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Students sound off on Election 2000

BY TAYLOR LOYAL
Herald reporter

With six days left until the presidential election, Hilltoppers' words on the candidates stretched across campus yesterday. A handful of harsh words was slung from the top to the bottom of the Hill, and a tiny ball of praise rolled slowly alongside a hint of suspicion and several shrugged shoulders.

There was talk of farming and

tobacco and "the tree hugger." Al Gore outside the Environmental Sciences and Technology building yesterday morning.

Warren County freshman David Wolfe said he thinks both Bush and Gore are liars. But Wolfe is "all about agriculture," and he said Gore is against many of the pesticides that farmers rely on.

Wolfe said that if Bush wins, he will probably starve for the next four years since "the econo-

my will go straight to purgatory" but that it's worth it since Bush is trying to find new ways to farm. And Wolfe thinks that both candidates should be careful when it comes to farming.

"They both participate in agriculture because they both eat," he said.

Wolfe isn't starving yet, but since he said he's pretty sick with both of the candidates, he may have trouble keeping his dinner down after voting.

"They might have to have a waste can nearby," he said.

Stephen Pereira won't be vomiting after he votes on Tuesday. In fact, he won't be voting at all.

A freshman from India, Pereira said he isn't allowed to vote yet since he's only been in the country for three months. But if he could, Pereira would vote for Bush.

Pereira said he liked Bush's dad and he believed in the "like father, like son" theory when it comes to the election.

"According to what I've heard, (George Bush) was one of the best presidents to be elected."

Just down the Hill, at the bus stop across from the Baptist Student Union, sat yet another advocate for Bush.

"I'm for guns," Tom Cannon said. "I'm not for gun control."

The Louisville senior stated his position

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 3

ELECTION



Wendi Thompson/Herald

Above: Thomas Meredith, former Western president, walks into Meredith Hall for the first time after the dorm was dedicated to him. The hall was formerly named New Sorority Hall. Below: Meredith, center, is congratulated by Associate Athletics Director Pam Herriford and Rick DuBose, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, after the dedication on Wednesday afternoon.

Sorority Hall finally gets a name

Building recognizes former president

BY JASON RAGAN
Herald reporter

A few new letters are all that's different about New Sorority Hall, but those letters give the building a new identity.

Yesterday, New Sorority Hall was officially named Thomas C. Meredith Hall after Western's eighth president.

Meredith was greeted with hugs and kind words from a crowd that outnumbered the chairs set up outside the dorm at the dedication ceremony yesterday afternoon.

One of those hugs came from President Gary Ramsdell, whose head only reached about shoulder high on Meredith. "I was just looking at his shoes and there this big," Ramsdell said as he held his hands wide apart. "I am having a hard time

trying to fill them."

Meredith, Ramsdell's predecessor, served the university from 1988 to 1997. During his reign, both Zacharias and Meredith halls were built, and yesterday several administrators credited him with being the driving force behind the projects.

John Osborne, assistant vice president for Facilities Management, said he remembered when Meredith pitched the idea to him. "Meredith made it a go," Osborne said. "It was him who had to make it happen."

Meredith remembered the cold day of the ground-breaking ceremony. But back then, he said, he never imagined that the building would be named after him.

"Literally, the thought never crossed my mind that my name would be on this or any building," Meredith said.

The Student Life Foundation unanimously approved the naming of the building during their September meeting after the Board of Regents voted for a name change in August.

Regent Peggy Loafman said naming the dorm after a man who made students his focal point was a good move.

"I think it is appropriate that the building is now known as Meredith Hall," Loafman said. "Students were the hallmark of his presidency."

During his time at Western, Meredith also had to weather the

storm of one of the biggest budget cuts in Kentucky's history.

Meredith, who is currently the chancellor of the University of Alabama System, called that "a very tough time" for Western, but was proud that the university maintained a high academic standard and got through the situation.

Not all people present at the dedication were there to praise Meredith. Three student protesters attended the ceremony to oppose a current campus issue — the recently approved \$80 athletics fee increase.

The protesters were low key, expressing their message on large cardboard signs with written messages such as "University = Factory, Teacher = Tools, Students = Productivity" and "People not profit."

But the majority of the crowd focused on the dedication of the building and Meredith, who wore a constant smile during his acceptance speech.

U.S. News rankings overlook Western

BY SAM YOUNGMAN
Herald reporter

Everyone likes to see their name in print.

That was especially true on Sept. 11, when the U.S. News and World Report's annual ranking of colleges and universities hit newsstands and mailboxes across the country.

As the issue was read by prospective freshmen and their parents, some school officials patted themselves on the back and some searched the pages in vain.

"I'm suspect it's an issue that's anticipated at every university," said Mike Dale, assistant vice president for Budget and Administrative Affairs.

But on that day in September nobody was reading about Western.

Among the listings of first-tier regional universities — the top

SEE RANKINGS, PAGE 6

INSIDE

Bucks for Brains under fire

A report from the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts found several shortcomings in the state's Bucks for Brains program, which provides millions of dollars in matching funds for state universities each year. Page 7

Former Western running back drafted by NFL

Rod Smart, a senior on last year's team, has been drafted by the Las Vegas Outlaws of the Xtreme Football League. Smart, who had a brief stint with the San Diego Chargers, will leave for Las Vegas later this month. Page 14

Stores offer alternative to high-priced CDs

Students looking for musical bargains should try Box of Rocks and The Great Escape, both of which offer good deals on new and used CDs. Page 9

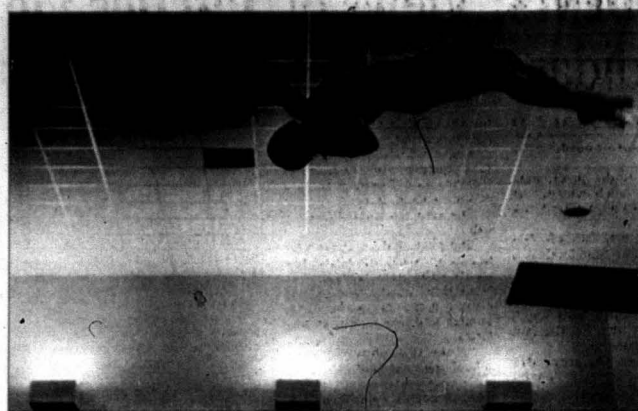
Weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
76° 55°	72° 49°	67° 40°	63° 39°	59° 41°
Showers	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	A Few Clouds	Mostly Cloudy

R: 74°/54°, scst. showers
 F: 74°/51°, p. cloudy
 S: 70°/50°, m. cloudy
 S: 60°/41°, m. cloudy
 M: 59°/41°, p. cloudy

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

STORM 12 CENTER



David Albers/Herald

Practice makes perfect.

Shannon Jones, a junior from Avon, Ind., practices with the rest of the Western swim team Wednesday evening in Preston Health Center's pool. Both the men's and women's swim teams are 3-0 this season.

Crime Reports

Arrests

•Isaac L. Obermann, Middlesboro, was charged Monday with possession of a forged instrument. He was released from Warren County Regional Jail Tuesday on a \$2,000 cash bond.

•Andrea Leigh Rose, Louisville, was charged Monday with possession of a forged instrument. She was released from Warren County Regional Jail the same day on time served.

•Robert Steven Robinson, Columbia, was charged Tuesday with receiving stolen property under \$300. He was released from Warren County Regional Jail Wednesday on a \$500 unsecured bond.

Reports

•Cory L. Rhodes, Rodes-Harlin Hall, reported Oct. 25 \$250 in damage to the driver-side window of his 1994 Chevrolet Beretta. A Pioneer CD player and other items worth \$1,611 were taken from the vehicle parked in the 14th Street lot between 4 p.m. Oct. 24 and 9:04 a.m. Oct. 25.

•Adriane A. Baker, Angora Court, reported Oct. 25 a temporary parking permit and GTE Visa Card worth \$18 stolen from her 2000 Daewoo Laganza parked on the fifth level of the parking structure between 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Oct. 23.

•John J. Slaughter, Poland Hall, reported Sunday \$100 in damage to the antenna and right outside mirror of his 1993 Ford Ranger parked in the Poland lot between 12:30 and 10:51 a.m. Sunday.

•Matilda D. Bray, Poland, reported Sunday \$550 in damage to both outside mirrors, antenna and right door of her 1992 Honda Civic parked in the Poland lot between 1 and 4:10 p.m. Sunday.

•Patrick A. Douglas, Reef Hall, reported Friday a wallet worth \$35, \$50 cash and a National City Bank Visa debit card stolen from the Downing University Center Food Court between 3:30 and 3:35 p.m. Friday.

•Wei P. Pan, Thompson Complex, reported Saturday \$825 in damage to the windshield, rear window, left-door window, left-outside mirror, right rear taillight

lens and glove compartment door of his 1986 Chevrolet pickup parked in the South Campus lot between 6:10 p.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Saturday.

•Officer Jeff D. Eversoll, campus police, reported Monday \$350 in damage to a 1988 Buick Park Avenue owned by Jeremy T. Roberts, Barnes-Campbell Hall. A stereo and 108 CDs worth \$1,480 were taken from the vehicle parked in the Egypt lot between 11 p.m. Sunday and 9:38 p.m. Monday.

•Stephanie D. Allen, Rodes, reported Monday \$950 in damage to the dashboard and driver-side rear window of her 1993 Toyota Corolla. A CD player worth \$200 was taken from the vehicle parked in the Kentucky Street lot between 2:30 p.m. Oct. 25 and 8:18 a.m. Monday.

