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Volume 76, Number 23

Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Student News. Faculty News. Alumni News. All News.

Thursday, November 16, 2000

photos by Kathleen Flynn/Herald

Evansville senior Kevin Day, left, Madisonville senior Brain Nelson and Bowling Green senior Bryan Rone rehearse a standoff between Eliot Ness, played by Rone, and Paddy Murphy, played by Day. Members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity put on the skit to open the 15th Annual Miss Paddy Murphy Pagent last night in Van Meter Auditorium. Below: Owensboro sophomore Laura Adams prepares to be escorted by Bowling Green senior Matt Larson.

Gangster's Paradise

BY KATE CORCORAN Herald reporter

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity christened its 2000 Miss Paddy Murphy last night to honor the spirit of a brother killed in a Prohibition-era showdown with lawman Eliot Ness.

Murphy -- gangster Al Capone's righthand man - was shot after he refused to kill Ness, his SAE brother. To celebrate the bonds of that brotherhood, Murphy is honored by SAEs all over the country during Paddy Murphy Week every November, the month of his death.

Legend has it that Murphy's ghost visits every SAE house this month.

SAEs kept the Roaring '20s theme alive



at Van Meter auditorium with red, black and silver balloons and the flapper dresses and knee-length bathing suits modeled by the 12 pageant contestants.

The crowd of nearly 250 Greeks and parents cheered wildly as each girl paraded out and hammed it up for the panel of judges.

SAEs celebrate loyalty of brother

Paddy Murphy with pageant

There was also a dance number performed by the Violets of SAE.

'I loved being backstage with all the girls," said third-place winner Kelli Kendall of Bowling Green, who was sponsored by Alpha Omicron Pi.

Kappa Delta sophomore Ann Green from Bardstown won second place and Cynthiana freshman Shelby LuRees Kearns, sponsored by Chi Omega, was crowned the 2000 Miss Paddy Murphy.

"We're pleased," said Paddy Murphy Chairman Michael Wang. "This was our largest turnout ever."

McLean to reopen next fall

Room assignments are first-come, first-served

BY JASON RAGAN Herald reporter

Mandy Smith, like many others, is awaiting the chance to be among the first to live in McLean Hall after renovation is completed next summer.

The Elizabethtown sophomore and her roommate, Elizabethtown junior Dana Brangers, like the location as well as the beauty of the building itself.

"It is really nice," Smith said. "It is where me and Dana wanted to go in the first place.'

But getting into the posh dorm may be difficult.

Assignments to live in McLean will be handed out on a first-come, first-served basis on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 7 a.m. which means some students may be waiting in line by Potter Hall all night to get a spot.

There will be 60 men's beds and 58 women's spots in the dorm, with first choices going to those who lived in McLean last semester before it closed for

renovation. Brian Kuster, director of Housing and Residence Life and executive director of the Student Life Foundation, said eight of the 21 people who have that option have decided to live in McLean.

Kuster said his department is receiving about 20 calls a day for more information on how to get into the dorm.

"We have heard that there are people coming up here at 5 p.m. (the day before)," he said.

SEE MCLEAN, PAGE 3

INSIDE

Astronaut alumnus to speak tonight

Russellville native Terry Wilcutt will give a free presentation on his recent mission to the International Space Station at 7 p.m. in Van

Coaches disappointed with low turnout

BY BRIAN MOORE Herald reporter

Jack Harbaugh's seventhranked football team beat Indiana State by 25 points last Saturday, but the 12-year coach wasn't happy.

He wasn't happy with how his team played against Indiana State, and he openly frowned on the fact that a season-low 5.800 fans turned out to see his club.

'You take a day like this with the sun shining and beautiful football weather, your team is 8-1 and then you look up in the stands and you see that," he said. "That was disappointing.

"I love the people that were here. I'm talking about the people

Something missing during games? It's the students who chose not to come out and support this team. Maybe they're

waiting. I don't know what they're waiting for, but I'm disappointed. And where the hell were the students?"

Student attendance at Western's three major spectator sports - football and men's and women's basketball has declined drastically over time. Football, for example, averaged more than 10,000 fans per game every year from 1968 to 1982. It averaged more than 16,000 as recently as 1980.

But since 1990, there's been only one season when the Toppers drew an average of more than 10,000.

In a stadium that saw 17,600 fans watch the Western vs. Eastern Kentucky game in 1996, Saturday's crowd was comparatively laughable. The 5,800 fans were the fewest to watch the football team since 4,100 saw them play Indiana State in 1998.

Playing in front of small crowds is nothing new to Western's basketball programs. Last year, the men drew a pergame average of 3,955 spectators and the Lady Toppers 2,056.

So why aren't students packing sporting events like they once did? What do the coaches think about the sparse crowds? And what are students saying about the issue?

Athletics Director Wood Selig has said student support for intercollegiate athletics is down nationwide. That opinion is seconded by Lady Topper head coach Steve Small and a handful of students the Herald spoke with.

"I don't want anybody here that doesn't want to be here,' Small said after 1,200 fans watched his team's exhibition game Saturday night. "I like my 1,200 people. If it gets to 2,000, great. I think apathy is all over the United States in college, but it's not as bad here as it is in other places. We go to New Orleans, we might play in front of 20 people."

Concentrating on putting a solid basketball team on the floor is what's most important to him. Small said. Worrying about how many people show up isn't an issue.

"We're putting on a good show," he said.

Some students think Western is a long way from getting back to the school-spirited atmosphere that once gripped the Hill. While many say that Western athletics are improving, they add that work still needs to be done.

And school spirit hasn't actualbottomed out nationwide. Nationally televised Florida State football and Duke basketball games show students with painted chests and colored hair going crazy.

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 3

Meter Auditorium. Page 5

Women's studies class offers new perspective

Being a male in a women's studies class can be intimidating, but such classes offer a refreshing point of view to someone on the other side of the fence. Page 7

Volleyball team eyes NCAA Tournament

The Lady Toppers take their 25-7 record to New Orleans for the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, which starts today, Because of their 13-3 Sun Belt record, the Lady Toppers share the East Division title with Arkansas-Little Rock and are second seeded in the tournament. Page 9

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Page 2





STUDENTS: Western looking for VETTE CITY LIQUORS ways to boost game attendance

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE they're in school '

Can Western get to that level of excitement? Critics of the athletics department say no, but a look at Duke's program might suggest otherwise

Sixty-year-old Cameron Indoor Stadium, home to Blue Devils' basketball, isn't a supersized arena like Louisville's Freedom Hall (19,000 seats) or Kentucky's Rupp Arena (24,000).

