept. 29, 1998. He ordered that any office purchase over \$5,000 be counter-signed by the head of that office's division. Ransdell said the policy would be reviewed at the end of June 2000 to decide whether to make it permanent. Now he says it will probably stay.

"I see no reason why it wouldn't be retained," Ransdell said. "It's not too cumbersome or difficult." Ransdell said he didn't know how much use, if any, the policy has gotten, since those budget decisions are made by division heads a step or two below him.

Mead said she plans to discuss it with the Administrative Council, the body of top administrators responsible for large expenditures in their divisions. But one such controversy may be enough.

"With or without a policy, I think that most administrators will monitor any expenditure over \$5,000," she said.

Summer Hours for Computer Labs

Thompson Complex Central Wing	Grise Hall (Room 239/243)
Interim I (May 8 - 26) Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)	Interim I Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
June and July sessions (May 30 - August 4) Monday-Thursday (8 a.m.-8 p.m.) Friday (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)	June and July Sessions Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-6 p.m.)
Interim II (August 5 - 28) Closed until start of fall semester	Interim II Closed until start of fall semester
Helm Library	Grise Hall (Room 336/338)
Interim I Monday-Thursday (8 a.m.-8 p.m.) Friday (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)	Interim I Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-3 p.m.)
June and July Sessions Monday-Thursday (7:45 a.m.-10 p.m.) Friday (7:45 a.m.-2 p.m.) Saturday (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) Sunday (2 p.m.-10 p.m.)	June and July Sessions Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)
Interim II Monday-Friday (8 a.m.-4 p.m.)	Interim II Closed until start of fall semester
	Dwelling University Center Closed for the summer
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DEFICIT: Different routes could solve budget crunch

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

When the university gave a 3.5 percent salary increase last year, athletics handed out only a 3 percent hike. And the task is clear: balance the seasaw.

The hole created

The question is, how did the numbers become so lopsided? Only theories exist. Selig said there were many factors. There were shrinking revenues from ticket sales and sponsorships; there was an inability to keep pace with inflation. The latter was the biggest problem — it has been hard for the revenues to keep up with inflation.

"From a revenue standpoint, I think there were some overly-ambitious and totally unrealistic projections that were done to allow the expenses to meet revenues," Selig said. "That's not the way you work the budget. You forecast what the budget is best you can and then you match your expenses to your revenues, not the other way around."

When Lewis Mills stepped down as athletics director a year ago, he left an inheritance of years of overbudgeting. The Herald has tried to reach Mills for comment for this and other stories since last fall. University officials have said they don't know where he now lives.

Living within boundaries

It's not as if Western coaches expect to have the kind of budget that Louisville, Kentucky or any other such big-time athletic programs possess. Kentucky generated nearly \$40 million two years ago and spent only \$25 million. Louisville was expected to generate just under \$23 million and spend about \$21 million this year.

The boundaries here haven't changed a lot in certain areas. Western men's and women's swimming coach Bill Powell has been on the Hill for 31 years, at the helm of one of the school's most successful programs. He says he's probably gone over his

budget twice.

Every season brings the meals at McDonald's, the four-to-a-room hotel stays and the overnight bus trips. He remembers wiggling around a bus seat on an 11-hour ride back from Green Bay, Wis., two seasons ago, wishing for a little more money for an extra night at a hotel.

"It is frustrating," Powell said. "There's a lot of times when you think, 'Dang if we only had enough money we could get that kid.' And that's the most frustrating thing for us."

Powell said the Division I average for men's swimming scholarships is 9.9. Western had about 5.5. Title IX gender equity benefits help with the women's team, but the Lady Toppers are still below the Division I limit of 14 with only seven scholarships available.

Recruiting limitations are among the budget binds that bug football coach Jack Harbaugh. Football has the fattest budget of all Western sports — about \$1.1 million — but it also has, by far, the most players to recruit, give scholarships to, equip and keep here. Still, when he does the math, the numbers don't even out. He said he wants to have a level ground on which to compete with other Ohio Valley Conference schools. But he said his budget for recruiting has been sliced by \$10,000.

He could use money from other sources, such as endowments the program has received,

What do the sports spend in a year?

Final expenditures for fiscal year 1998-99

Sport	Expenditures
Men's Football	\$1,211,546
Men's Basketball	\$635,293
Men's Baseball	\$236,389
Men's Track and Field	\$170,894
Men's Tennis	\$45,717
Men's Golf	\$41,141
Men's Soccer	\$119,019
Men's Swimming	\$150,926
Women's Basketball	\$550,187
Women's Softball	\$44,024
Women's Track and Field	\$201,165
Women's Tennis	\$56,428
Women's Golf	\$49,035
Women's Swimming	\$179,422
Women's Volleyball	\$128,862
Cheerleaders/Topperettes	\$13,665

Source: Independent Accountants' Report, WKU Athletic Dept.

but that would cause shortcomings in other areas. Then, instead of the endowment being the icing, it becomes the cake.

"I'm sure for the last 40 years, every coach, when budget time comes, sits down and says, 'Oh, my lord, how am I going to be able to do it?'" Harbaugh said. "And up until now we've been able to do it through some really tough times, even in the hardest days, when things couldn't get any lower, still we had some money to go out and bring some players in. I think now we're beginning to dig into the heart and soul of the program, and that's what concerns me."

What also concerns him is cutting fifth-year and summer school aid for student athletes who need it. Harbaugh said his program had to conjure up about \$15,000 after last semester for former players set to graduate in the past. He said that in the past, when a player's eligibility ran dry, the university or athletic

opportunity for summer school aid. And now, all at once, right in the middle of the game, the rules change. I think we've done these kids a disservice."

Selig said it isn't a dead issue and no change has really been made. He said efforts are still being made to maintain such aid.

Harbaugh says the policy should be grandfathered in until the players brought in under the policy actually graduate. If not, then the two lifelines of the program — bringing players here and graduating them — are in danger.

He said that even the thought of cutting the aid uncovers the larger picture. It shows how critical the budget situation really is.

Solving the problem

Football could help rewrite the script of this fiscal nightmare when it hauls in \$350,000 for playing at Wisconsin in 2001. Football ticket sales totaled \$135,000 in 1998.

program would help that athlete with the fifth year; and it was the same routine for those who needed summer school to stay eligible.

Now, Harbaugh says, that's not the case. He said the change by the university and athletics department came after last semester, and it worries him.

"The rules changed in the middle of the game," Harbaugh said. "In athletics, the game's going to last 60 minutes and you know the rules going into the game. So when we went out and recruited these guys, we talked about the opportunity for fifth-year aid, right?"

And now, all at once, right in the middle of the game, the rules change. I think we've done these kids a disservice."

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Football could help rewrite the script of this fiscal nightmare when it hauls in \$350,000 for playing at Wisconsin in 2001. Football ticket sales totaled \$135,000 in 1998.

Harbaugh would like to borrow some of that money now and disperse it among every program to help student-athletes with fifth-year and summer school aid. But where the money will go hasn't been determined.

For now, Selig is trying to do little things that will erase the big problems. He said there are two options: increase revenue or decrease expenses. He'd rather do the former. He's already sliced about \$100,000 off this year's budget.

The main objective is to maximize revenue. Selig also wants to establish a realistic 2000-2001 budget, schedule more home games for basketball and football, do a better job of getting sponsorship revenue and expanding a footprint of support and get people excited about Western athletics.

And, for now, coaches will keep living within the limits.

"I don't have the resources of a millionaire, so when I go out shopping for myself and my family, I have to deal with what we have," men's basketball coach Dennis Felton said. "You search harder for bargains, you try to find what will work within your budget and still make progress. We do the same things here."

Despite doing tough things in tough financial times, Selig said morale has remained high.

"You can't keep going in this direction for long without destroying that, but we have had a lot of resolve that has been exhibited by the coaches and staff," Selig said. "I think we're going to survive these times and come through and be OK."

Several of the Hill's coaches agree and think Selig is the right one to climb the mountain.

"I think that's certainly the direction that we're trying to head," said women's softball coach Leslie Phelan.

But it won't happen overnight. Selig said it's going to take a couple of years to get back on better financial footing.

And perhaps even longer to finish the script.

Coaches bring different experiences to the table

By TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

Dennis Felton didn't expect to walk into the same type of budget he had left behind at Clemson when he rolled onto the Hill as Western's new men's basketball coach in 1998.

Felton, who just finished his second season here, said Clemson raises about \$8 million each year in donations alone. Western raised about \$745,000 in private gifts last year.

He left behind a \$50,000 computerized video editing system, used for everything from scouting to instructional tape, and had virtually nothing of the sort when he arrived here. The program now has a \$10,000 editing system.

Felton knew he wasn't in South Carolina anymore.

"It's vastly different because the budget was never a topic of discussion and we never had to think about what something cost," Felton said. "We just concerned ourselves with what we thought we needed. The vast majority of the time, if we thought we needed something, we got it."

It didn't take long to adjust to a tighter budget. He knew that to accomplish a major goal of the athletics department — balancing the budget — he, like other Western coaches, would have to watch every cent and still build something successful.