•Crystal G. Sparks, Rodes, reported Monday \$350 in damage to the passenger-side window and passenger-side door of her 1995 Dodge Neon. A CD player, radar detector, jumper cables and two CDs worth \$200 were taken from the vehicle parked in the Kentucky Street lot between 3:30 p.m. Sunday and 8:18 a.m. Monday.

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STUDENTS: Views of candidates different

Continued from front page

promptly before boarding the bus.

"I believe in the government not having as much control," he said. "I guess I'm just kind of a conservative."

Cannon said the simple fact of the matter is that Bush is a Republican.

And that is why Cannon supports him.

"(Gore's) not a bad guy," Cannon said. "It's just the fact that he's a Democrat."

At the next bus stop, Mia Belcher explained that Cannon was wrong.

According to her, Gore is a bad guy.

In fact, she said, "Gore is an idiot."

"... I can't vote for Gore after that whole 'I invented the Internet' thing," she said.

She said she wanted McCain to win and now she has to choose between the lesser of two evils.

"(McCain) had done some of

the things that Bush and Gore only talk about," she said.

Shamicka McNurry stopped just before the corner of Normal and Regents to talk about the candidates.

She said she wanted Gore to win.

She even had an agenda for him after he got into office. She wanted the new president to "straighten up the colleges" by giving more money to academics and less money to athletics.

"Make it cheaper to go to school, too," she said.

She also said she would like Gore to come to Western after he is elected to speak to students about how to get a job.

"He seems like he cares," McNurry said. "(He should) come closer to home."

Brandon Mikel sat at the end of the line. While waiting alone at the last bus stop on Normal Street, the Louisville freshman expressed his indifference.

"(I'm) not interested in the candidates," he said.

Parties vie for college vote

By SAM YOUNGMAN
Herald reporter

Ask not what the presidential candidates can do for your country — ask what they can do for college students.

In a race that's closer than Siamese twins, every vote counts and local party leaders think their respective candidates have the most to offer students at Western.

"There are a lot of (issues) young people need to be aware of and need to care about," Warren County Republican chairwoman Jennifer Adams said.

On issues ranging from social security reform to tax credits for college tuition, Texas governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore stand on different sides of the proverbial fence.

Republicans say Bush's plans for the privatization of social security would instill hope for a young person's future.

"The vision George W. Bush has for (young people) just increases their ability to take personal responsibility for themselves, their income," Adams said. "And I believe that's what young people are about nowadays. We want more control."

College Republicans President

Heidi Grogg, a sophomore from Columbus, Ind., said she agrees that social security is an issue vital to the future of students.

"People will be graduating in a year or four years and they'll be able to invest some of their money ... in the future," she said.

When Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore was in Bowling Green two weeks ago for a Bush rally, he said the Texas governor was a strong education-

al advocate. "Education is the issue of the Republican Party of the 21st century," he said.

But state Democratic chairwoman Nicki Patton, Gov. Paul Patton's daughter, said Hilltoppers in voting booths should vote for Gore for a number of reasons.

"(Gore and VP candidate Joseph Lieberman) propose to make college tuition up to \$10,000 tax deductible to all families," she said.

Patton also said the current administration had increased the amount of Pell grants and the money to fund them, which she

said is a tribute to Gore.

Echoing one of the themes of the Gore campaign, Patton added that the nation's current prosperity is a strong reason to vote for the vice president.

"For graduating students, the job market is wide open because of 22 million jobs created by the Clinton/Gore administration nationwide," she said. "Gore and Lieberman want to build on that."

And according to Warren County Democratic chairperson Carla Bohannon, "college graduates can start living the American dream a lot sooner than college graduates under Republican leadership."

"The economy's stronger than it's ever been," she said. "And college graduates can basically pick and choose their jobs."

Though there are dozens of issues that will affect the lives of students, both camps say their candidate is the choice of the new generation.

"Gore and Lieberman have a proven record of making higher education more affordable," Patton said.

But Adams insists that "George Bush cares about the young people of the United States."



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There's no excuse for voter apathy

On Nov. 7, don't bother to vote. Get up, hang around, eat some pizza, drink some beer and go to sleep.

Then shut up for the next four years. Don't like the second part? Then vote. But don't try doing one without the other.

Western is even giving students the day off, just so you can find your polling place. But many of you won't, of course.

It's sad, really. Over half of the world's population doesn't get a day to vote for anything meaningful. We do — and our predecessors fought hard for it — but most of us can't be bothered to get out of bed and pull a lever.

Of course, lots of people say there's nothing meaningful to vote for. All the candidates are the same, aren't they? Except for the 448 minor candidates who don't have a chance anyway.

That's an old excuse for being too lazy to find out candidates' positions or being so ignorant of current events that the parties' positions are unintelligible.

Nobody said making political decisions was supposed to be easy. It's a tremendous responsibility to make choices on public policy, and the minor irritation of staying well-informed is a small price to pay for that privilege.

The most common argument against voting is that it doesn't matter. What difference is one vote going to make in a presidential race, after all? As much as every other vote.

And it's not just about the presidency, there are a dozen other offices up for grabs, from the U.S. Congress down to city commission. In those smaller races, every vote really does matter. Local races are sometimes decided by one vote.

And don't say that politics have no impact on college students' lives, either.

Who fills the national offices will determine what kind of education system we will have — doubly important at a public university. On the local level, the people elected to city commission will determine what kind of town we live in.

But some still reject voting because they don't like the government.

The government is full of evil conspirators, the government is out to get us, the government is corrupt. All this begs the question: who is the government? Who are these dark, sinister figures that pull the strings on our lives?

Answer: you are — if you vote. No matter how much money special interests dump into campaigns, no candidate will win if enough people vote against them. Anti-government conspiracy theories are nothing more than acknowledgements of political apathy.

It's a long-standing truism that in a republic, the government has no more power than the people give it. That statement's unspoken qualification is that only people who vote get to wield that power.

It's a grand night for OVC champs, fans

Congratulations to the Hilltopper football team on its perfect season so far, culminating in the Ohio Valley Conference championship. With its victory, the team reached a second goal it made the OVC sorry we're leaving.

But the most excited people on the field were the postgame fans who tore down the goalposts and took off. While we applaud their enthusiasm, we hope they didn't give Athletics Director Wood Selig any ideas about implementing a perennial "goalpost replacement fee."

Instead, we hope Western fans get an opportunity to tear down more goalposts after victories in the I-AA NCAA playoffs.



Letters to the Editor

The Spirit is back

The Western Spirit has finally arrived in full force. For many, Saturday night was the culmination of a lot of hard work for our Toppers and their coaching staff.

In the words of Coach Harbaugh, "Western shocked the world" (winning the championship in our final season in the Ohio Valley Conference). It was a sight to behold! Coach Harbaugh finally got the championship, which he and his staff so richly deserve. The Toppers attained one of their preseason goals that they have worked so hard for this year. The crowd of happy Topper fans, many of whom have supported the program through the lean years, were amply rewarded with a good game and the championship. And our Western students, who joyously tore down the goalposts in celebration, received an advance on the \$80 athletics fee they were assessed the day before and which they will start paying next semester.

Yes, everyone seemed to win on this night. With just a couple more weeks of football remaining I could like to offer the following encouragement: go all the way, Toppers — and good luck in your pursuit of an undefeated season and national

championship. You certainly deserve it. Let the OVC deeply regret voting us out of the conference. Let's also give our loyal students the opportunity to get another return on their \$80 investment, and let the Board of Regents enjoy what they have done to enhance our program in returning the Spirit to the Hill.

Jim Ramage
Bowling Green alumnus

South Campus is ignored

I hear it every day: people complain about the apathy at Western. I just read of your concern about the Forum page in the Herald and how no one writes their comments to the Herald.

I am a student at South Campus, and I notice how many do not read the Herald. Two reasons for this are that the paper is delivered late in the afternoon and many don't see it until it is old news the next day; also there is a lack of news that pertains to the community college. As a student taking classes at South Campus, I feel that it is not too much to request information regarding events and articles that pertain to the community college and its students.

I hear stories every day of experiences by students that should be heard. For example,

the story of the single mother seeking self-empowerment, the nontraditional student battling the myth that he is too old to learn and the traditional student trying to find his own way, plus the faculty member's struggle to help others prosper. The spirit may make the master, but surely neglecting the soul creates the apathetic. The newsworthy stories are also here at South Campus; all you have to do is ask.

Robbie Lee Lipcomb
Olmstead freshman

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be less than 250 words, typewritten and signed by the author.

Please include your phone number, hometown and class identification or job title.

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

Submit your letters or commentaries between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the Herald office in 122 Garrett Center.

Or you can send them via e-mail to herald@wku.edu.

Quotes & Notes

Senior guard **Nashon McPherson** about men's basketball Coach **Dennis Felton's** boot camp:

“Forget a Tommy Hilfiger, I'm wearin' my 'I survived' shirt.”

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Gore, Dems work for college students

Paper or plastic? Boxes or bribs? Briny or Christina? Ramen noodles or Spam?

College students make a lot of tough decisions every day, but the decision they make on Nov. 7 will affect them for the next four years.

As members of the WKU College Democrats, we know why Al Gore is the best choice for president. Do you? Al Gore wants to make up to \$10,000 of your college tuition tax deductible



Allen Hawkins
commentary

allowing more people to afford higher education. In 1997, the Clinton-Gore administration proposed the successful legislation for the HOPE scholarship—a \$1,500 tax credit given the first two years of college.

The Clinton-Gore administration also successfully secured the Pell grant program in 20 years. Last year, Pell grants helped almost four million students afford college. In 1995, the Republican majority in Congress tried to cut \$10 billion from student loan programs. Al Gore and other Democrats were successful in stopping this legislation.

