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the griffon

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in the work that we do

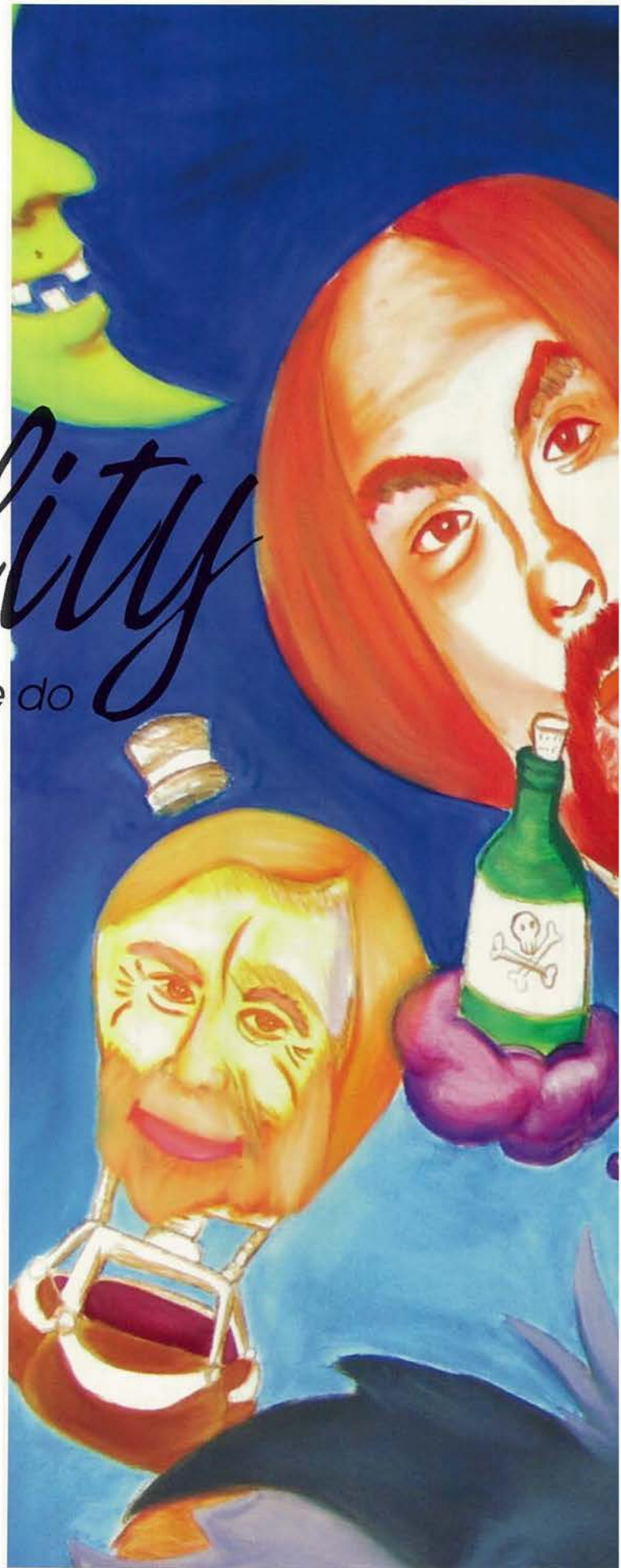




Photo by Matthew Fowler

enthusiasm

for something we love

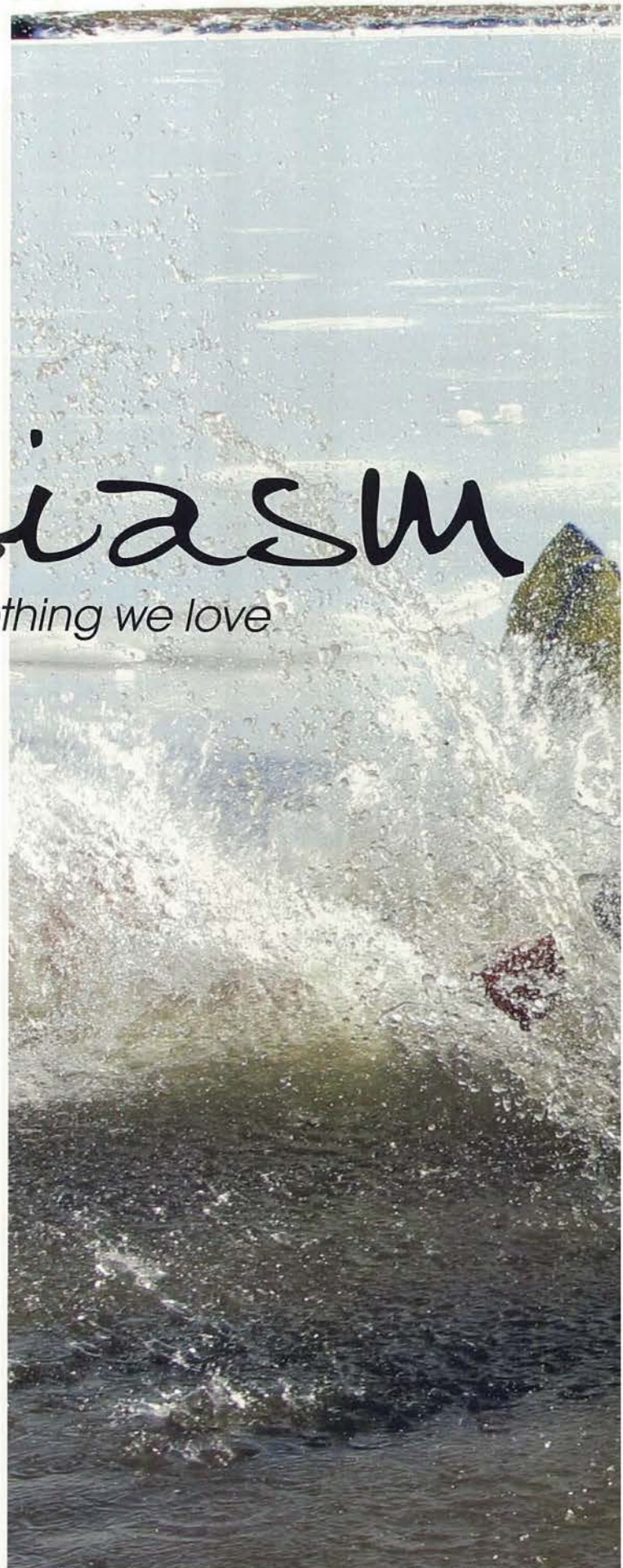




Photo by Matthew Fowler

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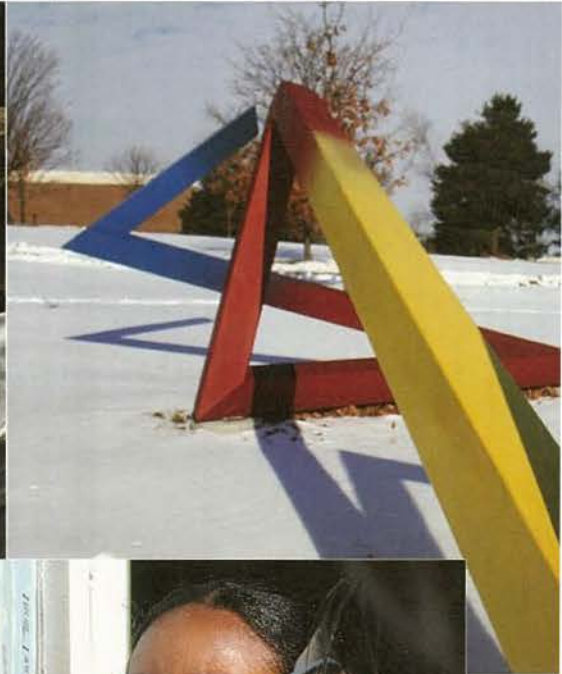
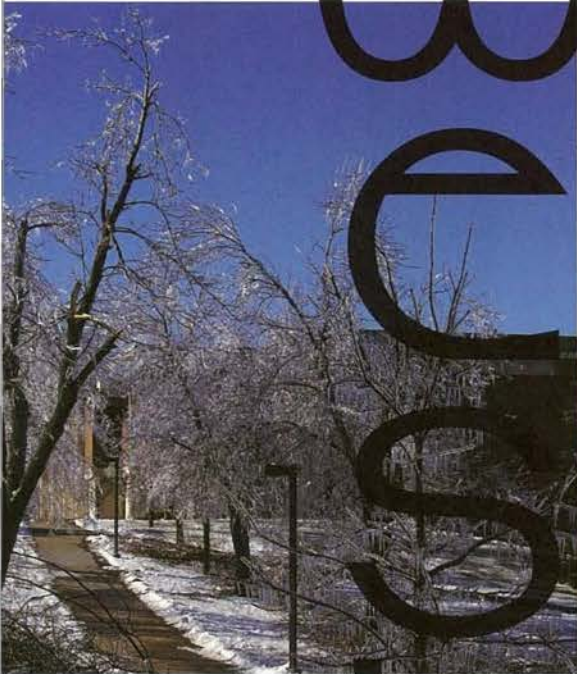
when we believe in something





Photo by Matthew Fowler

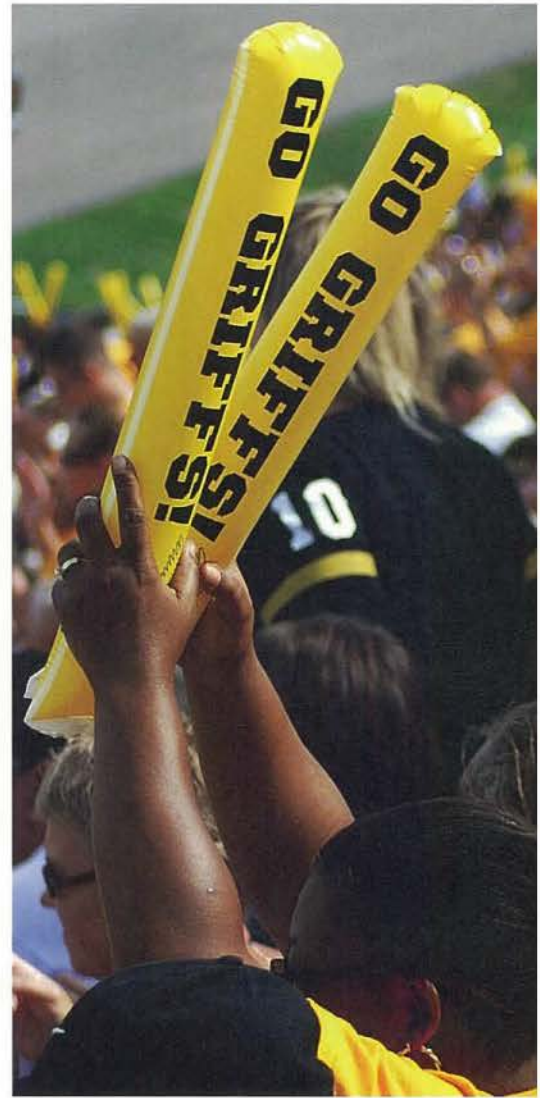
W A S T A R T H Life





“**a**fter a stagnant two semesters from SGA, I felt it was time for new ideas and a different path—one of goals, initiatives and working with, not against,” SGA President Harold Callaway said.

– “Shut Out by 83 Votes”



Far Left: Siblings battle it out in sumo wrestling costumes. This was one of the annual activities held each year. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*
 Bottom Left: A woman throws a pie in the face of Western Activities Council President Janell Banks. WAC along with other organizations such as Residence Council hosted a variety of fun activities for visiting patrons. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Top Right: Fans put up quite an effort to cheer on MWSU at the football game against the Washburn Ichabods. The Griffons fell to the Ichabods, 31-24. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom Right: A young child waits patiently as her face is painted by a student. Children had a variety of stands to attend to such as miniature golf and duck ponds. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Right: A young squad of cheerleaders helps out the MWSU Cheer Squad. Audience members encouraged the younger squad by cheering along with them during the football game. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



A Little Family Fun

by Traci Haug

Family Day – the one day a year where families come to Western’s campus to spend time with their students, see what Western offers and most of all... watch football.

“I think Family Day is a great way to get involved and show people that students care,” senior Charles Howell said.

The special occasion lasted until 1 p.m. “I thought that the games looked fun for the families while they lasted,” junior Kayla Wymore said.

Campus organizations had the chance to participate. “I thought the organizations that helped were good,” freshman Bonnie Drees said. “It helps to show that some organizations really do care.”

Games ranged from miniature golf to duck ponds to raffles. “I think that there could have been a lot more activities that were free to families,” Howell said. “Kids repeatedly visited Residence Council’s table once they found out it was free to them.”

Adults, also, enjoyed Family Day for several reasons. “I liked it because there were a lot of kids around to enjoy it,” Drees said.

Once the fun and games were over, it was time for some football. “I think the best part of Family Day was the football game,” Wymore said.

Although the Washburn Ichabods outscored the Griffons, 31-24, that did not stop the audience from enjoying the game. “The game was exciting,” Howell said. “They had a good game plan and a great crowd to cheer them on.”

The Missouri Western Cheer Squad had a younger group to help entertain the crowd. “I think the best part of the football game was watching the little girls cheering with our cheer squad,” Wymore said. “They were so cute.”

Still, there were some students who didn’t particularly care for the football game. “I went to support our team, but then I got bored,” Drees said. “I enjoyed the little kids cheering, but then the sun got to me.”

The day ended with an upset, but students were still proud. “I don’t think the score mattered,” Wymore said. “The guys tried their best and that is really what counts. It showed all the families and students that we never give up.”



Left: A student rolls up her sleeves to help out with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity was one of several sites students chose to volunteer at. *Photo by David Winder*

Top Right: A student plants flowers at one of the work sites. The Big Event helped out lower income level families. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle Right: A student prepares to apply siding to a new home. The day wasn't just a day devoted to community service, but it was also a day spent getting to know community members. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom: Sorority sisters pitch in together to get the job done. If 75 percent of the chapter participated, then they could earn points toward the week of Homecoming. *Photo by David Winder*

Far Right: Students look on and listen as a service leader doles out orders. In the past, 150 to 300 students have participated in the Big Event. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Get Your Service On!

by Deanna Paolino

For the fourth year in a row, the Big Event involved Western students with community service. Hundreds of students met in Nelle Blum Student Union to sign up and receive their free sweatshirts before the buses loaded to go to the community service sites. Many students returned to the Big Event after helping out in previous years, but there were many new faces as well. Most of those new faces included freshmen.

"This is my first time getting involved with the Big Event," Whitney Davis, a freshman, said. "I just came by myself, because I wanted to help out."

Ivory Duncan, an intern for the Center for Multicultural Education, was pleased with the large turnout. "Historically, there have been between 150 to 300 students who volunteer for the Big Event

each year," she said.

There were other reasons why people wanted to attend the Big Event. Several students came with their organizations to kick off Homecoming week. The organizations could earn points for Homecoming, if 75 percent of the chapter helped with the community service project.

Holly Jacobs and Kelsey Williams, members of Sigma Sigma Sigma, came with their sorority sisters.

"Organizations get involved because the Big Event offers an easy opportunity to do community service," Duncan said. "We provide shirts, food and transportation; however, more organizations are getting involved this year because they are able to earn points for participation, which counts toward Homecoming."

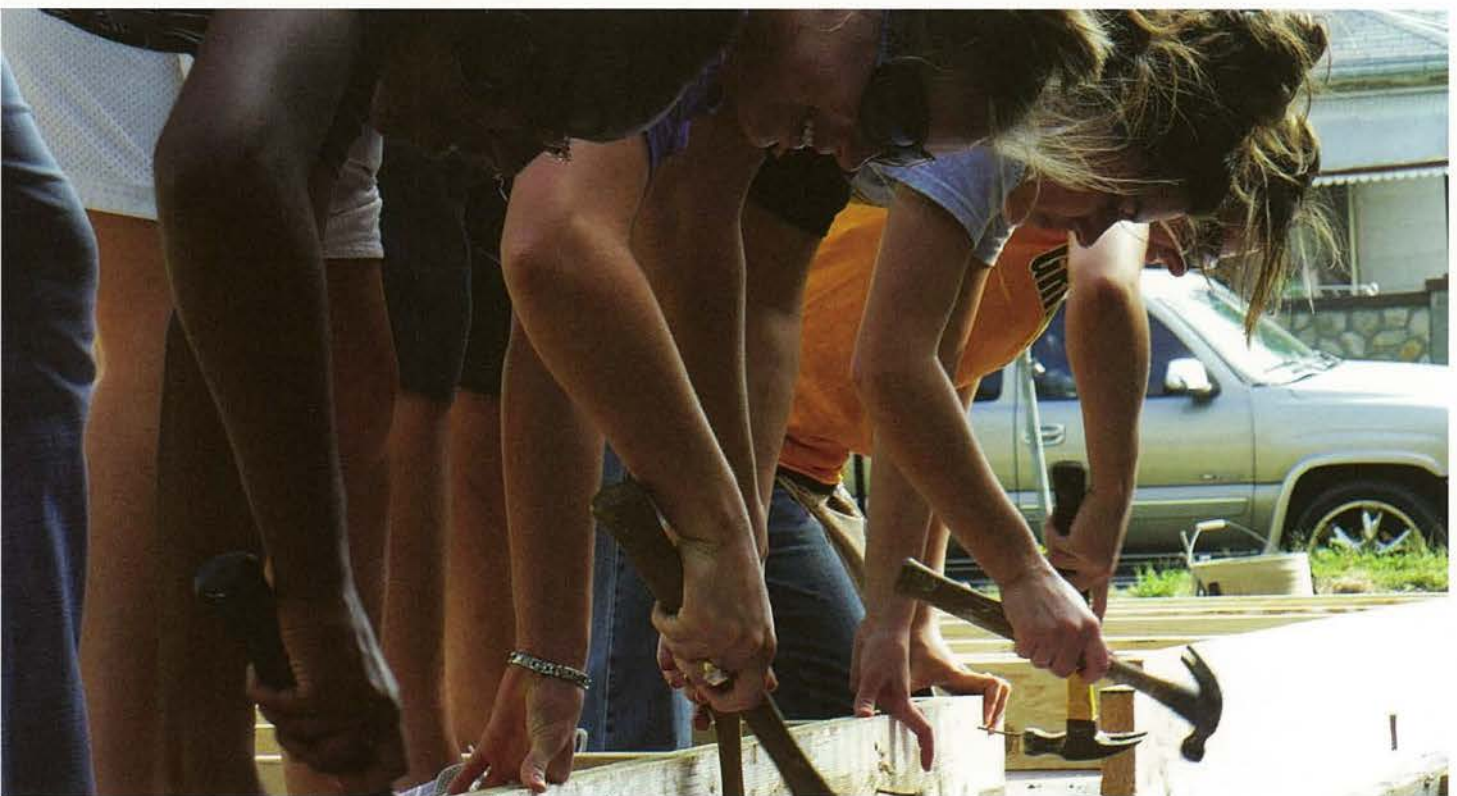
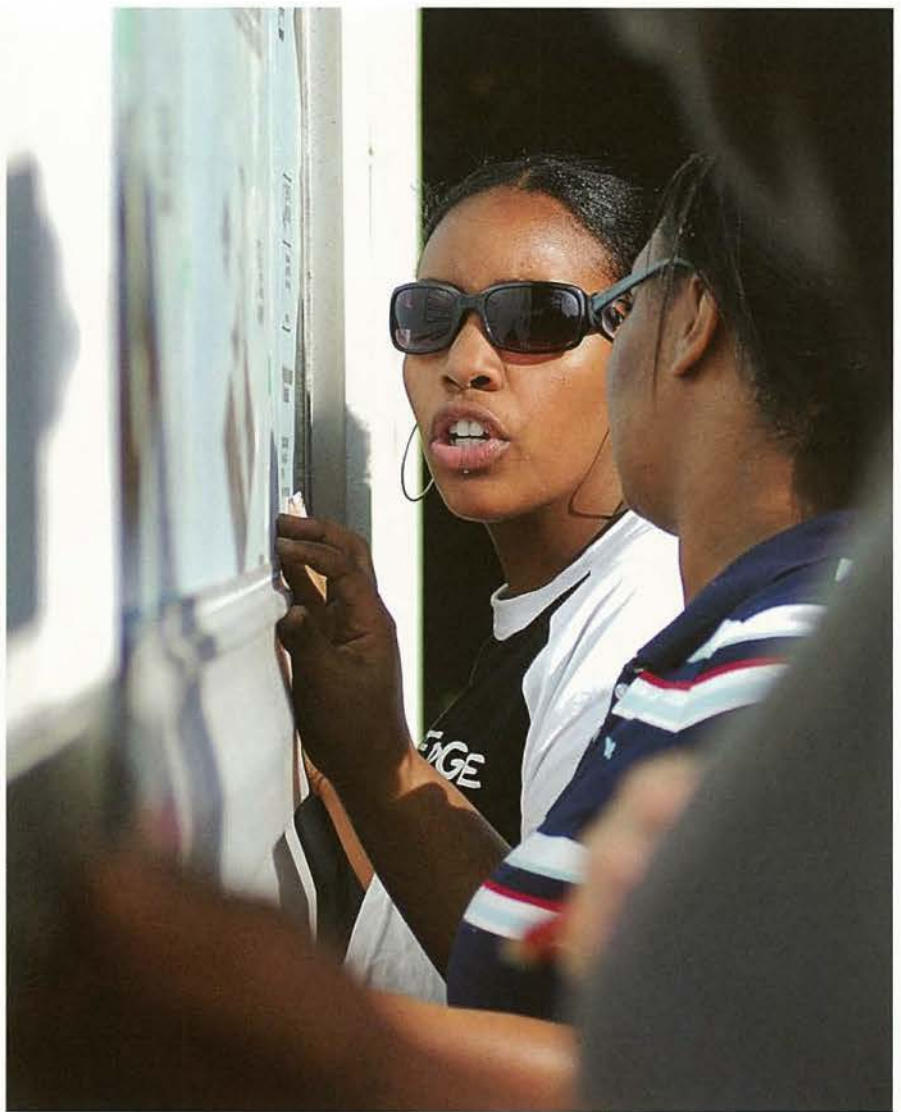
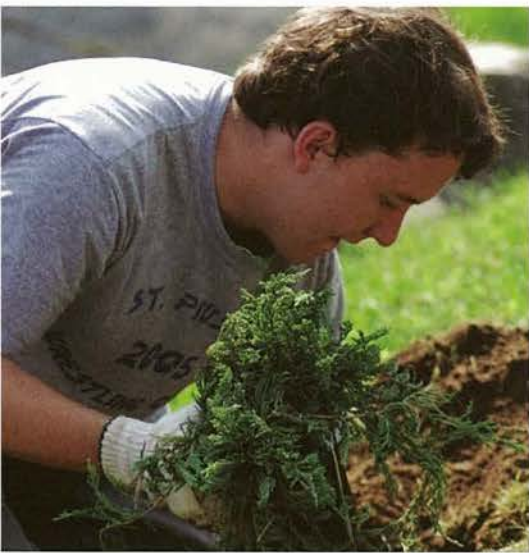
Buses were waiting outside for the students to load up and go to

their destination of service to kick off the day. The students had the option of creating a fall carnival for Pleasant Heights, a low income housing area; building for Habitat for Humanity; and collecting food and books at a drive located at the South-Belt Wal-Mart. All were great ways for the students to support the Saint Joseph community.

"I'm looking forward to going to Wal-Mart, because I get to interact with other people," Jacobs said.

Williams helped out with the food drive, whereas Davis helped out at the site with Habitat for Humanity.

The Big Event has always been a great way for students to become involved with the Saint Joseph community. It has made getting involved in the community easier and more accessible to students, who were not in an organization, as well as for organizations who were looking for a little extra philanthropy.



HOMECOMING '07



Above: Golden Griffon Marching Band members and students huddle together for some school spirit at the pep rally. Photo by Victoria Williams

BY AMY CHASTAIN, ANNA FLIN, ADDISON FORD,
TRACI HAUG, DEANNA PAOLINO & JASMINE WILSON



After much debate, the Homecoming Steering Committee chose “The Best Homecoming Ever” as the theme for Homecoming, deciding it would give campus organizations a wide variety of television shows for inspiration.

“We figured it would be fun to see what students and their organizations came up with for events during the week of Homecoming,” Parade Director Olin Kinsey said.

While the organizations understood the meaning of the theme, many needed suggestions, which Kinsey was able to provide.

The first opportunity to make use of these suggestions and other ideas came on opening night, when laughter filled the air as students gathered for Yell Like Hell.

Skits ranged from Phi Delta Theta’s comical spoof of the public safety department, to Alpha Sigma Alpha’s representation of Britney Spears attempting to sing the Griffon fight song.

Jordan Baumgardner, who performed in Residence Council’s “Beauty and the RC Geek,” was delighted with the audience’s response to their skit.

“They laughed and enjoyed themselves the entire skit,” Baumgardner said.

At Donation Creation students not only showed enthusiasm about Western, but a passion for giving back to the community.

Each organization used a large collection of canned and boxed food to build their very own masterpiece in the parking lot of

Blum Union.

Some went for simple, but meaningful.

“Our theme was University Hill,” President of NAACP Jasmine Pasley said. “College Hill was the reality show, so we spelled out ‘NAACP #1’ in our donated materials in the shape of a hill.”

Others presented more elaborate ideas, such as Alpha Sigma Alpha’s dummy: clothing stuffed with cans of food.

The talent show gave performing arts groups a chance to impress an audience.

The group whose act stole the show was Versatile, who, several times, had the audience standing with them.

Versatile took first place in the non-vocal category, with Seth Logston taking first for vocal talent.

Freshman Jessica Burton found the whole show to be entertaining.

“The whole show was fun,” Burton said. “I especially liked the host.”

And in the spirit of fun, University Happy Hour brought to the food court to present the traditional mocktails for judging.

The most creative and delicious drinks were obviously winners, and attendees could sample the organizations’ creations after judging was completed.

Ivory Duncan, chair of the Special Events committee for Homecoming, said, “It went well. Students participated and enjoyed themselves.”

Continued on to page 26

1: Sorority members build a statute of cans at Donation Creation. *Photo by Victoria Williams*

2: A sorority member prepares a mocktail at University Happy Hour. *Photo by Victoria Williams*

3: Chemia Woods smiles as she is announced Homecoming Queen. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

4: A sorority member tries to walk a straight line after downing a few mocktails. *Photo by Victoria Williams*

HOMECOMING

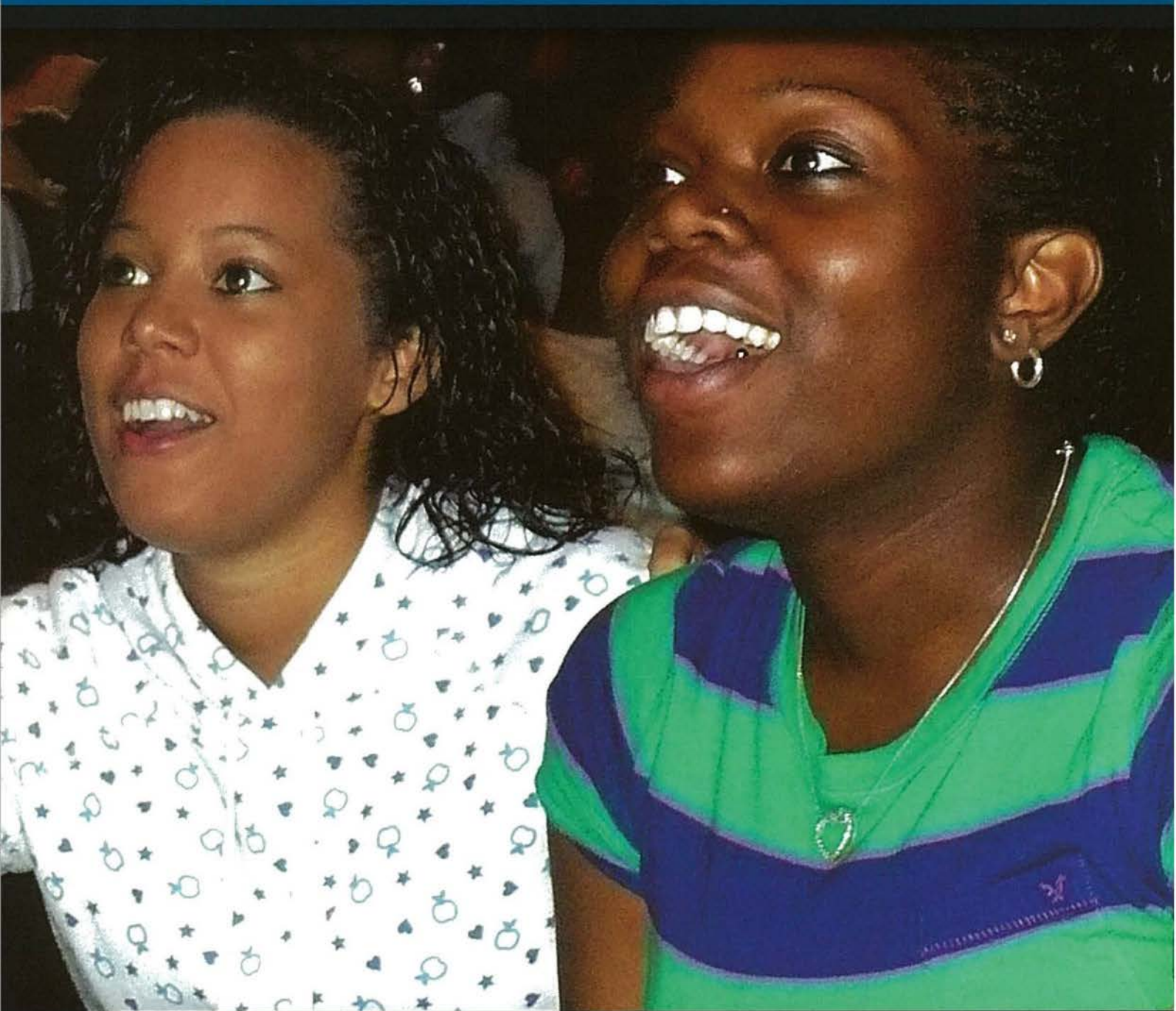
1: Students gather together for the Western Activities Council's Talent Show. *Photo by Linda Shireman*
2: One student listens as Versatile performs. *Photo by Linda Shireman*
3: DJ Dan Michaels emcees the pep rally. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

4: At Donation Creation, canned goods are outlined in the shape of University Hill. *Photo by Victoria Williams*
5: At the WAC Talent Show, Versatile takes first place. *Photo by Linda Shireman*
6: "The Best Homecoming Ever" was the theme for the 2007 Homecoming. *Photo by*

Linda Shireman
7: Aside from the theme, many students agreed that with the weather it may have been the worst Homecoming ever. *Photo by David Winder*



WEEK 2007



Continued from page 23

More laughter was in store at the Homecoming Comedy Show, sponsored by the Western Activities Council, who brought comedy acts featured on the television show, "Comic View."

The host Shaw Larkin started the show out with a bang when he had a small dance contest, leaving a great opening for the next comedian, Red Bong, to perform.

The favorite of the night was headliner, Ronni Jordan, who made the crowd cry with laughter.

The week of Homecoming wasn't all laughs, however. In preparation for the upcoming game, the pep rally and bonfire, which was emceed by local radio personality DJ Dan Michaels, showcased the traditional Goofy Griff event, and also featured performances by the football team, the Mystics dance team, the Golden Griffon Marching Band, the Flag Corps and the Army ROTC. Tara Finley, member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, performed the national anthem.

"I think it went really well, and I was impressed with the turnout," Ashley Welch, Homecoming Steering Committee member, said. "Also, there were no major mishaps, the students in attendance responded well and seem pumped after the pep rally."

The enthusiasm was needed the next day, as the Griffons took

on the Southwest Baptist Bearcats in miserable weather that had people waiting under the concession pavilion during a two-hour lightning delay.

But it was all worth it when the Griffons emerged with a 49-14 victory, leaving Southwest behind, in what some might have called "The Best Homecoming Game Ever."

Inspiring the team and audience were the band and Mystics, who according to freshman Ambra Garton, did their best despite the circumstances.

"For being cold, we danced really well," Garton said.

The cold day held warm memories for Anthony Anderson and Chemia Woods, who were announced 2007 Homecoming King and Queen at halftime.

"Homecoming Court was great!" Woods said. "I was very shocked and honored to be nominated."

Another halftime highlight occurred when the crowd went wild as Sigma Sigma Sigma was announced overall winner of Homecoming, with sororities, Alpha Sigma Alpha in second and Alpha Gamma Delta in third.

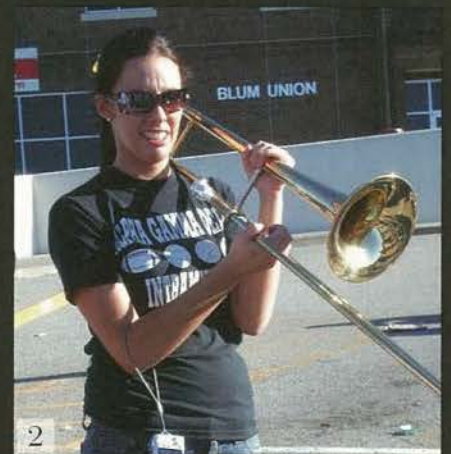
"Winning Homecoming overall felt great," Kali Conrad, a Sigma Sigma Sigma member, said. "I was so proud of all our girls and all the hard work that they put into the week of Homecoming."

1: At the pep rally, Michaels showcased the traditional Goofy Griff event. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

2: An Alpha Gamma Delta member sounds her horn to signal the beginning of Donation Creation. *Photo by Victoria Williams*

3: Each organization that won an event such as Yell Like Hell and Donation Creation received points, which factored into who won overall. *Photo by Victoria Williams*

4: Griffon fans gather at the game against Southwest Baptist, despite a two-hour lightning delay. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



HOMECOMING 07



Above: Luckily, the weather cooperated so that the bonfire could be held. *Photo by Victoria Williams*

Fan-Filled Rivalry

by Jennifer Kohler

A little rivalry never hurt anyone, right? Perhaps not, but last fall's Western vs. Northwest football game provoked a little too much rivalry in one section of the stadium.

The Greek section located at the west end zone saw a lot of action that chilly September night. One side was completely filled with spirited Western Greeks; however, there was a large number of dark green lurking in our Greek Section.

With a record breaking crowd of 9,007 a little overflow should have been expected, but like every year, a few of the usual problems occurred.

"I think anytime we have an overflowing crowd like we did against Northwest, you are naturally going to have some crowd issues," Brett Esely, assistant athletic director said. "I thought all things considered, the night went well from a management standpoint other than normal complaints from select fans."

Students felt the game went much smoother than the 2006 football game, when Northwest's public safety became a little overzealous.

"I thought Western handled the game much better than Northwest did at the 2006 game," Katy Schwartz, president of National Panhellenic Council, said. "Western's staff was professional to students and visiting fans."

One student, however, had an issue with the security. Kat Hangartner, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha and who was five months pregnant, was disappointed in the lack of involvement from Public Safety after a few Northwest fans became a little too obscene.

"Once the Northwest students became physical, I decided to take a break," Hangartner said. "I almost passed out in the bathroom and went to the hospital because of it. Public Safety didn't do anything to help the situation, except tell both sides to stop. More needed to be done."

After the game, a meeting was held with Esely and the Panhellenic Council to see what improvements could be made for upcoming games.

"Since this area has always been a traditionally Greek section, we discussed purchasing signs that convey that," Schwartz said. "That way students know who they are sitting around and more so, that visiting fans know that it is 'our territory'."

Whether pinpointing "our territory" or not, the rivalry certainly wouldn't be pushed under the rug.

"The rivalry is obviously more with the fans than it is with the teams," Esely said. "Most of it is good-natured fun and college students being college students. It's good to see passion on a college campus. Plus, with the continued success of our football program, the rivalry will only intensify."

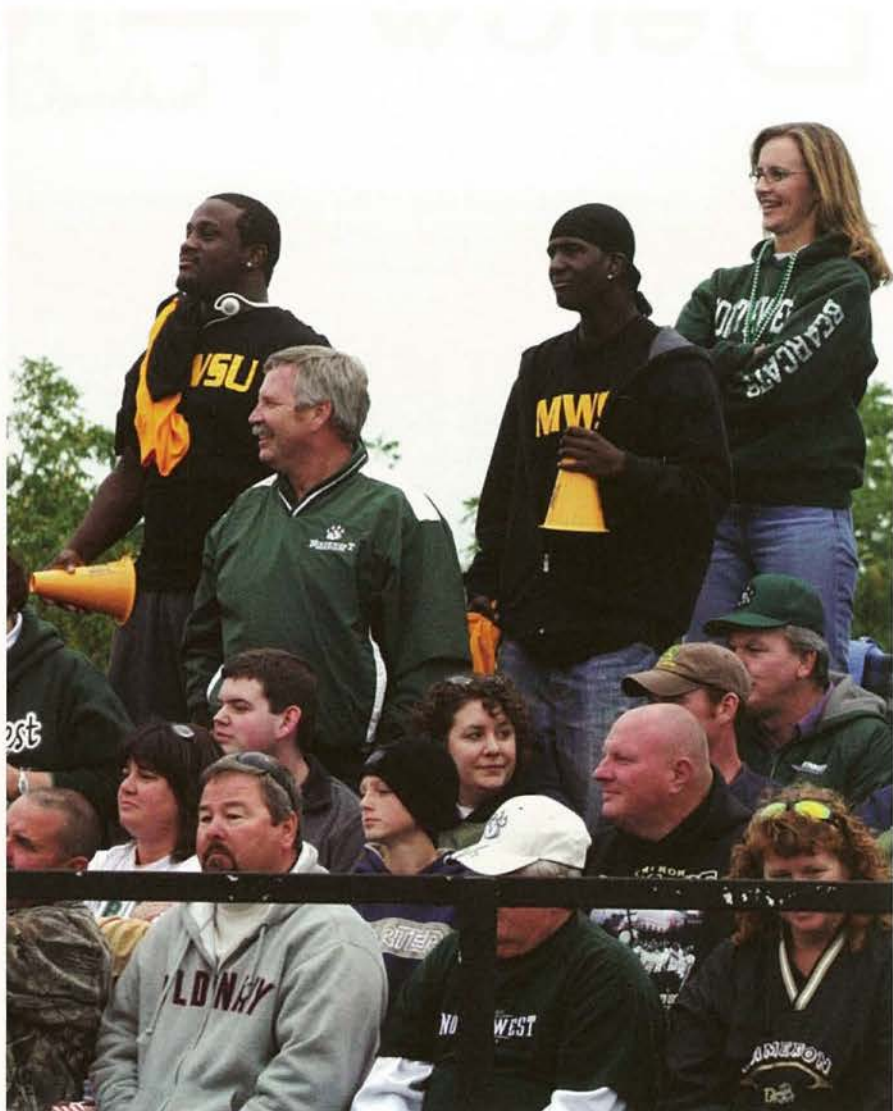
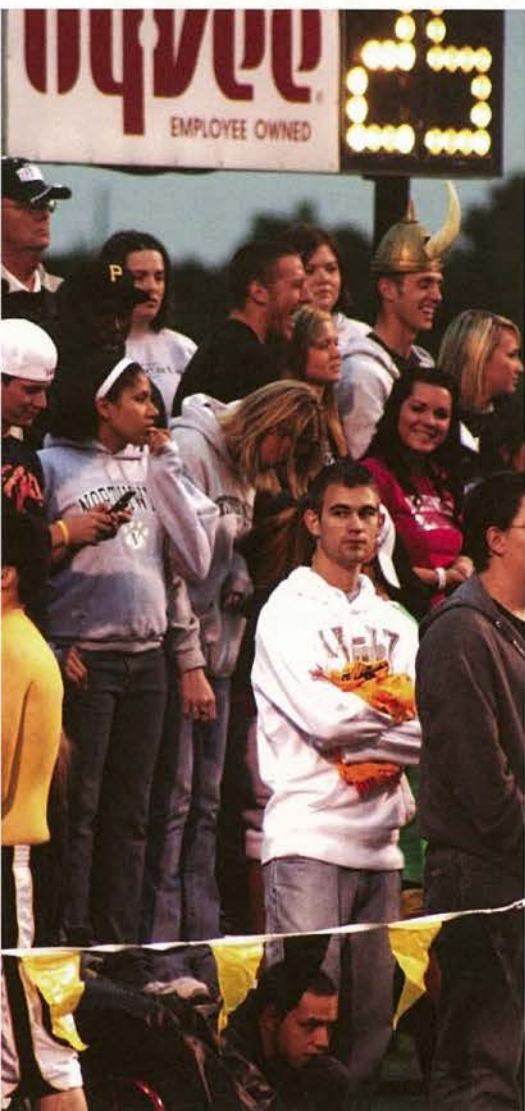


Left: MWSU fraternity brothers jog across the field before the beginning of the game. The stadium was filled with Griffon fans—students, faculty and community members. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Top Right: MWSU and NWMSU face off in a brutal battle. The Griffons were pressured to win on home turf, but fell to the Bearcats, 20-44. *Photo by Jamison Burns*

Right: MWSU fans watch in agony as the Bearcats defeat the Griffons. Bearcat fans drifted over to the MWSU Greek section, which upset some fans. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Far Right: Two brave souls decked out in Griffon gear express their support for MWSU. The Bearcat fans cheers were muffled thanks to these two courageous men. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*





Left: Winter fell hard during mid-December in St. Joseph. Missouri Western was forced to cancel classes for three days due to road conditions, power outages and ice. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Right: In mid-December in St. Joseph, along with many other cities in Northwestern Missouri, got hit with a major ice storm. The Western campus was covered in debris from fallen tree limbs. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Middle: Western residents are lucky because they were without power for only a few hours. Other St. Joseph residents were without power for more than a week. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Bottom Right: As students walk down the icy sidewalks, the crackle of trees and branches sounded like a battlefield. Ground crews were out for several days clearing debris and de-icing sidewalks. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Bottom Far Right: Trees weighed down with ice fell on power lines, causing power outages on and off campus. Students roughed it when homes dropped to nearly 40 degrees after days without power. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Top Far Right: Western's campus certainly looks like a winter wonderland following the ice storm. It took crews such as Aquila more than three months following the ice storm to clear the debris. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Below Freezing

by Amy Chastain

Ice, ice, baby – certainly mirrored that of the week of finals on Missouri Western's campus and the St. Joseph community. With two days of cancelled finals and St. Joseph school closings, several students and the community were left to freeze in their ice-cold homes.

Shane Feist, a sophomore accounting major, lived in Broadmoor Apartments during the devastation. He lost power in the late evening of Monday, Dec. 10 and it did not return until the afternoon of Saturday, Dec. 15. His apartment, normally set at around 70 degrees, dropped to nearly 40 degrees in this five-day span.

"I didn't think it was a big deal at first just as long as the power wasn't going to be out long," Feist said. "I had no clue how much of a mess it would cause."

Following the evening of Monday, Dec. 10, ice was everywhere. While the St. Joseph roads were fine, power lines were down. Several community members, including Missouri Western students, were left without power for days. It certainly looked like a winter wonderland.

Following the ice storm, Feist like several others didn't have anywhere to go. "For the first three days, I stayed at my apartment," he said. "On Friday night, I stayed at a friend's office. My parents offered to get me a hotel room, but I decided since I had to work from two to eight in the evening every day, I would just stay in my apartment."

For those who lived on campus, the electricity

came back on within a few hours. Denette Pasho, a Logan Hall resident, was surprised by the damage which the ice storm caused.

"At first, I could not believe how much the ice was accumulating," Pasho said.

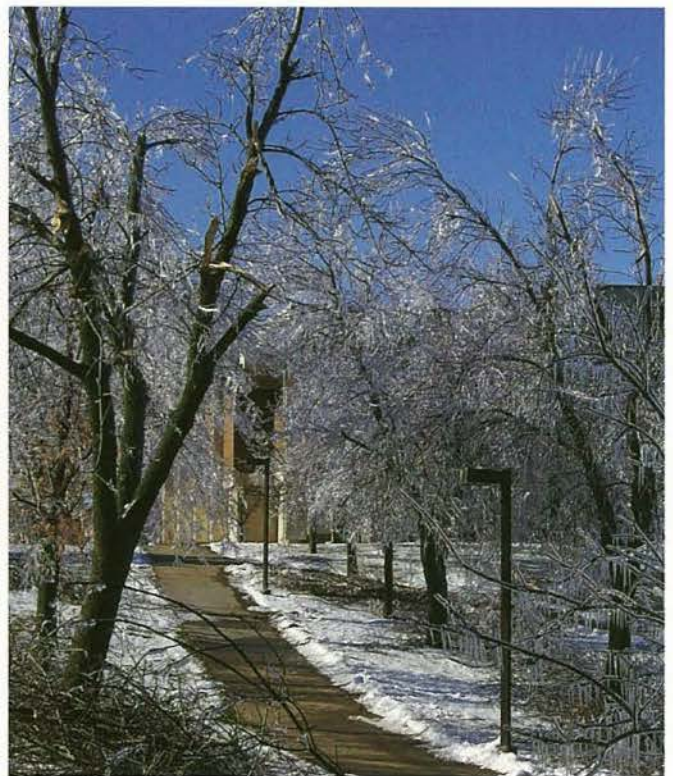
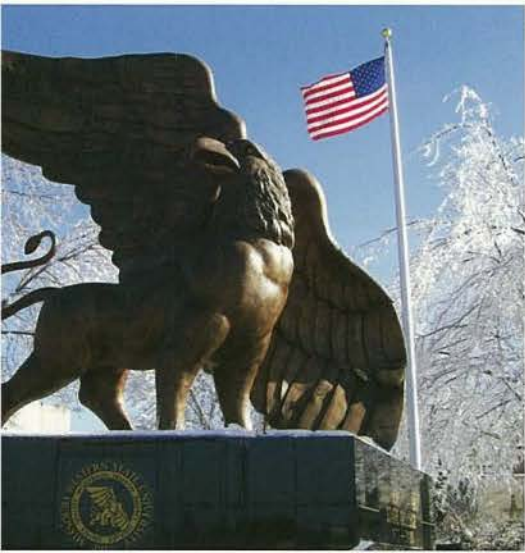
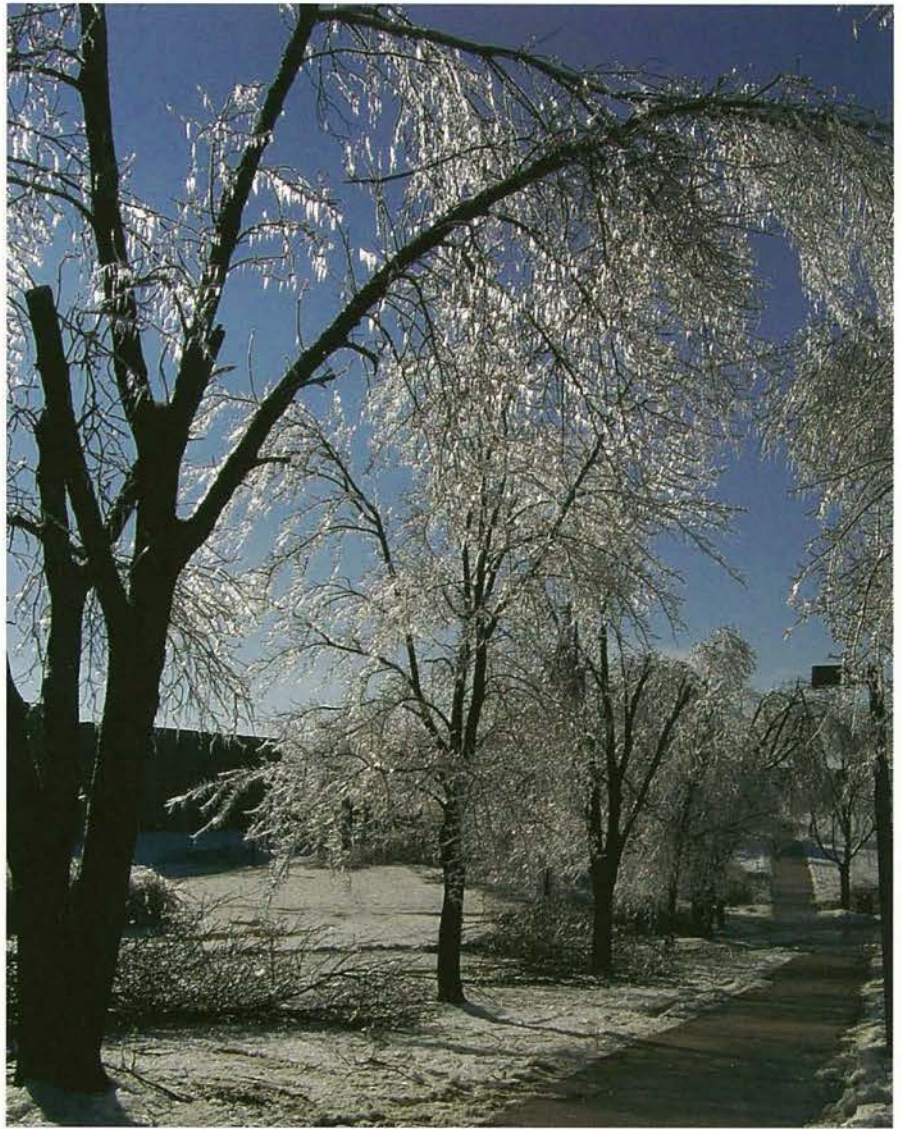
Pasho, like several other students and Missouri Western faculty, were surprised to see that finals were cancelled. "I hoped that it wouldn't interfere with my plans to return home, although, I didn't have anything to rush home for," Pasho, a Nebraska native, said.