Leslie Phelan has, also had to deal with the adjustment, especially since she's coaching Western's first-ever women's softball team. Phelan's former home, Central Michigan, has a head coach who's been there for 22 years and who's established many fund-raising endeavors to raise money for the program. Outside of Title IX gender equity help, she's starting nearly from scratch.

"It's been tough. This year, because it's been the first year and because we needed everything,

it's unique in that sense," Phelan said. "It's challenging, which is why she tries to get out in the community and draw interest in softball herself. She doesn't want to depend entirely on outside sources to raise money."

"As much as I want it or complain about it, I know that money doesn't grow on trees," Phelan said.

It could grow on Western's three programs with the most revenue: potential men's basketball and women's basketball, and football. The latter will bring in \$350,000 when it plays Wisconsin in 2001. The other two have traditionally been the cornerstone programs for generating revenue and support.

"There's no doubt that they're the three highest interest, highest exposure sport," Felton said. "Men's basketball leads the way, it's the flagship program at this university, from the standpoint of tradition and interest level."

He and Athletics Director Wood Selig want more than 11 home games each for the men's and women's squads on future schedules. That would help generate revenue and cut cost with less traveling. Making the NCAA Tournament would also provide a boost. The Lady Toppers made \$40,500 for their NCAA berth this season, but the money was used to cover meals, hotel costs and other expenses.

Selig said the chances of developing financial stability depend heavily on the success of the arena project. The project is now in its first stages, with a feasibility study being conducted to determine whether Diddle Arena should be renovated or an off-campus arena should be built.

"If Western Kentucky is going to survive and be a higher-level player, those two are the keys to our future," Selig said.

And according to him, the goal can be reached.

"Absolutely," he said. "It can be done."

Marketing, fund raising crucial to accomplish feat

By TRAVIS MAYO
Herald reporter

In the midst of all the theories and ideas about how to balance Western's athletics budget, two ingredients are crucial: marketing and fund raising.

"Private revenue is going to have to be a part of the equation," said Roland Shelton, director of development for university athletics.

While he can't roll a round figure off his tongue for how much money has been raised since he came back to Western last March, and while he won't speculate on how much he's raised himself because he calls it a team effort, Shelton boasts that strides are being made.

Nearly \$500,000 has been raised this year. In all, about \$745,000 in private giving was raised in 1998-1999, including contributions to the department made by the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation. Shelton says donations are especially important for student-athletes. He's just 10 years removed from being one. Shelton graduated in 1990 after a stand-out hoops career at Western. And he knows how success can unravel donations.

"Everybody likes a big-time winner," Shelton said. "But people that know what we're trying to do, that know what we're going to support."

"When a person gives to Western, they're giving it, first, to our university and, second, to our student-athletes. You're trying to make a better place for them, you're trying to be able to let them compete at a higher level. The only way you can do that is to support financially."

"They're going to support it; it's in their blood."

"That's why he and his team have

countless lunches with possible donors, and keep in close touch with those who want to support now or later, or express any interest at all."

And when someone expresses interest in putting their name on Western athletics, Wayne Orscheln listens. That could be a logo on the Diddle Arena floor for basketball games, a piece of the wall at Denes Field, or a small advertisement on souvenir cups sold at concession stands.

As director of marketing and promotions, Orscheln not only tries to draw such sponsors as Pepsi, which rules concessions, but also tries to bring fans to events. The sponsorship brings exposure for the business and money for athletics.

"The way we sell Western: Western's the hub of the community and if somebody wants to get in at Western, usually the logical avenue is through athletics," Orscheln said. "Fortunately, we're in an active community that supports Western."

A recent change could enhance Western marketing. Effective July 1, it will be changing from a marketing budget in the HAF to a line item in the state budget. Previously, the marketing department had to earn what it could spend in the HAF budget; now it will be easier to spend what it needs to.

Orscheln says generating revenue from sponsors is crucial to helping balance the overall athletics budget. A lopsided budget makes it tougher to contribute to solving the problem. But he'll keep trying to lure as many sponsors as possible.

"We really have to create reasons to come, like special days," Orscheln said. "It's more of a grassroots effort, and grassroots efforts take people. It doesn't necessarily take money. It takes people buying into projects."

Evangelist evokes strong reactions on Hill

Some students take comments lightly

By JASON RAGAN
Herald reporter

The crowd was angry. Shouted obscenities could be heard far beyond the Downing University Center north lawn.

Traveling evangelist Jim Gilles, or Brother Jim as he is called, was preaching again.

"I love all you perverts on campus," said Gilles, who is based in Evansville. "I love every whore and whoremonger."

By about 1:30 p.m. Thursday, the crowd had swelled to well over 100. He condemned Methodists, Catholics; Jews, Muslims and other religious groups. He insulted fraternities, sororities and Western itself. He attacked people's sexual orientations and claimed he could spot lesbians. "Let me show you in the Bible where it says it's OK to kill queers," he said.

Gilles said most people in the crowd would go to Hell, including men doomed for the sin of wearing earrings and most women for being promiscuous.

Gilles began preaching mid-morning in front of DUC, but campus officials moved him to the north lawn because the growing crowd was blocking the entrance.

There he stood, on top of the manhole cover, wearing gray pants, a white shirt and black suspenders, waving his weathered Bible, speaking in long sentences, breathing little.

Gilles said that if the people there had never met a right-wing, conservative Bible thumper, they had met one now.

The crowd was raucous. "That's all you are — a sideshow," spectators said repeatedly.

At one point, a student took one of Gilles' pamphlets, set it on fire and put it down by Gilles.

Louisville freshman Sean Murphy found another way to show his distaste: he doused Gilles with water.

"It is better than getting mad and hitting him," Murphy said.

Nashville freshman Tara Glover was also angry.

"Hell no, he shouldn't be here," she said.

Elizabethtown junior Laura Silverman agreed.

"It is insulting that this is allowed to go on," Silverman said. "I don't think we should have to put up with this. ... I think he needs a psychiatric evaluation."

Some onlookers, however, had a different outlook.

"Anyone has a right to stand here," said Tiffany Melcher, a sophomore from Cantrall, Ill. "It's something funny to laugh at."

Even Gilles was aware of his entertainment value.

"I am better than 'Days of



Wendi Thompson/Herald

Louisville freshman Sean Murphy holds a burning copy of Jim Gilles' Christian testimony handout after some students lit it on fire in response to Gilles' preaching outside Downing University Center on Friday.

Our Lives," he said.

Mount Juliet junior Adam Kelly stood eye to eye with Gilles, and in a joking manner put his hand less than an inch away from his face. Kelly then repeatedly said "I am not touching you, I am not touching you."

"I am mocking him to show how much of a mockery he is," Kelly said.

Jeffrey High, a freshman from Greenbrier, Tenn., disagreed with the crowd's reaction.

"The way I see it is if you don't like it, go," High said. "I think it is horrible that they

stand here and ridicule him."

High said there might be better ways for Gilles to deliver his message, but that the students shouldn't have reacted the way they did.

As the event progressed, the crowd got smaller but more intense.

By 4:30 p.m. the circle around Gilles had tightened. He was now encased by distraught students.

Gilles told one girl no man would ever want her because her clothing was too revealing. She became so irate she had to be restrained by a friend.

At one point, Frankfort

sophomore Conrad Davies went to the center of the circle, put his hand on Gilles' shoulder, and tried to pray with him.

Gilles refused, saying the man's earrings prevented him from praying with him.

"The spirit of God that's in me, I couldn't stand what he was saying," Davies said.

A storm began to roll in, and Western police, who were discreetly present through the entire event, advised the crowd and Gilles to take shelter.

With that he left. "I'll try to come back tomorrow," he said.

Herald

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CARRYOUT ONLY

Rodes elevator accident leads to talk of lawsuit for Western

By **ABBEY BROWN**
Herald reporter

When Elizabethtown freshman Leigh Coons got on the elevator on the seventh floor of Rodes Harlin Hall last fall, she assumed it would just be an ordinary ride to the first floor.

Instead, the ride ended with a trip to the doctor's office the next day, and she said she is now bringing a lawsuit against the university.

When she reached the fifth floor, the elevator dropped suddenly and came to an abrupt stop between the first and second floors, forcing Coons into a squatting position. She pressed the call button and alerted the front desk. She said the desk clerk told her not to worry about it and that the elevator does that all the time. The desk clerk told her to send the elevator back up and it

would be OK. After Coons finally got off the elevator she said her knees were a little sore but not hurting too badly. When she got up the next morning, however, she said she could barely walk.

She immediately scheduled an appointment with the campus health center, which sent Coons to Western Kentucky Orthopedics. The doctor there told her she had torn ligaments and tendons and damaged menisci, the shock absorbers in your knees.

"The whole thing was just a really bad ordeal," Coons said.

She said she is filing a lawsuit against the university to pay for her medical bills. She said she and her parents tried to find out how they could get the university to reimburse them for the medical bills but they just "got the run-around." Director of Housing and

Residence Life Brian Kuster had no comment about the lawsuit.

Coons said her medical bills are still piling up and collection agencies are still calling her parents. She continues to ride the elevator that she blames for the two months she spent in physical therapy.