As college students we are working toward a better future for ourselves, and Al Gore wants to make sure the earth has a better future, as well. As vice president and a member of Congress, Gore took steps to strengthen standards for cleaner air and water and led an early effort against global warming. Under George W. Bush's

watch, Houston surpassed Los Angeles as the city with the most air pollution in the United States.

As president, Bush has said he will drill for oil on the government-owned National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. This would possibly add devastating effects on the environment.

Al Gore also supports a woman's right to choose—he has said he does not think the federal government should be able to regulate abortion. Bush has taken a rigid pro-life stance in his campaign.

The presidency is not the only thing at stake this year. Democrat Brian Pedito also needs your support in his race for Congress. Last week, incumbent Ron Lewis refused to participate in the only debate between the candidates.

Many college students think their votes do not count. In this election year, with the candidate's leads changing practically every day, your vote counts more than ever before. As president, Al Gore will continue to expand opportunities for young people.

Your parents probably vote, that crazy English professor who had last semester will probably vote, and the finger-pointing preacher that shouts outside Downing University Center every semester will probably vote. Do you really want to decide who leads the country in the 21st century? Get out and vote on Nov. 7, and better yet, vote Democrat.

Henderson senior Justin Hawkins, president of the WKU College Democrats, is a history major. College Democrats' Treasurer Janis Sublett, a senior government major, from Bowling Green, and Erin Wilkins, a senior government and print journalism major from Shepherdsville, also contributed to this commentary.

Apathy shows electoral system needs changing

The Electoral College needs to be abolished because it hinders American democracy. After 196 years with the 12th Amendment and the College, it is time to change our policies and our politics.

At the Electoral College's creation in 1804, the people who were eligible to vote were white males, mostly land-owning aristocrats who questioned the common man's ability to choose leaders.

The electoral system imposes no penalties on electors who do not vote in accordance with the popular vote. Perhaps this quality was built into the College to ensure that some candidates would not be elected president, regardless of the common man's majority choice.

Americans have grown from traveling on horseback to traveling on high-speed jets. The Pony Express is now the Internet. We are better educated than our ancestors were. The right to vote is the right of all American citizens, regardless of land-ownership, gender and race. We are ready to advance our democracy to a level in which every vote counts directly in the presidential election.

Washington, our first leader, did not adhere to political parties; in fact, he cautioned against them. But the college does favor a two-party system. This November, Ralph Nader, the Green Party candidate, may garner some popular votes, but without electors' support, he and other third-party candidates will not stand on a political level with Gore and Bush.

The number of electors in a state depends on its population.

Thus states with the largest populations stay in play while smaller states fall through the cracks.

This is why Gore and Bush are so busy suffocating voters with prescription plan options and tax cut promises in the big electoral states: California with 54 votes, 32 in Texas and 25 in Florida.

Without California, political outsiders such as Nader, the Reform party's Pat Buchanan and the Libertarians' Harry Browne have little chance of winning. Of the 338 total electoral votes, 270 are needed to win the presidency. History has proven time and again that Democratic and Republican candidates have an easier time winning electoral votes than do independent and third-party candidates.

Voter apathy proves that something isn't right with the current system. In election after election, registered voters complain that their votes don't count. If Americans felt their votes truly did count, more people would take an interest. Now is the time to oust the Electoral College before American democracy ends up looking like Peru or Chile.

Karri Emly is a senior print journalism major from Bowling Green.



Karri Emly
commentary

Bush the 'only choice' for future

Fellow Hilltoppers, George W. Bush is the only choice for our future. He has the most innovative ideas for Social Security since its inception. He will allow us, the young workers of America, to invest some of our hard-earned money and earn more than just 1 or 2 percent as we presently do in Social Security. Over the past 100 years, there has not been a 10-year period where you would have lost money in the stock market. Since we will not need that money for another 40 or more years, our retirement benefits will be a viable source of income and Social Security will be sustained for future generations thanks to George W. Bush.

George W. Bush wants to cut taxes. If you are like me, you do not earn enough income to pay any federal income tax, but one day I will. George W. Bush believes no one should pay more than 33 percent of their income, and that the lowest tax bracket should be lowered from 15 to 10 percent. You have heard a lot from Mr. Gore about "This tax cut is just a break for the top 1 percent of income earners." This is incorrect, because as a percentage, the top tax bracket is lowered only 3 percent while the bottom bracket is lowered five. As a student in the Gordon Ford College of Business, I aspire one day to be in that top 1

percent of income earners and possibly donate a large gift to Western. Therefore, it begs the question of "Why should I vote for a man who is already against me?" We must understand that the same people that are predicting huge surpluses in the future are the same people that predicted we would have huge deficits today. If the surplus is more than 33 percent, would you rather have your tax dollars back in your pocket or in Washington where they are certain to be spent? George W. Bush believes surplus tax money belongs to the people, not the government, and wants to give it back to the taxpayers.

Al Gore is not good for Kentucky. Kentucky is the third-largest auto producer in the nation. We are one of the nation's leaders in tobacco production, and coal mining is a big business in our state. Mr. Gore stated in his 1992 book "Earth in the Balance" that the internal combustion engine is the biggest threat to our world. I do not need to remind you of how much damage the Clinton-Gore administration has done to the tobacco industry, and Mr. Gore's environmental views do not bode well for the coal industry. Kentucky could be in big

trouble if Mr. Gore is elected.

George W. Bush will keep our country's prosperity secure. Do not be deceived, the government has had little to do with our good economic times. It is because of America's technological revolution and courageous entrepreneurs that our country has been able to achieve its prosperity. George W. Bush has spent most of his life in the business world, not Washington, and he understands that the role of government should be to create an environment where entrepreneurs and families can flourish and reach their dreams while staying out of their way.

Ultimately, George W. Bush believes you know what is best for you, and not the government. He wants you to have more control of your life, and not the government. He believes we need reform, bold initiatives and accountability to fix America's problems. Instead of just throwing more money at them as Mr. Gore suggests.

This coming Tuesday, take advantage of your day off and go vote. Election day is the only day when your opinion really counts. Make sure you vote for our future by voting George W. Bush for president.

Ryan Morrison, vice president of the WKU College Republicans, is a senior finance major from Russell Springs.

Ryan Morrison
commentary

Editor's note:

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the College Heights Herald. The Herald does not vouch for the accuracy of any statements or figures contained herein, nor does the Herald endorse any particular candidate.



For a party that cares, vote Green

If you're like me, politics has been a dirty word for most of your life. You've watched candidates come along, promising change, promising great things, promising integrity, and been disappointed every single time by their campaign lies. If you're like me, you're probably among the majority of young voters who'd much rather sleep in on election day than go down the street to the polls and cast your vote for one of two tired old faces. Why would you want to vote for someone that you know will never do half of the things he talks about, and the other half won't serve your interests at all? Why bother to vote for one of these boring old liars whose only real interests are the interests of big businesses, tired old political ideologies and a quest for power? Why bother, if you're like me?

OK, maybe you aren't like me, but the fact of the matter is that boring old liars are one real interest: the interests of big businesses, tired old political ideologies and a quest for power? Why bother, if you're like me?

Enter Ralph Nader, advocate of the American people for decades. Enter Ralph Nader, who has a record of standing up for what he

believes, no matter what. Enter Ralph Nader, a writer, a speaker—not a tired old politician—and suddenly I want to vote. Suddenly there is someone whom I trust, someone who the record shows is trustworthy, who stands for what I stand for. Enter a presidential candidate who clearly stands for socialized health care, legalization of industrial hemp and a living wage that allows working people to stay above the poverty line. Ralph Nader is a candidate who can get these things, who has dedicated his life to getting these things. Bush and Gore have only dedicated their lives to their bank accounts and political careers; they know nothing about what it means to be an average American.

Then, of course, is the diversity issue. Bush and Gore are not only boring, but they're both four-letter words. Let's see: N-A-D-E-R, wait, that's five letters! He must be different! But what's this? His running mate is someone named Winona LaDuke? That's a lot of letters! And what's more, she is a woman. She is a Native American, a mother of three, whose children go to school in a mobile home on a

reservation. Now, there is diversity, there is a reflection of the America I see every day. Finally there is a candidate who stands more than just the white, wealthy male majority of politicians. Nader and LaDuke are people I think I can trust, they're people I can identify with. So I am going to vote for them.

Unfortunately, a lot of those people like me aren't going to vote for Nader-LaDuke on Nov. 7. They aren't going to vote for them because they've never heard of them. They've never heard of them because even though Nader and the Green Party qualify to be on the ballot in 46 out of 50 states, they can't get campaign financing without selling their souls to big business, which they stand strongly against. Neither Nader nor LaDuke are allowed to debate the two main candidates because it doesn't serve big business.

That makes me mad. That makes me want to do more than vote; it makes me want to distribute 30,000 flyers for Nader-LaDuke 2000. If you feel the same, meet me and the other Greens this Saturday at 10 a.m. on the third floor of Downing University Center to get the message out.

At the very least, vote for someone who isn't a prisoner of old ideas; vote for someone who isn't your parents' candidate. Vote for Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke.

Nathan Metcalf, media correspondent for the WKU Green Party, is a sophomore religious studies and sociology major from Louisville.

Nathan Metcalf
commentary

RANKINGS: Magazine ranks Murray State in first tier

Continued From Front Page

ranking — Western was nowhere to be found.

"We're not where we want to be, but we're making progress," President Gary Ransdell said.

Western administrators say there are clear reasons for the university's absence. They also say the academic climate at Western is changing and that change will bring accolades and rankings as a result of growing student success. University officials hope that by 2008 Western will have achieved a K&T-tier ranking, as outlined in Western's strategic plan.

