Stand up and cheer
Stand up and cheer
For dear old Western
For today we raise
The red and white
Above the rest
Rah-rah-rah
Our team is fighting
And we’re bound to win the fray
We’ve got the team
We’ve got the steam
For this is dear old Western’s day
“...at Western Kentucky University, it’s all about face.”

- The 2003 Talisman Staff
The 2002-2003 school year was a big one for Western.

The year was about change.

The campus faced major renovations, including the construction of the new science and mass media buildings and the upgrading of Diddle Arena, Downing University Center and several residence halls.

The football team faced victory as it fought for the top, winning a national championship title. The basketball team faced an ending to the era of Coach Dennis Felton and star players Patrick Sparks and Chris Marcus. The forensics team successfully faced a snowball of national and international competitions.

The entire school faced the unknown when the United States went to war in Iraq. Members of the ROTC put on a brave face as many prepared to be called for duty.

And we all faced the loss of fellow Hilltoppers to car accidents, suicides, illness and murder.

But some things never change.

Although enrollment peaked at 17,818 in the fall, the student-faculty ratio remained low. Professors knew the students names and recognized their faces.

And the faces were what counted. More than 2,000 of those faces left to face the world, diploma in hand.

They left room for the new faces that would climb the Hill the next year and discover that at Western Kentucky University, it's all about face.
“The college experience is about more than coming to school. It’s about getting involved.”

– Marshall Gray, Class of ’92
Together

Inside this section
KKK/Unity Day Rally,
First Home Football Game, Greek Life,
Remembering Sept. 11, Photojournalism Majors,
Medical Center 10K Classic, Student Profile,
Homecoming, Homecoming Queen Candidates, Step Show

Facing it Together
Standing among Ku Klux Klan members knelt in prayer, Louisville senior Laquetta Shepard protests against the Ku Klux Klan rally held Saturday, Aug. 31 at the Justice Center. The rally ended minutes later, two hours earlier than planned. “They have freedom of speech and I have freedom of going wherever I want to go, so I went to their side of the fence,” Shepard said.

Fifteen Klan members joined Imperial Wizard Scott Smith for the first KKK rally held in Bowling Green in 20 years.
By Jen Miller

Ben Gray stood among strangers at the Bowling Green branch of Girl's Inc., but he felt as though he was surrounded by family.

The youth pastor was enjoying the food, music and good company of Unity Day, a celebration of diversity held Saturday, Aug. 31. The celebration was held to counteract a Ku Klux Klan rally being held across town at the Warren County Justice Center.

Young adults, including Western students, showed their support by getting involved in the festivities. Owensboro senior Leandra Miller, an intern at Girl's Inc., volunteered because she wanted to set a positive example for the children she works with.

This is a good opportunity for us to get together... I would rather be here than downtown giving the KKK any attention, and I think that's why most people are here, Miller said.

Leslie Brassfield and Colin Martin, both explorers for the Bowling Green Police Department, agreed to help with the community celebration. Laughing, the two acknowledged that not a lot of action happens in the parking lot, but they admitted that they would rather support something positive.

It's a great way to see diversity that you might not otherwise see, Martin said.

Gray and his youth group from La Luz Del Mundo (the Light of the World) also wanted a chance to be a vital part in the unification of the community. Along with the police force, Gray and the youth group set up and took down the tent used during the festivities.

Later that afternoon, about 500 people gathered in and around the tent to recite the Birmingham Pledge. People of diverse ages, colors and sexes stood shoulder to shoulder harmonizing with one another.

Therefore, from this day forward, I will strive to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions. I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity...

With uplifted faces and strong voices, the crowd cheered for the success of the day and the hopeful success of the future.

“I would rather be here than downtown giving the KKK any attention, and I think that's why most people are here.”

Leandra Miller, Owensboro senior

Taking a Stand

Unity Day Overshadows Klan Rally

Maggie Baker, a freshman from Raleigh, N. C., protests the Ku Klux Klan ideals.
Football Season

The cannon fires steadily during the Toppers' first home game against Kentucky State

BY LIBBY FUNK

The wind picks up as Western students play a quick game of shirts versus skins on Downing University Center South Lawn while waiting for the first football game of the season to begin on Sept. 7.

On Big Red Way, cars and trucks park with open trunks and dropped tailgates. Their owners sit back, discuss game statistics and listen to the band tackle a Jimmy Buffet song.

At DUC, Revolution 91.7 WWHR-FM fills the air waves with rock and roll, and Greeks huddle to discuss the big events of the evening. Red and white is everywhere, from clothing and pom poms to coolers and towels.

In the stands at L.T. Smith Stadium, fans wait impatiently for the game to begin.

The band files together and marches from Big Red Way to the glistening new turf, which is dying to be played on. The school fight song prompts the crowd to its feet. Red towels wave, cowbells ring and players hustle to the field.

Fans and players anticipate an easy game against Kentucky State. As the heat starts to set in and the sun shines on their faces, fans retreat to the shade. Only a cool, unstoppable breeze and the action of the first home game rejuvenates the fans.

On the field, players huddle before the starting lineup is announced.

In the first 15 minutes of the game, Western shows promise with a great defense and a quick offense.

After seven minutes of play, the first cannon is shot into the stifling heat, signaling a touchdown. The sudden boom silences the spectators. Cheers, cowbells and twirling towels follow as the band plays the fight song once again. The field goal is good, and the cannon lets loose a second shot. Cheerleaders and dancers share the track as they move to the band's rowdy music.

Throughout the game, the cannon works overtime to keep up as the Hilltoppers score touchdown after touchdown.

In the first half, Western makes several huge passing plays and keeps its defense alive, giving the Hilltoppers a solid 31-0 lead.

By game's end, the Hilltoppers continue to dominate. They walk away with a 49-0 victory, setting the stage for what turned out to be the team's most a successful season.
Opens with a Bang

![Football player running towards goalpost](image)

Tim Postlethwait

Western's first home football game on Sept. 7 against Kentucky State. Western beat KSU 49-0.

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Sororities and fraternities participate in a variety of philanthropic activities, from pageants to sporting events.

Colleen Carroll

Farmhouse member Logan Felts, junior, or “Cherry Virginia,” adjusts his evening gown before participating in the Miss-ter Western Pageant. “This itches, but I feel pretty today,” he said. The fundraiser, sponsored by Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, supported the Foundation for Children with Diabetes.

Members of Alpha Omicron Pi celebrate after winning Shenanigans, a philanthropic event sponsored by Kappa Delta. The event raised nearly $3,000 for the Family Enrichment Center of Bowling Green.

The winners of Sigma Kappa’s Greek God and Goddess pageant, sophomore Clint Moseley, Sigma Chi, and sophomore Meagan Long, Kappa Delta, celebrate with freshman Melodye Edwards, Kappa Delta. Proceeds went to the Alzheimer’s Association.
More than clothes, dirty hair, dirty faces, dirty bodies, dirty fun — all in the name of arthritis research.

Over 200 people, representing nine fraternities and six sororities, went to Western’s Ag farm Sept. 18 for the annual Alpha Omicron Pi mud volleyball tournament to benefit arthritis research.

This is our first major event, Bowling Green senior and AOPi president Brittney Long said. It is the first thing the new girls do. It is awesome when you drive up and see all of these people everywhere.

The mud volleyball tournament is open to both Greeks and independent organizations. However, only Greek organizations participated this year.

With the help of the Woodburn Volunteer Fire Department, who came out to hose off the participants and to keep the courts at the right consistency of muck, everyone stayed wet and muddy throughout the evening.

I am so gross, Marion senior Brooke Marshall said. I have had the time of my life, though.

Georgetown junior Eric Williamson found he enjoyed mud volleyball as more of a spectator sport.

I like to see these girls get muddy, he said.

Regardless of whether students were participating or watching, they all got a little dirty, and everyone had a lot of fun.

You plan to get dirty, Long said. Once you get a little dirty, it is all over from there.

At the conclusion of the evening everyone was covered in muck. AOPi raised $1,400 for its philanthropic project, and Farmhouse fraternity and Chi Omega sorority walked away with the mud-slinging titles.
On my way here I was afraid of what could come next to further shake my understanding of reality and of an incomprehensible violence that could crash into this country like a tidal wave.

These were the words Louisville senior Aubrey Videtto used to express her trip to New York City during last year’s attacks on our nation.

Forty students and two professors ventured to New York City and Washington, D.C. after the history-making terrorist action on the United States. They returned with thousands of images and 12 hours of audio from Ground Zero clean up crews, firefighters, police, families of the missing and people who were simply helping New York keep vigil.

One year later, a 16-minute multimedia production entitled New York: A City Searching for Hope and 35 prints were put on exhibit at the Kentucky Museum.

I just can’t believe it is Sept. 11 again. Pat Garland, a freshman from Columbus, Ind., expressed what seemed to be on many of the attendees minds as they gazed with shocked faces at the exhibit.

There was a tissue box placed at the entrance, all too perfect for the atmosphere of the room on that Sunday afternoon. People looking at the pictures of tear stained cheeks, prayers and candlelight vigils had confused expressions covering their faces.

I look at the emotion in all of them (attendees), Russellville sophomore Morgan Miller said as he glanced around the room. It’s amazing.

Assistant professor of photojournalism Tim Broekema introduced the show while James Kenney, photojournalism program coordinator, stood at his side. Both were photo editors on the multimedia project, and Kenney had numerous photographs in the exhibit.

When the death total, 2,807, was shown, a wave of gasps filtered through the crowd.

Tissues began rustling. Images of those running from the ash and smoke, looking for loved ones and mourning the deaths of family and friends, flashed across the screen. The audio added another level of sentimentality to the experience with shouts and cries of sadness, disgust and hope.

After the show, many onlookers had wet cheeks and runny noses, but everyone wore expressions of hope for a more unified nation and gratitude toward the students who brought back this close look.

They found themselves holding a weight that can only be shared by many shoulders, Videtto said. Her words echoed around the gallery as everyone began to bear part of that weight.
By Andrea Flinchum

One year later, the events of Sept. 11 were still deep in the minds and hearts of Western students.

At 9:11 p.m. on Sept. 11, Omega Psi Phi fraternity and Delta Sigma sorority held a candlelight vigil on the steps of Guthrie Bell Tower in remembrance of those lives lost during the attacks. The ceremony gave the Western community a chance to grieve and find comfort with fellow students.

The dropping temperatures didn’t keep students from gathering at the foot of the tower that evening. They stood in groups of friends before the program began some laughing, some crying, some simply waiting silently. Candles were passed around, causing small flickers of light to pop up among the crowd. Some waved small American flags. Others proudly wore shirts showing their support and love for the victims and for their country.

The whispers of the crowd grew quiet and the flames seemed to grow brighter as the members of Omega Psi Phi began to sing, signaling the beginning of the vigil. Brave students, both directly and indirectly affected by the tragedies, walked calmly up the stairs to tell their stories to a sea of glowing faces.

All of Western was affected by the tragedies of that fateful September day. Some students discovered fears about the future, while others found that they were much stronger than they had imagined. The events also brought students closer to each other.

Susan Towery, a Marion sophomore, stood toward the back of the crowd with her friends, tugging slightly on the edges of her blue and white I Love NY t-shirt.

“There’s definitely a lot more unity, Towery said. People don’t take things for granted anymore. They don’t take friends for granted anymore.

Freshman Emily Gilliland of Tell City, Ind., agreed.

“I appreciate my friends a lot more now, she said. We’ve come together a lot. It’s amazing how something so bad can turn into something so good.”

– Emily Gilliland, freshman from Tell City, Ind.
Sept. 11: Keeping Vigil

A sunset memorial at Rodes-Harlin Hall draws students together

BY JEN MILLER

As the sun sets behind the valley, students quietly stand outside Rodes-Harlin Hall with bowed heads and closed eyes to remember the victims of Sept. 11.

One year later, students from all over campus walk the concrete pathway to light candles and pray for those lost in the attacks and those affected by it who are still living. Crystal Corum, an Auburn junior, stands back, watching, waiting.

Corum, the fourth floor Rodes resident assistant, has been planning this memorial ceremony as one of her floor programs since the summer.

On this day, I’m very proud to be an American, Corum said.

Students listened as fellow classmates sang God Bless America and shared stories about the firefighters and police officers who died. It was a time of remembrance and respect.

The ceremony was something Corum felt needed to be done, and the girls on her floor stood behind her convictions.

I wasn’t sure how people would respond, and now I’m just amazed, she said.

Careese Cannon, a senior from Nashville, Tenn., who lives on Corum’s floor, said she was reminded that the ceremony wasn’t held just out of respect for those who died. It also honored those who lost family members.

People just died for no reason...We just need to appreciate people and resolve our differences without killing people, Cannon said.

As the ceremony came to a close and darkness ensnored the crowd, students embraced. As students left the memorial, these words were spoken. And so these angels of freedom stand not as a memorial to those who died, but rather as a celebration of their lives for which we will forever be in debt.
The Brooklyn Promenade became a memorial on Sept. 11, 2002. The view of Manhattan from the promenade was darkened on Sept. 11, 2001 when winds blanketed debris from the first World Trade Center tower over Brooklyn and blocked the residents from witnessing the fall of the second tower.

“On this day, I’m very proud to be an American.”

- Crystal Corum, Auburn junior
Seeing the World
...through someone else’s eyes

Mountain Workshop

Fifty participants invade a selected Kentucky city each fall to hone their journalistic skills during the Mountain Workshops. Grouped with a shooting coach, writing coach and picture editing coach, participants choose an idea out of a hat and try to tell that story with photographs in just four days.

Days are meant for shooting, while nights offer group critiques and presentations from award-winning professional journalists, creating a hands-on, documentary-style learning experience.

Directed by Mike Morse, former coordinator of the photojournalism program, the workshop has been going strong more than 20 years.

Western’s photojournalism program is nationally acclaimed and attracts students from across the country and around the world.

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Senior photojournalism student John Lok waits for the audience response at the opening of “New York: A City Searching For Hope” at the Kentucky Museum. The photographic exhibit displayed work by 40 photojournalism students and two faculty members who traveled to New York City within days of Sept. 11, 2001.

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Seeing the World
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Western’s photojournalism program is nationally acclaimed and attracts students from across the country and around the world.
It was a hot September day when the ROTC’s Ranger Team rounded the last turn during the annual Medical Center 10K Classic. Streams of people ran past them, all trying to accomplish the same goal: finish the race. Even with the added challenge of wearing full uniform and carrying weighted backpacks, the Rangers stride was never broken. Finishing the race was only a fraction of what was to come.

On Sept. 28, the Ranger Team was among thousands of 10K participants that ran a 6.2 mile loop, starting on University Boulevard and ending in front of Downing University Center on Big Red Way. The Ranger Team consisted of two groups of 10 students.

One was a slower-paced group and the other a faster-paced group, said John Campbell, a sophomore from Hendersonville, Tenn., and a member of the Ranger Team.

The run served as practice for the Ranger Challenge that would take place in October. Bowling Green junior Shane Blankenship, Ranger team commander, said the 10K gave first time participants an idea of what the Ranger Challenge would be like.

When we do the 10K run in the Ranger Challenge, it takes a lot more effort and in turn brings the team together, he said. They have to go through serious training for about 16 hours and then go through the 10K run.

The members of the Ranger Team running the 10K were in complete gear, equipped with fake rifles and backpacks containing 40 pounds of weights. The team members even ran in proper formation, with full face paint. During the Ranger Challenge, team members are required to do all of these things.

Overall, the run served as good practice for what was to come, according to Campbell.

It showed us how to pace ourselves and gave us a time that we need to shoot for in the Ranger Challenge, Campbell said. The run gave us sort of an idea so that we weren’t going into the Challenge without knowing what to expect.

The Ranger Team is a volunteer project in which members do extra physical training and practice using military weapons.

As Ranger Team commander, Blankenship is responsible for facilitating training and keeping the team unified.

When the team doesn’t do what they are supposed to be doing, I take the hits for the team, he said.

After the competition was over, members of the Ranger Team felt good about their accomplishments.

Because I was able to accomplish this run, it has helped build my self esteem and was a really great experience for me, Georgetown freshman Stephen Carter said. This program overall, I feel, holds true to how the Army really works and everything you need to know about it. Now, because of this experience, I will probably be a part of this program until I graduate.
Cheyenne Hohman isn’t a typical 18-year-old.

Dressed in a shirt she proudly proclaimed she bought for 37 cents at a thrift store and a knee-length argyle skirt which shamelessly displayed her unshaven legs, Hohman made a mix tape while she answered questions about herself. Hohman has a lot of stories to tell. In reply to a simple question about the spelling of her last name, she launched into an explanation about why her last name doesn’t have two N’s at the end:

“We dropped one N during World War II so people wouldn’t think we were German,” she said.

Surrounded by stickers and magnets with slogans like “Stop policing gender!” and “Guns don’t kill people, radical pro-lifers kill people,” it is clear Hohman has firm ideas about certain issues and wants to make her voice heard.

Even the song that Hohman is adding to her mix tape is unusual and has a strong message. At first it sounds like a typical rap song played on the radio, but after listening more closely, it is obvious that Hohman has firm ideas about certain issues and wants to make her voice heard.

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“I can’t even think of all the volunteer projects I’ve been involved in,” she said. “I’m an activist, mainly for youth rights. I do a lot of anti-racist work, too.”

Hohman has also cooked for Food Not Bombs, an anti-war association which feeds the poor, worked for the Fairness organization in Louisville to gain rights for gays and lesbians, and escorted pregnant women into abortion clinics amidst heckles from anti-abortionists.

“I would get up at 7 every Saturday morning and ride my bike downtown in the freezing cold,” Hohman said of working at the abortion clinic. “That was fun,” she added sarcastically.

Although Hohman admitted it’s not always easy being extremely involved in political and social issues, she still encourages others to do it.

“My friends and family think what I’m doing is a good thing, but they’re not really involved,” she said.

Hohman said she thinks a lot of the reason people don’t get involved is because they’re ignorant about the problems in the world.

“I think if people can be made aware of problems, they will be less apathetic toward them,” she said.

That’s what Hohman was trying to do with a workshop she organized. She and a small group of students put together the Workshop for Peace, held Oct. 17, to educate people about the current situation with the U.S. and Iraq, including the possibility of war.

“We had about 40 people show up, which was more than we expected,” Hohman said.

There were four speakers, including associate history professor Patricia Minter, who covered several different topics, including the history of Iraq, the Patriot Act and ways to get involved.

“It was definitely effective overall,” Hohman said. “We got a lot of people to sign petitions for peace.”

The workshop was not the only way she has gotten involved since moving to Bowling Green and becoming a Western student. Hohman also attended the Ku Klux Klan rally and protested against it. She witnessed Laquetta Shepard’s stand which ended the rally.

“It was a good tactic in shutting down the event, so I give her props for that,” Hohman said.

Although she is very vocal about where she stands on many political and social issues, Hohman is not so about a personal decision she made two years ago.

“I decided to become straight edge,” she said, referring to a movement in which people choose not to smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol or take drugs.

Hohman said she has had a lot of bad experiences with drugs and alcohol, including being the product of an alcoholic family.

“I’m Irish, so I have alcohol in my blood,” she said. “I didn’t want to go down that road.”

Although Hohman does not impose her straight edge beliefs on others, even her silent personal decision has impacted others as much as her active protests.

“It seems no matter what she does, Hohman is destined to create a lasting impression on every person she meets.”

“I’m active, compulsive and ridiculous,” Hohman said. “That’s me.”
“The college experience is more than coming to school. It’s about getting involved.”

– Marshall Gray, Class of ’92

Shannon Guthrie

Bowling Green senior Brian Lowder tries to make a tackle during the Homecoming game on Oct. 26 against Indiana State. Western beat Indiana State 24-7.

Shannon Guthrie

Hilltopper alumni fill seats in Smith Stadium during the 2002 Homecoming game.
Alumni recall campus experiences

BY LIBBY FUNKE

At 10 a.m. vacant tents on Downing University Center South Lawn start to fill with pregame tailgaters. Sororities, fraternities and alumni socialize at Homecoming. Under the shade trees adjacent to Big Red Way is one of the largest tents, which belongs to the African American Alumni Association.

Inside is a reunion of classmates, friends and relatives who attended and graduated from Western.

Melvin Washington, a General Motors supervisor, returns every few years to see familiar faces and get involved with people’s lives again. He listens as friends he graduated with tell him where their lives are taking them now.

Washington keeps in touch with one of the organizers of the Alumni’s Homecoming activities, Marshall Gray.

Gray, class of ’92, is the director of Postal and Printing Services on campus.

As he talks with four to five people simultaneously, it is apparent that Gray is sociable and full of energy. He runs around with the little children in the tent between conversations, making them laugh. Gray greets every person who enters the tent with a handshake and a smile.

Reflecting on his college experience, Gray said, I loved getting involved and enjoyed getting others involved. The college experience is more than coming to school. It’s about getting involved.

Bernice Herndon, class of ’73, agrees.

When I was here, we actually had a sit-in on the Administration Building because we wanted our voices heard, and we wished for more information on black culture, African American classes and faculty and to get more African American students to attend and get involved at Western.

Herndon has many stories about her experiences at Western. She said she is especially proud of the time in 1972 when students voted to get the first black Homecoming queen crowned. Because of voting irregularities, elections were held twice before the administration announced the winner.

Herndon and Gray believe that Western has changed since their glory days, and it has changed for the better.

The University keeps pushing for more communication and making things better, not only for blacks, but for minorities as a whole, Gray said.

Once Upon A Hill

Alumni recall campus experiences

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From Private

Nashville junior Nae' Shara Neal, a private in the ROTC and the U.S. Army reserves, has a busy schedule between school work and training, but she always finds time to laugh.

PHOTO STORY BY RYAN LONG
To Princess

The Quest for the Homecoming Crown
A good laugh breaks up the hectic schedule as Neal and her escort Demetrius Huntspon, a Henderson senior, wait for the start of the Homecoming parade.

Though Neal is scrutinized by a panel of judges who determine the next Homecoming Queen, she stays calm under pressure. Mark Williams, Jamie Pontius, Katie Staples, Steve White and J. Ross Pruitt interviewed each candidate.

Neal’s aunt and mother, lending a hand with the corsage, drove from Nashville to show their support.

From Private to Princess
“I can get down and dirty (in the ROTC), but I can be a princess too.”

- Nae' Shara Neal, Nashville junior and Homecoming Queen candidate
Cheers filled the Bowling Green High school gymnasium during the annual step show Oct. 25. The show, sponsored by the National Panhellenic Council, was the finishing touch for Homecoming festivities.

The Step Show is a competition featuring African American fraternities and sororities that allows members to express their “organization’s pride and creativity,” said junior Kyle Hightower, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity member.

The early forms of step originated in Africa, beginning with tribal dances. Step itself combines dance steps and rhythm tapping.

For some, preparation for the show starts very early in the year. Senior Candice Johnson of Delta Sigma Theta sorority says she began practicing before the semester started. “We started practicing in July so that we could learn the steps earlier and not have to practice as much until it got closer to the show,” she said.

Junior April White, an Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority member, said practice for the AKA’s began in August. “We practiced five to seven days a week for two or three hours a day,” she said. “Sometimes we even practiced twice a day.”

All of the hard work paid off. AKA placed first in the face off with the Deltas.

Conflicting schedules between members of the step team sometimes made it harder to schedule practices.

“There was a lot of work involved in getting everyone together at the same time and still being able to get things like schoolwork done in between practices,” said senior Zach Mills of the Alphas.

But when it was time for the show to begin, the adrenaline was running high.

Senior Monique Smith, an AKA, said that even though this was her second year to participate in the Step Show, she was still a little nervous.

“There were about two or three thousand people there watching us,” Smith said. “And since we were the first group to perform, all of the pressure was on us.”

Some of the participants consider their performance to be more than a competition.

“Each fraternity and sorority has their own thing to bring to the show,” Heath said.

This was the first step show for many participants. The pressure of putting on a good show and representing their organization well rested on their shoulders.

“At first I was really nervous,” Hightower said. “But once I was out on stage, the crowd gave me energy and I wasn’t nervous anymore.”

Entertaining the crowd is an important part of the Step Show.

A Powerful Tradition

Every year, fraternities and sororities dedicate time, sweat and tears to the Homecoming Step Show. This year was no exception.
“People talk about the show way before it ever begins.”