Finals were cancelled on Tuesday, Dec. 11, and Wednesday, Dec. 12, and rescheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15, and Monday, Dec. 17. Several Missouri Western students were frustrated with the rescheduled dates.

For Feist, a North Dakota native, these cancellations were a first. "It was definitely a first for me," he said. "I haven't seen a storm like this before. Since I am from North Dakota, I am used to very cold winters with lots of snow, but we very rarely lose power."

The ice storm was one of the worst, which had affected Missouri Western in recent years. The fragile cold left many families displaced, who found refuge in St. Joseph schools. But despite the devastation, others like Pasho made the most of it.

"On nicer days, we went out and played in the snow," Pasho said. Sometimes the best solution, or the only solution, was to make the most out of an icy situation.





Party in the Powder

by Amy Chastain

March 9 – March 15 ...one week students could not wait to arrive. Although most students could not afford to go to hotspots like Mexico, San Diego, Calif. or Florida, four Western students traveled to Colorado, gearing up for a trip for their lives and the snow.

“The typical spring break is to go some place warm like a beach, but we decided to go to Colorado,” Kailey Alexander, a graphic design major, said. “We wanted an original spring break, one, we could remember.”

Alexander, her boyfriend Cliff Henderson, roommate Crystal Scott and her boyfriend, Cody Wolf, traveled to Wolf Creek Ski Lodge outside of Pagosa Springs, Colo. During their stay, they visited family and snowboarded.

“During our five-day stay, we went snowboarding for three days,” Crystal Scott, the Mystics dance coach, said. “We also went swimming in hot-springs, checked out some stores in town and visited the Pagosa Springs Brewery.”

Most college students wanted to escape the cold weather that Missouri had, especially after a strong winter, but Alexander felt that the Colorado weather was “bearable.”

“In Missouri, it’s 38 degrees with freezing rain

and blazing winds,” Alexander said. “However, 38 degrees in Colorado is bearable; the altitude makes a difference. The first day we went snowboarding, we put on many layers of clothing, but when we got outside, we all wanted to wear shorts and t-shirts.”

Aside from the “bearable” weather, snowboarding appeared to be an invitation to these four. “I was the worst snowboarder on the trip,” Alexander said. “I fell every five seconds because I was afraid I’d run into the trees, yet the trees were nowhere near my path. However, once you get all of the momentum going, you can’t stop, so when I got scared, I laid down. It is so embarrassing when you have all of these four-year-olds passing you on the slopes.”

Scott also fell a lot on the slopes, especially on the first day. “It took everyone in the group so long to make it down the mountain because we kept falling so much, but I would have to say my favorite moment was making it down the mountain on my snowboard without falling,” Scott said.

Despite “the typical spring break,” Pagosa Springs, Colo., was certainly a memorable trip. “I have never been skiing or snowboarding before this trip, but if I had the chance, I would go back to the mountains,” Scott said. “I absolutely fell in love with snowboarding and this turned out to be one of the best vacations I have ever been on.”

Top Left: The view of Pagosa Springs, Colo., is breathtaking at sunset. Despite the snow, the four students enjoyed new opportunities such as snowboarding and skiing. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Far Left: Cody Wolf, a student, snowboards down a hill at Wolf Creek Ski Lodge. Unlike Wolf who did well when it came to snowboarding, Kailey Alexander felt that she was the worst of the four. Photo by Crystal Scott

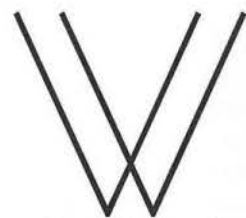
Left: The four students also take time out to ski and visit family during spring break. Pagosa Springs, Colo., also offered hotspots like Mexico and Florida did such as swimming and clubbing. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Right: Although students typically visit San Diego, Calif., or Cancun for spring break, the Colorado weather isn’t as cold as others realize. Alexander said that 38 degrees in Missouri was quite different than 38 degrees in Colorado. Photo by Kailey Alexander



War Hitting Home

by Anna Flin



While national headlines were consistently filled with breaking news on both the conflict in the Middle East and related issues, effects of the war could be found in the daily lives of Missouri Western students, both at home and overseas.

In non-traditional student Karyn Daugherty's case, this meant telling her husband "goodbye" and caring for their five children on her own during his deployment to Kosovo on a peace-keeping mission.

For other students, such as Monica White, it meant daily worry over the safe return of her Marine friend who was currently serving in the infantry in Iraq.

Some, such as Rebecca Shippers, had family members who recently returned from serving. So, it became obvious that the war really did affect several students.

"It affects our morale and emotions," White said. "There are probably numerous people on this campus who have a loved one serving in Iraq right now, or at least know someone who does."

White was involved with professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi, which gathered items to send to troops in Iraq as a community service project.

"We sent the boxes directly to my friend and the

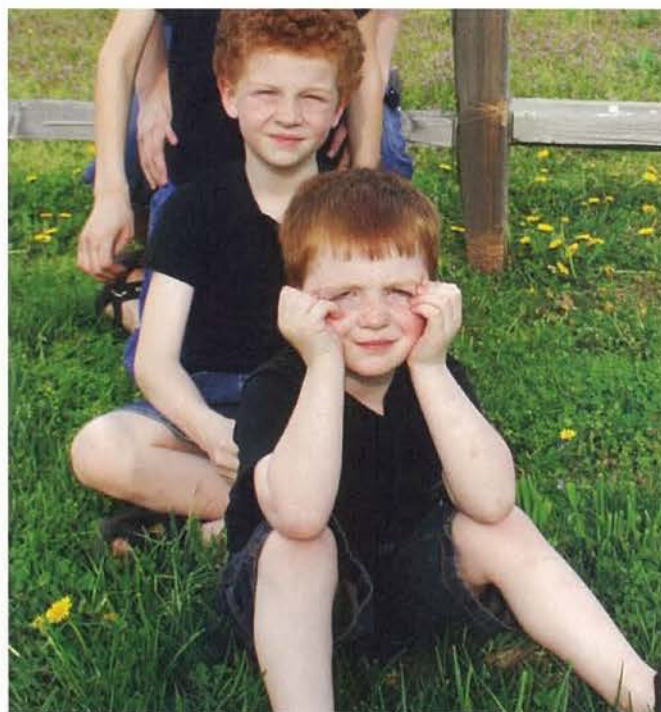
other four guys, as well as to their whole unit," White said. "We took the time to handwrite little notes to put in the boxes letting them know that we appreciate what they are doing for us."

Daugherty, whose husband Darrin worked as the Electronic Resources Librarian at Missouri Western since the fall of 1997, did her best to keep in touch with her soldier.

"Sometimes, it will be several days in between our e-mail conversations and that is when worry sets in," Daugherty said. "Although I realize he is not in as much danger as before when he was in Iraq, I still worry that maybe he stepped on a land mine."

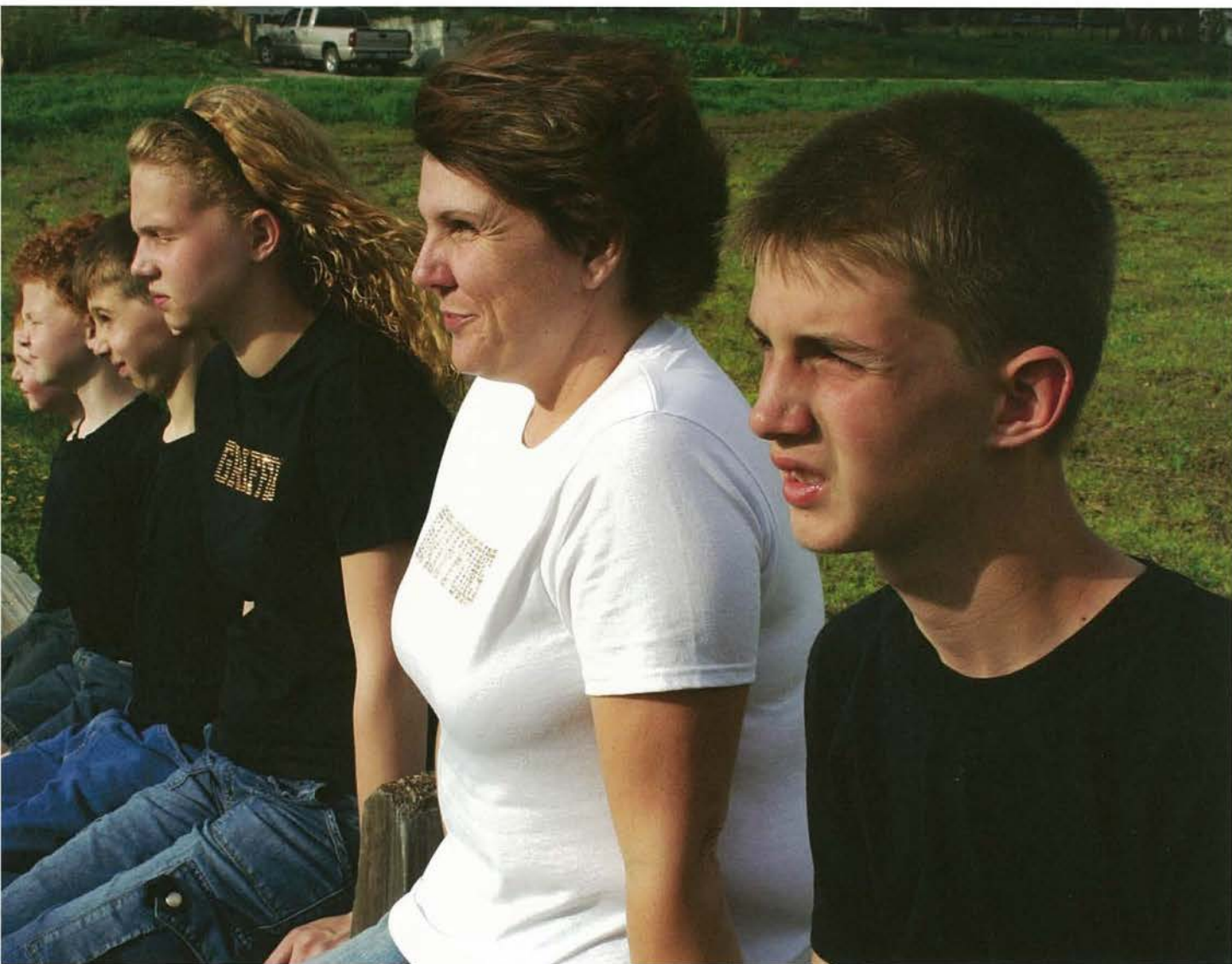
Regardless of personal sacrifice, both Daugherty and her husband believed serving in the military was an honor and refused to complain about the difficulties.

"The hardest thing is that I cannot physically participate in my wife's and children's lives," Darrin said. "It is hard to provide comfort and support when you are on the other side of the world. Also, I sometimes feel guilty that I am not present at work as I know that someone else is having to accomplish what I normally do, plus complete his or her normal duties. As for my opinion of the war in general, I am a soldier and I am willing to serve my country wherever that might be."



Left: Karyn Daugherty takes care of her five children and attends school while her husband is away in Kosovo. Darrin Daugherty, Karyn's husband, has worked as the Electronic Resources Librarian at MWSU since 1997. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Above: Karyn is glad that her husband is not in grave danger. In the past, Darrin has been deployed to Iraq. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*
Bottom: Darrin's main concern is that he cannot be physically present in his family's life. Although his duty takes him away from his family, he was willing to serve his country. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*





Left: At the "Lights, Camera, Fashion" event, the host poses questions to the audience. The East Hills Mall offered WAC clothes to wear for the fashion show. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Right: At the "Union Street Celebration," the event is moved inside due to rain. WAC featured a blowup chair, a photo booth, an Oxygen Bar and a bouncing boxing ring. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: The last event sponsored by WAC is the formal dance "Enchanted Evening." Olin Kinsey, vice president of programming, felt that it was a great finale to a great week. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Bottom: At the "Union Street Celebration," two students golf along with Wii. The Wii and Guitar Hero were two of the more popular features at this event. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom Far Right: Dance attendees dance with Tay Triggs daughter at "Enchanted Evening." Triggs, the director of the Center for Multicultural Education, normally brought her two-year-old daughter to CME and WAC related events. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Top Far Right: Maurices, JCPenney, Buckle and Dillard's feature some cool kicks for students to sport during the WAC Fashion Show. Participants had to walk up six flights of stairs to enter the main stage. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Lights, Camera: WAC

by Amy Marks

Western Activities Council held their annual Spring Fest April 9-12, and all the events proved to be a success.

Day one began with the annual fashion show, "Lights, Camera, Fashion," creatively set in the middle of the room where models walked up six flights of stairs then walked in figure eights into the audience. The chairs were set to accommodate the stages figure eight runway. The scurry to make sure the outfits were ready was the biggest panic during the week.

Orcinneo Gaines, co-chair of traditions and family programming, helped with Spring Fest. "We didn't have clothes until the day of [the event], and yet everything pulled together nicely," Gaines said. Sponsors for the show were East Hills stores such as Dillard's, Maurices, JCPenney, Buckle and many others.

The spring concert was April 10 at the St. Joseph Civic Arena. Nearly 1,600 attended, which was one of the largest turnouts WAC had seen. The concert had no issues or violence, and some students had a pleasant surprise. "We even got to hang out with the artists afterwards," Gaines said.

Rainy weather conditions brought the "Union Street Celebration" indoors, but that didn't stop the fun. There were still plenty of things to do during the

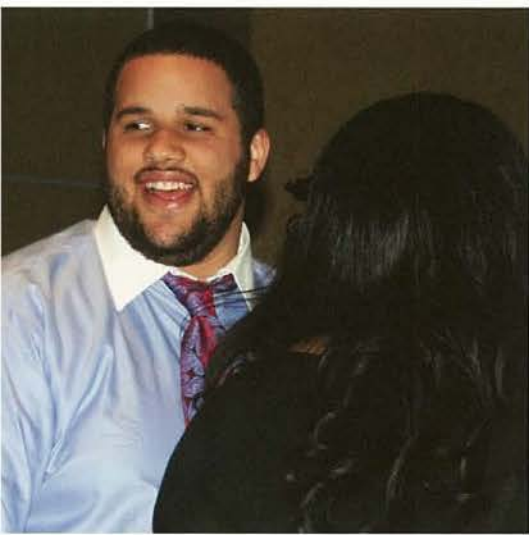
celebration April 11.

"It's a carnival type of thing with the big blue blowup chair, photo booth to make post cards, Oxygen Bar, air brush face painting, make your own candles, bouncing boxing, jousting, laser tag, Guitar Hero and a Wii tournament; we had a lot more stuff than last year," Gaines said.

Students had their favorite parts throughout the night, but the video game station seemed to be a big hit. "I love Guitar Hero, and I plan on tearing people up on it," freshman Nick Burrell said, while waiting to have air brush done on his arm.

"I enjoyed the big chair quite a lot, and I'm going to put my picture on Facebook," freshman Jack Long said. "The Oxygen Bar had some really nice fragrances going on."

The final event of the week was the formal dance, "Enchanted Evening." Sandy Rogers, student development program coordinator, and Don Willis, director of the Center for Student Engagement, took tickets and directed students to gifts. "This year, the gifts are better and much nicer settings," Olin Kinsey, vice president of programming, said. The room was dimly lit and tables looked beautifully decorated. Food, dance and conversation made for a great finale for the week's events.



1,632 | In Attendance



Above : Yung Joc performs an old favorite, "It's Goin' Down." Following the concert, MWSU students hung out with Yung Joc. Photo by Matthew Fowler



Above: Rick Ross reaches out to the large audience of students and the St. Joseph citizens. Rick Ross has appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Above: Approximately 1,324 students picked up their free ticket to the WAC Concert. In recent years, Ima Robot, Hoobastank and Switchfoot have performed at the spring concert. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Aside from the recent criticism of the Missouri Western's student body regarding the advertisement of this year's spring Western Activities Council Concert, headliners Yung Joc and Rick Ross energized the large crowd of 1,632, which encompassed the Civic Arena located in St. Joseph, Mo. Yung Joc, one of the newest hip-hop artists in 2008, has rocked the charts with hits such as "It's Goin' Down" and "Bottle Poppin'." Rick Ross, who has appeared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," entertained fans with recent hits such as "The Boss" and "Push It."

Although 1,632 fans entered the Civic Arena in hopes to rock out to some good old hip-hop music, many students were not even sure there was going to be a concert with the lack of advertisements. With less than a week and a half notice, the official word finally spread the Missouri Western campus that Yung Joc and Rick Ross would headline the spring WAC Concert.

This year, a total of 1,324 students picked up their free ticket and Ticketmaster sold more than 550 tickets to St. Joseph and Kansas City, Mo., community members. This year was the first year that WAC sold more tickets to non-students. The total number of ticket distribution came to 1,874.

"A lot of people heard about the performers which came to St. Joseph and even more people in Kansas City, Mo., were there," senior Alison Krieg said.

In recent years, the WAC Concert featured artists such as: Ima Robot, Lost Prophets, Hoobastank, The Killers, Twista, Chely Wright and Emerson Drive, and last, but not least, Switchfoot.

"This was the first spring concert I went to," senior Brad Kester said. "It is nice to see them bring in more diverse performers."

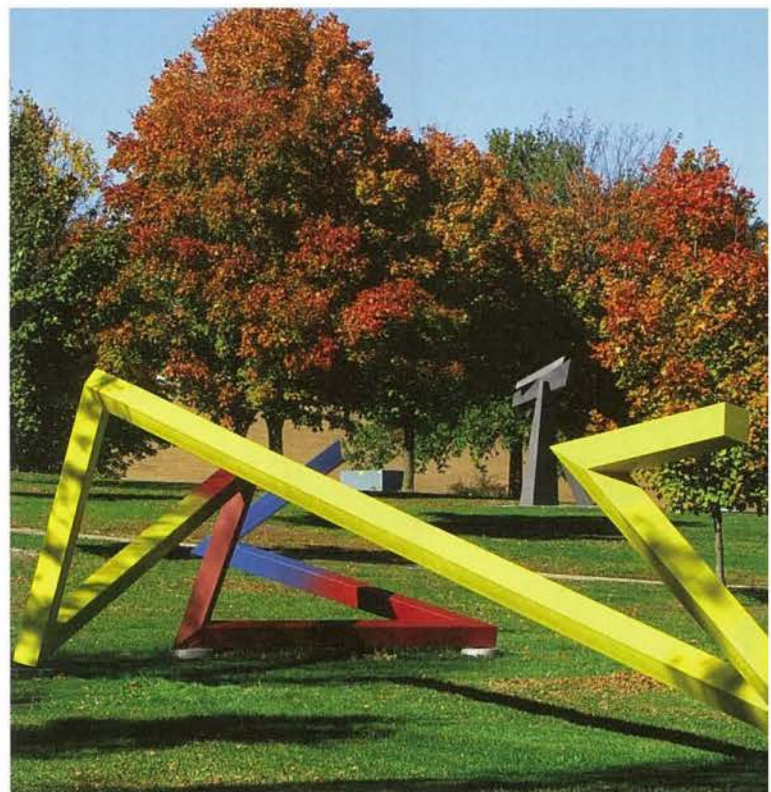
If concerts continued to have such great turnouts, then it appeared that even more students might get involved in campus activities.

"I have been to all of the concerts in the past, and even if the performer was great, it was difficult to have fun when there were such small crowds," Krieg said. In 2006, WAC showcased Chely Wright and Emerson Drive, and nearly 300 students and St. Joseph community members attended.

With two equally talented headliners, it was a difficult question who would perform first. "We didn't want to offend either performer by asking one to open, but luckily, Yung Joc volunteered," WAC member Olin Kinsey said.

As it appeared, the criticism regarding the lack of advertisements of the spring WAC Concert was not an issue when it came to Yung Joc and Rick Ross fans, because when "It's Goin' Down" the fans were present at 8 PM on April 10 to support the headliners.

by Taylor Insko and Amy Chastain



Top Far Left: Jim Estes, professor of Art, began "Passages" in November of 2006. Estes had help from Missouri Western's maintenance and ground crew. *Photo by Anna Flin*

Top Left: A university is a place where students thrive and question themselves, they should also question what is in front of them. This was what Estes wanted; he wanted students to ask, "What is this standing in front of me?" *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle Left: Estes has never worked with metal before "Passages." He experimented a great deal during the process of creating this artwork. *Photo by Anna Flin*

Bottom Far Left: The primary color scheme of the artwork provides a stark contrast to the white snow. "Passages" was recently repainted during the late fall semester. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Bottom Left: Estes hopes that his artwork has a degree of mystery. Several students on campus welcomed "Passages" for its unique ideas and what it represented. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Right: Missouri Western's President James Scanlon, like Estes, wants more art on campus. The idea behind "Beyond 2010" came from a monolith in the movie "2001, A Space Odyssey." *Photo by Amy Chastain*



The Gift of Art

by Gerri Tracy

Missouri Western received two gifts of art that will be part of the campus for years to come. Jim Estes, professor of Art, has given everyone here at Western something to appreciate. "It's a gift to the college, which has been really great to me," Estes said of the two pieces on permanent display outside Thompson E. Potter Hall.

The first piece entitled "Beyond 2010" was loosely based on a monolith depicted in the movie "2001, A Space Odyssey." This monolith, which was never fully explained in the movie, continued to expand and evolve with the passing of time.

"The monolith reproduces itself at a rapid rate throughout the movie," Estes said. "This institution is continuing to evolve and change at a very rapid rate."

Estes first came to Western in 1972. The ceramics program began in 1975 in an old basement house on the east campus, where he taught for 11 years. In 2006, Estes received the Distinguished Professor Award, which came with a cash award of \$1,000.

"I used the \$1,000 for metal to try something bigger," Estes said. That something bigger became "Passages."

"It's kind of a three-dimensional graph of life, as we all go through the ups and downs and changes of

life," Estes said.

Senior art major Adrian Akasaki was impressed with the sculptures. "I like them a lot," Akasaki said. "I think it's pretty cool that he does everything on a big scale. I don't know how he finds time for it with all the classes he teaches, which amazes me."

Art is subjective, and senior music major Javier Sanz did not understand the meaning of the sculptures. "It's different," Sanz said of "Passages." "I used to call it the worm."

"Passages" and "Beyond 2010" is made of welded steel. "Passages" weighs 3,500 pounds and is 75 feet long. Estes worked through Christmas break to complete the sculpture, which took about six months. The sculpture had to be moved one section at a time and welded on sight.

Currently, Estes is fabricating additional smaller scale stainless steel sculptures for the grounds of Western.

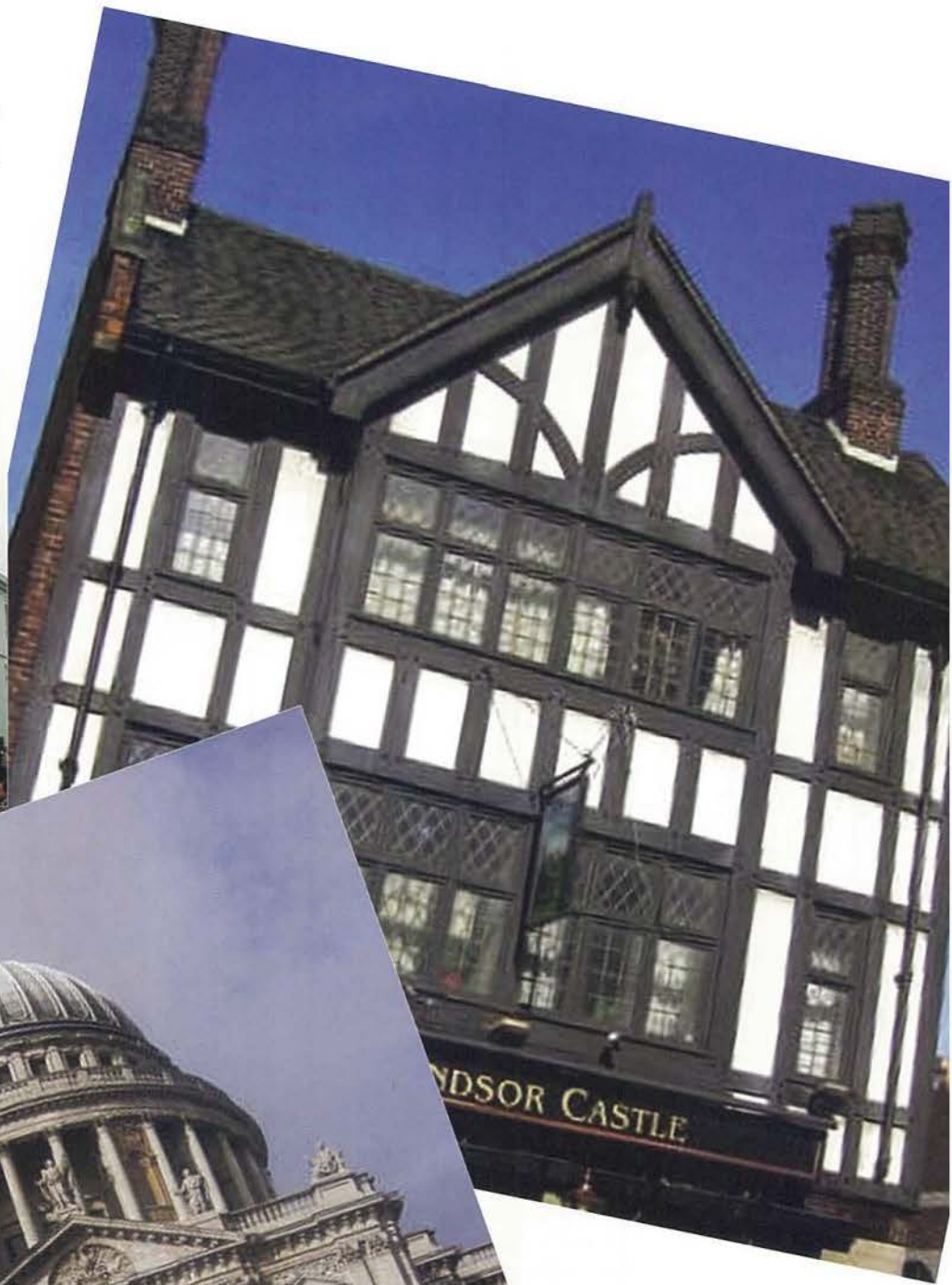
"It's a matter of finding the time," Estes said. "I hope to have some images in them, shapes that are suggestive of the great scientists that led up to this generation, scientists like Galileo, Einstein, Newton and Copernicus. It's kind of in keeping with the way the campus is going with the expansion of Agenstein Hall and the new building."

Right: The London sites are a treat for sore eyes.

Below: Unlike the Midwest, London is filled with historic sites and colorful scenery.

Middle: Most students signed up for the three-hour literature course because of the trip to London.

Bottom: Despite the six-hour flight, most students like Anna Flin were ready to tour the moment the plane touched down.



Center: Exactly 26 students traveled to London over spring break.
Photos submitted by Anna Flin

In the Eye of London

by Anna Flin

We've been in the air for six hours and the anticipation of that first step onto foreign soil is causing many of my 26 classmates and traveling companions to fidget in the cushioned seats of our overseas flight.

"I just want to land," the girl next to me exclaims, tapping the monitor on the seat in front of her, which shows a tiny plane forever circling the word "London," but never quite covering it.

As she stares at the map, I think about what motivated me to leave the sleepy Midwest and travel to the home of the authors we've been discussing for the last six weeks. I was a bit doubtful when I signed up for Study Away London. It promised a week of educational adventure in one of the world's most culturally diverse cities, and I needed another literature class to complete my required courses. What compelled me to go, however, was the wealth of inspiration I hoped to glean for my future as a journalist. As a senior in Missouri Western's journalism program, I

knew this would be one of my last opportunities before graduation to combine my two favorite things, meeting people and writing about them.

A jolt and

a bounce bring me back to earth in a foreign land. We're finally in Heathrow airport, a metropolis in comparison to KCI. While it's only midnight in Kansas, it's bright and early 6 a.m. in London. Our hotel won't allow us to check in until 2 p.m., leaving us with a jet-lagged eight hours to kill before rest is an option.

The bus ride into the city is animated by snapshots of local color. In the Midwest, homes are generally decorated to blend into, or complement their surroundings. But in London, where the skies are heavy and muted and

the pavement seems to grow, brightly painted doors fight for attention, and the buildings, themselves, are sometimes done in glowing pastels. I make the journey, open-mouthed with my forehead pressed against my window.

After arriving at our hotel, we shove our luggage



continued to page 44

continued from page 43

into a tiny room behind the kitchen and set off for Earl's Court Underground, one of London's many tube stations. It's a brimming with travelers who queue, shove and chatter on their way.

Early evening finds us at the British Museum, a masterpiece from the outside and a history book once through the giant doors. We stalk through the echoing halls, snapping photos and staring through a glass case at one particularly gruesome mummy. I'm sure I've seen him before, leering at me from the front of my college algebra classroom.

The next few days are crowded with excitement as we do our best to see a chaotic city on a tight schedule. We climb through the Tower of London. We reverently take in Westminster Abbey. We brush shoulders with beggars in alleyways and hear more languages spoken than we knew existed. We take a guided tour of Shakespeare's globe and we pose in front of Buckingham Palace.

Toward the end of our journey, I go with a group of fellow students to Saint Paul's Cathedral. It looms above us as we approach, challenging me to capture it's immensity in the lens of my camera. Through the doors we step, immediately craning our necks to take

in the beauty that defines every inch of ceiling, wall and tile.

We place coins in a tray and light tiny white candles, backing away with reverence. No matter how slowly we walk,

or how carefully we look, the sculptures, paintings and architecture are beyond my ability to verbally define. I find myself stopping and staring in awe.

Two hundred and fifty nine steps above ground level, I'm breathless as I lean over the banister in the whispering gallery. Strains of organ music embrace my mind and I close my eyes, thinking I could, indeed, stay here. It is one of those moments that define my soul, bringing me closer to God, whose protection has brought me safely over an ocean, through busy streets and to the dome of a cathedral.

We depart London a few days

later, taking with us a wealth of memories and hundreds of photos. In the Midwest, there are rolling fields instead of towering buildings. Instead of pubs milling with strangers, there are restaurants where the waitress knows me by name. Instead of a healthy dose of curiosity mixed with trepidation, I have new stories, a better understanding of people and a stronger faith in God.





Above: Among popular places to travel were Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London.

Middle: Of some of the captivating sites, photos could not truly capture the ability to see it in person.

Left: Although the city is large, several students traveled by subway.

Right: Captured in the blue London sky stands street signs guiding tourists throughout the city.



Center: Several students opted to experience the different dining options London offered. Photos submitted by Anna Flin



Inns & Outs of Fashion

by Addison Ford

Old school, yet edgy fashions were making their way to Missouri Western's campus. Some students rocked these trends during the week, and they were seen going to class looking like a million bucks. Others saved their hot looks for the weekends, where trends showed up at parties and bars all over St. Joseph.

For women, one of the biggest trends was carrying large, shiny bags and wearing flats. Flats seemed to be here to stay, and you couldn't swing a Kathy Van Zeeland handbag without hitting a Western student wearing a pair. Other trends for women included lots of patent leather, both for shoes and accessories, and skinny jeans. Skinny jeans were definitely an example of a trend that wasn't suitable for everyone, and many students were apprehensive about rocking them.

"I really love the way skinny jeans look," Kelsey Wood said. "They aren't for me, but for someone that they look good on, there is not a better fit."

For men and women, a big trend was those darlings of bad taste, Crocs. The shoes, which provide no arch support, no protection from the elements, and make the wearers, no matter how attractive, seem like idiots, were inexplicably everywhere. And even worse were those students who wore the generic versions available at Payless and Wal-Mart (gasp!).

"Crocs are disgusting," sophomore Katie Sheets said. "They literally are one of the ugliest things someone can put on their body."

For guys, everything old was new again, from tees with vintage-style graphics, to the very eighties looking sneakers like always present and very nostalgic Vans and Converse. Also popular for guys was more jewelry than has been seen in a while, and it was even apparent in retail stores that more and more guys were accessorizing with jewelry. It was just one more way to make clothing choices stand out from everyone else's.

"My favorite trend this year for guys has to be skinny leg jeans," Harvey Jackson said. "I love them."

Although these trends showed up on certain students at certain times, the most popular fashion at Western, as usual, was a MWSU tee, basketball shorts, and either flip flops or tennis shoes, complements by an oversized hoodie. This was everywhere, and it wasn't a fashion thing as much as it was a comfort thing.

Although tee shirts, basketball shorts and flip-flops weren't considered high fashion, students wore what they wanted. Fashion was anything really, as proven by the multitude of students who looked this way. And as long as they thought they looked good and were comfortable, that was fashion.

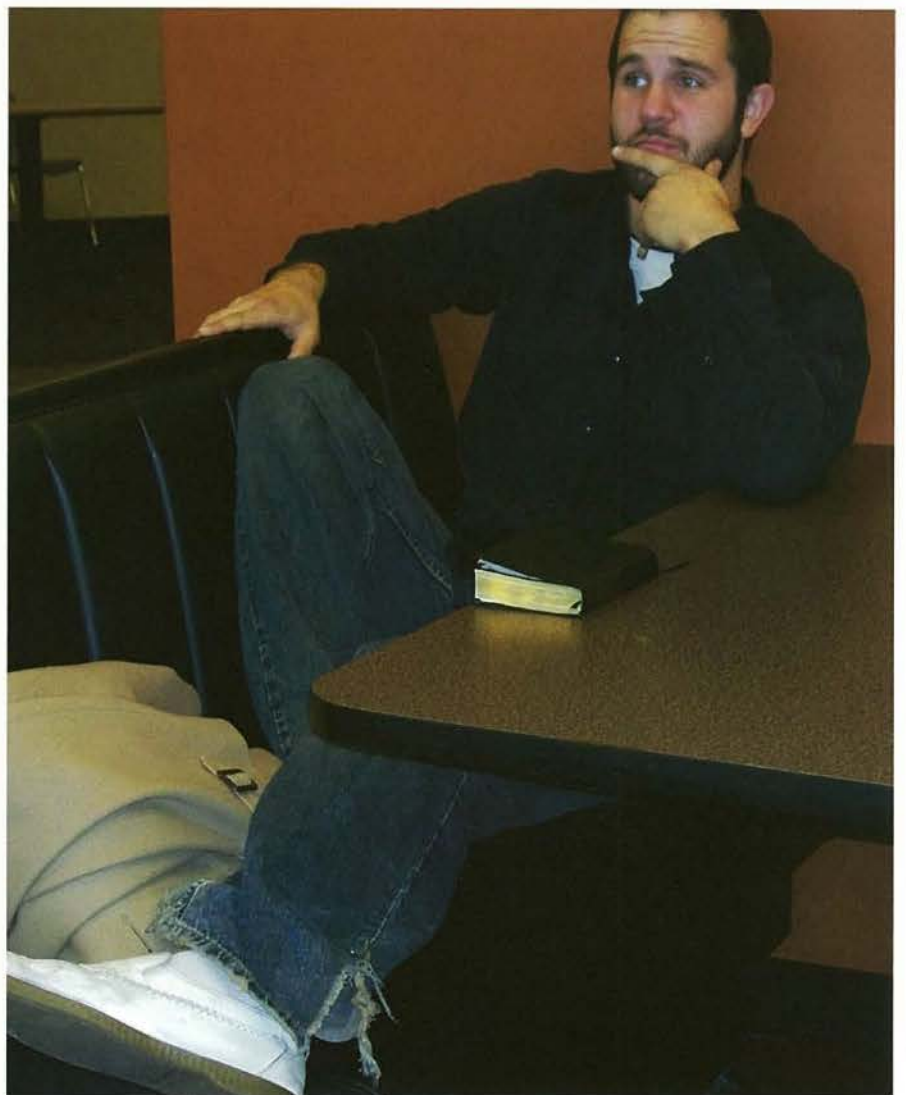


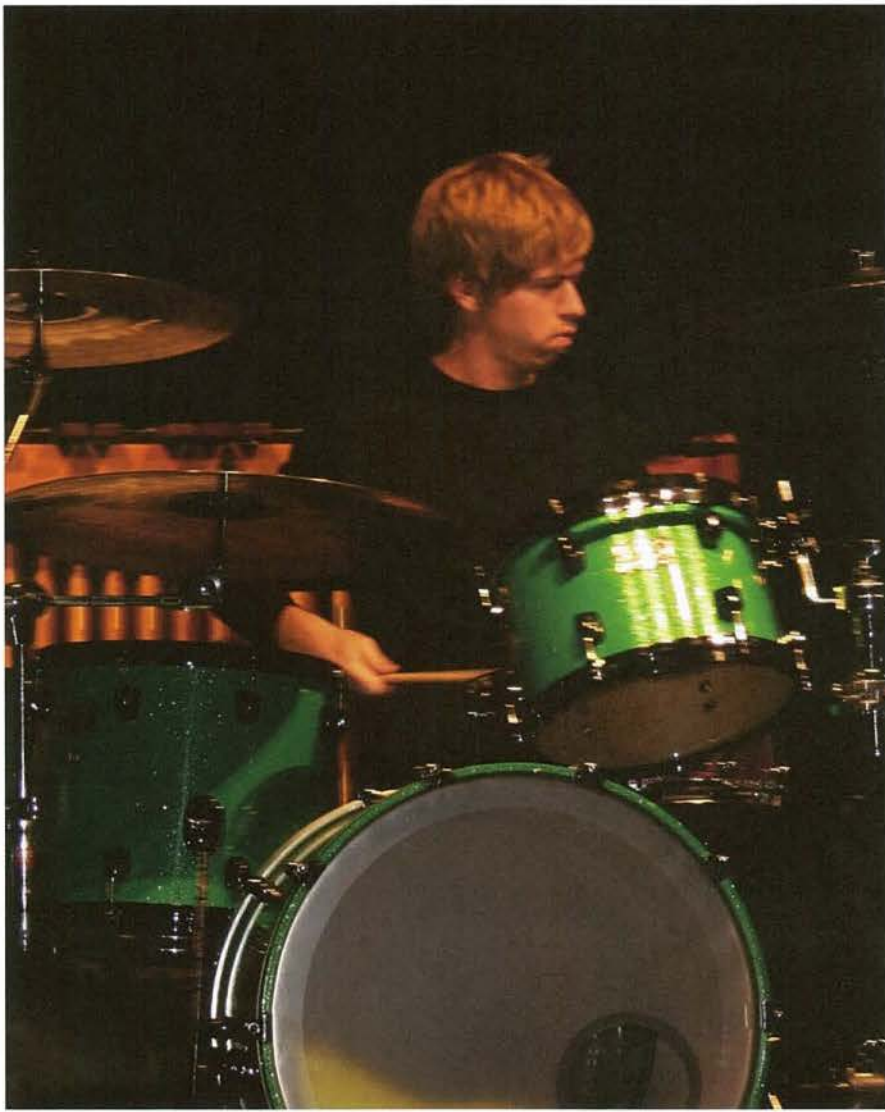
Left: One student takes time out of her day to study, while sporting the latest fashion. Several female students wore heavy jackets, accentuated with a furry hood. *Photo by Steven Pauley*

Top: Pet fashion is also very popular with smaller pets especially with dogs. You could purchase beaded and studded collars, along with jackets and sweaters. *Photo by Brooke Ashford*

Right: Public Relations major Victoria Williams shows off her skinny jeans, which compliment her golden hills. Skinny jeans were all the rage with female students and male students who preferred a punk rock edge. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Far Right: White Converse shoes are very popular among male students. Also popular for male fashion included eighties style shoes like Vans and vintage style graphics. *Photo by Brooke Ashford*





Right: The 13th annual Extreme Percussion Show mixes it up with diverse performances. Sophomore Joshua Cooley wanted to show the audience what hard work percussionists put into the mix. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Far Left: Nathan Wehmeyer rocks it out during the Extreme Percussion Show. This part of the show was a big hit with the audience. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Far Right: Josh Zornes rings through beautiful sounds. He was a part of the pan band during the school year. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Bottom: Dennis Miller presents the students to the crowd over the Extreme Percussion Show. His comedy was a great touch to the show. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



To the March of Your Own Drum

by Traci Haug

Students, faculty and staff filed into the auditorium for the 13th annual Extreme Percussion Show. Each student spent \$4 to see the show, but all the proceeds went to the advancement of the world of percussion at Western. The show started out with a bang as promised.

After having the show for 13 years, students and faculty who had previously been to the show were happy the drummers changed it up. "They made this show unique by having the professor play with them," junior Armande Willis said.

The members of the percussion section had different expectations for the show, but they shared one thing, and that was for audience members to share their excitement about percussion.

"I wanted everybody to be amazed that the percussionists at Missouri Western work hard to make sure you have a great time watching us share our gifts," sophomore Joshua Cooley said.

Each year, there was something that the percussionists believed could have gone a little better. Several students who attended probably never even realized there was a problem, but the percussionists who strove for perfection noticed it. The percussion members made sure to improve those flaws for the next year.

"I think just a bunch of little things could have

been better, such as our bass drum runs, but I don't think the crowd really noticed anything wrong," bass line drummer Jonathan Cundiff said.

The percussion department was made up of 21 students, and every one of the percussionists had a different unique talent that they were able to display. Each talent allowed for different themes throughout the night, and some of those themes were a crowd favorite.

"My favorite part was the Jamaican theme," Willis said. "The drummers really got to show off their skills."

Members of the group participated for many reasons. Some of those included gaining experience, being in the spotlight and having fun, but there were some students that participated only for their love of music.

"Since I am not a music major, I find it so much easier for me to enjoy everything I do in the percussion program because I am not 'required' to do so many things," Cundiff said. "This allows me to learn more difficult things out of passion rather than out of a requirement."

The one word many students could use to describe the show was phenomenal.

"If you missed the show this year, just come next year," Cooley said. "It will be bigger and better than before."

Griffon Edge: Preparing 692 Leaders

by Jennifer Kohler

To upperclassmen, they're pesky. To high school seniors, they're gods. To organizations, they're fresh meat. But to Western, they're just freshmen... 692 to be exact.

That's how many freshmen attended Griffon Edge, a four-day orientation program for incoming freshmen. The purpose of Griffon Edge was to prepare students to be successful at the university level. It also helped to familiarize new students with the campus, the Banner system, the emphasis that is placed on critical thinking in courses, safety procedures and other students.

These things have been taught every year; however, one main difference from previous years was the common movie, "Freedom Writers," instead of a common book. Tiffany Zimmerman, a Griffon Edge leader, thought the students were much more perceptive to the movie.

"I don't believe many students had seen the movie prior to Griffon Edge, and they seemed to really enjoy it," Zimmerman said. "In the previous years when students were expected to read a book, most hadn't, which made it difficult to lead group discussions."

Students also participated in litter-cleanup community service projects in collaboration with the City of St. Joseph and various Neighborhood Pride

groups. Nearly 350 students walked neighborhoods and cleared litter from about 500 blocks of sidewalks and curbs. Students also moved storage items from three buildings, cleaned a computer lab and prepared it for student use, cleaned and painted parts of a gathering hall, repaired concrete steps, organized clothing for needy families and landscaped a street side.

Cindy Heider, interim assistant provost and vice president of academic and student affairs, was proud of the students, their efforts to support community needs and the 3,000 hours of community service that were provided for the St. Joseph community.

"This is truly what being a citizen-scholar is all about," Heider said. "Griffon Edge sets the expectations that we are a part of our community from the very beginning of our university experience."

Zimmerman was also pleased with her Griffon Edge group and its high expectations about the service project.

"Picking up trash isn't the most ideal service, but they did a great job with their project," Zimmerman said.

Even students were impressed with the willingness to participate in the community service. "I thought the service project went very well," freshman Mallorie Nighthart said. "I was surprised about all the students and how everyone was willing to cooperate and not complain about doing what was expected."

Overall, everyone seemed to be pleased with the outcome of Griffon Edge. The community benefited, and the students gained valuable information.

"I think that the orientation was very helpful because half the stuff we were taught, I needed to know," Nighthart said. "I'm really glad Western offers it for freshmen."