This year, the Hill couldn't be found anywhere in the U.S. News issue on magazine stands.

As readers perused the famous issue, however, they may have noticed that Western's cross-state rival, Murray State University, was ranked 20th in the first tier of southern regional universities. Or maybe they read that Bellarmine College in Louisville was ranked 27th on the first tier.

To find data on Western, students and parents had to pick up the full publication, *America's Best Colleges* — a

more extensive compilation of reports about most colleges and universities in the country published by U.S. News and World Report. In this book, Western could be found among the second tier of southern regional universities.

U.S. News ranks the schools using 11 different criteria ranging from academic reputation to rate of alumni donations. Some factors are more influential than others. Academic reputation, for example, accounts for 25 percent of the overall score.

According to the article "How We Rank the Colleges" by Robert J. Morse and Samuel M. Flanigan, "reputation is determined by surveying the presidents, provosts, and deans of admission at institutions in each category."

Those surveyed respond by rating schools on a scale of one to five with a grade of five considered distinguished.

In this category, Western came in above the average with a score of 3.2, whereas Murray State and Bellarmine both scored a 3.0.

Dale said this statistic is encouraging, but Western's ratings in other categories are

what really tell the tale.

"One area that we really need to improve in is retention," he said.

Dale said low retention and overall graduation rates hurt Western's score because they are a "significant element of their ranking scheme."

Graduation and retention rates account for 20 percent of the total score. Western posted a freshman retention rate of 70 percent and a graduation rate of 39 percent compared to Murray retaining 73 percent of their freshman and graduating 45 percent overall.

Dale and Provost Barbara Burch said improving these numbers is essential to the future success of the university, and a ranking in U.S. News would be an added benefit.

"We should be focusing on different factors," Dale said. "If we do a good job with freshman seminar, we're likely to increase freshman retention rates. If we increase freshman

retention rates, one impact is we're likely to increase graduation rates overall."

Officials say as these strategic goals are met, a U.S. News ranking will follow.

Western's strategic plan sets 2008 as the target year for the recognized culmination of those efforts.

Burch said a U.S. News ranking would be an extra benefit of accomplishing the goals the university has already set for itself.

"We're going to do it by helping students be successful," she said. "If we do end up there, it would be nice."

Burch and Dale said U.S. News annual findings are useful in helping the university measure itself against its own goals and other universities.

"Sometimes it's not easy to get benchmark information from other schools," Dale said. "U.S. News is a way of getting some information from one

source about several different colleges."

Western's administration said the obvious public relations implications of Western's first-tier absence aren't cause for panic.

"Does it have PR and image value? Obviously, it does," Burch said. "If you believe that perception is fact for some people, then it's important how you're perceived."

Burch said the data "helps us get a better sense of how our reputation's perceived."

"Are we saying that the U.S. News and World Report definition of quality is our definition of quality?" she said. "No. Not everyone works by the same set of definitions."

Ransdell said those definitions do vary but when it comes to student success, an overlap is inevitable.

"Not everyone is in agreement with the value of such rankings," he said. "But U.S. News and World Report are fairly consistent with our strategic priorities."

As the university continues to improve, benefits like regional rankings are sure to follow, Western officials said.

Country performer coming to campus

Chad Brock show scheduled for Nov. 6

By Jennifer L. Dugas

Staff Writer

Chad Brock, a country music performer, will be performing at the Houchens Center Theatre on Nov. 6 to raise money for adoption and foster care services.

Brock's wife Marty, who was adopted as a child, taught music at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Bowling Green.

All money raised will go toward funding educational trips to museums and to the zoo, as well as dental kits and other necessities for the children.

Brock may also be exchanging vocals with one of Bowling Green's musically-inclined children. Brock's wife saw the blooming talent on Thursday's Child, a television program designed to highlight children who are up for adoption, and immediately wanted the child to share the stage with her husband.

Tickets to the concert, which will run from 6 to 9 p.m., will be sold at the door as well as the Houchens' stores on Louisville Road and in Glasgow. They will also be available at the WGGC Country 95 radio station. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and free for children 4 and under.

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SGA spends \$7,000 on bus shelter

By BRANDY WARREN
Herald reporter

The Student Government Association voted Tuesday to spend more than \$9,000 on campus improvement projects.

The amount, roughly 10 percent of SGA's overall budget this year, will go toward a new shuttle shelter and bronze polished letters to be placed on brick posts on University Boulevard.

The new five-by-15 foot shuttle shelter will hold between 15 and 19 people and will be located at the shuttle stop across from Tate Page Hall on Normal Drive. The shelter itself will cost \$4,000, and another \$3,000 will go toward having the necessary parts delivered, a concrete pad and labor to build the shelter. Any money that is not used will go back into SGA's budget.

SGA members decided this would be the most effective area for a new shelter after viewing the results from student surveys.

The new shelter is one of two that will be built on campus. SGA allocated \$11,000 last year for a shelter on Normal Drive by the Barnes-Campbell lot. This shelter will be six-by-18 feet and hold between 22 and 27 passengers.

SGA Vice President Leslie Bedo said these are the first of several shelters that will eventually be built on the Hill.

A few weeks ago the Parking and Transportation Committee agreed to pay for additional parking on the south end of campus if SGA would agree to purchase the shelters.

The agreement came after SGA offered to contribute money to solve the parking problem.

"It was kind of a trade off," Bedo said.

Powderly junior Andrea Lovell said SGA will continue to purchase shuttle shelters in the future.

"We want to buy one new one each year," she said.

The new shelter locations are all along the internal shuttle loop.

SGA also passed a resolution asking the university to purchase an additional shuttle for the internal loop route. Bridge Wilfert, a junior from Fishers, Ind., who has been working on the resolution, said there are too many people waiting at certain shuttle stops and the shuttle cannot pick up all of the passengers.

Those passengers are left to wait and end up late for class, she said. A new bus would cost anywhere from \$32,000 for a school-type bus to \$90,000 for a Big Red-type bus.

"People have a right to use the shuttle bus and right now, they're not able to use it," Wilfert said.

SGA also passed a proposal to purchase polished bronze letters to place on the six highest brick posts along University Boulevard. The letters will spell "WKU" twice.

Bedo said SGA has been working on the campus beautification project since last year. The new letters will cost \$2,356.80 to purchase and install.

If the letters are ever stolen, the university will pay to replace them.

Auditor questions CPE funding program

Report probably won't affect Western

By CAROLINE LYNCH
Herald reporter

The Council on Postsecondary Education's Bucks for Brains program, which has provided Kentucky universities with \$230 million in matching funds, got some negative reviews this week from the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts.

Western has received \$7 million from the program, which was put in place to encourage universities to raise permanent funds for new faculty positions, or endowed chairs. The program matches a certain amount of the private funds with state money as soon as the donation is announced.

The auditor, Gerald Hoppmann, praised the amount

of monetary support the CPE is providing Kentucky universities through the Bucks for Brains program, but highlighted several areas of concern with the program in his seven-page report, including:

♦ Not requiring universities to use the state funds on endowed chairs, which the report says was intended as the program's main focus when it was approved by the General Assembly in 1997. The report said only 33% of the \$110 million allotted for 1998-2000 was used to endow chairs.

♦ Allowing universities to match money that originally came from the state or money they already had instead of requiring it to be new money from private donations.

♦ Failing to keep a close enough watch over how the matching funds were spent.

Though the auditing company can't force the CPE to change its ways, its report is distributed to legislative committees and the governor both of whom could make changes to the program.

But Dan Rabuzzi, associate vice president for the CPE, said though CPE officials take the report seriously, they disagree with some of the suggested changes — including the assertion that the money should only be used for endowed chairs.

"Limiting Bucks for Brains to endowed chairs, as the Auditor's report recommends, would greatly reduce its effectiveness," a CPE press release said.

The release also said CPE officials think universities should be monitoring how their funds are spent, not the council.

Hoppmann said even if the suggested changes are heeded by the CPE, it won't have much effect on Western.

The university might be required to provide additional reports on how it is spending its money or spend the extra money on endowed positions instead of endowed professorships like it has in the past.

Tom Hiles, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, said Western has nothing to fear from increased

scrutiny of the way it spends its money.

"Some institutions may have used non-private money for matches," he said. "... that was not the case from Western."

Western was the first school to match all the money it was given from the Bucks for Brains program. The university was given \$2.3 million in the first two years of the program and was allotted \$4.6 million for 2000-2002.

Hiles called Bucks for Brains "the most generous matching fund, in terms of getting money up front, that I have ever seen. I just wish we had more of it."

Rabuzzi said Western's use of funds was an example of "precisely what the General Assembly and CPE had hoped for."

Despite the problems highlighted in his report, Hoppmann said his department still supported the program.

"We think Bucks for Brains is the cornerstone of improving higher education in Kentucky," he said.

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Under-21 club scene becomes cooler

By TAYLOR LOYAL
Herald reporter

One club has closed and another has opened in Bowling Green's ever-changing under-21 scene.

The latest victim, Galaxy 2000. "It's gone," former owner and Elkhorn junior Tim Thomas said. "I shut it down probably two weeks ago."

Thomas pins part of the blame on rappers Trick Daddy and Trina, who refused to perform Oct. 13, costing Thomas \$40,000.

"I was looking to pull back off of Galaxy 2000 anyway," Thomas said. "The Trick Daddy and Trina thing sped up the process a little bit."

The former club owner said he has spent the past two weeks working with lawyers on a lawsuit against the rappers in order to get his money back.

"I'm not just gonna stick my head in the sand," Thomas said. "I'm still not happy about it, but I won't dwell on it."