Cameron seats 9,314 and students are seated closest to the court. They gained the nickname "Cameron Crazies" in the late 1980s after the arena underwent a \$2 million renovation and support went through the roof.

Students flocked to the venue's new face and have been a significant "sixth-man" in the dominance of the men's basketball team, according to its athletics Web site.

But some supporters of Western football don't understand why students aren't supporting this team, one of the best in school history

"I think a lot of students have to work and they can't come to the game," Louisville sophomore Laura Kenney said at Sunday's men's basketball exhibition. "Ten or 15 years ago your parents might have paid for your college. It wasn't near as expensive as it is now and that's why more people have to work while

Greenville junior Laura Bivins suggested that the sparse crowds at Saturday football games result from students going home on weekends. And the bigger the school, the harder it is to arouse school spirit, she said.

Students have more entertainment choices than they did 20 years ago, and Kenney said Western athletics simply aren't winning the battle right now.

"A lot of guys probably think, 'Why would I want to come and watch a college game when I can watch the NFL or the NBA on TV putting on a show?'" he said. "They put on a show before the game even starts. They put on a show at halftime. I mean, like a big show. There's just not enough happening here.

"People want extravagance. People want a show. They should work with the theater department and get smoke and special effects and laser lights.

Western football drew 11,300 fans to its OVC championship game on Oct. 28. It's that caliber of game that draws the most fans, Kenney said.

Bowling Green junior Steve Dotson, also at Sunday's exhibition game, said the University of Kentucky draws larger crowds because of stronger promotions. He does believe, however, that Western's promotional efforts are improving under the direc-

tion of fourth-year President Gary Ransdell and Selig, who is in his second year as athletics director.

Selig views attendance at football games this season in a different light. He said student involvement has been "stellar" and although it's not where it once was, it could be worse.

Western needs to start winning and keep winning, and Diddle Arena needs to be renovated to boost basketball attendance, Selig said.

Students have terrible, terrible seating right now," he said. 'We've got to get a better arrangement and put winning teams on the floor.

Ransdell said he doesn't know why student attendance was so low at the Indiana State football game, but he hopes and expects it to be higher this weekend as the Toppers face Southern Illinois at home. It's the last regular-season football game

As far as the basketball teams go, Selig said the more success they have on the court translates to more people in the stands.

"There hasn't been a whole lot to cheer about in the last few years from a student perspective," Ransdell said about the men's program. "I think attendance will be significantly up this year. I think the students appreciate good basketball and I think they'll be here to enjoy it.



Page 3

McLean: Students may camp out for chance for new room

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Kuster is keeping the Potter lobby open all that night so students can wait comfortably

'We don't want people sleeping outside when we have this big lobby," he said.

Students will get a number when they arrive at Potter, and as long as they stay in the building, they will keep that number. Those who tough it out will be able to pick the room they want.

Kuster said he's happy the students are getting excited about the dorm.

"Being a Western graduate and living here on campus, I know (the dorms) haven't changed a lot," he said. "It is exciting to me.'

Steven Kersey, an architect from the Louisville firm Kersey and Kersey Inc. which designed the new McLean, said the dorm will be "state of the art.

Kersey said the design did present some challenges, but that the end result is going to be fantastic.

"What we try to do is to design rooms and suites then blend with existing design," he said.

He said Western is changing student living and will be a role model for other universities.

Kuster said he hopes students get excited about the other dorm renovations, too.

"I am hoping it is something we see in the future when we (reopen) the directional halls," Kuster said. Those dorms will close for renovations when McLean is finished.

Along with the renovations, there are a few additional changes to how the dorms will operate next fall. There will be no credit hour limitation to get into some of the coed dorms.

'We have always wanted to add to that," Kuster said, "giving students the opportunity for coed dorms.'

Florence Schneider and Zacharias Halls will drop their credit hour restrictions to 24, instead of the current 60.

The \$3.2 million renovation to McLean will include adding private baths to all rooms and living rooms in some suites.





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Opinion

Sports waste time, money without fans

et's see: \$2.4 million more in athletics fees each Lyear, but fewer and fewer fans at the games, whether football or basketball, men's or women's. What's wrong with this picture?

At Western's last regular-season football game, the playoff-bound Hilltoppers faced only 5,800 fans and that includes the other side. Just four years ago, the Western-Eastern game drew 17,600.

Athletics Director Wood Selig, putting a brave face on his money-losing program, says that it could be worse

It's hard to see how. Attendance is way down over the past decade, and we can't help but wonder what this says about student interest in athletics. It's clear that the vast majority of students just don't care about a monster athletics program, whether it wins or not

So if Western's student athletics program isn't actually run for students, who does it serve?

Basically, it serves two groups: Western administrators and regents, who get to swell with pride at having winning teams, whether anyone watches them or not; and Western alumni, who develop a nostalgic Big Red glow with a few beers at tailgating, then pony up Big Green contributions to their alma mater.

Nice as their money is, we'd like to think that what Western teams do on the Western campus with Western funds should mean more to Western students than it does to regents from Texas or alumni from decades ago

We don't think that Selig can claim success in revitalizing Western athletics in this, his second year, without student support. But we can't really blame students for their lack of interest (except for not caring to see where their money's going).

The huge fee increase is meant to help get athletics out of debt. But in the long run, sports programs will never turn a profit without fans.

When, unlike Selig or the Board of Regents, the Herald asked some actual students why they don't attend games, they were able to tell us.

They said it's because there's nothing to see.

True, Selig did start Topper Town games for kids, but there's still not much for college students to do at games besides sneak in beer.

Women's basketball coach Steve Small said he thinks the athletics marketing department does a great job of advertising the games. We think they can do better, but they may need more support from above to do it.