Left: Freshmen are tested on where the buildings are located on campus. When classes began on Aug. 27, freshmen were able to find their classes. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*



Right: A Griffon Edge leader takes a group of freshmen for a tour of MWSU. During Griffon Edge, students also had the opportunity to work inside the Saint Joseph community. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Left: After lunch, newcomers head to Eder Hall to learn more about the history of MWSU. Freshmen learned valuable information regarding the campus, classes and organizations. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Above: Freshmen complete a trust-fall exercise. A trust-fall exercise was meant to make new friends and break age-old fears. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*



Left: The Zumba logo, outside of the Looney Complex, originated in Columbia, South America. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Top Right: Three students try their efforts at learning Zumba. Zumba was a one-hour dance session of Latin and international music. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle Right: MWSU offered two free night classes to students to sample the new fitness. There was a large number of students who attended. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom Right: Zumba is the latest fitness craze at MWSU. This fast-paced dancercise burned 500 to 700 calories an hour. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom Far Right: Female students are not the only ones who worked out to Zumba. It was also popular with males. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Top Far Right: Zumba is a fun dancercise. It was introduced by two students Pamela Covarrubias and Mark Gomez. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Do the Zumba

by Jennifer Kohler and Deanna Paolino

To exercise or not to exercise, that is the question. Last year, two students introduced a new fitness craze to Missouri Western, which originated in Columbia and was popular in Mexico City.

Zumba, a one-hour dance session of Latin and international music, was a high-speed, high-energy, high-fun way to burn 500 to 700 calories quick.

"My mom went to Mexico City and brought me a DVD, and I loved it," Pamela Covarrubias, student and Zumba instructor, said.

It was thanks to Covarrubias that Mark Gomez, now Zumba instructor, found out about the new dancercise.

"I discovered Zumba through my friend and Zumba partner, Pamela," Gomez said. "She taught Zumba classes, and I went to each class religiously." After mastering the art of Zumba, Covarrubias and Gomez decided to take it to the Missouri Western campus. The word got out about the classes, and several students joined in on the fun.

"I became aware of Zumba through Pamela and Mark, the Zumba instructors, via e-mail and Facebook," Brad Dixon, student and Zumba class attendee, said.

With the atmosphere Zumba created, it was no wonder why students were so eager to Zumba their way to fitness. There was one problem though...it was

only a two-day class. The Zumba instructors had hopes of bringing it back to campus, and if not at the university than somewhere in the St. Joseph community.

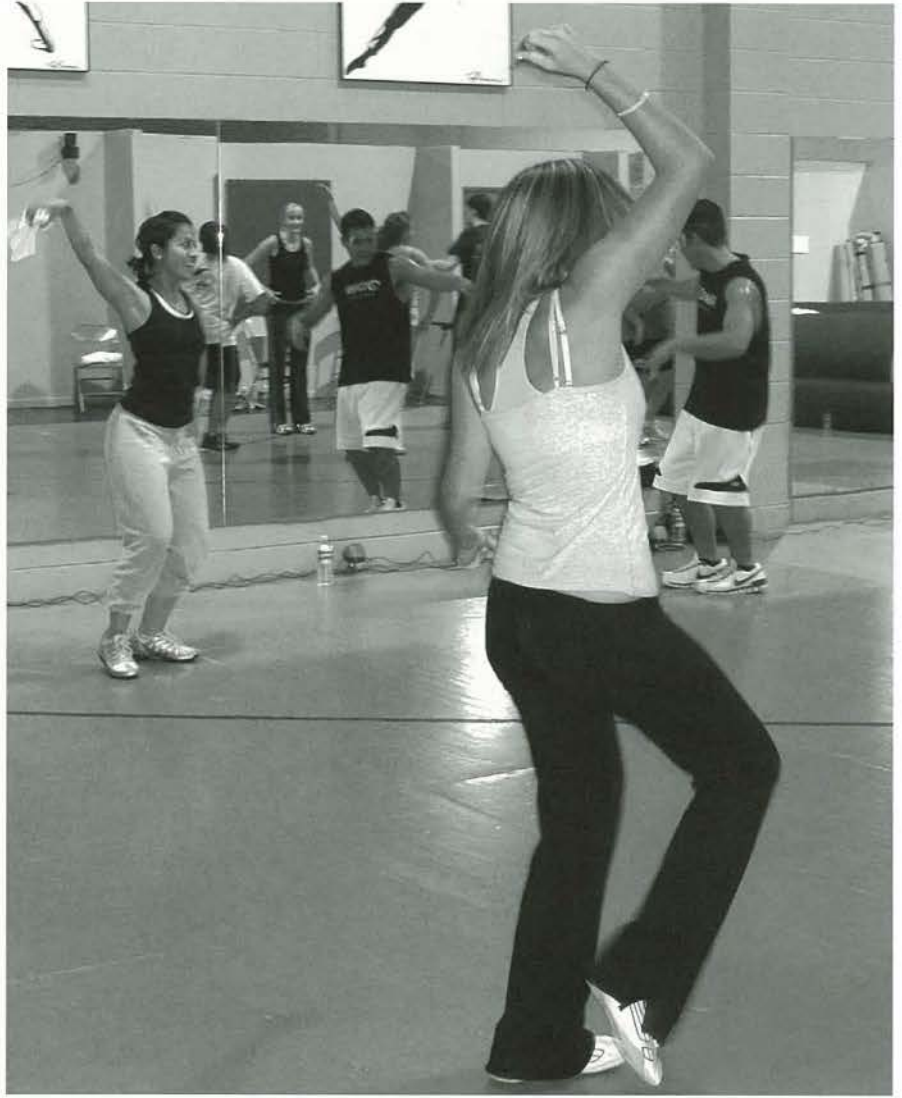
"I'm certain that Pamela and Mark will undoubtedly bring Zumba back to Missouri Western as a fun evening activity throughout the semester," Dixon said. "They have even talked of creating a Zumba class, which would be an official physical education course offered by Missouri Western."

So, why did Covarrubias and Gomez want to share Zumba with Missouri Western? "I became a Zumba instructor because I've wanted to share my Latin roots and help students get fit while having fun," Covarrubias said.

Gomez was amazed with the atmosphere and fun, Zumba brought. "As I became addicted to Zumba, Pamela asked if I would like to go to a Zumba workshop in Kansas City, Mo., where the creator and king of Zumba, Beto Perez was," Gomez said. "We went to the workshop, where the master classes offered were essentially like a Miami nightclub."

Covarrubias and Gomez loved how it boosted confidence without making any major lifestyle modifications.

"Everyone should Zumba, because it is simple, fun and effective," Gomez said. "The sexy, sizzling Latin and international music create a party-like atmosphere which offers everyone a feel-happy workout."





Above: A road construction sign stands valiantly protecting road construction crews. The road sign stood near the main entrance, guiding students to the university.
Photo by Victoria Williams



Above: A construction worker takes a break from the late summer heat. The road construction took several months to complete.
Photo by Linda Shireman

As spring classes began to let out for the summer, Missouri Western students were off in a hurried stampede. However, those students who chose to stick around for summer classes were struck with the construction blues.

Construction on Mitchell Avenue began shortly in early summer, leaving the only available entrance to Missouri Western located on Faraon. With only one available entrance, students found this very challenging. Longer lines of traffic presented themselves throughout the summer and well into the fall semester. When things couldn't get any worse, a sign was placed on James McCarthy Drive that read "No Left Turn."

"It is really silly, because I have to drive all the way around campus just to get to my dorm room," student Becca Marler said.

On-campus and off-campus students were all affected by the restriction of no left turn off of McCarthy Drive. What students really wanted to know was why the sign was put up in the first place, since it was the root of the traffic disruptions along the campus.

"It is annoying," student Kristin Grimm said. "The construction forces students to go out of their way and drive all around campus, when we could just turn left."

Despite the growing frustration, it was certain that complaining about the issue at hand did not solve the problem. Mitchell Avenue was not set to open until late fall. The east side entrance to Mitchell was open at the beginning of the fall semester, but the traffic flow was still an issue. Public Safety did their best to ease students in and out of Missouri Western, but frustration was still present. It was obvious that Missouri Western officials including faculty, staff and the St. Joseph community was ready for late fall. The construction along Mitchell made it easier for students coming in and out once it was accomplished. The overall goal of the construction was to widen the street to create a turning lane.

Other construction, which was added over the summer, included a stoplight at Southeast University Drive. Curbs, gutters and sidewalks were also added to the north side of Mitchell Avenue.

by Deanna Paolino

A Bigger, Better, Wider Mitchell Avenue



Above: Due to the road construction, several commuter students are frustrated. During the summer, there was only one available entrance to the university. *Photo by Jamison Burns*



Above: Scott risks it all for the perfect tan. She has tanned off and on for four years with no signs of cancer. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

With the desire to be bronzed and beautiful becoming ever more popular these days, the trend was bound to catch up with Missouri Western students. Any given day, the parking lots of most salons were dominated by vehicles sporting Western parking decals.

For sure, tanning was very popular with our students. "Not only does tanning make us feel good, but it also gives us a healthy glow," Nicole Carpentieri, a Fun Tan employee and sophomore, said. "It's just relaxing."

One reason for this may be the golden skin tones of Southern California citizens, forever etched into pop culture by T.V. programs such as "The Hills," "Laguna Beach" and "The O.C.," which were all favorites of many students.

There were also many options for students looking for a salon. Fun Tan, Tanfastic, Ashley Lynn's, and various hair and nail salons were all popular with students. Prices varied, but with the specials offered by most salons, it wasn't hard to find a good deal.

Even students terrified with the thought of skin cancer could hop on the bronzed bandwagon. Mystic tanning, which used to mean a streaky, basketball or pumpkin-hued skin tone, became much more sophisticated, user-friendly, attractive and affordable this year.

But some students couldn't care less about having

a healthy glow, and preferred to be naturally colored. "I think tanning is great for some people, but with my hair color and ardent fear of skin cancer, I steer clear," student Kelsey Breckenridge said. "I'm not going to intentionally make myself look like leather in 20 years."

And still other students didn't tan for more serious reasons. Senior Katy Schwartz, who tanned during high school and early in college, was diagnosed with malignant melanoma, or skin cancer, in May. She had surgery to remove the cancerous spot, but it reappeared in October, forcing her to have yet another operation.

"I wouldn't rule out tanning as a factor in my cancer diagnosis," Schwartz said. "I am an eighties baby, and I don't think my parents were as dedicated to sunscreen as they should have been. Now, I'm paying the price."

Her advice to students? Be careful with tanning in beds, and always wear sunscreen in the natural stuff. "It's all fun now, but tanning could kill you," Schwartz said with a smile.

So for most students, tanning was an activity that not only helped us to relax, but was also a not-so-secret beauty secret. The main thing to remember, as with every other fun thing, was to use common sense and keep that old motto "everything in moderation," in mind.

by Addison Ford

Everything in Moderation



Above: An employee at Fun Tan helps Crystal Scott choose a tanning package. Fun Tan offered students affordable tanning packages. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



Above: A student expresses his opinion in light of the news article. Audience members discussed what could be done in response.
Photo by Crystal Scott



Above: NAACP members sit at the front, probing questions to the frustrated audience. NAACP President Jasmine Pasley asked that everyone respond in a professional manner.
Photo by Crystal Scott

“Many students look at Western as something you can be proud of,” Rikki Cason said on behalf of the *Griffon News* staff. “Whether you like it or not, when you graduate, Western is your alma mater. You have to have pride in the university and take care of it.”

The *Griffon News* ran an editorial addressing the different issues, that took place at the fourteenth annual convocation and other events during the week of Oct. 29. According to the article, a group of minority students misbehaved and the *Griffon News* decided to bring it to light.

“The staff editorial was a combination of several events that had happened at our university,” Cason said. “We only wanted to point out some of the behavior that many students were a part of on this campus.”

During the convocation at which Sam Donaldson spoke, there were several students reportedly sleeping and acting belligerent. In the Nelle Blum Student Union, it was also reported that students had vandalized furniture and included excessive rowdiness. When Taye Triggs, the director of the Center for Multicultural Education, addressed this behavior to the Student Government Association, the *Griffon News* also went with it.

The *Griffon News* staff aimed for something higher from the student body.

“We wanted Western to be a place that is respected and new students want to attend,” Cason said.

While the *Griffon News* may have wanted change to come, instead they received an overwhelming amount feedback from the student body.

“Although some of the issues were embellished, a percentage was true,” Jasmine Pasley, the NAACP president, said. “The problem is that it is not just one minority group where you find misconduct. The editorial came off racist.”

At the NAACP meeting on Oct. 31, the hot topic attracted a large crowd who were not afraid to speak out.

“I think that it is absolutely true,” freshman Marcus Spencer said. “It is the way they act here in the Living Learning Center. It is the way they act in the Blum Union and it is how they act altogether. It doesn’t talk about all minorities causing problems; it talks about the ones who are causing problems.”

The *St. Joseph News-Press* ran a staff editorial stating the controversy and the rising awareness of the issues, along with other newspapers who heard about the controversy.

“The editorial was never meant to pinpoint one group of students or one minority,” Cason said. “We have heard many thoughts about this issue, both ways. All that matters now is that change comes from it.”

by Traci Haug

A United Front



Above: Copies of the *Griffon News* article is distributed to audience members. The article was a staff editorial. Photo by Crystal Scott

One Unread Message...

by Jasmine Wilson

The professor is presenting a lecture on the American Revolution. As he continues with his lecture, he notices a few students digging into their pockets and purses. He doesn't say anything, but pauses for a moment—long enough for the class to look around and wonder why he has stopped. A student is texting in class. Is it distracting for the professor who has to pause the lecture? Does it bother other students in the room, because they hear the clicking noises of the phone buttons?

Texting has become the newest craze in communications. Many professors are now asking why it has come so far as to becoming a classroom distraction. Why can't students wait until after class is over to text, or turn off their phones during class? If students were never allowed to talk on their phone during class, how was texting any different?

"Phones are not allowed in class, and if a student just has to have their phone in class, I ask for them to turn it off," Adam Jones, assistant professor of communication studies, said. "If it really has to be turned on, I ask students to turn it on silent."

However, most professors were aware that students were not going to turn their phones off during class. They were lucky if students even placed them on silent. It was so easy for a student to pull out his or her phone, send or read a quick message and put it away.

"I really don't have a reason for why I text in class," Brandi Bedell, a nursing student, said. "I get bored and texting my friends helps me deal with being in class."

Most students didn't mind the avid texter sitting next to them in class. "I don't believe it is a distraction for the other students in class, but more of a personal distraction to the student," Jones said.

Susan Garrison, instructor of English, asked that students turn their phones off. "It is disrespectful, if the student is showing that his or her texting is more important than what the professor is doing," Garrison said. "In my syllabus, students know they should not be texting during class."

So when will the craze end? One thing is certain, students may not have learned the importance of the American Revolution, but they will definitely know how their friends' days went.



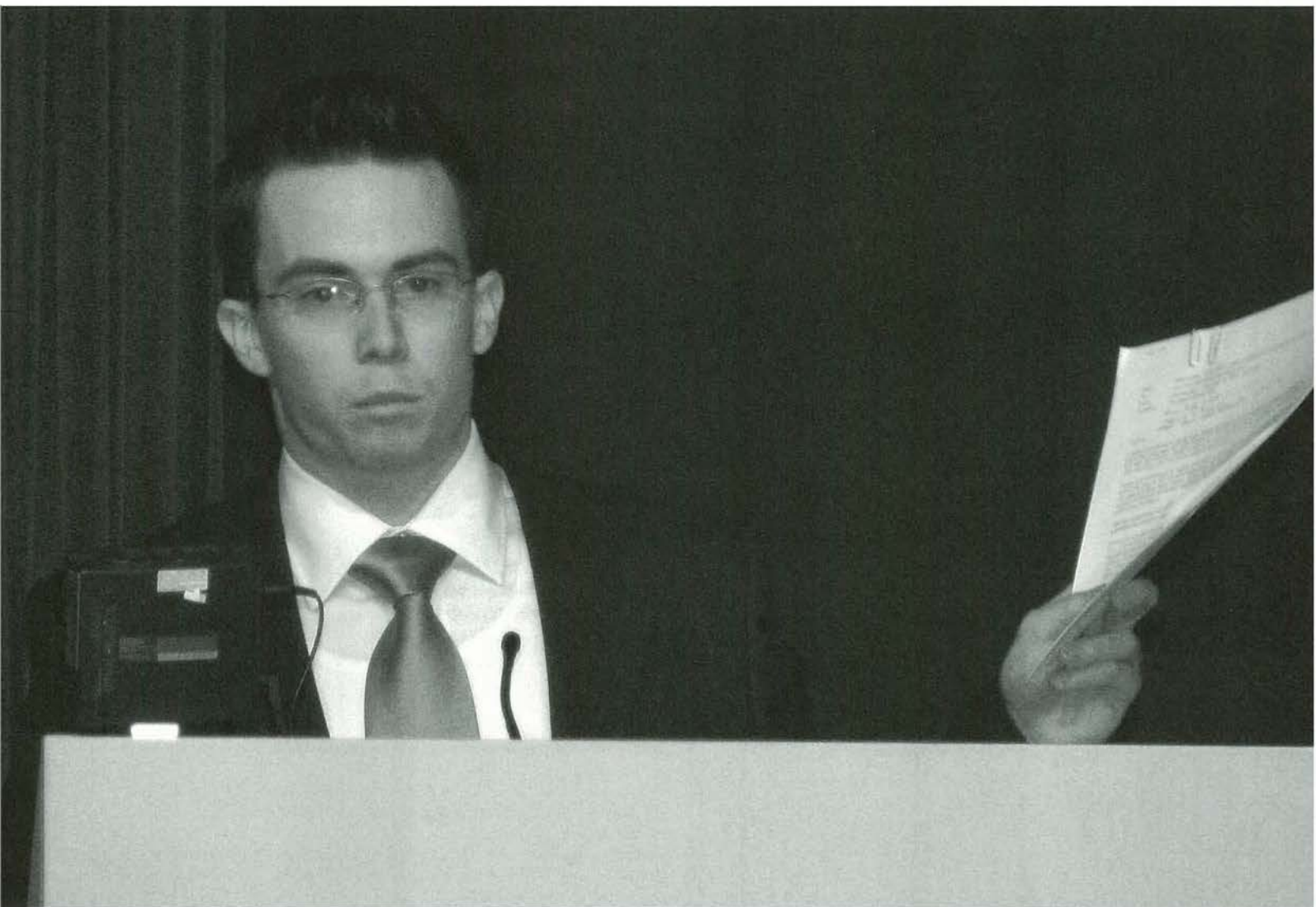
Above: Texting is considered to be disrespectful and a disruption by all faculty. Before class began, a student texted in plain sight.

Photo by Crystal Scott

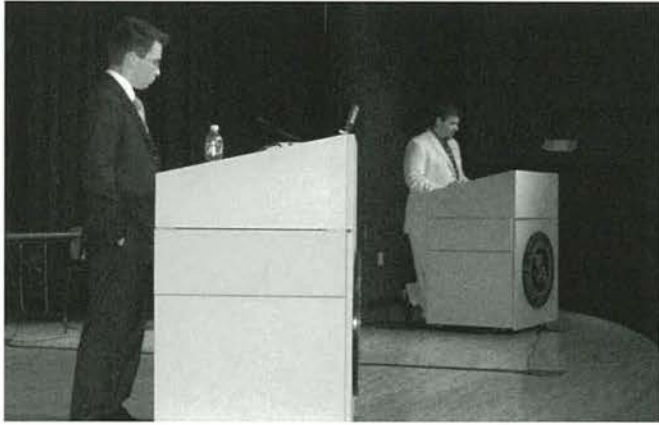
Right: Professors can tell when students are not paying attention during class. Josh Marriott lowered his phone beneath the table to text a friend. *Photo by David Winder*

Left: Instead of paying attention in class, Tara Finley catches up on the latest gossip. Most students did not realize their professor knew what was going on. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Won Out by 83 Votes



Above: Harold Callaway, former student governor, provides documents for the audience as proof the previous administration is faulty. Callaway and running mate Jennifer Kohler won the election by 83 votes. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Above: Callaway and Luke Herrington, former SGA vice president, argue in a debate sponsored by the *Griffon News*. The debate, set for Nov. 14 and 15, was designed for students to become more familiar with the candidates. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Above: Callaway and Kohler replace former SGA President Natalie Bailey and Herrington. The Callaway/Kohler campaign argued for lowering the cost of textbooks and other dining options. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

The Student Government

Association elections called for a wide variety of opinions. The elections were the closest they had been for years. The running mates were Harold C. Callaway III and Jennifer Kohler vs. Luke Herrington and Emily Feger.

Callaway decided to run because the goals and aspirations he had for SGA were parallel to what he wanted.

"After a stagnant two semesters from SGA, I felt it was time for new ideas and a different path – one of goals, initiatives and working with, not against," SGA President Callaway said.

Callaway's running mate, Kohler stood out to Callaway because her strengths would replace his weaknesses.

"I felt that with his strong background in the Student Government and his knowledge of things, we would make a great duo," SGA Vice President Kohler said.

Kohler decided to run for vice president with Callaway because she was previously on Student Senate, and she wanted to get back into the organization.

"I grew to really like the organization," Kohler said. "When Harold approached me about running, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to get involved again while being able to take a stand on things."

There were many reasons why students enjoyed SGA and became active.

"I find working with an executive board, Western

Activities Council, Residence Council, Student Senate, 60 to 80 student organizations, university president, provost, faculty and staff is very fulfilling," Callaway said.

Kohler loved what SGA stood for and the opportunities which arose.

"It's a great organization that gives students the chance to get involved while making a difference," Kohler said.

The feelings about the SGA elections vary from person to person. Feger felt that there was a lot of confusion during the elections this year.

"There was not enough publicity out long enough in advance," Feger, vice president of programming for Western Activities Council, said. "There was also confusion with which set of campaign rules we were under."

Although Feger wasn't impressed with the results of the election, Kohler thought that they did a great job during the election.

"We realized our best tactic was word-of-mouth, and we utilized it," Kohler said. "During the debate and subsequent interviews, I spoke from the heart. Everything I said, I meant, and I was and still am very passionate about SGA. I did the best I could during the election, and it obviously paid off."

There were many changes that resulted from this SGA election. The most important change was the desire to work with everyone.

"Working together to accomplish important issues for students so they can become more effective in their endeavors, this is Student Government," Callaway said.

by Traci Haug



Right: Losing several members hasn't discouraged Alpha Sigma Phi from being involved in the community. They set high standards this past year for entrance into their organization such as maintaining a certain GPA and community service requirements. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Top Left: Alpha Sigma Phi brothers Matt Canaday, Seth Logston and Nick Bates prepares to build something out of a pile of canned goods at Donation Creation. Canaday felt that the Greek community would be better served with more fraternities. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Bottom Left: Alpha Sigma Phi is a fairly new fraternity, having been on campus for nearly four years. The men gather together for Homecoming 2006 at the parade to entertain the St. Joseph community. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*



Saying Goodbye

by Anna Flin

While their effort to break fraternity stereotypes earned them respect from the campus and the community, it wasn't enough to ensure their presence for the future of Western. Instead, Alpha Sigma Phi left campus because of what they claimed were incredibly high standards of academic and personal achievement.

"The main reason is that we stuck to our standards," Trevor Kincaid, a sophomore, said. "We wouldn't just take anyone. There were several students that wanted to become an Alpha Sigma Phi, but sometimes the grades weren't there and stuff like that."

Matt Canaday, a senior, agreed. "Our standards, that we personally set forth, were too high, which in turn, limited our pool of possible rushes, pledges and potential brothers," Canaday said. "We knew that we were taking a risk by having such high standards, such as the minimum GPA and community service, etc. We also wanted to be the best organization, not just another Greek organization on campus."

Nick Bates, a Western alumni, noted that Alpha Sigma Phi had also been losing a lot of members.

"Because of the amount of students that we were losing from the last semester, we felt that this decision would be the best for the fraternity to go inactive," Bates said.

Members felt that Western would not be better

off without the presence of Alpha Sigma Phi.

"From the outsiders perspective, losing a fraternity might mean that it helps other fraternities with numbers," Canaday said. "See, I don't think that's the case at all. The more fraternities that are on campus, the better it is for all of the Greek community. When Greeks work together and are strong in numbers, then I truly believe that the entire campus is better for it."

Bates added that Alpha Sigma Phi had barely begun its work.

"We felt that being a fairly new fraternity, we started out very well in numbers and we had expectations of getting students even in our fraternity," Bates said of the three-year history of Alpha Sigma Phi at Western.

Kincaid regretted the loss of a fraternity that encouraged personal growth.

"Alpha Sigma Phi is a fraternity that sticks to the motto 'To better the man,'" Kincaid said. "The fraternity helps to better its members in any way, whether it be academic, build good character, basically make its members better men for society."

Some, however, believed this was only the beginning for Alpha Sigma Phi.

"I strongly believe that if this chapter were to come back active and if there were students that wanted this fraternity to be back on campus, there would be some students that would come together as a group and bring this fraternity back where we left off," Bates said.



Left: A Sudanese group in traditional Sudanese clothing dances and sings for audience members. There was a large number of Sudanese living in St. Joseph. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Right: Audience members watch as Maxine Maxwell performs a skit. Maxwell performed a drama where she transformed from an old, deformed woman to a young girl. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: The event will be held next spring. The next year will be the deciding year if the event will be held again due. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Far Right: Tay Triggs, the director of the CME, feels that the Sudanese living in St. Joseph need to be encouraged to continue their education. The event included educational workshops featuring priorities for women and global sisterhood. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom: The event's projected message persuades women of the United States to reach out to others. In third world countries, women were mutilated or subjected to genital mutilation. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom Right: Missouri Western faculty, staff and students along with members of the community present innovative ideas. Despite low attendance, those who did attend received the overall message of empowerment. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Global Sisterhood

by Linda Shireman

Women all over the world are fighting. They are fighting a war against oppression and abuse at the hands of their own family members. Women are killed or mutilated with acid for making eye contact with men other than their husbands and young girls, as young as nine, are married off to older men. Other women are subjected to genital mutilation to ensure they remain virgins until marriage.

The women of the United States have fought oppression and won. They have become some of the most privileged women in the world, and now is the time to help those less fortunate.

This was the message presented at the second annual Women's Summit on Saturday, March 23. Tay Triggs, director of the Center for Multicultural Education, brought women faculty and staff, alumni, as well as leaders from the St. Joseph community together to present innovative ideas to a receptive, but small audience. Those ideas radiated from one central theme: empowerment.

Enticing students and community members to the Women's Summit, Triggs offered a free lunch as well as gift bags to those who attended. The summit included educational sessions and a workshop to teach the importance of positive living, communicating with confidence, priorities for women, self-empowerment and global sisterhood. There was also a session, designed especially for high school females, called College 101 and a Spanish language presentation where Pamela Covarrubias, sophomore graphic arts major, talked about the benefits of a college education.

Triggs worked for several months to bring the summit together, but said that next year she will start even earlier. In her keynote address, she explained that

the conditions women around the world must tolerate must change. She spoke of a global sisterhood to bring women of the world together and change the way these women are treated.

Triggs said that there were things that can be done. Women in America are privileged just because of where they were born, but with that privilege came responsibility.

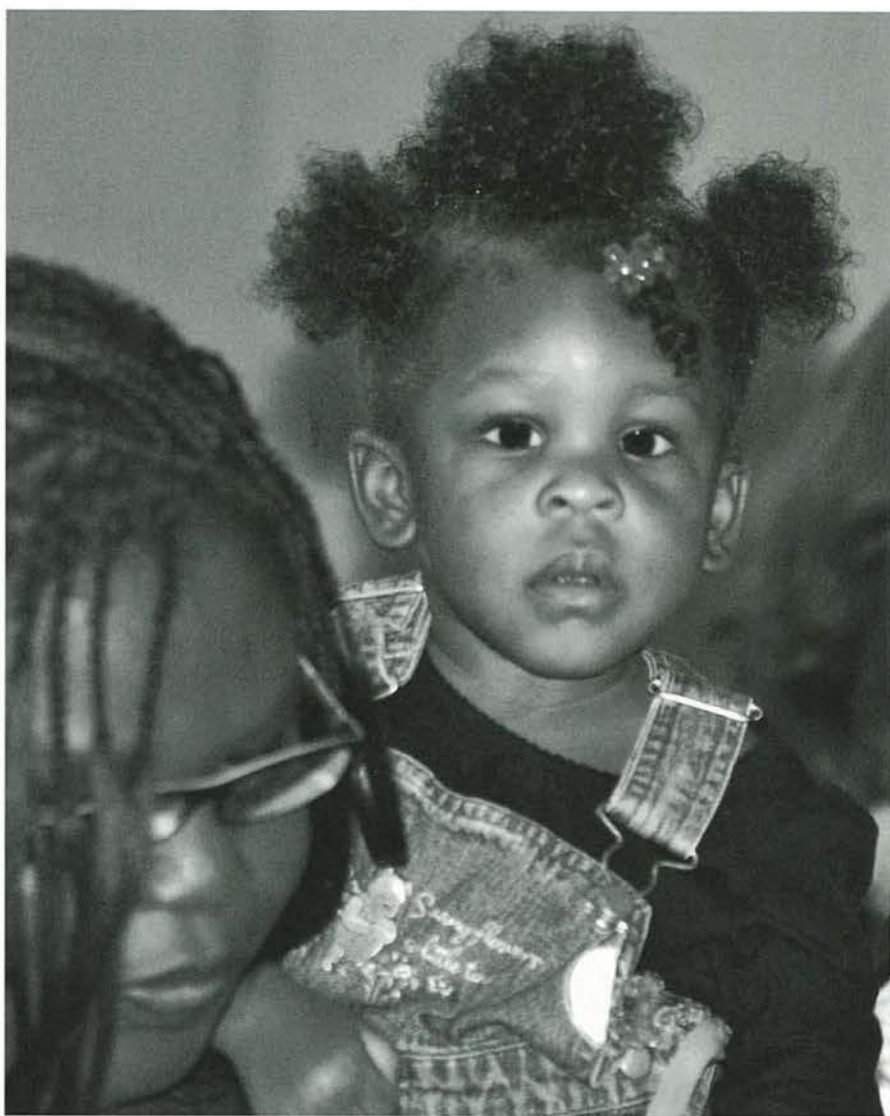
A surprise presentation by a local group from Sudan, not listed on the schedule, brought energy and life to the event. The group danced and sang for the audience in traditional Sudanese clothing. Their dancing caused the floor to shake to the rhythm of their drumbeats.

Once the summit was over Maxine Maxwell, a performer Triggs met about 10 years ago, performed a drama depicting and celebrating great African-American women. As she walked about the stage, with minimal costume changes, she transformed from an old, deformed woman to a young girl of about nine or 10.

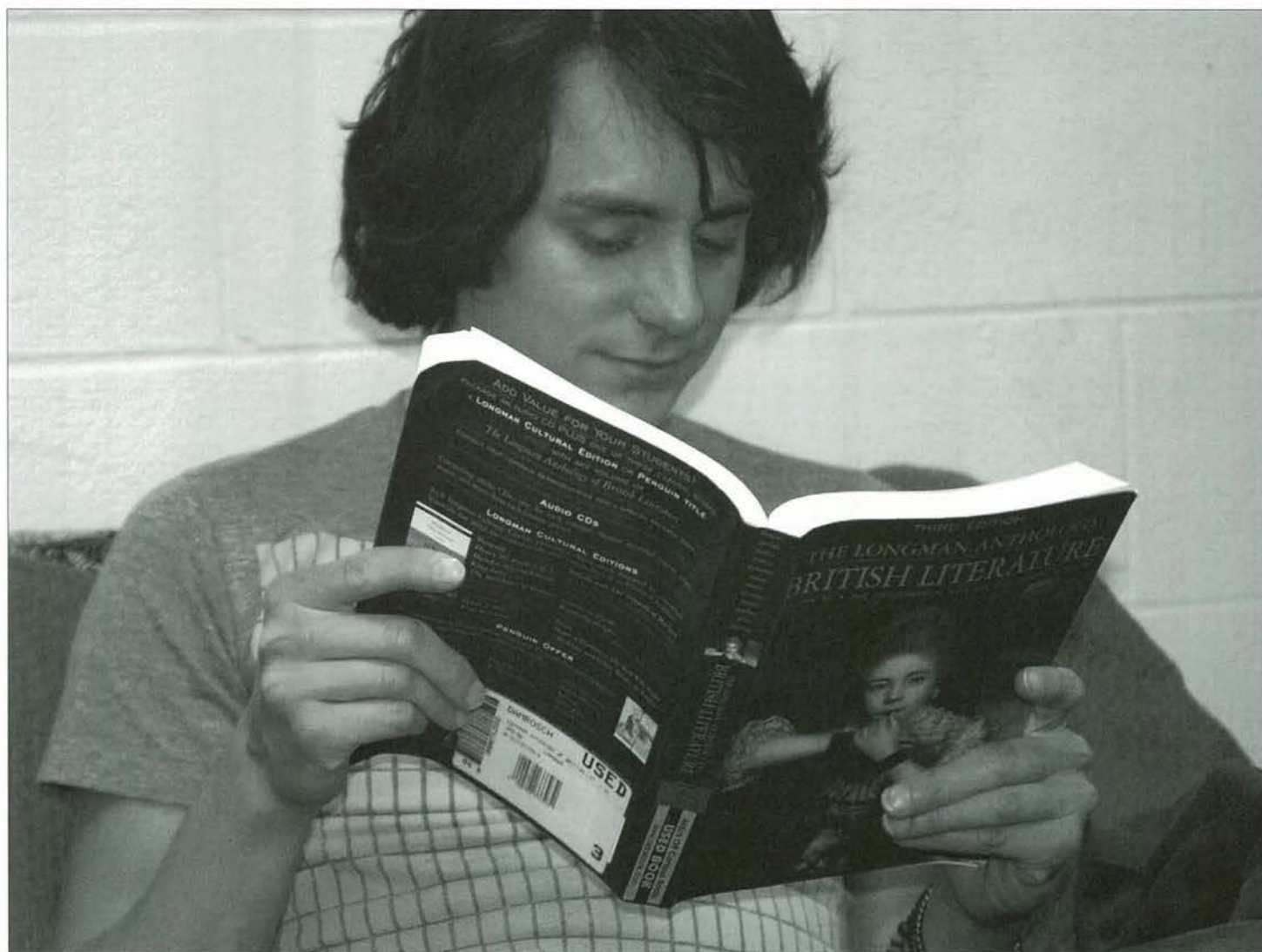
Crystal Carpenter, a junior at DeVry University, was in tears as Maxwell's character talked about the abuse she had been submitted to from eating a piece of candy that belonged to the woman who owned her.

"Her performance has changed the way I will look at American history from now on," Carpenter said.

Triggs said that next year will be the deciding year, to see if Western can make a continuing success of the Women's Summit. The summit will be presented not only in English, but also in Spanish and Dinka. Triggs said that there was a large group of Sudanese in the St. Joseph community, who need to be encouraged to continue their education as a means to improve their lives.



A Year in TV to Remember



Above: Addison Ford, editor-in-chief of the *Griffon News*, picks up a book since his favorite TV shows have been canceled. The writers' strike forced several students to pick up books, rent DVDs or worse, study. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



Above: Kailey Alexander decides to thread since the only thing on is reality TV. In the fall of 2007, TV shows such as "Grey's Anatomy" and "Desperate Housewives" were forced to shut down due to the writers' strike. *Photo by Crystal Scott*



Above: Cody Wolf picks from a selection of DVDs. Blockbuster and Hollywood Video were rampant with students during the late fall and early spring. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

No amount of classes, homework or social activities could stop Western's students from noticing as the writers beginning in fall 2007 brought a stumbling halt to their favorite shows.

"I look forward to watching my favorite shows each week, and it was a real let down grabbing the remote, flipping to the channel and realizing that once again it was another rerun," Marissa Graves, a junior, said.

Graves also expressed her enthusiasm for the return of her favorite viewing material.

"I really miss seeing new episodes of both 'Grey's Anatomy' and 'Men in Trees,'" she said. "I can only watch so many reality TV shows, so I'm really looking forward to the return of some of my favorite shows."

Graves was not alone in her boredom with reruns and reality shows. Meredith Meyer, a sophomore, was frustrated as well.

"All my shows are off," Meyers said. "I can't watch 'Grey's Anatomy' or 'Private Practice' or 'Desperate Housewives!'"

However, students' frustration didn't keep them from pointing out the positive. Lindsey Donnell, a sophomore, felt that the strike was encouraging to spend her time in more productive ways.

"Well, of course it is now reruns, and it can be a little boring," Donnell said. "But, in a good way, I

have read more books and not procrastinated as much because there aren't new shows every week."

Meyer agreed. "I guess it is better off this way," she said. "I probably should be studying or something."

As to the purpose and necessity of the writers' strike, students had varying opinions. Graves felt that writers were sometimes underappreciated.

"I really think that this writers' strike has made us, viewers, realize more about the actual 'process' of a television show," she said. "Without these writers, who do not receive enough credit, we were left without the shows that we enjoyed."

Karyn Daugherty, a non-traditional student, felt that the writers should not have been humored.

"It all boils down to money, the root of most evil," Daugherty said. "No one is ever satisfied, no matter how much they make. I find this unfortunate as there will always be someone out there making more money than you, and if you are going to suspend an entire TV production because you demand more money, then I say to the writers, 'If you think you can make more money elsewhere, quit and find another job.' As for the networks, I say, 'Fire them and find another writer, and from what I hear, they are a dime a dozen.'"

by Anna Flin

MWSU - Accredited by the Students by Anna Flin

Missouri Western has always attracted students for a multitude of personal, educational and financial reasons. With several new modifications, including changing the college to a university, what did everyone think Western had to offer?

For many, Western offered the most financial support.

"MWSU offers the Golden Griffon scholarship worth \$9,500 a year, and I decided to go for it," Lacy Preston, a sophomore, said. "I received the scholarship, which finalized my decision to go here."

Michelle Ritter, a math major, chose Western for the location.

"It was close to home after having attended college out of state the year before," Ritter said.

Kristen Neeley, Western alumna and current admissions counselor, chose Western for its friendly size. "I chose Western because it wasn't too far away, and it had small class sizes," she said. "I also thought that I would feel comfortable asking questions in class."

It was fairly unanimous, however, that Western's greatest advantage was its faculty. The caring faculty and staff played a large role in attracting incoming students.

"They want you to succeed, whether you are 18 and fresh out of high school, or if you are 92 and going back to school," Neeley said. "The faculty will treat you the same."

Preston also felt that the Missouri Western faculty was top-notch. "Western is constantly

improving their faculties for students," she said. "The faculty really wants you to succeed."

Along with the helpful instructors came the small class sizes that were just big enough to provide group discussion, but still small enough to give a student one-on-one attention with the professor.

"Class sizes aren't huge," Emily Gummelt, a sophomore, said. "It is easy to get extra help from professors, if you need it."

Despite the praise of faculty, financial support and quality of education, most students would change something about Western if they could.

Ritter said she wished sports programs like tennis would be respected as much as the more prominent sports such as football and basketball.

Preston, on the other hand, wanted to see more restaurants added to the Nelle Blum Student Union Food Court.

Regardless of strengths and weaknesses, Western certainly underwent a variety of modifications during recent years. A freshmen residence hall was added. Quiznos was brought to campus dining, and graduate programs were created, which brought in more students who wished to further their education.

It was obvious that Western made changes in both appearance and attitude.

"They have added the University Plaza," Neeley said. "Also, since I graduated from Missouri Western State College, the pride of becoming a university has really swept the campus and community. It seems that people have more pride about MWSU. It is nice to see the university get the credit that it deserves."



Top: Western is known for its considerate and knowledgeable faculty. Each year, faculty gather in full dress at the Convocation on Critical Issues. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Left: Athletics are one important aspect of MWSU. MWSU offered six female sports and only four male sports. *Photo by Steven Pauley*

Above: MWSU offers small class sizes. Students enjoyed one-on-time with professors. *Photo by Steven Pauley*



Left: Fred Weems, a non-traditional student, studies as other students and children play. A large percentage of non-traditional students had families. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Top Right: Two traditional students catch up on some much needed gossip. One thing was certain, non-traditional and traditional students had their fair share of misperceptions. *Photo by Jamison Burns*

Middle Right: A non-traditional student makes nice with two traditional students in class. There were several misperceptions about non-traditional and traditional students. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Bottom: Three traditional students gather together for a football game against NWMSU. Non-traditional and traditional students shared in the love of athletics. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Far Right: Christina Dubach, a non-traditional student, helps her son with his homework. Non-traditional students had a place to go to in between classes unlike traditional students. *Photo by Brooke Ashford*

A Two-Way Mirror

by Anna Flin

It wasn't age, nightlife or style of backpack that truly separated Western's traditional students from their non-traditional classmates.

It may have seemed, at times, that there was some animosity between these groups. But these feelings of resentment were generally voiced in huddled groups and rarely above a whisper.

"I took a class where a non-traditional student did nothing but argue with the teacher," Jodi Main, a traditional student, said. "I'm a firm believer that if you already know everything, then you shouldn't take the class. This is for any student, not just non-traditional ones."

This was among the more common complaints about the non-traditional community. Along with it, there were a few double takes at the idea of children in the classroom.

Rebecca Shipers, a traditional student, shared an uncomfortable experience in which a non-traditional classmate brought her child with her.

"It was a huge distraction, and our class was not even remotely on topic," Shipers said.

While the traditional students had their share of concerns, the non-traditional students may have been sensing more resentment than actually existed.

"We're stereotyped as the old family mom, uncool, full-time worker and kind of boring," Anna Sanz, a non-traditional student, said. "I'm sure that's got to be it."

This may not have been entirely accurate. Emily Gummelt, a traditional student, expressed a great deal

of respect for her older classmates.

"I think it's cool that they have decided to go back to, or even start college for the first time at an older age," Gummelt said. "They are at a point in their lives when they have everything together and either want to start a career or try something new."

Non-traditional students, however, were not quite so congenial toward their younger peers.

"I see them sleeping in class," Heather Hughes, a non-traditional student, said. "How can you pay attention in a classroom when the person sitting next to you is asleep? They have absolutely no commitment to this. This is like a joke to them."

In the end Elaine Richey, president of the Non-traditional Student Association, felt that money was the determining factor.

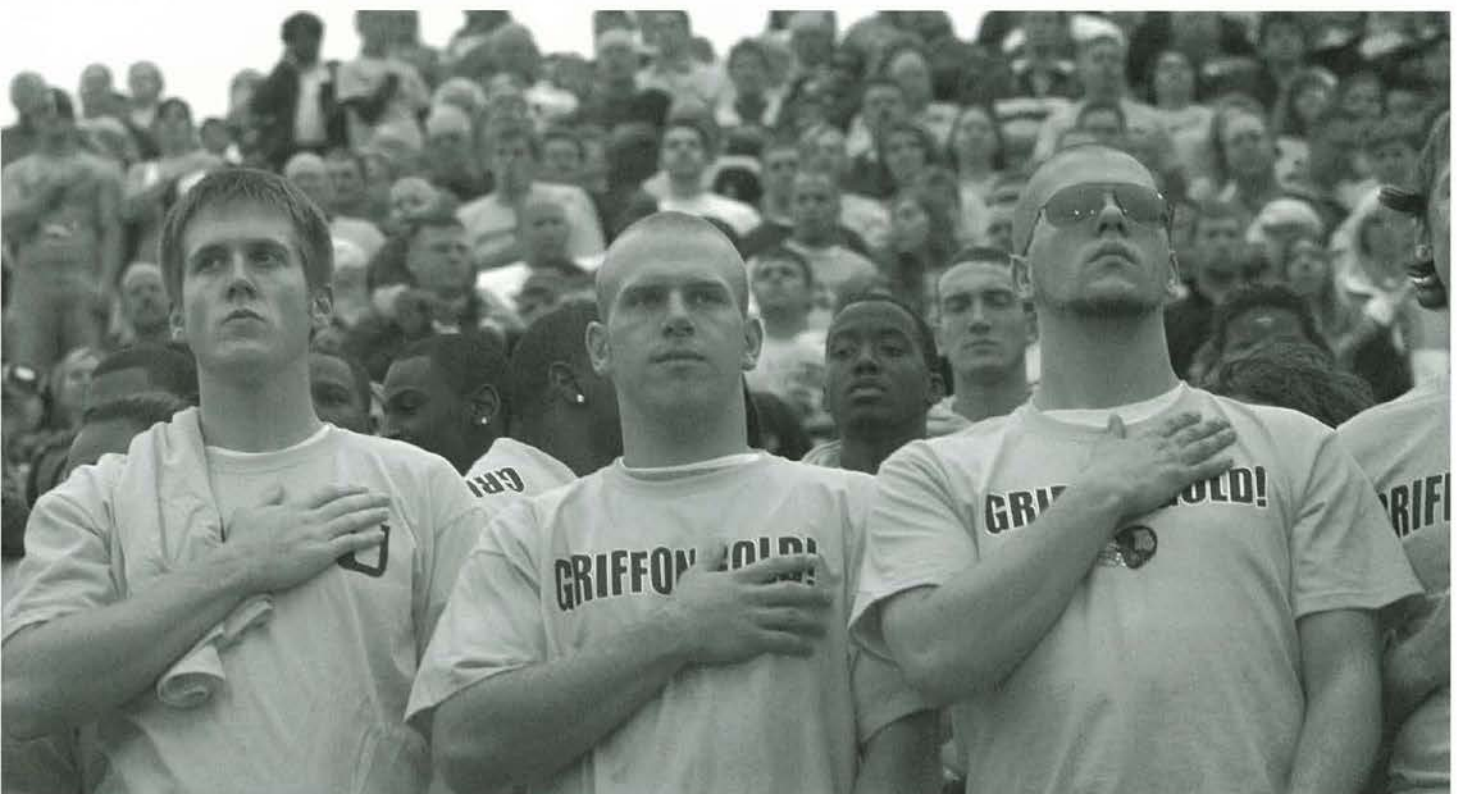
"I have noticed a lot of dedication from some of the traditional students who are really here to learn," Richey said. "And it's the ones that have to pay for it themselves."