Meanwhile, clubgoers—especially those under 21—are looking for another place to party.

Louisville freshman Tiffany Martin, 19, said she was surprised to hear about the closing of the club. And she said that many students who can't go to Nashville or Louisville to dance may be disappointed.

"There it goes again," she said. "Nothing for us under 21 to do again."

Club 302 owner Craig Eversoll said that's not the case. He said the scene's about to get much, much cooler.

Friday night, he opened The Kooler, an under-21 club at the old GoodTimes location on the 31-W Bypass. It's now the only underage club in Bowling Green, and Eversoll said he has a plan to make his club work.

"I'm in touch with the students," Eversoll said. "I'm gonna give them what they want."

The club will be open from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday. On Wednesday night, the club will have live bands. On Thursday it will be college night. And on Friday and Saturday, Eversoll will have what the club's weekend party.

Brent Kirby, who is a security guard at The Kooler, likes Eversoll's ideas. Kirby, 21, remembers being 16 and he said that unless teenagers want to go to the mall or bowling, there really aren't many opportunities for fun in Tupper town.

"They have no place to go," Kirby said.

Kirby also said that since frat parties have been "cracked down on," college fiestas have been confined even further.

Since this club won't be serving alcohol, there is no legal limit on how long Eversoll can keep his Kooler open.

From 2 until 6 a.m. after regular hours on Saturday, Eversoll plans to have an after-hours party. The music will change from hip hop to techno, the cover might go up a bit and anyone who isn't 18 or older won't be allowed inside.

Frank Lee, 17, and Sean McGaughey, 18, were at the club Tuesday night for the Halloween party. While they said they liked the location and the fact that it's the only under-21 club they had other reasons to attend for why they wanted to come to The Kooler.

"Hopefully I'll be able to find some other parties," Lee said. "That would be nice."

Western's Green Party takes action this year

By MAI HOANG
Herald reporter

It all started with a speech on CSPAN.

Madisonville senior Ambre Armstrong saw Ralph Nader speak — it inspired her to form Western's Green Party just weeks later.

The Green Party started in the 1960s as an anti-nuclear movement. In the 1970s, members were known for their environmental movement and in 1984 came the first organized signs of what would become the Green Party.

By 1992 there were state and national Green parties, and in 1996 there was a national convention to elect Nader as a presidential candidate. Nader placed fourth in the election with less than 1 percent of the vote.

The party stands on 10 key values which include grassroots democracy, non-violence, feminism and ecological wisdom. Party issues are usually determined at the local and state level.

"It's decentralized," Armstrong said. "You can have a local organization that decides what to stand for."

Western's Green Party officially formed on Sept. 6. The group has held meetings, but is really just getting started. For many of the members, it offers an alternative to the two-party system.

"I disagree with the bipartisan system," Louisville sophomore Nathan Metcalf said. "I feel a lot of people's voices aren't represented through Republicans and Democrats."

But many people are still unfamiliar with the party's philosophies. At a recent meeting the group held in DUC, it had to clarify what the Green Party was all about to a lot of the participants who weren't really sure.

One of the big issues for the party is consumer advocacy and the discussion turned to labor practices. Nader says bringing factories back to the United States would eliminate sweatshops with horrible labor conditions.

Most of the meeting revolved around Nader's campaign.

"Nader addresses issues that the Republicans and Democrats wouldn't even touch," Metcalf said.

Some had other issues with the election process. Chicago freshman Ronald Fishback had problems with the electoral college.

"If technology is that far ahead," Fishback said, "why do we vote in a group to send one person that might change the vote?"

Some members, like librarian Penny Papayelis, were upset about the conception that a vote for Nader is a throw-away vote.

"If you want to vote for Nader, vote for him," Papayelis said. "Ralph Nader is a consumer advocate; he is working for the people."

There was also discussion about labor practices, fear of a marshal rule and economics. Fishback was among the people at the meeting who talked about the possibility of the United States being run by the military.

He said he fears a "police-type

nation" that would constantly be at war.

Besides the meetings, a group of Green Party members also went to Centre College in Danville to protest earlier this month at the vice-presidential debate, because Nader was not allowed to participate in the presidential debates.

Metcalf was one of the members involved with the peaceful protests.

"People in Danville will never view our government the same way again," Metcalf said. "I think we achieved awareness that the voices of Americans are by no means heard by Gore or Bush."

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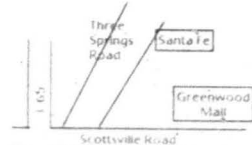
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photo illustration by Jaclyn McCabe/Herald

Chicago senior Melissa Weinstein has worked at The Great Escape for two years. She said that most people shop for used compact discs because they cost less and there is a large selection. The Great Escape also sells comic books, posters, movies and many new compact discs from independent artists.

Cheap Discoveries

STORY BY MAI HOANG

Eminem's and Björk's first albums can't be found on Billboard's Top 20. But they can be found here in Bowling Green.

The city's two used compact disc stores offer cheaper CDs (average \$7.8 a disc), but they also offer the music collector a chance to get CDs that are unavailable in the U.S. or out of print. It also offers people a chance to hear music they are not normally exposed to.

"We can't be the next Target or Best Buy. We put stuff out for people to take a chance on," said Brent Fisk, owner of Box of Rocks. "When we find an album, we want people to know about it."

Box of Rocks, located on 917 Broadway, is selective in the music they take in. They also have a request box where people can ask for CDs they want. Albums by Radiohead and Black Crowes are in high demand, Fisk said.

"We have a lot of classic rock CDs and

import and live CDs, blues and jazz albums that aren't mainstream," said Amanda Gossett, Glasgow sophomore and Box of Rocks employee. "We don't buy one-hit wonder type music."

With their eccentric selection of music, Box of Rocks' business picks up during the school year, Gossett said. Bowling Green freshman Julie Butler is one of their customers.

"I go to Box of Rocks because they have a lot of things you can't find," Butler said. "I like Tori Amos and Ani DiFranco and they have imports you can't find anywhere else."

But Box of Rocks isn't the only store in town. Further down the road is The Great Escape on Bryant Way. Unlike Box of Rocks, they take in a wide variety of CDs.

"We try to cover all categories of music," said Matt Pfefferkorn. "We try not to cater to one type of crowd."

Formally known as Pac-Rats, the store



Jaclyn McCabe/Herald

Drakesboro senior Charles McCoy shops for used compact discs at The Great Escape Wednesday. McCoy says he shops for used discs because they are less expensive.

has been in Bowling Green since 1984. It started as a comic-book store, but when they relocated they expanded their sales to new and used CDs, among other things. In 1990, the store was bought by Great Escape, Inc., a used-merchandise retail franchise.

The Great Escape sells toys, videos and DVDs as well. Pfefferkorn said this is to portray a family-type atmosphere.

"We draw a wide variety of people," Pfefferkorn said. "We have a lot of families come in and shop for the different items we carry."

Pikeville junior Jason Smith is an employee at The Great Escape. He says the store, because it is part of a small chain, can offer more inventory than other stores.

SEE CHEAP, PAGE 11

Columnist searches for true name of president's dog



SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK
Matt Batchelor

I thought I was on the verge of a university controversy. Last Thursday as I was scanning through this fine publication we call the Herald, I came across an adorable picture.

A couple of students were stooping down to pet President Gary Ransdell's adorable Dalmatian, Maggie.

"Maggie?" I thought the dog's name was Topper. Could this be

true? A dog with two names?

I could see the headlines now: "CANINE CONTROVERSY SOLVED: TOPPER'S REAL NAME IS MAGGIE." "DOG'S DUBBING IN DOUBT." "TOPPER'S A GIRL."

Was it really Topper? Was I imagining things?

So I pored through stacks of back issues of this paper until

Eureka!

Herald, a reporter asked Ransdell if he was considering jobs elsewhere. In jest, Ransdell asked Tom Hiles what his dog's name was.

Sure enough, "Topper," responded Hiles, the vice president for Development and Alumni Relations.

I was hot on the trail. I decided to head up some news, so I started digging.

I got on the phone and called

Ransdell's wife, Julie, to get to the center of the dog question. The answer was alarmingly simple.

"We have two dogs," Mrs. Ransdell said.

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Topper. And there's a Maggie, too."

In fact, the Ransdells' Dalmatian celebrated her 11th birthday yesterday with an extra

SEE ROCK, PAGE 12

Eldon Renaud

for

City Commissioner

November 7, 2000



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

TOWN/GOWN RELATIONSHIPS STARTED BY MAYOR RENAUD

"Bowling Green would not have been recognized as a 'dream city' or the #1 city in America for corporate location without Western Kentucky University. I want to thank Western students and faculty who have been an invaluable resource for me as mayor."

I am a graduate student in Public Administration at WKU. My undergraduate degree is in Government from Southern Illinois University.

Appointed more than 35 Professors and Staff Personnel from WKU to serve on City Boards & Commissions

Airport - Beautification - Bicentennial - BGMU - Code Enforcement - Committee on Local Government - Greenbelt - Parks Advisory - Planning & Zoning - Traffic Commission - Tree Advisory

Started the 1st City/WKU Committee on Local Government.