- Monique Smith,
  Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

of the Step Show.

“People talk about the show way before it ever begins,” Smith said. “Everyone looks forward to coming to the show, and we want to give them a good performance.”

Smith, a graduating senior, said winning has been the most memorable experience since she has been in the show.

“By winning this year, I am leaving Western with a bang,” she said. “It shows that all of the hard work we put into this pays off.”

But for some seniors, the memories are not of winning the competition.

“In the room where we had to get ready behind the stage, we could hear the crowd cheering for the team before us. Some of our older brothers came in, and we prayed together,” Mills said. “I realized then that we were doing all of this together. We worked so hard to put all of this together practicing, and we were doing all of this as a team. That was an amazing experience for me.”
“In 50 years, they’ll look back to 2002, and Western Kentucky University is the national champion... And that’s a beautiful thing.”

- Jack Harbaugh, football coach
Face in the Crowd

Inside this section

Soccer Coaches, Swimming, Diving, Basketball, Flag Football, Chorus Line, Rugby Twins, Academic Classes, Volleyball, Soccer, Fencing, College Marriages, Student Father, Snow Day, December Graduation, Football National Championship, Study Abroad

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photo by Aaron Thompson
Louisville freshman Christina Valdez and Andrea Payne, a sophomore from Evansville, Ind., shout instructions to their team, The Beat.

Payne and Valdez congratulate members of the other team, Fire, after the final game of the season at Lovers Lane Soccer Complex. The Beat and Fire tied, making The Beat’s season record 5-3-1.

Payne and Valdez watch television in Valdez’s room in Meredith Hall.
The chilly November wind whipped all around them, but the two young women barely seemed to notice. Decked out in red and white, Andrea Payne and Christina Valdez were way too busy cheering on their favorite team to be concerned with the harsh weather. But the two Western students were not at a football game, screaming for the Hilltoppers. They were at Lovers Lane Soccer Complex in Bowling Green, intently watching a team of eight- and nine-year-old girls called The Beat play their last soccer game of the season.

Since August, Payne and Valdez have been coaching The Beat. We needed service hours for our sorority, Phi Mu, Payne said. I saw a flier in Tate Page Hall saying two soccer coaches were needed, so I told Christina about it. Valdez, who played soccer in high school, agreed to coach with Payne. Payne played from age five all the way through high school. I thought it would be fun, Valdez said. We like kids, and we like the game.

Although Payne and Valdez found coaching The Beat rewarding, they weren't prepared for the huge investment of time and emotion they had to put in. The team practiced for an hour and 15 minutes every Tuesday and Thursday and had a two-hour game every Saturday. Valdez was in charge of conditioning the girls and had to come up with exercises they could do during practices. She said the time spent coaching took away from her school work. Because of practices, I couldn't stay after for extra help in my electronic technology class I had trouble in, Valdez said. My teacher had to talk me out of dropping it.

Besides making their schedules more hectic, coaching brought a new set of problems for Payne and Valdez because of their young ages. Payne said she and Valdez would say one thing, but the parents would often contradict them. If we tell the girls to be here 30 minutes ahead of time, their parents will say, Oh, you only need to be there 15 minutes ahead of time, she said.

Payne also recalled an incident when a dad yelled at her for not putting his daughter in the game enough. It's just like, if we were 40 years old, coaching these girls, would they say that? she said.

But what Payne and Valdez were least expecting was how attached they became to the girls. Sometimes the girls think of us more as their big sisters than their coaches, Payne said as she swept a player's hair back into a ponytail before she ran on to the field. Valdez agreed that she often felt like a big sister to the girls. I'm the youngest in my family, so it's neat to help girls younger than me, she said.

Payne and Valdez's connection to their players caused them to go beyond the work of normal coaches. Not only did they take the girls out to eat after games, they also took them on field trips, such as to see Western's girls soccer team play.

Eight-year-old player Heather Pattison said she enjoyed the trip. I liked watching the girls use their heads to hit the ball, she said.

Debra Hiatt, mother of nine-year-old player Kelsey Hiatt, said she thinks Payne and Valdez have done a fabulous job. I think the girls responded better to younger coaches, she said. They're less like their parents.

The last game of the season ended in a tie. After giving the other team high fives, the girls ran to Payne and Valdez, who were busy figuring out how each girl would get to CiCi's for a celebration. Hiatt watched, smiling. This is the best part, she said. Whether the girls won or lost the game, they still get to spend time with the two people they admire most.
Swimming and diving team captain Gord Veldman, a senior from Kingston, Canada, trains twice a day almost every day at the Preston pool. “Ever since I was young I would watch swimming on the television and felt a lot of pride when I saw the Canadians competing,” said Veldman, who finished 19th in the NCAA Championships in 2002.

Veldman cheers on his team before competing against Cumberland College on Saturday, Nov. 16. Western beat Cumberland College in all events.
Fisher is not only Veldman's girlfriend but also his training partner. "She's always there," he said. "He usually complains while stretching. I don't want him upset at me for stretching him too much," she said.

Veldman met Nicole Fisher of Germantown, Md., in his freshman year at Western while he was dating someone else. Fisher, also a senior and a swimmer, and Veldman started dating in January of '99. They spend every free minute together and have the same friends. So far, two swim team members have married and two have been engaged. Coach Bill Powell predicts that Veldman and Fisher will join that list as well.

Canadian Captain

Gord Veldman, a senior from Kingston, Canada, balances classes and a relationship with his responsibilities as swimming and diving team captain

Photo story by Nina Greipel
Indianapolis junior Marci Kacsir tucks her legs on a high dive at Preston during diving practice. Kacsir and Nailor, right, were both named Sun Belt Diver of the Week.
Head First

Divers contribute to undefeated regular season for men, 15-3 record for women

PHOTOS BY SHANNON GUTHRIE

Senior Donny Glass of Bay City, Mich., concentrates before a dive attempt at a daily practice at Preston Health and Activities Center.

The men's team finished its dual meet season at 15-0, matching their best since 1998-99.

Trisha Nailor, a sophomore from Angola, Ind., twists in a short dive during practice. Nailor and Kacsir, left, finished in either first or second place in the final six meets of the regular season.
About 250 Western employees were made homeless last May — sort of.

After a $28 million Diddle Arena renovation began in April with minor demolition, the employees in Diddle were moved out of the building in May so that the arena could be gutted for phase one of the renovation project.

When Diddle is finished in September 2003, the arena will boast a number of features, including four new entrances, two 48-foot scoreboards, 16 luxury boxes and a 36-inch red cloth air duct, reminiscent of the red towels fans and coaches wave, which will circle the ceiling.

The arena will also have a new lighting system. The system was designed by Bundit Lighting, a company which placed a similar system in a Philadelphia arena where World Wrestling Entertainment performed.

The biggest addition to Diddle is an auxiliary gym behind the arena. The gym will include two basketball courts with an acoustic partition between them.

Work on classrooms and outside projects like the auxiliary gym was to continue during the basketball season, with the first phase slated to be completed by March 2003 in time for Western to host the Sun Belt Conference Basketball Tournament.

The second phase of the renovation will include the replacement of the seating and flooring in Diddle and is scheduled to begin in May 2003. That work is expected to be finished by October 2003.

Because of the construction, the teams were displaced during much of the summer and for fall practices. Practices were held at the old Bowling Green Junior High School. Despite this inconvenience, Western’s men’s and women’s basketball teams both opened their seasons in November, as scheduled, with a pair of exhibition games.

The first 5,000 fans entering Diddle Arena Nov. 9 for the Lady Toppers game against the Houston Jaguars received commemorative plastic hard hats in honor of the renovations.

Senior forward Shala Reese and senior center Tiffany Diggins celebrate after defeating No. 10 Louisiana Tech 71-57 in Diddle Arena on Nov. 23.

Freshman guard Anthony Winchester dives to make a steal against Auburn’s Lewis Monroe during the second half of Western’s 89-70 victory at Gaylord Arena in Nashville, Tenn., on Dec. 1.

Freshman Tiffany Porter-Talbert tries to get a shot off during a game against Clemson. Western lost the game 69-62 on Nov. 29 in Diddle Arena.

Playing in Progress

As basketball season launches, the renovation of Diddle Arena keeps going strong.
Junior forward Todor Pandov tries to make a stop against forward Alex Sanders of the Harlem Globetrotters on Nov. 9. in Diddle Arena. A knee injury in the opener against top-ranked Arizona ended Pandov's season.
Exceeding Expectations
Pressure-packed football season ended with a national championship

BY KEITH FARNER

It was a season without many expectations. The 2002 roster listed few names Hilltopper fans would expect to see painted on the side of Smith Stadium. Quarterback Jason Michael had sat on the bench for two seasons. Nobody expected him to light up any highlight videos.

But Michael provided the light the Hilltoppers needed and guided them to a 12-3 season and the national championship.

At 2-3, questions about this team far outnumbered answers. The defense couldn’t finish tackles. The offense lacked a No. 1 running back and the players were anything but in sync.

Each confidence-building win was followed by an emotionally draining loss. Then something happened at halftime at No. 6 Northern Iowa.

It was the most confident and most together we looked at halftime, said Michael, whose team was leading 7-3. That probably was one of the most defining moments... That was when we really, truly came together as a team.

The team won 31-12 and didn’t lose another game.

Senior Jon Frazier established himself as the No. 1 running back and developed a rhythm with the offensive line. Junior Jeremy Chandler rose to the top of the Gateway Conference in interceptions. Senior transfer Jeremi Johnson became a potent pass-catching threat out of the backfield. Even injuries couldn’t slow the Hilltoppers as a backup or role player stole the limelight each week.

You gotta know that your time is coming, said junior linebacker Karl Masłowski, a backup turned starter. You’ve gotta prepare like you’re a starter if you’re second string, because, like our coaches say, You’re one play away.

In the last game of the regular season, Western had a chance to do something it couldn’t in 2001: win a share of the conference championship and make its final case to get an invitation to the playoffs. The mission was accomplished.

When we came in in ’98, the program had never really won a championship, and we always talked about winning rings, said senior offensive lineman Chris Price. Now we got that chance...We helped develop a legacy.

In the playoff opener, Western toppled rival Murray State. With 40 seconds left in the rematch at Western Illinois, senior Peter Martinez kicked a 25-yard field goal for the 31-28 win. The game was marred by a post-game brawl involving fans and players from both teams.

After jumping out to a 24-7 lead midway through the third quarter in the semifinals at Georgia Southern, Western had to hold off a 21-point fourth quarter barrage to escape with another 31-28 win, setting up a rematch with McNeese State for the championship.

Six days later in Chattanooga, Tenn., the Toppers did something no other Western athletic team has ever done — win a national championship, 34-14.

I’ve said it before, but there’s something special about this group, Michael said. It’s tough to explain. This team truly cares about each other ... and is willing to die for the guy next to them.

By H. Rick Mach
“You gotta know that your time is coming... You've gotta prepare like you're a starter if you're second string...”

- Karl Maslowski, junior linebacker

Junior wide receiver Shannon Hayes and junior inside linebacker Getty Cavill make a tackle against Kentucky State wide receiver Tony Tubbs.

Big Red hangs out with some football fans in the stands during a Western home game.
Senior Phi Beta Paydirt quarterback Cheslee Bloyd of Greensburg releases the ball before a player from Ball State pulls his flag. Phi Beta Paydirt came in second in the Battle of the Bluegrass Regional Flag Football Tournament, losing to Ball State 27-24. Bloyd, along with teammate Dusty Hamilton, was later named to the All-American national flag football second team.

Louisville junior Jonathon Butler, quarterback of WeTight, escapes from Ohio University Polar Ball’s Brad Williams. WeTight lost 22-8.
Fighting for the Flags

Intramural flag football team Paydirt won a bid to the National Invitational Flag Football Tournament in New Orleans where they placed 13th.

Richmond sophomore Stewart Harris of WeTight hugs Berea junior Eric Adams during a break from the game to discuss plays. WeTight won all its regular season games but lost two games in the Bluegrass Regional Flag Football Tournament. WeTight's final record was 10-2.
Lexington freshman Brandy Smith pirouettes across the stage.

Shelbyville sophomore Stephen Loch, Elizabethtown junior Will Miller and sophomore Christ Caldwell from Cordova, Tenn. lead an impressive finale showcasing the spirit of Broadway.

“Though it has been said many times...all the world truly is a stage and we are certainly its players.”

– Stephen Stone, Director
One Singular Sensation

Dedication and hard work make the theatre department’s production of “A Chorus Line” a tremendous success.

PHOTO STORY BY RYAN LONG

Lights are low on the stage of the Russell H. Miller Theatre Nov. 14 as students prepare for opening night of the musical A Chorus Line. Random melodies float over the auditorium as musicians practice a few lines. Tap shoes clatter against the wood floor as a dancer goes over his routine. In the back of the theater, performers share jokes with a familiarity and ease that has come from spending hours together.

The fall production of A Chorus Line, led by director Stephen Stone, tells a story of struggling actors trying to find their places on Broadway.

Behind the flawless final production — the smoke and mirrors of polished theater — lay ample amounts of hard work and dedication. Cast and crew spent nine weeks practicing three hours a day while balancing their busy schedules. Many sacrifices were made and many homework assignments were done between curtain calls.

A Chorus Line was performed in front of sold-out audiences and drew rave reviews and rounds of applause.

Through a curtain of streamers, Elizabethtown junior Will Miller begins the final scene.

Time behind the scenes is spent playing card games and joking around until the next call to face the lights.
Richmond sophomores Diane and Sarah Melius want to play sports professionally, whether it be soccer, rugby, swimming and diving, surfing or tennis. Eventually, they'd also like to pursue a profession in sports nutrition or physical therapy. And they want to be featured in Sports Illustrated or in an advertisement for Nike or Adidas. They watch Sports Center as much as they work out and play rugby and swim. Both girls were on the swimming and diving team and the soccer and tennis teams at Model High School in Richmond.

Diane and Sarah relax after a hard swim practice. The two crash at Diane's to ice their muscles and chill out. Diane has chemistry to study, but she occasionally glances at the television to see what's on. After 30 minutes, the ice has melted. They throw the bags of ice away, change clothes and go to rugby practice.
PHOTO STORY BY JENICA MILLER

If you have seen one, you have seen the other.

With the facial piercings and the extra 10 pounds, Diane looks like a rebellious version of Sarah. With the makeup and the sorority shirts, Sarah looks like a girly version of Diane.

The dumbest question we've ever been asked is how we tell ourselves apart, Sarah said. Yeah, I wake up every morning and wonder who I am.

Sarah and Diane Melius are identical twins from Richmond who are literally inseparable.

Going to college made us better friends, Diane said. Now there is just the two of us.

When Diane was asked to join the diving team in the spring, Sarah was quick to follow. The two have learned not just to appreciate each other as sisters, but they have learned to become friends and work well as teammates.

They've even gone so far as to go to class for each other.

Luckily, teachers haven't caught on yet.

“Yeah, I wake up every morning and wonder who I am.”

- Sarah Melius, Richmond sophomore
Ashley Musselman is a freshman from Noblesville, Tenn., where she was raised on a farm. Once crowned Hamilton County Queen, Musselman came to Western for the agriculture program, which gets students up-close and personal with the subjects they study. Musselman said she hopes to one day take over her parents’ farm or have her own.

“I love being around animals, horses, cows...They just remind me of home,” Musselman said.

“Whoa...He is about to poop everywhere,” Musselman said with a grimace.

“Ugh...Sick. I don’t wanna clean this up,” Musselman said.
A Different Way of Learning

Not all courses require students to sit in tiny desks and listen to endless lectures. Some students get the chance to learn hands-on.
Lady Topper volleyball team garners new victories and recognition

For a season that started with low expectations in grim Statesboro, Ga., it was only fitting for the Western volleyball team to wrap up its dream season in the Aloha State.

Coach Travis Hudson’s eighth squad had numerous obstacles to overcome as the 2002 season approached.

A group of inexperienced freshmen were thrown into action early in the season due to the departure of Natalie Furry, Tara Thomas and Jessica Willard.

An early season injury to sophomore middle hitter Lyndsey Broerman left the Lady Toppers with a thin front line of middle and outside hitters.

To top it all off, the Sun Belt preseason coaches predicted Western would finish third in the East Division it had dominated the two previous seasons.

Nobody really expected much from us, sophomore middle hitter Amanda Schiff said. We lost so much that nobody really had that much respect for us coming into the season.

The duo of freshmen outside hitters Crystal Towler and Jessie Wagner filled in to take charge of a front line decimated by graduation and injuries.

The Sept. 10 drubbing of Conference USA super-power Cincinnati was the first sign that the Lady Toppers would not roll over and die in the 2002 season.

But it was 15 days later in Murfreesboro, Tenn., when the real magic started. That chilly night in late September, the Lady Toppers began an improbable run that will live forever in Western volleyball lore.

A sloppy 3-1 win over the Lady Raiders of Middle Tennessee State marked the first of an epic 19-game winning streak that included a flawless 14-match march through the Sun Belt regular season.

But it was the postseason that had given the Lady Toppers trouble in the past. In the previous two seasons, Western entered the Sun Belt Tournament with high expectations, but left with shocking defeats.

Expectations could not be any higher when the Lady Toppers arrived in Miami for the Sun Belt Tournament on Nov. 18. However, this team was different. Hudson often joked that his team was too young to feel the pressure.

The Lady Toppers had already collected nearly all Sun Belt regular season awards when Hudson was named Coach of the Year, Sara Noe captured Player of the Year and Tracy May took home Defensive Player of the Year.

Noe wrapped up her volleyball career with 5,294 assists, shattering Jenni Miller’s previous record of 4,521.

After breezing through the first two rounds, Western looked as if they would choke for the third consecutive year when they found themselves facing a 2-0 deficit in the title game against New Mexico State.

An inspiring speech from Hudson provided the fuel for one final, remarkable feat. The Lady Toppers exploded in the final three games to steal the championship from the Aggies and bring a typically composed Hudson to the floor in a heap of joyful tears.

The first Sun Belt crown in school history also qualified the Lady Toppers for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since the program’s inception in 1981.

Montana Grille was the setting for the NCAA selection show party on Nov. 30. Fans and family gathered in eager anticipation to see where Western would compete.

A ferocious roar could be heard all around Warren County when ESPNews revealed the University of Hawaii as the site and opponent for a giddy group of Lady Toppers.

Although the Rainbow Wahine swept Western in the first round, the 2002 season will go down as the greatest in the history of volleyball on the Hill.

It was a dream come true, Hudson said.
Senior setter Sara Noe practices in Preston Health and Activities Center.

Derbort spikes the ball for a kill against Middle Tennessee State University. Western began its 19-game winning streak with a 3-1 victory.

The volleyball team had to start its season practicing at the old Bowling Green Junior High School gym because Diddle Arena was under renovation.
A Hard Fought Season

Sophomore forward Allison Nellis works for the ball in a game against Lipscomb on Sept. 22.

Sophomore forward Crystal Chapon and freshman forward Kim Warren celebrate during a game against Lipscomb.
Freshman midfielder Jacob Isenhour challenges Jim Levesque from Southwest Missouri State for the ball.

Josh Brown

Freshman forward Lauren Wilson fights for the ball against Middle Tennessee State University on Oct. 18 in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Jenny Sevcik

women

10-9-0

8-10-1

men
Coach Daniel Faller helps one of the students learn proper fencing techniques. Four years ago, Faller became certified by the U.S. Fencing Association.

Coach Faller spars with Edmonton freshman Craig Pierpont during a Fencing Club practice.
Just a short distance away from the 
commotion of the basketball game at 
Diddle Arena, four men in unitards and 
masks concentrate on hitting each other 
with pointy, sword-like weapons.

They are tucked away in a dance studio 
on the second level of Smith Stadium with 
no sound in the room except the clink of 
metal weapons hitting each other. It is 8 
p.m., and the men will remain until 9:30, as 
they do every Tuesday and Thursday of the 
semester.

These men are part of the Fencing 
Club, founded in 1985 by alumnus Daniel 
Faller, who now coaches the club.

I learned to fence here in the 1970s, 
Faller said. A teacher in the engineering 
department started a fencing club just so he 
would have someone to fence with, and he 
taught me how.

But in the late 1970s, the Fencing Club 
disbanded. Faller missed fencing, so he 
decided to start the club again in 1985.

For a long time, I was just the person 
in the club with the most experience, 
Faller said. But about four years ago, I got 
certified as a fencing coach by the U. S. 
Fencing Association.

Since then, the club, open to all stu-
dents, faculty and staff, has been allowed 
to compete at U. S. Fencing Association-
sanctioned meets. Competitors include all 
fencers, not just members of college clubs.

Everyone in the club is a great fencer, 
so it’s good to compete with them, Faller 
said.

Most of the members of the club are 
skilled fencers because they had prior 
experience in fencing.

Bowling Green freshman Stephen 
Fisher had been a member of the fencing 
club since 1996, before he was even a stu-
dent. He was only in seventh grade when 
he joined.

I saw an article about the club in the 
Daily News back in ’95, Fisher said. I 
had always seen sword fighting in movies 
and thought it looked cool, so I wanted to 
join the club.

Faller taught Fisher how to fence. Six 
years later, Fisher serves as president of the 
Fencing Club.

I keep track of the roster and dues, 
Fisher said. Sometimes I take over when 
Daniel isn’t here.

Fisher said at the beginning of the 
semester there were about 12 in the club. 
At the end of the semester, the number had 
dwindled to about five.

A lot of the people with no back-
ground in fencing weren’t willing to learn 
because it takes such a long time, Fisher 
said.

Adairville junior John Law was one of 
the few beginners willing to stick it out.

I had no prior experience, he said. I 
played around with sticks in my back yard 
when I was little. That’s all.

Law said he was in Topper Caf when 
he saw a man with a fencing mask and 
weapon. He asked the man for details and 
soon began showing up at practices regu-
larly.

Everyone was so friendly, Law said. 
They took the time to show me the moves 
and techniques.

Faller calls fencing a strategy game. 
Everyone learns the same stances and 
moves, but a person’s unique personality 
and physique leads to an individual tech-
nique, he said. That’s just part of what 
makes fencing so interesting.
When Kristen Crafton walked into her psychology class her first semester, she wasn’t prepared for what her professor had to say.

“If my daughter was your age and she got married, I would kick her butt out on the street,” Crafton said, mimicking the deep voice and sarcastic tone of her professor.

Crafton, a Franklin senior, married her high school sweetheart two weeks after graduation.

“Of course my parents tried to talk me out of it,” Crafton said. “I mean, of course they wanted us to wait. Gosh, I was just out of high school. Everybody wanted us to wait. But we didn’t. We went for it.”

Now, more than three years later, Crafton is preparing psychology graduate school applications. Husband Patrick is a successful funeral director, business owner and deputy coroner.

Crafton works hard to have a normal college experience.

When people find out that I’m married, they’re kind of surprised. I do pretty much the same things any other college student does, she said, adding that the only thing she misses out on is living in dorms and partying on the weekends.

Crafton has made school and her marriage work, despite the doubts and negativity of others.

She’s not alone. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, about 3.6 million people in the United States between the ages of 18 and 24 are married.

Father Darryl Venters of St. Thomas Aquinas Church said the Catholic church will not marry a couple unless both people are either 19 years old or they have been out of high school for one year. Venters talks to a lot of college-age couples. Most of them plan to get married after they graduate.

In their minds, it’s a progression- al thing, Venters said, explaining that people often see themselves as going to high school, then to college, then getting married and starting a family.

Venters said that the church doesn’t dissuade young couples from making that commitment.

“If they think they’re ready, it’s not for me to judge,” he said.

Instead, the church prepares couples by sending them on a weekend retreat led by married couples. They also require them to meet with Venters six times to discuss what married life involves after the wedding day.

Sarah McAnly, a senior from Eastview, knows that she and her fiancé Jeremie Wade, a senior from Greenbrier, Tenn., are ready to tie the knot.

“I was waiting for him to take the lead. We both prayed about it, she said.

McAnly and Wade met their freshman year at a Campus Crusade for Christ retreat. The couple has been together ever since. Their religion is extremely important in their relationship.

That’s kind of what brought us together and what keeps us together, she explained.

Beaver Dam sophomore Sam Ford spent his Spring Break at the same place as most other high school seniors — on the beach.