She used a wheelchair because both her knees were affected, which prevented her from using crutches. Because Coons was in a wheelchair and couldn't make it up the hill, she missed quite a few classes, she said. Rodes, the dorm she still lives in, isn't even handicap accessible, Coons said.

She is seeking reimbursement for all medical bills associated with her injury.

"I just would like everything to get worked out and taken care of," Coons said.

Elevator breakdowns are common

By **ABBEY BROWN**
Herald reporter

Western's elevators require so much work that three full-time employees are exclusively devoted to elevator maintenance.

Manager of Maintenance Services Bob Ware said

"Elevators are a very delicate piece of equipment with a high factor of safety attached to them," Ware said last week.

The elevator nearest the reception desk in Rodes Harlin Hall had 34 maintenance requests between the beginning of last semester and Feb. 7. The elevator, which serves nine floors, broke down more often than any other elevator

on campus.

Pearce-Ford Tower's elevator closest to the front door, which serves 27 floors, is the second most troublesome on campus, with 30 maintenance requests. PFT's four elevators needed a total of 58 maintenance requests during that time, and Rodes' two elevators needed a total of 63.

Ed West, construction management services director, said most of the elevators were installed when the buildings were constructed. He also said annual inspections are done each year to ensure that they meet state requirements.

But improvement is in sight.

The Student Life Foundation begins renovation

of Western's dorms this summer, and elevator renovation is a big part of the summer's efforts.

The elevators in Rodes, Douglas Keen Hall and PFT are going to be renovated. They will get new controls, doors and interiors. The Rodes and Keen elevators will get new motors as well.

With this renovation the foundation said the elevators will be restored to new condition and should have 20 more years of reliable service. PFT will also receive a central management system for all the elevators to improve the safety and service. For each dorm, \$245,000 is budgeted for elevator renovation.

The Most Troublesome Elevators on Campus*

Rodes-Harlin Hall	Pearce-Ford Tower	Barnes-Campbell Hall	Bemis Lawrence Hall
Left elevator: 29	Elevator 1: 30	Left elevator: 15	Left elevator: 12
Right elevator: 34	Elevator 2: 10	Right elevator: 10	Right elevator: 10
	Elevator 4: 16		

* Numbers show the number of maintenance requests made for elevators between August and Feb. 7

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Have a Great Summer!

Celebrating in the fountain



Louisville sophomore Josh Mather runs through the fountain at the fine arts center Thursday afternoon. "I had to do it in celebration of 420," Mather said.

photo by Jeffrey Minnish

Campus News

Western grad gets honor

A Western graduate has received a \$7,000 graduate fellowship from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Gail Gulling of Bowling Green, who graduated in 1999, had a 4.0 grade point average throughout her college career and graduated with honors with majors in history and government.

She will use the fellowship to pursue a Juris Doctorate. She has been admitted to the law schools at Vanderbilt, the University of Tennessee and the University of Kentucky.

Guest artist to give concert

Visiting guest artist Eugene Rousseau will give a concert presentation tonight in the fine arts center. Rousseau, who teaches at Indiana University, is generally considered to be the world's finest saxophonist.

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. and is free to the public. Rousseau will play with the WKU Wind Ensemble. The concert will feature titles like "Dionysiques" by Florent Schmitt, "Handel in the Strand" by Percy Grainger, "Occident and Orient March" by C. Saint-Saens, "Chester Leaps In" by Stephen Bryant and "Yiddish Dances" by Adam Gorb.

Concrete canoe competition coming

The Ohio Valley Regional Concrete Canoe Competition will be held in Bowling Green Saturday.

Western's Concrete Canoe Team will compete in the event, and will seek its sixth consecutive regional title. About 20 civil engineering students are on the team.

The competition begins at 10:30 a.m. with oral presentations and displays by the teams. Races start at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday marks the end of the Herald's semester. Any last-minute story ideas? Anything we missed? Call the **Herald** at 745-6011.



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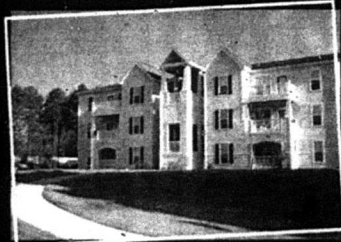
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BUILDING: Campus health clinic construction also delayed

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

include periodic test contractor assessments," Ransdell said in the e-mail.

Osborne said the new date for groundbreaking has not yet been set.

"It is much too early to predict when it will take place," Osborne said, "but we are taking an aggressive approach to it."

A luncheon scheduled for Friday to celebrate the groundbreaking and a \$1 million donation to build a bell tower next to the new building will still be held.

Director of Construction Management Services Ed West said just about every aspect of the project was bid higher than expected. The electrical and mechanical areas of the building were the two areas most overbid, West said.

"We need to decide how we are going to deal with this," West said. "We are looking at the systems and assessing the values associated with each."

West also said he was very disappointed with the delay.

Ransdell said the delay will not cost the university any extra money, however, because

Arrasmith will pay for the redesign and rebidding endeavor. "The architects have to be held accountable for this mistake," Ransdell said.

The 105,000 square foot building is where most of the Division of Information Technology and the School of Journalism and Broadcasting will be located.

The building was scheduled to open in Spring 2002.

This is the second delay for the building, which will be located next to the Academic Complex along Normal Drive. The first was because the university wasn't satisfied with the architects' original plans, so Western sent the plans back to the firm.

Osborne said the project includes three different components: the building itself, a plaza between the new building and Tate Page Hall and the bell tower in the plaza.

The triangular, three-story construction was chosen from a

group of four from the architectural firm. The triangular design was considered to be more cost-efficient than the other plans, including a parallelogram-shaped plan.

An open courtyard will be located in the middle of the building and will serve as a gateway to campus from Normal Drive. Next to the courtyard, an atrium covered by a skylight is planned.

The building is not the only planned new campus facility that is struggling. Collegiate Health Care's

"The architects have to be held accountable for this mistake."

— Gary Ransdell
president

new health clinic was also delayed quite a bit. It was scheduled to be opened this fall, but because of troubles with financing, the building is not scheduled to be open until January.

"I'm not very happy about either one of them being delayed," Ransdell said. "We will get Collegiate open by the spring semester. I want both to get underway as soon as possible."

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Good luck during finals from the Herald

Spring 2000 Final Exam Schedule

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
8 to 10 a.m.	Classes meeting first at 9:15 a.m. Monday	Classes meeting first at 8 a.m. Tuesday	Reserved for Study	Classes meeting first at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday	Classes meeting first at 8 a.m. Monday
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting first at 11:45 a.m. Tuesday	Classes meeting first at 10:30 a.m. Monday		Classes meeting first at 11:45 a.m. Monday	Classes meeting first at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday
1 to 3 p.m.	Classes meeting first at 1 p.m. Monday	Classes meeting first at 2:15 p.m. Monday	Multiple sections of ACCT 200, 201; CHEM 222, and FIN 330	Classes meeting first at 1 p.m. Tuesday	Classes meeting first at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday
Late afternoon and night classes					
3:45 to 5:45 p.m.	Classes meeting at 3:45 Monday only; 3:45 Mon./Wed	Classes meeting at 3:45 Tuesday only; 3:45 Tue./Thurs.	Classes meeting at 3:45 p.m. Wed. only	Classes meeting at 3:45 Thursday only	
6 to 8 p.m.	Classes meeting at 5:15 Mon. only; 6:45 Mon. only; 6:45 Mon./Wed	Classes meeting at 5:15 Tuesday only; 6:45 Tuesday only; 6:45 Tue./Thurs.	Classes meeting at 5:15 p.m. Mon./Wed.; 5:15 Wed. only; 6:45 Wed. only	Classes meeting first at 5:15 Tues./Thurs.; 5:15 Thurs. only; 6:45 Thurs. only	

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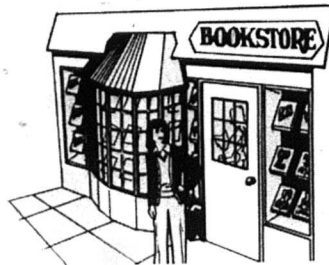
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Features

Writers and REJECTION

From James Joyce to Jack Kerouac, writers go through a seemingly endless string of rejection letters before getting published.

STORY BY HAVARD HAARSTAD
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CASSANDRA SHIE



Pick up a pencil and find a piece of paper. Go to a nice, quiet spot where you can be by yourself. Fill the paper with your inner thoughts and personal feelings. Then send the paper in to a publisher and have it cross examined and criticized like you're Bill Clinton before a moral review board.

Trying to publish a poem or any kind of literary work can mean taking an emotional beating or two. Most writers go through rejection after rejection before they get published — or give up.

"I have been rejected 10 to 15 times already," Princeton senior James R. Fritz says. He submitted poems and short stories to several amateur and professional publications, including New York Magazine.

"It made me a little bit disappointed," Fritz said. "But then again, it's only another person's opinions. You can't worry about them."

He picks up a book from his backpack and flips through it. "After reading this, you can't get too depressed," he said while pointing to a chapter dealing with rejections.