Chaired by Professor Jim Highland

Presently partnering with WKU to build Performing Arts Center and possibly renovate Diddle Arena

Introduced Ordinance to offer appointments to WKU students to 5 separate boards and commissions in city government (Voted down by Commissioners Bullington, Jones, Denning, and Hall)

Hired 4 WKU graduates to serve as Legislative Assistants/International Coordinator (\$28,500 yearly salary) in the Mayor's office. After serving in Mayor's office, each student went on to higher paying job. (Funding for this position was eliminated by Commissioners Bullington, Denning, Jones, and Hall)

Past Legislative Assistants/International Coordinators Krista Knaul - Andy Spears - Jeff Oliver - Tim Hutton

Hired 4 paid interns in 5 year term to work in Mayor's office. (Funding for this position was eliminated by Commissioners Bullington, Jones, Hall, and Denning)

Lena Sweeten - Krista Knaul - Andy Spears - Jeff Oliver (Last 3 promoted to Legislative Assistants & International Coordinators)

Hired full time Volunteer Coordinator to Facilitate Volunteer efforts with Honors Students

Began Business Recycling Program - Christmas light contest

Assist with yearly minority journalism workshop

Other programs initiated:

- Neighborhood (SNAP) Grant which received Enterprise Innovation Award from Kentucky League of Cities.
- Geographic Information System Consortium
- City's Internet Site
- Veteran's Day Parade
- Russell Sims Aquatic Park

I supported:

- Landlord - Tenant Act (I was the only Commissioner to vote for Landlord - Tenant Act which was supported by WKU's student body president.)
- Cable T.V. Competition
- Better Public Transportation

Thank you for your public service to our community.

Mayor Eldon J. Renaud

Vote

Eldon Renaud

for City Commissioner

November 7, 2000

Paid for by Eldon Renaud, Campaign for City Commissioner

CHEAP: New and used music sold in two second-hand shops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"This store can get CDs from the stores in Louisville and Nashville," Smith said. "A lot of times things will go out of print and we can have the opportunity to get them."

Since they are able to get used CDs from other stores, The Great Escape has a wide variety of genres. It offers rock, pop, and soul, plus soundtracks, country, Christian rock, jazz and blues.

They also have an extensive vinyl selection.

"We have all sorts of stuff under one roof," said Fenner Castner, an employee at The Great Escape.

Kevin Pace, a Bowling Green resident, wanted to find all the original "Star Wars" videos.

He went to The Great Escape.

"You can find old stuff that you can't find anywhere else for good prices," Pace said.



The Great Escape also holds special events. In October they had a midnight-release party for Radiohead's new release, "Kid A." Along with selling the new CD, they had a 25 percent off sale and gave away Radiohead merchandise.

They also had their annual Halloween sidewalk sale, and later they will have their 12 Days Before Christmas Sale, where items will be on sale each day.

Both stores buy used CDs as well. Box of Rocks and The Great Escape both have strict buying policies. CDs should be in the condition they were in

when originally sold; Castner said.

That means no scratches and all original cover art and liner notes. Butler has tried selling CDs, but has had little success.

"I brought in 12 CDs and they say only one was good," Butler said. "It's not a good way to make money, but if you need a few extra dollars it helps."

Despite being the only two used CD stores in Bowling Green, Fisk says that the competition between Box of Rocks and The Great Escape is a friendly one.

He admits that he likes to know which store is doing better, but in the end it comes down to the customer.

"You want your customers (to be) happy," Fisk said. "If I can help them find something even if I sent them to the competition, they'll come back to the store."

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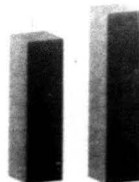
THE IMPACT OF EXPENSES ON PERFORMANCE

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Low Expense Account

\$176,000

High Expense Account



Total accumulations after 20 years based on initial investment of \$50,000 and hypothetical annual returns of 8%. Total return and principal value of investments will fluctuate, and yield may vary. The chart above is presented for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect actual performance, or predict future results, of any TIAA-CREF account, or reflect taxes.



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CHH

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Cheesestix

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CHH

Rock: Maggie just one of Ransdell's zoo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

serving of scraps after dinner. Julie said it brought back memories. It all started back in Clemson, S.C. when Ransdell was a vice president at Clemson University.

"She was a Christmas present for the boys," Mrs. Ransdell said. "Grandma decided we needed a dog."

About 11 years later, the Ransdells adopted the latest canine addition to the family, Topper.

And it is a family. The black Labrador joins Maggie and two cats, Tiger and Purima, both named after universities Ransdell has served.

They adopted Tiger just after Ransdell started at Clemson and named him after the school's mascot. "That just seemed like an appropriate name for a cat," Ransdell said.

Purima is the latest feline addition to the family, named after the mascot at Southern Methodist University in Dallas where Ransdell worked from 1981-1987.

Mrs. Ransdell found the stray cat earlier this semester as she was taking a walk around campus one day. She tried a while to put the kitten up for adoption, but the family eventually decided to keep it.

"I need to live in the country," Mrs. Ransdell remarked. "Then I could take in all these strays."

With Mrs. Ransdell and sons Matthew and Patrick clamoring for new pets, does Ransdell ever have to say "no?"

"Not more than a couple times a week, anyway," Ransdell said.

"We're suckers for cute pets."

Topper, of course, is named after this university. "Mrs. Ransdell said, 'She's just Maggie,'" Mrs. Ransdell said. She got her name when the Ransdells were driving through the Maggie Valley in North Carolina.

Somehow, they all get along. Maggie is the matriarch of the animal family, Julie said, regal and affectionate. Topper is the wacky juvenile of the family.

"She loves balls," Mrs. Ransdell said. "You could throw it 200 times, and she'd catch it those 200 times."

"A little bit of Topper goes a long way," Gary added.

But Maggie puts everything in perspective.

"She's been a good dog," Mrs. Ransdell said. "She really has." Happy birthday, Maggie.

SuperPicks

◆ Another weekend, another punk rock show. This week, catch The Devil is Electric, The Charities, The Hissfits and Altar of Peace 8 p.m. Friday at 1410 Adams Street. It's \$5.

◆ Two experimental Christian rock bands will be playing Friday at the Java House. Catch Foxhole and The Caulfield Solution at 10 p.m. It's free.

◆ Western's Children's Theatre continues its series at 4 p.m. Friday with a showing of "The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse." It also plays at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in Gordon Wilson Hall, Theatre 100. It's \$1.

Who let the dogs out? It was Matt. Drop him a line at batchm@wku.edu.

News of the Weird by Chuck Shepherd

Hit by the ugly tree

A New York appeals court ruled in July that a 53-year-old, serial-plastic-surgery patient, who became dissatisfied with her tucked-and-tightened body after 12 operations over a seven-year period, could sue her doctor for malpractice, despite her consent to all surgeries, because she might suffer from the disorder that causes a person to think his or her body is ugly. The complaining patient has had work done on her nose, eyelids, chin, eyebrows, flanks, thighs, knees, breasts and stomach.

Thigh high

A highlight of the East Finley Summer Festival in Clayville, Pa., in July was the return of the popular "chicken-flying contest" after a 10-year hiatus. As explained by the Observer-Reporter newspaper of Washington, Pa., chickens are placed in ordinary mailboxes, which are then abruptly opened with a toilet plunger, which somehow sends them flying hundreds of feet, with the longest flight winning first prize. During chicken-flying's hiatus, said Festival sponsor,

sors, cow-patty bingo was featured but was not nearly as exciting.

Child's play

In June, a federal grand jury in Springfield, Mo., indicted Todd Morman Murray, 27, on charges that he stole 45 pounds of explosives from a chemical plant and "hid" them in his children's playhouse.

Bad train of thought

A young man suffered a broken arm when he was walking so close to railroad tracks that a passing train violently knocked his surfboard out of his hands.

And a 25-year-old woman lost the toes on her right foot when she crawled under a slow-moving train as a shortcut to the correct platform.

And an inebriated man's life was saved by his wife, who pulled him just in time from the path of a speeding train after he had lingered on the tracks to make an obscene gesture at the conductor.

Optimism bites

In August, Elsie Holdren, 68, a security officer working on con-

tract at a courthouse in Viera, Fla., was transferred by her company to a courthouse in nearby Melbourne because her superiors thought she was too courteous.

"Due to your caring and giving nature," wrote Holdren's supervisor with Weiser Security Services in Orlando, "you are compromising your position as a security officer. Being caring and giving is not a job requirement, nor is it what you are paid to do."

Home Alone 23

A 17-year-old boy was arrested in Loomis, Calif., in July after he was unsuccessful in what might have been an attempt to emulate the notorious "Robtroy/Robber," who had burglarized more than 40 businesses in California and other states by entering through roofs and who was captured in May. Unlike the original, the 17-year-old crashed through a false ceiling in his first job, broke a sink while standing on it and trying to climb out, then made it to a false ceiling and crawled to an adjacent store, but fell through that ceiling, too, injuring his ankle. Finally, on his way out, he tripped the burglar alarm and had police waiting for him.