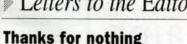
Let sports marketing concentrate on campus, not off. Don't just hand out schedules at the start of the year - keep reminding students about every game.

And give them something to watch once they're there. Keep activities going before the game, and throw into the halftime show some of the effort that's made this year's teams so good.

Renovating Diddle Arena is a good start. Selig said he wants to improve student seating. That should help, but half-measures won't be enough.

Unless Western athletics does something to renew student interest, attendance will keep shrinking. And if we continue dumping more and more money into programs that interest fewer and fewer people, a serious re-examination of the athletics program's future is in order.

Winning teams alone aren't doing it. And if Hilltopper teams win but no one cares, Western is still losing.



I applaud the decision to raise our school's athletic fees. Not because of my undying allegiance to a football team, not because of my dismay with our Student Government Association, and not because I have the extra cash

In fact, none of the above applies to me.

I am happy that in an era of social change and reform (subtle, yes, but it's still there), it is still us against them

The majority of the student body stood against the fee from the beginning, no matter how shoddy the SGA poll was or how poorly it was conducted. I am not upset about how badly the students were represented by the association; on the contrary, I applaud them. They must have known it wouldn't be possible to convince more than two members of the Board of Regents to vote against the increase. Nevertheless, the board did blatantly disregard the students' wishes by knowing that they were acting in favor of a handful of alumni, and not of the students paying to go to school here. And with flair only Ransdell could top, they tripled our athletic fees.

Therefore, I thank the regents for absolutely ignoring the opinion of the students. We need reaffirmation that we don't matter much at all

Hey, we only outnumber them about 1,400 to one; it's not as if we're

DOESNT

TOO APPETIZING

TO ME.

LOOK

Bowling Green freshman

Watch the skies

varning, I watched (from my safe shelter) countless numbers of people ers going about their lives like noth-

repeat as we recorded winds at the College Heights Weather Station of near 90 mph. Cars were crushed, people were blown around, buildings were damaged and power was knocked out. What was the response? "I can't believe this happened," said one student ... "Western students had to run for cover Thursday when an unexpected thunderstorm hit campus around noon" (was) noted in the Herald. And even Douglas Ault, director of Facilities Management, was quoted as saying, "We didn't have notification (of the storm)." How

many times does this have to happen before people learn to pay attention to the weather forecast?!

RADUZOO

REASONS TO

SUPPORT WKU

ATHLETICS :

1. JUST BECAUSE.

2. REFER TO #1.

WERE GONNA OFT

YOUR MONEY ANYWAY

Hours before this happened, the Storm Prediction Center had marked our area as being in danger of severe weather that day, and it was the highlight of The Weather Channel's programming all day long. Furthermore, the U.S. government pays people called meteorologists to give us advance warning of storms like that. Those men and women work at a place called the National Weather Service. Ever heard of it? Almost a half-hour before that storm hit, the National Weather Service issued a severe thunderstorm warning for Warren County. That meant that we were to expect winds in excess of 58 mph, a tornado or hail in excess of 3/4 inches in diameter. What we got was the high wind. The point is, we were told it was coming.

The problem is that no one pays attention to the weather around here. One day someone is going to be seriously hurt on campus for this reason. What we all need to do is watch TV every once in a while and make sure we know what to expect before we head out to class each day.

Shawn Crowe Lawrenceburg senior

Letters to the Editor some kind of majority. Eric Hall

On April 16, 1998 during a tornado holding activities on the football field, people walking to class and othing was wrong. It wasn't until the airraid siren sounded that people finally started to take shelter. Fifteen minutes later, campus looked like a war had taken place here ... The common response was "I wish I knew that was coming."

Last Thursday was close to a

Quotes & Notes

Coach Jack Harbaugh on the dismal attendance at the last regular-season football game on Saturday:

You take a day like this with the sun shining and beautiful football weather ... and then you look up in the stands and you see that. I don't know what they're waiting for, but I'm disappointed. And where the hell were the students?

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November 16, 2000

Herald

Astronaut speaking tonight

Terry Wilcutt is a Western graduate

BY JACOB BENNETT Herald reporter

You'd probably expect Terry Wilcutt to be eager to talk about his historic mission to the International Space Station, since he returned to the planet just a couple of months ago.

Instead, he's pretty eager to talk about Western, his alma mater.

"How's the football team doing?" was among the first things the 1974 graduate said during a phone interview Tuesday with the Herald.

The Russellville native said he was excited to be coming home to give a free presentation at Van Meter Auditorium tonight at 7, and he sounded more excited about that than he did when talking about being one of the few people ever to travel to space.

"Everybody I work with either has been in space or will be in space," he explained. "I try to concentrate on doing my job more than who's been in space and who hasn't."

It's not that he doesn't like talking about space; that's what he's going to do tonight.

"We film a lot of things while we're out in space, so I'm going to show clips of that," he said.

On the phone, he's pretty casual when he talks about the mission.