Unlike most seniors, Sam was wearing a tuxedo.

On April 7, 2001, on a beach in South Carolina, 18-year-old Sam married Amanda, his girlfriend of just over a year.

About two months later, the happy couple graduated high school.

Sam and Amanda are both majoring in English writing with a minor in film studies.

Sam is also majoring in print journalism and communication studies, and Sam has been the head writer for the Ohio County Messenger.

The Fords know they’re not the typical college students.

“I know that you can take 21 hours, get a 4.0 and be married as a freshman. You can do that,” Sam said.

He said people tend to think age should be a big factor in marriage. But Sam said people should get married based on the maturity of their relationship, which doesn’t necessarily coincide with maturity as an individual.

When I got married, I was 18 years old, he said, then paused. And I was an 18-year-old!

Sam readily recognizes the advantage of getting married at 18, though.

“We’re building our life together, making it up as we go along,” he said.

Clarissa Puckett, a senior from Munfordville, and her fiancé, Elizabethtown senior Jason Miles, are about to start building their life together, too.

When they say I do, they will have been engaged for two years.

The couple planned to get married last summer, but Miles parents were leery that he wouldn’t finish school. Now that they’ve assured their parents they will graduate, the wedding is set for August 4, 2003.

Puckett and Miles will still have one more year of school left. But, because of Miles role in the army, they don’t want to wait any longer.

“If we’re not married by a certain time, I will not get to go with him when he gets commissioned,” Puckett explained.

When Miles is commissioned, he will be introduced into the army as an officer and assigned to a base. If he is married, he gets a bigger salary and has a better chance of staying in the United States.

Puckett said she has already experienced the disadvantages of getting married young.

“I feel like we get treated like kids,” she said, explaining that making wedding plans has been difficult because she feels no one takes her seriously.
Puckett said she feels she and Miles are better off than some young couples because of his job.

Right away we have health insurance, a house, food, Puckett said. It would be stupid to wait.

But Richard Greer, director of the counseling and testing center at Western, said it’s better for a young couple to wait.

I believe that every human being, male or female, needs a minimum of one year living on their own, Greer said, explaining how that time will help a person develop security.

He said he believes that if more people followed his advice, the divorce rate would be cut in half.

Debbie Shivel, professor of consumer and family sciences, agrees that couples should wait until they are out of college to get married.

Most research shows that the longer you wait to get married, then the better the choice that you make and the better the likelihood that you’re going to have a successful marriage, she said.

Shivel said it’s possible that many college marriages are starter marriages, a first marriage that tends to last about two years.

I think that marrying in high school, or even in college, there’s a higher risk of the marriage not working, she said.

Shivel, who has been married for 18 years, has some advice for college couples considering marriage.

Take your time, she said.

If students do choose to marry, Crafton reminds them not to lose their individuality. She and her husband make a point to spend time away from each other with their friends. But they are each other’s best friend.

Patrick and I can always, always, always, everyday laugh at each other and together, she said, smiling. You have really got to be buddies... The attraction comes after that.

Ford said his wife is his best friend. That’s why you marry someone. You have someone to confide in. There are plenty of problems, but you never feel alone, he said.

For Crafton, marriage has been a positive experience, but she doesn’t recommend it to all students.

I’ve seen other people that have gotten married when I did, at the same age, but it was for other reasons, Crafton said. They want to hurry up and play house. That kind of thing doesn’t work. That’s not why we got married — we didn’t want to hurry up and play house. We just wanted to be together.
David Bolton, 23, and his wife BobbiSue, 21, try to have the kids asleep early on Sunday nights so that they can enjoy their favorite show, "The Practice," and have time with one another on their "date night." Sometimes things do not go as planned, as with this Sunday night when their son Jon Connor, 11 months, woke up when BobbiSue put him in bed.

Jon Connor watches the bustle of his parents getting ready in the morning. He will see his mom again at 3:30 p.m., and his dad between 5 and 6 that evening.

David and Dr. Patty Randolph, a psychology professor, laugh about the advice she gave him. Randolph told him that it wouldn't be feasible for David to change his major from history to psychology and still graduate in the fall of 2003.
David Bolton, 23, and his wife BobbiSue, 21, have come out on top of a situation that would break a lot of people.

While the two were in high school they found out that BobbiSue was pregnant. They decided to raise their daughter Mikala together and make it work.

In the fall of 2001, David and BobbiSue married, committing to each other and their family.

David, now a junior, has balanced school, work, and the surprise arrival of his son Jon Connor all with BobbiSue beside him.

She’s my rock. If I ever needed anything I’d go to her, David said of his wife, now a senior.

The two became adults at a young age, but the couple has a fair perspective on where they are in life.

We have a really good foundation — we just don’t have the frame yet, said BobbiSue with a laugh.

Squeezing together in their pint-sized bathroom is the routine on Tuesdays when the pair has early classes to rush off to. BobbiSue's mother watches the kids while the young couple works hard in school to beat the odds.

Often the only time during the week that David gets to study is after the kids go to bed. At 10 o’clock, David remembered he had a paper due the next day in his child psychology class. Sharing a computer with his wife BobbiSue, also a student, means that he had to wait his turn and start writing it by hand.

Making it Work

PHOTO STORY BY HANNAH VAN ZUTPHEN-KANN

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On Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and some Saturdays David goes to work at Hargis Bolton, LLC for his father as an accountant. David has been working there since he was 19. “I pretty much do it all. I do billing, some consulting, bookkeeping, a lot of PR, and of course, homework.”

Around midnight Saturday, David pauses to rub his eyes, finally done folding the last of his family’s laundry. David washed all except one load at his father’s house. Laundry usually takes a big chunk of the weekend. “We make one load of dirty laundry a day.”
After a long day at work, David changes clothes and asks for hello kisses from Jon Connor who excitedly calls his dad “Kitty cat!” He calls everyone he is happy to see “Kitty cat.” Sometimes BobbiSue will bathe Jon Connor in the sink, multitasking to keep an eye on him and get things taken care of in the kitchen.

Shortly into the month of November, Mikala is requesting to read “The Night Before Christmas” as her bedtime story. David takes his time with Mikala, letting her recite some from memory and look closely at the pictures she hasn’t seen since last winter. After the story, David kisses and hugs Mikala goodnight and tells her, “I’m proud of you. You’re a good girl. Thanks for listening to me and taking a bath.”

Mikala, 5, runs naked through the house laughing as David chases her, scoops her up, and carries her into the shower for her “bath.” They run the water down the wall of the shower and stop up the drain for Mikala to have a few inches to splash and play with her toys in. The two role-play with her dolls and toys and David manages to tie in a lesson: his doll says to hers “Are you saying we should get to know people before we judge them?” “Yeeees.” Mikala nods emphatically with her doll.

“I’m proud of you. You’re a good girl.”

- David Bolton, Bowling Green junior
Roommates Joyce Duncan, a freshman from Sonora, and Ashley Huff, a sophomore from Louisville, jumped up and down on their beds when they heard the good news from their friend, Ryan Edge, a Maceo junior, on Dec. 5. In the midst of celebrating, the roommates looked out the window and saw four inches of snow on the ground. Duncan and Huff ran through the halls of Florence Schneider screaming, Class is canceled! Class is canceled! The two banged on doors and woke unsuspecting residents to news they never thought they would hear. Classes were canceled. Their celebration was more justified than these roommates realized. Western hadn’t canceled classes since 1996.

President Gary Ransdell didn’t think the snow warranted a cancellation at 5:30 in the morning, but by 8:30, he admitted the conditions had worsened.

Glasgow freshman Derek Braur didn’t know classes were canceled until he started walking up the Hill.

“This is great,” Braur said. “I didn’t know you got out of class for snow in college.”

Neither did senior Kenneth Rowan, Jr. when he left his home in Owensboro that same morning. With three children, 4-year-old Mya and 11-month-old twins Kenneth and Kennedy, it would have been tempting to stay home and play in the snow.

After working for an after school program at Foust Elementary School in Owensboro, Rowan became interested in teaching and was seeking a degree in elementary education.

But he didn’t know there wouldn’t be classes because the mass e-mail sent to Western students about the cancellation was sent after he left home.

Rowan was killed on William Natcher Parkway after a truck lost control and hit his car head on around 8:15 a.m.
Ginger Johnson

Woodburn junior Adam Wheeley turned a discarded piece of furniture into a one-of-a-kind sled, with the help of a friend. "It's the most comfortable sled you can find," Wheeley said.

Jim Winn

Madisonville sophomore John Joiner prepared to toss a snowball from the second story of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity house on College Street Thursday afternoon while Alvaton sophomore Seth Deaton took cover behind a couch cushion. Other Kappa Alpha members were throwing snow at Joiner through the windows. "We're going to light those guys up," Joiner said.

“\textit{It's the most comfortable sled you can find.}”

-Adam Wheeley, Woodburn junior

Ginger Johnson

Woodburn junior Adam Wheeley turned a discarded piece of furniture into a one-of-a-kind sled, with the help of a friend. "It's the most comfortable sled you can find," Wheeley said.
Nikki Wagner, a mathematics major from Fort Mitchell, grins at family and friends.

A Big Red plush doll completes the graduation hat for recreation major and Big Red mascot Wade Raymer of Beaver Dam.

Abby Wallace, a broadcasting major from Henderson, hugs President Gary Ransdell after receiving her diploma. Ransdell urged graduates to let their years of memories and experiences at Western keep them close to the university.
After four, perhaps five, possibly six, and maybe even more, years of hard work, 661 Western Kentucky University students walked the line on Dec. 14, 2002.

Western’s 152nd commencement was held in Diddle Arena. Nine hundred and fifty-four students received degrees, but only 661 of those December graduates participated in the ceremony.

Honor graduates were Susie High, Glasgow music major; Lindsey Rushival, Crestwood government and communications studies major; Keneth Jones, Tompkinsville computer information systems major; Christina Shark, Rineyville general studies major; Jennifer Farris-Newton, Bowling Green interior design major; Brandon Thompson, Owensboro electrical engineering and technology major; and Persis Salvia, Harrodsburg social work major.

Out of 954 degrees awarded in December, 677 were bachelor’s, 101 were associate’s, 174 were master’s and two were specialist’s.

Brandy Little, the fiancee of Owensboro senior Kenneth Rowan Jr., and Rowan’s parents, Carla and Kenneth Sr., accepted Rowan’s diploma at the December graduation ceremony. Rowan, 25, was killed in a car accident one week before finals.
"In 50 years, they’ll look back to 2002, and Western Kentucky University is the national champion...And that’s a beautiful thing."

- Coach Jack Harbaugh

Coach Jack Harbaugh celebrates the championship season at a ceremony held Jan. 18, 2003, in Diddle Arena to honor the Division I-AA football champions.

Junior outside linebacker Rufus Sanders celebrates with fullback Brock Baker, a graduate student, during the final seconds of Western’s 34-14 victory over McNeese State in the National Championship game on Dec. 20 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

McNeese tailback Jacob Prim gets gang tackled by the Topper defense during the championship game.
BY KEITH FARNER

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — As the clock drained at W. Max Finley Stadium, defensive coordinator David Elson was soaked after a cooler was emptied on him. Western players dashed for the championship logo on the hill in front of the scoreboard and danced like it was Christmas morning. Fans emptied onto the field and followed the players toward the end zone where they took down the goal post and paraded it around the field.

All this was ignited by the first national championship in Western football’s 84-year history. Minutes later, players and Head Coach Jack Harbaugh struggled for words to explain.

There would be no possible way to explain the emotion, Harbaugh said.

I’ve said it before, but there’s something special about this group, senior quarterback Jason Michael said. It’s tough to explain. This team truly cares about each other ... and is willing to die for the guy next to them.

The Toppers had just concluded a 34-14 manhandling of McNeese State, a team they lost to Sept. 28. Although the Cowboys piled up 405 total yards, they struggled to score as the Western defense bent but never broke. Michael and running back Jon Frazier spearheaded the offense behind a line that averaged 301 pounds.

We noticed how their defense was flowing hard all game, and I just tried to hit the hole hard, said Frazier, who notched 159 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

Cowboy defensive tackle B.J. McNutt said his team couldn’t contain Frazier.

They just ran the ball, ran the ball. And we’d stop them, stop them, stop them, then they’d break a big play, McNutt said. That’s what you can’t do on defense. You can’t break, and we broke.

Cowboy fans got excited when their team rallied in the third quarter and cut Western’s lead to 24-14. But a two-yard Michael touchdown silenced the McNeese crowd and popped the cork off the Topper championship celebration.

As the players walked to the other end of the field and as the fourth quarter began, six letters were draped behind the Western bench. F-I-N-I-S-H.

That word became the battle cry in 2002, and Western did. Nearly 11 years after the program was within one vote of being eliminated, it stood at the top.

"In 50 years, they’ll look back to 2002, and Western Kentucky University is the national champion," Harbaugh said. "And that’s a beautiful thing."
Senior offensive lineman Chris Price celebrates with senior outside linebackers Jon Drummond and Sherrod Coates after defeating Georgia Southern 31-28 in the national semifinal game.

Senior quarterback Jason Michael struggles to get away from a Murray State defender during the first round of the Division I-AA playoffs. Western rolled to 59-20 win.

Junior free safety Antwon Pinkston dances as the band plays on the field after the Toppers’ National Championship victory over McNeese State on Dec. 20 in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Toppers F-I-N-I-S-H Champions

Fans congratulate members of the football team after Western’s win over Georgia Southern on Dec. 14 at Statesboro, Ga.
Senior running back Jon Frazier struggles to get away from McNeese State strong safety Achille Fairchild during the National Championship game.

Senior outside linebacker Jon Drummond celebrates with fans after Western upset Georgia Southern to win a trip to the Division I-AA National Championship.

Fans tear down the goal post after Western’s 34-14 National Championship victory over McNeese State. A section of it was displayed at the Jan. 18, 2003 celebration in Diddle Arena.
Indianapolis senior Amanda Mauer lived and worked in Edinburgh, Scotland, for three months in the summer of 2002. The Scott Monument on Princes Street was among the many places she was able to visit while participating in the work abroad program.

"I had a great time. I think the program is a great opportunity for students to take advantage of," she said.
I got a little scared when my plane had to be de-iced before it could leave the tarmac. As I stared out the window at the falling snow, I asked myself what I had gotten into. Was I going to live through my Christmas break? Maybe I should have stayed in Bowling Green. I could have worked during the break. A college student always needs money. I could have spent New Year’s Eve with my friends, instead of total strangers. But no. I had to travel across the Atlantic to a city where I knew only one soul, Laura Johnson, a Munfordville senior who flew with me. Whatever had possessed me to enroll in a study abroad program? Oh, yeah. Abbey. My friend Abbey Brown, a senior from Vincennes, Ind., wanted to participate in a study abroad program, so she made an appointment to meet with Western’s study abroad adviser, Yating Chang. I thought it might be a fun trip a chance to leave the country, which I had yet to do, and receive academic credit. So I went to the International Center with Abbey to meet Yating. Abbey wanted to go to Africa for a photography class, but the London winter program appealed to me. I’m high maintenance. I need running water, indoor plumbing, mirrors, museums. Abbey spent two years working on a humanitarian project in Haiti. She plans to join the Peace Corps in January of 2004. London, with its overcrowded population and pollution, didn’t interest her. Funding was another problem. Abbey ended up not being able to raise the money. But I cleaned out my savings account and applied for the Literary London class. That’s how I ended up in Detroit the day after Christmas, sitting on a plane bound for England. Nine hours later, I was unpacking my belongings at a four-star hotel in the London suburb of Westminster. I spent 12 days in London studying various authors and the places in London about which they wrote. As part of my class, I ventured to a tourist attraction of literary significance each day. I visited Shakespeare’s birthplace, toured Parliament, saw the bridge at Westminster and went to Highgate Cemetery, the resting place of Dante and Christina Rosetti. And I received three credit hours for the class. I had to submit a one-to-two page paper daily. A 12-page research paper was also required. I did some sightseeing of my own, too. I spent New Year’s Eve on the banks of the Thames watching a fireworks display with three Norwegians as Big Ben rang in the New Year. The excursion I enjoyed most was my trip to the National Portrait Gallery. Dozens of rooms were filled with rows upon row of detailed portraits. Vivid colors, incredible details and unimaginable stories of life hung there, waiting to be discovered. My favorite portrait was that of The Lady of Shallot, by John William Waterhouse. I have a print of this portrait hanging in my apartment, but I had no idea how grand the original was. Tennyson’s poem came to life as I viewed the image of the Lady, doomed for eternity. She had left the safety of her home and ventured to a city in the distance which beckoned her. As I stood there, looking at her far off gaze, I understood what she felt.
“When I first got this job, Julie and I were sitting around our new home with some buddies from our days as Western students, talking, laughing. Around 2 a.m., one buddy says, ‘Man, this is weird. It’s like having a party in the president’s home while he’s away.”

- President Gary Ransdell
Facing the Cold

Inside this section
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, President Ransdell and Family, Professor and Student Profiles, WWHR, WKYU-PBS, Student Teaching, PRISM concert, Happy Inn, Resident Assistants, Rising Stars, Parking Tickets, Topperettes, Cheerleaders, Crimson and Cream Ball, Nappy Roots

photo by Thomas Cordy
During a symbolic march from the Justice Center to Van Meter Hall, Bowling Green postal worker Yvonne Bryant displays a picture she purchased 15 years ago at the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. The march was held on Monday, Jan. 20, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
A March of Remembrance

Students and community members gather to honor civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

BY JENICA MILLER

On Monday, Jan. 20, 2003, Martin Luther King Jr. Day 300 people marched from the Justice Center to Van Meter Hall in honor of King.

During the national day of remembrance, marchers held signs reading, Remember the Vision, the Mission, the Man.

Western students were among those marching to remember King’s fight for equality.

The Office of Diversity posted flyers around campus listing the trials of King’s life and urged students not to use the holiday to simply sleep in.

C.J. Woods, director of the Office of Diversity, said student involvement was higher this year than in previous years. He attributed the attendance to African American organizations on campus, like the Amazing Tones of Joy and black sororities and fraternities.

The march illustrates the progress that has been made, Woods said.

Several war protesters were also present for the MLK Day march. Organizers said the march should focus on commemorating King’s accomplishments and asked the protesters to step to the back of the group.

Bowling Green resident Cheryl Smith brought her seven-year-old son Chris and their 7-year-old neighbor Renee Pollard to the march. Pollard’s father Doug is a National Guardsman who left for Bosnia in January. Soldiers were assigned to Bosnia as part of a UN peace-keeping force.
The Ransdell family just can’t stay away from Western Kentucky University.

I came here as a student because my brother came here, said Dr. Gary Ransdell, president of Western. I grew up a Western fan. I had always followed and rooted for Western.

But Ransdell wasn’t expecting exactly how big of a Western fan he would become.

I had such a wonderful experience, Ransdell said. I made a circle of friends, and we have remained close friends ever since.

Ransdell also met his wife Julie at Western.

We started dating our junior year and got married in the middle of our senior year, he said. That’s something we advise students not to do today, he added with a laugh.

Julie Ransdell also looks back fondly on her time at Western.

Those were four of the best years of my life, she said. I was very busy. I met Gary, and I made life-long friends.

Ransdell graduated from Western in 1973 with a degree in mass communications and intended to work in advertising. But one of his professors, Dr. John Minton, swayed him in a different direction.

He encouraged me to get my master’s and suggested I look into higher education, Ransdell said.

Taking Dr. Minton’s suggestion, Ransdell found he liked administration and wanted to pursue a career in it. He received his master’s degree in public administration from Western in 1974 and his doctorate in education from Indiana University in 1978. He worked for Western as a representative in the Office of University School Relations from 1974 - 1976 and as associate director of Alumni Affairs from 1978 - 1981.

When I finally left Western in 1981, I always thought coming back and serving Western would be wonderful, Ransdell said. But I knew coming home may not be possible.

In 1987, Ransdell found a job as vice president for Administration and Advancement at Clemson University. It was there that he and his wife settled down for 10 years to rear their sons, Patrick and Matthew.

In September of 1997, Ransdell got the opportunity he had been waiting for. He was offered a job as president of Western. But high school senior Patrick and eighth grader Matthew were reluctant to leave their home.

We decided it would be best for Gary to go on and move to Bowling Green and take the job and me and the boys to stay here until Patrick finished high school, Julie said.

When the rest of the Ransdell family joined their husband and father in the summer of 1998, Patrick visited Western’s campus.

His exact words were, Hey, Dad, this is a pretty cool place, Ransdell recalled. And I said, What did you expect? Of course it is.

Patrick graduated from Western in May of 2002, but when it came time for Matthew to make a decision about college, he chose to return to the place where he had grown up. He spent the 2002 fall semester, the first of his college career, at Clemson University.

I thought it was what I wanted, but it wasn’t a good fit, Matthew said.

He returned to Bowling Green to attend Western during the 2003 spring semester.

When we first moved to Bowling Green, I wasn’t fond of it, he said. But after awhile, I really liked it. I mean, obviously, because I moved back.

Like Matthew, Patrick found himself following in his father’s footsteps, unable to stay away from Western. Following graduation, he accepted a job working with marketing in Western’s athletic department.

It’s nice having us all here together. So much has changed, yet it still feels very much the same, Ransdell said. When I first got this job, Julie and I were sitting around our new home with some buddies from our days as Western students, talking, laughing. Around 2 a.m., one buddy says, Man, this is weird. It’s like having a party in the president’s home while he’s away.

Julie said the family feels privileged to be in Bowling Green.

We feel very sentimental toward it, she said. It’s very special to be back.

President Gary Ransdell and wife Julie pass the Western spirit on to their sons.

The First Family

94 | The Talisman 2003

Story by Jennifer Raggard | Photos by Kylene Lloyd
“His exact words were, ‘Hey, Dad, this is a pretty cool place.’ And I said, ‘What did you expect? Of course it is.’”

– President Gary Ransdell

Ransdell works diligently in his office in the Wetherby Administration Building. “I try to get all my work done here in the morning before I get booked with meetings for the rest of the day,” he said.

Ransdell spends some time going over work in his living room with the family cat Maggie and dog Topper, a symbol of the Ransdells’ Western spirit.

Julie Ransdell made a bet with one of the Lady Topper basketball team members that, if they won the last game, she would have the whole team over for a pasta dinner. She kept her word, and the Ransdells shared their home with the entire team. “You girls have done an amazing job this season,” President Ransdell said. “My home is yours tonight.”
This is my time, too,/ the splendid passage/ between heat and cold/ when summer
has not/ quite let go,/ and the field mellow/
and all the trees glow/ in their silent/ sap
deaths.

This poem is an excerpt from We Will All Be Changed, a chapbook created by the mind of Kentucky Poet Laureate Joe Survant, an English professor at Western.

Survant has been interested in poetry since high school, when he and a friend created Owensboro High’s first literary magazine, Scribbles. He has since published three poetry books and a chapbook, a very short book of poems about 30 pages in length. Survant was named poet laureate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2002.

The title of poet laureate is an honor given by the governor, Survant said. The poet laureate is considered the official spokesman for literary art for the next two years, he said.

The word laureate comes from the Greeks. When Greek athletes won an event, they would be crowned with laurel leaves.

Poet laureates were originally picked more on political standards and favors than on a poet’s merit. But seven years ago, Jim Wayne Miller, a former poet laureate and professor at Western, decided to establish a committee of people to choose the poet laureate.

Miller’s widow, Mary Ellen, said she was glad that Survant was recognized for this award.

“I’m really proud of him. It’s nice to have it back in Bowling Green and back on our campus, Miller said. It’s something Western should be very proud of.

The Kentucky Arts Council set up the selection committee, which consists of other writers, librarians, teachers and people in the state education department. Survant sat on the first selection committee which nominated Joy Boone of Glasgow.

Gov. Patton will officially recognize Survant as the commonwealth’s poet laureate on April 24.

Survant has also received many other honors for his poetry. He has twice won first place in national competitions. Anne and Alpheus (1842-1882) was submitted to the University of Arkansas Press and won the Arkansas Poetry prize.

The university loves the competition it gets from poets because they get close to 800 manuscripts every year, Survant said. Mine just happened to come out on top. Survant received a cash prize and his story was published in hard and soft back books.