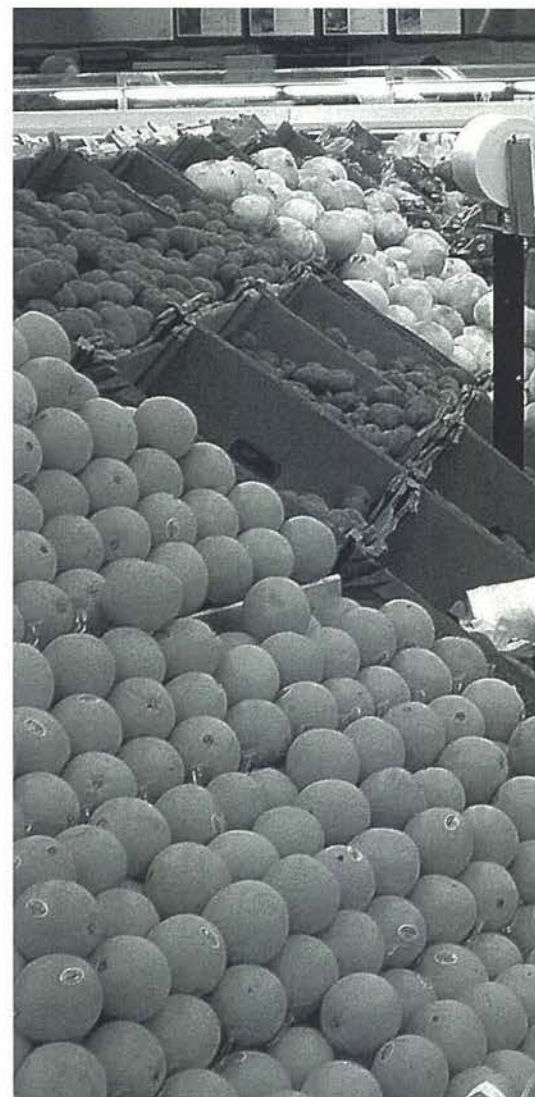
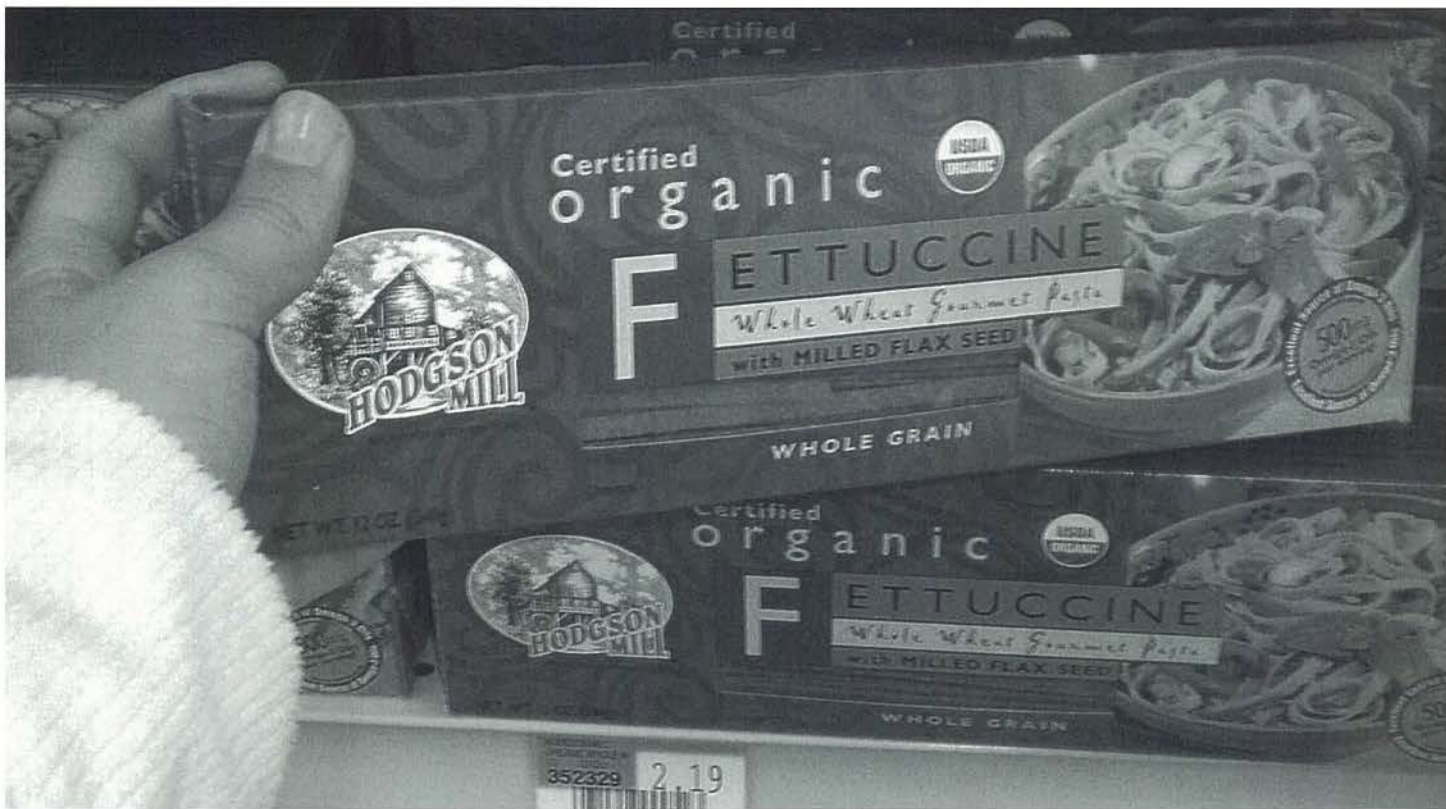
Thus, according to the non-traditional students, the difference between them and their younger peers was mainly due to varying levels of dedication.

"Don't be here wasting your money and our time if you're not going to be here," Gerri Tracy, a non-traditional student, said.

Many of the traditional students, however, remained pleasantly oblivious to this opinion.

"They aren't here to judge anyone," Gummelt said. "They're just really friendly."





A Developing Trend

by Taylor Insko

One couldn't help but see the various television commercials informing people what could be done to make the earth a better place, but what really mattered was what they chose to do with that information. Were people really trying to conserve the earth's resources or was "going green" the new trend for the 21st century?

The CW Television Network hosted several television programs that caught the eyes of young viewers nationwide. Between previews for upcoming shows and movies, viewers could see environmentally friendly commercials that encouraged people to recycle and save energy.

"These commercials give people like me and everyone else the knowledge to want to change," senior Jenna Swymeler said. "I don't really know a lot about 'going green' other than the fact that I would like to learn, and I would like to change."

Change was an important aspect of "going green."

"A lot of people are intimidated in trying things to 'go green,' but they should try and understand that there are many things anyone can do effortlessly to help the environment," senior Alison Krieg said.

Little things such as buying energy efficient appliances and energy saving light bulbs and properly insulating an attic saved energy and money. Changing small things in daily routines also helped the planet in the long run. Some grocery stores started new ways for

people to be more resourceful.

"One easy step that I made was purchasing green bags from the grocery store to avoid using plastic bags," Swymeler said. "Hy-Vee has them for around 99 cents."

Although many students made excuses to avoid doing things to help the environment and considered the earth as an everlasting resource, others realized there were other individuals that would have to live with the consequences of today's population.

"People have trouble looking past their future into the lives of several generations to come," Krieg said. "What will they have to live for if we waste everything away?"

Swymeler agreed and thought others needed to become more aware of their surroundings and ever-changing environment.

"Some people say they don't smoke or drink because they say we only have one body for the rest of our lives," Swymeler said. "Well, we also only have one planet - one planet that inhabits millions of people. People need to realize that the small steps toward the environment and the bad steps against the environment add up drastically."

Even though some continued to see "going green" as just another trend, others took it very seriously.

"Going green is no longer for tree-huggers or hippies," Swymeler said. "It's a smart choice for intelligent human beings that wish to make their habitat a better, cleaner, smarter place to live."

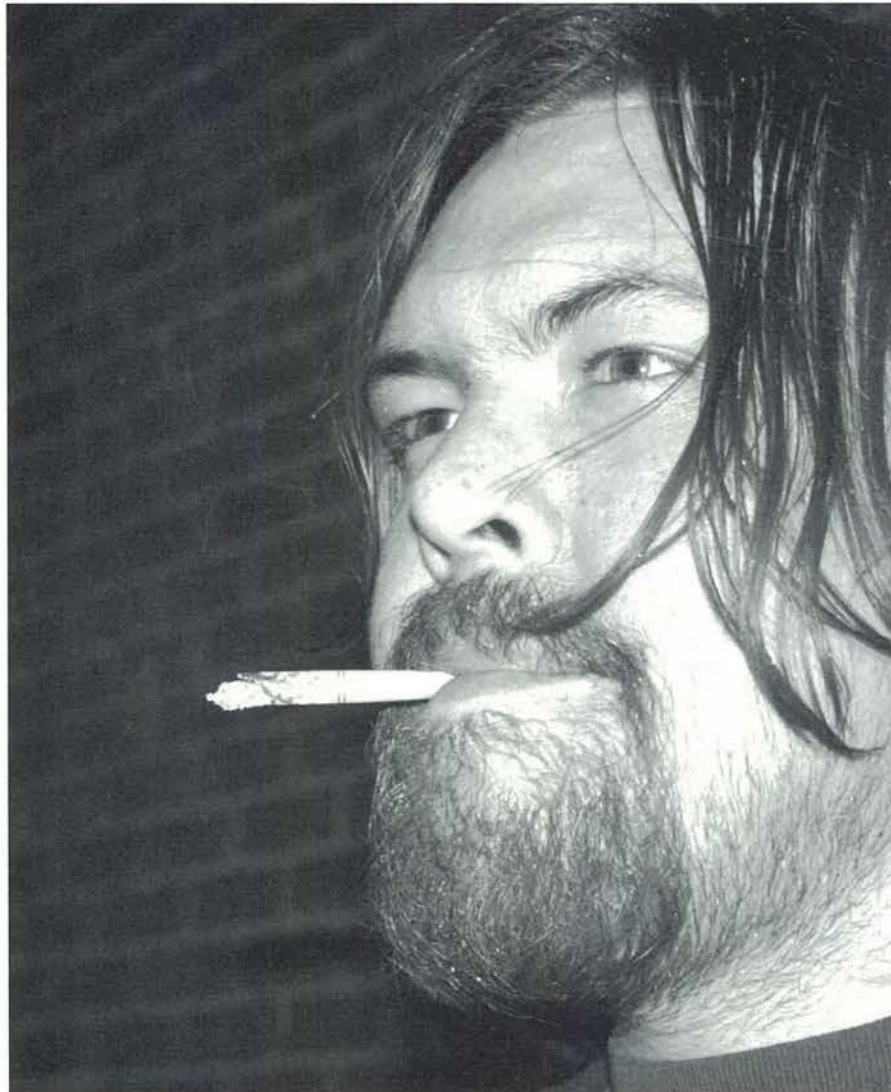
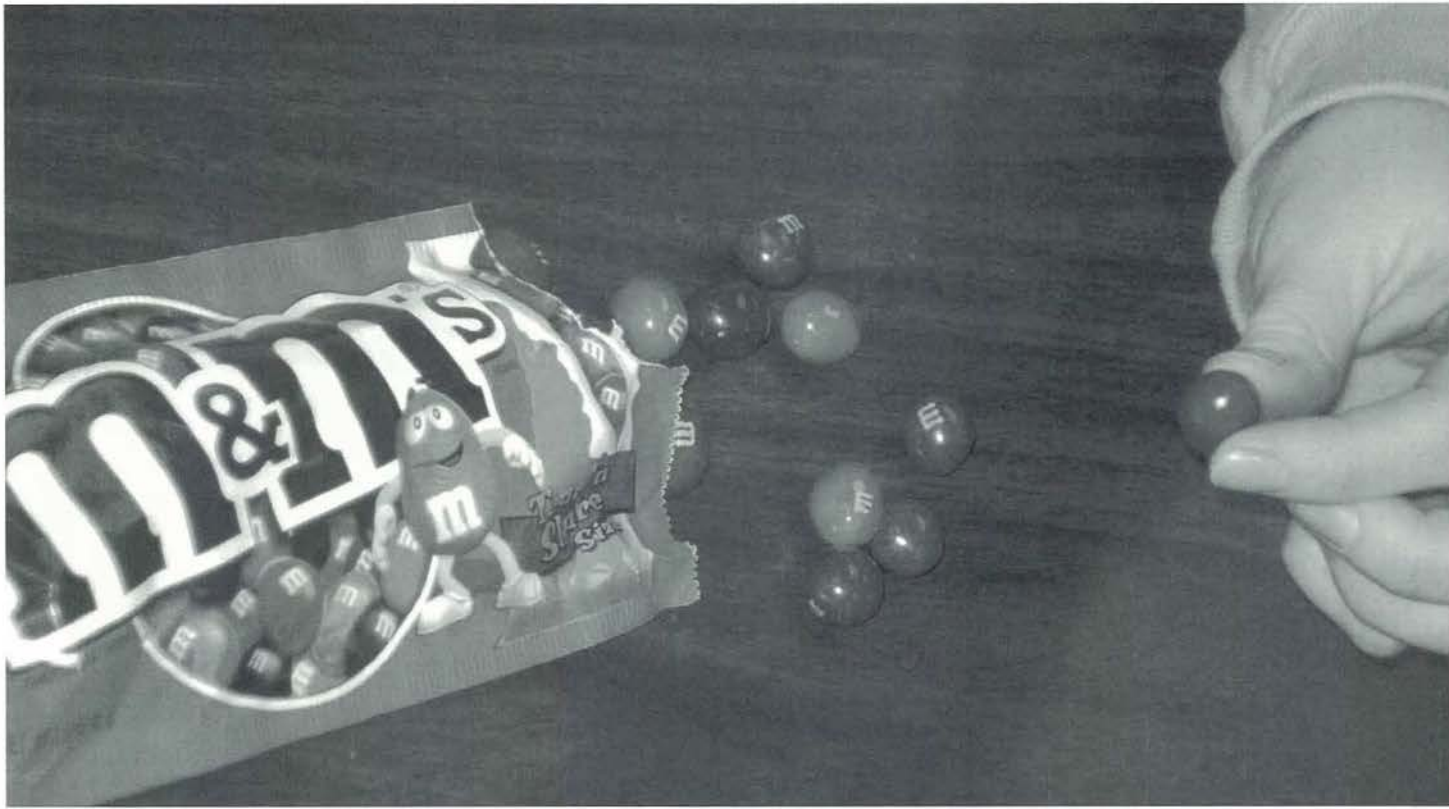
Top: Eating more organic food is a big and easy step toward maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Hy-Vee, located in St. Joseph, Mo., began offering more options for organic foods in the spring. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Left: Eating more fruits and vegetables is a simple way to make smart choices. By eating organically, you helped the environment become a better place. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Far Left: Studies show that organic farms are more energy efficient rather than conventional farms. Organically grown goods consistently have about one-third as many residues as conventionally grown foods. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Right: The "3Rs" are meant to be a hierarchy in order of importance. Reduce, reuse and recycle - these strategies were classified as waste management desirability. *Photo by Crystal Scott*





Broken Resolutions

by Amy Marks

Five, four, three, two, one... and everyone cheered Happy New Year! Thousands watched the ball drop on New Year's Eve as confetti and balloons fell from the sky at Times Square in New York City.

The New Year is a time-honored tradition of one of the oldest holidays observed since ancient Babylon times 4,000 years ago. The question is how do New Year's resolutions stand the test of time?

One staff member welcomed New Year's resolutions happily.

"Eight years ago, I made my first resolution for basic fitness and have been able to maintain it by adding something new every year to not break it," Rose Ann Pearl, graduate records coordinator, said. "Also it helps to add a new dimension to keep me on track, and this year I added Pilates. One year one of my simple resolutions was to cut back on peanut M&M's, but I'd never give them up completely."

Pearl found success with her New Year's resolutions, unlike many others who found them to be more of a disappointment. The majority of students seemed to agree with Michelle Ritter, a web developer.

"I don't make resolutions because I end up breaking them," Ritter said. "Others might say, 'Why bother

when I can't keep it?'"

Ritter was among the majority of students, staff and faculty that were not able to keep promises to such commitments.

"I feel they set you up to fail unless you are really, really dedicated to keeping them," Ritter said.

Maybe a resolution had to be something a person wasn't far from attaining.

With 12 credits left, business marketing major Abby Lee was a dedicated senior who proved through her strong will and determination that anything was possible.

"My New Year's resolution is to finally complete my bachelor's degree in business marketing despite every brick wall and obstacle faced, including family illnesses," Lee said.

Lee had felt the sting of defeat when she had to repeat a statistics class three times before finally knowing the satisfaction of success.

Whether it was saying that you were going to "cut back on peanut M&M's" or push through "every brick wall and obstacle faced," setting a resolution was a tradition that could stand the test of time if you could be "really, really dedicated."

Top: Some MWSU affiliates like Rose Ann Pearl choose to stay away from peanut M&M's. This was one small step toward living a healthier lifestyle. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Far Left: Jeremy Weikel, a senior, takes a smoke break between classes. It was hard to quit smoking for those who promised to quit. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Left: The resolution for several students is to shed the "Freshmen 15." Several frequented the Baker Family Fitness Center. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Right: Several students make a viable resolution to get ripped and have a washboard stomach. Few students felt that New Year's resolutions were promises meant to be broken. *Photo by Crystal Scott*





Above: Dan Danford, MWSU alum, talks with fellow alumni. "Griffs on the Bayou" gave new and old alumni a chance to socialize and network. *Photo by Amanda Hake*



Above: Stena Hinkle, a MWSU staffer and Molly Pierce, 1997 MWSU alum, catch up with one another at the second annual "Griffs on the Bayou." Over 100 MWSU faculty, alum and staff attended the event. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

With all the yearly events that Missouri Western's Alumni Services held, it was hard to believe that Mardi Gras was the most successful event. But it was, and the second annual Black and Gold Mardi Gras, "Griffs on the Bayou," was a hit with over 100 people in attendance at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks restaurant.

"Our second 'Griffs on the Bayou' was even more fun than the first one because we found better ways to kick it up a notch," Zach Ramsay, St. Joseph area chair for the events committee of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, said. "We had more giveaways, and found out what foods worked better and just had more hype from the people who attended last year. There was more energy, and it was better attended, even though we postponed it due to weather."

Colleen Kowich, director of Alumni Services, was pleased with the turnout and the success of the event.

"The goal of this event was to provide alumni from the St. Joseph area an opportunity to socialize and network with one another," Kowich said. "We conducted a few prize drawings for MWSU and Mardi Gras merchandise throughout the evening, but mainly those who attended reminisced, shared stories and caught up with one another."

Everyone seemed to be pleased with the location because the Louisiana style restaurant gave off a Mardi Gras atmosphere. Among the high attendance

were new alumni.

"There was at least one alumnus who had never attended an alumni event before, and he promised to go to more," Kowich said.

Furthermore, alumni attended the event for many different reasons.

"I go to meet other alumni," Jason Horn, president of Alumni Services, said. "I love to network and make contacts."

Even though most alumni attended to meet new friends and catch up with old friends, there were other great reasons why they attended.

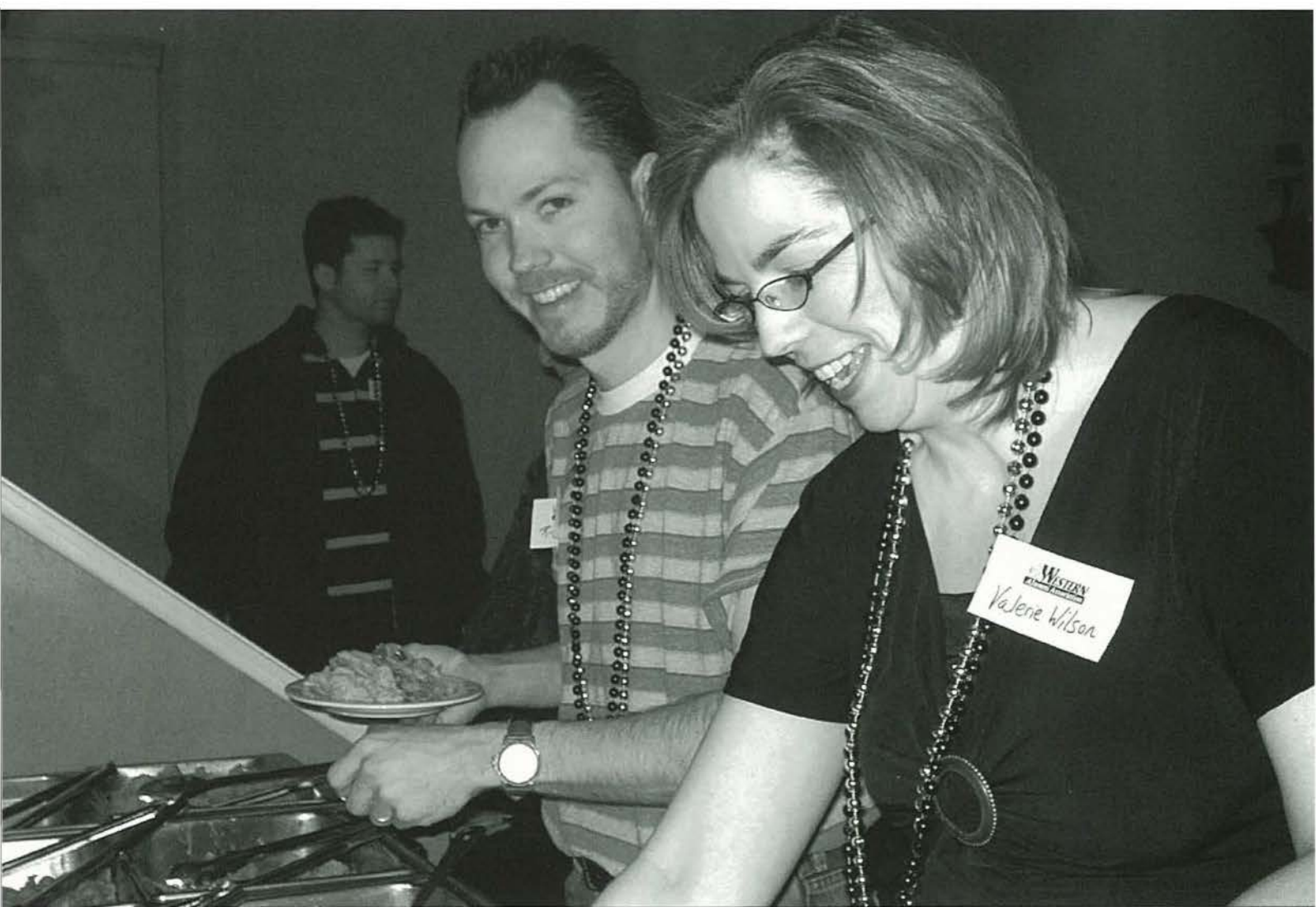
"The best part of the Mardi Gras event is how loose and candid alumni are with each other," Ramsay said. "There's a little more freedom and casual atmosphere, so people don't act all staunch and 'in their job role.'"

There were many cheers for the event among alumni. All the feedback was positive, and several people looked forward to being involved in next year's event, as well as other events throughout the year.

"I hope our students will participate in alumni events once they graduate," Kowich said. "They really provide opportunities for professional and social networking. Currently, we have alumni chapters in St. Joseph, Kansas City, Mid-Missouri and St. Louis. I would encourage all graduating seniors to stay in touch with the alumni office."

by Traci Haug

Griffs on the Bayou — Alumni Style



Above: Valerie Wilson, MWSU alum, joins in on some seafood grub at Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood and Steaks restaurant. The Louisiana style restaurant was a perfect choice to host a Mardi Gras atmosphere for the event. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Intense Rhythms

by Jennifer Kohler

A crowd of over 300 people filled the Potter Hall March 5 to watch Step Afrika, the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, perform the art.

Stepping, a unique dance tradition created by African-American college students, uses the body as an instrument to create intense rhythms and sounds through a combination of claps, footsteps and spoken words.

In the early 1900s, the precursor for stepping began as an increasing number of African-Americans started attending colleges and forming their own fraternities and sororities. As part of the process of joining an organization, the students would learn how to step.

However, before a student could step, he or she had to go through a process called pledging where the individuals, known as pledgees, would learn the secrets, history and ritual of a particular fraternity or sorority. The process was later made illegal in the '90s due to its intensity.

Throughout the night, Step Afrika made the audience roll with laughter as they performed humorous skits, one of which was about the pledging process.

Student Clifton Crump thought the whole night was really nice. "I liked how they showed the origin," Crump said. "They have good skills."

Halfway through the night, the performers brought audience members onto the stage and taught them a small version of stepping. Some caught on

quickly, while others were a little slower to learn.

"They let me volunteer and they didn't let me show the fullness of everything I have, but I'm good," Crump said.

The crowd really enjoyed the interaction between performers and the audience members, but there were moments throughout the night when the audience seemed bad-mannered.

Pamela Covarrubias, CME intern, was pleased with the attendance, but wasn't as impressed with some of the crowd's behavior. "At times, the audience's reaction was a bit disrespectful," she said. "Maybe they didn't know how to react or maybe they were just being ignorant."

Jakari Sherman, one of the Step Afrika performers, was used to that sort of reaction. "I thought the audience was fun," he said. "It was interesting because we had some moments where it was a little bit difficult, and I think the audience wasn't quite sure how to respond to our show. We get that a lot."

In the audience was a group of high school stepers who opened the show. From Ruskin High School in south Kansas City, Mo., the group of juniors and seniors called Rho Eta Sigma seemed to really enjoy the performance.

"A lot of them were in the audience, so it was interesting to hear how they reacted and appreciated seeing a professional company do what they do on a regular basis," Sherman said.

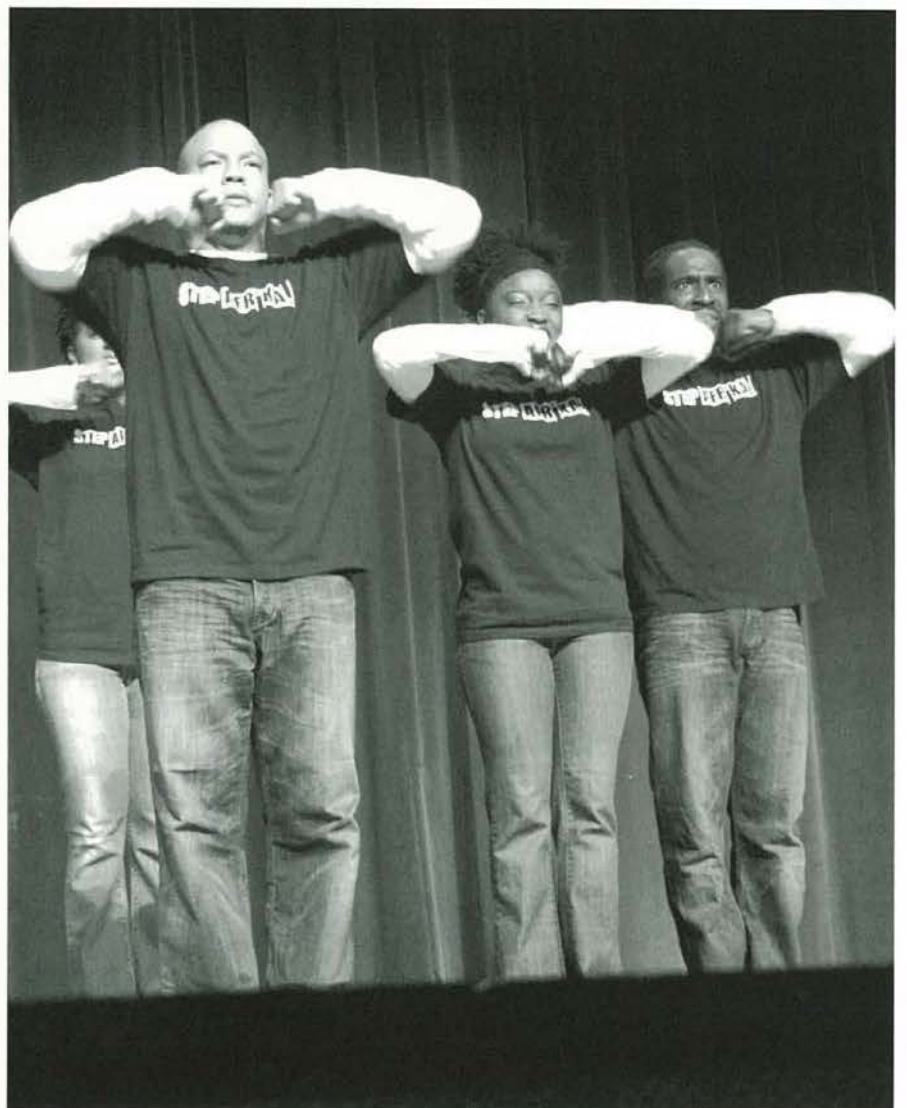
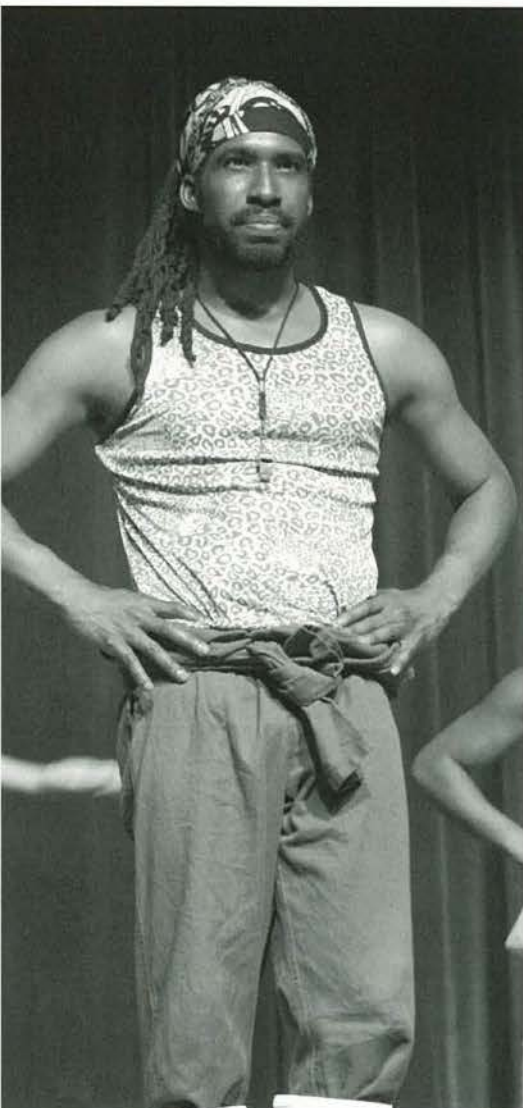


Top: Ryan Johnson, Delonte Briggs and Jakari Sherman, three stepers of Step Afrika, look out into the audience for others to join them in African dance. Clifton Crump, a student, enjoyed how Step Afrika included origin into their dance. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Right: Briggs understands that some audience members aren't always sure how to respond to stepping. Step Afrika, sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education, Western Activities Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Association, attracted a large crowd of over 300 students. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Right: Ruskin High School students from south Kansas City, Mo., open the show. Created by African-American college students, stepping involved the body as an instrument. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Left: Johnson performs a hilarious skit about the pledging process. A video was also shown, allowing the audience a brief time to learn about the stepping process. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*





Left: Andrew W.K. began his musical career at age four, when he started to learn the classical piano. His first solo album record "Room to Breathe" was released in 1998. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Right: Andrew W.K.'s parents are his greatest mentors. His father taught him the importance of words, which added to his music and motivational speeches. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Middle: Andrew W.K. signs posters for fans following his performance. While delivering motivational speeches, he mixed music in a way, which entertained and motivated the audience. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Bottom Right: Audience members are invited onstage to perform, and two students sang along with Andrew W.K. There were approximately 200 in attendance. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom Far Right: Andrew W.K. performs several hit songs from his catalogs. His hit song "She is Beautiful" was featured on the "Freaky Friday" soundtrack, which costarred Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsay Lohan. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Top Far Right: Andrew W.K. talks about how music is a magical way to communicate. He was a rock musician, but added speaking to the list in 2006 when New York University asked him to travel the country, and share his love of music. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Communicating by Gerri Tracy Through Music

Western welcomed a talented, funny and friendly Andrew W. K. March 6. The Western Activities Council invited him to give a motivational speech, which he delivered with a mix of music.

Emily Feger, former director of lectures for WAC, received the credit for choosing Andrew W.K. while she was director. Jessica Schmidt, the current director of lectures, was pleased with Feger's choice.

Andrew W. K. had been a musician for several years when he expanded his career to include speaking after New York University asked if he would deliver a speech to students. Since then, he has mixed music and speaking in a way that entertains and motivates.

"It is a bit of a miracle and a bit of a mystery, but I'm enjoying it," he said of sharing his music and speaking with the world. Andrew had delivered his speech to people all around the country, including Ivy League schools such as Yale.

Party hard was a big part of his message, but the main point was do what you want to do. He encouraged audience members to do what feels good every day.

"Music is a magical way to communicate," Andrew W.K. said. "When I have the music, that gives me a lot of power."

Communication didn't seem to be a problem for him. He spoke very intelligently and deliberately.

His father, a professor at the University of Michigan, taught him to be aware of his words before speaking them.

"My parents are my greatest mentors," Andrew said to the crowd of approximately 200. "They encouraged me to do what felt right to me."

Andrew W.K. invited audience members on stage to perform during the event. Two sang with him, and a 67-year-old man, who looked to be enjoying the show, danced with some young women.

The energy Andrew W.K. created was astounding and everyone left Kemper Recital Hall smiling and looking forward to what felt right to them.

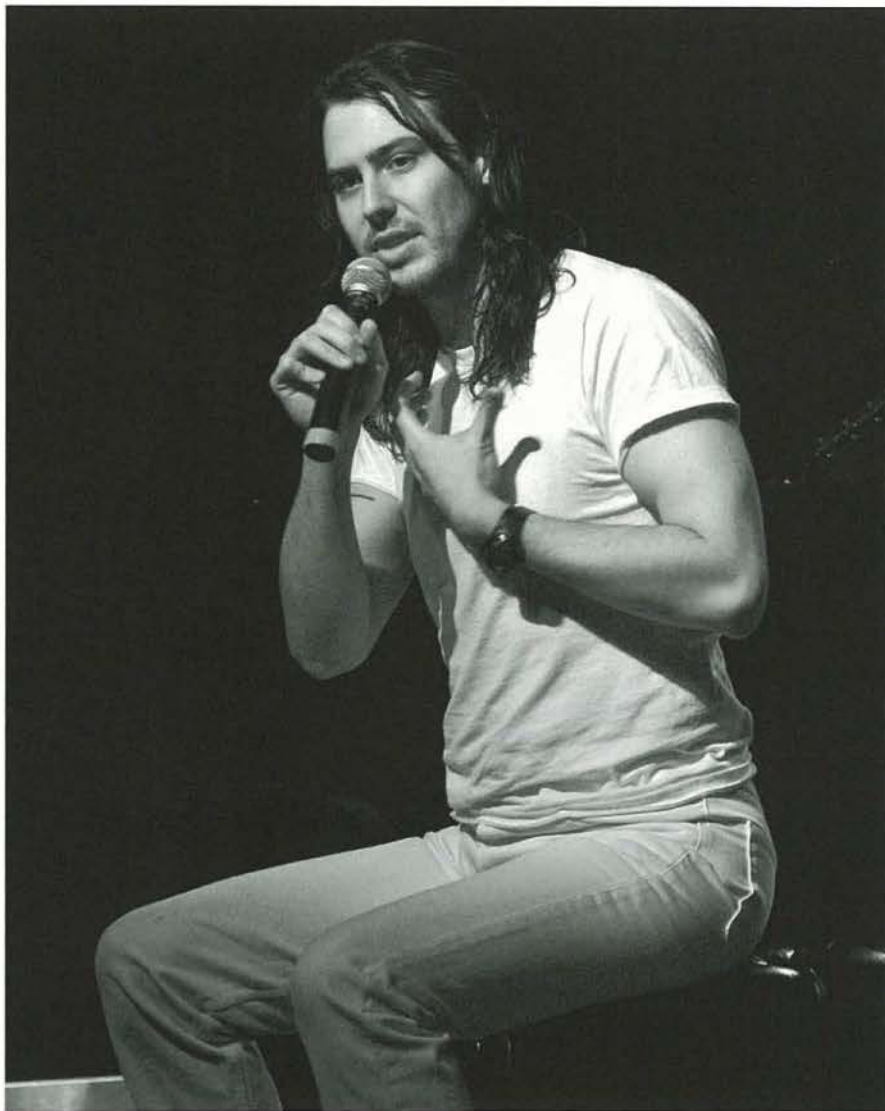
"I want people, including me, to leave with the feeling that anything is possible," Andrew W.K. said. Students seemed to get that message.

"I thought it was awesome," freshman biology major Jessica Liess said. "I was pumped to come see him."

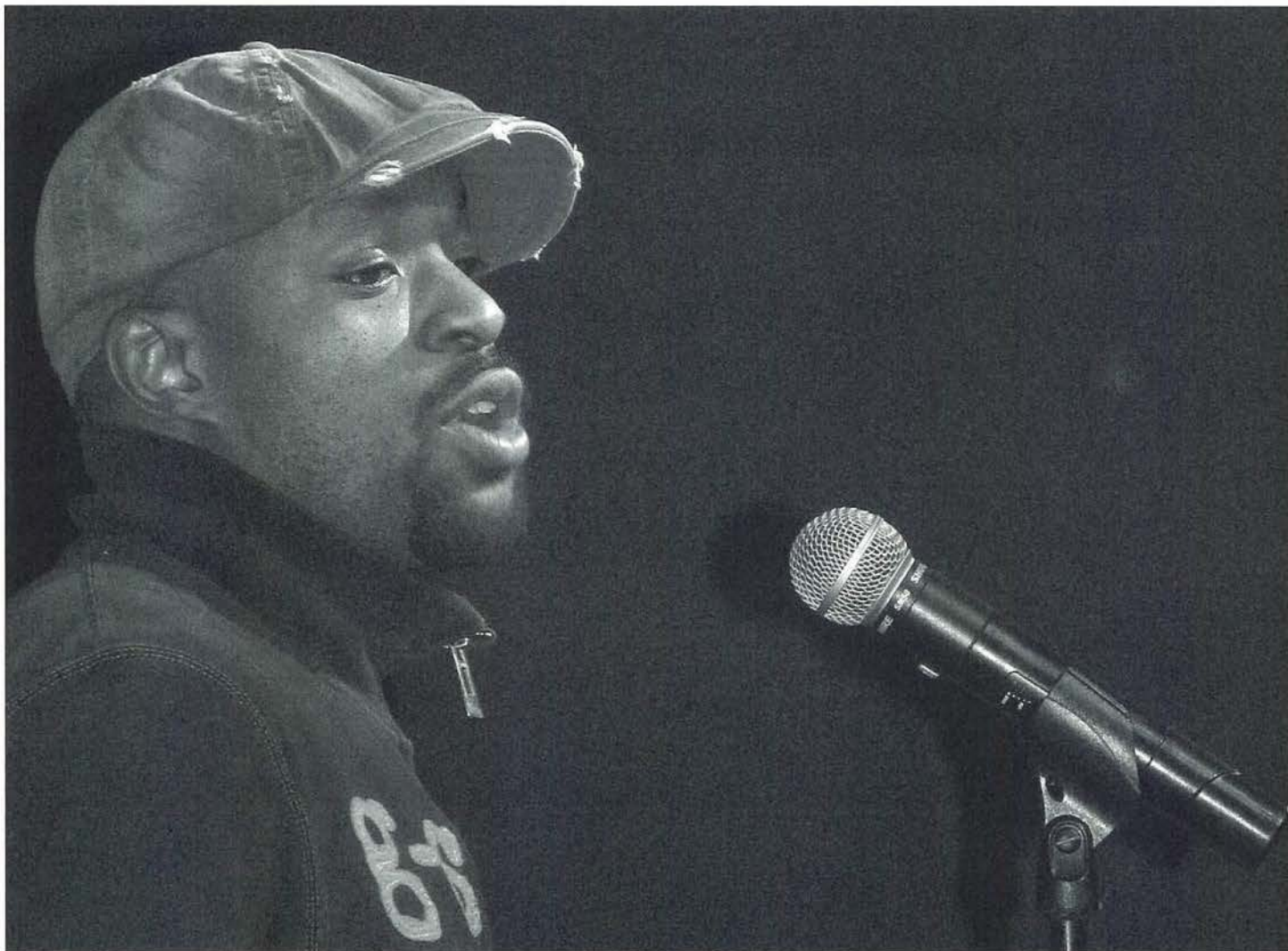
Awesome seemed to be a word heard throughout the reception that followed the program.

"It was awesome!" freshman math major Rachel Howe said. "I was a fan before this."

At the reception, Andrew W.K. signed posters and posed for photos with anyone who asked. Bennett Sauls, freshman graphic design major, summed Andrew W.K.'s message up at the end of the evening saying, "Party hard, very, very hard!"



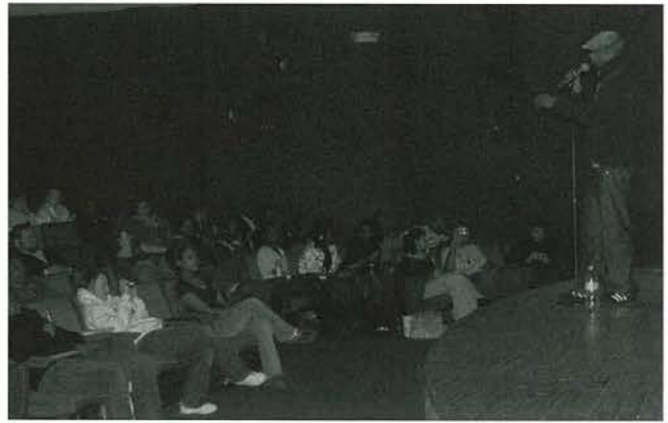
Word on the Street



Above: Black Ice comments on how he is a product of a society that went wrong. He was once signed to Def Jam Records. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Above: Black Ice, a hip-hop flow poetry artist, recites one of his poems that deal with the perception of African-Americans in the media. Co-sponsored by The Ebony Collegians, Tay Triggs hoped that his message pushed new knowledge to those who attended. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Above: While his poetry is controversial, his words mirror the truth of the society we live in. Some audience members who brought young children had to cut the evening short due to racial slurs and curse words. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

"I was the first spoken word artist signed to Def Jam Records. I was also the first spoken word artist to leave Def Jam Records." That's how hip-hop flow poetry artist Black Ice explained himself to the small Western audience.

Discovered by Russell Simmons in Philadelphia in 1993, Black Ice soon gained fame for his smooth style and flowing words that poured from his soul.

"I'm a very big lover of words," Black Ice said. "I'm a big fan of poetry. I love the structure of poetry. Basically, I know my s***."

He joked throughout the show, but his message was serious. The theme was "Contemporary Images of Black Males in the Media," and his poetry reflected the negativity that the media has created for African-Americans, as well as the negative connotation that some people set for themselves.

Tay Triggs, director of the Center for Multicultural Education, which co-sponsored the event with The Ebony Collegians, hoped that his performance pushed forward new knowledge and encouraged students to critique themselves as well as others around them.

"Unfortunately our media has been trained to only perpetuate one-dimensional images of African-Americans, when in reality, people within the culture vary completely," Triggs said. "[Media] are interested in sensationalism."

It didn't take long for him to establish his realism and his sense of self-worth among a world of sensationalism. After about 410 days from the time Simmons signed him to Def Jam, he found that being a celebrity wasn't the life he was willing to succumb to.

"If you wonder why so many artists get drugged up and go crazy, it's because the industry we live in

and have to work in feeds off that f***** up desire," Black Ice said. "So if they know you gave a great show and you were high as a kite on heroin, when you get back to your hotel room, they have heroin there for you because they want to keep that going."

His poetry flowed with racial slurs and curse words. The few children who attended had their nights cut short when their guardians decided the language wasn't the best for their small ears. But his words rang true, and the message was unforgettable.

Pamela Covarrubias, student intern for the CME, hoped that because of Black Ice's ability to present current African-American issues, he would use his talent to reach the audience.

"The purpose of the program is to show how one man's experience is expressed through the spoken word," Covarrubias said. "I hope the attendees learn and appreciate how people have the ability of expressing themselves through their talents."

Throughout his poems, little sentences and phrases seemed to dominate what Black Ice was saying, and even though he had moved on to other lines, they were still ringing in everyone's ears.

"I'm diverse. I vary like a kaleidoscope."

"If you're negative, you're positive. And if you're positive, you're considered a hater."

"F*** a record deal. God gives me what I'm worth."

But out of every line spoken, there was one sentence that truly summed up the entire night and what Black Ice was trying to say.

"Don't let any word hold you back, ever."

by Jennifer Kohler

Book to Big Screen

by Taylor Insko

Hollywood always had a struggle to maintain wealth and success with each big hit produced, but with fear of running out of creative juices it tended to find itself tapping into a profitable source – books. Because of this, movies have had positive and negative effects on literature and the role of reading.

English majors and faculty argued that although movies made it easy for someone to miss a great piece of literature, a good movie based on a book could get individuals curious about reading the book itself.

“I’m appreciative of media that gets more individuals interested in literature, especially when the translation is done well,” junior English major Ryan Bradley said. “Overall, they both strengthen each other; the movies act as a way to introduce individuals to a subject, and the books act as a way to expand on that.”

Although movies brought attention to some literature, the original message of the book was sometimes lost in an overdone production.

“Some directors try to add things to the movie that they interpreted from the text, which pretty much ruins the book,” Dustin Limback, senior English major, said.

William Church, instructor of English, said that whether Hollywood “ruined” a book could always be

argued.

“Some translation is essential from print to the screen,” Church said. “It’s akin to translating books from one language to another. Some words or phrases simply don’t translate.”

More children were wrapping themselves in a cozy blanket to watch a movie, instead of wrapping up in a good book.

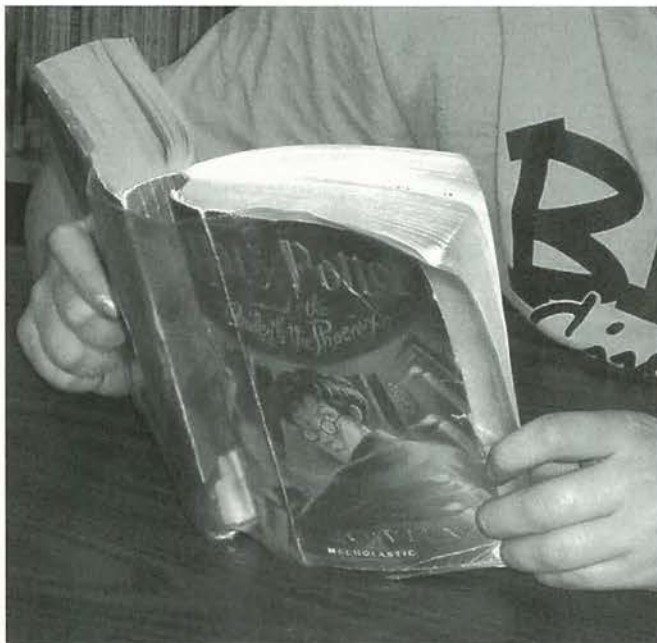
“Society is definitely becoming lazier about reading and it hurts our education as a whole,” Limback said. “A child that reads novels has a better reading comprehension and a larger vocabulary than a child who was raised watching movies.”

Children weren’t the only ones affected by this. College students had trouble finding the time to read for fun, aside from the occasional reading for class.

“Society doesn’t have time to read anymore,” senior English major Logan Garrels said. “We’re too busy with school, work, family, etc., to read.”

Even with all factors that effected readership, all hope was not lost. Book sales were still going well.