Fritz said James Joyce's "Dubliners" was rejected 22 times. When it was published it became a classic. George Orwell's "Animal Farm" was also originally rejected.

Jack Kerouac spent seven years trying to get "On the Road" published. Doris Lessing, after she became

famous, submitted her new novel under a pseudonym — Rejected.

"Seems like you need a lot of luck to be noticed," Fritz said. Last year he won the Ladies Literary Club Fiction Award for work published in the Zephyrus, Western's literary annual publication, but this year, his work wasn't even published.

English professor Mary Ellen Miller does not agree that luck has much to do with it.

"There can be many reasons for a rejection," she said. "What type of work a publication accepts, maybe they just published a similar work. You have to know your market."

"There can be many reasons for a rejection ... You have to know your market."

— Mary Ellen Miller
English professor

Miller teaches creative writing at Western. She helps her students improve their writing. "My goal is to get them to look at their own writing with a critical eye," she said.

She also emphasized the importance of feedback. "Taking a creative writing class will help you understand how others view your work," she said. "That's extremely important."

Another thing Miller emphasized was the importance of reading the works of others to improve one's own writing.

"You can't write if you don't read," she said.

Miller says the overall level of the creative writing students at Western has increased over the years.

"The best way to get a novel published if you're a first-timer

would be to go through an agent," she said. "Then the agent will decide if he or she is interested in representing you."

Reference books listing agents are available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

"Even if you have an entire novel, sending in the first chapter should be sufficient," she said.

Ambitious poets are advised to try to get a name for themselves before submitting their poetry collections.

"You can do that by getting published in poetry journals

and magazines," Miller said.

The 2000 Writer's Market lists 8000 editors, magazines and journals that buy unsolicited works. It is available at major bookstores for around \$25.

The Zephyrus accepts literary work once a year from all Western students. This year approximately 400 works were submitted, more than twice the amount from last year.

Only 25 works will be published in this year's issue — a mere five percent.

"The overall level is amazing, too bad we have to limit

ourselves to only 25 works," said assistant English professor David Lenoire at the Senior Reading for English majors April 17.

Fritz picks up his backpack and takes off for class. In a couple of weeks he will graduate, but he has no jobs waiting for him.

"I can probably get a job in an editing firm or something. But it will probably take some time before I can write creatively for a living," he said. "Meanwhile, I guess I'll just write in my spare time and keep my fingers crossed."

Senior reflects on life's brightest and darkest moments



Travis Mayo
commentary

Life.
It's resting on the edge of the paper cup on the kitchen counter. It's whirling around the passing traffic outside. It's holding strong in the little lad outside, and his dog, Spot. It's growing in the soaked blades of grass below the window.

Life.
In a few days, it will be sliding off the corner of graduation caps. It will be dangling off the frazzles of tassels. It will be striding across the campus, most manicured lawn with every step. It will be a constant picture

frozen in our minds.

Life.
It can fulfill. It can vanquish. It can uplift. It can undercut. It can rejuvenate. It can devastate.

For the past year, life has checked through that list with me.

If life were a sport, I would have dropped five enormous games. Five role players gone: four family and one friend.

Nearly a year ago, I hugged my grandmother more than usual on a Sunday morning. Something had dragged me out of bed on a couple

hours' sleep and brought me there from a friend's house. Something made me stand at the front door, on the way to church, one hand on the doorknob, telling her that I loved her. Not once, not twice. Three times.

Something had made me decline lunch invitations after church. Something pulled me back to her house. Something made me catch her falling out of her chair. Something made her not die alone.

Cancer couldn't even create that ending.
Life.

Brutal, isn't it?
Brutal when a lifelong friend and classmate is here one week, hugging and smiling, and gone the next. Brutal when the final memory of a friend is an image in a casket. Brutal when the light of a crowd is dimmed to a flicker of afterthoughts.

Life.
It's there in death, there in breath and definitely there in grief.

It has stirred tears this past year. It has stirred late night conversations to

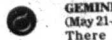
MADAME MOONBEAM'S PREDICTIONS



ARIES
(Mar. 21-April 19)
As the deadline for a major group project draws near, you may find yourself frustrated with the way your group is running. Some people, namely you, are shouldering all the work while your counterparts stay at home playing Playstation all day. You could keep schlepping around campus doing their work for them, or you could give them the academic jack-slapping they deserve and make them pull their weight.



TAURUS
(Apr. 20-May 20)
You're feeling nostalgic about the closing of the school year, which is perfectly normal. What isn't healthy is fixating on every little event until those around you are burnt out on your reminiscing. This is especially true if you're graduating. For instance, if you find yourself saying, "This is the very last time I will spend a Monday night studying for a math test," you may be in need of a grip.



GEMINI
(May 21-June 21)
There is an unseen obstacle standing between you and your goal for this semester. Double check for missed assignments, late papers or make-up quizzes that you may have overlooked. There's no worse feeling than opening your grades in front of your parents and finding a big fat "incomplete" among those As and Bs.

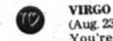


CANCER
(June 22-July 22)
You are about three quarts low on willpower this week. If trying to decide between finishing your 12-page research paper and watching one of the last three episodes of "Party of Five" is a familiar debate, remember the looks of rage and/or disappointment on your parents' faces when you declare yourself a fifth-year senior or "a freshman, again." Suck it up, tape yet another episode of *Salinger* misery and get your work done!



LEO
(July 23-Aug 22)
This is a good time to

channel that late-semester stress into more creative efforts. Which isn't to say you should try the Van Gogh at-home surgery method. Make sure your energies are directed in creative, not destructive, ways. Clear your head. Try to sketch or write and see what happens. Doodling can be an incredibly positive way to ease tension. There's nothing to lose except the urge to run screaming from your econ class.

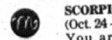


VRIGO
(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
You're about to embark on a new venture, like a new diet or a new job. Like everything else you do, you're going to apply enthusiasm and zeal to this new situation, which is great. But be sure to pace yourself. You won't be any good to anyone if you burn out in your second week.



LIBRA
(Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
Though they haven't said so yet, someone has noticed your talent and is about to make you an offer you'd be a fool to pass up. Seize the opportunity. Some of the

best situations rise from unexpected places.



SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 21)
You are plagued by a severe case of the blahs right now. You don't want to do homework. You don't want to go to class. You don't even want to leave your comfy bed. Don't despair. The end is in sight. Soon the semester will be over and you will have all summer ... to work your thankless summer job. Bwahaha!



SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Though you're receiving a lot of recognition right now, try to remember that it's not all about you. Make an effort to give credit where credit is due. Otherwise, when the spotlight dims and you have to return to real life, people are going to remember what a schmuck you were.



CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
A burst of good-old rebellious energy is in your near future. Someone's going to tell you that you can't do something and in your typi-

cal Capricorn fashion, you're going to do it just to spite them. Good for you. Just make sure it's not something stupid like a piercing or a proving how many pickled pigs' feet you can eat in a sitting. Eww.



AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21-Feb. 19)
Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. Though you may be gleefully rubbing your hands together in anticipation of those lucrative graduation presents or tax-returns, it may not add up to what you're expecting. So cancel those plans to buy a jet ski. Live frugally for the next week or so until you're sure of your financial standing.



PISCES
(Feb. 19-Mar. 20)
Relationships have taken on a much more pleasant, playful aspect that should last as long as you're willing to stretch it. Enjoy this new-found attitude and take advantage of it. Find new and creative ways to show how much you care. Just stay away from calling each other cutesy names and talking in baby-talk in public. No one likes to see that.

LIFE: Giving up is far from the chosen route

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

ease the pain, thoughts of ways to stay awake because sleep would be too frightening. It has scrounged up anger and hate. It has lost my faith and accepted a rebirth of faith. It has hurt — painfully hurt — and it has lifted.

Life.
It could bury someone who endures such 12 months. But it hasn't. In the end, life is the light.
I could've dropped into a pit

of surrender that Sunday, could've given up when we said goodbye to a fallen friend, could've stayed tucked at the world when a fighter — an aunt — is finally stripped of life.

Life.
It forges a tougher perception. The day I will be sharing with hundreds of others, donning thin robes and cardboard caps a week from Sunday is the final release. We will officially be part of total independence. The real life.
But it's already taught

lessons. Its chalkboard has scratched unimaginable notes.
Don't leave a conversation with harsh words behind the door. Hug anyone you love, any time you can. Each time you leave loved ones, tell them how much they mean to you. Those could be the last words shared. If family means so much, never make it No. 2. Family should never come off the bench.
Life.
Accept its harshest reality, embrace its brightest moments. Both will round the person. Both

will shed light on the lessons. Cry when you know you must, and smile and wink when you know it helps.
Life.
It's here — really.
It's slapping me in the face, warning me to be ready for its punch. It's whispering in my ear. Had enough? There's a simple reply: Want some more.
There's a whole world zooming around us, ready for anyone to step up and seize the moment. Exciting. Scary. So nerve-wracking my palms are sweaty, and so

wide open my mind is floating.
By the time the ink on this paper is dry, I will have strolled out of my final class. But I'll be creeping into my first — a class larger than any campus. No need for course numbers. No need for registration.
Life.
Hello.
Have a seat. It should be a lengthy visit.
Travis Mayo is a graduating senior print journalism major from Maysville.