His chapbook We Will All Be Changed won a national competition in Brockport, N.Y. He was also a runner up in a London international competition called the Daily Telegraph Arvon International Poetry Competition in 1998 for his submission of a poem called Rafting Rise.

But Survant didn’t always want to be a writer. He attended the University of Kentucky and majored in physics. He always took English classes on the side, but he spent most of his time working hard in math and science.

He did help to publish a campus literary magazine, of which he later became editor.

Reading and writing about reading came easy to me, so I was always drawn to literature, he said.

When he isn’t writing or teaching, Survant loves to jog, travel, backpack and fish. He has two daughters, Alex, a senior at Western, and Ashley, a pharmacist in South Carolina.

My next goal is to get the trilogy completed, Survant said. The first two [poems] are Anne and Alpheus and the other is Rafting Rise. They are written in the 19th and 20th century. The third will be written in the 18th century.

With the prospect of Rafting Rise being transformed from a poetry book into a novel, Survant is quite busy. But he will always be energetic about poetry.
The prayers of Somerset sophomore Matt Haste were answered last August when he and a friend from the Baptist Student Union started a program called Alive.

Alive is a nondenominational outreach program that sends college students to high schools around the area to encourage students to stay close to God as they pass from high school to college.

One of the central goals of Alive is to help [high school students] in developing a faith that is not their parents, or their church’s back home, but it’s distinctly theirs, explained Haste. So when they leave high school, when they leave their family and they leave their youth group and they go to school somewhere . . . they’re not relying on all these people to keep up their relationship with God, but they’re relying on their heart and their relationship with their Savior.

The program had a leadership team of five Western students and BSU members. They were Haste; John Fisher, Nashville; Jeff Crady, Shepherdsville; Rachel Duke, Franklin, Tenn.; and Sabrina Green, Gallatin, Tenn.

Haste said the name Alive came from the Bible verse Romans 6:11, which says, For we are dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

What we want to portray to the kids is that we can be alive in our faith and alive through Christ, Haste said.

Haste got together with representatives from Greenwood High School and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes last summer. They organized an Alive program that took place in the school’s gym.

The program opened with the team greeting students as they came in the doors. The team and the students participated in a few games and then sang praise songs. The Western students then shared testimonies.

Joseph Trafton, professor of philosophy and religion, was the guest speaker. After the testimonies and speakers, the high school students divided into breakout groups to discuss spiritual discipline, prayer, fasting and reading the Bible.

Haste and the group are working toward making Alive incorporated as Alive in Christ Ministry Inc.
Western’s Hit Radio

Reaching out to broader audience, reaching in to ‘revolutionize the music industry’

BY TABITHA HOLMES

The name speaks for itself. Revolution 91.7-WWHR FM offers new music to the audience while giving unknown bands the opportunity to get air time and be heard.

Part of our mission is to revolutionize...radio here in the Bowling Green market, said Marjorie Yambor, general manager at Revolution 91.7-WWHR FM. We also consider that college radio is extremely important in revolutionizing the music industry itself.

Dave Matthews received air play on college radio a couple of years before he received commercial air play, Yambor said.

Local bands took advantage of the opportunity to be heard. Every Friday night, the station played music from local bands on the air waves.

No other station in the area, or that I’m aware of in south central Kentucky, spins local artists regularly, Yambor said. We do at least once an hour.

Revolution 91.7 also offered a wide variety of punk, goth, drum n base (techno) and party music.

They aired talk shows such as Revolution Platform, a news and public affairs show. The host of the show and his guests varied. Issues such as the Sept. 11 attacks and snow day policies were discussed on the show.

In August of 2002, the station upgraded its towers so it could reach a 20-mile radius.

Before, you would drive down College [Street] from Cherry Hall, and you would dump the signal before you got to the bottom of the hill, Yambor said.

Louisville sophomore Joseph Hall was the station’s traffic director. He determined when commercials aired.

[Revolution 91.7] has grown by leaps and bounds, Hall said.

“…”

By Tabitha Holmes

Photos by Colleen Carroll

Broadcasting major and football player Chris Miller, a senior from Heidelberg, Germany, has been a disc jockey for several years and wants to pursue radio promotions after his May graduation. Miller, a DJ for Revolution 91.7 WWHR-FM, says he feels the daily Freestyle program devoted to different genres of music entertains everybody on campus.

Shepherdsville sophomore Courtney Skaggs and Edgewood junior Bryan Butler interview a residence hall director and resident assistant for one of two platforms they’ll conduct for a broadcasting class.

“We also consider that college radio is extremely important in revolutionizing the music industry itself.”

–Marjorie Yambor, general manager at Revolution 91.7-WWHR FM
BY TABITHA HOLMES

If you walked into the WKYU-PBS station when Main Street or Outlook was being recorded, you would want to stand out of the way to let everyone get around. For such a tiny place, the station airs shows with a huge impact.

Main Street is a cultural magazine show about arts and crafts in the Bowling Green area.

Outlook is a half-hour, live-to-tape, weekly news and public affairs show hosted by Barbara Deeb. Guests such as Sen. Mitch McConnell and wife Elaine Chao have appeared on the show. In previous years, Lavar Burton, host of PBS's Reading Rainbow, and R.L. Stine, author of the children's book series Goose-bumps, have also been on the show.

Deeb said she believed that all the guests were memorable. They all offer something unique, she said. A lot of times [the guests] are everyday people.

Linda Clark appeared on the show in the spring of 2002. After her son Jonathan died in a car accident, his heart was donated to an elderly man. She said when she listened to the man's heartbeat, she felt her son was still alive.

The shows reached more than 250,000 viewers, but the WKYU-PBS audience was greater during basketball season.

Basketball season is one of the biggest events every year because we reach a bigger viewership, said Erlanger junior Stephen Kertis, an associate producer. It's a much bigger production, and everyone is involved at some level.

We can make it look as good as ESPN, and that's pretty good considering we're students, said Georgetown senior Josh Niedwick, the station's crew chief.

The footage was so good, ESPN sometimes took the feed from a game and aired it on ESPN Full Court.

WKYU-PBS was even more involved with the 2002-2003 basketball season. The station was responsible for running the new video boards in Diddle Arena. Any play that the students at WKYU taped during a game was displayed on the video boards so all the fans could enjoy instant replays and close up shots.

It's nice to know that we're doing a job where what we do is being noticed, Niedwick said.
James Kanan

Family man and sociology professor doubles as Mormon bishop

BY ELIZABETH HALE

Dressed for the Sunday morning church service, James Kanan, assistant professor of sociology at Western, sits up front.

At church, instead of being called “Dr. Kanan” or “Professor,” he is “Bishop Kanan,” or just “Brother Kanan.” He sits calmly, facing the congregation of the Bowling Green 1st Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Kanan was called to be bishop of his ward in January of 1998.

His responsibilities include arriving at church at 7 a.m. on Sunday, the church’s Sabbath Day, for organizational meetings.

“I oversee and make sure everything is handled the way it should be,” Kanan said.

Like a coordinator or master of ceremonies, Kanan presides over the main business of the Sunday meeting. From the front microphone, he wishes the group a formal good morning, then he takes care of church business. He thanks the young men who administer the sacraments of the bread and the cup and confirms callings of church members. When the speakers are finished, he releases everyone to small groups with closing thoughts and prayer.

After the service, he often conducts interviews with members until 2 or 3 p.m.

“I am, because of this calling, uniquely positioned to help people try to improve their lives,” Kanan said, partly referring to his special focus on Mormon youth ministries and counseling for married couples.

Improving lives isn’t far from what sociology is about.

“My religion and career are very important to me, and I don’t see those things as mutually exclusive,” he said. “I see them as intertwined.”

Kanan was reared Mormon, and he served a two-year mission after he graduated high school, as is standard for young men in the LDS church. For two years he lived in Guayaquil, Ecuador as a missionary. He was allowed only two phone calls a year: one on Christmas Day and another on Mother’s Day.

“I was there very much in the spiritual capacity, but I was also experiencing ... third world life, and I found that incredibly fascinating,” Kanan said. “In some ways, I am an atypical Mormon because I’m a big believer in exposure.”

When Kanan finished his mission work, he obtained his undergraduate degree in sociology at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

“I hate to admit it, but I can’t remember what my minor was,” he said, somewhat ruefully.

Maybe Kanan had other things on his mind.

He met his wife Shannon at BYU in a sociology class about dysfunctional families.

“We both just chuckle,” Kanan said. “It’s ironic that we’ve ended up together as happy as we are, having met in a family dysfunction class.”

After graduation, the couple’s marriage was eternally sealed in the temple in Logan, Utah, according to Mormon custom.

“We took a six year honeymoon to Penn State,” Kanan said. “I liked college too much.”

In 1996, he was awarded his Ph.D. He then accepted a faculty position at Western.

Choosing to teach at Western was not an easy decision since the couple’s relatives live out West, but his wife helped clarify the situation for him.

“We sat down, and we talked about the different places,” Kanan said. “She said to me, ‘When you came back from Western, you were the happiest, the most excited.’ She said, ‘I think you ought to take this one.’”

Kanan teaches introduction to sociology and criminology, and he is an undergraduate adviser to sociology majors and criminology minors.

Despite the college professor’s salary, Kanan knows he is in the right career.

“It does give me flexibility to be able to be a family man, to be able to be involved in church,” he said. “And you can’t put value on family.”

Kanan has four children ranging from almost one year to nine years old. The LDS church emphasizes the importance of family unity and quality time.

“I always try to make waffles and bacon on Sunday afternoon, for better or for worse,” he said. “Family ... that’s the most important thing to me.”
BY ELIZABETH HALE

When you saw one, you saw them all.

They worked together, ate together, laughed and cried together. And they got laid off together, too.

When Logan Countians Susie Rigsby, LaFrieda Blick, Alice Hendrix, Carole Moore and Martha Venable learned that the plant where they worked was closing, they were all faced with the same choice. They could find other employment or they could go back to school.

And when this “Fearsome Five,” as they were often called, went back to school together, they defied the stereotype that middle age is too late to start over and enrolled at the Bowling Green Community College at Western.

Ranging in age from 49 to 57, the former co-workers majored in office systems technology.

Some people were surprised.

“(My husband) Jim said he didn’t dream he could ever say he had a college student for a wife,” Venable said.

The five women worked together at VF Imagewear in Russellville, some for more than 30 years. In May 2001 the plant, commonly referred to as Red Kap, relocated overseas. Provisions under the North American Free Trade Agreement gave them and other laid-off workers a chance to get a college degree.

They discussed it at work and were nervous but interested in going back to school. They, along with other former employees, enrolled in classes in the fall. About one-third of the Community College students are non-traditional.

“What would we lose if we decided not to?” Hendrix asked. “So we just kind of decided as a group, and, thank goodness, so far we have gone.”

Having a common background and relationship from the plant gave this group a support network.

“You know, there’s been very few classes we haven’t all had. Our first year we would meet at one of our homes and have a study session, sometimes almost the whole day.”

“Algebra was our nightmare class,” Hendrix said.

College was a lot different than work.

“School goes home with us,” Moore said.

“And it gets up in the morning with us.”

The women were worried about their grades, but they found support at the South Campus Learning Center.

They were worried about acceptance, but they found age didn’t matter.

“The first semester that we were here, a lot of [the younger students] would come and study with us in the Learning Center,” Hendrix said.

“We fixed biscuits and jelly and brought them cheese rolls and different things.”

The group was looking for a degree, but they found personal attention in small classes and encouragement from husbands, children, grandchildren, instructors and staff.

They found their niche.

And as for algebra, well, they aced it.

“With the fear they had coming in, they needed more individualized attention,” algebra instructor Michelle Hollis said. “In a class of 50 ... it’s harder to see the looks students give when they don’t understand anything you’ve just said.”

Hollis also said that the diverse ages of students in community college classes creates a support system where the non-traditional students often pull traditional students along. The younger students listen because it’s like having their mother speak to them, she said.

The women said they’ve mothered several students, helping them through assignments. They have been nominated for the Women’s Alliance Award, an award which recognizes women for outstanding contributions to the well-being of others.

This May, they planned to graduate with associate’s degrees.

“We had this motto at work when we found out that the plant was closing,” Hendrix said.

“Whenever God closes a door, He opens a window.”
When the lights dimmed in Van Meter Auditorium on Jan. 24, a mirror ball sent sprinkles dancing on the walls and ceiling. Under the cover of darkness, musicians sent music to all corners of the room. Literally.

The eighth annual PRISM concert showcased 24 events from nine locations on and around the stage and balcony.

The concert began in darkness as a voice welcomed the crowd. Suddenly, blue, yellow and pink lights revealed the symphonic band on stage. Immediately after the band finished playing Cityscapes I by David Holsinger, the stage lights turned off and the audience turned toward the spotlight beaming on Western music professor Mark Berry in the balcony. The crystal sounds of Berry’s original piece on the steel drum, Mare Tranquillitatus, resonated from above.

When Berry disappeared into the shadows, the trumpet trio appeared to treat the audience to Fanfare for St. Edmundsbury from the stage and both sides of the balcony.

John Carmichael, coordinator of the PRISM concert and director of bands, described the concert’s use of a variety of performance locations as round robin and rapid fire.

That’s the nice thing about PRISM, he said. Lots of distractions.

With the incredible heat in the auditorium threatening comfort and instrument tuning, variety and a sense of humor were the welcome distractions of the evening.

Following a piece by the horn quartet, the jazz ensemble blasted out Caravan.

The bassoon and tuba duo tickled the audience as one instrument seemed to poke fun at the other.

Everyone clapped and sang along to the saxophone quartet’s performance of My Girl.

The centerpiece of the concert was the symphonic band’s performance of Evolution by Dana Wilson, which Carmichael conducted.

The performance traced the evolution of Western music and used changing light color to give the impression of eras gone by. The band played many recognizable snippets in the course of the piece everything from Mozart to jazz. Narration explained the fire, drama and passion that is part of the history of music.

Much anticipated by the audience was the Big Red Hillbilly Band. They performed I’ll Fly Away on stage while wearing straw hats. They then tossed the hats aside and put on fake beards for the favorite, Man of Constant Sorrow.

I’m sweating a beard, one band member joked as he put it on.

Another hit was the funk band, led by Bowling Green junior B. J. Britt.

Can I do my thing? Britt yelled to the audience from the spotlight, rousing them to answer him before his band played I Got You I Feel Good from the balcony.

We expected [the audience] to dig it, Britt said. The audience of about 700 gave PRISM a standing ovation.

I thought it was awesome, Kathryn Alvey, a junior from Franklin, Tenn., said. Alvey, a music major, said she enjoyed seeing her friends perform.

Normally I see them play classical [music], but tonight I got to see bluegrass, she said.

Louisville freshman Julie Civello, who played french horn in the symphonic band and the horn choir, said she was surprised by the audience involvement.

But to Carmichael, audience participation was essential. PRISM is a showcase, but it is also a large scale recruiting event, he said. Carmichael estimated as many as 400 high school students attended, and a record number auditioned for music department scholarships the next day.

The entertainment factor of PRISM is intentional. I love for the kids to laugh, Carmichael said.

One tradition has been to tell jokes.

I get asked as much as anything. Are you going to tell [the jokes] again this year? Carmichael said.

And between pieces by the handbell choir and the clarinet choir, he did.

How do you fix a broken tuba? he asked. With a tuba glue.
The basketball band gets the crowd to stomp its feet to the school fight song. The selections performed at the PRISM Concert ranged in variety from Bach to bluegrass.
LaCenter senior Rebecca Whipple went to grade school every day last spring.
She sat in a colorful classroom surrounded by 23 second and third graders learning about reading and spelling.
And Whipple was the one teaching it to them.
Whipple was an elementary education major, and one of the last projects of her college career was to be a student teacher at a local grade school.
I declared education as my major [during my] sophomore year because it is something that I could do for the rest of my life, she said.
Whipple woke up at 6 o’clock every morning and walked into her classroom at T.C. Cherry Elementary at 7:30. In the 30 minutes before the kids arrived, she planned out the morning’s activities.
Whipple said most of her students are very well behaved.
We don’t give them enough credit for what they do and how they act, she said. They even surprise me sometimes.
By 10, all of the students work with Whipple was finished. The students head off to art, and Whipple finished out her day at Western.
I admire teachers in general for how much work they do and how dedicated they are to their job, Whipple said. All I have is school and student teaching for a couple hours. After they are done working, they have a family to go home to and take care of.
When Whipple finished her student teaching, she had a completed portfolio. She also had a teacher’s work sample, which is a collection of information proving the students learned something.
[The sample] includes a pretest of information the students wouldn’t know, and a post-test on the same things, said Kathleen Matthew, an education professor at Western.
If Whipple continues to teach, she wants to stay in a small town atmosphere and teach kindergarten and first grade students.
I like the kids. I like to help people understand things, she said. It’s having to teach something over and over, and when they finally get it, everyone is excited. That’s what it is about.

Story by Libby Fure | Photos by Colleen Carroll
“Teaching is something that I could do for the rest of my life.”

- Rebecca Whipple, LaCenter senior
Kentucky’s 2001 Young Entrepreneurs of the Year attend Western, but most of their classmates didn’t know it.

Bowling Green freshmen Chris and Clinton Mills, twins, worked full-time, but not because they’re poor college students trying to scrape up a few bucks for school. Since fifth grade, they’ve been into computer programming. Since seventh grade, they’ve been making Web pages. When they were in 10th grade, they were inspired by an Internet advertising business to create their own in December 1999. Their business, Hitcents.com, was for fun, but it quickly became successful.

Hitcents.com is an online advertising and marketing firm that brings offline businesses to the Internet. It also works with pop-up window advertisements and other marketing strategies.

In the first 16 months of operation, their company had a $200,000 profit, according to a 2001 Fast Lane report. In December 2002, Chris and Clinton cut the ribbon at their new 2,500 square foot office in Western’s Center for Research and Development on Nashville Road.

We do okay, Chris said. Chris attends Western on the Don and Susan Vitale Entrepreneurial Scholarship. Clinton attends on the Presidential Young Entrepreneurs Scholarship. Both scholarships include tuition, room, meals, books and an international study experience.

The brothers hired an interior designer to decorate the Hitcents.com office. It is furnished with leather couches, cherry wood desks and a conference room.

And the icing on the cake, Chris drove a 2001 Corvette, and Clinton drove a 2002 Cadillac Escalade.

But the cake tasted like work day in, day out. On weekdays, the twins attended class in the morning so they could work in the afternoon.

We work till six or seven at night, and we’ll ... all day Saturday, all day Sunday, Chris said.

Jackson’s Orchard near Bowling Green was a recent client. Hitcents.com was bringing the company’s entire product online so that customers could make online purchases with credit cards or checks and receive products in the mail.

We do the entire process from the very beginning design work to the very end of the programming work, Clinton said. It’s satisfying.

But it’s not reliable, Chris said. Two years ago, when the dot com crash happened, it hit us pretty hard, Chris said. We evolved and, you know, lived through it.

The twins were hoping to use their college educations to improve their business. Chris is majoring in marketing, and Clinton is majoring in computer information systems.

When we get done with it, we can put our knowledge together, Clinton said. But their business was independent of school.

Most students probably don’t know, Chris said. Just like we’re working a full-time job and going to school.
“People at the studio love us because we are different than anything on Public Access. It’s a change from their daily routine.”

-Ryan Cummings, Bowling Green sophomore

BY JENICA MILLER

I’m the one responsible for this mess, said Bowling Green sophomore Ryan Cummings. I don’t know what I was thinking.

Cummings was the producer and one of the main characters of the Extreme Wrestling Alliance show on the Public Access Channel.

Cummings and Bowling Green junior Josh Davis, a friend from high school, were bored one day during Fall Break of 1999 and began wrestling. It began as just two friends joking around, and it became backyard wrestling.

After the two started videotaping, more friends came over to watch. And more of them joined the club.

Once a month on Saturday morning, around 20 guys got together at Davis house, dressed in costumes and wrestled all day.

Cummings and Davis created such characters as the Benson Brothers, who dressed only in orange spandex. Both admitted the favorite character was American Heart Throb Chippendale.

Davis lived in a typical suburban neighborhood. Ranch style houses line the street, and in the backyard of one of these houses, Cummings and his gang of wrestlers videotaped their show.

Mattresses stacked under a gymnastics mat served as the ring and a few stolen props—ladders, road cones, city signs and garden hoses littered the lawn.

If we ever needed anything, we just stole it, Cummings admitted.

Extreme Wrestling’s characters were offensive, but the commentary was worse. Cummings said it’s best if his mother doesn’t see the show. The guys agreed the videotapes were just to watch later and laugh.

But Cummings and Davis took a chance to get a tape on the air.

Channel 2, host of the Home Shopping Network, seems like an odd place to turn for backyard wrestling, but Cummings admitted he was a bit of an oddball. So he submitted a tape to their station. The station rejected the tapes, but it chose to give the show a shot a month later.

People at the studio love us because we are different than anything on Public Access, Cummings said. It’s a change from their daily routine.

Three years later, the show was still on at 9 Monday and Wednesday nights.

That’s what we go for: the most offensive show possible, even though they bleep most of it out, Davis said.

Originally the show had a make-shift complaint line through Davis cell phone. The number would be presented on screen between segments of wrestling. Cummings and Davis would explain the matches, not forgetting to welcome callers. But Davis admitted the number was taken off the air after he cussed out a woman complaining about the show.

It’s been more than three years since they started wrestling, and the group continued to get smaller.

Once we graduated high school, it was all downhill from there, Cummings said.

Some members were still in high school, some were just working and some were at Western.

The show aired reruns in the winter because of difficult weather. Both Cummings and Davis were unsure if the show would continue in the spring when Channel 2 runs out of footage.
Victor Wu, a 25-year-old native of Taiwan, takes a delivery order one late Thursday night - the busiest night of the week for the Happy Inn.

“You never know who you’ll meet next, where the next delivery will be. It’s very exciting at times.”

- Victor Wu, Happy Inn’s delivery person
Like a basketball game without Big Red, it’s hard to imagine Western without the Happy Inn.

It’s a Western institution. Everyone has to eat here sooner or later, said Lexington senior Dwight Campbell.

But the chairs at the Happy Inn, which once held daily throngs of hungry students, mostly were sitting empty.

We didn’t renew our liquor license this year, and a good beer was what everyone came in here for, said owner Tom Chang.

Nearly all of their business came from delivery orders. Victor Wu, a native of Taiwan and the Happy Inn’s delivery person for the past two years, could expect to make more than 60 deliveries in a single night.

You never know who you’ll meet next, where the next delivery will be. It’s very exciting at times, Wu said.

Looking for a good location and a friendly town in which to start their new restaurant, Tom Chang and his wife Wendy Cheng left the family business in Carbondale, Ill., and arrived in Bowling Green.

We all have a great time. Just being here and being around all the students is great, Chang said.

With 12 years under its belt, the Inn faced an uncertain future. Two years ago the city announced its intention to buy the restaurant property and to eventually change it from a Chinese food restaurant to a parking lot for a performing arts center. After the announcement first came, business and apartment dwellers moved out of the building, leaving the Happy Inn alone.

We honestly don’t know how much longer we’ll be around because of this, Chang said.

For the last school year, business at the Happy Inn went on as usual, and just about any night of the week Wu was charging through campus, delivery in hand.

This is one of the greatest places we’ve been, Chang said. And we love it here. We’re a campus tradition.
“It really has been a blessing in disguise for me.”
- Jessica Martin, Hazard sophomore

“Last year I put everything into SGA, and this year I just don’t have the time that I want to put in it,” admits Martin. Between classes and work, Martin grabs a quick bite in the SGA office. Because she’s the Academic Affairs chairperson and serves on five to six university committees, Martin uses her spare time to keep up with what’s going on in the office.
STORY AND PHOTOS BY JENICA MILLER

Standing a little over 5-foot-1, Jessica Martin fidgets with the little piece of paper that tells her what to say. She stands in the hallway packed with 50 residents waiting for the floor meeting to begin. Martin glances up and coughs slightly to initiate her first encounter as a resident assistant, wondering what to expect.

Martin, a Hazard sophomore, was a first-year RA in Northeast Hall. She left Minton Hall and her roommate behind because she saw an opportunity to meet new people.

"I have always been a straightforward person, but I wasn't tested to assert myself and my expectations until I took this position," Martin said.