“In this age of text messaging and the Internet, many of us are less willing to spend the lengthy periods of isolation necessary to read books,” Church said. “But readers do buy and read books.”

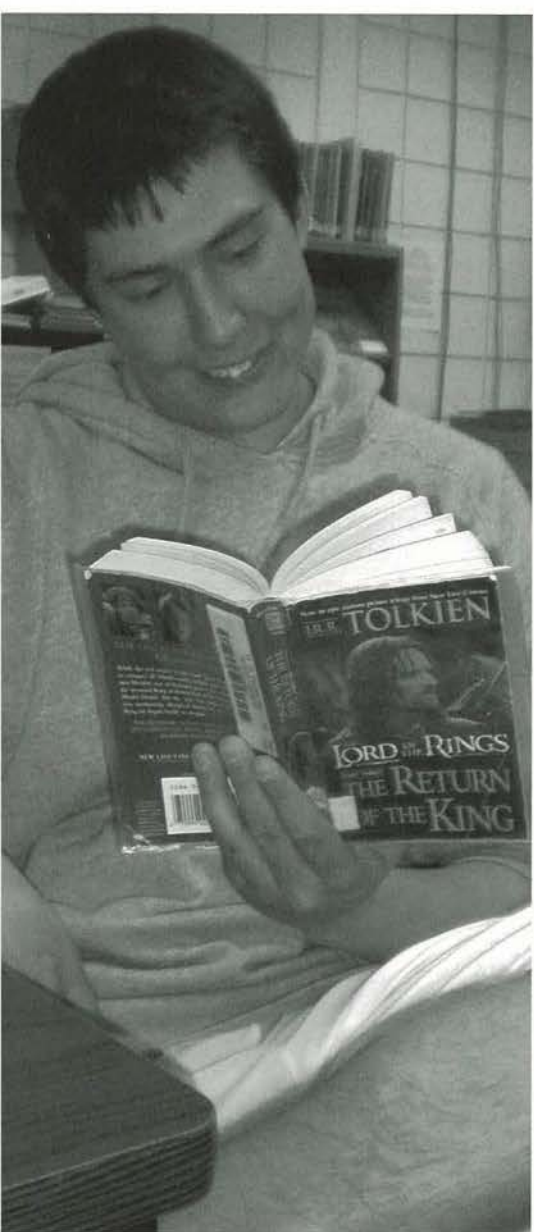


Top: Written in 1954, “Horton Hears A Who” is the second Dr. Seuss book to feature Horton the Elephant. “Horton Hears A Who” was released on March 14. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Right: The Lord of the Rings series, an epic high fantasy novel, attracts moviegoers and readers of all ages. Some students chose to read the book and see the movie. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Far Right Left: On average, movie tickets typically cost \$7 for students. With high movie prices, some families opted to wait until they hit DVD. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Left: J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, is richer than the Queen of England, selling over 50 million copies for each book. The Harry Potter movies, worldwide, have grossed over \$4.5 billion. *Photo by Crystal Scott*





Above: Corey Krenz, waits for a server to pick up an order for his or her table. Without the cooking staff, no one would be there to prepare the food. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



Above: David Jolly, a server visits with one of his tables during a slow dining hour. Excellent service was an important aspect when choosing where to dine. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

The community development of St. Joseph grew in the past year with the addition of new restaurants, which boosted the economy, as well as added many new jobs for those poor college students searching for a little income. The restaurants were great assets to the area, especially for those who wanted a little variety.

"As a consumer, I enjoy having several options to choose from when I decide to go out to eat with friends or my boyfriend," senior secondary education major Amy Chastain said.

Senior technical communications major Aryn Gilbertson said the new restaurants were a great addition to the St. Joseph economy.

"St. Joseph is growing; therefore, we need more jobs," Gilbertson said. "I also think it provides places for college-age people to hang out."

The old restaurants were still good and well-visited, but new tastes were desired. Students wanted more spice in their life.

"St. Joseph was ready for a new wave of restaurants to come in," senior criminal justice major Alie Koile said. "Red Lobster has been here for 25 years, and it's amazing that we are just now getting an Olive Garden, because [they] are owned by the same company."

Although most students enjoyed the varieties in food choice, some who worked at the older restaurants were a little concerned about what the new restaurants would do to their income.

"From a student's perspective who works as a server, I feel very differently," Chastain said. "54th Street Grill and Bar opened nearly three years ago. When we first opened, it was crazy. We were busy nonstop and the tips were great; however, now that St. Joseph has added more restaurants, I can see a difference in business and in tips."

Other servers weren't too worried about the change. Koile knew that with Red Lobster placed right off the interstate, business wouldn't suffer too much.

"Every time a new restaurant opens, we do tense up a little," Koile said. "We expect to slow down because of the hype in other restaurants. I always worry that we will die down and I will lose money, but we really do offer an alternative type of food that no other restaurant does."

Olive Garden, Le Peep, Waffle House, Cheddar's – all were new and flourishing, but nothing compared to a good ol' bowl of Gringo Dip from 54th Street Grill and Bar.

by Traci Haug and Jennifer Kohler

We Work Hard For The Money



Above: Heather Kietzman, a student who works as a server, sets up a tray of food for one of her four tables. Kietzman, a server at Whiskey Creek, has seen a decline in business due to new additions such as Olive Garden and Cheddars. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



Every Dollar Counts

by Traci Haug
and Jennifer Kohler

Taxes. No one likes paying them, but when spring rolls around everyone expects a tax rebate. Extra money was always on the minds of college students, and Missouri Western was no exception.

There were some students who expected to receive a tax rebate, while others were not so sure about getting one due to procrastination of course. With April 1 fast approaching, there were still students who had yet to file their taxes. Senior English major Warren Webb was one of those procrastinators, and hoped it didn't affect him too much.

"I actually haven't filed for taxes yet," Webb said. "I'm just hoping to avoid any penalties."

Spending money was a pretty easy thing for most college students, but some were pondering how to save it too. The idea of receiving a tax rebate made the thought flourish.

"If I receive a tax rebate, I would spend half of it on health supplements and save the rest," senior recreation management major Jerome Bailey said.

Others wanted to put the money they received toward a bill or two. After all, avoiding debt was a college student's main goal. Some students paid off dues for organizations, credit cards or just the electricity bill.

"If I do get a tax rebate, it's all going toward paying off my fraternity dues," Webb said.

Bridget Smith, senior physical education major, had the same thoughts in mind. Being in debt wasn't an option for her if she could avoid it.

"I would spend my tax rebate money on my bills," Smith said. "It's better than owing money."

Some students were a little skeptical about tax rebates. While most of them were happy about receiving the extra money, there were some that didn't really like the idea of having taxes taken out of their paychecks.

"I'd prefer to be taxed less in the first place, but I won't complain about receiving money," Webb said.

Tax rebates ranged on average from \$300 to \$600, and most students could expect to receive their rebates in May. However, some students who filed electronically were lucky enough to receive their rebates in as little as 10 days from the file date.

Students wanted to be able to say that they were getting paid a lot more than they really were.

"I wish I was getting more, but who doesn't?" Smith said. "I'm excited, because as a college student, every dollar counts."

Top: Amy Chastain, a server who works at 5+th Street Grill and Bar, waves her tax rebate in front of her new Macintosh desktop. She used the money she received - \$600 to be exact - to buy her very first Macintosh. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Left: Ashley Dunning, an AT&T employee, explains the Apple I-Phone and the package to one prospective consumer. Several students chose to spend their rebate money on new gadgets they didn't get from Santa Claus. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

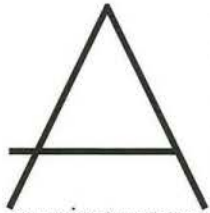
Far Left: Uncle Sam catches the attention of St. Joseph passer-bys to remind everyone to file taxes before April 1. Several students filed early in order to receive their refund. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Right: H&R Block is one of the leading tax preparation companies in the United States. It offered banking, personal finance and business consulting services. *Photo by Crystal Scott*



When Writers Write

by Anna Flin



own instructors.

An eager crowd gathered to listen to selected readings at the sixth annual "When Writing Teachers Write," hosted on Oct. 17. The event featured local middle school and high school writing teachers, as well as Western's

Jane Frick, director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project's site on campus, organized the event.

The project is for teachers only who must go through an invitational process, Frick said.

"If they're accepted, they can come in the summertime for an institute where we talk about writing and teaching writing," Frick said.

Tom Pankiewicz, one of the event's featured writers, spoke at the beginning of the evening.

"Each summer we bring together teachers from grade school, middle school, high school and college," Pankiewicz said. "We lock them in a room for a month. We tell them they have to write."

As Adjunct Professor of English Joe Marmaud said, the event provided an opportunity for students to witness the end results of the process Western's writing teachers endeavor to explain in class.

"I tell my students there will be people there who read better than I do: better pieces, or maybe not as good pieces," Marmaud said. "It's all the same process you're going through."

Marmaud, who has been teaching for 34 years, read one of his memoirs, in addition to a piece of his poetry entitled, "In a Brooklyn Deli Circa 1957."

Loriann Fish, an English major who attended the event, thought it was wonderful.

"I thought it was marvelous," Fish said. "There was a full range of genres represented: poetry, mystery, human interest and adventure."

Bill Church, an instructor of English, was also featured in the event.

An avid storyteller since childhood, Church completed his doctoral degree in creative writing from the University of Kansas, and chose to read an excerpt from his current novel, "The Just Enough Club," which was also his dissertation.

In Church's experience, teaching writing students was both humbling and inspiring.

"Every semester, I see any number of students who write better than I do," Church said. "They have energy and voice and wit and they're well read."

Marmaud still found teaching to be an inspiration.

"I still get a monumental charge out of the fact that you can actually make a difference with a student, even after the second or third draft," Marmaud said.

As Pankiewicz said toward the close of the event, "You're now into the secret of why English teachers stay in teaching."



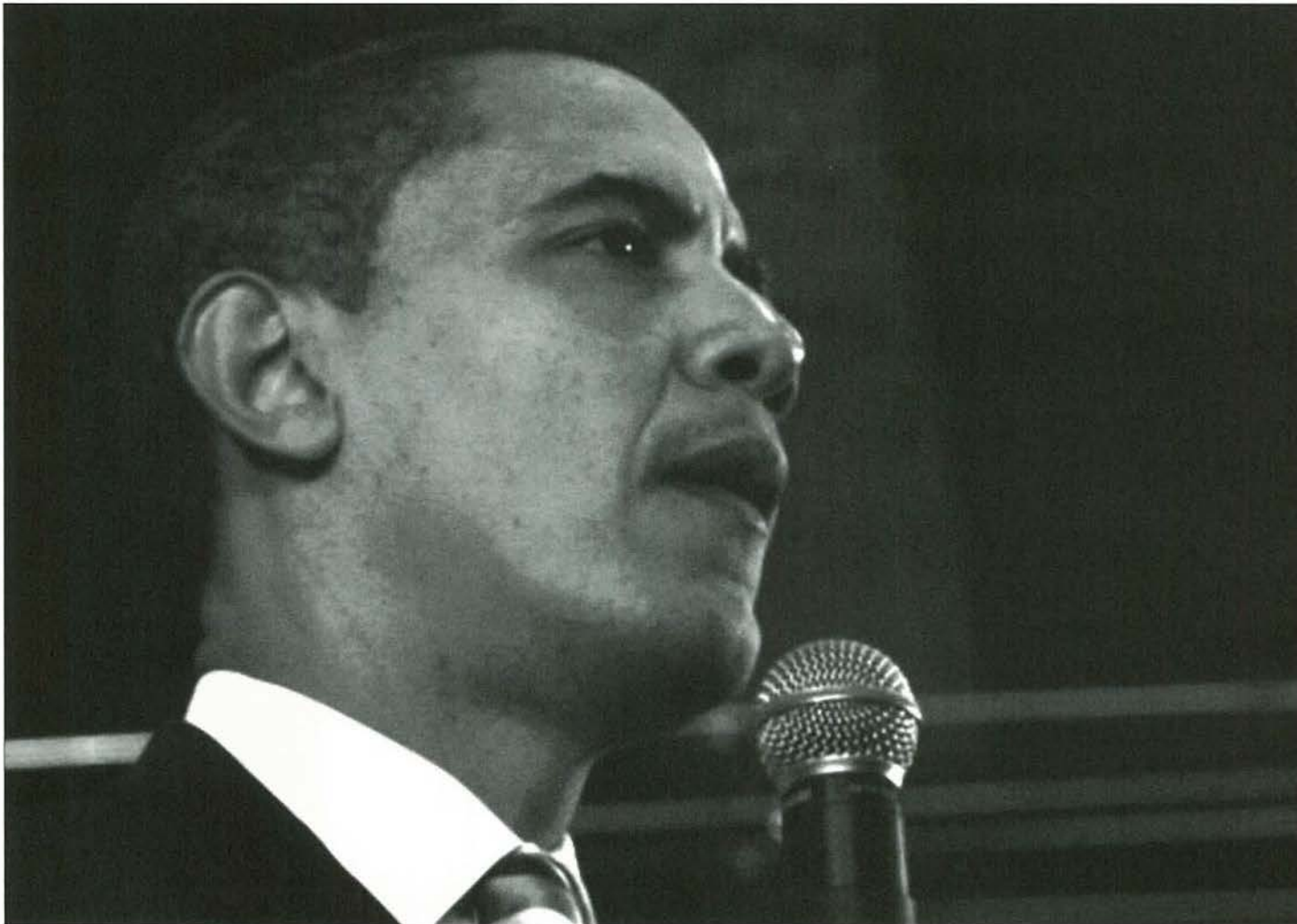
Left: A guest speaker speaks from the writing she has brought with her to entertain the audience. In short of the rain, there were several in attendance waiting to hear of poetry and prose. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Top: Audience members listen as Bill Church, an instructor of English, reads from his dissertation, "The Just Enough Club." His dissertation was also part of his current novel. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Bottom: Instructor of English Tom Pankiewicz explains the process of writing. To increase and improve the writing process, Missouri Western played host to High School Writing Day in the spring where nearby high school students attended sessions on how to write. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



The Race Is On



Above: While the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1971, a 2003 report showed that only 59 percent of individuals in their 20s have voted in at least one election. The 2008 election was certainly historic in the sense, since a woman and an African-American were vying for the presidency. *Submitted by Robbie Mitchell*



Above: Several MWSU students group together to attend a Barack Obama rally in Kansas City, Mo., at the Municipal Auditorium. Presidential candidates John McCain, Hillary Clinton and Obama persuaded younger voters to vote by participating in MySpace and You Tube forums. *Submitted by Robbie Mitchell*



Above: Along with audience members, Claire McCaskill's sister questions Obama. Several voters, young and old, attended rallies and debates to educate themselves on the presidential candidates. *Submitted by Robbie Mitchell*

Many students hoped for promising change the in November 2008 presidential election, and questioned those who chose not to vote.

The United States took pride in its voting system that allows all citizens to participate in choosing an individual to lead the country. It hadn't always been a given right for African-Americans and women to vote, but due to amendments added to the U.S. Constitution all have the right to vote.

When the voting age was lowered from 21 to 18 after the 26th Amendment passed in 1971, many young people felt it was their responsibility to change the future. So, what happened to young adults today?

"History has shown that we should be so lucky to vote and that we should be able to choose who we want to run our country; even today other countries do not have the right to vote," Charles Howell, a senior, said.

A report in 2003 showed the General Social Survey found that only 59 percent of individuals in their 20s had voted in at least one election. Young adults had come up with several reasons not to vote in the past.

"You know when the voting is, and it is all day long, so there is no excuse not to vote," Howell said.

Brandon Boswell, chairman of MWSU Republicans, thought it was a citizen's civic responsibility to vote.

"I feel that it is a slap in the face to those Ameri-

cans that gave their lives for the democracy that we all get to experience," Boswell said.

The primary elections showed a promising future with more young adults participating in political campaigning and voting.

"I think it's exciting to see that people are very hyped up over this election," Julie Summa, a non-traditional student, said. "There are more young people into it than I've ever seen before. I hope it's a trend that will continue."

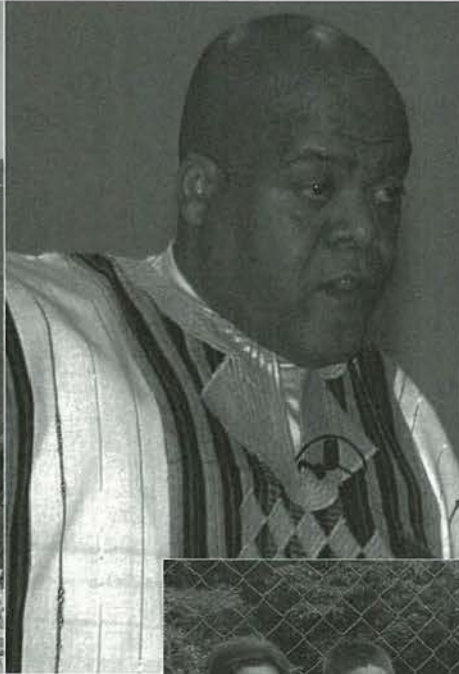
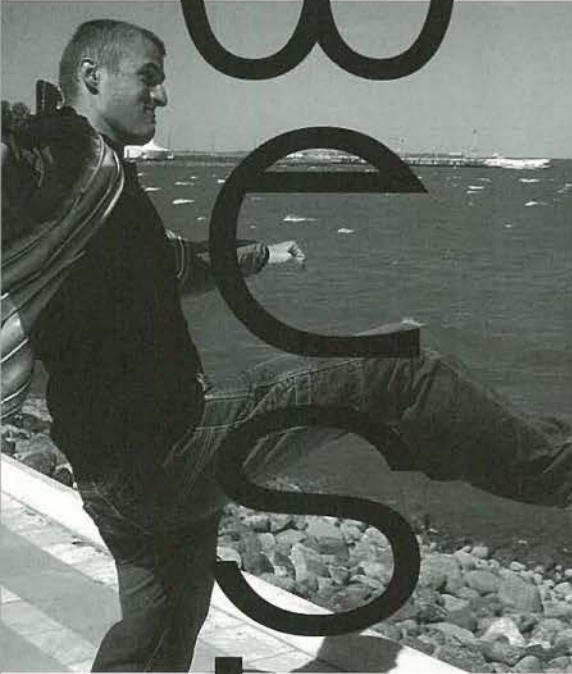
Not only was it important that young adults considered their right to vote, but they also should have considered their right to know. Many voters feared young adults didn't take their vote seriously and didn't educate themselves of the issues before voting.

"I only wish that young adults would educate themselves more before they go to the polls," Boswell said. "If someone isn't willing to educate themselves on today's political environment, then I'd rather they not participate in the political process."

Following the history of the voting process, it was certain that the 2008 election was historic. Hillary Clinton was the first female, and Barack Obama was the first African-American who were vying for the presidency. Although many Western students disagreed on a candidate, one answer seemed united – change is needed for our future.

by Taylor Insko

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COLLEGIATE

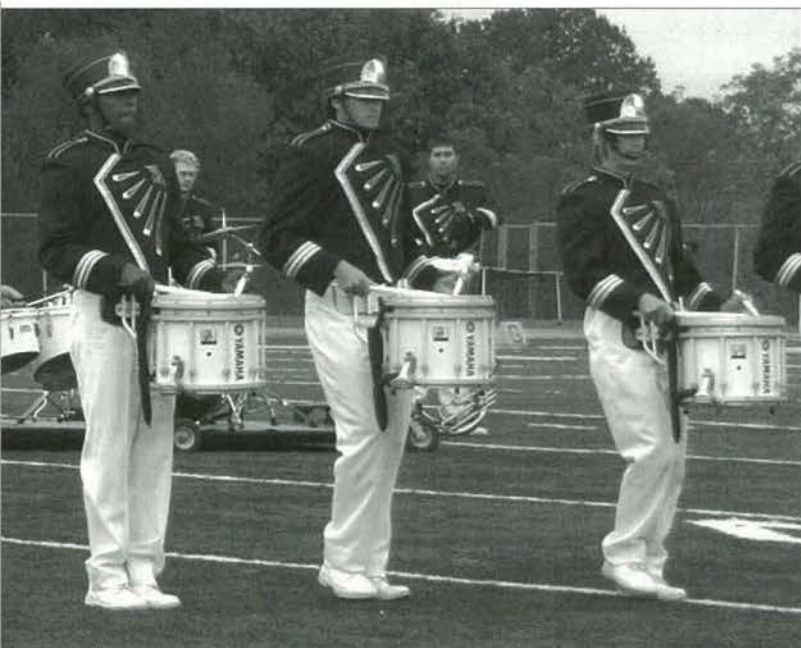


“ Leaders must have inner strength to persist and conquer,” ABC News Anchor Sam Donaldson said.

– “46 Years of Legacy”

Far Right: A saxophone player plays a solo during halftime. Only a few members performed solos. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Right: A trombone player marches to the beat of his own instrument. The marching band performed at the Tournament of Champions. *Photo by Kaily Alexander*



Above: The drum line plays a crowd favorite. Many of the performances included oldies. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Right: Two trumpet players play a duet. The marching band improved with each performance. *Photo by Matt Fowler*





An Outstanding PERFORMANCE

by Traci Haug

"**F**ight on Griffons and you'll win the game, Victory Missouri Western State!" filled the stadium as the band blared the tune after another touchdown. The band went silent until the team scored the extra point. "Go Black! Go Gold! Out front all the way. Go Black! Go Gold! Win for good ol' Western today!" finished while the crowd cheered for victory.

The band was always present when it came to football games and the marching band season.

"The band sounds amazing every time we score," Samy Northcutt, a sophomore, said. "The band was not only heard when we score, but halftime was an important part for the band as well. They exemplified their hard work and formations throughout the halftime show."

With five minutes left in the second quarter of the game, members of the Golden Griffon Marching Band could be seen lining up for the halftime show. They played a variety of music including solos and performed with the Mystics dance team. They improved throughout the season with every show they performed.

"I was really impressed with how much of a change they made from their first show to their last show," Northcutt said. "The solos got louder and it turned out to be really good."

The band members couldn't have asked for better weather throughout the season.

"This band season was very good," Kayla Wymore, a junior, said. "The weather has been nice this year, and shows have been simple and fun."

Band members seemed happy altogether about the band season. "Band was great this year," Dane Arnold, a senior, said. "The music for our halftime show was really good. Our numbers were down this year, but the balance of the band was excellent."

There were many accomplishments for the band, including the Tournament of Champions. "The best part of the season was Homecoming, even though it started late," Wymore said. "I also loved the Tournament of Champions; it was our biggest show this year."

Tournament of Champions included many high school bands that participated.

"Our annual Tournament of Champions was the best part of the band season," Arnold said. "It is great to see all of the high school students involved with music."

Along with the competitions came the parades, which were also an important part of the band season. The band always performed at the South Side Parade.

"I like the parades, but the worst part of the South Side Parade was that we had to perform at a game the same day," Wymore said.

Game performances and marching in parades came to an end, but the band season was not complete. "We still have concert band to look forward to," Northcutt said.

Journey to HONDURAS Changes Lives

BY ANNA FLIN

Eleven nursing students traveled to Honduras in July 2007, where they served nearly 2,000 patients in need of medical care. Julie Baldwin, assistant professor of nursing and one of the instructors who traveled with the students, was instrumental in planning the trip as she kept in touch with Pro Papa, the organization with which the group traveled.

"I have a passion for learning about other cultures," Baldwin said. "My other passion is being a part of educating our future nurses. This study away program was a wonderful way to combine these two passions."

While working in Honduras, the students were given the opportunity to assist other health care professionals in different clinical stations. This provided them with valuable experience in new areas.

Jessica Hunziger, a senior from Forest City, Mo., said it was wonderful to have the doctor, dentist and pharmacist with the group. "We, nursing students, had never been around much dental work," Hunziger said. "On this trip, we got to hold the flashlights for the dentists and see it up close."

The experience presented unique challenges to students. "The biggest problem I had was wanting to bring the little kids home," Hunziger said. She also said that the language barrier was a frustration.

"My greatest challenge was the fact that I couldn't call home whenever I wanted," Carey Beckwith, a senior from Cameron, Mo., said. "I had to sleep on a hard floor and the toilets were constantly clogged. You have your friends there, but nothing makes you feel better than your family."

Seeing the lifestyles of the patients in Honduras impressed the students with how greatly Honduran culture differs from that of the U.S. Seeing how the people lived made the students grateful for all they had.

"It is amazing what all we take for granted, the running water 24-7, not bathing with roosters..." Hunziger said.

The patients, however, refused to complain about the conditions. "They would walk for hours, wait in line for hours and then be so thankful for what we had done for them," Beckwith said.

After 12 days of hands-on experience, the students returned to MWSU bringing with them all they had learned in Honduras.

"The advantage would be that it has made me more culturally competent," Shila Callaway, a senior from Bethany, Mo., said.

Students and professors arrived back in the United States, grateful for the luxuries they had learned to appreciate.

"I personally feel the memories of this trip will be something I will hold very near to my heart my entire life," Baldwin said. "The nursing students were just amazing! They exceeded all expectations I had for this trip. They were wonderful ambassadors for MWSU."





Far Left: Patients stand in line for hours, waiting for treatment. Patients visited with a dentist, a doctor and a pharmacist. *Submitted by the Nursing department*

Left: The United States and Honduras culture differ greatly. Unlike U.S. citizens, the Hondurans took each day in stride and appreciated what life gave them. *Submitted by the Nursing department*



Above: Heather Stevenson, a nursing student, checks one patient's blood pressure. MWSU affiliates worked long hours. *Submitted by the Nursing department.*



Left: Among patients, children frequent the MWSU services often. In Honduras, MWSU affiliates served nearly 2,000 patients. *Submitted by the Nursing department.*

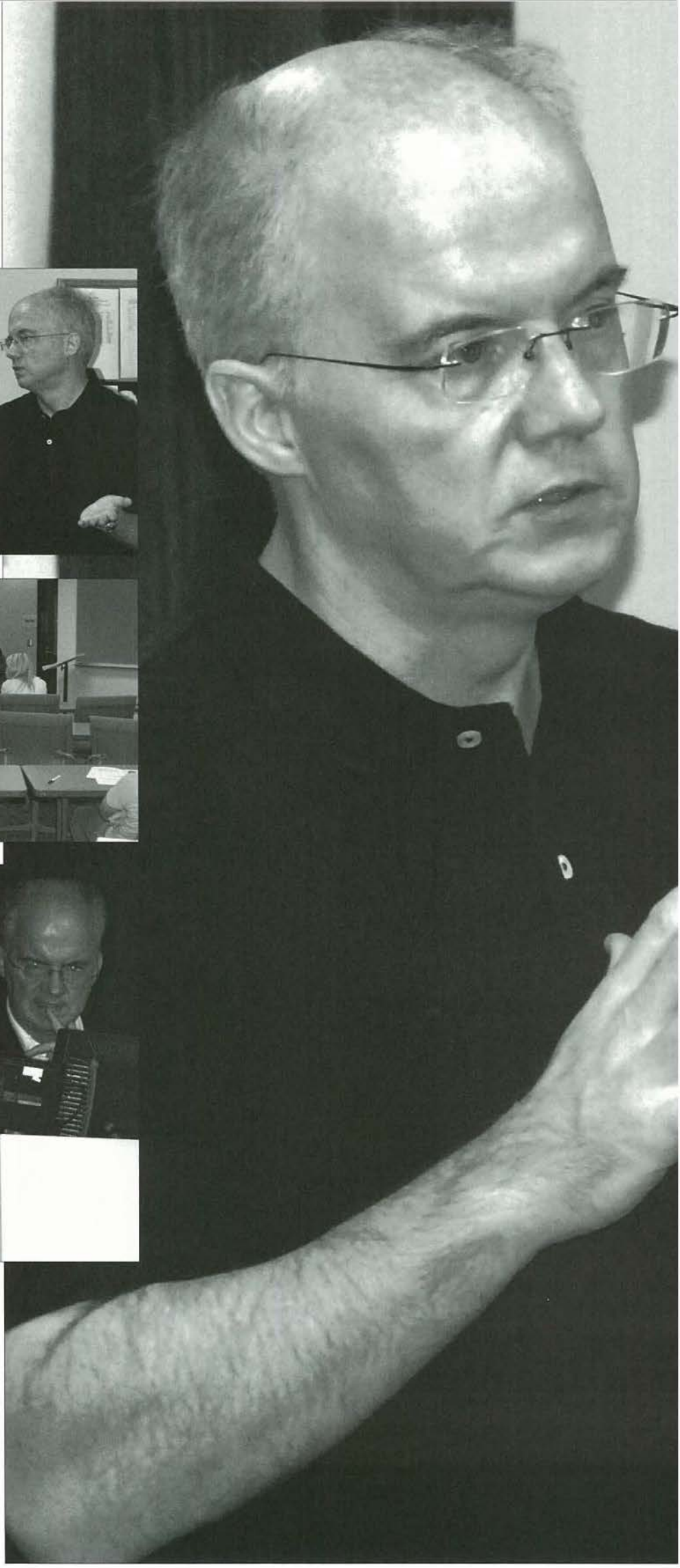
Right: Deldique explains that the U.N. is not an enemy of the United States. He was invited to speak to Ann Thorne's mass media class. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Below: Deldique answers students' questions, following the lecture. He allowed enough time for questions from the audience. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Middle: Students in Thorne's class listen as Deldique speaks. He spoke little English, so a French translator was needed. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Above: Susan Hennessy, associate professor of French, and Deldique try to locate some information to share with students. He shared several websites with students, which were associated with his lecture. *Photo by Steven Pauley*





Should We Abolish THE U.N.?

by Anna Elm

Author and international reporter Pierre-Edouard Deldique presented a lecture entitled, "Should We Abolish the U.N." on Sept. 17.

Deldique, who was contacted through the Federation of Alliance Francaise by Susan Hennessy, associate professor of French at Missouri Western, discussed the current state of the United Nations and the relationship between the United States and the U.N.

"The U.N. is obviously not America's enemy," Deldique said. "It is interesting to ask if America is the enemy of the U.N. Institutions of global order are an American idea. Roosevelt was involved in the U.N. from the beginning."

Deldique's lecture stated when American politicians were critical of the U.N., they actually found fault with Roosevelt's ideas.

Deldique discussed the U.N. with regard to the war, stating that the U.N. supported the United States during the most intense moments of the crisis with Iraq. The U.N. gave permission to the United States and 13 other countries to declare a war on the terrorist movement, even though most of the countries in the U.N. were originally against the war.

Student responses to Deldique's lecture varied from positive to skeptical.

Rachel Burton, a senior from Amazonia, Mo., said that she agreed with Deldique's opinion that the U.N. was not a threat to the United States, because it was founded upon American ideas and thoughts.

"They don't want to step on our toes," Burton said. "But they are trying to do their job, a job that we initially set up."

Kimberley Morton, a senior from Independence, Mo., said that she felt the conflict Deldique described between the U.N. and the United States was largely due to the administration of George Bush.

"I feel that our current president doesn't understand what the U.N. does, and he rejects their help and does what he wants to," Morton said. "I appreciated how Deldique explained how George Bush, Sr. was a friend and supporter of the U.N., while his son has managed to alienate them almost completely."

Ryan Richardson, a senior from Saint Joseph, Mo., who heard Deldique's opinion in an earlier class lecture, said the U.N. was an excellent idea, which was poorly executed.

"The U.N. was a meeting place for the minds of the world to get together so that huge, world-involving wars were prevented," Richardson said. "However, I believe nearly everything else is being glossed over."

Hennessy felt that her personal knowledge of the U.N. grew considerably due to the information Deldique shared.

"The U.N. is a really complex organization," Hennessy said. "It is probably impossible for it to function effectively all the time."

One of Deldique's closing remarks accurately highlighted the whole of his lecture. Addressing the United States in general, Deldique said, "You need the U.N. to help manage a world in which you are the dominant power."

Below: Sam Donaldson, an ABC news anchor, recites quotes from several U.S. leaders such as U.S. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jimmy Carter. His extensive knowledge of the United States and its military history impressed the audience. *Photo by Steven Pauley*





Left: The Convocation on Critical Issues is free and open to the St. Joseph community. Donaldson was the fourteenth speaker preceding others such as J.C. Watts, a former U.S. congressman, and David Gergen, a former adviser to the presidents. Photo by Linda Shireman

Below: The Convocation on Critical Issues is just one installment for Donaldson. He also spoke at a dinner held in the Marie and Lyman Fulkerson Center the night before the convocation. Photo by Victoria Williams



46 Years of Legacy

by Addison Ford

The Looney Complex was abuzz on Oct. 22, as the fourteenth annual Convocation on Critical Issues was about to begin. The speaker was a veteran ABC news anchor, Sam Donaldson, who worked in and around Washington D.C. for 46 years.

His topic of discussion was leadership, and explained that the main thing a leader must keep in mind was flexibility. Another main point of his speech was that leaders need not possess bravado or an extreme physical strength, but rather, just know what they want to do. Leaders should pay close attention to what the people around them want, and make it clear that they strive for the same things. He also stressed, "people know leaders when they see them."

Donaldson explained how important it was for leaders to think "outside the box," and to convince people that what they want was what you, as a leader, want.

According to Donaldson, "leaders must have the inner strength to persist and conquer," and have a toughness of spirit in order to meet their goals. They must also not be afraid to improvise when necessary.

Although the main highlight of Donaldson's visit to Western was the convocation, a dinner in the Marie and Lyman Fulkerson Center was held the evening

before. The dinner, which was attended by students in leadership roles, as well as community members, faculty, staff and administration, made for a more intimate time with Donaldson. Those in attendance were able to ask questions of Donaldson.

"It was fascinating to see a man I watched on ABC for years as a child in person," Brittany Donovan, a freshman, said.

A breakfast with many of Western's student leaders was also held the morning of the convocation. Afterward there was an opportunity for local media, including reporters from the *Griffon News* and the *Griffon Yearbook*, to have a chance to speak one on one with Donaldson.

Donaldson also included examples of past leaders who were both flexible, such as Dwight Eisenhower, and those that were inflexible, such as James MacArthur. Donaldson's extensive knowledge of both the United States and military history, as evident in his numerous and flawlessly recited quotes from many of our nation's leaders, such as U.S. Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jimmy Carter and General Colin Powell, was impressive.

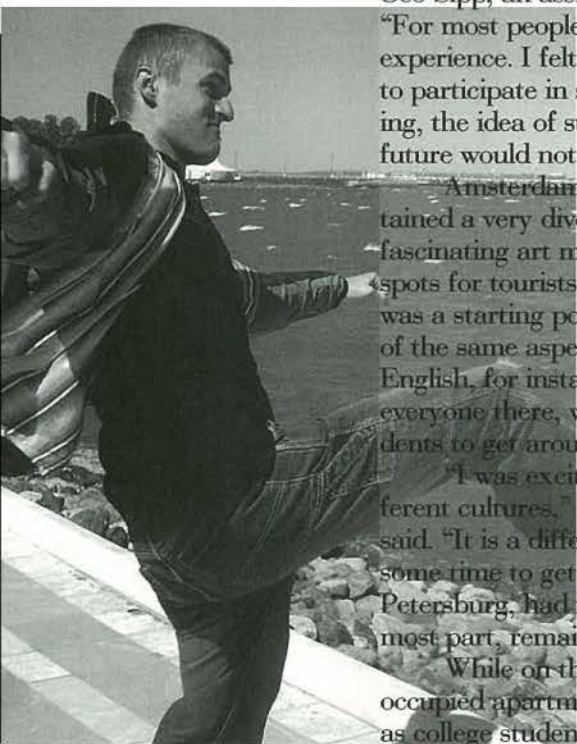
"I think Donaldson's speech was very interesting, and the topic was very relevant to Western," Melissa Waisner, a sophomore, said. "It was a great convocation."

Experience Beyond WESTERN

by Amy Chastain



Brian Jacobs stands, staring out at the Gulf of Finland. The 22 participants visited Tsarkoye Selo and one of Peter the Great's grand palaces. Submitted by Brian Jacobs



As students were leaving home from college following the completion of the spring semester, 22 Western students, faculty and community members got their stuff together to spend 20 days in Amsterdam and St. Petersburg. Some of the sights included the Van Gogh Museum, the Marinsky theatre and the Church on Spilled Blood, where Alexander the II was assassinated.

"St. Petersburg is an exotic destination, far away and not particularly easy to get to," Geo Sipp, an assistant professor of art, said. "For most people, it is a once in a lifetime experience. I felt if we could get students to participate in such a complex undertaking, the idea of study away programs in the future would not be so daunting."

Amsterdam, on the other hand, contained a very diverse culture and housed fascinating art museums, which were hot-spots for tourists. For this trip, Amsterdam was a starting point because it shared many of the same aspects of the American culture. English, for instance, was spoken by almost everyone there, which made it easier for students to get around.

"I was excited about learning about different cultures," Kraig Keesaman, a student, said. "It is a different culture, one that took some time to get used to. Holland, unlike St. Petersburg, had its differences, but for the most part, remained very familiar."

While on the trip, the 22 participants occupied apartments and lived similar lives as college students. "Students had to shop

for food and supplies in grocery stores," Sipp said. "Virtually no one in Russia speaks English, and the alphabet is in Cyrillic, so one had to be familiar with that to negotiate the experience of shopping and traveling."

Students also had the privilege to venture out on their own. "I liked the free roam environment that Geo allowed us to do," Brian Jacobs, an alumni, said. "We went as a group to Peterhof, one of Peter the Great's grand palaces. The fountains here were beautiful and the gardens were amazing. Peterhof is located on the Gulf of Finland, which we threw rocks into. On another group trip, we went to Tsarkoye Selo, a gift to Catherine Alexeyevna from Peter the Great."

Sipp had the opportunity to visit St. Petersburg a second time. "I was last in St. Petersburg in 1998; what surprised me was how much more affluent the city and many of its citizens were compared to my last visit," Sipp said. "And yet, while the city is being improved and modernized, it still is in sad disrepair in many areas."

The trip to Amsterdam and St. Petersburg was a great opportunity for students to view historic sites and to also, assess a new culture, unlike the American culture. "While the language is different, English is spoken by many, and the roots of words are familiar to our ears," Sipp said. "We were familiar with destinations through films and travel shows prior to our arriving. The art, we know; it is iconic. So when traveling to a place so far away, and so different from our own personal experience, we are forced to reckon with and involve ourselves in that lifestyle. That is an opportunity."



Above: Grand palaces, fountains and gardens are a main attraction of St. Petersburg. While there was a number of main attractions, the city was in disrepair. Submitted by Brian Jacobs

Left: Almost no one in Russia speaks English, which did not put the participants at ease. The 22 participants lived as college students during their stay, forcing them to become familiar with the language. Submitted by Brian Jacobs

Below: President James Scanlon shakes hands with Wes and Patsy Remington. The Remingtons donated \$5 million to MWSU.
Photo by Marty Ayers





Left: The Remingtons patiently wait as President Scanlon announces the exciting news. The \$5 million gift implemented a new campaign. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

Below: The gift will increase the funds to expand Evan R. Agenstein Hall. The new added space will be called Remington Hall. *Photo by Marty Ayers*



The Mission OF MWVSU

by Traci Haug

Wes and Patsy Remington of St. Joseph, Mo., gave Missouri Western a generous gift during the fall semester. The \$5 million gift will help increase the \$30.1 million, Western received from the state for the upcoming renovations and expansion of the math and science facilities in Evan R. Agenstein Hall.

"The Remingtons are committed to the growth of the region and see Missouri Western as a key to that growth," Dan Nicoson, the vice president of University Advancement, said. "They believe strongly in the mission of Western and in the university's role in developing the workforce necessary for attracting high-quality jobs to the area, especially in the life sciences sector that Wes Remington helped build."

Wes, a successful entrepreneur, helped locate and grow several animal health companies that currently employ hundreds of people in the region. Patsy graduated with a degree in social work from Western.

"We think with the additional money given, there is a lot of future heading into the sciences," Wes said. "We wanted to be able to enhance the area to allow higher education to increase within chemistry and the different areas. We want to see St. Joseph grow, as well as increase its future with higher education."

The new renovations included a large addition.

"The project will add 60,000 square feet of additional instructional facilities and renovate the existing space," Nicoson said. "The existing facility will

continue to be called Agenstein Hall; the new space will be called Remington Hall, an honor approved by the Board of Governors, Oct. 25."

The renaming of the new part of Agenstein Hall was appreciated on behalf of the Remingtons.

"We are grateful that we were offered that," Wes said. "It is a nice compliment."

The additional gift will give many students several benefits.

"Students majoring in math and science will have state-of-the-art facilities for classes and faculty-student research, but they are not the only ones to benefit," Nicoson said. "Every Western student takes at least one math or science course, so all will benefit from the new facilities that will be enhanced by the gift."

Students were grateful for the gift and the opportunities it will create.

"I believe the \$5 million gift is very generous," Brandi Bedell, a freshman, said. "I'm positive it will come in great use for the university."

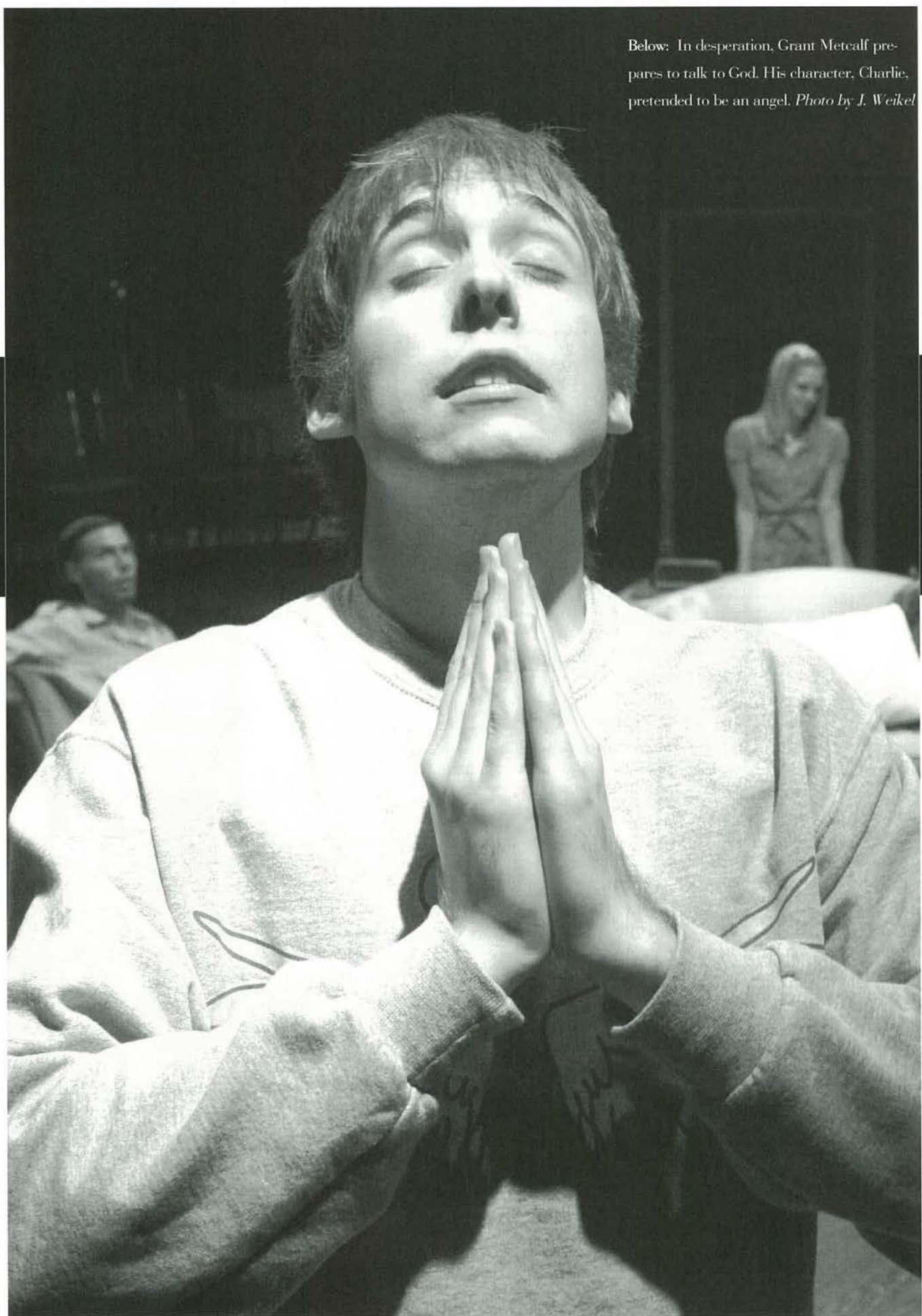
The gift will also help implement a new capital campaign that was entitled "Beyond Excellence."

"The initiative is still in the planning stages, but could include funds for scholarships, library acquisitions, the arts and athletics," Nicoson said.

It was clear that this gift will help students and the region for many years to come.

"We appreciate the generosity of the Remingtons," Nicoson said.

Below: In desperation, Grant Metcalf prepares to talk to God. His character, Charlie, pretended to be an angel. *Photo by J. Weikel*





Left: Ashtin Hart sneaks a peak at her co-star as he changes his clothes. She did not get to see the full monty through her peripheral vision. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Below: Jesse Boley and Hart share a passionate kiss onstage. The two became very friendly with one another onstage during the course of the play. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*



Angel on My Shoulder

by Anna Elm

Few seats remained empty when the lights came up on the opening night of “Angel on My Shoulder,” a heart-warming performance directed by Candice Schrader, a senior, and assistant directed by Jennifer George, also a senior.

Seating was placed on stage, providing the audience with an intimate understanding of the drama, which starred freshman Ashtin Hart as the charming heroine; sophomore Grant Metcalf as the unusually earthly angel; and senior Jesse Boley as the not-so-villainous scoundrel.

Hart, Metcalf and Boley brought the story to life in the simplest way possible.

Propelling the plot completely among the three of them, they acted on only a small section of the stage with simple furniture and only a few props, often speaking within inches of the audience while describing events occurring in the distance.

According to Schrader, the setup was partly used to reinforce central themes in the play.

“One of my main reasons for wanting to put this play in the round was how it mirrored one of the underlying themes of the play, that God is everywhere and that someone is always watching,” Schrader said. “The actors were always on stage, and they did not have anywhere to hide from the eyes of the audience.”

The setup impressed audience member Ryan

Bradley, who felt that the closeness of the audience to the actors made the entire experience much more personal.

“I really liked the way they set it up,” Bradley said. “I thought that surrounding the audience around the little stage made it feel a lot more intimate and you got to see a lot more of the actors developing their characters.”

This ability to see character development brought praise for Metcalf and Boley.

“Charlie’s performance was really, really good,” Bradley said, referring to Metcalf’s character. “He has a lot of talent. At times when even the jokes didn’t go too well, he still carried the play. Jesse was really funny, too.”

Hart was able to relate to her character, Donna, throughout the experience.