Attention Class of 2000

Graduating students may pick up caps and gowns during these times:

- Saturday, April 29 10:00 am~2:00 pm
- Monday - Thursday, May 1 - 4 8:00 am~6:45 pm
- Friday, May 5 8:00 am~4:45 pm
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Wright has many roles at Western

Senior leader has clear goals in mind

BY ERICA WALSH
Herald reporter

Tailored is one word that Bowling Green senior Duan Wright thinks his friends would use to describe him.

Tailored fits perfectly. Wright is tailored in what he says, finding the precise words to say exactly what he means. He's tailored in his goals, knowing what he does now affects what he wants to do in the future. He's tailored in his activities, taking on a lot, but never having too much to handle.

In Wright's case, "a lot" ranges from president of his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, to Spirit Masters to being a member of the National Panhellenic Council to running for SGA president.

Spare time is a rare and precious occurrence. "I value my free time," Wright said. "It's not always as free as I'd like it to be."

Free or not, time is a valuable

asset for Wright. Lack of time can be costly. He often runs out of time for studying or classes. But he doesn't worry about it; he knows that his activities now will help him in the future.

"I think sometimes I sacrifice my grades. Sometimes I have to accept average," he said. "But, because of the networking I'm doing now, there's no job threat."

Wright has learned a lot in his years at Western. Not only from classes, but from his activities as well.

"My membership and my faith in my fraternity are some of my best learning experiences," he said.

But, if Wright had the chance to change anything, he would

definitely go back to the sixth grade with all that he knows now and start over so he could get ahead.

He's already ahead in the minds of some students and faculty at Western.

Like his fellow Greek leaders, Wright is thought of as a role model by Student Activities Coordinator Charley Pride.

But Wright himself is often modest when he hears that he is thought of as a role model.

"I think I have a lot of weak tendencies," he said. "Everyone has flaws."

Wright hides his weaknesses well. He is never without a smile on his face or a headstrong attitude.

"The thing I think about most when I think about Duan is his smile," Pride always smiling.

But smiling aside, Wright hopes he has been an inspiration and a teacher to his peers here.

"I've learned to, and inspired people to see the world through another set of eyes," he said.



Duan Wright

"I value my free time. It's not always as free as I'd like it to be."

— Duan Wright
Bowling Green senior

Around Campus

Two plays, one night

The theater department will present the plays "The Goblins Plot to Murder God" and "A Life With No Joy In It" at 8 tonight at Gordon Wilson Hall. For ticket information, call 746-5845.

Celestial showings at planetarium

Students interested in heavenly bodies may want to check out "Apollo and Beyond," the latest offering from Hardin Planetarium. The show starts at 7:30 tonight and will run for three weeks. For more information, call 745-4044.

Wind Ensemble holding free concert

The music department will present the Wind Ensemble's spring concert at 7:30 tonight at Van Meter Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, call 745-3751.

Choral Society to perform Thursday

The Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra/Choral Society will be performing at 7:30 Thursday night at the Capitol Arts Theater. For ticket information, call the music department at 745-3751.

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College Heights
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Campus movie schedule

Tuesday, April 25
9 — Lovers on the Bridge
12 — Chill Factor
2:45 — The Story of Us
4:30 — Eyes Wide Shut
7:15 — Mouse Hunt

Thursday April 27
9 — Stigmata
11 — The Wood
1 — Touch of Evil
3 — Verigo
5 — The Sixth Sense
7 — The Shining

Wednesday, April 26
9 — Crazy in Alabama
11 — Blue Streak
12:45 — Sling Blade
3:30 — Runaway Bride
6:30 — The Bone Collector

Friday through Weekend
4/28-4/30
9 — Beautiful Girls
11 — G.I. Jane
1:15 — Emma
3:20 — The Best Man
5:30 — Gandhi

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▶ **Movie Review****'American Psycho' carried by lead actor****Grade: A-****By MICHAEL COMPTON**
Herald reporter

"American Psycho" can be taken one of two ways. The film is either a sick demented glorification of violence or a razor sharp satire on the yuppie generation of the 1980s.

The satire road seems more appropriate, but this is definitely not a film that will satisfy every moviegoer.

The film stars Christian Bale (who should garner early Oscar consideration) as Patrick

Bateman. At first glance, Bateman is your stereotypical 80s yuppie. He has a successful job on Wall Street, a condominium in the posh upper-west side of New York, a sophisticated debutante fiancée and is the mold for exquisite physique.

We soon learn Patrick has far deeper problems than what Versace suit to wear for the day. Patrick has a growing urge to murder everyone he meets. From work rivals to prostitutes to the homeless — the more Patrick kills, the more he yearns to kill again.

This may not seem like the kind of film that generates laughs, but the movie is actual-

ly a very funny dark comedy.

Though it's disturbing, you can't help but laugh as Bateman discusses the musical evolution of Huey Lewis and the News to a business associate he is about to brutally murder with an ax. Whether the ax-murder or Huey Lewis is more disturbing is up for debate.

The film is a biting satire that is handled expertly by writer/director Mary Harron. Harron is obviously influenced by Stanley Kubrick, as the film evokes memories of both "A Clockwork Orange" and "The Shining."

The screenplay is remarkable because it manages to

comment on everything negative about the 1980s in one character. Bateman is vain, materialistic, cut-throat, a health nut and a stereotypical yuppie, but all of his traits are exaggerated to the extreme.

The only problem with the film is that the first three quarters of the film are so on the mark, the ending leaves you feeling a little flat.

There are several big-name actors in supporting roles, including Reese Witherspoon as Bateman's fiancée, William Defoe as a detective investigating the disappearance of one of Bateman's victims, and Cloe Sevigny as Bateman's secretary,

who eventually realizes something is not right with her boss.

But it is Bale's performance that carries the film. He brings such an uneasy pretense to Bateman that it is hard to imagine why Leonardo DiCaprio was ever considered for the role. Bale knows the precise point at which to push the performance without going completely over the top. The character is very funny despite being certifiably insane. It's not an easy tightrope to walk, but Bale does it with style. The performance is so graceful that you sense Bale had to have a lot of fun making the movie.

Now that is scary

▶ **Music Review****AC/DC's new album keeps rock 'n' roll from dying****Grade: A****By JACOB BENNETT**
Herald reporter

AC/DC's "Stiff Upper Lip" is one of the greatest CDs released in years, easily better than just about everything released in the 1990s. Of course, that could be because almost everything released in the 1990s sucked, but "Stiff Upper Lip" is still pretty good.

It's 47 minutes of straight up rock'n'roll, thwarting alternative

music's nearly-successful plan to put rock in an early grave.

On this album, you won't hear alterna-rockers whining about being rock stars. Yeah, that must be horrible, having millions of dollars and sleeping with adoring, nubile fans after every show. No, the guys in AC/DC love being rock stars because they realize that if they couldn't play music, they would just be ugly midget Australians.

Though he's barely 5 feet tall, I guarantee Angus Young could easily smack around Gavin Rossdale.

Yep, AC/DC loves rock so

much that they're not gonna change it. The genius of AC/DC is that all the songs are big, loud and without artistic merit. They're just straight up, 12 bar, heavily amplified power-chord rock. The choruses consist of lead singer Brian Johnson screaming the title for about 3 minutes and 50 seconds. When Johnson gets bored, the rest of the band takes turns singing the title. But who needs complex choruses when guitar gods Malcolm and Angus Young are goin' off some'eres?

The new songs stack up pretty

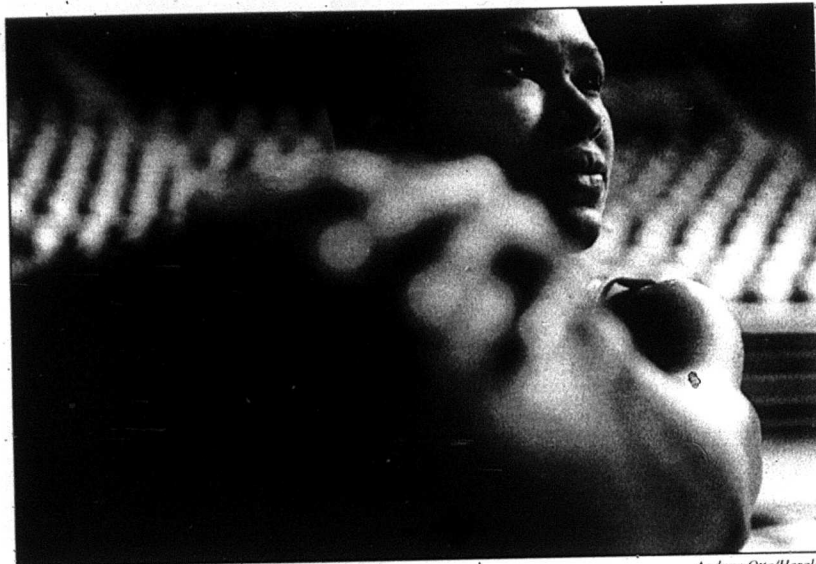
good with the classics — "Can't Stop Rock'n'Roll" is the "For Those About to Rock (We Salute You)" of the new millennium. In "Damned," Johnson complains that all the things they love are bad for them. I'll be damned. There really are no stop signs or speed limits on the Highway to Hell.