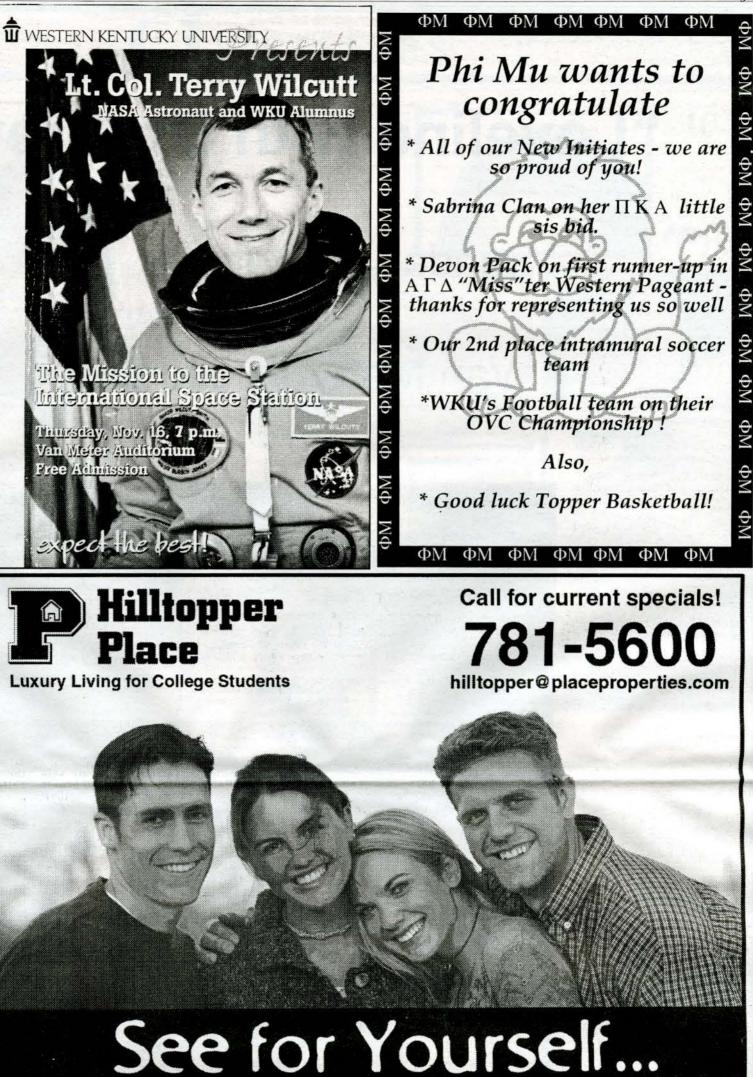
"Oh, shoot, it went great," he said. "I think it went better than everybody's wildest dreams."

Wilcutt led the space shuttle Atlantis on the STS-106 mission in September that helped prepare the space station for the arrival of its first live-in crew. He said his crew members were among the hardest workers in NASA, so they got three times as much work done as they were expected to.

Potter College Dean David Lee, chairman of the cultural enhancement series that the program is a part of, said he was excited about Wilcutt's presentation.

"He's been involved with one of the most dramatic undertakings of our time — space travel. I will be very interested to see what he has to say."

And Wilcutt is still very interested in Western. He said it was great that the football team won its conference, and he said if he could change his airplane tickets he might stick around and watch the last home game this weekend. Wilcutt hasn't had much time to himself in the past few months. Training for a space mission is an around-the-clock thing, and Wilcutt didn't get to take much of a vacation when he got back.



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"Ordinarily I would have, but the job I have now needed to be filled right away," he said.

Wilcutt now heads up NASA's space shuttle branch.

He said he also plans to give other presentations at schools during his Christmas vacation, because he likes talking to students of all ages.

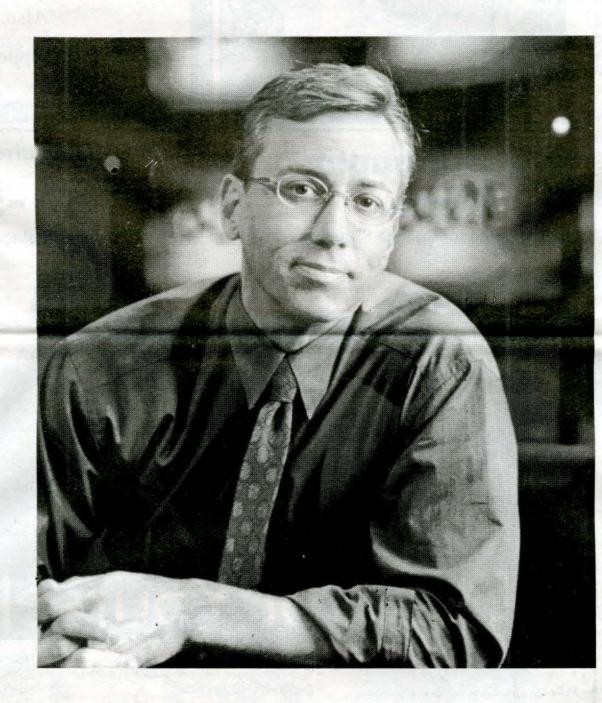
"I think kids are thrilled to hear about the space shuttle," he said. "My favorite part of it is the enthusiasm they show for the space program."

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diversions



Puzzling Perceptions

Contrary to popular belief, both genders are piecing together the benefits of women's studies classes

STORY BY JACOB BENNETT . PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY H. RICK MACH

Derek Vincent doodled in his notebook as his Sociology of Gender class discussed "the beauty myth" women's obsession with appearance to the point that they can't accomplish anything. While the rest of the class contributed, Vincent didn't say a word.

Because of absences, Vincent was the only guy in a class with eight girls that Friday. He halfway listened as the class debated whether beauty rituals, like applying makeup, are a form of suppression of women.

"I tend to keep my mouth shut," Vincent said. "I really can't add anything to the conversation. I haven't been through the things that they have."

He looked up when the topic turned to depression. Many of the women in the class agreed that females go

Film tonight

The women's studies program will be showing "Adam's Rib," the final film in the Gender Images Film series, at 7 tonight in Gerard Auditorium in Garrett Center. Admission is free.

laughed, but remained silent.

"That's like saying all women get ice cream and sit in their room," he said later, after the rest of the class was gone. "I probably would have made them mad."

When classmate Holly Edwards heard about this later.

classes so they can offer their own opinions, they come to hear what the women have to say. Though many men are reluctant to even take them at all, many of those who have given it a try say they have come away with a new perspective on life.

"It's just a cool vibe," said Harrodsburg senior Corey Smith, who plans to retake a sociology and gender class after dropping it earlier in the semester. "I have wonderful classmates and we have good discussions. They listen to what I have to say."

Logi Bragason, a senior from Iceland, took an introductory course this summer. He said he enjoyed the classroom discussions but wishes there were more debates.

"It's not like I want to go into class trying to make

shopping when they are depressed, which they said is different than the way males deal with it.

"They go out and get drunk," one girl said.

"Or play video games," another added.

The class looked to Vincent to see his reaction. He

she seemed disappointed that Vincent felt he couldn't speak up.

"I don't think we should gang up like that, but most of it was just a joke," she said.

Still, most guys say they don't take women's studies

another person look bad," Bragason said. "I enjoy hearing people talk about what they like and what they don't like."