This shy, quiet girl soon realized that her daily routine would never be the same again. Being an RA requires sitting at the desk for six hours during the week and eight hours during the weekend while checking people in the dorm, watching who comes in and who goes out, sorting through mail and answering the phone.

Those are just the desk duties. RAs also have to provide programs for the residents on the floor. They're constantly checking to see how everyone is doing during the week, making rounds late at night, doing safety checks every first Tuesday of the month, organizing floor meetings and keeping their door open as much as possible for anyone who needs to come in.

Those are just the RA duties.

You have no life during the week, Martin explained.

She juggled a 15-hour class load with a public relations major and an SGA office. She participated in extracurricular activities, which included supporting her residents in varsity and intramural sports, and then tried to get in some studying before heading to bed. It was not unusual for her to miss sleeping or even eating on the worse days.

But Martin learned to adjust.

"It really has been a blessing in disguise for me," she said.

She said the biggest problem was time management.

Her grades dropped her first semester as an RA, but she has since learned what needs to take priority: school and her job.

"I have to do my job to keep my job," Martin said.

An RA basically has to work 24 hours a day, manage her own life and intercede in the lives of her residents.

And she does this for only minimum wage.

The perks?

Most RAs get a private dorm room at the price of what it costs to have a roommate. For those lucky Northeast and Southwest RAs, they get a cubicle smaller than most residents' bathrooms for $750 a semester.

But the main perk isn't the room and board, it's those that share it with you.

This once shy girl spent late nights goofing off with her residents, went sledding in the snow with a bright pink kiddie pool and played basketball in the hallways.

Jessica Martin finds life as an RA rewarding.
Eric Allgeier isn’t searching for fame or fortune. He does his work behind the scenes as a set designer and loves it. If I can be a scene designer and make a living, I’ll be happy, said Allgeier, a senior theatre major from Louisville. It’s just as simple as being happy — just so that I can eat.

His drive to work as many as 130 hours a week on set design began with his fascination with drawing and building as a child when his aspirations were to become an architect.

I was the kid who took things apart and put them back together, he said. I always liked working with my hands.

Allgeier left behind his dream of architecture after he was introduced to theater in high school at the Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville. From there, he began learning about all technical aspects of theater, but after high school, he wasn’t sure if it was what he wanted to do.

For the first three years following his graduation from high school, Allgeier worked for several acting companies in Louisville as a painter, electrician, sound technician and set designer. His three years working as a scenic carpenter led him to decide that path wasn’t satisfying enough for him and helped him get focused for college. Allgeier decided he needed to find out if he liked set design and if he was good at it, so he began studying at Western.

Allgeier soon knew what he wanted to do and got right to work.

Allgeier estimated he has done work for about 30 shows. He designed the set for the theatre department’s production of the opera Suor Angelica and worked on a production of Fiddler On the Roof at Warren Central High School, as well as doing other projects for the Public Theatre of Kentucky and a local church. He spent 15 hours each week as the foreman in the set design workshop in the fine arts center, and sometimes he even slept in the theater. He also worked on projects at home.

I’ve sort of learned to live with that, he said. It’s just part of the business. In the beginning, when I was in high school, I wanted to stay late. The janitors used to kick me out of the building. I know it’s worth it. It’s all I do. It’s all I have done for 10 years.

Despite the long hours and hard work, Allgeier said it’s a thankless job.

You just really have to be proud of yourself, he said. If I wanted thanks, I wouldn’t be in this business.

Last year, Allgeier received some praise from the Southeastern Theatre Conference as runner-up for a scene design, but to him, winning wasn’t the most important aspect of the contest.

The best thing about entering those competitions isn’t winning but that the judges give you feedback, he said. Something that keeps me going is the fact that I know I will always have a lot to learn. Theater is constantly changing, and that’s what I like about it.

Allgeier is a member of the theater honors fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega, and for the past three years, he has been a recipient of the Jerry Baker Scholarship for theater students.

Allgeier hoped to head to graduate school after his May graduation. He applied to three schools: New York University, Boston University and Yale. He especially hopes to make it to New York City.

That’s sort of where most theater folk migrate, he said.

Wherever Allgeier ends up, through his designs he will be pushing himself to make sure the audience is getting out of the show what he thinks they should.

The entertainment industry, in general, affects everyone, he said. When you’re in that, it makes you feel like you’re in the thick of it. It makes you feel good that you can affect many people.
While the name Gideon Payne may not be familiar to most students, the Web site profeval.com likely is. Payne, a senior computer science major from Philpot, created the Web site in collaboration with his roommate and best friend Michael Kenison in spring 2000 so students could post and view evaluations of Western’s professors.

The idea for Profeval got its beginnings in the lobby of Keen Hall, where residents were generating a list of professors whom they liked and did not like. Payne lived in Keen Hall at the time, and after seeing the list, he decided it would make a good program. He began doing research, explored the necessary technology and acquired the domain name, Profeval.

Payne has rewritten the Profeval program several times in different computer languages to improve it, expand its knowledge and diversify his experience. While Profeval’s users are predominantly Western students, other universities, particularly Morehead State University, have caught on. Payne footed the bill for the cost of using a server and reserving the domain name to provide a service for students using his knowledge and skills.

It’s good because it offers the service to students, and it also builds my resume, he said.

When Payne was in middle school he became fascinated with computers after his parents purchased their first computer. He attended Daviess County High School, and it was during this time he decided he would likely pursue a career in computers.

In my opinion, if you can have a career that started out as a hobby, you’re doing pretty good, he said.

Payne came to Western in 2000 and for several beginning courses enrolled with computer science professor Uta Ziegler, who Payne said prepared him well. Ziegler, his adviser and mentor, is the faculty sponsor for Western’s chapter of the Association of Computing Machinery, which Payne joined in 2000 and of which he is president.

In the computer science department, Payne won last year’s Outstanding Junior Computer Science Major and the Association of Computing Machinery’s Outstanding Future Computing Professional awards.

Payne had an internship with CSI Online Services last summer and is a recipient of a scholarship from Ogden College and from the Wal-Mart Competitive Edge Scholarship Fund.

Despite all the work Payne has done with Profeval, recognition and awards have not followed, but the Web site has attracted attention. Payne was featured in stories in the College Heights Herald and the Lexington Herald-Leader, and Western professors have both praised and criticized him for the Web site’s anonymous format.

The Student Government Association has also contacted him about expanding and changing it to offer more accountability for evaluators.

Payne has worked for the academic technology department on campus doing programming for Blackboard and other instructional programs. He also took an independent study course with computer science professor James Ziegler, who used programs Payne wrote to illustrate points in a conference presentation last spring.

Payne said his dream job was to work for Microsoft as a programmer in Washington. He said in 10 years he hopes to have a really good job that he loves somewhere outside of Kentucky.

In my family, college or professional singing wasn’t talked about, she said. College wasn’t discussed. The word never entered my household.

But a performance of the opera Carmen at Indiana University changed Biggs mind about attending college.

It just appealed to me so much, she said. I just knew I had to find a way to do it. I just had to.

Biggs began her music education at Daviess County Middle School. For four years following high school, Biggs had the full-time position of choir director at her church and was discouraged from attending college by the church and her family.

In my opinion, if you can have a career that started out as a hobby, you’re doing pretty good, he said.

In 2002, she won the Topper Talent Contest and placed first in the National Association of Teachers state talent competition in the junior women’s division. Biggs was named Performer of the Semester in the fall of 2001, her first first semester at Western. She was named Overall Performer of the Semester for spring 2001 and fall 2002. She was also the recipient of the Marita Travelstead Scholarship for music and was a President’s Scholar.

Practice for Biggs totalled four to five hours a day, including three to four hours of opera rehearsals, a weekly voice lesson, performance in the university choir and several hours of rehearsal on her own. Biggs also sang occasionally for part-time work, but she tried to stick with singing only the classical and opera styles.

Biggs said Western has been a good place for her because she has gotten the opportunity to perform so much since such a relatively small number of students are interested in opera. She has also enjoyed her education immensely, learning about history, theory, performance and other subjects related to her goal.

Biggs goal was to one day sing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and to become an international opera star.

In 10 years, I will be singing with an opera company, at least, she said. If I’m not an international opera star, I at least want to be singing with a company.
Campus police officers Karen Thurman and Lori Kostiuk didn’t need to go to the gym after work. Walking an average of six miles a day, the ticket officers issued an average of 1,667 tickets a month to keep the parking problem under control.

“Our day usually starts off in the faculty and staff lots,” Thurman said. “Teachers pay a lot of money to park, so we try and keep the students out of those lots.

Neither Thurman nor Kostiuk minded being outdoors. That’s actually why they applied for this position.

Kostiuk recently moved to this area from Colorado and had no intention of being stuck behind a desk. During her first semester working at Western, she had some interesting and funny experiences while on the job.

On election day, Kostiuk was in charge of issuing tickets for South Campus, a polling site. Kostiuk didn’t know that sections of South Campus lots were designated for voters. She filled out tickets for every car, but most of the tickets were attached to voters’ cars and had to be voided. Now when there is a herd of cars located at South Campus, Kostiuk calls in and checks for events.

Ticket officer Karen Thurman stands at a faculty parking lot vantage point in front of Smith Stadium and explains to student Brandi Banniza, a freshman from Smyrna, Tenn., where student and commuter parking is located.

“Ticket Officers

“This is how we make a living. [We’re] not trying to be mean; we’re working for the students.”

- Karen Thurman, ticket officer

Thurman taught Kostiuk everything she knows about the job. They had a solid friendship. There was more to these women than a large bag of tickets, gobs of pens and great stories. Kostiuk had been married for about a year and a half and has one child.

When Thurman wasn’t working at Western or serving at Cracker Barrel, she spent time with her two grown children, two grandchildren, 11 dogs, 17 horses and 185 acres of farm land.

Kostiuk and Thurman said that something interesting happened every day, and it kept them on their toes.

They also shared a great sense of humor. Sometimes they got to incorporate that humor while working.

Some students left notes for the officers, trying desperately to get out of tickets when they’ve parked illegally. Some examples read: ‘I’ll be right back; There are no other places to park; and Just please don’t give me a ticket. Both officers advised students not to leave notes when they parked illegally. Instead just take the ticket and don’t blame the officers.

This is how we make a living. [We’re] not trying to be mean; we’re working for the students, Thurman said.
By Jennifer Raggard

Louisville freshman Leigh Krampe didn’t know the parking pass she paid $60 for didn’t allow her to park in certain areas of the Pearce-Ford Tower parking lot.

“I live in PFT, so I just figured I could park anywhere in that lot,” Krampe said.

After parking in a spot that she said was not clearly marked as a no-parking zone, she returned to the space where she had parked to find an unpleasant surprise. Her car was gone.

“I had to go to the police department to pay my ticket and then get a ride to the towing company, pay a fee there, and then I finally got my car back,” Krampe said. “It was a big hassle.”

Many other students and faculty had an experience similar to Krampe’s. With all the construction and renovation, many complained that it was nearly impossible to find a parking spot and felt they couldn’t be blamed for parking illegally.

“It’s not even worth it to have a car here when you live on campus,” Louisville freshman Sara Peak said.

Peak said she only brought her car because she needed it to attend her math class on South Campus.

“I didn’t have enough time between classes to catch the shuttle to my math class, so I needed my car,” Peak said.

After having to pay a fine and go through the trouble of retrieving her car from the towing company, Peak decided she would rather not have a car here.

“It was too nerve-wracking,” she said. “I took my car home and ended up dropping that math class.”

Capt. Mike Wallace of the campus police department said the parking situation last fall was not much different from other semesters.

Since a large portion of WKU’s population is new each year, you might say they need training, he said. They still need to be educated on how to park on campus.

Wallace said a few people were bothered by the construction, but he said he thought it wasn’t a very big problem.

“I’ve even had people say that they found the new lots worked out better for them,” Wallace said. “And a lot of the people who resorted to using the shuttle bus said they preferred it to walking from their car up the Hill.”

So much controversy was raised by the parking situation that the College Heights Herald published several editorials on the topic and the Student Government Association held an open forum on the subject to discuss possible solutions.

Wallace said he believed the situation would clear up in the spring.

“A lot of the construction will be done, and the new students will know the campus better, he said.”
About Face

BY KACE POWELL

He has been greeting students for decades.
He has withstood, wind, rain, snow, sleet and the occasional unfriendly bird.
Throughout generations he has been the subject of pranks and stories, but relentlessly he continues to cast a watchful eye down College Street as a stoic reminder of his vision and dedication to higher education.
Thousands of people across the nation and the world have had the opportunity to earn a college degree because of him and his passion. Dr. Henry Hardin Cherry believed that The Spirit Makes the Master, and he proved it himself.

Cherry, a life-long educator, began his career teaching in rural schools with his brother Thomas. In 1892, the brothers began running the Southern Normal School, which later became known as the Bowling Green Business College and Literary Institute, Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business College, and Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business University.
Thomas Cherry became the superintendent of Bowling Green public schools and sold his part of the school to Henry Cherry.
But Dr. Henry Cherry’s vision wasn’t complete. He believed that there should be a state-supported school for teacher training, and he campaigned to make it happen.
In 1906, the General Assembly placed one normal school in Bowling Green and another in Richmond. On Jan. 22, 1907, classes began.
On Feb. 4, 1911, the school was moved to the current location, atop the highest point in Bowling Green at the site of the former Pleasant J. Potter College, which closed in 1909.
Dr. Cherry was Western’s first president and during his tenure, which ended when he died in 1937, baccalaureate programs were added for non-teaching degrees.
The school later changed its name from Western Kentucky State Normal School to Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College and then to Western Kentucky State Teachers College.
After Cherry’s death, the General Assembly changed the college’s name to Western Kentucky State College, which later became Western Kentucky University. Today Dr. Cherry’s statue faces downtown Bowling Green, greeting all students who climb the Hill.

Henry Hardin Cherry

He is more than just a statue standing atop the Hill
About Face

Jo-Ann Huff Albers

School of Journalism and Broadcasting and Program of Distinction are her legacies

BY JENNIFER RAGGARD

It took until the summer of 2003 for Jo-Ann Huff Albers to leave the place she had fallen in love with almost two decades earlier. She fell in love with Western in the spring of 1986, and in her 17 years here, she changed the face of the journalism department.

After working in the newspaper industry for more than 20 years in every position from reporter to copy editor to publisher, Albers came to Western as the chair of a team that was reaccrediting Western’s journalism department.

I spent four days on campus meeting all the faculty and reading Western’s self-study reports, Albers said. So I knew what I was getting in to.

In August of 1987, Albers accepted a position as head of Western’s journalism department. At that time, undergraduate degree programs offered were advertising, photojournalism, print journalism and public relations. There were about 500 majors, 10 minors and 15 full-time faculty members in the department.

Albers set to work revamping the department.

All of the academic programs underwent curriculum review, Albers said. The degree programs are a lot different now than in 1987.

By 1999, the department had grown to about 1,000 majors, 50 minors, 20 full-time faculty members and 10 part-time faculty members. Following this growth, in July of 1999, Albers became the director of a new school at Western: the School of Journalism and Broadcasting.

In addition to programs in the journalism department, mass communication and broadcasting tracks were merged into the offerings.

In her new position as director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, Albers found herself with even more work than she had as head of the journalism department. In addition to teaching one course per semester, Journalism 301: Press Law and Ethics, Albers had duties such as advising students in choosing classes and accreditation councils.

“I don’t know anyone who works harder [than she],” said fellow journalism professor Bob Adams, director of Student Publications. She works incredible hours.

Albers led the School of Journalism and Broadcasting to becoming one of the best-known and most awarded journalism schools in the nation.

I urged students and faculty to enter every competition, Albers said. I always told them, There’s a 100 percent chance you won’t win if you don’t enter.

Professor Jim Highland, coordinator of the print journalism program, said he has enjoyed working for Albers since day one.

It wasn’t like I was working for her, but more like I was working with her, he said.

Albers was named the Journalism Administrator of the Year in 2000. The Freedom Forum gives this national award every year to an educator who has shown excellent leadership in the advancement of journalism education.

Despite all of Albers accomplishments, her most time-consuming project since April 2001 was overseeing the construction of a new $18.5 million building on campus to house the School of Journalism and Broadcasting. Dubbed Media and Technology Hall, classes are set to begin there in the fall of 2003.

The school moves in [on] June 30, 2003, which is my last day on the job, Albers said. So I won’t be moving into the director’s office. I’ll just try out the chair.

But Albers won’t be leaving Western completely. Until the spring of 2008, Albers will teach up to four classes a year. She will also be available in the coming year to help her successor through her new job as director of Western’s School of Journalism and Broadcasting.

She has done so much for the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, Adams said. It’s ironic that by the time the school moves into the new building, she’ll be retiring as director. She’ll be hard to replace.

Highland echoed Adams sentiment.

She has made a significant contribution and will be remembered a long time, he said. Frankly, she’ll be missed.

Albers was looking forward to her less demanding semi-retirement, she said.

I love Western, but I’m 65 years old! she exclaimed. I deserve a rest.

With her new-found free time, Albers said she plans to spend a lot of time with her husband, sons and grandchildren, travel with her sister, and knit more.

I also desperately need to organize the house, she said. It’s been neglected for the past several years.

Although Albers is stepping down as director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, she is not going to forget it entirely.

“I’m still concerned about the future of the school,” Albers said. I’d like to see the department continue to produce excellence. But I have faith in the students and staff of this school.

“I don’t know anyone who works harder [than she].”

- Bob Adams, Director of Student Publications
Brad Denisar was sick of hearing it.
His fraternity brother just would not get off his case about it.
So he did it.
He tried out for cheerleading.
I went and loved it and have been there ever since, he said.
Denisar, a senior from Bradenton, Fla., stayed busy with cheerleading, ROTC and a full load of classes. When Denisar graduates with a degree in business, he planned to have completed 158 hours in four years with a 3.64 grade point average.
He excelled in the ROTC program and became No. 1 in the nation in basic training.
When he’s not studying or doing programs for the ROTC, he’s hard at work in the gym.
Any other free time went to cheerleading.
Many view cheerleading as a woman’s sport, but Denisar said he got a lot of respect from other girls and was envied by guys because it is a coed sport. He also got a chance to get to know the females better.

For Denisar, cheerleading extended beyond practices and games. Varsity cheerleaders also participated in national competitions. This year the squad placed fourth in the Universal Cheerleading Association in their first UCA competition.

We are so close to winning a championship, but it comes down to being absolutely perfect, and then you have to worry about what the judges think, Denisar said.

Cheerleading is not like other sports. A team can’t come in after losing the first half of a game and dominate the second. Once a squad messes up, it is eliminated from competition, he said.

First time, I was nervous... I had no clue what was going on, Denisar said. It’s a really physical sport. You’re mentally relying on others. You’re doing the moves, and you’re continually counting in your head.

The squad has a lot of statewide competition. Kentucky is known as a cheerleading powerhouse and has some of the top programs in the nation.

Coach Tom Jones had the squad practicing every Monday, Wednesday and Sunday.
We have a very young team, but the skill level is impressive, Jones said.

Games were the ultimate practice because the squad cheered for hours at a time, which could be very challenging.

The crowd surrounds you inside 360 degrees, Denisar said. The cheering from the squad and crowd is more condensed, and during time out we have to run to the court and perform stunts.

Cheerleading is not all about strength. Technique and timing are vital for lifts and throws.
I can do things no other athlete can, he said. I can hold a whole human body in one hand.
Although Denisar’s post-collegiate plans were to continue running a distribution business he started with his brother, he said he wanted to stay connected with cheering.

I like to cheer because it’s fun, Denisar said. If it were to stop being fun, I would quit.
The Topperettes not only made an impression with their performances at football and basketball games but also turned heads in national competition.

There’s a presence when we come in a room, said Campbellsville junior Erin Eade, team captain. The Topperettes turned four to five times a week practices into a place in the semifinals at the 2003 Universal Dance Association competition, hosted by Disney World’s Wild World of Sports Jan. 9-11 in Orlando, Fla.

The women prepared for the preliminary competition until Oct. 28, when they submitted their dance routine on a videotape. The squad only recorded one minute of the two minute routine in hopes of teasing the judges to see what else the team could do. It worked. Out of 40 other teams around the country, the young squad qualified for the semifinals.

But the women weren’t satisfied with just qualifying for the semifinals as they had in the past. They wanted to make it to the finals. Nothing could stop them, except a lack of material. That is, not enough material on their arms. After competing the first day for the semifinals, the judges announced that the sleeveless outfits were not enough.

The parents went on a scavenger hunt to find black tights at Wal-mart, Target, wherever, said Christina Tucker, a junior from Antioch, Tenn. The black tights were cut to fit their arms, and the judges approved.

Out of 23 Division I teams from across the country, the Topperettes placed seventh in the semifinals among 14 teams and secured a spot in the finals.

On a Saturday morning, a squad of mostly freshman and sophomore women dressed in neon green and hot pink, danced to an old school remix of 80s hip hop and funk. They danced their way to 11th place out of 30 squads in the finals.

I’m tickled to death at how well they did, said Head Coach Rachel Manning. Manning was ecstatic about her team’s performance against schools from California.

But it wasn’t an easy journey to Orlando. The biggest struggle for most of the women was balancing school with practice. Eade admitted it was difficult to have a good attitude practicing at 6 in the morning. As a little girl, Eade’s passion was to dance, and she wasn’t going to quit just because she was busier now. Her passion was the same. And after qualifying for two years but never performing in the finals, this championship meant more to her as a captain.

Last year, we had this separation between us, and I think this year we really work as a team because everyone loves each other, Eade said.

Tucker admitted the unity had a lot to do with the younger girls who were motivated and willing to put everything into the squad. Because we were a younger team, we worked together, Tucker said.

But Vanessa Hodges, a freshman from Hebron, Tenn., said it was the three juniors on the squad who helped the most.

The older girls really knew what kind of talent we were up against, and they really brought us into this team, Hodges said.

With the competition over, the Topperettes were focusing on basketball game performances until try-outs were held in May. And Eade planned to watch a movie or two with her teammates to enjoy being the one entertained for once, instead of entertaining others.
Mayfield senior Ricky Murphy spins records for the estimated 250 people who attended the ball.

Bowling Green senior Lakita Jones, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., celebrates after attendees elected her the queen of the Crimson and Cream Ball. Louisville freshman Brett Walker was voted king.
Students brave cold and rain to attend Delta Sigma Theta’s annual ball

The date was Feb. 15, 2003, the day after Valentine’s Day.

At about 10 p.m. the temperature outside was chilling, and falling rain made it seem even colder.

Although the weather was bad, Western students were determined not to let it spoil their evening.

At about 11:30 p.m. many of them were standing in line outside Ellis Place, clinging to each other under umbrellas.

They knew that the Crimson and Cream Ball only comes once a year, so about 250 people braved the rainy weather.

The formal dance is sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and it is one of the year’s most highly anticipated events among black students at Western. The sorority’s official colors are crimson and cream.

Tickets were $12 for singles and $22 for couples. Proceeds were placed in a scholarship fund to be given to a female African American high school senior.

The scene inside Ellis Place was nothing less than a fashion show. The ladies wore just about every style of dress available: low cut, high cut, strapless — sexy. And the gentlemen flaunted their white, black and red suits with their matching canes, top hats and other accessories. They were debonair.

The dee jay cranked the most popular R & B and rap songs for about four hours. The dance floor was jam packed most of the evening, and there were the consistent and unexpected flashes from cameras filling the room. It was a party!

Around 2 a.m. the lights were turned on and the ball was over. Tired and sweaty, students put on their coats and filed out one by one into the cold February night. They clung to each other under their umbrellas on the way to their cars.

Who all is going to Denny’s? someone yelled.
On Feb. 28, after performing on campuses around the state of Kentucky, Nappy Roots finally came home to their roots at Western.

“Our name signifies our unwillingness to conform with fads,” said Nappy Roots member Skinny DeVille. “Once the fads die out, you always come back to the roots.”

DeVille and fellow Nappy members B. Stille, Ron Clutch, Big V, R. Prophet and Scales returned to a sold-out Diddle Arena.

“We’re loving (being home),” said Bowling Green native Big V after the concert in Diddle. After releasing “Watamelon, Chicken and Gritz” in February 2002, Nappy Roots came into the forefront of the rap music industry.

The core of Nappy Roots is a blend of everyday life with all the struggles and rhymed verses.