Despite their many hits, AC/DC doesn't have that many good albums. "Stiff Upper Lip" is one of the top three. It probably doesn't have instant classics like "The Jack" or "You Shook Me All Night Long," but overall it's as solid as the other two

AC/DC greats — their debut "High Voltage" and "Back in Black," the classic tribute to their alcohol-poisoned original singer, Bon Scott.

Who knows how good "Stiff Upper Lip" would have been if Scott had worked on it? Johnson is a great fit for the band, but his screaming gets tiresome and he's not the gleefully juvenile lyrical genius that Scott was. "Stiff Upper Lip" is great because it gives the fans what they want — nothing more, nothing less. It's pure rock. Trends come and go, but you can't stop rock'n'roll.

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Andrew Otto/Herald

Junior forward ShaRae Mansfield was named Western's 2000 Female Athlete of the Year for her contributions to the Lady Topper basketball team and for her academic achievements.

Heaven on Earth

ShaRae Mansfield loves hot wings, loves to shop and loves playing basketball. Meet Western's Female Athlete of the Year.

BY LYNDSAY SUTTON
Herald reporter

In ShaRae Mansfield's heaven she can devour 25 hot wings in one sitting, even while her friends chide her for it.

She can put black carpet in all the rooms she wants, even when her mother shakes her head in disbelief. She can buy the same shirt in as many different colors as there are stars, even as her closest buddies roll their eyes in amazement of yet another purchase.

All the junior forward needs for eternal bliss are hot wings and black carpet and obscene numbers of brightly-colored shirts. And sandals, canvas tennis shoes, purses and unlimited visits to Lerner's in the mall. And in the background, R&B singer Joe croons his song, "I Wanna Know."

Mansfield's heaven is a treasure chest of her favorite things. There she

Athlete of the Year

Part 1 of 2. Thursday: Kicker Vencil

can wear her favorite outfit, her Lady Topper uniform, and play basketball all day long without the interruption of reporters begging for yet another interview.

Western's 2000 Female Athlete of the Year could wear her individual honors and awards like coveted engagement rings, each a tribute to her athletic promise. Instead, she wears them like pristine-white shoestrings, essential but easy to overlook.

"I could coach for a long, long time if

I had a team of ShaRae Mansfields," women's basketball coach Steve Small said. "She's always trying to get better. I look at her like a Michael Jordan-type athlete. When you get a great athlete that works that hard, you've really got something special."

Mansfield is special to Small and Lady Topper basketball in the same way that Western and Lady Topper basketball are special to her. So special that she never even took an official visit to women's basketball powerhouse Tennessee, which recruited Mansfield as a standout at Louisville Manual High School.

When Sun Belt Conference opponent Louisiana Tech knocked on her door, Mansfield hid behind a curtain.

"When I came down here for a visit I just fell in love with the people, the coaches, everything," Mansfield said.

SEE HEAVEN, PAGE 24

Softball assistant awaiting discipline

Coach pleads guilty to DUI charge

BY JOE COX
Herald reporter

Softball assistant coach Shane Weaver is still waiting to find out how a guilty plea to a DUI charge on Friday, April 14, will affect his future at Western.

Weaver, 29, was arrested by Western Police Officer Kerry Hatchett after failing to observe a stop sign at the intersection of 13th and Kentucky streets.

After Weaver pleaded guilty to the DUI charge, the disregarding a stop sign charge was dropped. Judge Brent J. Potter ordered him to pay a \$200 fine and serve two days in jail, with the jail sentence being suspended.

Associate director of athletics Pam Herriford declined comment, but did say that to her knowledge, there was no policy for the incident. Herriford also said she wasn't aware of any comparable situation in the past.

Softball head coach Leslie Phelan also declined comment, but did say that "there will be something handed down from both (the softball program and the university)."

SEE DISCIPLINE, PAGE 21

Baseball swept up by Cajuns

BY BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

Senior right-hander Jay Meyer went into Sunday's game hoping to put an end to Western's 0-2 start against 17th-ranked Louisiana-Lafayette in this weekend's series.

He came out of the dugout on fire, striking out five of the first six batters he faced.

Then came the drama. Meyer (4-5) was relieved in the fourth inning after giving up a walk, a single and a two-run double. That gave Louisiana-Lafayette a 2-1 lead. The Ragin' Cajuns went on to score three more runs in the game, enough to outlast the Hilltoppers 5-2. "I thought our pitchers did a really good job," Coach Joel Murrie said. "They put us in a position to win."

Western (20-23, 9-11 in Sun Belt) took the long bus ride to Louisiana Thursday with a distinct objective — win at least

SEE SWEEP, PAGE 21

Champions don't always wear rings



BEST WESTERN

Jerry Brewer's reflections on four years of Topper sports, Part 2 of 2

Let me start with Willie Taggart.

Western quarterback, 1995-1998. Could slip through a defender's hands like mercury. Now holds the NCAA Division I record for rushing yards by a quarterback with 3,997. Led the Hilltoppers to a 10-2 finish and the Division I-AA quarterfinals in 1997. Went through the rigorous process of graduating in four years to regain the eligibility that he lost as a Proposition

48 freshman. Went through it because, he always said, he wanted to win a championship for Coach Jack Harbaugh. Willie Wonder.

You know, he didn't win that championship in 1998. Didn't even make the playoffs. But he's still a champion.

I saw Willie Taggart play football.

I'm glad I can say that. After today, I will no longer clog this column space. I will

trade Playground Notes, this column about Western sports, for a diploma. They tell me I should gladly make the swap. Right now, I'm not so sure.

I keep thinking about people like Leslie Johnson. Lady Topper center, 1996-1998. Big Les, they called her. 6-foot-1, 220 pounds. Once said, "I'm one of those people who can look at a Big Mac and gain two pounds."

SEE BEST, PAGE 24

Errors costly as Lady Toppers return to finish first season

By Joe Cox
Herald reporter

After what might have been their toughest road trip of the season, the Lady Toppers have to be content with survival.

Survival consisted of winning three games at Knoxville in the Rocky Top Markets Lady Vol Classic. Unfortunately, Western also dropped three games in the tournament. Add in a defeat at Kentucky on Thursday and Western (27-22-1) is undoubtedly glad to be home.

"It all goes back to defense," Western coach Leslie Phelan said. Western committed 13 errors in their four losses, tying a season high with six in one game.

Defense played a key part in the 11-3 loss to Kentucky on Thursday. Western trailed 3-0 in the third when an hour and 52-minute rain delay held up the contest. After the delay, the Wildcats went on to thump Western, although only six of the

11 runs were earned. Friday's action began with a 10-7 win over Samford. Western led by as many as six runs before Samford rallied to within three with the bases loaded and no one out in the seventh.

Freshman ace Amber Garlington came in to set down three straight Bulldogs (22-29) to earn her third save. Freshman shortstop Sara Alanis and fellow freshman outfielder Kristalyn Smith homered in the victory.

In the second game of the day, Garlington allowed only one earned run, but the host Tennessee Lady Vols (25-26) won 3-1 on a great effort by hurler Jackie Beavers and three Western errors. Alanis provided Garlington with her lone run of support with a solo home run in the sixth inning, her second of the day.

Western began Saturday's action by whipping struggling Radford (7-40). Western managed only eight hits, but still picked up a 10-1 win over the

"When you set goals, they should be something that you strive for. It should mean something."

— Leslie Phelan
Western softball coach

Highlanders. Western led 6-1 after three innings, cruising home easily with the win. Freshman outfielder Angie Head managed two doubles and three RBIs in the game to pace the attack.

In the second game of the day, Jackie Beavers again led the Lady Vols over Western, this time by a 9-3 count. Freshman outfielder Jessie Richardson had three hits in the losing cause. Six Lady Topper errors rendered the game a lost cause, with Tennessee jumping out to a 7-0 lead in the fourth.

Western began Sunday by

thumping Radford for the second time in as many days, this time 9-2. Head continued to own Highlander pitching with a 3 for 3 performance, including a double. Alanis added her sixth home run of the season and junior third baseman Shannon Searle also homered.

Western dropped their final game of the tourney 2-0 to Samford. Both runs scored on a sixth inning home run, which made Garlington the tough-luck losing pitcher.

Smith and Richardson both represented Western on the all-tournament team.

"I was kind of surprised," Smith said. "I didn't think I'd be selected."

Smith hit .385 in the tournament and won two games on the mound.

"Throwing in practice and in relief gets old," she said. "It's nice to get out there in a game." For Richardson, the honor is accompanied by the Sun Belt Player of the Week award.

Richardson hit .400 in the

tournament and .435 over the week. She is among the Sun Belt's top 10 in nine different offensive categories.