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78% of WKU Students Have

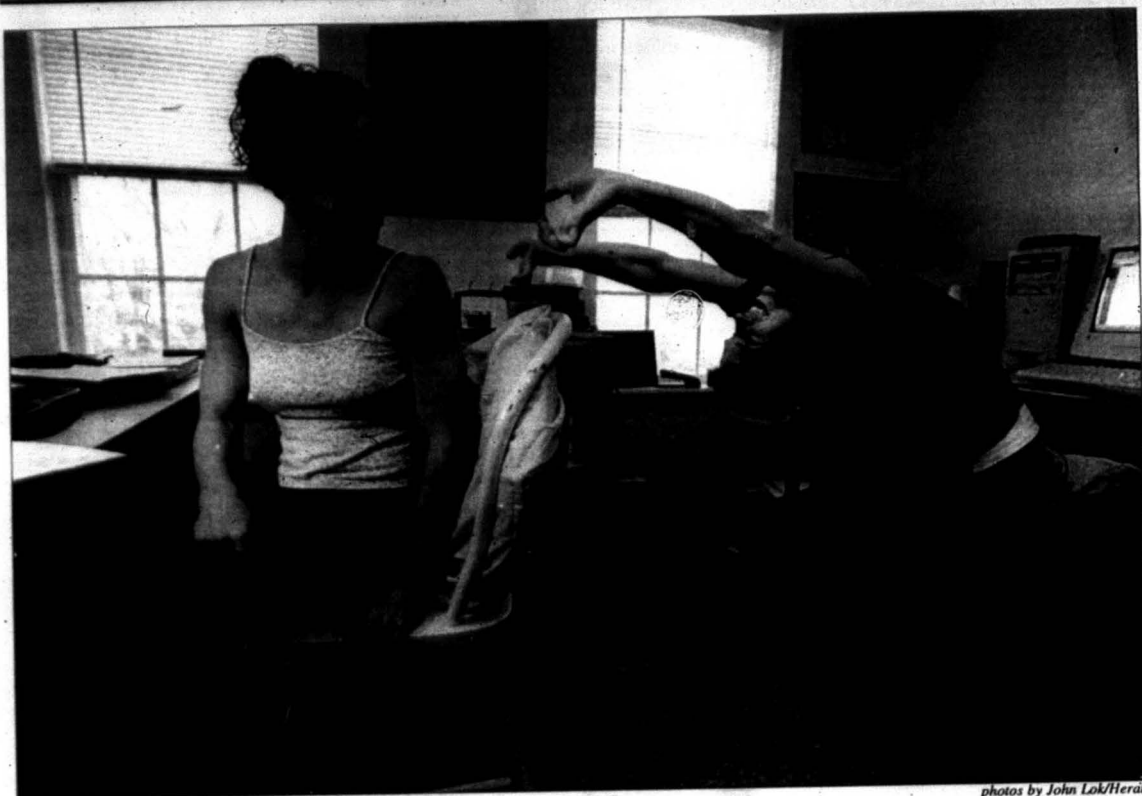
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Based on survey data collected by the WKU Health Center (1996-1999) from 2585 WKU students in random assessment.

1 drink equals: 12oz. beer = 4oz. wine = 1oz. liquor

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photos by John Lok/Herald

Lexington junior Brandi Carey, left, has excelled as a swimmer while balancing her life as a wife and student. At right is her husband, Pete, who swam for Western. "What I do in the pool does not define who I am out of the pool," she said. Below: Carey holds seven of the Western's 14 women's swim records, was an NCAA qualifier and was named National Independent Swimmer of the Year in 1999 and 2000.

STROKES OF SUCCESS

By BRANDY WARREN
Herald reporter

Brandi Carey sits on a bench outside of Diddle Arena's swimming pool, nibbling on a pastry. Her shoulder-length hair is wet from a two-hour practice. Her legs are bent and pulled close to her shoulders. She's rocking back and forth, laughing and smiling.

She looks like a little girl, telling secrets, talking about a lifetime of dreams still to come.

Brandi isn't a little girl, though. This 20-year-old woman has already done so much. She's a school record-holder, has participated in the Olympic Trials and just became a wife.

The beginnings

Carey didn't start swimming until she moved to Kentucky when she was about 11. Her parents and two younger siblings settled in Kentucky after living in California, Florida, New Jersey and Michigan. There was a small pool near their home and Carey decided she wanted to start swimming. Her mother said when she started she didn't know the difference between the back stroke and the butterfly. That would all change, though. Carey kept swimming, joined her country club team and later, local swim teams. She would eventually swim with future Western swimmers Beth Carey, Megan Zerhusen, Sydney Mountford and her future husband, Pete Carey.

Head swim coach Bill Powell remembers seeing Carey swim at a state meet when she was 12 years old. He and other spectators bet nickels on who would win the races, including a swim-off in which Carey competed. Powell said she looked so small and non-threatening on the blocks. When Powell talked to her then-coach Bobby Peck, Peck told him that Carey was a competitor and there was no way she would lose the race.

Powell took the bet, and in the end the little girl on the blocks won.

College decisions

Carey continued swimming and, as Powell said,



became "undoubtedly" one of the best swimmers in Kentucky. Getting her to sign with Western was a lot easier than Powell thought it should have been.

Brandi looked at a few schools, including the University of Illinois, but signed with Western early. She said Powell's and assistant coach Steve Crocker's method of coaching was one of the main reasons.

At the end of high school, Brandi was burned out and admits she wasn't enjoying swimming. She needed inspiration.

"Steve and Coach put a whole different spin on things," she said.

Where her previous coaches worried about whether swimmers were swimming enough yards in practice, Powell and Crocker are confident that their swimmers are doing what they need to for success and don't worry about those things.

Carey also chose Western because some of the people she swam with in the past had already signed and attended Western.

"It really all boiled down to Pete," she said. By the time Brandi was a senior in high school she had already been dating Pete, a junior at Western, for about a

year. Powell jokingly told Pete that if he broke up with Carey before she signed, Pete would lose his scholarship. It worked.

Pete proposed before his graduation last December. Judy Beckwith said her daughter had wanted to marry Pete since she met him in the eighth grade.

"She said 'One day I'm gonna marry Pete Carey or someone just like him,'" Beckwith said.

Now she has.

On Sept. 30, Carey officially became the third person from the family to swim at Western.

Pete was a captain of the team his senior year and Powell credits him with bringing many recruits to Western.

Beth Carey, Brandi's sister-in-law, is a senior and competes in freestyle and butterfly events.

The record-holder

Although Carey is only a junior, she already holds half of the women's school records, including the freestyle, backstroke, butterfly and individual medley events. She also swam on four of the five record-holding relay teams and tried out for the Olympics this summer.

"She doesn't have a weak stroke," Powell said. Don't expect her to talk about it, though. She sees room for improvement, saying her overall technique could be better. She thinks she still has room to grow.

"I swim whatever Coach tells me to," Carey said.

Finding contentment

Carey is still rocking on the bench. She talks about her life in a little girl voice, soft and high-pitched. She's still smiling and laughing. She knows what she has done so far. She's a student, a Christian, a wife and a swimmer.

"And she knows there's still more to come from each of those things."

Pete said his wife is unique in that she can be comfortably distant from swimming. It doesn't own her. When she leaves the pool, swimming stays there. She leaves and can focus her attention on school, faith and marriage.

"She doesn't take it for granted," he said. "But it doesn't define who she is."

Former football player drafted for XFL team

BY BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

Former Western running back Rod Smart, a record-setting senior on last year's team, has been drafted by the Las Vegas Outlaws of the newly-formed Xtreme Football League.

Smart, who had a brief stint with the National Football League's San Diego Chargers, was picked 307th out of 475 in last weekend's draft. He'll leave for Las Vegas later this month to begin preparing for the "Outlaws" first game on Feb. 3, according to his grandmother Ella Kirkland.

"When he didn't make it in San Diego, he returned to Kentucky to get right back to work," Kirkland said yesterday from her Lakeland, Fla., home. "He's been working very hard at getting into professional football."

Smart made the best of Western's loss to Eastern Kentucky in 1999. Early in the second quarter, he ran for the Hilltoppers' longest play from scrimmage for the season.

After a three-yard run on the first down of the drive, Smart broke through the defense for an 89-yard touchdown. At 92 yards, it was also the team's longest drive of the year.

Smart's 113.5 rushing yards per game was tops on the team last year. He also led the team in total offense.

He could not be reached for comment yesterday.

His determination to get

back into football isn't a surprise to head coach Jack Harbaugh.

"He had back surgery early in his career at Western," Harbaugh said. "He fought back and worked hard to recover and went on to become an All-Ohio Valley Conference selection. His experience here was very positive. I know that he would like to continue his involvement with the game of football and being drafted gives him that opportunity."

The XFL is in its inaugural season, and organizers of the league believe it will be successful because it has the backing of the World Wrestling Federation and NBC. Its eight teams, in cities spread throughout the country, will play a 10-game schedule beginning Feb. 3.

The WWF's Vince McMahon is one of the league's two executive producers. The XFL will "bring back the individuality of football that has been missing," according to its Web site. The league opposes the NFL's new rule limiting on-field celebrations to two players.

Western quarterbacks coach Willie Taggart, the starting quarterback throughout Smart's career until last season, agrees that the XFL will be successful with the support of a national television network. He said he's excited that his old teammate will have the opportunity to play in the pros.

"You never know what might happen," Taggart said. "This might be his chance to go out and make something happen and make it to the NFL."



Rod Smart

Season finale pits Tops against Aces

Wuchterl still out with leg injury

BY MICHAEL COMPTON
Herald reporter

Don't tell the Western soccer team that tonight's regular season finale at Evansville doesn't mean anything. Ask anyone on the team and they will tell you there is still plenty to play for.

A win would not only be the fifth in a row, but it could guarantee the Hilltoppers (9-9, 7-3 Missouri Valley Conference) a third seed in the MVC Tournament this weekend. It would also put the Hilltoppers above 500 for the first time all season.

Evansville (3-10-3, 2-7-1 MVC) comes into tonight's match knowing that this will be the end of its 2000 campaign. The Purple Aces may be out of the playoff hunt, but they will try to make their Senior Night as memorable as Western's was Sunday.

"With this game, they are going to try to salvage the season," senior forward Steve Brown said. "A win allows them to go out on a high note."

"There is a rivalry here," junior midfielder Tawanda Chitapa added. "Every time we play Evansville it's a dogfight."

While Western is assured a

home game Sunday, the opponent will not be known until later tonight. Western will play Eastern Illinois, Tulsa or Vanderbilt, depending on what the three teams do in their regular season finales tonight.

"We'll take whoever we get," Coach David Holmes said. "Whoever we play is going to have to play a confident and poised WKU team."