SEE PUZZLING, PAGE 8

Re-vote or revote? The people in Palm Beach know



SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK Matt Batcheldor Hold on, ladies and gentlemen, that for a week now.

I'm getting something in my ear

right now! I'm going to need to go

We've got some breaking news:

The presidential election of

2000 is too close to call. I just

turned on CNN, and that's exactly

what they have under the

"Breaking News" banner. Fox

News Channel has an "Election

Alert." Same deal. It's an alert,

Nevermind they've been saying

folks! An urgent bulletin!

LIVE here

Apparently, neither George W. Bush nor Al Gore have succeeded in winning the presidency. I'm looking LIVE at Palm Beach County, Fla., where newsmen are surrounded by hordes of noisy, crybaby Republicans afraid W. won't prevail. Democrats, equally in need of a diaper change, are holding signs demanding "revote."

Revote? I love this word!

Questions swarmed through my mind. What, exactly, is a revote? Is

it even a word? Does it have a little hyphen in the middle, or is it one word?

If there is such a thing as revote, can there be a recampaign? Or is it a re-campaign?

Redebates? Renegative-campaigncommercials? Rebaby-kissing? Rehandshaking?

I can see the campaign signs now: "Revote Bush-Cheney on June 4, 2002!" Or "Gore and Lieberman: for you in 2002!"

Maybe the re-thing could go

even farther. Maybe I could retest that last test I didn't do so well on. Retest!

Man, I'd just love to be in Florida right now. Who knew a constitutional crisis could be so much ... fun?

I decided to do the next best thing. I got on the horn and talked to Chris Hutchins, who wrote this column before me and is now a reporter for the Palm Beach Post.

SEE ROCK, PAGE 8

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Puzzling: Men are the minority in women's studies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Vincent said he doesn't talk even when the other guys in the class show up, but he seems to be the minority. It's easier for men to speak up if there are more of them in a class, said Malia Formes, an assistant history professor.

"This semester there's only one and I've noticed that the class will look to him to speak for all males, and that's a big burden," she said. "I don't think you can say there's going to be a man's perspective any more than you can say there's a woman's perspective."

Madisonville senior Melanie Wilson, who participated in the discussion on men dealing with depression, said she doesn't care who is in the room.

"I would say the same things even if there were more guys in here," she said.

Though many females in the women's studies program want to hear male voices in their classrooms, Program Director Jane Olmsted said female voices were left out of many other classes.

"It was pretty clear that women's issues weren't being addressed in the classes, and this was the way to address it," she said.

"I made it through my whole undergrad program and never was exposed to that approach," said Zach Brewster, a graduate student who came to Western from Grand Valley State University in Michigan. "It's really fortunate that Western has something like that."

Some of the teachers compensate for the lack of voice in other classes by teaching from the extreme feminist view, allowing students to make up their own minds about the issues. Sociology Professor Ann Goetting, who told her class she uses this method, said this approach intimidates some men.

"It opens people's eyes to a system that benefits them, and to buck that system is not in their best interest," she said, adding that men who stick with it will be rewarded. "They come to understand it and see it. It makes you a better citizen, if your goal is to alleviate pain, inequality and suffering."

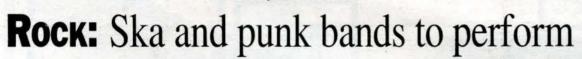
Though some guys are intimidated by it, others find it refreshing.

"I think that's just people who don't understand what it's all about," Smith said. "My question is 'have they ever taken one' to be saying that. You have to be secure in your beliefs to take a women's studies class. If you're secure, you'll be all right."

Guys really have nothing to worry about anyway, Edwards said.

"In all my classes we're not talking about how horrible men are," she said. "We're talking about how society needs to change. In my opinion, it's not just men but women, too."

Students have been able to minor in women's studies for



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"It's crazy down here," he said. "It's the belly of the beast."

I had to know: is "revote" hyphenated? "In Palm Beach Post style, 'revote' and 'recount' are not hyphenated," Hutchins said.

Webster's Dictionary clouds this constitutional crisis even further. "Recount" is in the dictionary, sure enough, but it says "recount" can either be with or without a hyphen.

Even further escalating this great rift in American society is the word "revote." It's not in the dictionary.

"We may be talking about the misuse of a word on not just a national level but an international level," Hutchins said. "If we're calling for a revote, we may be calling for something that doesn't exist."

Alas, as its 15 minutes of fame are quickly ticking away, the glory days of "revote" may be numbered.

"When talk about 'recount' began, 'revote' kind of went by the wayside," Hutchins said. Some protesters, fueled by the glamor of TV cameras, aren't protesting the election at all. Take the case of "Marijuana Barbie," a pink bikiniclad woman standing outside the revote ruckus, holding signs calling for medicinal uses for dope. "Personally, I just want the whole thing to end," Hutchins said. "Elect Clinton!" Do I hear "four more years?"

SuperPicks

• Western's theater troupe presents "Proposals," running daily at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

◆ Check out Submerge, a power-punk band from Richmond, Va., and First Rate Failure, a reggae/ska group from Lexington. They're playing at 8 p.m. Monday at 1410 Adams Street. It's \$3. Confused by the e-mail process?

Re-mail Matt at batchme@wku.edu.

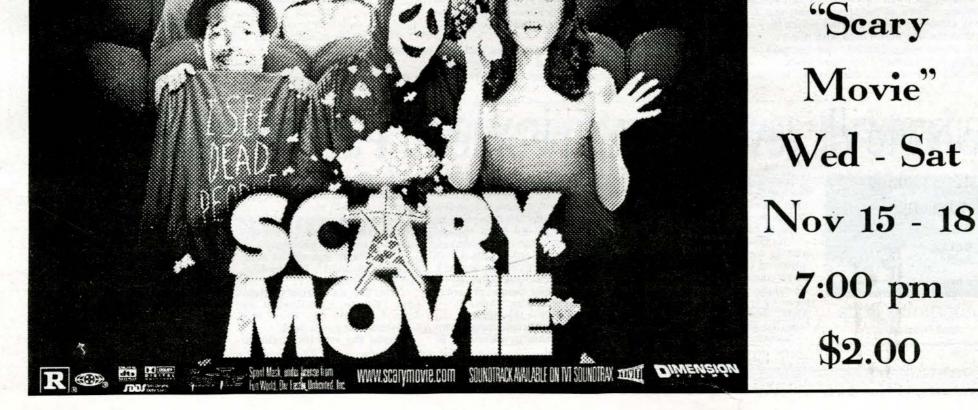
eight years, but Olmsted said she would like to see the program expanded even more. Some have suggested that everyone, men included, should have to take a women's studies course to broaden their perspective of the world. "This is a world where half of us are men and half of us are women," Olmsted said.