“I personally think that on the outside people just see some vulnerable, gullible girl who doesn’t have a clue what she wants,” Hart said. “If you pay attention to her, she is a very deep, caring, loving person.”

The search for love and happiness was a primary theme in “Angel on My Shoulder.” Schrader summed up this element of the drama.

“I think that we all as humans are always trying to find that one person or thing that makes us truly happy, our destiny,” Schrader said. “We are always looking for our own little piece of heaven on earth, whatever that heaven may be. It is just something that everyone can relate to.”



Left: Boley has only acted in one other play before "All in The Timing." He along with the crew spent nearly four weeks rehearsing for 14 one-act plays. *Photo by Daisy Buntin*

Below: An actor pauses a moment, contemplating his lines during rehearsal. "All in The Timing" was student-directed. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*



All in The Timing

by Addison Ford

Potter Hall's Black Box Theater saw three consecutive nights of different plays when "All in The Timing" ran Nov. 8, 9 and 10.

Written by David Ives, "All in The Timing," was originally a book of six one-act plays, dating from 1987 to 1993. The current collection contains 14 one-act plays that are comedic and short, with frequent word play. Due to its wit and brevity, "All in The Timing" was a frequent production at college campuses, and Western was no different.

Each night consisted of six one-act plays. Fifteen student directors and 24 student actors helped produce the show, which was very successful. Some of the acts included "English Made Simple," "Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread," "Mere Mortals," "The Philadelphia," "Variations of the Death of Trotsky," "Universal Language," "A Singular Kind of Guy," "Words, Words, Words" and "Sure Thing."

Music major Jesse Boley, who starred in "Sure Thing," had only acted in one play before "All in the Timing."

"It was a total crash-course in acting, which was fine because I had great direction," Boley said.

"Sure Thing" is about a guy and girl who meet in a coffee shop, and each time that they mess up what

they say, a bell rings and they start over again.

Boley was amazed with the talent of his co-star Tara Duckworth.

"She was almost intimidating to work with because she was so good," Boley said.

Duckworth, a political science major, was inspired by the relationship between the characters in the play.

"I love this play," Duckworth said. "Some people would say [the character's] relationship is fake because they change what they say, but I think what they share is genuine, and it takes time to reach that."

Duckworth also starred in "Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread."

Jeremy Warner, assistant professor of theatre and video, chose to run "All in The Timing," because he thought that it was really funny and interesting. Each segment, which Warner also enjoyed, included only one act. Published first in 1994, he enjoyed the book and chose it for Western to perform. The crew spent four weeks rehearsing for the three-night run, although each night was entirely new.

Jeremy Weikel, who directed one of the plays, was pleased with how the play turned out.

"Overall, we were really successful," Weikel said. "Everybody pulled together and did their part."

Below: Tara Duckworth stars in "Sure Thing" with Jesse Boley. Duckworth felt that what the two characters in the play shared was genuine. *Photo by Daisy Buntin*





Left: Amber Redmond and Katherine Mick play women who break down after evaluating their future. All three characters, including Molly Smith, spent time trying to connect with their characters and with this, found similarities to relate to one another.

Photo by Jeremy Weikel

Above: Smith, Mick and Redmond play three small-town women who grew up and out of each other's lives. Based in the '60s and '70s, "Vaniities" was directed by Don Lillie, assistant professor of theatre and video. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*



Similar SITUATIONS

by Taylor Insko

Alpha Psi Omega, the theatre honor society, presented "Vanities" by Jack Heifner in the Black Box Theatre with performances running Feb. 28 through March 1. The play, which was based in the 1960s and 1970s, featured three small-town girls that grew up and out of each other's lives.

In high school the three best friends share everything with each other, including their interest in cheerleading. Several years later, in their shared sorority house, they realize it's time to go on with their future plans, although they hope to keep in touch. After many years pass they reunite in New York, only to find that their similarities have run out and life isn't quite what they planned.

Three Western students played the roles of Kathy, Mary and Joanne - Amber Redmond, Molly Smith and Katherine Mick, respectively. Don Lillie, assistant professor of theatre and video, directed the show.

With only about three and a half weeks to prepare for the play, the actresses worked hard on memorizing lines and blocking.

"I went to every rehearsal; we did line bashing, blocked the play and rehearsed it," Smith said. "I read the play everyday in my own time."

The actresses spent time trying to connect to the characters and found similarities between themselves and the roles. They used the things they had in common to build to

the emotional aspect of the characters to create a better performance.

"I was a cheerleader in high school so we share that," Redmond said. "And I know what it's like to look back on your life and feel as if you never really stood for anything."

"The part came easy," Smith said. "I'm more sarcastic in my everyday life when I'm around my friends so the part didn't feel weird playing at all."

Although it may have seemed easy for some to play the roles, the hard work put into the performance shined through. With rehearsals beginning at the end of January, the actresses found themselves pressed for time. The short time also made it difficult to advertise the show, but the St. Joseph community, students and alumni were able to attend, and those that did gave good feedback.

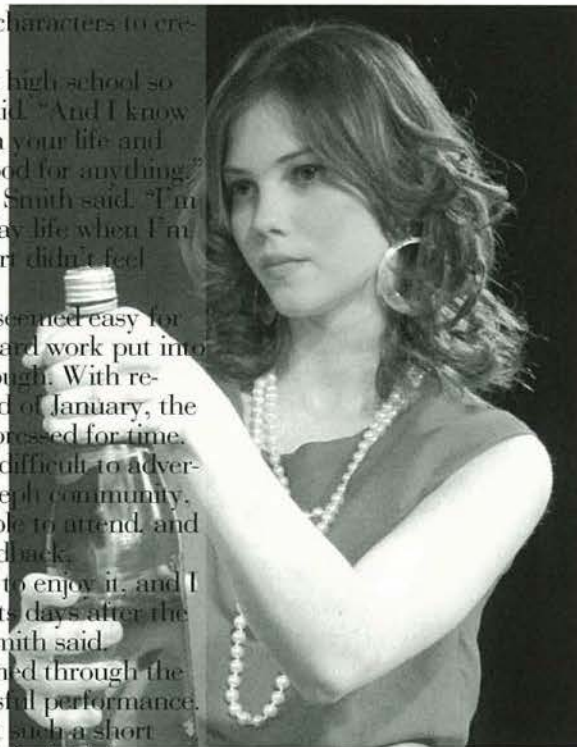
"The audience seemed to enjoy it, and I was even getting compliments days after the play on how good it was," Smith said.

Everyone involved pushed through the doubts, and put on a successful performance.

"It all came together in such a short time. There were times I didn't think it would, but luckily it did," Redmond said.

"The turnout could have been better, but we appreciated those who did show."

Senior Jeremy Weikel, designer of the set, was pleased with the show despite pressure. "It was a long and hard process, but I'm glad it came out well," Weikel said.



Above: Smith relates with her character because she is sarcastic in her everyday life. Throughout the production, the three characters reunite in New York, and realize life wasn't quite what they had planned. Photo by Jeremy Weikel

Blind ISSUE

by Amy Marks

Western alumna and author Jennifer Lynn revealed a very private secret to a crowd of 35 people in the Fulkerson Center at Eggs and Issues Feb. 28. Lynn, author of "Deadly Secret: Purging Inner Demons," shared with others how her once reoccurring eating disorder turned into a chance to offer awareness for others.

Diane Holtz, alumni services coordinator, said University Advancement brought Lynn to Western because of the interesting topic.

"It has never been brought up before," Holtz said. "There were a lot of surprising facts, and she gave a great presentation."

Evelyn Brooks, professor of nursing, brought most of the students who attended the event. "The statistics that there were more eating disorders diagnosed than Alzheimer patients was talked about most when reviewing reports," Brooks said. This was the statistic that astonished most guests and was talked about to a great extent during the entire event.

Lynn provided pamphlets at each table for others to follow along, while the bookstore promoted her book at the event. Lynn said there were many students who wrote to her about others they knew who were struggling

with eating disorders. An unnamed individual shared her personal struggles with food.

"You are surrounded by food," the individual said. "Everyone has to eat and when you struggle with food, eating too much - not enough, just trying to have the 'perfect body' is difficult. I always wonder if people know how my greatest enmity is food."

Photographers and students surrounded Lynn after she spoke asking questions and interviewing her about the book. One student, concerned about a close friend, asked what the signs were.

"How do you even notice?" Amanda Hake asked. "A lot of people wonder why if it just because we are blind to it, or is it because there is not enough awareness?"

Lynn responded with, "It is really easy to hide. You lie to no end to cover it so you don't have to eat with anorexia. Bulimics don't want to tell anyone because people just look at you like 'How can you do that to yourself?'"

Lynn related the addition to other substances that are easily abused. "It very soon becomes like a cigarette. All of a sudden it just takes over. It becomes soothing and you crave it. You see all the hurtful things that have happened to you, and you turn to it like an alcoholic does the bottle or a drug addict does to drugs."





Far Left: Jennifer Lynn, the guest speaker, discusses eating disorders and her new book. Lynn suffered from an eating disorder for 16 years. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Left: Lynn talks about the myths associated with eating disorders. The audience learned that an eating disorder was not just about wanting to be thin; it was a serious psychological disorder. *Photo by Amanda Hake*



Above: Lynn is a former graduate of Missouri Western and is now a teacher in Kansas. She provided pamphlets and the Barnes and Noble Bookstore, located on campus, was at the event to promote her book. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Left: Lynn signs a copy of her book "Deadly Secret: Purging Inner Demons" for Elizabeth Hendrix, assistant professor of education. Lynn wrote her book about her personal battle with bulimia. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Right: Stroughmatt has played in several locations across the world including nearly 40 states and in Italy, Nova Scotia and Canada. In 2002, his current band “Creole Stomp” was formed. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Below: Dennis Stroughmatt, a Creole fiddler, plays his fiddle that has been in his family for one generation. He learned how to play the fiddle when he spent time with the Missouri Creoles. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Scotling SOUND

by Anna Elm

An expectant silence pressed through the auditorium as a man of imposing stature cradled a delicate fiddle on his shoulder and drew from it a dancing folk tune.

His name was Dennis Stroughmatt, expert in the language, culture and music of the North American French Creole and Cajun. He visited Western on the chilly evening of March 3, at the coordination of Instructor of French, Susan Hennessy.

“I’ve played in Italy,” Stroughmatt said. “I’ve played in Canada... Nova Scotia, Brunswick. I’ve played everywhere from California to Seattle to New York to Florida.”

Stroughmatt, who learned Creole fiddling style and Creole French while living in Old Mines, Mo., had begun more than one band over the years, with varying levels of success. His original band, formed in the late 90s, played off and on, once performing on Prairie Home Companion.

In 2002, however, Stroughmatt formed his current band, “Creole Stomp.” The success of his band, however, didn’t keep Stroughmatt from giving solo performances, in which he also had the opportunity to communicate French Creole history to his audience.

“It helps keep me working and helps actually generate some income for doing projects in Old Mines, Mo., preserving a lot of the audio and video recording that have been made there over the years,” Stroughmatt said.

Stroughmatt felt that his presentations were a

valuable way to communicate French Creole history because they allowed people to see the humor in everyday life.

Students who attended Stroughmatt’s performance were certainly entertained. Elizabeth Needham, who had studied abroad in France, found the difference between French Creole and the language spoken in France to be significant.

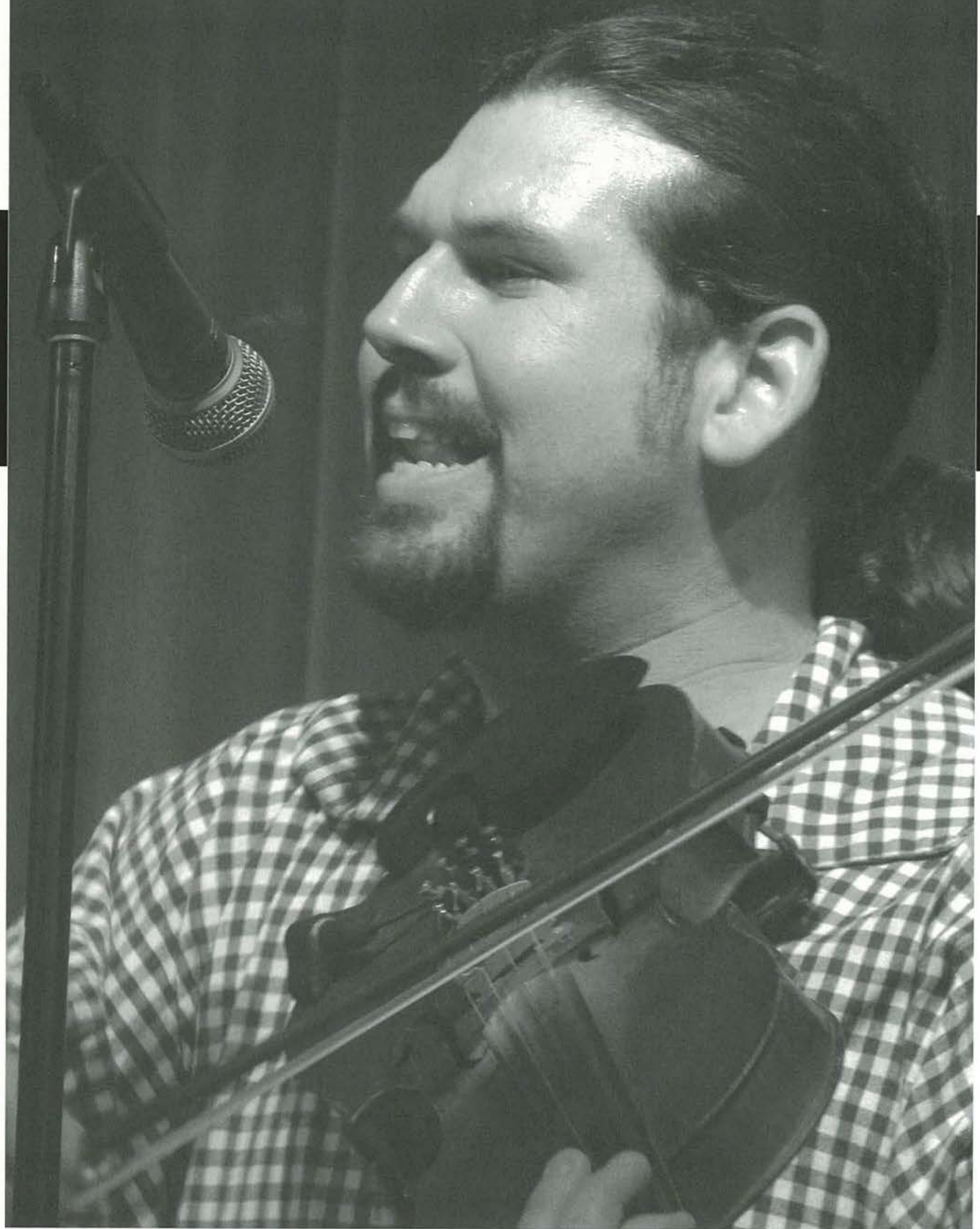
“It was very entertaining,” Needham said. “He said that whenever he speaks he gets a lot of smiles and laughs. To me, he sounds like what we call ‘the country people of France.’”

Long before his entertaining performance at Western, Stroughmatt played at the St. Joseph Museum, which was where Hennessy discovered him. She later spoke with acquaintances at the Alliance Francaise in Kansas City, with whom she collaborated to bring Stroughmatt first to Kansas City and then to Western.

She felt that as much of Stroughmatt’s appeal to the community was due to a curiosity to find out more about French Creole history in Missouri. Stroughmatt satisfied this curiosity by educating his audience about a culture of which many were unaware.

“You get the reality that there is this French Creole population here in Illinois and Missouri that has existed for 300 years and is holding on,” Stroughmatt said. “And the way that they have held on literally has been through that music and those stories because it is theirs. It belongs to them. It’s what they’re made of.”

Below: Stroughmatt performs a number in Creole French. By communicating French Creole history, the audience understood the humor in everyday life. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



A Night of HERITAGE

by Taylor Insko



Above: Keynote speaker Steve Birdine discusses the challenges the African-American community now face. Birdine was the first annual speaker at the Black Heritage Ball. Photo by Mathew Fowler

Missouri Western held the first annual Black Heritage Ball, featuring speaker Steve Birdine in February, followed by the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Major for Justice award ceremony.

Approximately 100 people including students, alumni, faculty and staff attended the formal event sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education.

“Our main purpose in having the Black Heritage Ball was to offer students an opportunity to showcase additional talents to the university and greater community while providing access to dialogue and interaction between all entities,” Tay Triggs, director of the CME, said.

The event offered a talent portion that allowed spoken word poets, Jason Beach and Grant Williams, as well as singer, Shandalyn Jackson and gospel group “Reign” to showcase their talents.

“The guests left with a good impression,” Pamela Covarrubias, a CME student intern, said.

Birdine was a diversity educator and a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker. He was the president and chief executive officer of Affirmation in Action. His positive

outlook on youth in leadership set him apart as an inspiring role model.

“His message encourages young people to not be afraid to dream big and go after what they want in life,” Triggs said. “He also talked about personal and civic responsibility.”

Responsibility was also showcased by attendees receiving awards that night. Three Drum Major for Justice Awards were given to Michael Speros, director of Residential Life and the academic adviser for the Student African-American Brotherhood; Jasmine Pasley, senior and president of NAACP; and Lavell Rucker, social worker for St. Joseph School District.

Overall, the event was a good turnout, and several felt they received a positive experience from attending.

“I believe the students who were dedicated to the event enjoyed themselves and each other as well as the president and vice president who were in attendance,” Triggs said.

The main message gained from this event was one Birdine focused on throughout his speech.

“If we believe in what we want, then we have more possibilities for it to happen,” Covarrubias said.



Above: Jason Beach, a student, performs his spoken word performance, "Beautiful People" discussed the struggles the African-American community went through. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Right: President James Scanlon congratulates award winners NAACP President Jasmine Pasley, Michael Seros and Lavell Rucker. This was the first handing out of the award for the evening. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Below: This recently added fountain can be found outside the Nelle Blum Student Union. It was the first seal to feature Missouri Western's new university status. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Right: This version of the seal features Missouri Western's values: service, quality, enthusiasm, freedom, quality and respect. It served as a constant reminder of every Griffons' rights. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Below: One of many places the Missouri Western seal can be found is on campus. This rendition was placed beneath the clock tower. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Mirroring Values

by Taglor Insko

The MWSU seal had been an important symbol for the campus designating service, quality, enthusiasm, freedom, respect and courage as values to fulfill Western's mission.

These values were stated and described in the university catalog, and although there was a designated section for these values, many students were unaware of their existence. These values were designed to keep in mind the rights of every student and faculty member. They were also designed to show Western's positive vision to all.

"The choice of values to emphasize was made by a group of faculty, staff and students," President James Scanlon said. "They are what I would consider 'eternal truths' about Western."

Students that weren't aware of the values listed on the seal suggested the campus should have done something to make them more known.

"Perhaps every quarter the campus can focus on one value, after all, they're there for a reason," senior Karyn Daugherty said.

Every campus had their flaws, but after Western became a university, students had noticed some improvements.

"We have made several additions to the campus since we became a university, and I can see changes,"

junior Ryan Heldenbrand said. "However, we still have a long way to go to be on the level of other universities in the state and the country."

Students noticed changes still needed to be made. They agreed that many faculty and students tried to represent the values, but the ones that didn't follow seemed to be the ones who stood out.

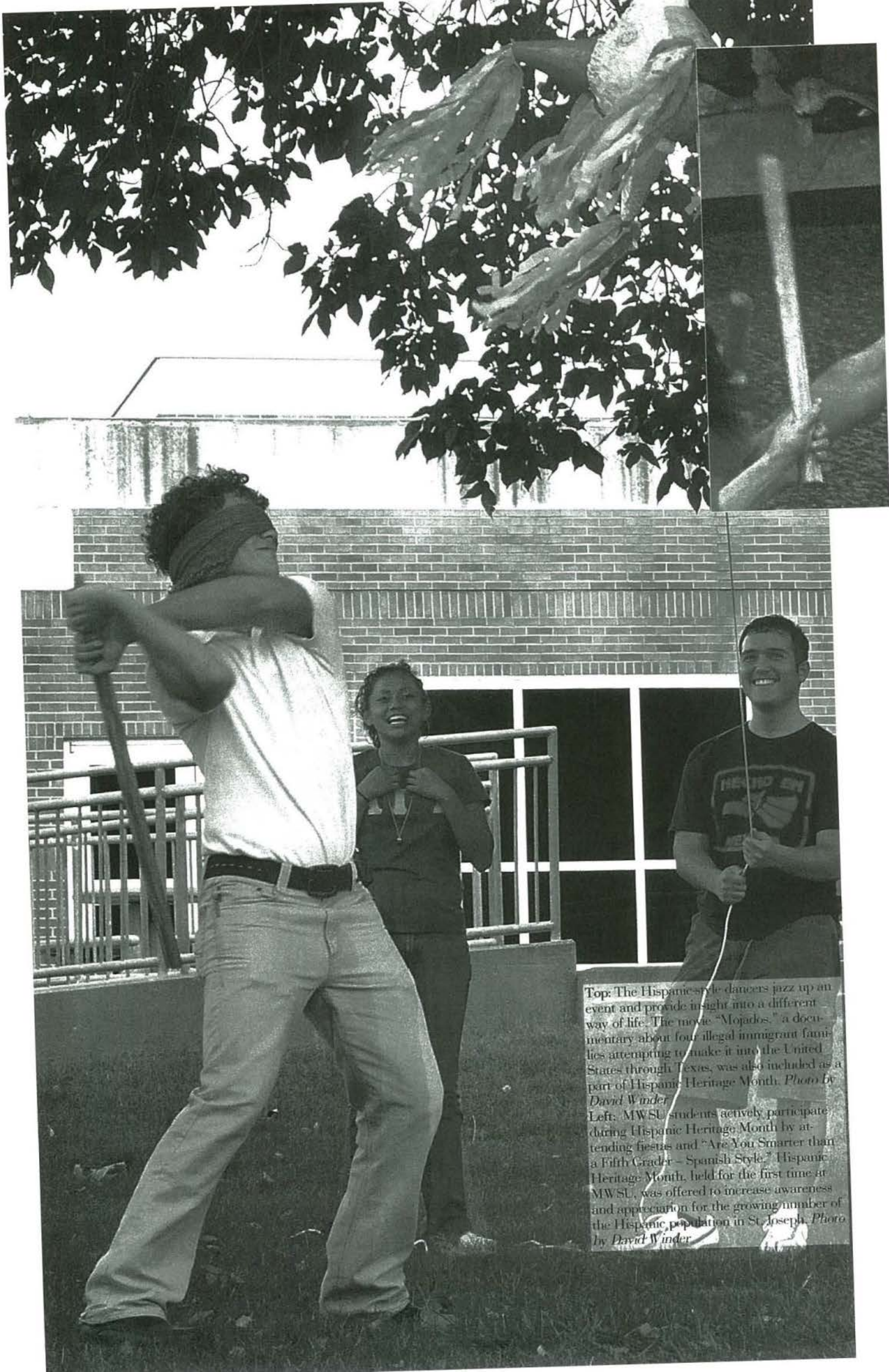
"Many parts of the campus try to serve the students, but at the same time many students and administration lack enthusiasm and respect," Heldenbrand said. "When students skip class or the administration spends money on unnecessary things, this shows a lack of enthusiasm and respect."

To build a stronger campus everyone, including students and faculty, needed to focus on the values depicted on the seal.

"I think the campus is as strong as its weakest employee or student," Daugherty said.

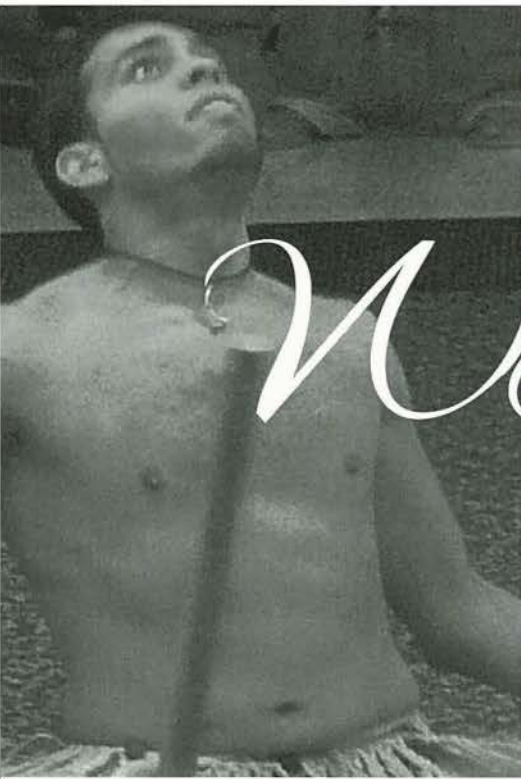
Overall as a campus the values were being shown, even if not everyone complied.

"The people of Western stay true to these values," Scanlon said. "While one or other individual may not, the large majority of the members of the Western family obviously 'live' these values in their work lives and even in their personal lives."



Top: The Hispanic-style dancers jazz up an event and provide insight into a different way of life. The movie "Mojados," a documentary about four illegal immigrant families attempting to make it into the United States through Texas, was also included as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month. *Photo by David Winder*

Left: MWSU students actively participate during Hispanic Heritage Month by attending fiestas and "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader - Spanish Style." Hispanic Heritage Month, held for the first time at MWSU, was offered to increase awareness and appreciation for the growing number of the Hispanic population in St. Joseph. *Photo by David Winder*



Welcoming Addition

by Addison Ford and Traci Haug

For the first time, Western held events that celebrated National Hispanic Heritage month to increase awareness and appreciation for the Hispanic culture.

"I think it's important to remember Hispanic Heritage because it is a part of history that was important and relevant to my life and where I am now," junior Jacely Alcantara said.

There were many reasons why students thought Hispanic Heritage culture needed to be brought to Western. Almost everyone could agree on those reasons, however.

"I think it is important to appreciate," sophomore Pamela Covarrubias said. "People can remember a lot, but if they don't appreciate and respect it, then it is a waste."

The Center for Multicultural Education held many events during the month of October in order to celebrate Hispanic Heritage. These events included a Spanish-style fiesta; a movie night, which featured the documentary "Mojados;" "Are you Smarter Than a Fifth Grader—Spanish Style" and Luca "Lazy Legz" Patuelli, a nationally recognized break-dancer.

"As an intern for the Center for Multicultural Education, we are working on a program for Hispanic Heritage Month, but our main focus is to educate and inform people on campus and the community about real issues that are currently happening in Latin America and the issues that affect us living in America," Covarrubias said.

There was a large turnout for all of the events, and all the attendees learned a great deal about Hispanic Heritage. The events were fun to attend, but some stood out more than others.

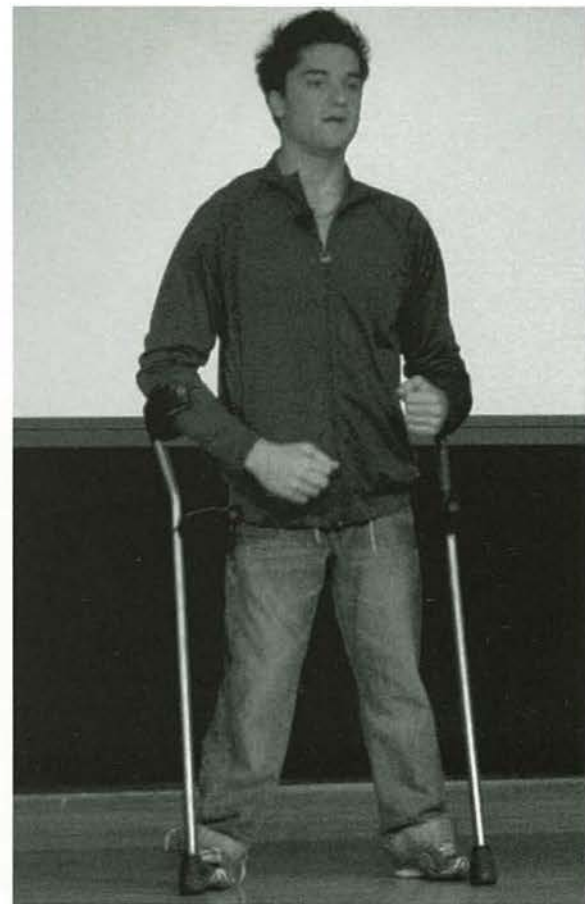
"Attendees had a great time learning about the culture," Center for Multicultural Education intern Mark Gomez said. "I personally think that the fiesta was the highlight of the month."

The other popular event was Patuelli's break-dancing. He was born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, a condition that has rendered his legs with limited usability. He gave an empowering speech on the importance of determination and not letting things, such as disabilities, hold you down.

"It was a success," Gomez said. "I think we found a good balance between entertainment and education."

Another initiative to celebrate Hispanic Heritage was the formation of the Association of Latin American Students. It was a new student organization that focused on uniting Latin American Students, as well as students interested in learning about Latin American cultures.

"Members of ALAS promote awareness of and share Latin American cultures all over campus and the community," Covarrubias said.



Above: During Hispanic Heritage Month, Luca "Lazy Legz" Patuelli offers some insight about how his disability does not stop his determination in what he hopes to accomplish. Patuelli suffers from Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, a muscular disorder that affects the usability of his legs. *Photo by David Winder*

Leadership at WESTERN

by Anna Flin



Above: Campus tours are available throughout the year for prospective students who visit MWSU. Sonja Streeter, a VIP, showed a student and her family the different buildings on campus as well as a list of services such as the Center for Academic Support. Photo by Amanda Hake

A day in their lives wouldn't end until events had been planned, tours had been given and the community had been served.

They were the leaders at Western – the students who wanted to set an example, get involved and make a difference. They could be seen participating in a wide range of campus activities. Some needed both hands to count the different associations to which they owed their time.

Jordan Baumgardner, junior at Western, described a variety of commitments.

"I am a VIP, Resident Assistant, Residence Council officer, Student Honors Organization officer, involved in Biomath Connections and research within the Biology department," Baumgardner said.

Gretchen Kunkle, a senior, chose her leadership opportunity out of a desire to see her organization develop.

"I am president of Alpha Omega, a Christian sorority," Kunkle said. "I joined AO my freshman year and I loved the organization and the girls, so I stepped up to the plate to help the organization grow."

Motivations to take leadership vary, sometimes including both the desire to grow, personally, and the desire to benefit Western.

"I became a VIP as a way to meet new people and at the same time, showcase our campus to prospective students," Sonja Streeter, a junior, said.

Streeter also felt that participating in leadership opportunities helped to bring her

out of her shell.

"Because I am a shy person, my college leadership experience has taught me how to be more open and friendly to strangers," Streeter said. "I have learned professionalism, which will help me in the business world. Furthermore, it has been an opportunity for me to mature personally."

Streeter was not alone in her belief that college leadership opportunities would benefit her future.

"Being a leader allows me to make connections with faculty and staff as well as individuals in the community," Baumgardner said. "These connections have helped support me in all my endeavors throughout my college career and my future plans."

While students were kept busy with their chosen responsibilities, suggestions for improvement could still be made.

"I would love to see more opportunities for students to take leadership positions within the community, so that the university and community can function together," Baumgardner said.

In order to make the most of Western's leadership opportunities, everyone agreed that a certain degree of character was required.

"I think a leader is someone who guides people, not in a bossy way, and who can find resources to organize events, meetings, etc.," Kunkle said. "A leader is someone who is confident and loyal in the principles which they are representing."



Top: Residence Council meet once a week to remain updated on events and issues. Marcus Spencer, the National Communication chair, Sanny Northcutt, vice president and Kayla Wymore, president, Amber Adams, secretary and Brent Lockmiller, treasurer, led the meeting. *Photo by Amanda Hake.*

Right: VIP duties include providing campus tours to prospective students. Streeter and the family of one future student walk the icy sidewalks of MW SU, discussing the new master programs. *Photo by Amanda Hake.*



Left: President James Scanlon welcomes the new President Robert Vartabedian. Scanlon retired at the end of June. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Below: Ron Olinger, former vice president of financial planning and administration, resigns and took a position at Benedictine College as college financial officer. Several important individuals vacated their positions during the fall and spring semester. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Changing Faces of Western

by Addoson Ford and Gerri Tracey

This has been a year of great change at Western. Several faculty members retired or resigned, and there were new faces coming in. From president of the university and everywhere around campus, many would not be coming back for the next semester.

Robert Vartabedian will replace James Scanlon's position as university president. Mark Linder resigned to return to his home state for the position of director of athletics at the University of North Alabama. Ron Olinger resigned as vice president for financial planning and administration to assume duties of chief financial officer at Benedictine College. Martin Johnson retired as dean of the college of liberal arts and sciences after 35 years of service. Christopher Shove resigned as dean and executive of the Western Institute to relocate to a new university in Saudi Arabia. Paul Shang resigned as dean of student development to serve as vice chancellor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Gene Eulinger retired and Susan Bracciano took over as registrar after serving as assistant registrar since 2002. Max Schlesinger, who installed the first satellite dish on Western's campus, retired as dean of the instructional media center.

With all the resignations and retirements, only two upper administrative members that have more than two years experience with Western remained: Dan Nicoson, vice president for University Advancement and Judy Grimes, dean of Student Services.

New faces undoubtedly meant changes at West-

ern. Students and faculty alike looked forward to some change.

"I think that new administrators are great," Kelsey Breckenridge, a sophomore, as stated to the *Griffon News*. "Hopefully, they will bring new eyes and a fresh perspective to Western."

Gyla Buffington, payroll coordinator, was ready for change.

"So many administrators leaving does concern me, but I'm excited about all of the new ideas that will benefit this campus," Buffington said. "It should be an interesting year."

Scanlon was confident the new hires would take Western forward.

"We have a lot of very good people, so there will still be quality leadership within the institution," Scanlon stated to the *Griffon News*.

Lonnie Johnson, physical plant and facilities director, felt the same way Scanlon felt about all the changing faces.

"Every department is affected differently, and losing people with so much knowledge and history of Western will be different, but quality people will be chosen to move the institution forward," Johnson stated to the *Griffon News*.

The fall semester will be one for adjustments. All the new faces will be adjusting to their position while everyone on campus will adjust to missing familiar faces.

Below: Paul Shang spoke at the Virginia Tech memorial along with Joseph Bragin. Shang resigned as dean of student development to serve as vice chancellor at UMKC. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Introducing VARTABEDIAN

by Anna Flin

In the twilight hours of James Scanlon's presidency at Western, a new name could be heard on the lips of students and faculty: Robert Vartabedian, former vice president of academic affairs at Eastern New Mexico University.

The path to his designation was not a short one. The Presidential Screening Committee, responsible for the final choice between Vartabedian and two other candidates, was looking for several necessary qualities.

"The committee agreed that the new president should be of unquestioned integrity, have a collaborative leadership style and be a strong asset to the community," Brian Cronk, a committee member and professor of psychology, said. "We also agreed that the new president should have a strong academic background."

Fortunately for the committee, Vartabedian's academic history left nothing to be desired. A Ph.D. in communications, Vartabedian was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Western Carolina University prior to his career at ENMU. Vartabedian's personal and administrative academic record promised a bright future for Western.

His personality, too, seemed to impress. Cronk described him as personable, confident and approachable. "He seems very motivated and energetic," Cronk said.

Many had yet to meet the man with whom they would soon become quite familiar. Jeffery Powers, a student, expressed high expectations for new administration.

"He'll need to be someone not afraid of

shaking the boat while inside it, which is the best time to shake it, because you get wet, too," Powers said.

Lacy Preston, a student, had mixed feelings about a comment made by Vartabedian in a press release, in which he communicated his enthusiasm to shape Western's future.

"It appears as though he is a very good public speaker who is willing to do some positive work for Missouri Western and help get the university more involved with the rest of the state," Preston said. "In a more negative tone, he could be a people-pleaser, someone who looks very good on paper and is very good at keeping the public thinking that he is making a major difference... when he is really just a person who talks."

Cronk, however, seemed confident in Vartabedian's abilities.

"He is familiar with the region and has worked at institutions that share some of the same qualities as Western," Cronk said. "He understands the 'town-gown' connection and the importance of the institution working with the community for everyone's benefit."

Vartabedian, himself, was quite optimistic about his administrative future.

"I am sure that Western will have its own unique challenges, such as carefully growing graduate programs, sustaining the important applied learning imperative, sustaining a good relationship with the community and seeking increased funding from numerous sources," Vartabedian said. "I certainly look forward to these challenges."





Far Left: Robert Vartabedian and his wife enter the stage as the news is announced that he will replace James Scanlon as university president. This announcement came at a time when there was a large number of faculties leaving MWSU. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Left: Vartabedian speaks to a reporter from the *St. Joseph News-Press*. He has also served as vice president of student affairs at Eastern New Mexico University. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Above: Vartabedian speaks with a 680 KFQ radio reporter. The announcement sparked an interest in the St. Joseph community. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Left: Michael Speros, director of housing, speaks with other MWSU faculty about the change in its administration. Among Vartabedian's academic history, which impressed MWSU affiliates, his motivation and confidence were two added factors as a choice for university president. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Left: President James Scanlon announces his retirement during a faculty reception. Photo by Linda Shireman

Right: Scanlon spent nearly seven years working with the Missouri Western community. Photo by Linda Shireman



Left: When Scanlon announced that he was retiring, he felt that he left unfinished business such as the Lewis and Clark renovations and plans to expand Evan R. Aegenstein Hall. Photo by Linda Shireman

Right: Following his retirement, Scanlon plans on relocating to the east coast in hopes of writing his first series of mystery novels. Photo by Linda Shireman



Scanlon was responsible for making several changes for Missouri Western such as abstaining university status in 2005. Photo by Steven Pauley





Legacy Fulfilled

His goal, his legacy, was to create what he and his associates referred to as “the new American regional university.” Under his leadership, Western took shape, grew and moved into the future.

James Scanlon had been serving as the president of Western for over six years when he announced his retirement plans to the Board of Governors.

“One of the first things that we did here, was to develop a strategic plan,” Scanlon said. “And we had a very inclusive process, over 400 people from the campus and the community.”

Scanlon said his primary goal was for Western to take the lead in applied academic learning, focusing on real world experience for students.

Motivated by this goal, Western underwent many positive changes during Scanlon’s administration, not the least of which was achieving university status in 2005.

Former Student Governor Harold Callaway believed Scanlon’s greatest accomplishments during his time at Western were working toward and attaining university status, bringing qualified personnel to help build the new graduate programs and building relationships with the presidents of other universities and state officials.

Scanlon owed much of his success as an administrator to his own, quiet style of leadership.

“You want to invite anyone in who wants to come in,” Scanlon said. “There is no monopoly on wisdom for the university and its future. There were hundreds of people involved in initially developing our first plan, and hundreds of people involved in implementing that plan over a five year time. No one on this campus is more important than anyone else. Leadership has to recognize that everyone in the organization is critical.”

Students recognized Scanlon’s leadership style as gentle, but persuasive.

“He is a quiet leader voicing his opinion when needed, listening

continued to page 136

continued from page 135

80 percent and talking 20 percent, insuring other people are heard and leading through his strong analytical skills and writing ability," Callaway said.

On June 30, 2008, however, Western adapted to a new style of leadership as another administrator stepped into Scanlon's shoes. Students looked hopefully to the future.

Callaway hoped for a president with goals and ideas which would carry on Western's mission as a university.

NAACP President Jasmine Pasley hoped for someone with the experience to fit the job.

"I would like to see a president with experience in a variety of university life aspects," Pasley said. "This includes student life, staff, faculty and administration."

Regardless of his personal goals and experience, Western's new administrator benefited by the reputation developed by Scanlon and his predecessors.

"To the higher learning commission, we are a very fine example

of participatory goal setting and participatory achievement of goals where everyone has an important role in making things work on this campus," Scanlon said.

Part of Western's preparation for the future, whatever it held, included the implementation of several graduate programs heavily emphasizing applied learning, with which Scanlon was very pleased.

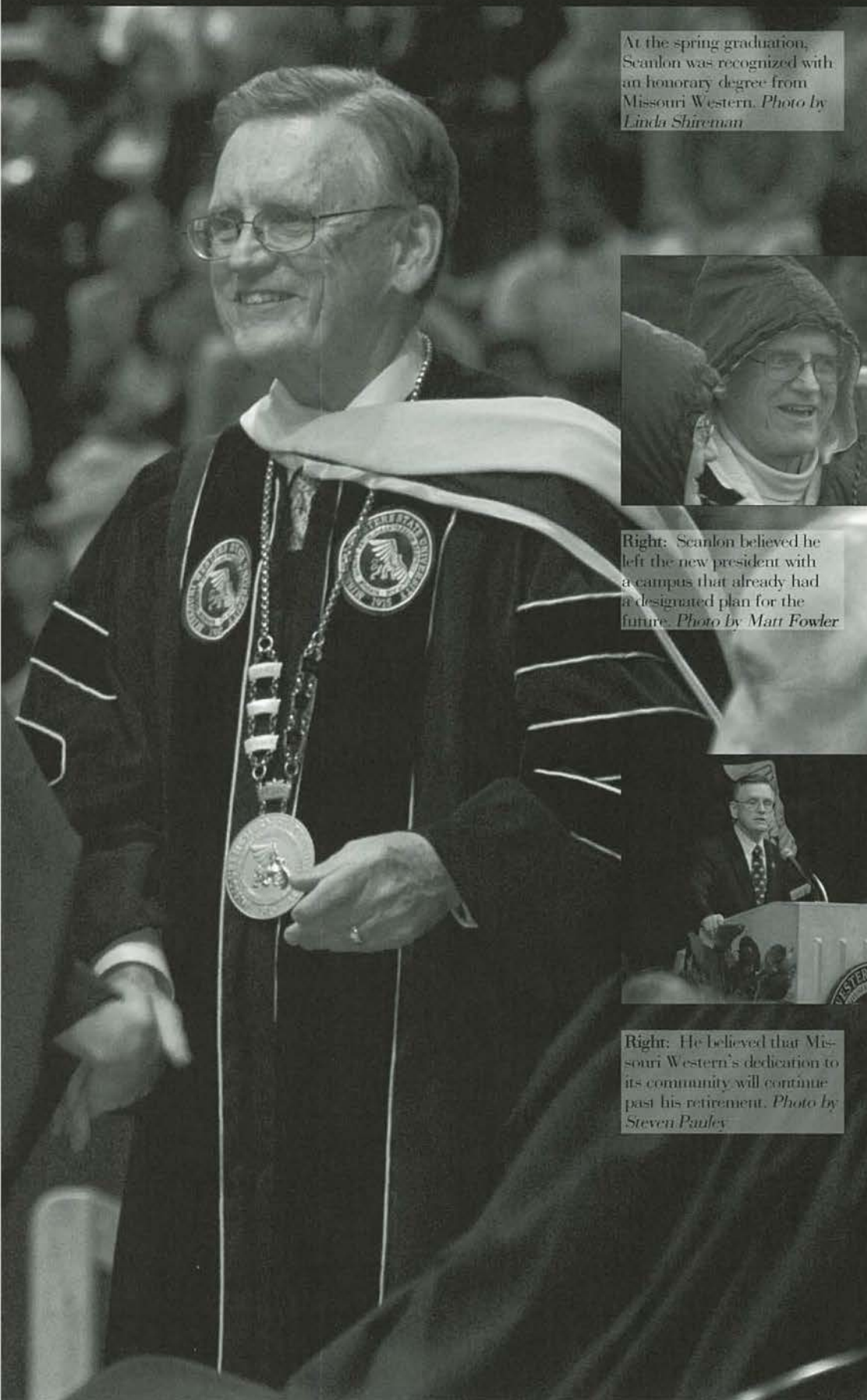
"When we worked with business and industry and the applied sciences industry, they told us they could find people who knew science, they could find people who knew business, but they couldn't find people who knew both business and science," Scanlon said. "Our masters of applied science, with a chemistry focus, is built recognizing what they asked us."

Scanlon believed other schools would follow in the footsteps of Western as it took the path of applied learning.