“That’s essentially what Nappy Roots is about,” DeVille said. “We’re glamorizing being average.” Seven average college students in 1995 were just free-styling at parties. But by 1998, they had signed a record deal with Atlantic Records.

But success wasn’t easy.

“We weren’t born with a silver spoon,” B. Stille said. “We made it silver.” The group set up the local ET’s music record shop as a place for each member to bring his own style and move in the same direction.


The only struggles the now famous group seemed to have these days are keeping their roots in the simple things of life instead of in their fame. But Floord, another local band with Western ties, was struggling to get a taste of the music industry.


Band members Josh Mitcham, a Webster senior, Morgantown senior Josh Hampton, alumnus Chad Moseley, Hartford junior Donny Alvey and alumnus Dave Rich wanted to expand their roots in the state of Kentucky and be a force to reckon with — or at least to draw attention from record companies.

Lead singer Mitcham, guitarist Alvey and lead guitarist Moseley met in the Barnes-Campbell Hall lobby their freshman year and hooked up with bass guitarist Rich to start a band.

After playing their first gig at Baker Boys Bar as a cover band in November 2000, the guys became a permanent landmark a year later when Hampton, the drummer, left Dry Land Fish, another local band, to play for Floord full time.

Influenced by the Black Crows and Pearl Jam, Floord catered to the regular fans at the Brewing Company and occasionally puts on concerts with a Nashville band, The Loft. The magazine Nashville Rage coined them a brand of “swampy college rock,” said their manager, Scottsville sophomore Jeff Felchner.

The group’s faithful local fan base of 300 or so came out to their shows for good music and good times.

And the guys of Floord looked forward to getting back into the studio in eight months, but more than anything, Floord looked forward to a record deal in the near future.

Eric Wilson, on the other hand, just wanted to be a songwriter some day.

The Auburn sophomore started a band called Eric Wilson last semester with some friends, drummer Neal Lucas and guitarist Derek Wells and Wilson’s younger brother Matt, the bassist.

Influenced by the likes of Bob Dylan, Queen and Led Zeppelin, Wilson admitted that the band was a complement of a “rock band with a mellow, sophisticated side.”

Eric Wilson expected to release its first untitled record sometime in May, featuring 10 to 13 songs, including Wilson’s “Day Dreamer’s Greatest Fear.”

“You realize you’re dreaming, and you don’t want to wake up until you see how it ends,” Wilson explained. “We should view our lives in that matter. We should be so in anticipation of what comes, we don’t want to quit.”

And for Floord and Eric Wilson, the inspiration of Nappy Roots’ success reminded them to keep dreaming and practicing until the dawn of success breaks on their horizon.
“We weren’t born with a silver spoon. We made it silver.”
- B. Stille, Nappy Roots

Former Western student R. Prophet and Bowling Green native Big V perform for the sold-out crowd in Diddle. Their album, “Watermelon, Chicken and Gritz,” went platinum.

Campus Police Sgt. Mike Waldrop welcomes Big V back to Western with a hug in the locker room before the group went on stage to perform songs from its first two albums.

Nappy Roots performs in Diddle Arena on Feb. 28. The show was the group’s first performance in Bowling Green since its members left to pursue music careers.
Nappy Roots: Performance Rocks Diddle

Big V hangs out with members of the local boys and girls clubs back stage. The group remembers its hometown crowd fondly and has even shot music videos in the area with locals cast as extras. Top: Bowling Green native and Nappy Roots member Big V, aka Vito Tisdale, arrives in Diddle for the Nappy Roots concert on Feb. 28.

The members of Nappy Roots perform their breakout hit, “Aww Naww,” in front of a sold-out crowd. Western was not originally planned as a stop on the group’s concert tour in Kentucky.
Other Local Bands

Webster senior Josh Mitcham (left) and alumnus Chad Moseley, two members of the popular local band Floord, perform one of their newest songs, “Feel Me In,” during a Thursday night gig at The Brewing Company in downtown Bowling Green. Mitcham and Moseley, along with Donny Alvey, Josh Hampton and Dave Rich, became a permanent fixture in this area in November of 2001. Since then the group has performed more than 100 gigs in Bowling Green, Lexington, Nashville and New York and released its first album “Listen.” With the entire group either currently going to or having already graduated from Western, Floord can be called the quintessential college band. “People know they’re going to have fun at a Floord concert,” said manager Jeff Felchner, also a Western student. With the help of Felchner and Barrick’s Studio, one of the top independent recording studios in the country, Floord hopes to release its second album within the next year.

Lead singer of the local band Muckrakers, Rob Carpenter, plays to a crowd gathered in front of Preston Center. The concert was held Oct. 16 during Shantytown, a fundraiser for the homeless.
“Good to be home...
This is where my pride is. This is where my passion is.”

- Darrin Ham, New Men’s Basketball Head Coach

photo by Colleen Carroll
Facing New Horizons

Inside this section

New Football Coach, Vagina Monologues, ORAC, Baseball, Sun Belt Tournaments, Teacher and Student Profiles, Spirit Masters, Forensics, Cultural Enhancement Series, Goth Lifestyle, ROTC, 24 Hours at Western, Miss Kentucky 2002, Dental Hygiene, Women’s and Men’s Basketball, Softball, New Basketball Coach, Greek Week, Tug, Miss Black Western, War in Iraq, May Graduation

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‘Big Brother’ takes football reins
Head Football Coach Jack Harbaugh steps down; David Elson steps up

By Joseph Lord

Jack Harbaugh was Hilltopper football’s pappy.
Jimmy Feix, its granddaddy.
But David Elson?
“It’s like the big brother coming home,” offensive coordinator Willie Taggart said of Western’s new head football coach.

Elson, 31, was introduced March 5 in Diddle Arena as Western’s new head football coach. He replaced Harbaugh, who after 14 years of coaching for Western and leading the Hilltoppers to their first national championship in 2002, suddenly resigned Feb. 28.
The new coach was joined at the press conference by his wife Kathy and two daughters.

“Daddy’s home for good,” he told his daughters at the announcement.
The defensive coordinator on Harbaugh’s championship team, Elson left in early February to become safeties coach at West Virginia University. He was also the Hilltoppers’ head recruiter.
With the announcement, he became the second youngest head coach in Division I football, Athletic Director Wood Selig said.

Elson said he was shocked when he found out that his old boss had stepped down.
Selig and Ransdell met with the team and coaches the same day Harbaugh handed in his resignation.
Sophomore punter Brian Claybourn said the team wanted a coach that it already knew. In that respect, Elson fits nicely.

“He recruited most of us, so we know him pretty well,” Claybourn said. “I think he’s going to do a lot of the same things.”
Harbaugh was consulted before a decision was made, but he did not endorse a candidate, Selig said.

About 18 prospects were contacted about the job, Selig said. The list included Taggart, the New England Patriots’ Romeo Crennell and the Oakland Raiders’ Jim Harbaugh, son of the former coach.
Elson came to Bowling Green over the weekend of March 1 and interviewed for the job, Selig said. Elson was the only candidate offered the position.

“He had a very good interview,” President Gary Ransdell said.

Ransdell said the team wanted a coach familiar with the program. Elson, who coached at Western for seven years, was exactly that.
Taggart said he supported his new boss.

“It’s like a big brother,” Taggart said. “I’m next in line.”
In fact, Elson later promoted Taggart to associate head coach.

Selig said he and Elson’s wife flew to Morgantown, W.Va., on March 4 in a plane owned by Regent Cornelius Martin. The group didn’t arrive back in Bowling Green until 2:30 p.m. the same day.
Elson met with players for about 20 minutes before he was unveiled to the public.

Elson’s tenure with the Mountaineers ended the night of March 1 when he told head coach Rich Rodriguez that he had taken the Western job.
Rodriguez wasn’t mad. He still has all the contact numbers and resumes from before West Virginia snatched Elson away from the Hilltoppers.

“I know, in just the month we spent together, he’s an impressive young guy who has a lot of football knowledge,” Rodriguez said.

Elson’s contract, which he signed before spring practice began, provided a base salary of $96,192, $4 more than his predecessor’s final contract.

Elson wasn’t concerned that he was following a national championship coach leaving on the pinnacle of his career.

“There’s going to be pressure no matter where you go,” said Elson, who is half Harbaugh’s age.

Western may have a new coach, but shades of Harbaugh will remain on the field.

“Continuity is the word of the day,” said Elson, who kept most of Harbaugh’s coaching staff.

After the announcement, junior cornerback Jeremy Chandler hugged Elson and handed him a foot-long nameplate reading, “David Elson, Head Football Coach.”
Just told him we are all men, but he is the man,” Chandler said.

Herald reporter Steven King contributed to this story, which was previously published, in part, in the College Heights Herald.
Brentwood Tenn., freshman Cara McFall, above, performed "The Woman Who Liked to Make Vaginas Happy" during The Vagina Monologues 2003 presentation at Gordon Wilson Hall. The monologue chronicled the life of a lesbian lawyer who changed careers to become a sex therapist. McFall’s performance included many shrieks and moans in her rendition of the different types of orgasm screams that women make. The performance is brought to campus each year by the WKU women’s studies program and is a highly anticipated event on campus. Below: Cast members line up for a group picture after the show.

Theater filled for night of introspection and discovery

PHOTOS BY THOMAS CORDY

Eve Ensler’s “Vagina Monologues” was performed for a sold-out audience March 6 in the Gordon Wilson Theater Lab.

Tickets were $5, and all proceeds went to the Hope Harbor Sexual Trauma Center in Bowling Green.

The dramatic readings were sponsored by members of the women’s studies program as part of the celebration of V-Day, a day set aside to discuss the hardships women around the globe face.

The V-day college campaign, headed by Ensler’s friend, Karen Obel, raised nearly $2 million in 2002.

Guidelines state that male students may help plan the event, but they cannot perform a reading.
The ORAC canoeing group pulls over on the Green River to eat and camp out for the night. “This is the best part of the trip,” said Bowling Green sophomore Deryck Rodgers, one of the ORAC leaders. “We all just sit around, talk and relax.”
Pease Like a River

Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Club members canoe tranquil Green River

PHOTOS BY KYLENE LLOYD

Juniors Emily Comer, April Hale and Amy Kirts, all from Lafayette, Tenn., do the Y-M-C-A while waiting for the van to come pick them up.

Left: Sacramento senior Chris Bates, one of two leaders of the Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Center and an outdoor recreation major, takes a break with the other seven members on the trip after the long canoe ride. "This is what I love to do – be outside in the wilderness," Bates said. "I'm bored if I'm not."

Bates brings his canoe toward the shore where the rest of the group takes a break on the Green River, which runs through Mammoth Cave National Park, during a 12-mile canoe ride March 8-9.
Matt Gunning, a junior from Victoria, British Columbia, came to America last fall with high hopes of eventually playing professional baseball, but first he had to make it through college.

While playing in a junior league, Gunning was noticed by Western recruiters. They offered him a full scholarship, and he took it.

“There’s much more opportunity to play baseball in America than Canada,” he said.

He hoped playing ball in America would get him the attention he needed to get noticed by scouts searching for young talent at universities.

On top of working out for an hour or so, Gunning practices nearly every day of the week for four to five hours.

Despite his love for baseball, Gunning found time for school. He hoped to find a career in his major, exercise physiology, if a career in professional baseball doesn’t work out.

“Right now baseball is the main thing. After that, then comes school,” he said.

But for now, baseball is life.

“It’s my passion,” he said. “It’s what I want to do. I don’t care about anything else.”
Sheri Harris, an athletic trainer, performs ultrasonic therapy on Gunning’s leg. The injury, which happened several years ago, still bothers him occasionally.

Gunning, along with the rest of his teammates, changes shoes before the start of the doubleheader against Wright State.

Gunning warms up before going to bat against Wright State. His overall batting average by mid-March was .298. “The whole thing with baseball is that it’s a mental game. With other sports you work harder, you perform better,” he said. “With baseball you gotta get the hits if you want to do well.”

“It’s my passion...It’s what I want to do. I don’t care about anything else.”

– Matt Gunning, junior from Victoria, British Columbia
Sun Belt Hits the Hill

Story by Elizabeth Hale | Photos by Zac Padgett

Drama unfolds.

The 2003 Sun Belt Conference Tournaments come to Diddle Arena March 6-11. Twenty men’s and women’s basketball teams descend on Bowling Green with their cheerleading squads and pep bands. Western students express angst at being kicked out of the Diddle lot and parking structure.

Drama continues.


Spinning Topperettes and twirling red towels usher the dizzying excitement of the championship finals.

On March 11, the Lady Toppers face Middle Tennessee State University.

In the first half, junior guard Leslie Logsdon scores 30 points. But despite Logsdon’s focus, it’s a tense battle, and Western only leads by two with a minute and a half left. MTSU misses opportunities to score. The clock runs out. The Lady Toppers take the title, 86-83.

The victory marks the accomplishment of a huge goal for Coach Mary Taylor Cowles: an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, the women’s first berth in eight years.

More and more drama.

Hours before Western goes up against MTSU in the men’s final, students wearing jester hats and red paint are already waiting in line. A small but intense pocket of blue is hemmed in by throngs of Western fans. Three thousand five hundred students make a lot of noise — it’s called a home court advantage. An executive from ESPN said he’s never seen anything from a student body like Western’s anywhere in the country, Athletic Director Wood Selig said.

Western wins the tip-off but trails by as much as 11 points in the first half. The wave ripples through the crowd and the fans stand to yell and clap for the Hilltoppers to dominate. By the end of the first half, the score is tied.

But in the second half, Western controls the game, and the Hilltoppers win their third consecutive title, 64-52. Ecstatic fans are restrained from rushing the court, but Coach Dennis Felton dances on the ladder before he cuts the net. “T-O-P-S: Tops, Tops, Tops” is the victory cry.

“I’ve never seen the crowd this big.”

- Alumnus Ryan Vaughn of Jonesboro, Ark.

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“He’s on! He’s on!” fans shouted during the men’s match-up with New Mexico State on March 10. The game featured a career-high 28 points for sophomore guard Patrick Sparks. He was honored as the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player.

Sparks, junior guard Mike Wells and senior forward David Boyden were named to the Sun Belt Conference All-Tournament Team.

Leslie Logsdon scored a career high 32 points in the final women’s game March 11, once actually stepping back from the MTSU defense when she made a deep 3-pointer, her eighth in the game. Logsdon set a school record and tied the Sun Belt Tournament record.

Logsdon, senior guard Kristina Covington and freshman guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert were named to the Sun Belt Conference All-Tournament Team.

“I’ve never seen the crowd this big,” alumnus Ryan Vaughn of Jonesboro, Ark., said on March 8 at the men’s game.

The men’s championship game set a conference attendance record with more than 8,000 packed in Diddle, Assistant Athletic Director Craig Biggs said. About 200 students had to be turned away, he said.

With five minutes left in the second half, Big Red was kicked out of the men’s final after he crowd surfed. According to conference officials, Big Red had been reprimanded throughout the game for acts such as crossing the half-court line during halftime, directing Western’s pep band and starting the wave. Beaver Dam graduate student Wade Raymer, the man inside the costume, said he felt SBC rules were too restrictive. No other mascot was kicked out of a Sun Belt game this year.

Western band members were hired to play for the University of Arkansas-Little Rock during the tournament. UALR did not send its band. Some Hilltoppers called band members traitors, but Bowling Green junior and band member Crissy Priddy said she remained loyal by wearing her red and white striped Western shirt underneath her Trojan shirt. Western also loaned a drummer to Denver.

Conference tournaments aren’t cheap. Western bid $800,000 to host the 2003 and 2004 tournaments, and it was also estimated the tournament would cost $125,000 to run. Students got in free with their Big Red Cards. Other fans paid $18 for single game tickets, $75 for total tournament access and $5 to park in the parking structure.

Sunday at midnight the Capital lot, the large gravel lot behind the Kentucky Museum, reportedly had no vacancies. Usually half-full when students come back from the weekend, the crowded parking situation was the result of accommodating the tournament. The parking structure was closed to students March 8-10, and Diddle lot was closed for the duration of the tournament. Students were notified of the parking adjustments in an e-mail message, which stated that the lot at the old mall off Campbell Lane would be available as an overflow lot for commuters.

After trying two water fountains, a man walked away thirsty, a reminder that Diddle was still a work in progress when it acted as host to the tournament this year. Winter weather had delayed construction progress, but the six-day event ran smoothly with only a minor elevator problem and climate complications, Biggs said.
Leake and his three-year-old son Spencer visit Leake’s wife Tara on Feb. 28 in front of their Fountain Square coffee shop named for their son. The Leakes opened Spencer’s in October of 2001 with their mother-in-law Jean Murzi. They wanted to open a shop that was similar to the ones they saw in the bay area of California where they lived before coming to Bowling Green.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN WAGNER

Describing a former student’s self-portrait, art professor Jeff Leake walked his class through the approaching midterm project. Leake said it keeps getting harder and harder to find time to work on his own art. Between the coffee shop, his two children, his wife and teaching, he sacrifices a lot of his personal time.

Leake helps Lancaster sophomore Jessica Rogers with work for her color concept class, which he teaches. Leake came to Western in August 2001 and taught three classes in the spring 2003 semester.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN WAGNER
As midnight approached on Wednesday, March 19, a group of Western’s few and elite walked up the Hill, unsure of what awaited them at the top.

The fight song got louder and louder with each step, until a crowd of students appeared to cheer the group on.

This group was the new class of 2003-04 Spirit Masters. And this was their unveiling.

The new members had persevered through the strenuous application process of long essays to get to the first round of interviews. Judges scored the applicants’ confidence and presentation, but more importantly, they examined how they interacted with strangers.

“That’s the big thing because that’s what we do during events,” said Elkton senior Jason Seay, returning Spirit Masters president. “You have to carry on a conversation with every walk of life.”

As hosts and hostesses who promote Western, the Spirit Masters volunteer 50 hours a semester to represent Western in such events as the President’s Gala, the Bowling Green 10K, Parent’s Weekend and OAR.

To be eligible, applicants must be at least a second semester freshman and must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

A select group of the 40 applicants found their names posted on the list of finalists after the third day of interviews. Those on the list moved to the final round of interviews.

But the difficult part for most finalists wasn’t the interview. It was the wait.

Audrey Jones, a Georgetown sophomore, was interviewed on Monday night. She admitted waiting until Wednesday was more than torture.

“It has been pins and needles since Monday at 5 p.m.,” she said at the unveiling Wednesday night.

After three more days of interviews, the accepted finalists received a phone call informing them of their success.

Ann Carman, a sophomore from Dayton, Ohio, felt she had a good chance after the second interview, but she still couldn’t believe she made it.

“I double checked with the guy who called,” Carman said. “I kept being like, are you sure? Are you sure?”

For Carman, and most of the other finalists, the knowledge of their achievement became real when they reached the top of the Hill and found some of the returning 2002-03 Spirit Masters cheering them on.

“I applied because they’re super enthusiastic and they have the opportunity to show that enthusiasm every day,” Carman said.

As the last of the interviews finished and the rest of the Spirit Masters gathered around the circle in front of Cherry Hall, the group breathed easy. Seay admitted the selection process was difficult, but he believed that the right applicants had been selected for the fall 2003 semester.

“You all are the cream of the crop,” said Spirit Master adviser Carl Kell as he invited them into the new chapter of their college careers.

“This is your life ... and maybe a little school,” Seay said.
It was an extraordinary year for teams on the Hill.

By winning an unprecedented three major national and one international tournaments this year, Western’s forensics team has established a reputation for being a major force on the national and international scene.

This year, the major tournaments began with the Delta Sigma Rho/Tau Kappa Alpha National Conference Tournament on March 8-9 at Western. The team experienced an overwhelming victory when it placed seven team members as national champions and ranked No. 1 in the tournament with 395 total points. The closest competitor scored 254 points.

“This marks the beginning of our championship run,” said Evelio Silvera, a junior from Fort Myers, Fla. “It was great to get started on the top of our Hill before we hit the road.”

The next stop was the International Forensic Association tournament March 16-18 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Western won eight of 10 events and dominated its opponents in final scoring. This was the fifth year the team was invited to IFA, which it had won three previous times. Last year, the team was not able to attend because of the events of Sept. 11. This year the team won its fourth title.

“I think we do so well because we get pumped up at tournaments and we get to see other great performances from other schools,” said Mayfield freshman Ashley Courtney. “Each time, we take something away from their performance to improve ours.”

In April, the team won the National Forensic Association and the American Forensic Association tournaments.

Judy Woodring, director of forensics, said that, in the NFA, Western has had more national debate champions than any other college and has consistently been in the top five out of 200 schools.

“Our strength is that we have a lot of depth to our team,” Woodring said. “The way to win is with a really good team effort. If you are consistently good, everyone is a star.”

The season began with a series of meets. Twenty members competed at the Tennessee State Invitational, winning first place in team sweepstakes. And the forensics team won first overall sweepstakes at the Kentucky Forensic Association State Tournament.

Members also competed individually at the Webster University Invitational, the American Forensics Association District 6 Qualifier in Nashville, the Oklahoma/West Texas Swing, the Wisconsin-Eau Claire/Ripon Swing, the Simmons/Suffolk Swing in Boston and the Ohio State University Invitational.

Team members have a bare minimum of three hours every week of practice, hours of peer coaching, days and weeks worth of research to complete and competition every weekend in tournaments.

“I put in six to seven hours of research a week,” said Raegan Gibson, a senior from Evansville, Ind. “Socially we don’t have a choice but to be a family because we spend so much of our time together,” said Stacy Bernaugh, a senior from Seaside, Calif. “It’s beneficial, though, because it brings us closer together as a team, and we perform better because of our team unity.”

Forensic team members Evelio Silvera, a junior from Fort Myers, Fla.; Jennifer Purcell, a sophomore from Lewisville, Texas; Bernaugh; Florence freshman Justin Cress and Upton freshman Nicole Hawk wait for practice to begin.

As the director, Woodring deals with the never-ending process of polishing the efforts of the speakers and debaters.

Students on the forensics team realize that this effort must be made. Many teammates believe that “you get out what you put in.”

And this semester, the hard work paid off.
Cultural Enhancement Series


The Cultural Enhancement Committee, chaired by Potter College Dean David Lee, has been bringing diverse speakers and performers to Western for six years in an effort to enrich the university’s cultural life. The series is part of Western’s Strategic Plan and is funded through an allocation by the state.

The committee chooses the program each year based on suggestions from students, faculty and members of the community. Along with Garrett and The Baltimore Consort, this year’s program included Anoushka Shankar, an Indian sitar music performer; The Del McCoury Band, an award-winning Bluegrass group; and Brian Greene, author of “The Elegant Universe.”

Anoushka Shankar’s graceful finger work produces exotic melodies from a traditional Indian instrument, the Sitar. Shankar performed to a full house in Van Meter Auditorium Oct. 30 through the Cultural Enhancement Series.

Ron McCoury, Jason Carter, Mike Bub and Del McCoury, all members of The Del McCoury Band, perform March 4 at Van Meter Auditorium.
The first hint was the flesh and bones candle shaped like a hand outside the front door.

The kitchen didn’t offer much, though. There was a sink full of dirty plates, a cupboard lined with pots and pans, mere drippings of soap in the Joy and Dawn bottles and an ashtray filled with a mix of Camels and cloves.

But the rest of the apartment brewed black activity as gothic night in Nashville approached.

Two clubs in Nashville were the destination for the “goth” culture in south central Kentucky on Sunday nights. Club NV and The Tunnel host themed evenings for black-clad customers.

In the living room, the hints of a modern gothic lifestyle blended into the decor.

Two books lay on the hardwood floor: “Gamebook: Vampire the Masquerade” and “The Vampire Players Guide.” A black cauldron sat on the couch and Bram Stoker’s “Dracula” is in the VCR. A doll, packaged like Barbie, hung below an angel and a ruby-beaded rosary on the evergreen painted walls. The doll, Columbia, was a white-faced Rockette in drag from the “Rocky Horror Picture Show.”

Bewitched Barbie on a broom was in the next bedroom over.

The four-room apartment was a tornado of activity, but only one of the two occupants was home.

Karen Wolfe, a Western alumna from Williamsport, Pa., bounced from bedroom to bathroom bare-chested trying to find an outfit for a night out in Nashville.