"They're going to be living with women, they have lived with women, they're going to be working with women. If your vision is partial, I would think you would get that corrected."



Follows in the tradition of *There's Something About Mary* and *Animal House*, but raunchier than any of them. This ribald satire offers clever jokes at the expense of many films from *Scream* to *The Matrix*." –Stephen Fasher MOVIELINE

We Are Back! The DUC Theatre Presents:



Sports

Western to broadcast games through satellite network

BY TRAVIS WILLIAMS Herald reporter

When men's basketball coach Dennis Felton is out trying to persuade some young athlete to bring his talent to the Hill, he often hears the same questions.

Will I be on television? Will my family get to see me on TV? As of yesterday, Felton can

answer questions such as those with a reassuring "Yes."

Western athletics took a major step yesterday in breaking free from the pack of mid-major universities with the introduction of the Hilltopper Sports Satellite Network. Western becomes the only school in the Sun Belt Conference to produce its own games and distribute them over its own sports network.

"HSSN is a tremendous billboard for Western," President Gary Ransdell said in a press conference yesterday in Diddle Arena. "The Hilltopper Sports Satellite Network enables Western to expand our service area and increase the recruitment potential for students who want to be part of this unique place. The (HSSN) is more reason why at Western you may expect the best."

The new network will televise seven men's games this year along with six women's games. The games can reach up to 10 million people in nine states, including Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, Missouri, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and Florida, depending on the day of the game. The addition of the satellite network will give Western alumni outside the area a chance to see the Hilltopper basketball team in action. One of the biggest perks may be exposure to prospective students and student athletes.

"Right now this pretty much guarantees us tremendous television presence and visibility," Athletics Director Wood Selig said, "putting us among the SEC, the ACC and the Big Ten as far as the number of times we'll be playing on TV."

And playing on television has become a major necessity in recruiting. In Felton's previous years, he's had to paint a picture of Western and sell his vision of where he wanted to take the team. Although Felton and women's head coach Steve Small have had success recruiting, televised games help the cause.

"This is a major step in catching up and getting on the same page with the big boys," Felton said. "It introduces us to prospects before we even make the initial call. It gives us as much presence in the state as a Louisville or Kentucky."

The College Sports Southeast network will also pick up five Western games this year to air in different areas of the country. The five games include four Lady Topper games, among them the first HSSN broadcast, a Nov. 30 game against Louisville and one men's game. Among the faces of the broadcasting team for the new network will be former Lady Topper Jaime Walz. Walz will be the color analyst for the women's broadcasts. Also, students working at WKYU-TV will play an important part in producing the programming. The students will work every game being broadcast over the network and have been called an essential part to the success of HSSN.

"Our station and student staff produce a product that is accepted nationally in a very competitive industry," said David Brinkley, the producer of HSSN. "That validation alone speaks volumes about the dedication, effort and quality of education here at Western."

Volleyball aims for conference tournament title in New Orleans

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER Herald reporter

At one point during Tuesday's volleyball practice session, Beaven Hill was a bit sluggish.

She was hesitant and seemed a step slower than usual.

It was nothing noticeable to the casual eye — in fact, Coach Travis Hudson didn't give it so much as a second glance.

The senior defensive specialist said later that there was a reason for her momentary lapse.

"On the court today for a moment I was thinking that this might be the last time I practiced on a Western volleyball court," Hill said. "But then I thought, 'No it isn't. I'll be back to practice for the NCAA tournament.""

She said it with a smile.

She wasn't hesitant about it.

Tuesday night, Hill and her teammates boarded a chartered bus headed for uncharted waters. Sometime during their lengthy bus ride, they no doubt passed a sign they have passed countless times before:

"WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS."

Only this time, that sign didn't have the same meaning it has had in the past.

This isn't just another road trip for the Lady Toppers. This is the Sun Belt Conference Tournament road trip. This is the road trip that has been in the planning stages for a long, long time.

20 years in the making, to be exact.

In 20 years of Western volleyball, the Lady Toppers and the program's four coaches have slept on both sides of the pillow of success.

They have been really, really good — posting three 30-win seasons, six 20-win seasons and 11 total winning seasons.

They have also been really, really bad failing to reach 10 wins on three occasions, including a 7-26 mark Hudson's first season in 1995 and 9-22 for the 1997 season.

But Hudson isn't the satisfied kind. He doesn't settle and isn't afraid to push the bar Entering this season, Hudson's career coaching record was a fraught 78-89 (.467) overall and 26-31 (.456) in the Sun Belt Conference. This season the Lady Toppers rebounded from an injury-plagued, modest 1999 season to post a stunning 25-7 record, their 13-3 Sun Belt mark good enough to share the East division title with Arkansas-Little Rock.

Their finish also gave them the second seed and a bye in the Sun Belt Tournament that begins today.

Now, Hudson's overall record is 103-96 (.518), his first time above .500, and 39-34 (.534) in the Sun Belt.

The Lady Topper renaissance has definite links to his athletes.

Though Hudson is watching the final games in the career of his first-ever recruit in senior left-side hitter Melissa Starck, he is starting to see many of his young players develop.