"There is a rivalry here. Every time we play Evansville it's a dogfight."

—Tawanda Chitapa
Western junior midfielder

Although Holmes states no preference to who he would like the Hilltoppers to play Sunday, the players admit they have their eyes on Vandy. The Commodores defeated Western 2-1 on a last-second goal in early October, and the Hilltoppers would love a rematch.

"If we played Vandy, it would be sweet," Chitapa said. "(But) I'm ready to play whoever."

Western will be without junior defender Kyle Wuchterl, who is still bothered by a leg injury sustained in Sunday's 2-0 win over Bradley. Wuchterl is listed as questionable for Sunday's first-round match.

Sunday will mark the last time the senior class will play at the Western Soccer Complex. Brown admits that it will be an emotional roller coaster.

"You're going to play for your season, your life. It's going to be special," Brown said. "I would like to be able to walk off the field for the last time Sunday with a huge crowd cheering us on."

Brown named Player of the Week

Brown was selected as the MVC's Offensive Player of the Week, following his three goals and two game-winners against Eastern Illinois and Bradley last weekend.

"What can you say? He has been on a fantastic stretch scoring big goals at the right time," Holmes said.

Chitapa said it was an award that was long overdue.

"When we were struggling he was hurt," Chitapa said. "To bounce back and have 14 goals and nine game-winning goals, that shows a lot of character and leadership."

While proud of the award, Brown said the Hilltoppers' recent success is a team effort.

"Without the other 10 guys, it's not possible for me to get this award," Brown said. "Daryl (Sattler) and Steve (Gardner) have played great. It all starts in the back. (Our defense) gives you freedom to take more chances."



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Fridays:

- "Ladies' Night"
- All ladies \$1 before 11pm + 1 free drink
- Complimentary appetizers until 11:30
- Music provided by WKU New Rock 91.7 DJ "Mr. Big Timer"

Saturdays:

- "Saturday Night Live"
- Mature crowd needed
- \$50 best dressed male and female
- Complimentary appetizers all night long

Doors open at 9pm each night
Must be 21 and older
No baseball caps or tennis shoes
Security will be available

For more information please call: (270) 782-0605

Sports Briefs

Women's basketball team plays Sunday afternoon

The Lady Toppers open their season in Diddle Arena Sunday afternoon at 2 against the Nashville All-Stars.

Admission is free for students with a student ID

Volleyball team ranked fifth in NCAA South Region

Western's volleyball team (22-6, 10-2 Sun Belt Conference) has leaped to fifth in the latest NCAA South Region volleyball poll which was released Wednesday. This is the first time in school history that the team has been ranked in three consecutive polls. This ranking also equals the Lady Toppers' highest spot in the poll Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama complete the top 5.

Swim teams have home meets this weekend

The men's and women's swim teams host Butler and Cumberland College tomorrow at 6 and Saturday at noon.

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Player will sign with Lady Tops

BY LINDSAY SUTTON
Herald reporter

Sara Riedeman, a 5-foot-7-inch senior point guard at Greensburg (Ind.) Community High School, said she will sign a national letter-of-intent with Western next week during the early signing period, which starts on Wednesday. She verbally committed June 7 and said she will officially sign the letter either Wednesday evening or Thursday.

"Basically, it was because of the positive atmosphere and the coaching staff," Riedeman said of her decision to attend Western. "I really like the way they run their program."

Riedeman, who averaged 24.9 points and 4 assists per game as a junior, is a 2001 candidate for Indiana Miss Basketball and Indiana All-Stars. She was a Hoosier Basketball first-team All-State selection last year and led the state in scoring as a junior.

"For one thing, she's got very good court awareness," said Richard Ballard, Riedeman's high school coach. "(And) she can shoot the lights out. She's deadly from just about anywhere from half-court."

Riedeman shot 46 percent from three-point range last season and has 1,179 career points. The Greensburg Community High School record for career points is 1,181. She has a single game high of 38 points.

"She's the leader of the team," Ballard said. "Her work ethic is second to none and that earns the respect of her teammates."

Riedeman chose Western over Marquette, Indiana State, Ball State, Valparaiso, James Madison, Louisville and Maine.

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Toppers face first test after winning conference title

BY BRIAN MOORE
Herald reporter

The more things change, the more things seem to stay the same around the Hilltopper locker room.

Five days after conquering the "centerpiece" of their team goals — winning the Ohio Valley Conference — head coach Jack Harbaugh believes his men are as focused now as they were before last weekend's blasting of Eastern Illinois and all the hoopla that followed.

Such determination may seem extraordinary. The Hilltoppers talked of winning the OVC championship all year. They talked of beating Eastern Kentucky and gaining the respect of the league. They were tested early in the season by nationally-ranked Elon. That game, they said, would answer many of their own questions about just how good they could be, just how far they might take their dreams.

By blanking the Phoenix 23-0, perhaps they got their answer. Seven weeks later, their record is still unblemished. But after winning the coveted conference championship, only certain subtleties around the locker room and football offices have changed.

"Good afternoon, home of the OVC champs," is how the team's administrative assistant Larissa Priddy has been answering the phone this week. Not far from her desk is the championship trophy itself, and it's not uncommon to see a player or two walk in the office just to take another look at its golden splendor.

"The most difficult thing in all of sports faces us now," Harbaugh said. "That's changing your goals or refocusing your goals in mid-stream. Not many people are very successful at that. We focused so much on the OVC and the championship, but now we've got to focus on these last three games and putting ourselves in a position for a good seed in the NCAA playoffs."

Harbaugh addressed his players about the importance of the next three weeks for the first time on Monday. But, he said, he got the feeling the players weren't hearing the message for the first time.

He believes the team had already come "back down to earth" and decided among themselves that they didn't want to stop with the conference crown, but rather accelerate into the playoffs.

The first test isn't a cupcake. In fact, when the Toppers travel to Tampa, Fla., this weekend, they'll face arguably one of, if not the toughest team on their schedule: South Florida.

The Bulls (5-3) have played an exceptionally strong schedule this season as they prepare to become a full-time member of Division I-A football and Conference USA next season. They knocked off Troy State, then I-AA's top-ranked team, 20-10. The Bulls have 80 scholarships this season, which already classifies them as I-A.

"They've got a really good team," senior linebacker Melvin Wisham said. "We're going to have to be on our 'A' game when we go down there and not try to change up any-

thing that we've been doing, but rather keep doing the things that have made us successful."

It's homecoming week-end for South Florida, and the USF athletics department is taking extra steps to get fans to come out to Raymond James Stadium, also the home of the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. There's a coupon discounting ticket prices on their Web site and headlines calling the match-up a "big game."



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Division I-AA
#6 Western Ky. at S. Florida
Time: 6 p.m.
Radio: 100.7 WKLX



season players will perform in front of their families.

Western last played in Raymond James Stadium, which is reconfigured for USF games to seat 41,000 fans, when it beat the Bulls 31-24 in 1998.

The Toppers will likely face the largest crowd they'll see all year on Saturday. South Florida is averaging 25,998 in attendance through four home games this season.

"Getting to the playoffs has been in our minds all season," Wisham said.

"We've done that now. We have to take each of these three games one at a time. South Florida is certainly an important game for us."

Fee increase needed

One goalpost came down in less than 30 seconds.

The other took about 20 minutes.

It's taken me five days to produce this true "Playground Notes" column, and I've come up with some stuff since Saturday.

♦ The new fee hike isn't anything to protest.

The idea that the new money is only going to benefit jocks and athletic supports (no pun intended) is based in ignorance. The reason the University of Kentucky is able to offer such quality academic programs is because the revenues generated by its athletics pay for a significant part of them. UK gets a lot of exposure when its teams do well. If you aren't a photojournalist or a local then it takes some convincing to come here.

Western isn't on UK's level and probably never will be, but Western can step in the right direction. The fee hike does just that.

Yes, it's a lot at once. But the problem needs to be corrected ASAP so our university can begin benefiting.

The students who stood next to Wood Selig at the Board of Regents meeting had no idea what Selig wants for Western. Better athletics means more revenue and more exposure. Add all that together and our academic programs get better and better because Western can afford better teachers and better technology.

Also, those protesters at yesterday's Meredith Hall induction have no class. They added a sour note to an occasion unassociated with the fee increase or athletics. The guy was being honored. I hope it rains on your birthdays.

♦ Western's football team has won the Ohio Valley Conference.



PLAYGROUND NOTES

John Darr

Saturday went down as one of the best days in Western sport's history.

However, their undefeated season is in jeopardy this weekend when they travel to South Florida.

The Panthers (5-3) have a balanced offense that features quarterback Marquel Blackwell who completes better than half of his passes and has thrown only three interceptions all season. Western's defensive backs are tough and the team's run defense is solid, but South Florida is primed for victory.

Its three losses were against Kentucky, Southern Miss and Baylor, all Division I teams. They hung with Baylor until the fourth quarter and held Kentucky to its season average points total. Southern Miss kicked the Panthers' tails, but Southern Miss has been kicking a lot of tail this year — they're on top of Conference USA.

There are three reasons I'm picking South Florida over Western this weekend — 1.) Western hasn't played that type of competition. Even though South Florida is still I-AA, they're becoming a big dog next year. 2.) Victory hangover. Just like in "Varsity Blues" when that "Dawson's Creek" guy takes his teammates to the strip bar the night before a game, Western partied hard last week. It'll take at least two weeks for some of them to come back down to Earth. 3.) Fanbase gone. Adelphi Coliseum and Murray State aren't too far for most fans to travel. Tampa is.

As a Western student, I hope my prediction is wrong because if Western beats South Florida, the Division I-AA title will be Western's to lose.



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