Bella and Fuzzmutt, a golden retriever and terrier, were fighting over the shreds of a chew toy. Shade, a visiting feline, found a comfortable perch on a shelf while Lucy Fur, a black guinea pig worked diligently on her inverted water bottle.

Wolfe made a quick cell phone call. Five minutes later
her roommate, Joy Chavez, an Elizabethtown alumna, and Carlos Barragan, a former Western student from Louisville, were home to get ready.

Barragan was ready to go. His straight black hair fell over his eyebrow piercing. He wore black fishnet over a black T-shirt, and a pair of black Army boots anchor a pair of plaid blue wool pants held up with black suspenders.

"Are you wearing the boots?" Chavez called out from her bedroom.

"Are you wearing the fishnet?" replied Wolfe.

"I brought it," Chavez said. "Should I not?"

Wolfe emerged from her bedroom in a black shirt that Chavez suggested.

Chavez was trying to decide between two black tops for her outfit. One read "I Bite" in glittery print; the other "I have issues."

"Find me something to wear," Wolfe pleaded.

"Where's my corset?"

She decided that her first outfit was not wearable. Chavez stood in her room and stripped down, deciding she didn’t like hers either. She slipped on a pair of flesh-colored nylons and into a long, black velvet one-piece dress.

"That looks good," said Barragan as he entered the room. "It’s been awhile since you wore that, sweetie."

The bathroom had become the center of activity. The pace picked up since everyone was eager to get going.

"We’ve been going there (Nashville) since about November," Wolfe said. "They play goth, industrial, some Tool, some Nine Inch Nails, but what I really like is that everyone is just dancing, enjoying their bodies and having a good time."

Chavez was now getting her nails painted black by Barragan as his own coat of ebony dries.

"We ready to go?" Wolfe asked.


The frantic pace had subsided, and a fourth person had arrived for the journey, Russellville sophomore Justin Harris.

Harris said his awareness of his gothic individuality grew after a writing camp at Duke University in high school where he met Hunter McBride and Rebecca Harris, both gothic high schoolers from Texas and Pennsylvania.

"They brought out aspects of myself that I hadn’t discovered or realized before," Harris said. "(Goth) is basically just a mind set that you can elect to live. It’s just being interested in the darker things in life and appreciation for the dark and light of life."

Harris took a pull from his clove cigarette, which was as thin as the slim fingers holding it.

"Goth culture is like any other subculture," Harris said. "It has strange fashions, rituals and customs."

Wolfe put a few finishing touches of makeup on Harris and adjusted his dog collar.

The quartet of black slipped away from the incandescent glow of the apartment and into their matching shade of night.

The music at Club NV has thuds so hard you can feel it in your heart, Harris said.

On busy nights, the crowd can peak at 50 patrons, but usually 10 to 15 clubgoers sparsely fill the three-room bar.

Disco lights mixed with multi-colored gels. Black lights accented the dust and dandruff on the black outfits, making small moving universes of everyone.

Not unlike cowboy, fraternity or upscale themed clubs, there was a lot of alcohol flowing and bar side flirting.

Couches were also filled with the talk of unfound lovers.

Nine Inch Nails and Tool set the soundtrack for the evening, along with Stabbing Westward and Aphex Twin.

The club stays open until 3 a.m., but the Bowling Green contingent would often leave the scene around 1 a.m.

"Monday classes just kept getting closer and closer," Harris said.

After stopping for a post-bar snack at Denny’s or Café Coco in Nashville, it was back to Bowling Green packed in the protective cave of the car.

Another week would pass before the group emerged again for a night they could call their own.

"(Goth) is basically just a mind set that you can elect to live. It’s just being interested in the darker things in life and appreciation for the dark and light of life."

– Justin Harris, Russellville sophomore
You see them out running when you pull into the parking lot at 7:30 a.m. You’re barely able to make it to your first class, yet they’re shouting chants and trekking up the Hill in an organized fashion.

This lively group of runners is the U.S. Army ROTC Hilltopper Battalion.

One hundred and thirty students, most under the age of 26, were enrolled in Reserve Officers’ Training Corps classes. Four core classes were offered, and four additional classes were offered to the 70 students who have completed the core courses and were committed to becoming commissioned officers in the U.S. Army.

“Students enroll primarily for leadership training and to have a pretty rewarding career after college,” said Maj. Teresa A. Wardell, an assistant professor of military science and ROTC enrollment officer.

In the wake of war in Iraq last spring, four students were deployed, and others were alerted that they could be called up at any time.
Lt. Col. Carl Filip, a professor of military science, gives encouragement to ROTC cadet Michael Shoulls, an Elizabethtown sophomore, as he does pushups in Smith Stadium.

After finishing their 2-mile run, Lee Humphrey, a sophomore from Aiken, S.C., and Jonathan Butler, a sophomore from Old Hickory, Tenn., congratulate themselves on personal record runs. The run was a part of their physical training test.

Lt. Col. Carl Filip, a professor of military science, gives encouragement to ROTC cadet Michael Shoulls, an Elizabethtown sophomore, as he does pushups in Smith Stadium.
Muslim student blends tradition, family and campus activities

Hajara Mahmood's first name, Hajara. Mahmood watches as others find their places in DUC room 226. The group meets each Friday to pray.

BY ELIZABETH HALE | PHOTOS BY JIM WINN

The texture is velvet and the color is maroon with a woven print of Kaba, a mosque in Saudi Arabia.

Hajara Mahmood, a 20-year-old sophomore from Prospect Heights, Ill., picked out her prayer rug before her first semester at Western.

“My mom has so many, but I just wanted to have that one of my own,” she said.

Muslims pray five times a day: morning, noon, mid-afternoon, evening and night. Before every prayer, Mahmood performed ablution, or cleansing. She removed her shoes and washed her hands, face, ears, neck, arms and feet.

She also covered her thick black hair, crossing the corners of her head scarf under her chin and tying the ends behind her head. Some Muslim women wear a head scarf every day.

“A lot of people think it’s more of, like, a control issue where it’s mandatory because men said that you should wear this, but it’s not,” she said. “A woman will wear it more for herself than anyone … I do wear it every now and then, like just for fun, when it goes with my outfit or something, and I wear it when I go to prayer.”

Mahmood prayed on her rug on a clean fabric facing northeast toward Mecca, Islam’s holy city.

“It’s more like a physical and spiritual prayer,” she said. “It’s a process where you’re saying Arabic verses and you’re bowing down.”

Sometimes she prayed with her younger sister Khadija, a freshman, who was also her roommate.

Sometimes she prayed alone.

Sometimes she prayed in a quiet corner of the library if she didn’t have time to go to her room.

Fridays were opportunities to pray at the mosque on Old Morgantown Road, but Mahmood didn’t always have a ride.

“As I grew up, we always went (to the mosque) every Friday,” she said. “Over here, it’s like I haven’t gone for awhile, and all of a sudden I go and it feels good. I try to bring someone with me because I hate to go by myself.”

Amber Beisel, a Louisville junior and RA in McCormack Hall, took Mahmood to the mosque twice.

“She said she needed a ride,” Beisel said. “I asked if it was ok if non-Muslims sit in to see the atmosphere and what was going at the mosque, and she said yes, of course.”

Beisel is Catholic, but she said she enjoyed the Arabic chanting.

Mahmood said Islam is a simple religion.

“It kind of teaches you how, like, worldly things are not important,” she said. “You’re God’s tool, and you should live in a peaceful manner.”

‘Being a minority’

Professors, students, neighbors — a lot of people had trouble pronouncing Mahmood’s first name, Hajara.

“Around the dorm, my residents call me Haj,” she said.

Mahmood was the resident assistant on the sixth floor of McCormack. Bulletin boards on her floor tell residents about their RA. Written on snowflakes made of white construction paper were statements: I like to talk. I have two sisters. I am a Muslim. I don’t like snow.

Mahmood grew up in a Muslim family in a suburb of Chicago. Her older sister Azra came to Western when their dad was looking at a job in Nashville. He decided to keep his old job in Chicago, but Azra ended up graduating from Western in 2000.

Attracted by her sister’s success, Western’s academic options and a slower pace of life, Mahmood decided to move to Bowling Green, too, though it was a culture shock.

“I was more used to being around people of, like, so many different ethnic backgrounds,” she said. “The first time it actually affected me was when I was the only, like, non-white person in the classroom. I kind of felt strange … That was my first time ever being a minority.”

Mahmood, a biology major, wanted to teach high school.

While working at the front desk on a Tuesday afternoon, she tried to study between conversations with residents coming in from class.

Roommates Emily Huffman and Carolyn Sarlls, freshmen from Lancaster, live on the sixth floor of McCormack. They said they make it a point to stop and talk to their RA whenever she’s working the desk.

“She’s very personable,” Sarlls said.

Muslim Student Association

The door, slightly ajar, muffles the echoes from Downing University Center lobby.

Seven students quietly sit with their chairs in a circle. They listen to the chanted murmurs of a reading from the Koran, the holy text of Islam.

After the Arabic portion is read, the book is passed to Mahmood. She reads a portion in English.

The Muslim Student Association meets every Friday at DUC. Some come because of curiosity. Some come because of devotion to Islam.

Mahmood has been active in the group since she was a freshman.

“There’s not a big Muslim community here, so the small community that we have is tight,” she said. “We help each other out.”

At the beginning of the spring 2003 semester, the members agreed to make Mahmood president of MSA.

She said MSA considered having an Islamic awareness week where they would set up a table in DUC with fliers and brochures.

“I’m sure a lot of people have questions about the religion, because there’s a lot misconceptions, and you see it on TV, and they tie in terrorism with the religion,” she said.

“It’s just a nice example to see — we actually have Muslim students on this campus … and they’re hard working, and they’re not terrorists.”

Her younger sister Khadija was also involved with the organization.

This afternoon, the group watches a video of a Muslim speaker. When the video is over, Mahmood spreads out a prayer mat with the help of a male MSA member and Khadija. The three pray for about 10 minutes, kneeling and bowing down.

Feeling at home

Oil crackles and sputters in the frying pan in a kitchen on the sixth floor of McCormack. Khadija is washing dishes at the sink next to the stove. Hearing the crackle, she jumps back, along with Mahmood.

Dinner tonight is tofu and rice.

“We’re rice people,” Mahmood said.

The Islamic religion has certain dietary restrictions, and certain methods of slaughtering different animals are required. Some meat, like pork, is forbidden entirely. Because the nearest Muslim slaughter house is in Nashville, the sisters often eat a vegetarian diet.

Mahmood talked to Khadija while she fried the tofu.

“I’m going to the library later to study,” she said. “Wanna come?”

A resident entered the kitchen and, smiling, commented sarcastically, “Big
Late Sunday night, Mahmood, a sophomore from Prospect Heights, Ill., finally finds time to settle down and begin studying for classes. “Between work, school and just finding a little time for myself, every week ends up going by at a hundred miles an hour,” Mahmood said.

When a Muslim prays, he or she bows toward Mecca three times. MSA members make their final bows before ending the service.

“There’s not a big Muslim community here, so the small community that we have”

—Hajara Mahmood, sophomore from Prospect Heights, Ill.
Any Given Day

Mid-March dawn breaks over Western’s campus.
Day after day, hour after hour, members of the Western community hike up and down the Hill, studying, working, playing. Some complain that there aren’t enough hours in the day; others complain that the day is too long. Each Hilltopper has a purpose – to finish the day’s work and move onto tomorrow’s. During any given 24 hours, people on the Hill take tests, clean floors, make lunches, teach classes. Every day they laugh, they smile, they cry, they yell – they make memories.

On Thursday, March 13, 2003, 16 photographers found those memories. And now they give all 24 hours’ worth to you.
Margaret Lillard cleans a water fountain on the third floor of the fine arts center. Lillard works to supplement her husband’s insurance and her retirement. She worked at a factory in Franklin for 35 years, but she had to quit when they started requiring her to work 12-hour shifts.

Right: Professor Tom Bartel sleeps comfortably in the bed with his penguin pajamas on while two of his students sleep on the floor in sleeping bags. Five ceramics majors and Bartel went to San Diego in March for the National Conference for Ceramics. It was five full days of attending lectures, demonstrations and gallery tours and hanging out with friends at night.

Several members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon enjoy the nice weather Thursday afternoon. “What is better than drinking beer in a pool while listening to Jimmy Buffet?” asked one of the men. “I can’t think of anything.”
Danny Simpson, along with his three other band mates, has a bluegrass jam every day during his lunch break at the facilities management complex. The name of the group is Blue Country.

Three-year-old Jansen Gough sings the ABC’s to his baby sister during break time at the children’s center at Jones-Jaggers Hall. Jansen’s mother Tyson graduated from Western several years ago and has been working at Jones-Jaggers for more than 10 years. Her baby Jaeden was born in April.

Incoming freshmen Tracy Loeffler and friend discuss their schedules for next semester during OAR.
Gord Veldman, a grad student from Ontario, Canada, practices Thursday for the NCAA swim meet in Austin, Texas, on March 27. Veldman plans to return to Canada to try out for the 2004 Canadian Olympic squad.
Nicholasville freshman Rachel Buncher practices rappelling on the ramp at Smith Stadium. Western mountaineering students who had been receiving training for several weeks got their first chance to rappel off the side of the parking structure later in the week. “We will rappel about eight times this semester,” said mountaineering instructor Sgt. 1st Class Brian Hunt.

Jooyong Ahn, conductor of the Bowling Green Western Symphony Orchestra, works through “Ein Deutsches Requiem,” a Johannes Brahms piece, during a string section rehearsal. The orchestra is comprised of faculty, students and local musicians and is preparing for an April 24 concert.

Junior Brad Ausbrooks fills in a tattoo on Jeff Howard, a freshman from Bowling Green. Ausbrooks, a Bowling Green native, has been drawing his whole life and was recently moved from apprentice to full-time artist at Artistic Encounter on Russellville Road.
Crisian Riviere, a senior from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., greets Chassity Holliman, a freshman from Martin, Tenn., as she enters Night Class during hip hop night.

Bowling Green senior Cristin Lanham and her son Jake share a moment together at their home in Bowling Green. Every Thursday night Lanham hosts a vegetarian potluck party called “Pot Love.” Jake was playing with other kids when he got hurt and wanted his mother.
Merideth Hullett, a junior from Cumberland Furnace, Tenn., Louisville senior Ryan Rembold and Calhoun junior Sarah Beth Caraway sing at a weekly Campus Crusade for Christ meeting.

After playing pool with a group of friends Thursday night, Louisville junior Vashon Broadnax takes a nap in front of the TV on Downing University Center’s fourth floor.

At the Sigma Kappa Delta’s “Singly Out” philanthropy event, a contestant receives a lap dance in hopes of determining whom she would pick to go with on an all-expenses paid date.
Students walk past her every day, not realizing that she wears the Miss Kentucky crown. People serve her drinks at Java City and do not realize they have made coffee for a Miss USA delegate. Despite her low-key demeanor, this young woman has made a name for herself as a prominent figure in national beauty pageantry.

Scottsville senior Lori Mitchell won the Miss Kentucky pageant held in Somerset in August 2002, advancing to the Miss USA pageant in San Antonio, Texas.

“She had gone [to the Miss Kentucky pageant] with the intention to just place and get experience,” said her mother, Peggy Mitchell.

Many compete for the state crown for years, but it only took Mitchell one attempt to achieve her goal.

“We were kind of in awe when she won,” said Kari Critcheloe, an Elizabethtown senior and fellow Chi Omega member. “I knew she would (win) eventually, but this was her first year. I didn’t know she would win this soon.”

Mitchell’s Chi O sisters offered support and encouragement.

During the competition for the Miss Kentucky title, a group of Chi O members drove to Somerset to watch the pageant. When Mitchell won, the Chi Os put up banners and balloons at their house on Normal Drive and placed ads in the College Heights Herald congratulating her.

“We’re her loyal fans,” Critcheloe said.

The Miss USA pageant finals was held March 9-19 in San Antonio, Texas. Mitchell did not advance to the final round of 10 delegates. The pageant was aired live March 24 on NBC.

“I have no regrets. I did my best,” Mitchell said. She was disheartened, however, because she experienced food poisoning and was hospitalized earlier in the day of the preliminary round of competition.

Until the last moments before leaving for Texas, Mitchell received constant support from friends and family.

Everyone was certain Mitchell would do well in the competition.

“She’s beautiful,” said Winchester sophomore and Chi O sister Ashley Crowe. “She always presents herself well in front of people.”

But there’s more to Mitchell than just beauty.

“It’s obvious Lori is a beautiful girl,” Critcheloe said. “But when I met her, I enjoyed being with her because she was so down-to-earth and real.”

Mitchell is described by friends and family as determined, motivated and confident in her abilities.

Peggy Mitchell said her youngest daughter began competing in pageants when she was young. Mitchell’s older sister Holly competed in beauty pageants and suggested that Mitchell should start competing, as well. Mitchell competed in several teen competitions.

In high school, Mitchell was a disc jockey at a local country music station. She said she chose to further her studies at Western because of its nationally honored broadcasting program.

As a broadcasting major, Mitchell spent time volunteering at 91.7-WHHR, the campus radio station, and was an anchor reporter for News Channel 12.

Mitchell said she had aspirations to become a television news anchor.

“It was just something I always wanted to do,” she said.

Mitchell also held a part-time clerical position at a local doctors office.

Until Dec. 1, Mitchell will continue with her duties as Miss Kentucky-USA, speaking at schools about peer pressure as well as promoting the American Cancer Society, she said.

“She has goals and expectations for her life, and she’s the kind of person who will make sure they come true.”

- Kari Critcheloe, Elizabethtown senior
Scottsville senior and Miss Kentucky, Lori Mitchell, tries on the evening gown at a bridal warehouse in Glasgow that she would wear at the Miss USA pageant. The pageant was held March 9-19 in San Antonio and was aired live March 24 on NBC.

Mitchell stretches during an aerobics workout at the Bowling Green Parks and Rec Center a week prior to leaving for the Miss USA pageant.
Vickie Potter of Franklin, Tenn., performs a dental hygiene check on a student at Franklin-Simpson Middle School. As part of the applied research and technology program, Western’s Mobile Health and Wellness Unit travels to schools in 10 counties, giving senior students like Potter experience working with patients of all ages. It is not usual for the unit to perform hygiene checks and other services for 150 patients a day. “I like the experience,” Potter said. “And it’s good to get away from campus from time to time.” Twenty-two Western students participated in the program this year. The mobile unit started making calls in October 2001. Beth Whitfield is the unit coordinator.
Students participating in the dental hygiene program spent lots of time playing with tiny plastic teeth.

But not the kind that might chatter across a table top.

The students used plaster-molded models of a human mouth to aid in learning about types of teeth, dental terminology and the instruments used to fix dental problems.

“They seem to be up-to-date with their technology,” said Tina Flowers, a non-traditional student from Bowling Green. “And the professors seem to be interested in helping us become successful.”

Miki Hopkins, the president of the first-year dental hygiene students and a non-traditional student from White House, Tenn., agreed.

“The faculty are well-educated. They care about their students, and we have great equipment,” she said. “We have lots of hands-on equipment. We have operatory chairs and all the instruments, and we have a mannequin head with teeth to practice on in class.”

The program had 24 first-year students and 24 second-year students.

The first-year students usually saw two patients every day, and the second-year students saw about four. Students cleaned teeth and gave X-rays for a standard price.

Some patients were Western students or faculty, while some came from the Bowling Green community.

“You even have children up here,” Flowers said. “About half and half are students or general public.”

Students also attended one- to two-hour lecture classes, spent time working in the clinic, did research projects and performed community service.

“It’s a full-time program,” Flowers said.

Like Flowers, many of the students in the second-year dental hygiene program were non-traditional, some commuting from Tennessee.

“At least half of us are married and have children,” Flowers said.

Flowers entered Western’s highly recommended dental hygiene program after three years of teaching junior high and high school band. She became interested in dental hygiene through her father-in-law, a dentist. She said she came to Western because she liked working one-on-one with people, and she heard Western had that type of program.

Students got some of the one-on-one experience by taking turns going out on the Mobile Health and Wellness Unit. The unit traveled to elementary schools in neighboring counties and gave second, third, seventh and eighth graders dental screenings. Four Western students went each time and were accompanied by a registered hygienist, a registered nurse, a dentist and a physician. Each student performed this community service four to six times a semester.

Students also volunteered once or twice a semester at the Commonwealth Free Clinic.

These opportunities, along with the professional equipment, let the students gain the experience they need to feel confident.

“It’s learning while you’re performing,” Hopkins said.
Fun for All

The Lady Toppers won some and lost some but always had a blast

BY J. MICHAEL MOORE

The Lady Toppers entered the 2002-03 season with high hopes and guarded expectations.

After a 16-14 campaign the previous season and new head coach Mary Taylor Cowles taking the helm, opinions of the team's potential for success were varied.

A preseason injury to starting point guard Camryn Whitaker and the departure of three players due to personal reasons did not help the situation.

Cowles found herself with only nine active players to start the season.

Western responded to its critics by finishing the regular season 19-8, ending the season on an 11-game winning streak. They went on to finish 22-8, winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

But it wasn't all fun and games.

The first part of the season was a roller coaster from the opening tip – a game that calmed some fears and ignited some passion.

The Lady Toppers opened the season with a 71-57 victory over No.10 Louisiana Tech.

It was a fitting tribute to Western's women's basketball history and a happy opening of a renovated Diddle Arena. The Lady Toppers had lost 11 straight games to the Lady Techsters.

Smiles filtered through the worries.

The Lady Toppers lost their next game to Clemson, but won a week later against in-state rival Louisville, overcoming a 15-point deficit to win by 20.

But a disastrous Christmas break left the Lady Toppers stranded on the road to post-season success and threatened to destroy the entire season.

Western lost four straight to close out the holiday break, including their conference opener against Middle Tennessee State University.

Losses to Liberty, Tennessee Tech and Arkansas appeared to take the wind out of the sails.

The Lady Toppers were left for dead carrying a 5-7 record on Jan. 4.

Cowles said she tweaked the focus, turning practices to more individual expectations – focusing on what the Lady Toppers could do to improve themselves before turning attention to an opponent.

The result was Western’s patented levelheaded approach.

Cowles was amazed.

The team didn’t get too high or too low.

But they had fun.

“Think it’s wrong to think, as a coach, you can’t learn anything from your team,” Cowles said. “It all starts with each individual getting ready to play.”

An 11-game win streak ensued.

The Lady Toppers didn’t lose a game after Jan. 18, and they finished 12-2 in the conference, earning the Sun Belt Conference title.

Western women’s basketball had reached the top of the mountain again. Fans commented eagerly on how fun it was to watch the team.

The fun the players had was evident.

Senior forward Shala Reese was named Player of the Year, and Freshman of the Year honors went to guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert. The Sun Belt Conference leading scorer was junior forward Leslie Logsdon.

“I don’t know how to explain it,” senior captain Kristina Covington said a few days before the Sun Belt Tournament. “If you watch other teams, they’re focused. We’re just laid back, at ease and having fun. At tipoff, we’re ready to play. We focus on the fun stuff in the game.”

The Lady Toppers lost in the first round of the NCAA to Rutgers 64-52.

“Is you watch other teams, they’re focused. We’re just laid back, at ease and having fun.”

– Kristina Covington, senior captain of the Lady Toppers

Fun for All
Senior guard Kristina Covington drives the ball against North Texas on Feb. 8 in Diddle Arena. The Lady Toppers edged the Lady Eagles, 89-85.
Senior David Boyden goes up for two against Arkansas Little-Rock on Feb. 13 in Diddle Arena. The Toppers beat the Trojans 70-51.
Dance Fever

Sophomore guard Patrick Sparks drives past a Denver opponent on Feb. 5 in Diddle Arena. The Toppers won 81-77.

Junior guard Mike Wells fends off Arkansas State on Feb. 15 in Diddle Arena. Western won 69-63.

Senior guard Filip Videnov dribbles against University of South Alabama on Jan. 18 in Diddle Arena. Western won 85-69.

High expectations lead to Sun Belt title three-peat

STORY BY DANNY SCHÖNBAECHLER | PHOTOS BY AARON THOMPSON

Western’s basketball team expected to make it back to the NCAA tournament for a third consecutive time. They also expected to win the Sun Belt Conference tournament for a third straight year.