"I believe we are pioneers," Scanlon said. "We are recognized as moving back the frontier. Many will follow."

by Anna Flin





At the spring graduation, Scanlon was recognized with an honorary degree from Missouri Western. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Left: Before coming to Missouri Western, Scanlon taught at the University of Illinois and Southeast Missouri State. *Photo by Matt Fowler*

Right: Scanlon believed he left the new president with a campus that already had a designated plan for the future. *Photo by Matt Fowler*



Left: During Scanlon's time at Missouri Western, he encouraged the students to become more involved in the St. Joseph community. *Photo by Marty Ayers*



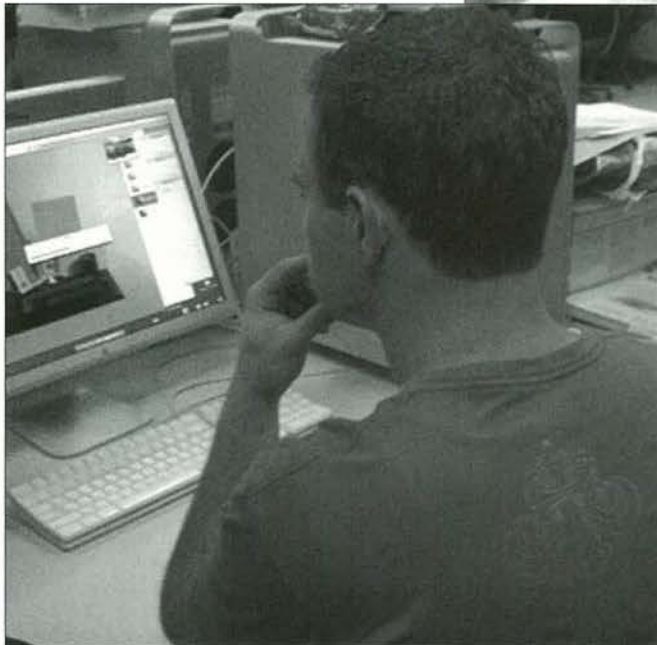
Right: He believed that Missouri Western's dedication to its community will continue past his retirement. *Photo by Steven Pauley*



Left: Phil Sanders is working on his last assignment of the semester in his painting class. He was always modest when it came to his artwork. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



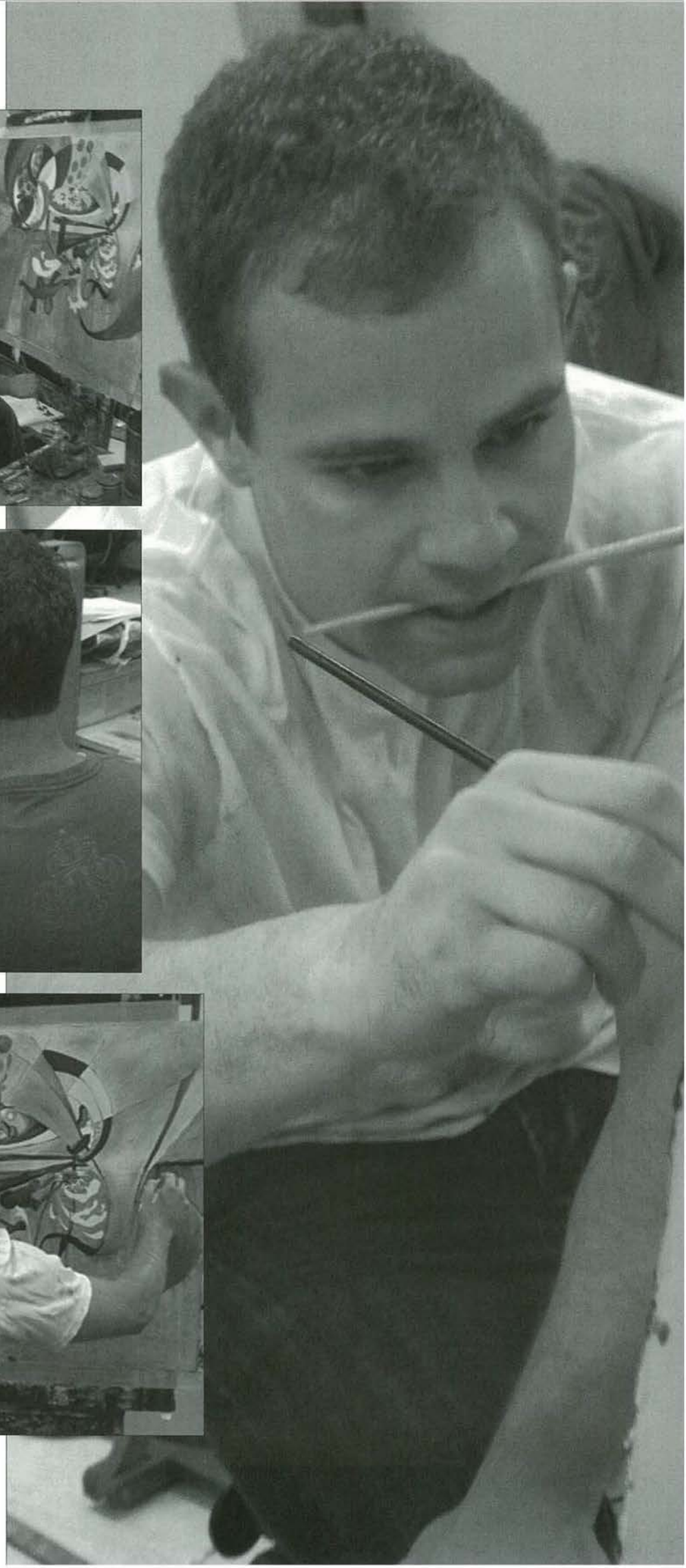
Below: Sanders is working on his senior art show in the computer lab of Potter Hall. Many graphic design students stay in the lab until the wee hours of the morning. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



Left: Sanders plans to move to Kansas City, Mo., to find work at a small graphic design firm. Graphic design took a lot of hands on work and dedication. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



Right: Communication is key when working on a piece of art. Aside from working in Potter Hall for the majority of his senior year, his fraternity kept him busy as well. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



One Student's JOURNEY

by Traci Haug

The pressure was on when graphic design major Phil Sanders began looking toward the future because plans were vague and undetermined. The most he could do was cross his fingers and pray really hard because the end of his time at Western was here.

"I'm looking for a smaller design firm in Kansas City," Sanders said. "I'm planning on moving in with a buddy of mine that is living in downtown Kansas City."

When Sanders started his journey to college, he wasn't completely sure what he wanted. He liked St. Joseph, so he decided he'd stay around the area. In fact, there was one set reason he decided to come to Western.

"I was too poor and dumb to make it into any other school," Sanders said. However, anyone who knew him knew that was not true.

Throughout his college career, opportunities were presented to him. One of the best opportunities he had was to join the fraternity Phi Delta Theta. He didn't consider himself a "frat boy," but he wouldn't change anything.

"I have met more people, been to more places and had more fun than I ever would have if I hadn't made that single decision," Sanders said. "If not for joining, I would have

dropped out years ago."

The different change in lifestyle is untreaded water that seemed a little too scary for Sanders.

"I don't know what I'm going to do when I graduate and my whole world gets put on its ear," Sanders said. "I can only hope that I move into a nice big loft with lots of space to paint and make art and such."

Sanders had a lot of advice for the incoming freshmen and other students at Western. His advice was for all aspects of college and for all students around, but the one thing that he stated was that you should not fit into any sort of niche. If you are an art student, you don't have to make it obvious by the way you dress or act.

"I don't want to be pegged as a frat boy and come off as some sort of a**hole," Sanders said.

Some of the other advice he gave was: never drink and drive, always use a condom, have fun and meet people. Although this was great advice, there was one main key to a successful year Sanders seemed drawn to.

"Talk to your professors," Sanders said. "They are so much more likely to help you out when you need it if they don't think you are a douche bag. Keep at it and don't drop out."

Oh Happy Day

by Anna Flin

While some students enrolled in classes for the fall and did their best to secure a summer job, others were trying to secure their future for life after Western.

A simple walk across the stage in the M. O. Looney Complex launched Western's graduates of 2008 into the world of post-college responsibilities.

Some students had it all worked out.

"My plans after graduation are to continue working at KQ2, where I have been for the past few years," Dorothy Charles, a journalism major, said. "I'm not sure how long I want to stay here in St. Joseph, but it will be at least a few more years. I have been here for so long I am definitely ready to move and start a life outside of St. Joseph."

Charles wasn't the only one who was eventually leaving St. Joseph behind. English literature major Traci Haug was heading home to Nebraska.

"I plan to get a job writing somewhere," Haug said. "I know I will continue my freelance writing that I already do. I will also be getting married."

In addition to planning for the future, students reflected the

challenges of their completed college journeys. Haug's fiancée, government major, Charles Howell looked back on his experiences with student government.

"The greatest challenge I had was rebuilding Residence Council," Howell said. "We started with a handful of members and now we are a thriving organization."

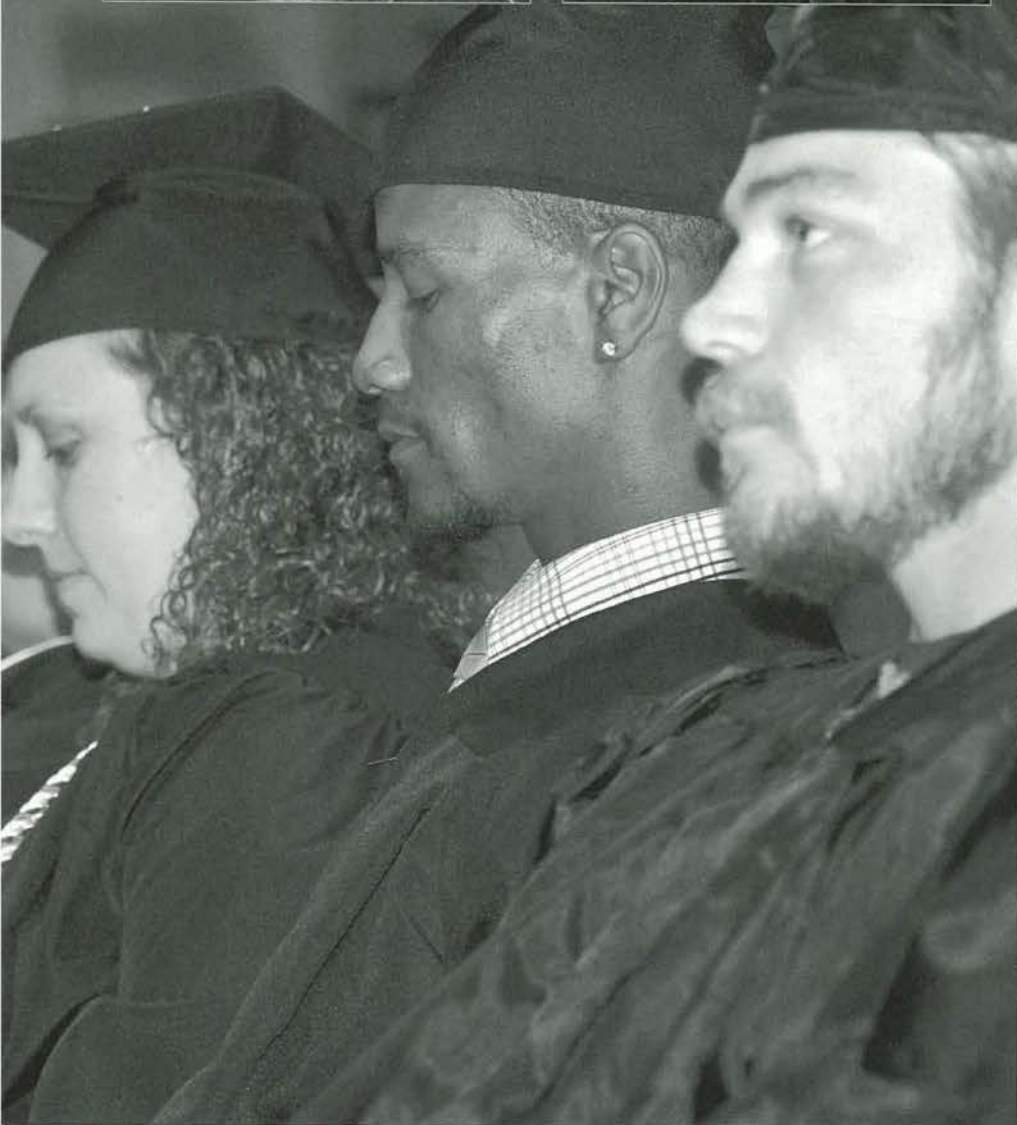
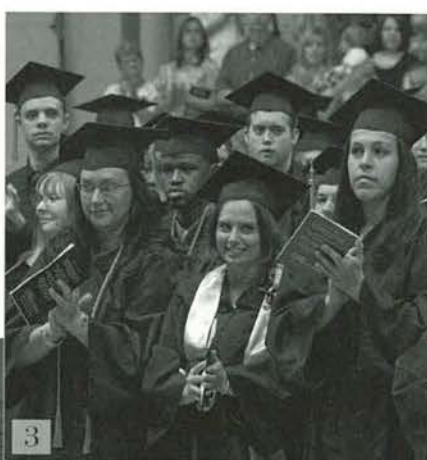
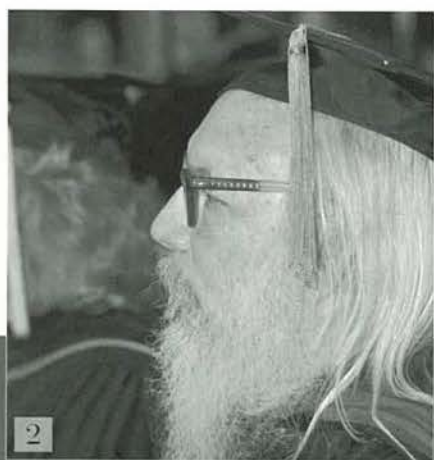
Charles said her greatest challenge was balancing work and school.

"I have learned to deal with deadlines and that people expect your work to be turned in by that deadline," Charles said. "I would say my whole career was a challenge. Trying to balance homework with work and maintaining a social life is a challenge. Any challenge that came my way I tried to work through it and get past it."

Charles, Haug and Howell got past their challenges. These students and their peers donned cap and gown, sat through a commemorative speech and took one of the most meaningful walks of their lives.

"I am planning on walking," Charles said. "I don't really want to, but it is a huge accomplishment for one to graduate, so I decided I should. All my opportunities I have had or will have are due to my efforts at Western."





(1): During the ceremony, graduates located their name and place in line with other graduates. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(2): Assistant Professor of Physics Darrell Johnson listens as President James Scanlon addresses Western for the last time. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(3): Students gather at the afternoon graduation ceremony to receive their long awaited degrees. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

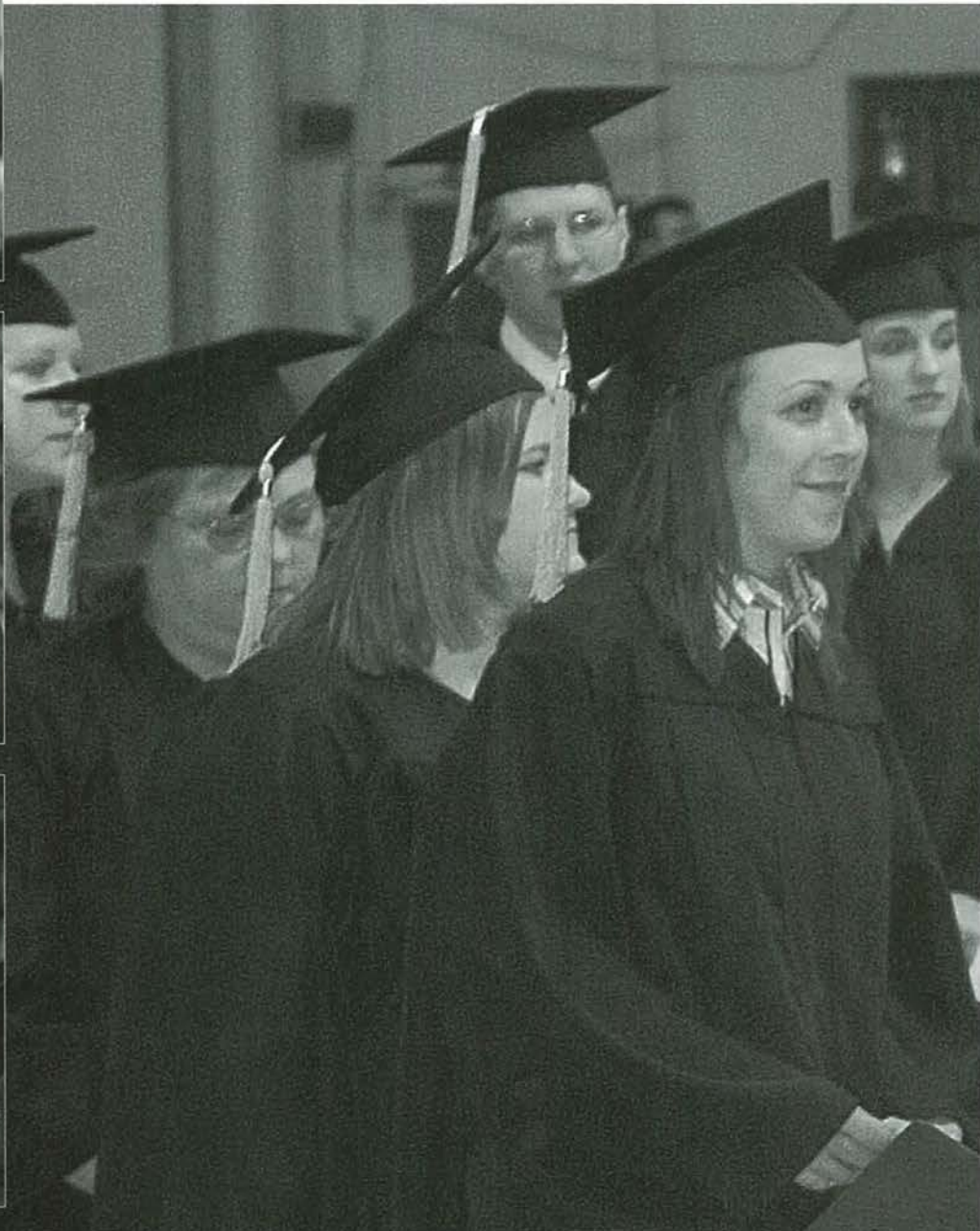
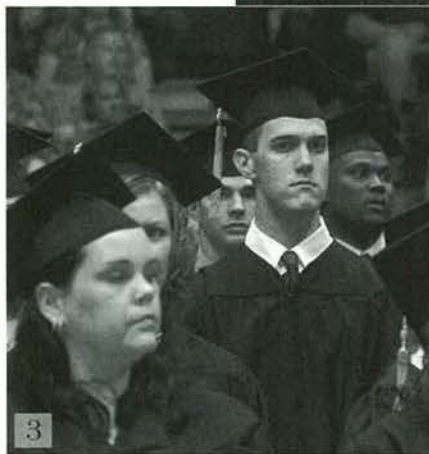
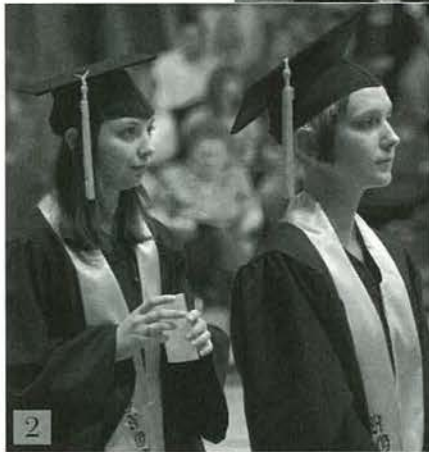
(4): Michael Cadden and Cynthia Jeney,

English faculty, celebrate their students achievements. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(5): One graduate listens as Scanlon recites his ever-popular phrase "Oh, happy day!" *Photo by Linda Shireman*

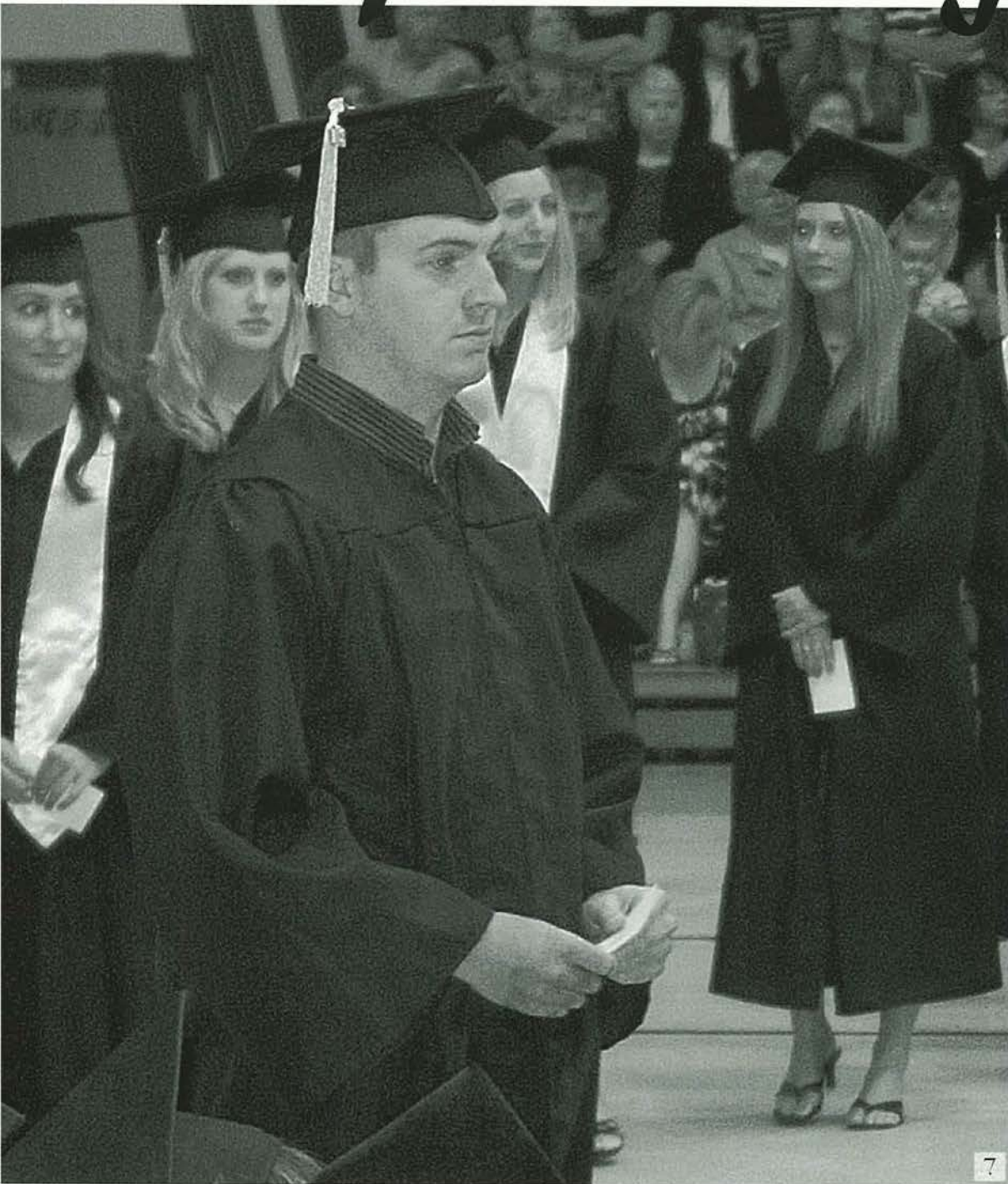
(6): Ciarra Leathers and Jenna Swymeler received degrees in journalism. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(7): Theatre major Jeremy Weikel has been at Western for nine years. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Graduating

Class of 2008



(1): Graduates were led in by professors at the start of the graduation ceremony. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(2): Students receiving graphic design, education and English-related degrees walked in the afternoon. *Photo by Linda Shireman.*

(3) For some graduation was just the

beginning and a new start for the rest of their lives. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(4): Scanlon also received an honorary degree along with other graduates. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

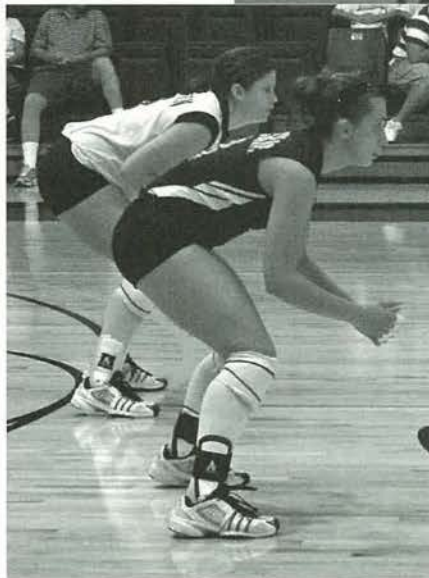
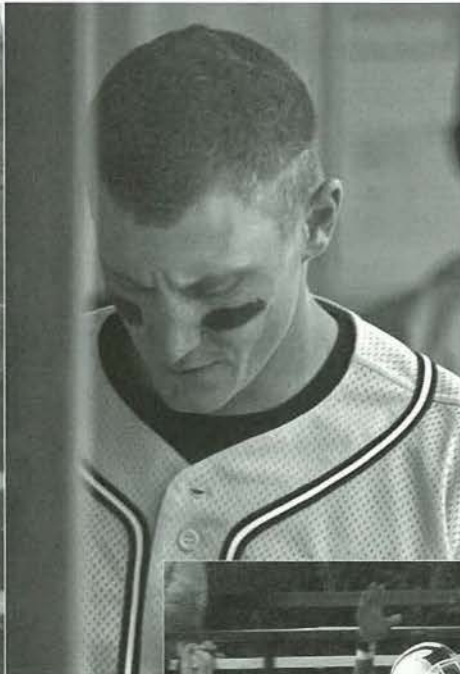
(5): Western faculty stand to applaud the graduates. *Photo by Linda*

Shireman

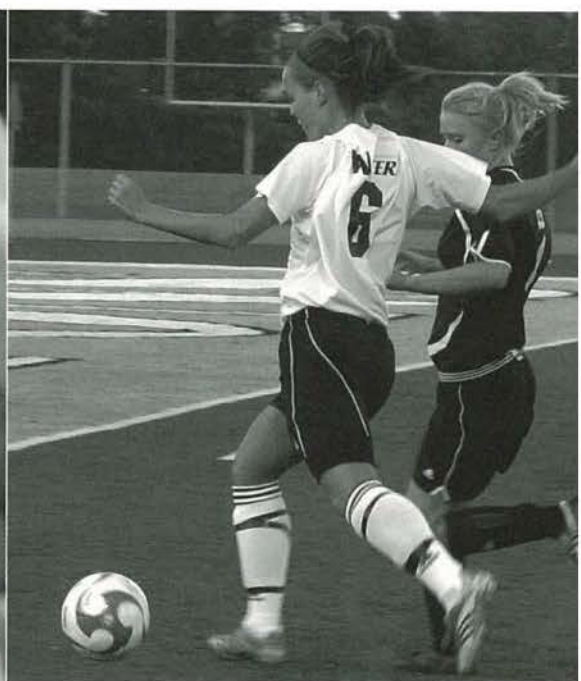
(6): Graduation was split into two ceremonies, in the morning and afternoon. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

(7): Students enter the M.O. Looney Hall gymnasium for the last time. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

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athletics



“**W**e came together as a team this year and suprised a lot of people, but the success didn’t come as a surprise to us,” Dusty Strickler, a kicker, said.

– “A Great Force on the Gridiron”

Western Glitz and Glamour

by Anna Flin

Win or lose, rain or shine, Mystics, cheerleading and the Golden Griffon Guard were always there with that extra spark of school spirit. They are the die-hard fans, ready with a smile and an encouraging cheer when the fair-weather fans have deserted the team.

Erica Taylor, a Color Guard member, said that as much as she enjoyed participating in the Color Guard, it had its challenges.

"This year the Golden Griffon Guard was comprised of two seniors and seven underclassmen, five of which are freshmen," Taylor said. "We are a pretty young squad, and with such a young squad, there is always a challenge of acclimating the newer members to how our squad operates."

Members of the Golden Griffon Guard weren't the only ones to struggle. Nikki Cross, a Missouri Western cheerleader, felt that not everyone understood the challenges involved in cheerleading.

"Other athletes are just

thrown together as a team," Cross said. "The only difference is that we are all thrown into the air, risking our bones for a cool stunt."

For the Mystics dance team, challenges also occurred on a physical level.

"My greatest challenge this year has been working on my flexibility to master my splits," Courtney Kemper, a Mystic, said. "We had a routine which had drop splits choreographed in it, so I had to stretch twice as much as usual to get them down."

A new challenge presented itself, which had the potential to unite the Mystics and the cheerleaders. The two would be dancing together during a spring athletic event.

Only time would tell how well the individual teams will connect, but there seemed to be no ambivalence regarding the upcoming experience.

"I think that dancing with the cheerleaders will be a good opportunity to meet the members of their squad and get to know more

students," Kemper said.

Whatever the future held, Mystics, cheerleading and the Golden Griffon Guard all felt proud of their teamwork during the past year.

"I feel as though our squad has numerous strengths and very few weaknesses," Kemper said of the Mystics. "When there is a common goal among the team, we all work hard at whatever it is that we need to do to accomplish it."

Above all, Mystics, cheerleading and the Golden Griffon Guard realized the importance of cheering for the home team.

"Think back into history, as the armies of the old marched into battle," Taylor said. "They marched with their banners, their colors flying high. This is exactly who we are. As the band plays our battle song, the Golden Griffon Guard waves our colors for all to see. They say to the opposing team and their fans, you are on our field now and today we, the Black and Gold, will leave victorious."



Top: The Mystics dance team brave the fierce cold during a halftime show. The show consisted of four routines in a row during halftime. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Middle: Mariah Churchill, a Color Guard member, waves her flag for all to see at the bonfire during the week of Homecoming. The Golden Griffon Color Guard performed only during the fall semester. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Bottom: Crystal Scott, the Mystics coach, leads the ladies at the pep rally during the week of Homecoming. One routine required drop splits choreography. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Above: The MWSU Cheer Squad perform at halftime when the Griffons faced off against Missouri Southern. They risked their bare bones, performing dangerous stunts to entertain a crowd. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Making History

by Deanna Paolino and Amy Chastain

The Lady Griffons made history, sustaining four wins during the fall season. While it might not have appeared to be a landmark victory to others, the Lady Griffons were very proud of their success.

"The general morale of the team is very good," Jeff Hansen, the soccer coach, said. "We brought in 14 new players for this season and we have made improvements from last year. It took two years for the program to win four games. I think the seniors are proud of this improvement they have made in their two to three years of being in this program."

The ladies began their season against Upper Iowa, resulting in a loss of 0-3. The ladies skated through three games before their first win against East Central, ending 3-0. The ladies also triumphed twice over Emporia State, 3-0 and 2-0, and Southwest Baptist, 1-0. The four wins were not consistent in any way, but came in cycles of losses. As the old saying goes, "you win some, you lose some," certainly mirrored that of the ladies season.

"If someone looked at our record he or she would not be too impressed, but as a player, I am not ashamed," Sarah Brimeyer, who

played defense for the team, said.

The season also provided to be a rebuilding process for the ladies. At the fall camp, there were 22 athletes, which was the largest in the three-year history of the program.

"I had to work on teaching the young players some of the same things over and over again," Hansen said. "The freshmen class are very talented, but they are trying to pick up so much so fast that it seems as though we make different mistakes each day. They are learning as fast as possible, but unlike basketball, baseball and softball, we don't have a month or even a whole semester to get to know each other."

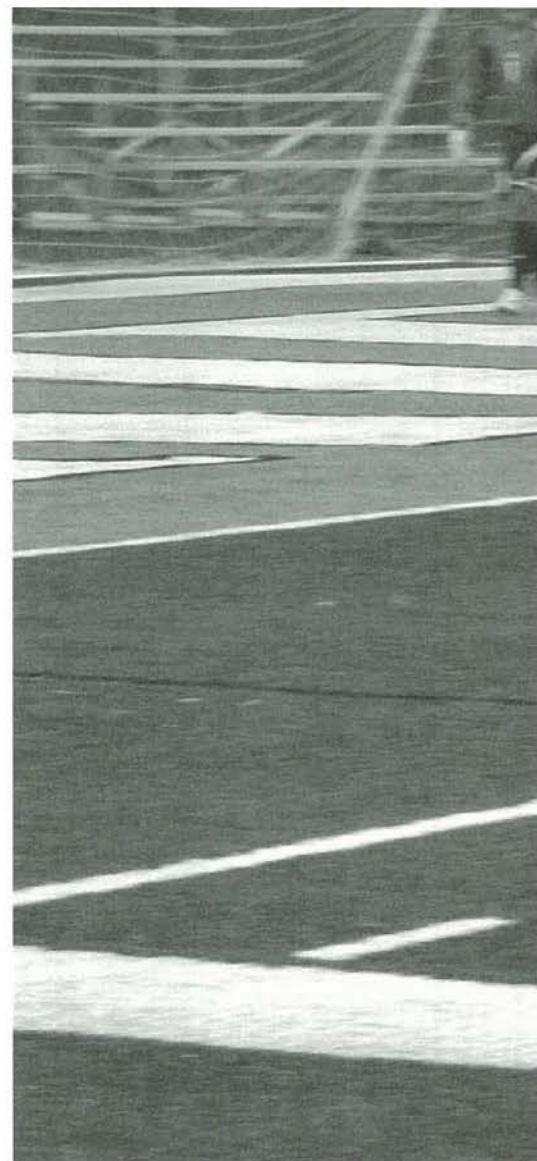
Brimeyer, a freshman, was a part of the large number of incoming athletes. "There were only four seniors on the team, and they were greatly outnumbered by the number of freshmen, but the seniors had great leadership," she said.

Aside from rebuilding and their landmark victory, the ladies left the field with their heads held high despite their overall record of 4-15. The ladies season came to an end against a new component and rival Northwest on Oct. 27, 0-1.

Right: Kendra Stirn, a freshman, warms up on the sideline, anxiously waiting to be called into the game. The ladies overall record was 4-15. Photo by Matthew Fowler

Middle: Heather Schmiemeier, a forward, dribbles the ball to the goal. The ladies had a tough season, but stood proud in the end. Photo by Matthew Fowler

Far Right: Michelle Polk, a junior, guards the ball while taking it to the net. Upperclassmen were outnumbered by 14 new team members. Photo by Matthew Fowler





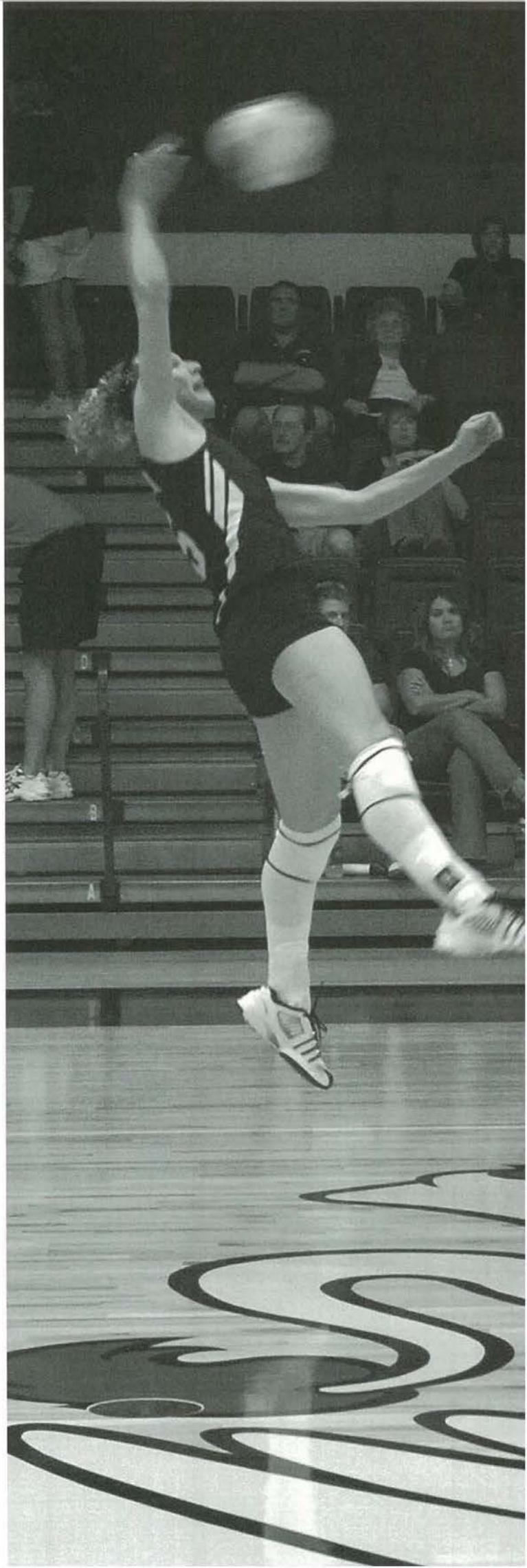
Left: Desi Swanson, a freshman, takes the ball to the net. The ladies celebrated a victory over Emporia, 2-0. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Below: While the ladies only accomplished four wins, they made school history at the same time. The ladies fall season was the largest in the three-year history of the program with 22 athletes. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



OPP	SCORE
Upper Iowa	L, 0-3
Missouri-Rolla	L, 1-2
Angelo State	L, 0-3
East Central	W, 3-0
UCM	L, 1-2
Park	L, 1-2
Emporia State	W, 3-0
Washburn	L, 1-7
Southwest Baptist	L, 0-5
Missouri Southern	L, 0-5
NWMSU	L, 1-3
Truman State	L, 0-1
UCM	L, 0-5
Missouri Southern	L, 1-3
Southwest Baptist	W, 1-0
Washburn	L, 0-6
Emporia State	W, 2-0
Truman State	L, 1-2
NWMSU	L, 0-1

scoreboard



OPP

SCORE

Drury	L, 1-3
Missouri-St. Louis	W, 3-1
Angelo State	W, 3-1
Central Oklahoma	L, 0-3
Nebraska-Kearney	L, 0-3
Ouachita Baptist	W, 3-0
Newman	W, 3-1
Indianapolis	L, 0-3
South Dakota	L, 1-3
Cameron	L, 2-3
St. Edwards	W, 3-1
Central Oklahoma	L, 0-3
St. Mary's	L, 1-3
Truman State	L, 0-3
Upper Iowa	W, 3-1
UCM	L, 0-3
Southwest Baptist	L, 2-3
NWMSU	L, 0-3
Missouri Southern	W, 3-2
Emporia State	L, 1-3
Fort Hays State	L, 1-3
Newman	W, 3-0
Abilene Christian	L, 1-3
West Texas A&M	L, 1-3
Okla. Panhandle	W, 3-0
Pitt State	L, 0-3
Truman State	L, 0-3
Washburn	L, 0-3
UCM	L, 0-3
Southwest Baptist	W, 3-1
NWMSU	L, 0-3
Washburn	L, 0-3

scoreboard

In For the Kill

by Jasmine Wilson and Amy Chastain

The Lady Griffons volleyball team was dedicated, passionate, hardworking and cooperated with successful leadership and teamwork despite their overall record, 10-22.

The ladies began their season with a loss to Drury on Aug. 24, ending score 1-3. However, the ladies were successful in their next matches against Missouri-St. Louis and Angelo State. As with any season, there were ups and downs. However, the ladies did well under the leadership of a new coach. Tiffany Mastin, who was the coach at Oakland City University prior to her role at Missouri Western, was the fifth coach to replace Cindy Brauck who retired in May of 2006.

"They adjusted well and had a new attitude," Mastin said. "Some of the women wanted perfection, but we made great success on the court."

Mastin was worried about her new position, but the athletes welcomed her with open arms to ensure for a successful season. "I hope to bring team dedication, excitement for the game and some strategies to make them successful," she said.

Audra Rudolphi, a middle hitter for the Lady Griffons, felt that the team acted as a tight unit on the court and off. "We are all really close," she said. "Our team has

great chemistry."

And with that great chemistry, followed through with great leaders and great motivators who led the team to victory. Alyssa Berg, the team captain, was a top player in Missouri Western's conference.

"Alyssa is an awesome player," Mastin said. "Not only is she kind, but she is also a phenomenal athlete."

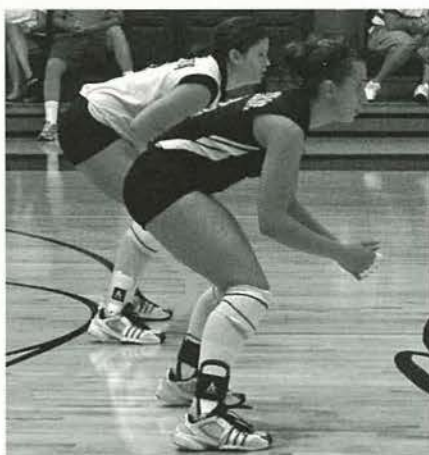
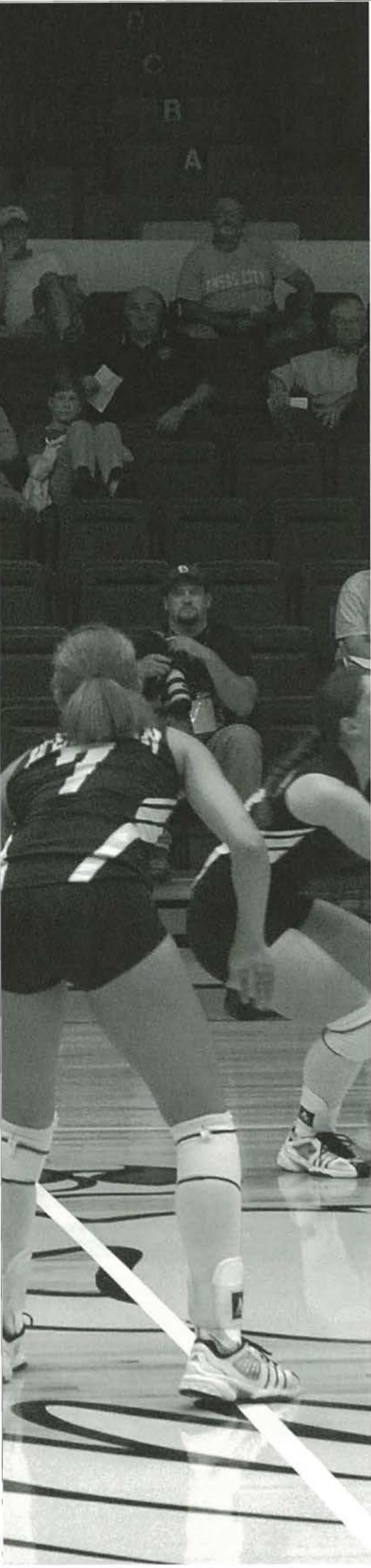
In their 2006 season, Berg participated in all 31 matches. She led the team with 2.84 kills per game and maintained a hitting percentage of .248. She was also the only team athlete to receive ALL-MIAA honors.

Brooke Roy, a defense specialist for the ladies, was another standout athlete and implemental to the team.

"Brooke is a great player," Mastin said. "She learned about herself on the court. While she did not play early in the season, but she started, she is always ready to step up for the team."

Roy was ranked third on the team in 2006 for her number of digs per game.

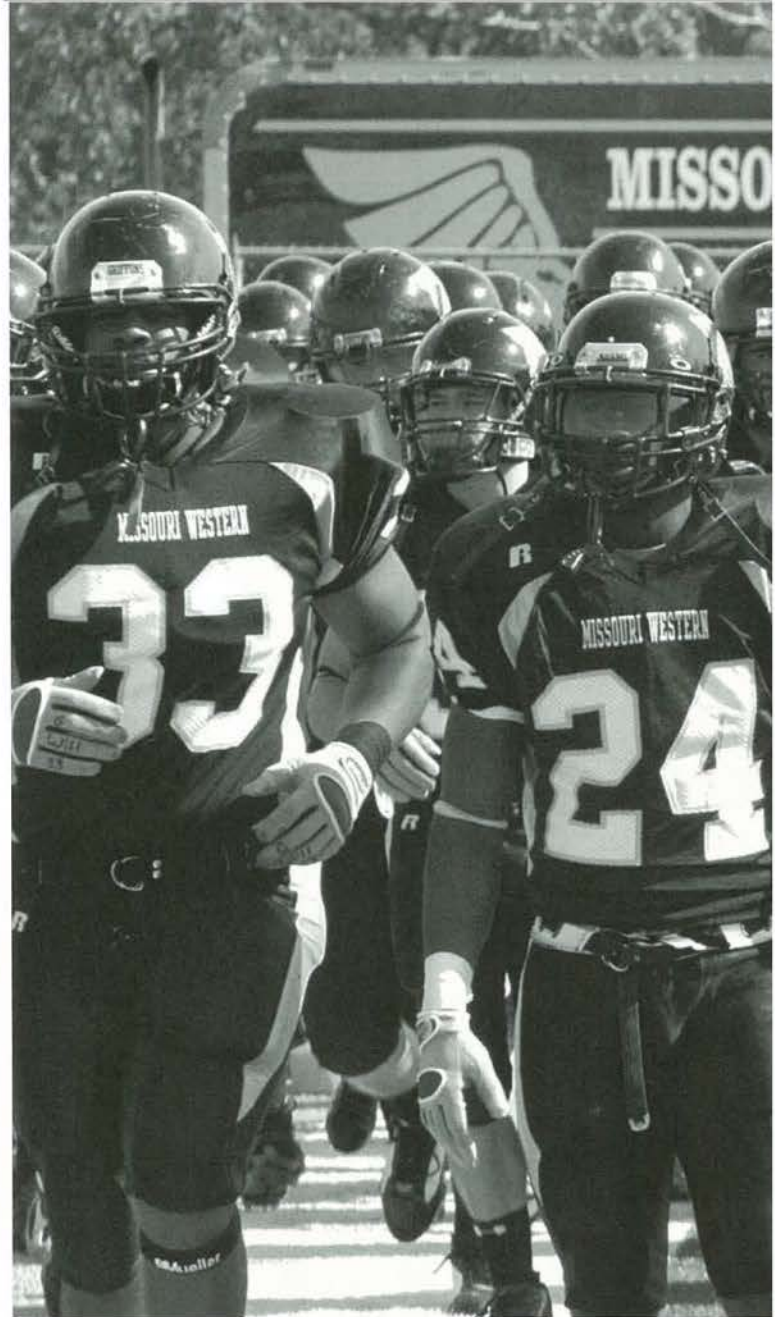
As the season wore on, the ladies triumphed over such teams as Missouri Southern and Southwest Baptist. It came to an end when Washburn defeated the Griffons on Nov. 5 in the MIAA Conference Tournament, 0-3.



Left: The ladies huddle together for words of advice, suggestions and rowdy up for some team spirit. The ladies overall record was 10-22. *Photo by Crystal Scott*

Middle: Alyssa Berg, a middle hitter for the Griffons, goes in for the kill. Berg suffered an injury in the 2004 season and didn't play much following that, but came back in 2006 and 2007 to be an asset to Western. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Right: The ladies wait in anticipation as the ball nears the net. The team faced off against rivals NWMSU and Washburn, but fell at the end. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Right: The football team marches onto the field of battle. The Griffons overall record was 9-3. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*
 Below: La' Darrian Page, a freshman, breaks the tackle to run the ball in for a touchdown. The team averaged 388 yards per game. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



	OPP	SCORE
scoreboard	Baker	W, 42-24
	Minnesota-Duluth	W, 45-27
	NWMSU	L, 20-44
	Pitt State	W, 39-32
	Washburn	L, 24-31
	Fort Hays State	W, 37-09
	Southwest Baptist	W, 49-14
	Emporia State	W, 52-21
	Missouri Southern	W, 30-14
	UCM	W, 42-28
Truman State	L, 28-37	
Wayne State (Neb.)	W, 20-13	





A Great Force on the Gridiron

by Addison Ford

The Griffon football team finished up their regular season with an overall record of 9-3, and in the process won the 42nd annual Mineral Water Bowl in Excelsior Springs, Mo., beating the Wayne State Wildcats with a score of 20-13.

The Griffons were a fairly young team in 2007, but easily showed that they knew what they were doing.

"We came together as a team this year, and surprised a lot of people, but the success didn't come as a surprise to us," Dusty Strickler, a kicker, said.

Losing to Washburn, Northwest and Truman were tough, but it didn't slow the team down.

"They are all great teams," Strickler said, "We just couldn't cash in against them."

Brad Beckwith, a kicker for the Griffons, agreed.

"Overall, we had a great season, and I feel we are a young team," he said. "At the beginning of the season I think some of us were unsure of how good we were going to be, but we set those thoughts aside and came out and played like we were supposed to. In the future, we will become a much greater force on the gridiron."

The most exciting win of the season came when the Griffons played Pitt State on their home

turf, shattering a Pitt State record for home wins.

"We were excited, but we took it in stride and continued to do well," Strickler said.

Andrew Bettencourt, a quarterback for the Griffons, feels that 2008 will be even more exciting for Griffon fans.

"From the mouth of an NFL great, 'get your popcorn ready!'" Bettencourt said. "Next year is going to be a great show to see."

All three players thought similarly about their fans, and thanked everyone for their support of the team. They all looked forward to next year.

"Just be on the lookout for next year," Strickler said. "We are going to build even more skilled players, and bring in good recruits to put together a winning team. Keep coming out to the games, and we'll keep winning."

The team urged all students, faculty, staff and community members to attend the games. The large crowds built team spirit and morale.

"I'd like to see everyone there to be a part of our success," Bettencourt said.

The Griffons' chances for the playoffs vanished after they fell to Truman State, 37-28, ending their regular season.