Along with Starck's solid play, junior outside hitter Natalie Furry and junior left-side hitter Tara Thomas have hit individual growth spurts even Hudson wasn't truly prepared for. Thomas, one of Hudson's pick-ups from

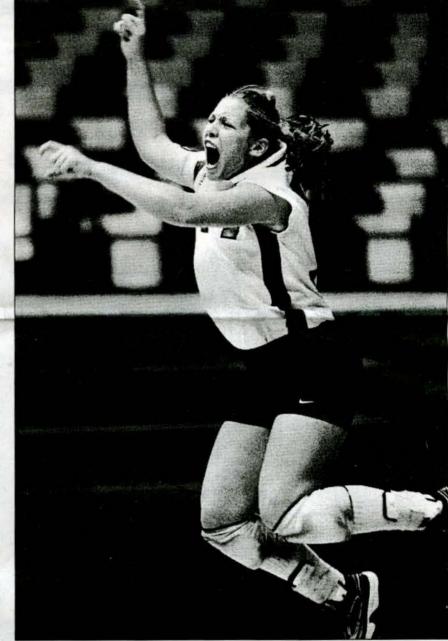
Thomas, one of Hudson's pick-ups from Louisville's Assumption High School, ranks among the Sun Belt leaders in kills per game (3rd with 4.46), digs per game (4th with 3.43) and hitting percentage (8th with .280) and leads the league with a staggering 21 doubledoubles.

She has also set a new school record by recording four 20-20 matches this season, the most ever by a Lady Topper non-setter.

Furry, Hudson's surprising assassin in 1999, continued to murder opposing defenses in 2000, leading a Western team that hit above .300 in 14 matches this season with a conference top five .319 hitting percentage.

Furry talked about the speech Hudson gave in the locker room before the Lady Toppers' final regular-season match last Sunday.

"It just really put things in perspective for us," Furry said. "We went around the room player by player and he had us tell him why we were a better team than the team in the other locker room."



H. Rick Mach/Herald

up to the next notch; in fact, he demands it.

"Through our ups and downs this season, we have learned a lot," Hudson said. "Our high and low points have allowed for a lot of growth and maturity." Perhaps the biggest and welcomed surprise for Hudson this season has been the ready Senior left-side hitter Melissa Starck celebrates after Western scores a point during a home game win against Louisiana-Lafayette on Friday Nov. 5. The Lady Toppers start a run at their first Sun Belt Conference title in 20 seasons this Friday at 5 p.m. in New Orleans.

SEE AIMS, PAGE 10

Toppers will face Southern Illinois in regular-season finale

Western looking for revenge

BY BRIAN MOORE Herald reporter

Western football is just three days away from finding out who it will play in its first playoff game since 1997.

The Hilltoppers will also find

out where they'll play the Nov. 25 contest.

Their defense will find out what kind of offense they'll face.

Their offense will begin forming a scheme to get around whatever defense is going to be thrown at them. It's a busy week around the Toppers' locker room as they look to make championship dreams become reality. But don't mark through Saturday on your calendars just yet. Western (9-1 Sun Belt Conference) has one regular-season game remaining. The Toppers will face Southern Illinois at home Saturday, and they clearly remember what the Salukis put on them last year in Carbondale, Ill.: 52 points.

And SIU only gave up 14 points to the visitors as they welcomed them with a can full of touchdowns and 650 yards of total offense.

"We're ready to play Southern Illinois," junior strong safety Kyle Moffatt said. "Last year, they embarrassed us. It was the last game of the year. We were down for that game and they put up a whole bunch of points against our defense. We're ready for a little payback. I think we'll go into the playoffs strong."

Exactly which Southern Illinois team shows up could determine how this game goes. The Salukis have won only three of their 10 games this season, but one of those victories includes second-ranked Youngstown State last week. SIU was down 20-0 going into the fourth quarter and scored 21 points to win by one.

While the Salukis have given up an average of 30 points per game this season, they held Youngstown State to minus nine yards rushing. Last year against the Toppers, they racked up 35 first downs, seven touchdowns and two drives of 80 yards or more.

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AIMS: Sun Belt honors Hudson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

play of sophomore setter Sara Noe. Assuming the void left by the graduation of Jenni Miller. now an assistant coach, Noe leads the Sun Belt in assists and is ranked 10th nationally in assists per game (14.11).

Noe said that while she felt pressure in the springtime stepping into the "floor leader" role, now it is a role that she thrives on filling.

But hovering over Western in its journey to claim its firstever Sun Belt Tournament title and NCAA Tournament berth are some old, yet familiar demons in Arkansas-Little Rock.

In each of the past two seasons the Trojans put a halt to the Lady Toppers' Sun Belt title hopes.

This season the Trojans blasted Western on Oct. 7 in Little Rock, only to have the favor returned to them a few weeks later on Oct. 28 at Diddle Arena by the same margin.

To say that there is bad blood between the two schools is too kind. To say that blood may be left on the court in a possible championship rematch this weekend is probably more accurate.

"I'm just excited," Hill said. "I'm not going down there to finish my volleyball career, though."

Lady Tops honored by Sun Belt Conference

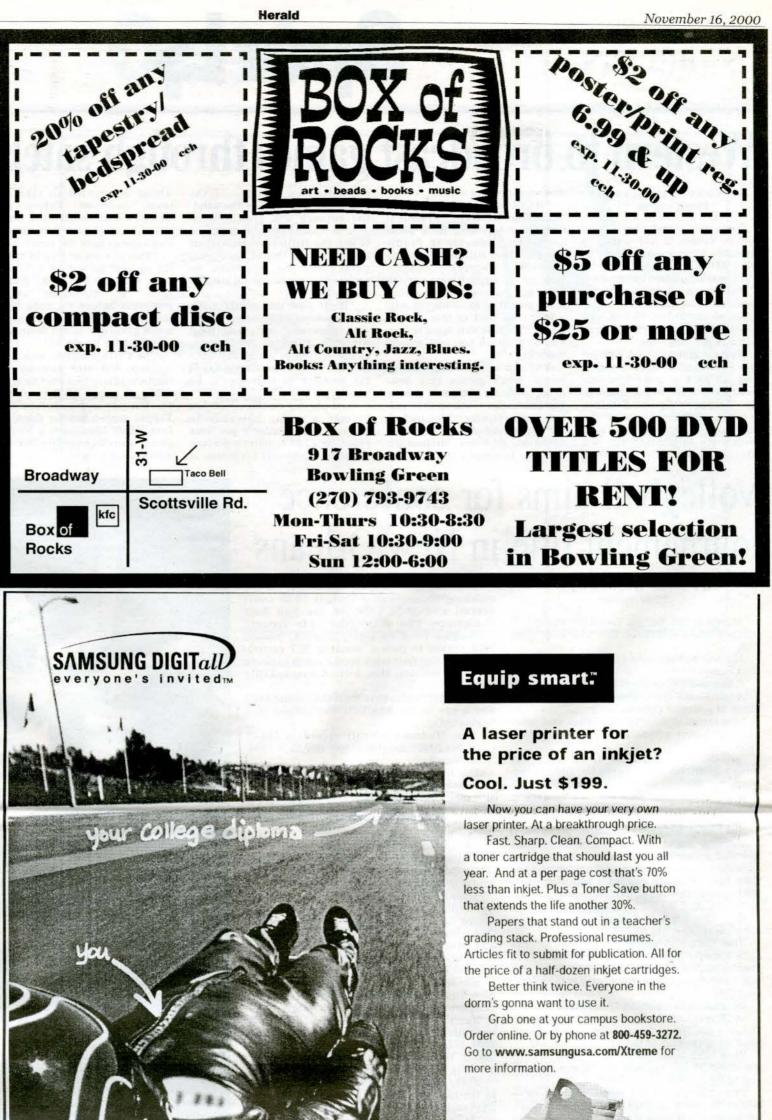
The Lady Topper volleyball program took home several honors at the Sun Belt Conference Awards Banquet Wednesday night.