But hopes of achieving those lofty goals seemed bleak when the Hilltoppers lost senior starters Todor Pandov, a forward, and center Chris Marcus to injuries. Marcus was an All-American and Pandov was expected to have a breakout season.

The team did, however, still have starters David Boyden and Patrick Sparks. Boyden, a forward and the senior captain, proved to be an irreplaceable leader.

Sparks, who usually played point guard, was only a sophomore, but he led the conference in assists (5.9) and averaged 13.3 points a game. The two were also helped by the Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year, junior guard Mike Wells.

Even with these returning players, the Toppers were unable to get any momentum in their early season schedule.

Efforts to overcome these setbacks hampered the Toppers early in the season as they struggled to a 12-8 record. But the season turned around after a loss at Detroit.

Western coach Dennis Felton held a two-hour meeting with his team following the loss, and they were never again the same team.

The Toppers went on to win their next 12 games and swept the Sun Belt regular season and tournament titles.

Despite its tough beginning, Western reached its goal of going dancing.

Toppers completed their three-peat Sun Belt title and earned a bid to the NCAA tournament against Big Ten champ Illinois. Western lost to Illinois 65-60, making it the third year in a row that the Toppers were eliminated in the first round of the NCAA.

The Toppers’ 69-63 victory over Arkansas State on Feb. 15 in Diddle Arena tied Western with Oklahoma for the longest home winning streak in the nation.

On March 8, Oklahoma lost at home against Texas, giving Western the lead. When the Toppers’ home season ended March 11, Western had climbed to a nation’s best 39-game home winning streak.
Freshman pitcher Adrienne Lathrop, backed up by sophomore outfielder Dana Rey, grabs a fly ball during a 5-0 win over Tennessee State April 10 at the softball field. Lathrop pitched her second career shut out with five strike outs and seven hits in seven innings.

Senior infielder Brandy Hawkins, senior outfielder Jessie Richardson and junior catcher Samantha Hansen cheer on the Lady Toppers during a 5-0 win over Tennessee State April 10 at the softball field.

Junior Allison Silver delivers a pitch during the Toppers’ 5-2 victory over Evansville on April 2 in Bowling Green. Silver was named to the all-Sun Belt Conference second team and Verizon Academic team.

Softball

30-32 season ends in semifinal round of Sun Belt
Campus police veteran retires after nearly three decades

By Abbey Brown

Capt. Eugene Hoofer, 51, has watched Western’s campus police station grow from a single station wagon patrol car and a bathroom office to five patrol cars, a police station and an annex.

But on March 31, he signed the last overtime slip, officially ending his career and beginning his retirement with the department after 27 1/2 years.

When Hoofer, the former captain of patrol, was hired by Western in 1975, the department was in the midst of evolving from a security force to an accredited police department.

At 23, Hoofer was the youngest officer on the force. Now the other officers refer to him as the old man.

Chief Robert Deane said Hoofer will be a hard person to replace.

He was a good, hard worker, Deane said. I know those in patrol really look up to him and respect him. He did a lot for the department.

Capt. Mike Wallace, who continued his duties in the parking and communications division, took over Hoofer’s position temporarily.

A man of many hats

Hoofer always knew he wanted to be a police officer.

Growing up in the small town of Rockport, Ind., he saw a police department that picked on younger people. He wanted to change that.

But life threw a small detour at him.

After high school, he took a job at the Whirlpool plant in Evansville for five years until he was laid off.

Hoofer then took a job for an insurance company in Owensboro that soon transferred him to Bowling Green.

The job with the campus police was meant to be temporary, but he said Western grew on him.

Hoofer has been a patrol officer, a training officer and a shift commander at the station. He was also briefly in investigations. He was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant and, finally, to captain.

Hoofer was instrumental in getting the department’s first computer, and he helped create the shuttle system and switched the parking decal system from bumper stickers to hang tags, he said.

He accepted the captain of patrol position three years ago so he could spend more time with his family, but his years on the street were his happiest, he said.

Reintroducing himself

Hoofer’s desire to spend more time with his wife of 32 years, Martha; daughter Gina, 25; son Clint, 16; and grandson Keegan, 18 months, prompted his retirement.

I’ve worked so much for the last 20 some odd years, and it has taken so much away from my family, he said. It’s time for me to reintroduce myself to (my family).

The Hoofers have set aside $25,000 for good or bad.

On the horizon

He’s still on a high from being retired, Martha Hoofer said.

Hoofer said his first week of retirement went great.

I golfed, he said with satisfaction.

He also did some leg work on one of his honey-do tasks, as he’s calling the list of home improvement items his wife has been waiting on.

Hoofer also wanted to do some traveling.

I am just excited about being able to go out and play golf or spend time with my family without having to carry around a cell phone, he said with a smile.
Western lost its jockey and its best horse in April.

Just weeks before the Kentucky Derby became the biggest news event in the state, Western drew some attention of its own.

Head basketball coach Dennis Felton resigned April 9 to take a head coaching job at Georgia.

Two weeks later, sophomore point guard Patrick Sparks asked for a release from his scholarship.

Darrin Horn, Felton’s replacement, had his hands full from his first days on the Hill.

“Patrick Sparks contributed to the success of Western Kentucky basketball the last two years,” Horn said in a prepared statement detailing Sparks’ release. “He has informed me that he wants to explore other options. It is obvious that this is a decision that Patrick has not rushed into, but has considered over a long period of time.

“I wish Patrick and his family all the best in their future.”

Sparks’ initial release came with restrictions from the university — namely that he could not attend any school Western would play in the next two years.

The family appealed and won Sparks’ unconditional release.

Sparks led the Hilltoppers in scoring in 2002-03, averaging 13.3 points per game with a school-record 84 three-pointers.

With his help, Western won its third straight Sun Belt Tournament. Sparks was named the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player.

Felton’s departure was less sudden, but highly rumored, his having gone 100-54 during five years on the Hill.

The Toppers advanced to the NCAA Tournament three times during his tenure, losing in the first round each time.

But the coach’s credentials were enough to get him national recognition and an offer to be the Bulldogs’ next head coach.

In the end, fans, players and administrators seemed to understand Felton’s decision to move up the college coaching ranks.

“I’m not disappointed in Dennis,” President Gary Ransdell said. “He’s a young man. He’s achieving what he’s determined he wants his career to be, and I’ll always applaud him every step of the way.”

Felton went to Georgia in the wake of NCAA sanctions. Former Bulldog head coach Jim Harrick left the university after facing allegations of academic fraud.

Felton’s players agreed that their coach was doing the right thing.

“He was a successful coach, and one of these days he was going to leave,” junior forward Todor Pandov said. “It wasn’t a sucker punch.”

But to be safe, university officials found someone who may not be as likely to leave the Hill to replace Felton.

Darrin Horn was named men’s basketball head coach April 15, coming to Western from a stint as an assistant coach to Tom Crean at Marquette.

Horn, a Western graduate, was more than pleased to return to the Hill.

“Good to be home,” Horn said during a press conference held to introduce him to media and fans. “Being here tonight is an absolute dream come true for me. This is where my pride is. This is where my passion is.”

And for now, this is where Horn and the remaining players are.
Big Dance Tickets

Men’s and women’s basketball teams fall short in NCAA tournaments

Freshman guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert drives the ball against Rutgers in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on March 22 in Athens, Ga.

Senior guard Kristina Covington shows her excitement as the Lady Toppers defeat Middle Tennessee State University in the final game of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on March 11.

Covington cries as freshman forward Krystal Gardner watches the end of the Lady Toppers’ loss to Rutgers in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.
‘Any Day of the Week...

Members of Kappa Delta sorority perform their song and dance routine. Alpha Omicron Pi won the Spring Sing competition, with KD placing second and Phi Mu placing third.

The American Red Cross held a blood drive at the Preston Health and Activities Center as part of Greek Week. The fraternity and sorority that donated the most blood in their names earned points toward their overall scores. FarmHouse and Alpha Gamma Rho tied for first among the fraternities. Kappa Delta won the blood drive among the sororities.

After taking first place at Spring Sing, members of Alpha Omicron Pi circle Richmond senior Laura Allen to congratulate her. Allen was AOPi’s chairperson for the event.
Greek Week gives fraternities and sororities a chance to shine

BY LIBBY FUNKE

It’s all about earning bragging rights, and the chance to blow off a little steam before buckling down for final exams. With the theme “Any Day of the Week, I’d Rather Be Greek,” Greek Week activities lived up to their reputation for fun and competitive spirit.

Greek Week was an annual week-long competition between fraternities and sororities. The five main events were Spring Sing, Banner competition, Greek Feud, Blood Drive, Events Day and Tug. Each event was worth a specified number of points. Fraternities and sororities also received points for non-competitive categories such as campus involvement and scholarship.

Spring Sing

The shouts, costumes and rhythm of Spring Sing began the Greek Week festivities on Sunday night, April 13, in Van Meter Auditorium. The theme was “Hip Hop on the Hilltop.”

Alpha Omicron Pi sorority walked away with first prize, followed by Kappa Delta and Phi Mu sororities. For the fraternities, FarmHouse placed first, followed by Phi Delta Theta and Alpha Gamma Rho.

“One year there is a lot of hard work put into the acts, so we end up disappointed when the same people win every year,” commented a group of Phi Delts. “We think that the Phi Mus’ show ... should have taken home first.”

Events Day

The fourth day of competition was a chilly and breezy 55 degrees, but that didn’t dampen anyone’s spirits. Thursday, on DUC South Lawn, Greeks participated in egg tosses, penny tosses, three-legged races, dizzy bat races and piggy back races.

“We are here to strive in all of the events,” said Carrie Nance, an Owensboro freshman and KD.

Owensboro freshman Ashley Fiorella, a fellow KD, agreed.

“We are out for blood,” Fiorella said.

Tug

The Tug competition, the culmination of Greek Week, was held Friday at Western’s farm on Nashville Road.

“It’s an all day event that some people take so seriously,” said Brian Schorr, a Mayfield freshman and Sigma Nu fraternity member.

Many Greeks practiced for months before the actual event. The Sigma Kappa and Alpha Gamma Delta sororities weren’t allowed to speak of technique or strategy before the competition.

But others care less about competing and more about just being there. Austin Stevens, a Crestwood junior and Sigma Nu, confidently stated that the Sigma Nus hadn’t done anything to ready themselves for Tug before that day.

The rope pulling began at 1 p.m. Friday, but spectators were already lined up by 12:30.

“Go AGR,” said a deep, loud voice from the crowd during the first pull.

Although AGR beat the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, they didn’t make it to the final pull.

The Phi Delts advanced to the finals where they pulled against Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, winning the competition. FarmHouse took home third place.

“Tug is so important because it has the most commitment, passion and drive,” said Louisville sophomore Lindsey Ransdell, a Sigma Kappa.

During first pull for the sororities, the Sigma Kappas took on AGD. Sigma Kappa managed to come out on top against the AGDs and also beat the KDs for first place. Phi Mu placed third.

Final results

FarmHouse and the KDs placed first overall in Greek Week competition. The Phi Delts and AOPis took home second, while the Sig Eps and the Sigma Kappas came in third place.

Other honors

Eighteen Greeks were initiated into the Greek Hall of Fame — Laura Adams, Chi Omega; Christy Beck, Kappa Delta; Kelly Butler, Chi O; Allison Carter, Alpha Delta Pi; Anna Coats, ADPi; Brooke Comperly, KD; Stephanie Gladney, Phi Mu; Luke Griffith, FarmHouse; Brittney Long, Alpha Omicron Pi; Brooke Marshall, AOPi; Evan McCasland, FH; Kate Mercer, ADPi; Devon Pack, Pi Kappa Alpha; Andrea Potter, ADPi; Jennifer Rakestraw, Phi Mu; Jessica Vena, Chi O; Tommy Williams, Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Terry Woodall, Phi Delta Theta.

The Charley Pride Spirit Award was given to John Tower of FarmHouse and Clayton Norris of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Greek Woman of the Year was awarded to Jamie Sears of ADPi. Greek Man of the Year was awarded to Michael Windhorn of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The Karen Towell Sisterhood Award was given to Kappa Delta and the M. Reed Morgan Fraternal Excellence award was given to Phi Delta Theta.

Stephanie Gladney contributed to this story.

...I’d Rather be Greek’
During the tug competition on Friday of Greek Week, which is held at Western's farm on Nashville Road, members of Alpha Delta Pi sorority cheer on their own team which won its first match but was eliminated in the second round. Tug is the final event of Greek Week and is worth the most points.

Greek Week Tug

Phi Delts, Sigma Kappa pulls off victory

Seniors Margaret Mathis and Vonnie Boyte of Sigma Kappa sorority share tears and a hug after winning the tug competition during this year’s Greek Week. Sigma Kappa beat Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, the defending champions, and the Kappa Delta sorority in the finals to capture the championship.
“Tug is so important because it has the most commitment, passion and drive.”

- Lindsey Ransdell, Louisville sophomore and a member of Sigma Kappa sorority

Hopkinsville freshman Greg Rittenberry, a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, lies in the mud, helping his brothers pull.

Jim Winn

Bowling Green freshman Ryan Moore hugs fellow AGR brother Adam Crafton, a Woodburn junior and AGR chapter president. AGR has been a traditional winner of Tug, but Phi Delta Theta claimed the victory this year.

Jim Winn

Rittenberry stretches before AGR’s first pull against Delta Tau Delta. AGR won the first round but did not place.

Jim Winn
After three months of hard work, Radcliff sophomore Ma’Tretta Bush (center), Nashville sophomore Leah Smith and Louisville freshman Dedra McDowell await the final moments before the curtains of the Downing University Center theater open.

"The way I look at it, I am too blessed to be stressed."

–Leah Smith, Nashville sophomore

Louisville freshman LaShonda Sims (left) and Nashville freshman Nadia Garrett put on the finishing touches before taking the stage in the evening gown competition. The Miss Black Western Gala, which has been held since 1971, has a mission to celebrate and promote the success of African-American women. Several hundred people filled DUC theater for the event.
It was just like practice, except there was an audience. The women smiled brilliantly, spoke confidently and moved gracefully, but the crowd roared. And at the end of the night, one woman became the 2003 Miss Black Western.

It didn’t register at first, I mean, I thought I might have a chance, and then I heard the Kather... Mortons Gap freshman Katherine Sharber said about being crowned. They got that part out, and I was like, Wow, and then I heard my mom scream, and that kind of gave it away.

The 32nd annual pageant, sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, displayed the talent, beauty, strength and faith of 10 women on April 10.

When the curtain parted on the stage of the Downing University Center Theater, the contestants stood holding masks to their faces. But it was not a night for modesty. Almost immediately, they sent their masks sliding off stage and introduced themselves with rhyme and attitude.

For the first competition, contestants dressed in spring wear and were judged on their appearance. Like models stepping out of a catalog, the women flaunted capri pants, spaghetti straps and asymmetrical lines, flashing smiles to the judges while the masters of ceremonies described the attire.

The second competition was a showcase of talent. Several contestants swayed and twirled in interpretive dance. Some had the audience laughing and applauding during monologues. Others performed poetry, tap danced or did a gymnastics routine.

The third portion of the competition judged evening wear. The contestants strode across the stage with confident steps and swishing fabric, stopping to face the audience and deliver a monologue about themselves.

I am a diamond in the rough, a rare and precious gem, Nashville sophomore Leah Smith said, wearing a glittering red gown. The way I look at it, I am too blessed to be stressed.

In the semifinal round, the five remaining contestants were asked what advice they would give to young girls to promote and maintain a positive self-image and self-esteem.

Louisville sophomore Dedra McDowell said she would ask young girls to look further than the videos they see on television.

Sharber said her advice for them would be to be themselves.

It is the best possible person you can be, she said.

McDowell and Nashville freshman Patricia Pollard tied for third runner-up. Smith was named second runner-up and voted Miss Congeniality by the contestants. Nashville freshman Raelonda Wynn earned the title Miss Perseverance for selling the most ads for the pageant program.

Sharber also won a book scholarship.

As the reigning Miss Black Western, Sharber will do community service with AKA, speak at one of their meetings and run as the AKA Homecoming candidate, if no AKA members choose to compete.

Louisville freshman Eric Gulley said that he did not predict Sharber would win but he thought the pageant was conducted well.

Everybody looked elegant, he said.

The contestants had been practicing three to four times a week since January. Sharber said that it was hard work but she forged friendships that would last a lifetime.

We had long practices, like really long practices, and at times, attitudes were flying, Sharber said. Me and the other girls, we became close, like so close, we became like a family.

Tickets for the pageant cost $3 for students and $4 for non-students. Proceeds from the program and ticket sales went to various charities, including St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the AKA scholarship fund.
War a Reality
Coalition forces oust Hussein regime in Iraq

BY JOSEPH LORD

The Hill halted for four minutes on March 19.

Students stopped working out in the Preston Health and Activities Center. They forgot their classes in dorm study rooms.

Their attention was instead focused on President George W. Bush. Speaking from the Oval Office, he announced that the United States and its allies had begun an attack on Iraq meant to disarm the regime of its leader, Saddam Hussein.

The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder, Bush said. We will meet that threat now with our Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard and Marines so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of firefighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities.

Students watched CNN and network news scenes of missiles raining from the morning sky onto Baghdad. It was reported to be an effort to kill Hussein and his top aides as they slept.

Two days before, Bush gave Hussein and his two sons 48 hours to flee their nation.

Time had run out.

Rineyville sophomore Emily Newton sat with friends and watched the news reports.

This is a real awakening and eye opener, she said. A lot of young people signed up (in the military) for money for school, and after 9/11, look what happened. Their whole life was ahead of them, and now it has been postponed.

More than 250,000 coalition troops waited to cross into Iraq from Kuwait. A month after Bush announced the beginning of the campaign, those troops occupied the Middle Eastern nation of 24 million.

In the months before the fighting began, the United States tried to convince the United Nations to back its efforts to disarm Iraq. When those efforts failed, the United States and its allies took up the battle against Iraq without strong international support.

The end of the war was marked by the fall of Baghdad. As the semester drew near its close, naval ships began returning home from the Middle East, and, in a nationally televised speech on May 1, Bush declared an end to major combat.
Jenn Robinson

Lexington senior George Mitchell and roommate Rebecca Brown, a junior from Gallatin, Tenn., watched in amazement as the first bomb strikes hit Iraq.

“...A lot of young people signed up (in the military) for money for school, and after 9/11, look what happened. Their whole life was ahead of them, and now it has been postponed.”

- Emily Newton, Rineyville sophomore

Soldiers at Fort Campbell Army base listen to instructions as they prepare to be shipped out to the Persian Gulf region. Current and former students are based there, as well as many family members and loved ones of students and faculty.
STORY BY STEPHANIE GLADNEY
PHOTOS BY RYAN LONG

It had stormed all week. There had been flooding and tornadoes across the nation for days, and television stations were reporting the severe weather every five minutes.

But on Saturday, May 10, Mother Nature showed Bowling Green a little mercy. And about 1,800 graduates, along with hundreds of faculty, friends and family, were grateful.

The 2003 Spring Commencement ran smoothly under clear skies and a hot sun. The graduates fanned themselves with the thick programs and held onto their hats when the wind got rowdy. Most importantly, they graduated.

Among the 1,802 graduates sat 94 international students, nine perfect 4.0s and one 82-year-old woman.

And me.

After 17 years of school, four of them spent on the Hill, I was finally finished. Everyone asked the same question, How does it feel? Proud? Yes. Excited? Yes. Relieved? Not quite. Seventeen years of my life had been spent in the classroom. The five years that I wasn’t in school didn’t even count because I was too young to remember them. I knew how to do school. I was good at school. It took 17 years for me to perfect the art of being a student. And now I was finished.

And I was scared.

I watched the faces of hundreds of students walk through the long line to shake President Gary Ransdell’s hand and receive a rolled up piece of paper that promised a diploma was in the mail. In those faces, I saw pride, excitement, relief and fright.

I saw the faces of people I met during M.A.S.T.E.R Plan—some whom I’d kept up with, others whom I hadn’t. I saw the faces of my coworkers at the Herald and Talisman whom I had spent hours upon hours working and laughing with.

I saw the faces of my sorority sisters...
whom I had formed a sacred bond of friendship with. I saw the faces of strangers — students I had never gotten to know on the Hill, but often saw hanging outside of Garrett, eating at DUC or typing in the computer lab.

I saw the faces of Western. And every face seemed to look forward. They looked to a future beyond the Hill. A future that included lucrative careers or penniless jobs, a loving family or a broken heart. Most importantly, they looked forward.

Out of 1,802 faces, at least one looked back.

And when I did, I saw the steps next to Grise that I fell up at least once a year and the path from Tate Page to Thompson that I hiked twice a week during my freshman year.

I saw room 103 in McCormack where I lived for three semesters with a girl I was randomly placed with who became one of my best friends, and I saw the kitchen on the third floor of Meredith where I burned a hole through my roommate’s saucepan.

I saw the photo lab in Garrett where I spent hours trying to get a picture just right for my final photo story in Basic Photography and the computer lab in Gordon Wilson where I yelled at the color printer during finals week when it wouldn’t print my projects.

I saw the auditorium of Van Meter where my Phi Mu sorority sisters and I practiced our Spring Sing routine for hours. I saw the lobby of Keen Hall where I’d kept my boyfriend company while he worked the front desk.

I saw the last four years of my life just by looking back.

And then I did an about face, looking forward to the future I had built on the Hill. A future I faced with joy.

More than 1,500 students were awarded degrees at the spring commencement ceremony held at Smith Stadium which was packed for the event.

Two students die at end of year

Tragedy struck once.

While students packed their dorm rooms and seniors prepared to graduate, police investigated the murder of Pellville freshman Katie Autry who was stabbed and deliberately set on fire in her room in Poland Hall on May 4.

The fire was contained mostly to Autry’s room and appeared to be started on the bed. Autry suffered superficial puncture wounds to her face and neck and third degree burns on over 50 percent of her body.

Firefighters pulled Autry from the building, and she was sent to the Medical Center at Bowling Green and then transferred to Vanderbilt University Hospital where she spent the next three days in a medically induced coma. Autry died on May 7 at 7:10 p.m.

On May 11, police arrested Lucas Goodrum of Scottsville for Autry’s murder. A day later, police arrested Stephen Soules of Scottsville, also for Autry’s murder.

Neither man had any known affiliation with the university, but police say the men are friends. They pled not guilty in their arraignments and were held in Warren County Jail on $1 million cash bonds.

Preliminary hearings were set for May 19.

Autry was a 2002 graduate of Hancock County High School. Her major was listed as undeclared but her family and friends said she wanted to study dental hygiene.

The homicide raised questions about campus security. In response to the incident, all residence halls were kept locked 24 hours a day during the week following the fire. A police officer was placed in Poland around the clock.

Tragedy struck twice.

On Saturday, May 3, Trey McMiller, a freshman from Apopka, Fla., drowned near London, Ky. McMiller, a Western football player, was fishing with fellow teammate Nate Jenkins, a freshman from Orlando, Fla., when their canoe turned over. Jenkins escaped without injuries, but McMiller drowned.

The team met with Coach David Elson the night after the accident to share memories of McMiller. McMiller’s jersey, number 81, was displayed on the stage.

— Stephanie Gladney
The 2003 Talisman, volume 74, was created by a staff at Western Kentucky University and printed by Taylor Publishing Co., in Dallas, Texas. The CD accompanying the book was designed by Mike Lamar and programmed by Jeff Felchner from Infinity’s Edge in Scottsville, Ky.

Printing
The book is printed on 100-lb. enamel and the endsheet stock is white index.

Cover
The cover is printed on lithocote gloss and was designed by Thomas Cordy.

Typography
All body type is 9-point Times New Roman with 10-point leading. All captions are 8-point Helvetica Condensed Light with 10-point leading. All headlines are 80-point Triste. All subheads are 14 to 18-point Helvetica Neu Thin with 24.2-point leading. All pull quotes were 36 or 18-point Basic with 39 or 19.6-point leading respectively.

Production
Pages were printed by computer disk submission. Pages were designed using the educational version of Quark XPress 4.1, Claris Works and MacWrite II on two Power Macintosh G4s and a Macintosh G4 iMac.

Photography
All photographs and photo illustrations were taken by student photographers. All individual student photographs were taken by DaVor Photography through an open bid contract with the Office of Purchasing.

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