Western finishes the regular season at home today against Austin Peay and tomorrow against Northern Kentucky. Both contests are doubleheaders with 2 p.m. start times.

After that, Western will take part in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament in Lafayette.

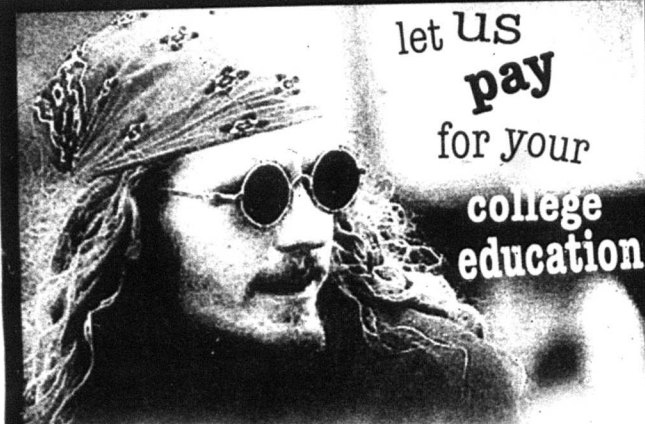
With one more win, Western can clinch a winning record for this initial season, which was one of the preseason goals the team set.

"When you set goals, they should be something that you strive for," Phelan said. "It should mean something."

With the tournament so close, Western must guard against overlooking the final four regular season games.

Shortstop Sara Alanis admits the challenge of finishing the year.

"We have to take it game by game," she said. "We have to keep (the tournament) in mind."



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Dana Kuhman	Cara Thomasson
Lissa Maxwell	Dinah Townsend

Lady Toppers win awards

BY LYNDSAY SUTTON
Herald reporter

The women's basketball coaching staff rewarded the over-achieving efforts of the 1999-2000 Lady Toppers at its annual awards banquet last Thursday.

Western finished 22-10 and lost to Duke in the second round of the NCAA tournament. It was the end to an unexpected run by an undermanned squad which made obstacles look like a casual run through the Winner's Circle.

"We all felt like we came through the fire," Lady Topper coach Steve Small said. "When everybody thought we were going south, we went north."

All-American ShaRae Mansfield was named the team's

Most Valuable Player. Mansfield will participate in the 2000 R. William Jones Cup Team Trials 17-22. If she makes the team she will represent Western on the U.S. National Team.

"The person I saw in ShaRae in high school is the same person I'm seeing with all the honors going into her senior year," Small said. "She has the same work ethic, the same smile, the same composure."

Senior guard Jaime Walz received the Coaches' Award after she earned spots on both the All-Sun Belt Conference team and the Sun Belt All-Tournament team. The former Miss Basketball finished her career as the 23rd member of the 1,000-point club. She is the school's all-time leader

for three-pointers in a season and a career.

While Walz is pleased with her career at Western, she said she'll remember the success of this year's team more.

"We didn't have the pressure on us because nobody expected us to do what we did," Walz said.

Other award winners include: sophomore guard Natalie Powers, Defensive Player of the Year; junior guard LaVonda Johnson, Most Improved Player; and senior forward/guard Jamie Britt, Harry Burns Courage Award.

Powers, sophomore center Katie Wulf and freshman guard Jennifer Slaughter all received academic achievement awards

DISCIPLINE: No clear guidelines for offense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Human Resources director Tony Glisson said there is no specific policy but admitted the incident could fall within the bounds of the general character and conduct standards for University employees.

According to the police report, when Hatchett approached Weaver he noticed the "odor of an alcoholic beverage on his person."

According to the police report, Weaver then "stated he had 4-5 beers an hour before,"

at which time Hatchett gave him a field sobriety test and a breath test.

Weaver failed the field test and tested at a blood alcohol level of .129 on the breath test, according to the report in Kentucky, 10 is considered legally drunk.

Weaver, a 1993 Western graduate, is in his first year of coaching at Western. The conviction is his first DUI offense.

Despite repeated attempts to contact him, Weaver was unavailable for comment.

SWEPT: Hilltoppers hope to finish season on a roll

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

two of three games over Louisiana-Lafayette and seize control of the Sun Belt Conference.

They went with six straight wins and an emotional beginning to the weekend, an 8-4 thrashing of Kentucky on Wednesday.

But Western couldn't score enough runs.

"I wasn't only disappointed in not scoring enough runs, but I was disappointed in how we made outs," Murrie said. "We had some poor swings in hitter advantage counts. We failed to execute some of our offensive strategies."

In the first inning Sunday, junior second baseman Brian Houdek singled and advanced to second on junior right fielder

Tim Cleland's groundout. He was driven in by junior designated hitter Justin Herrguth's single up the middle.

The Toppers would only score one more run. In the eighth inning, Cleland singled up the middle and moved to third on a single by Herrguth. Junior first baseman Eric Hammer grounded out, but Cleland scored on the play. Louisiana-Lafayette added two more runs to make the 5-2 final.

Herrguth finished the game 4 for 4 at the plate with one RBI, and Western got strong defense up the middle from Houdek and junior shortstop Luis Rodriguez.

The Toppers return to action at Vanderbilt tonight. In their previous meeting this season, the Commodores beat Western 9-3 and scored at least one run

"With 13 games left in the regular season, we have a chance to finish strong and get up over .500. As a coach, I come to work every day and hope that we turn things around and get on a roll going into the postseason."

— Joel Murrie
Western baseball coach

in every inning except the first.

"I thought we did some really good things against Vanderbilt the last time out, although the score didn't reflect that," Murrie said. "Hopefully we can go to Nashville and play the type of baseball we expect to play."

"With 13 games left in the regular season, we have a chance to finish strong and get

up over .500. As a coach, I come to work every day and hope that we turn things around and get on a roll going into the postseason."

Tops drop first two

Junior pitcher Ryan Hutchison put his undefeated conference record on the line against the Cajuns Friday night. Although the Toppers

lost the game 5-4, Hutchison didn't get a decision.

Hutchison (6-2) gave up four runs on 10 hits in seven innings of work, but freshman Matt Wilhite (0-5) gave up a run in the bottom of the eighth inning to get the loss. Western tallied their four runs on just six hits. Louisiana-Lafayette committed three errors and left 12 runners on base.

Western got only five hits and scored all three of its runs in the eighth inning of Saturday's 5-3 loss. Louisiana-Lafayette's sophomore first baseman Jess Poche and senior outfielder Steven Feehan homered in the game.

Junior pitcher Brandon Miller (4-4) picked up the loss for Western. He gave up four runs on seven hits in four and two-thirds innings.

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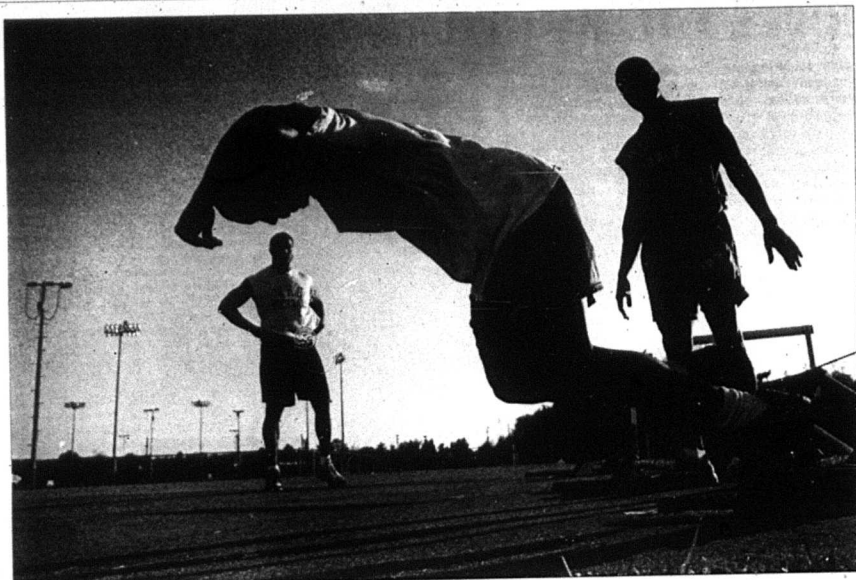
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Out of the blocks

Morganfield freshman Jonathan Brown, foreground, practices his start from the block with Rod Smart, left, a senior from Lakeland, Fla., and Erik Jenkins, a senior from Quincy, Fla., Wednesday afternoon at the Smith Stadium track. Brown is training with Smart and Jenkins in hopes of making the track team next year.

Jonathan Miano/Herald

Western names new associate AD

While Western's athletic department may currently be in financial need, help may soon be on the way.

Jim Clark, who was a catalyst in several programs that boosted annual giving for athletics by 300 percent at the University of Mississippi, was named the new associate athletics director for external operations yesterday.

But it won't be his first trip to Western.

Clark got his master's degree from Southern Mississippi where he worked as a graduate assistant for the athletics director for external affairs in 1990-1991. He then came to Western for two years as a graduate intern in marketing and promotions.

After only a few weeks at Western, Clark moved up to serve as interim coordinator of marketing and promotion in the fall of 1991. He was officially offered the position in 1992 and spent another year on the Hill before moving to Ole Miss.