Hudson was named Coach of the Year by his coaching peers after guiding the Lady Toppers to a 25-7 season and first regular season title since 1991.

This year's team also enjoyed its highest South Region ranking ever, peaking at the number five slot on two occasions.

Hill was named co-defensive player of the year for the first time in her career after recording 300 digs in each of the past three seasons.

Also honored Wednesday were juniors Furry and Thomas who were both chosen as unanimous selections to the first-team



all conference team

And after a stellar season at setter, Noe rounded out the Lady Topper's night with a selection to the second-team all conference team.

This is the second consecutive season Western has placed three players on the all conference team

Covering Western civilization since 1925. College Heights

Herald



November 16, 2000

Herald

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Men open season against Evansville

By TRAVIS WILLIAMS Herald reporter

Two, three and five.

The two is how many times the Evansville Purple Aces have beaten the men's basketball team. Five is the number of points they have won by each time.

But the most important number is three.

That stands for Western's third try, which it will get Saturday in the season-opener against Evansville. After two exhibition games, which the Tops won by a combined 98 points, the Aces will be the first test of a promising season.

"I know they're going to be ready for us and we're going to be ready for them," junior guard Derek Robinson said. "It's just going to come down to executing the right plays. We just have to come out and play more intense than them."

The Purple Ace's motion offense will test the discipline of the Toppers' defense. Limiting outside shooting will be the Hilltoppers' key to winning.

"They'll always have four players on the court who can score from anywhere." Felton said. "They can develop a rhythm against you with their motion offense ... It starts with our defense. We have to be as strong defensively as we aspire to be. That includes rebounding. We want to be a team that every night can be a dominant rebounding team and that's our goal against Evansville just like any other team."

Orr signs with Western

According to Webster's dictionary, a spider is an eightlegged animal having a body composed of two divisions.

According to coach Dennis Felton, a spider is "A long tall guy that isn't necessary polished skillwise but has a tremendous upside because of his size and athleticism and potential to grow."

In other words, 6-foot-11inch, 220-pound Randy Orr, who has signed a National Letter of Intent to play with the Hilltoppers. The South Carolina native averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds last year as a junior and is rated as the second-best player in the state.

Lady Toppers face Pepperdine tonight

BY LYNDSAY SUTTON Herald reporter

The exam of the women's basketball team's season-opening weekend in the Hawaiian Regent Classic is a combination of easy math and in-depth essays.

The math is simple. The Lady Toppers could return from Honolulu with one of four records: 3-0 or 0-3, 2-1 or 1-2. But, those possible records are dependent upon how easily and completely Western answers the in-depth essays it faces.

Collegiate experience is the unknown variable for the Lady Toppers as they open their season against Pepperdine tonight at 6:30. Two of the five probable starters are freshmen, their only experience coming from two exhibition games. But, those games were at home and the opponents weren't 2000 NCAA Tournament participants. "I think a lot of good can come from being freshmen," freshman guard Camryn Whittaker said. "Freshmen tend to come in and try to earn their spot and try to work really hard because they just wanna be playing."

But freshmen enthusiasm alone won't beat a Pepperdine team that returns four starters and 10 players overall from the 2000 West Coast Conference champions.

"Pepperdine runs the floor well," Lady Topper coach Steve Small said. "They're very big. It's gonna be a contest in the post."

BARBER

Western will likely start three guards, which leaves senior forward and All-America candidate ShaRae Mansfield and freshman forward Leah Lineberry to get the work done in the post. Mansfield scored a team-high 27 points and a gamehigh 16 rebounds in Saturday's exhibition game against the Premier All-Stars. Lineberry had seven points and five rebounds in the game.

"Everything has to get better," Small said. "... The worst part of the two games is realizing we're not in the kind of conditioning that we need to be in, so we'll try to rectify that."

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For Southern Illinois, it's a chance to end the season on a winning note and take the emotional high of back-to-back wins against ranked opponents into the offseason.

For Western, it's an opportunity to beat consecutive Gateway Conference opponents, the league they'll set up

shop in next season.

Western coach Jack Harbaugh wasn't pleased with his team's performance last Saturday in its 28-3 win over Gateway cellar-dweller Indiana State.

But with that game behind him, Harbaugh most recently remembered the 1999 match-up with SIU.

"We were dismantled, totally dismantled offensively and defensively in every way," Harbaugh said. "It was a total frustrating day for us and hopefully we can use that as some momentum going into the playoffs."

Turnovers could be a defining factor in this one. SIU has thrown 13 interceptions this season and lost 14 fumbles. Western's defense has picked off 21 passes and forced 17 turnovers, and they now lead the nation's turnover margin at plus 27. Cattle Co.

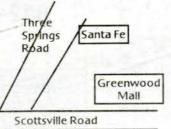
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