"I'm very excited about returning to Western and the Bowling Green community,"

Clark said. "I developed some great friendships when I was at Western in the early 1990s, and I look forward to rekindling those and getting to know everyone else in the Western family."

Athletics Director Wood Selig shares the excitement of having Clark back at Western.

"We are very fortunate to attract a person with the qualities and professional experiences that Jim Clark will bring with him as he returns to Western," Selig said. "He has worked in the Southeastern Conference with the Ole Miss Loyalty Foundation, one of the best athletic foundations in the country."

Clark will use his experience in a variety of ways. He'll handle the athletic fund raising and annual giving program, serve as executive director of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, coordinate departmental marketing activities and oversee the athletic ticket office.

Clark is set to assume his new position on May 9.

— Brian Moore

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College Heights Herald

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Placing classifieds: •Call 745-6287 or fax your ad to 745-2697.
The price: •\$5.00 for first 15 words, 25¢ each additional word.
Deadlines: •Tuesday's paper is Friday at 4 p.m.
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TUESDAY APRIL 25 is the deadline for the FINAL **College Heights Herald of the spring semester.**
Call 745-2653 or stop by 122 Garrett Center to place your classified today. Bring your cash or checkbooks to prepay your ad. Sell what you don't want to move or no longer need - sublet your apartment for the summer, place a help wanted ad, just be sure to get your ad in by

TODAY, April 25, at 4:00 p.m.
HURRY, it's your last chance to advertise in the Herald until the Spring semester.

Help Wanted

Ford's Furniture needs sales floor stock position. Minimum 25 hrs w/full time during summer. Involves heavy lifting. No phone calls. Apply at 1701 Scottsville Rd.

BARTEENDERS make \$150-\$250 per night. No exp. necessary. Call 7 days/wk. 1-800-981-8168 ext 263

Marlans now hiring for servers, greeters, & delivery personnel. Apply in person between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. at 801 State St.

Work study positions available for WKU students at the Bowling Green Public Library. Apply in person at the renovated Library 1225 State St.

YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: Holy Spirit Catholic Church is seeking a committed, energetic person to coordinate Middle and High School youth programs (Confirmation included). Applicant must be committed to relational ministry and volunteer empowerment. This is a paid full-time position. College degree in youth ministry/related field and experience as youth minister are plus. Send resume and references: Youth Minister Search Committee, Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 2232 Smallhouse Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42104. Email wjnyne@holyspiritcatholic.org

Bookkeeper wanted 20-25 hrs./wk Minimum 6 hrs. accounting. Afternoons 843-6101. Please apply at 1008 State Street

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The Jewelry Barn is looking for full-time & part-time summer help. Sales experience preferred. Please call 781-1194 ask for Janna

House Helper Needed: Domestic chores & errands for fun family. Twice a week 13-34 weekdays approx. 1-6. References & car a must. 796-4112

Help Wanted

Summer Job
We have positions open for our summer day camp program working with children who have behavior problems. Approximately 30 hours per week. Monday through Friday, June 1 until the end of July. High school diploma/GED + 1 year of experience with children and families or 1 year college in social work, psych, or related field. Must have own transportation. Entry level pay \$6.12 per hour. Please contact Jana Franklin at 270-352-2289. Interviews will be held at the Communicare IMPACT Office, 1074 South Dixie Blvd., Radcliff.

Help Wanted

Summer employment available. Robertson Pools and Spa now has an opening for a retail sales clerk, part time, full-time available. Salary plus commission. See Patsy at 2530 Scottsville Rd. 783-8882.

Attention Western students! Want to have fun, act stupid, and get paid? If so then give us a call! We need your help to staff our "Official Beaver Patrol!" We are looking for guys and girls who are energetic, enthusiastic, and want to have fun at live remotes and public appearances. No experience needed. For more information contact Ryan Nolin with WBVR Radio at 843-3333

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Marketing positions available. If you have been successful selling financial products, real estate, intangibles, etc. We would like to talk to you. Or if you have recently graduated from college and are looking for a career in sales now is the time to join our team of professionals. We are looking for self-motivated people with excellent communication skills. Salary, bonus, insurance and benefits. Earning potential \$50,000 - \$150,000 realistically. Send resume to:
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Applications now being accepted for Summer Rehab Program to serve on cleaning and painting crews in the University student apartments.
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HEAVEN: Mansfield is just what Small expected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

"Honestly, I really didn't even look to any other schools, as far as even thinking about taking a visit because I liked Western so much."

"I guess I had a feeling that this is where I should've been."

This is where she planted herself and bloomed into a third-team All-American who already has scored more than 1,000 points and has grabbed over 500 rebounds.

Ranking second in the nation with 22 double-doubles this season, Mansfield is only the second Lady Topper to average a double-double for an entire season.

Not surprisingly, she was a unanimous selection for the Sun Belt's All-Conference team, having been Player of the Week three times during the season.

And she still has one more year. "I consider ShaRae to be somebody who has it all," sophomore guard Kristina Covington said. "She's a full package."

Her consistent and persistent style of play have unwrapped a chance for her to participate in the 2000 R. William Jones Cup Team Trials May 17-22 where she'll compete for a spot on the U.S. National Team.

"If I don't make it I won't really be that sad. I'm just honored to get a try-out," Mansfield said. "But my whole intent on going down there is to make the team. It's gonna be serious once I get there."

In the meantime, she'll keep lifting weights three days a week to increase her upper body strength. She'll keep playing games with her teammates and going through individual workouts with assistant coach Blane Embry.

"Honestly, I really didn't even look to any other schools, as far as even thinking about taking a visit because I liked Western so much. I guess I had a feeling that this is where I should've been."

— ShaRae Mansfield

Lady Topper forward and Female Athlete of the Year

Mansfield wants to develop a better outside game. She wants to be quicker and more versatile. She wants her game to set her apart from every other competitor.

She just wants WNBA scouts to notice her.

"I wanna play professional ball so bad," Mansfield said. She recalls wanting to play professionally even before she was in high school, when playing overseas was the main option. Staying in the states and playing in the WNBA "would be a dream come true."

So for now, heaven is a television set tuned to a Houston Comets game. In Mansfield's heaven, her '88 Cadillac Cimarron is just as good as a Lexus and her success as an athlete is just as important as her success as a student.

"She's in it for the right reasons," Small said. "I think ShaRae's in it to get her education, to give back to the university and to coaches."

"The trick to everything in life is keeping things in perspective and ShaRae does a tremendous job."

BEST: Columnist knows champs don't need rings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Had moves, though. Whoa, she had moves! Spun in the lane like a top and had a killer fadeaway jumper. Scored more than 1,000 points in only two years here.

You know, those two Lady Topper teams she played with were supposed to be championship material. They never made it past the second round the NCAA Tournament. But Johnson's still a champion.

I saw Leslie Johnson play basketball. I'm glad I can say that.

Johnson's friend, teammate and roommate was Danielle McCulley. Lady Topper forward, 1996-98. Transferred from Purdue after her sophomore year with Johnson. Slippery and stealthful, McCulley was quiet. But her play did plenty of talking. Finished as one of the most versatile players in Lady Topper history. First player taken in the 1998 draft of now-defunct American Basketball League.

I saw Danielle McCulley play basketball.

I'm glad I can say that. Glad I can say I saw Jenni Miller play volleyball a whole season on my good knee. Saw her teammate, Kim Carpenter, do the same.

Saw Josh Patton hit 400 during a baseball season, and T.J. Freeman jack 18 homers in another. Saw Trae Hackett — the tiny, 180-pound linebacker — lead the team in tackles. Saw Joey Stockton, a cunning wide receiver, jump into the end zone like Superman during a Western-Eastern football game.

Wasn't there first hand, but heard plenty of talk about the great swarming of people like Brandy Beckwith and

Kicker Vencill and Gord Veldman. Did, however, have the pleasure of hearing swimmer Pete Carey read creative writing in English class.

Sorry that I missed pitcher Katie Swertfager's no-hitter earlier this season.

Sorry that I couldn't chronicle pitcher Ryan Hutchison's current Sun Belt Conference win streak.

Got to see Coach Harbaugh cry before a large media contingent. Got to learn, from Harbaugh, how you take a program from near death and make it a winner.

Laughed a million with Lady Topper basketball coach Steve Small, and then learned plenty about life.

Wondered whether the great swim coach, Bill Powell, now 62 going on 25, would ever lose his youth.

Witnessed great models of consistency in basketball player ShaRae Mansfield and volleyball player Jamie Ritterskamp and cross country runners Duncan Shangase and Valerie Lynch. Watched soccer player Bryan Robbins, basketball player Lee Lampley and football players Ben Wittman and Rod Smart uplift their programs during this season, their senior season.

Experienced basketball player Jamie Walz become great again and saw Jamie Britt take a sip of greatness, too.

None of these people — except for Lynch and Shangase — won championships.

But all of these people, all of them, are champions.

I thank them for letting me tell their stories these past four years.

Now, if I may, I'd like to direct one more question their way. Just one more. Please.

Can I have your autographs?



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