Far Left: Soane Etu and Greg Hansborough make a tackle to force a fumble. The Griffons forced 29 fumbles throughout the season. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Middle Left: The offensive line goes for the first down. The Griffons had a total of 233 first downs throughout the season. *Photo by Jeremy Weikel*

Left: Eric Anderson a wide receiver, attempts a catch at the 10 yard line. The Griffons played hard and came out on top this season. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Maintaining Morale

by Amy Chastain and Traci Haug

Cheers came from Griffon fans sitting in the M.O. Looney gym as the basketball team made yet another shot. However, these shots did not compensate for the 9-19 record the men finished the season with.

The season began with a loss to Missouri-Columbia, 55-113, at the exhibition game in front of 5,903 fans. With the first loss out of the way, their future looked promising with four straight wins. But it fell downhill after the men faced off against Nebraska-Omaha, 72-78.

Head Coach Tom Smith felt that the team was thin on talent with the combined season. "We lost a lot of players early on in the season that either did not come or had to leave early," he said. "The worst part was the extended losing streak that we had, which were the two longest I have had during my experience."

With his 33rd season under way, Coach Smith began a Griffon tradition of winning in 1989. He coached his 900th game last season against Central Missouri, where his career first began.

The men ended their season

with a loss against Missouri Southern, 80-87. With 31 turnovers, the Griffons fell against the Lions on home court in front of 2,738 fans.

Lonnell Johnson, junior criminal justice major, felt that the best part of the season was meeting other teammates from across the country. He also felt betrayed because several players quit in the middle of the season.

Despite the team's losing record, Griffon fans were always present to maintain team morale. "I went to the games to let the men know that even when they may be in a losing streak, we, the Griffons, still support them," Bonnie Drees, a freshman, said.

With the support of the Griffon fans, drew in success from the team as a whole and also individually. "As an individual, maturing into a leader for the Griffons was my best accomplishment," Johnson, a guard for the Griffons, said. "As a team, we accomplished winning our first MIAA game."

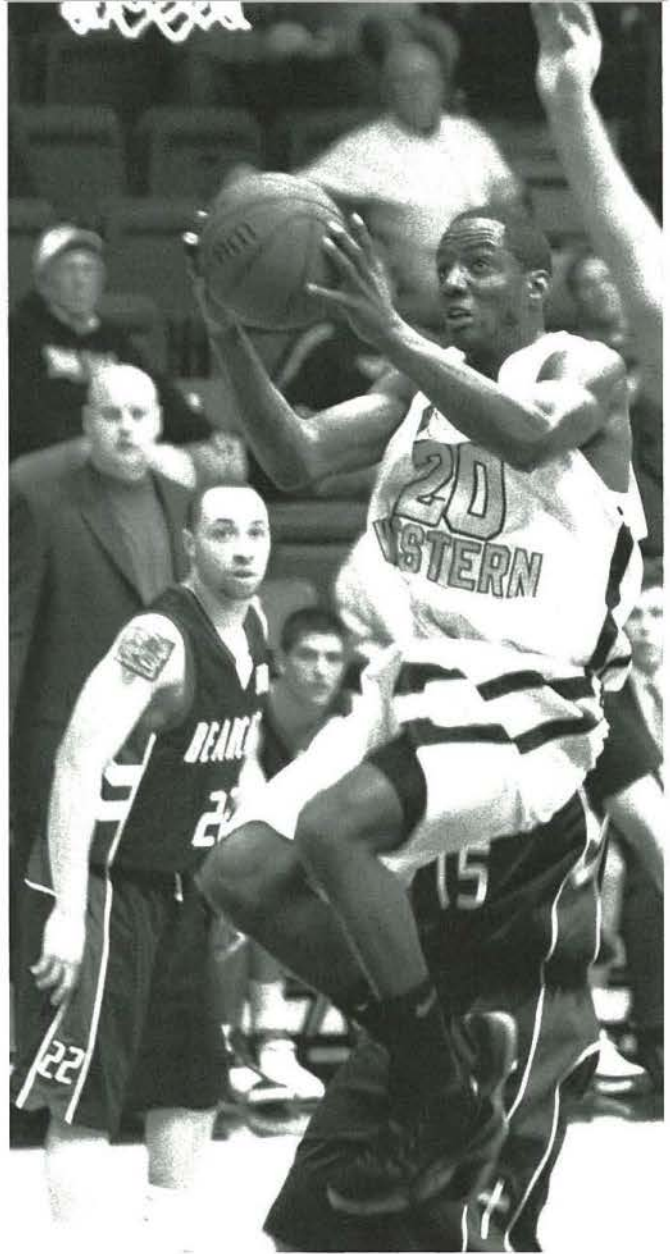
With the season behind them, the Griffons said goodbye to three athletes: Kyle Kirschner, Jay McFarland and Keion Kindred.

Left: Lonnell Johnson, a guard for the Griffons, dribbles down the court to score a basket for the Griffons while the opposing team guards him. Their overall record for the combined season was 9-19. Photo by Linda Shireman

Middle: Mike Sylvara, a forward for the Griffons, pushes past Emporia State, winning 68-64. Sylvara was selected 2nd Team All-Conference while he attended Kansas City, Kan., Community College. Photo by Marty Ayers

Right: The Northwest Bearcats watch on as Johnson prepares to dunk the ball. Johnson, a criminal justice major, was named 1st Team All-Region in high school. Photo by Marty Ayers



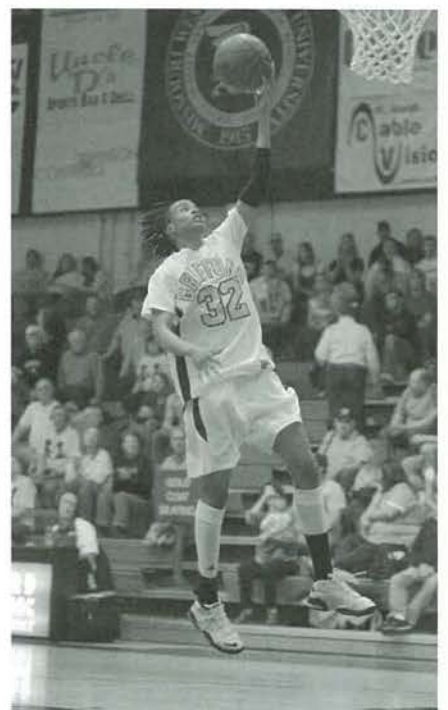


OPP

SCORE

Missouri-Columbia	L, 55-113
Upper Iowa	W, 76-69
Lincoln	W, 78-77
Kansas Wesleyan	W, 84-52
Missouri Baptist	W, 80-70
Nebraska-Omaha	L, 72-78
Quincy	W, 75-67
Central Oklahoma	L, 71-77
Southeastern Oklahoma	L, 70-77
Washburn	W, 78-77
Missouri Southern	L, 71-77
NWMSU	L, 60-73
Truman	L, 65-73
Rockhurst	W, 78-51
UCM	W, 61-53
Fort Hays State	L, 76-58
Pitt. State	L, 55-69
Emporia State	L, 72-76
Southwest Baptist	L, 56-76
Washburn	L, 69-90
Southwest Baptist	L, 72-84
Emporia State	W, 68-64
Pitt. State	L, 54-67
Fort Hays State	L, 52-65
Truman	L, 68-73
UCM	L, 54-69
NWMSU	L, 55-84
Missouri Southern	L, 80-87

scoreboard



Above: With Lynn Plett's first season behind him as head coach for the Griffons, the ladies finish the season with an overall record of 12-15. Megan Gawatz, forward for the Griffons, led the Central High School Indians in assists during her high school days. *Photo by Marty Ayers*
 Top: Faced with a rough transition, the ladies tackle concerns as a team first and foremost. Yanique Javois, guard for the Griffons, was named All-MIAA defensive team in 2007. *Photo by Linda Shireman*
 Middle: Plett is the seventh head coach for the Women's Basketball team. Lauren Nolke, guard for the Griffons, was a season and career record holder for three-point shots made. *Photo by Marty Ayers*
 Bottom: The ladies began their season with a loss against Oral Roberts, 63-92. Javois started in all 33 games during the 2006-2007 season. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

OPP SCORE

Oral Roberts	L, 63-92
Iowa	L, 56-79
Texas Women's Univ.	W, 86-82
Cameron	L, 45-53
Northeastern State	L, 51-64
Park	W, 97-71
Augustana	W, 79-75
Southern Arkansas	W, 63-54
Henderson State	L, 45-66
Central Methodist	W, 99-56
Washburn	L, 52-65
Missouri Southern	W, 74-72
NWMSU	L, 74-78
Truman	L, 80-84
UCM	W, 89-63
Fort Hays State	W, 88-66
Pitt. State	W, 77-75
Emporia State	L, 65-84
Southwest Baptist	L, 60-77
Washburn	L, 44-68
Southwest Baptist	L, 72-82
Emporia State	L, 87-100
Pitt. State	L, 65-73
Fort Hays State	L, 79-81
Truman State	W, 93-78
UCM	L, 49-66
NWMSU	W, 69-66
Missouri Southern	W, 70-58
Washburn	L, 63-78

SCOREBOARD

Optimistic As Leaders

by Amy Marks and Jennifer Kohler

Griffon fans were hoping to see another great season from the Women's Basketball team. Compared to the 30-4 winning record from the 2006-2007 season, the 12-15 record was a little disappointing, especially for the three seniors who were leaving their passion behind.

The season started out a little rocky with a 63-92 loss to Oral Roberts in an exhibition game. The rest of the season was just as unpredictable without a consistent streak until the end of January when the seven game losing streak began.

"We faced lots of ups and downs," senior Chemia Woods said. "We had more losses than wins, but it has been a great learning experience. One of the greatest challenges was trying to incorporate a new administrator and new players."

New Head Coach Lynn Plett was the seventh head coach to join Western Women's Basketball. Although he came from a winning school, there were still a lot of adjustments to be made before the Lady Griffons could give Western fans a repeat of last season.

"It's a tough transition knowing you'll have a coach only just for one year," senior Jill Johnson said. "But he kept us together with new faces and only three leaders."

Woods was more than certain about one thing. "Coach Plett is an intelligent coach and when it comes to basketball, he really does know his stuff," Woods said.

Senior Yanique Javois said the character of each play shined throughout the season. "We mutually played well and pulled it together as a team. We

were to remain optimistic as leaders. This has to be the best year of my life."

The upcoming year was something both Plett and the seniors were looking forward to.

"This next year is a huge one with six sophomores and only one senior," Johnson said. "The freshmen have seen a lot and know what to expect, which will help them to better train the new girls who come in."

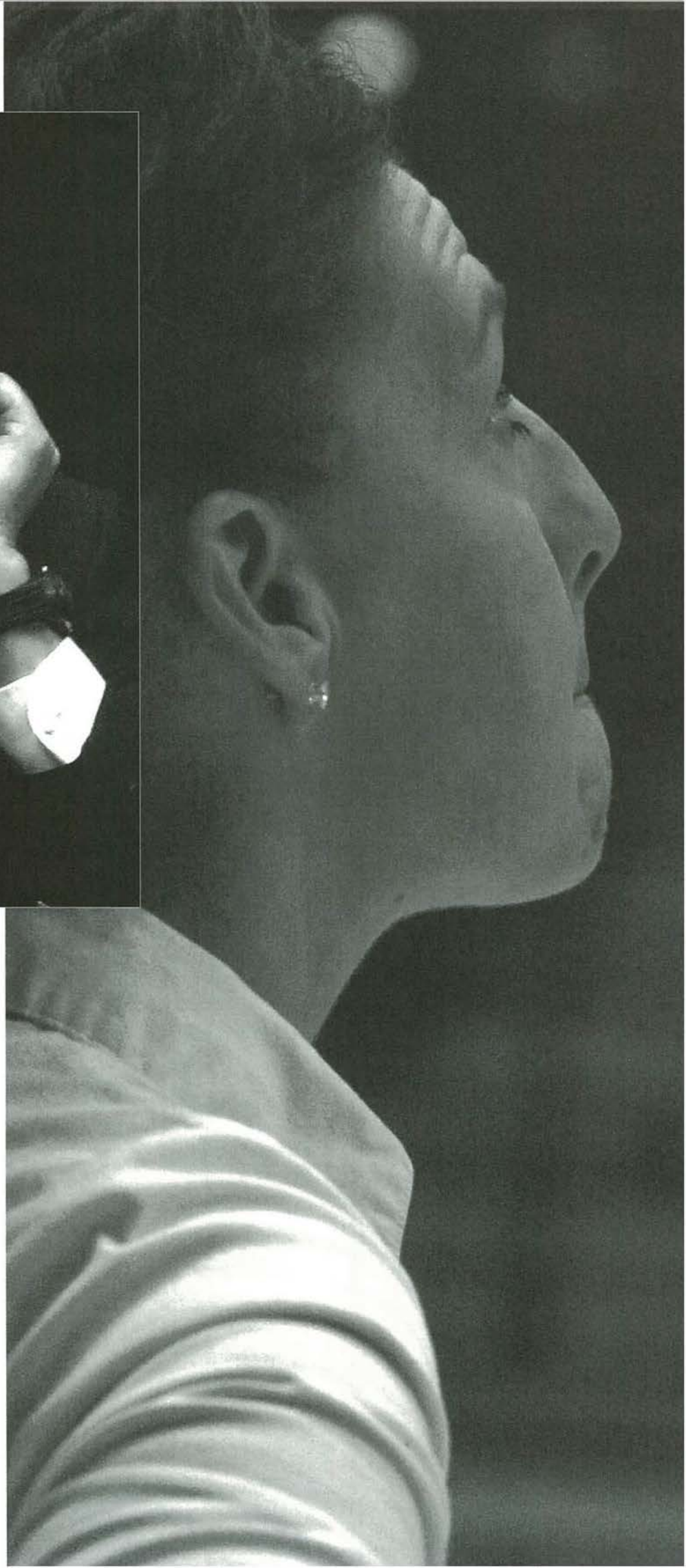
Plett was glad to work with the seniors and felt confident about the upcoming season and grateful about this past one. "It's great to have this opportunity for two reasons. One, that the seniors who played such an important role, and two, to give the freshmen a taste and hunger to reach this place in future years."



Above: Lynn Plett replaces Head Coach Josh Keister. Plett, head coach for the Women's Basketball team, led the Flyers program at Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Right: Tiffany Mastin, head coach for the Women's Volleyball team, is the fifth head volleyball coach in MWSU's history. Mastin helped start the volleyball program at Covenant Christian High School in Indianapolis, Ind. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Far Right: Jill Johnson, a basketball player, feels that throughout her college career, she has had to transition herself as a player to fit each new coach's coaching style. While there were rough times ahead for the Women's Basketball and Women's Volleyball teams, it was all about "being loyal as a Griffon." *Photo by Matthew Fowler*



Under New Management

by Amy Marks and Jennifer Kohler

Expectations for national level competition were possible with the new Women's Basketball coach. As Missouri Western's seventh head coach, Lynn Plett had previously tasted national success, bringing to Western great possibilities for future success. Though the transition into Western was not without bumps, the road ahead was expected to level out, creating a smooth sail for competition.

Plett could see the national championship within reach for the Lady Griffons. He came from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., with a five-year build of success, and he knew how to lead a team that was recognized as No. 7 in NCAA Division II Coaches Poll. Plett was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year, along with the NCAA Division II Region 4 Coach of the Year.

Plett graduated from Tabor College in Hillsboro, Kan., with a bachelor's degree in physical education and another in Humanities and Biblical Studies. The decision to work with the Lady Griffons was an easy one to make. Western was close to home, which helped for a smooth transition.

"We decided to move back to where my wife and I grew up,"

Plett said.

But what really caught Plett's attention was the history of Western. "I liked the history of the basketball program at Western, as well as the support from the institution itself and the community."

The greatest challenges for Plett were losing so many players and getting players acquainted with future goals. "It may take a number of years, but potential is there to build a team to compete for national championship," Plett said.

Senior Jill Johnson felt the tough transition. "It's all about being loyal as a Griffon," Johnson said. "You have to make the adjustments when adversity comes. You learn to adjust from freshman year to a style that you're used to. It was unfortunate that it had to be my senior year. The transition was tough for all of us."

Also new to Western Athletics was Head Volleyball Coach Tiffany Mastin. Graduate of Taylor University in Upland, Ind., Mastin received a bachelor's degree in social work. While in college, she played on the first Taylor University team to ever win a Mid-Central Championship. She became the fifth head volleyball coach in Western's history.



Starting At Love

by Gerri Tracy

The Women's Tennis team may have had a bad year for wins, but they had a great year as a team.

Even though they only won four games and lost 16, Head Coach Ron Selkirk was very pleased with the year.

"We have done a little better than I thought we would do," Selkirk said.

The team played the season with only two experienced players returning from last year.

"We lost five of our top seven players last year," Selkirk said.

Losing teammates was a challenge this year, but the women overcame and played the best they could. There were seven women on the team with six of them playing. Freshman Dominique Leone received an

injury that left her unable to play. However, with only two experienced players, the team still had a good season.

The Lady Griffons felt like it was a season of growing.

"The season was fun and difficult because we were trying to get to know each other," sophomore Amber Adams said.

This was Adams first season to play and she believed that the number of wins was not as important as the morale of the team.

"We have come together as a team and that is very important to our future," Adams said.

Adams enjoyed having Selkirk as a coach and she believed the team will improve next year. Selkirk coached tennis for over 30 years. He led the Central High School Indians to win the

Missouri State title in 1974. He was a member of the Northeast Missouri State University Hall of Fame, now known as Truman State University, and a three-time Missouri Intercollegiate Athletics Association singles and doubles champion.

Doubles was another challenge for the Women's Tennis team. Adams felt that finding the right formation for doubles teams was the biggest challenge of the year.

She also felt that students would think the team had a bad year because there were only four wins.

"Students don't understand this was a growing year and we're getting stronger as a team," Adams said. "It has really been trying, but I feel like we're gaining experience."



OPP

SCORE

Newman University	W, 7-2
Univ. of South Dakota	L, 1-8
Fort Hays State	L, 3-6
NWMSU	L, 0-9
Johnson County	W, 6-3
Emporia State	L, 2-7
Northeastern State	L, 0-9
Nebraska-Omaha	L, 1-8
Washburn	L, 0-9
Truman State	L, 1-8
Benedictine College	L, 3-6
Minnesota State-Mankato	L, 3-6
Lincoln University	W, 5-4
SW Baptist	L, 0-9
Graceland University	L, 0-9
Lincoln University	W, 7-2
Benedictine College	L, 2-7
Missouri Southern	L, 0-6
NWMSU	L, 0-5
Emporia State	L, 1-5

SCOREBOARD

Above: Head Coach Ron Selkirk discusses strategy with the Women's Tennis team before the big match against Lincoln University. Although the women ended their season with a loss to Emporia State, they concentrated more on morale. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Top: Phoenix, Ariz., native Kristy Pechous dives in for the ball. One challenge for the women during the spring season was doubles. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: Lindsay Frisbie watches as the offense approaches the ball. Frisbie placed second in the 2005 St. Joseph Tournament. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom: Although the women's final record for the spring season is 4-20, Amber Adams feels that the most important thing of the season was coming together as a team. Adams was a three-year state qualifier and team captain at Owasso High School. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

As A Team

by Amy Chastain

Although the men felt that their spirits could not rise after they finished fourth place at the MIAA Conference Championship, they had to work on their confidence and on their swing for the NCAA Tournament in Findlay, Ohio, located at the Red Hawk Run Golf Course.

"I didn't have very good scores at the MIAA Tournament," Shane Feist, a sophomore accounting major, said. "My scores actually do not reflect how good I play. If I could replay about seven out of 54 holes, I would have placed a lot better, but other than those seven holes, I played well during the tournament. Our whole team didn't play very well, but I feel that it will give us more motivation to get ready for the NCAA Tournament."

Caleb Carter, a sophomore criminal justice major, finished 11th at the MIAA Tournament. "I played well at the MIAA Tournament, but I could have done better at the second and third rounds because none of my birdie putts would fall," Carter said.

As a husband and father, Carter felt more determined to do well, but his family came first, instead, of the game he knew and loved. "I don't think it has affected my ability at the sport I play," Carter said. "I could always practice more or play more, but golf isn't the most important thing, and

other things can wait like golf. I could have been a better golfer, but instead of practicing all day or staying out at the course all day, I have other things to worry about and other people to make happy, rather than just myself."

From the people in their lives to the game they loved, the Men's Golf team had their work cut out for them especially with the weather. "The weather has been horrible," Carter said. "We have had one tournament canceled and two tournaments which resulted in a one-day tournament due to extreme weather. Due to the cold and rain, the spring season was one of the worst I have ever played. I am disappointed though because I wanted to make All-Conference, but I still have a chance to go to nationals if I do well at the NCAA Tournament."

It appeared that the Men's Golf team should do well at the NCAA Tournament in Findlay, Ohio. "We have a lot of talent and we get along real well," Feist said. "We have had trouble playing well at the same time though, so we haven't been able to place as well as we would like."

Although the Men's Golf team strived for success in the NCAA Tournament ahead, they were confident in their success as a team and with the season.

Left: Aaron Lisenbee looks on at the competition at the MWSU Invitational at the Fairview Golf Course. At the NCAA Regional Tournament, Lisenbee won the tournament and his team placed third. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Middle: Shane Feist practices putting as the opposing team puts. Mother Nature caused a halt on some scheduled practices and tournaments during the spring season. *Photo by Amy Chastain*

Right: Craig Lytle looks on after swinging to see just how far his ball has landed. Although all golfers hoped for a birdie, long distance shots didn't promise it in return. *Photo by Amy Chastain*





Left: Tucker Perkins, new to the team, measures the distance from the hole to where his golf ball stands. Perkins, a graduate of South Harrison High School in Bethany, Mo., won All-Conference in high school. *Photo by Matthew Fowler*

Below: Lytle is in his last season on the Men's Golf team. In 2006, his low round at the MIAA Championship helped the team win the MIAA regular title for the first time since 1996. *Photo by Amy Chastain*



OPP	FINISHED	SCOREBOARD
Missouri Collegiate	8th	
Truman State Invitational	t-5th	
UMC Fall Central Region Invite	t-2nd	
Drury Invitational	7th	
Fort Hays State Invitational	3rd	
Newman Spring Invitational	2nd	
UMC Heart of America	4th	
MWSU Invitational	3rd	
Kansas City Collegiate Invitational	3rd	
MIAA Conference Tournament	4th	
NCAA Super Regional	3rd	



Above: Lexi Webb and Kimberly Evans warm up at the Missouri Western Invitational at the Fairview Golf Course. Evans finished the invitational with 105, whereas Webb finished with a tie for 13th, shooting 98. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Top: Fort Hays State receives first place, with a one-day total of 355. The Women's Golf team concluded the invitational with a team total of 390. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: Because the Women's Golf team does not have a golf course located on campus, typical viewers include family members and coaches. Head Coach Cathy Habermehl was busy recruiting during the off months, gaining recognition for the team. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Bottom: Deidra Twombly, who finished with the best round for the team with a score of 91, is surprised that many students don't realize there is a Women's Golf team. Twombly, who graduated from Central High School, was a three-year state qualifier. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

	OPP	SCORE
SCOREBOARD	Drury Invitational	18th
	NWMSU Fall Invitational	5th
	SW Minnesota Invitational	13th
	William Jewell Tournament	4th
	UMKC-Kenneth Smith Classic	10th
	MWSU Invitational	4th
	SW Baptist Invitational	3rd/4th
	Park Spring Invitational	7th
	Minnesota State - Mankato	5th
NWMSU Spring Invitational	1st	

A Known Entity

by Anna Flin

As a difficult year drew to a close for Western's Women's Golf team Head Coach Cathy Habermehl, reflected on the season's challenges.

"My greatest challenge this year has been to build a team from scratch and try to prepare new players in a short period of time," Habermehl said. "I am proud to have a team that works together to improve and players who respect and support each other."

One of the new players Habermehl was referring to was Kimberly Evans, who met Habermehl by chance at a tournament in Hamilton, Mo.

"She looked friendly, so I talked to her while we were waiting to tee off," Evans said.

Habermehl then asked a surprised Evans if she would be interested in becoming involved with Western's Women's Golf team.

"I thought she was crazy, and I told her that I really only play once a year," Evans said. "She didn't seem to mind, and I'm pretty sure she was desperate."

Habermehl had recruited a player who would spread the word to others. Freshman Sara Solomon was the last member to join the team.

"I had talked to Evans about it and she kept telling me how much she enjoyed being on the team," Solomon said. "Playing golf allows me to get outside and forget about the worries of school."

While its coach and teammates were enthusiastic, recognition of Women's Golf was slowly growing at Western.

Junior Deidra Twombly noted the increasing awareness.

"I have talked to a few students on campus who didn't even know there was a Women's Golf team until I told them I was

on it," Twombly said. "Although this year I have had a lot of students asking me about the team and how we are doing, so I think it's beginning to be more known on campus."

Habermehl also had high hopes for the team's popularity, and for its success.

"Since golf is one of the small sports at Missouri Western, it doesn't get the exposure and publicity of the larger sports like football and basketball," Habermehl said. "I feel that, as we improve, we will earn more respect and attention."

Evans felt that the team owed much of its potential success to Habermehl's dedication.

"Cathy is doing an excellent job recruiting and it has been difficult for her to find players," Evans said. "I do think Women's Golf will be a known entity within the next few years when Cathy has a chance to get the program off the ground."

Peanuts & Crackerjacks

by Amy Marks and Jennifer Kohler

The long winter may have given the Men's Baseball team low numbers of fans at each game, but it didn't stop the Griffons from playing hard. With a record of 25-24, the men struggled to win more games than they actually lost, but still did decent throughout the season.

"The beginning of the year was tough for the baseball team," Brett Esley, assistant athletic director for external relations, said. "Most of the games were redirected to the south and practice schedules had extremes with the weather conditions not permitting for practices or plays."

The first seven games of the season were cancelled due to weather, and when the Griffons were finally able to play their first game, they lost to Montavello 9-10. The rest of the season was filled with ups and downs, without any long-run winning or losing streaks.

Head Coach Buzz Verduzco knew that although the fight against Mother Nature might decrease morale, it did not put a damper on the quality of the players. A great example of this was senior and first baseman Tommy Bone. "Tommy Bone is our scholar athlete nominee both academically and as a player," Verduzco said. "He is one of the many vital play-

ers for the Griffons."

Bone was offensive player of the year for the team, and hoped to continue playing outside of college. "I hope to play a little independent pro-ball, but if that doesn't work then I want to coach," Bone said.

A few rule changes from last year caused the men to think that their season was good, but they could have gone farther. "It's good that we stood out, but we finished fifth only because of the rules," Bone said. "We would have made it to regionals, then maybe to the World Series."

Starting off the year with the best hitting average, senior third baseman Adam Carolan was another star player for the team. "I wish we were playing better," Carolan said. "We have a lot of talent; we just haven't played up to our potential."

Pitcher Troy Landi had been in the program for the last three years and thought what the Griffons were really missing were more fans. "We have got a lot of solid players every year, but it's hard to get motivated," Landi said. "I hope to get a degree and go as far as I can in school because you can only play when you're young."

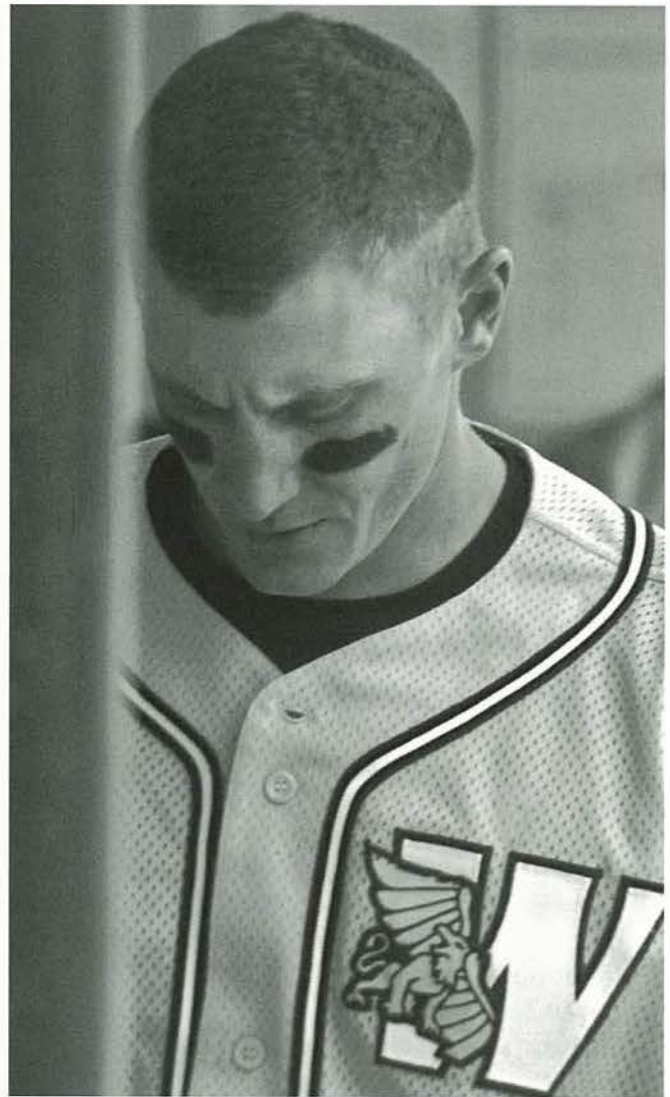
Overall the season was good, but the men are looking forward to a new year and new beginnings.

Left: Chris Jackson, a right handed pitcher, prefers to throw strikes and ground ball outs. In 2007, Jackson struck out 24 batters. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: Ben Toedebusch is second on the Men's Baseball team in batting averages. In 2007, he had 42 hits in 125 plate performances. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Right: Adam Carolan feels that the team has a lot of talent, but have not played up to their potential. In 2007, Carolan played in 44 games and started in 41 games. *Photo by Linda Shireman*





<i>OPP</i>	<i>SERIES SCORE</i>
Montevallo	W-1, L-2
Augustana College	W-1, L-1
Nebraska-Omaha	W-0, L-2
Arkansas Tech	W-1, L-1
Harding University	W-0, L-2
Fort Hays	W-3, L-1
Emporia State	W-0, L-4
Truman State	W-3, L-1
NWMSU	W-1, L-1
UMC	W-1, L-3
NWMSU	W-1, L-1
Pitt State	W-3, L-1
Washburn	W-3, L-1
Missouri Southern	W-4, L-0
SW Baptist	W-3, L-1
UMC	L, 4-6
Fort Hays	L, 3-4

scoreboard

Batter Up

by Jennifer Kohler

The Women's Softball team struggled to get the season they hoped for. Ending the season with a 27-28 record, the Lady Griffons battled for a winning record, but came out unsuccessful. Although the women were just one game away from .500 or above, their season was still a good one and that was one thing fans could appreciate.

Starting the season off against New Mexico Highlands in the Phoenix, Ariz., Lead Off Classic, the Griffons had a big 10-1 win, but later that day, lost 4-7 to their second opponent, University of California - San Diego.

The rest of the season stayed pretty inconsistent, with the longest winning streak coming out of the 2008 Western Softball Invitational in March. Out of the five games played, the Lady Griffons lost their first to the University of Mary and won the next four, beating Concordia-St. Paul, Minnesota

State - Mankato, Upper Iowa and Wayne State College.

The longest losing streak came April 2-4 lasting only four games. The first two losses were against Emporia State University and the second two against the University of Nebraska - Omaha, all four of which were away games.

The women were seeded seventh in the MIAA Softball Tournament, which was held in Shawnee, Kan. The Griffons defeated the No. 2 seed University of Central Missouri in game one by a score of 10-1. In the second game, the women lost 0-3 to Northwest Missouri State. The third game against Fort Hays State was postponed due to weather, and once it was replayed the Griffons battled hard, but lost 2-3 - a sad end to the softball season.

This was Head Coach Jen Bagley's seventh season at Missouri Western. She led the Griffons to back-to-back-to-back appearances in the NCAA Divi-

sion II National Tournament in 2005, 2006 and 2007, but the women weren't able to make it for a fourth year in a row.

Sophomore Shannon Pivovar was named to the second team 2008 Daktronics Division II SIDs All-North Central Region Softball Team for her work at second base during the season. Pivovar was also named to the Honorable Mention All-MIAA team last week at the MIAA Conference Tournament. Pivovar ended the season with a .308 batting average, which was fourth on the team. She led the team in homeruns and RBIs with eight and 35 respectively. Pivovar had 134 putouts with 90 assists and only three errors for a fielding percentage of .987 for the Griffons.

Although the season wasn't quite as good as the players had hoped, it was still a good season. Fans were able to cheer the Griffons onto victories, and the women looked forward to an even better season next year.



OPP

SERIES SCORE

Wayne State	W-1, L-1
UMC	W-1, L-1
Wayne State	L, 2-4
Augustana College	W, 7-6
Southwest Minn. State	L, 3-4
Minn. State-Mankato	L, 0-10
Univ. of Neb.-Omaha	W, 6-3
Emporia State Univ.	W-0, L-2
Univ. of Neb.-Omaha	W-0, L-2
Pittsburg State Univ.	W-1, L-1
Fort Hays State	W-1, L-1
Truman State Univ.	W-0, L-2
Missouri Southern	W-1, L-1
SW Baptist	W-2, L-0
Upper Iowa	W, 3-1
Winona State	W, 4-3
Washburn	W-1, L-1
UCM	W, 10-1
NWMSU	L, 0-3
Fort Hays State	L, 2-3

scoreboard

Above: The Lady Griffons conclude the season in the MIAA Conference Tournament to Fort Hays, 2-3. Pitcher Tyann Williamson missed the entire 2007 season due to a torn anterior cruciate ligament. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Top: Third Baseman Mandie Nocita finishes the season, leading in 56 hits and a base percentage at .399. Nocita finished the 2007 season as one of the team leaders in several offensive categories. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Middle: Led by Head Coach Jen Bagley, this season the ladies were not able to make it to the NCAA Division II National Tournament. Catcher Keri Franks compiled 169 putouts and 38 assists during the 2007 season. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Bottom: Five players were named to the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll. Those listed included: Nocita, Williamson, Shannon Pivovar, Lauren Sternberg and Kristi Warneke. *Photo by Amanda Hake*



Above: David Williams wife and son watch as he explains his dreams for the athletic program at MWSU. His son amused the crowd with his antics, but interrupted his father several times. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

Right: Western faculty and staff listen as Williams speaks about his visions as MWSU's new athletic director. He was the athletic director at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. *Photo by Marty Ayers*





Integrity to Athletics

by Traci Haug

And the race is on. There were more than 80 candidates that applied for the vacancy for athletic director created by Mark Linder when he resigned in August 2007.

Linder was a credit to Western and was highly respected by his fellow administrators because of his advocating for the athletic program in a professional manner.

"He always had the best interests of all students as his first priority," Dan Nicoson, vice president for University Advancement, said. "He is well respected by his peers and will undoubtedly be successful in his new position as well."

The lucky man who was chosen to take Linder's position was David Williams. He had been the athletic director at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside since 2001. A search committee was created to find the perfect candidates for the position. Jill Johnson, a basketball player, was able to serve on the search committee.

"I think David will bring enthusiasm," Johnson, a senior, said. "He has as deep passion for athletics, but also for the Griffon student athletes to exceed in the classroom and get their degrees with high GPAs."

There are many qualities that Williams will be able to bring to Western. His peers among the NCAA Division II athletic directors recognized him for his abilities when they chose him to be their national leader. He is an individual

who is passionately committed to the values of the NCAA Division II athletics, and he will bring this passion and his campus and national experience to his responsibilities at Western. He will succeed Linder, an individual committed to integrity in college sports and to the welfare of student athletes.

"Like Mark Linder, David Williams can be expected to uphold the university's commitment to integrity and to student-athletes, graduating "champions" both in academics and athletics," Western President James Scanlon said. "Williams is a welcome addition to the campus and to the larger community."

Many Western affiliates were fortunate for the selection. They recognized that he was going to be a great asset to our community. "We are fortunate that David recognized Western's quality and potential," Nicoson said. "He is an experienced athletic director that will be a strong candidate anywhere in the nation."

While Linder will be greatly missed, the journey for the athletic department will continue with Williams. "Those that meet David will understand why the selection committee brought him to campus," Johnson said. "He is a guy that once you meet him, you will remember him. He knew a lot about Missouri Western and the community, which only better the success he will continue to have here."

Voluntary Athletes

by Traci Haug

Competition doesn't stop just because you leave high school. Intramurals are just as competitive and alive as the sports once played before the "Freshman 15." For those who missed the competition and exercise, intramurals were always an option, and many students took advantage of it.

"I went out for intramurals because I played basketball all four years of high school as a state champion," Charnelle Starling, an elementary education major, said.

Although some students played just to get in a quick cardio boost, others became involved because of their love for sports.

"I got involved with intramurals because I love sports and love to play basketball," Courtney Kent, a physical education major, said.

Aside from exercise, playing an intramural sport gave students extra time to have fun. There were friends that wanted to hang out and sorority sisters or fraternity brothers that wanted to bond a little more.

"I went out for intramurals because I'm the intramural chair for Tri Sigma," Kristin Miller, a business major, said. "My sorority sisters and I really wanted a team to have some fun and get some extra exercise. Also, anytime we can spend together is a good time."

Although intramural sports were full of fun and competition, there were some downfalls.

"The worst part is probably when a team forfeits," Miller said. "The best part is seeing new people, cheering for your team and other teams, and spending time with my sisters."

Others were disappointed with the way some of the games were ran.

"I would have to say that the worst part of intramurals would be the refereeing," Kent said. "Sometimes it gets a little crazy on the court, and it would be nice to have some refs that can take control of the game."

Intramurals provided many different aspects of playing sports. There were 21 different intramural sports, including basketball, softball, volleyball, football and dodgeball.

"The exercise, quality time and having fun together so no one is just sitting in their room not doing anything makes intramurals really great," Miller said.

This year's organizations had high hopes of involving more students. The games were always fun and challenging, and with more teams there would be less of a chance of teams forfeiting.

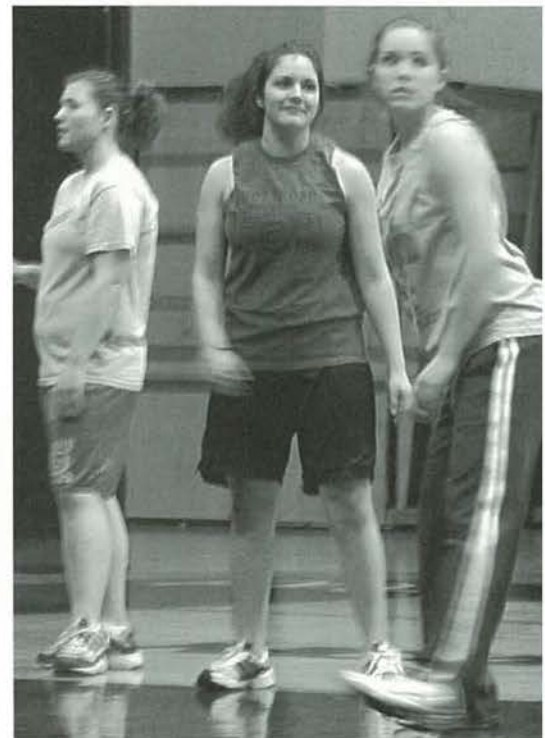
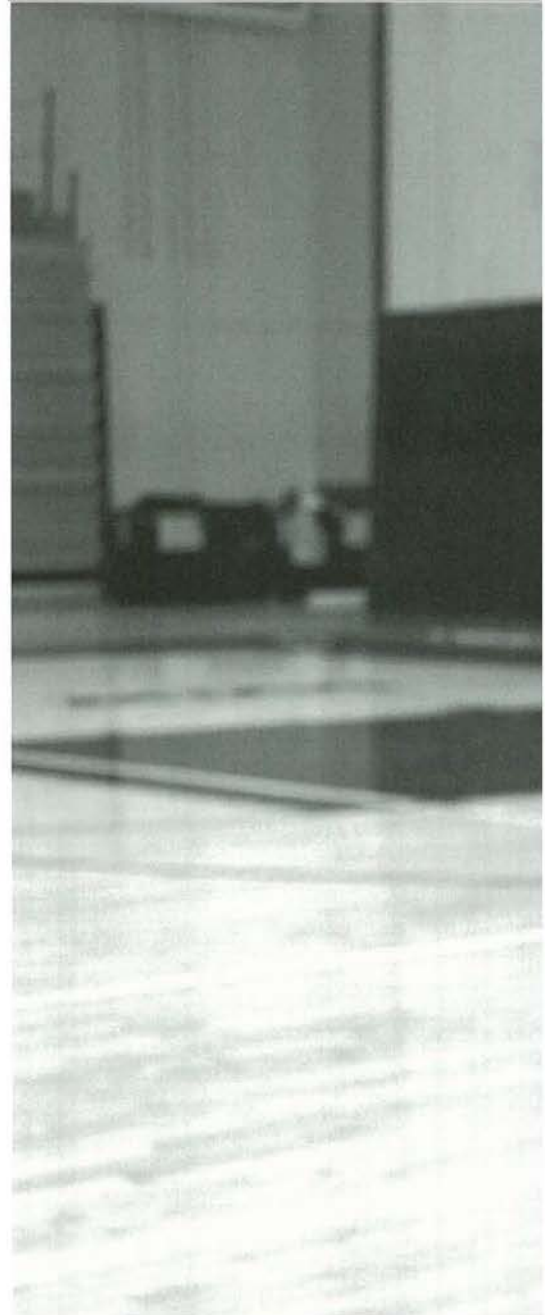
"I wish we had more games," Miller said. "In my pool the first team forfeited, so we only had two games."

Although short-lived, the season was still fun for the players who hoped that next year was just as good, or better.

Right: A team of guys face off against competitors. There were some teams who weren't as lucky because their competitors either forfeited or didn't show up. *Photo by Raphaelle Drew*

Middle: These group of ladies wait patiently as the other team arrives. Some teams were forced to forfeit or quit due to low numbers on a team. *Photo by Raphaelle Drew*

Far Right: Logan Parker guards a member from "Celtic Pride." Referees were not present at most games. *Photo by Raphaelle Drew*



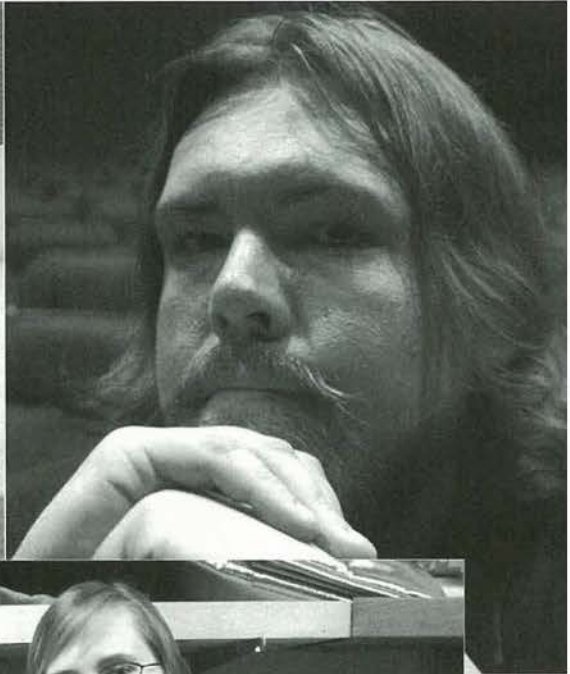
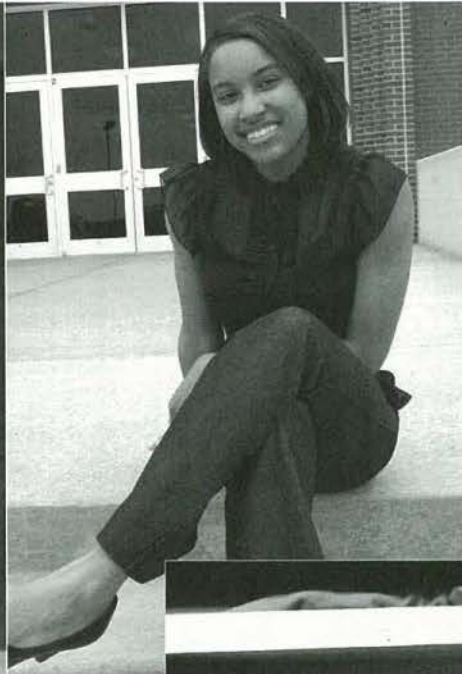


Left: Michael Carpenter looks on as members of his team compete in an all out battle. At times, these volunteer athletes did not get to sit on the bench due to low numbers on a team. *Photo by Raphaelle Drew*

Below: MWSU is home to several intramural sports. During the offseason, athletes could stay in shape by participating in intramurals. *Photo by Raphaelle Drew*



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community



“ I think there are so many leaders that have faced tremendous challenges, and I often ask myself, ‘How do they do it? Could I ever do that?’,” Olin Kinsey said. “I have some abilities that a leader possesses, but I am still in training.”

– Olin Kinsey

Natalie Bailey

VOY



Photos by Jeremy Weikel

We are the country of the red, white and blue; a country founded on Christian beliefs. We are home to a diverse ethnic group, offering our citizens the freedom of speech and religion. Our neighbors to the Middle East are dramatically different. Afghanistan is a country of the black, red and green; a country founded on Islamic beliefs. Afghanistan is not a home to a diverse number of ethnic groups. In fact, the Afghan people want the people of the United States to know that they are not all terrorists. One of Western's very own had the opportunity to visit the country and learn about it and the people.

Natalie Bailey, a senior and history and government major, used the leadership training she received through the Center for Student Engagement. Bailey taught at two different locations during her stay.

"The first was at the Institute for Leadership Development in Herat," Bailey said. "There, I taught on the importance of a shared vision. I also taught at summer school at the International School of Kabul, where I taught art. The main purpose of summer school was for kids to practice their English."

Bailey was a little nervous upon arrival, but never felt threatened. "At first I was overwhelmed and not really sure how to act. You hear horrible things on the news about how women are treated, and I did not want to commit some kind of social faux pas. However, I was treated very well by all of the Afghan people, and I soon relaxed."

During her stay, Bailey had the opportunity to see how a "non-governmental organization worked, and how 30 years of major conflicts affected a country."

"I had studied different Afghan events in school, and once there, I met people who had fought with the Soviets, and been put in jail by the Taliban," Bailey said. "It was a very enlightening experience."

Due to her experience, Bailey no longer wore a watch. "In Afghanistan, it's more important to cultivate relationships than to keep a schedule. I really liked that aspect, and have learned to not be so 'schedule-based' in my own life."

The one single most important thing Bailey shared with others about her trip to Afghanistan concerned the Afghan people. "I hope more eyes are opened, and stereotypes are broken down. Not all Afghans are terrorists, not all Muslims are bad, and people are just people."

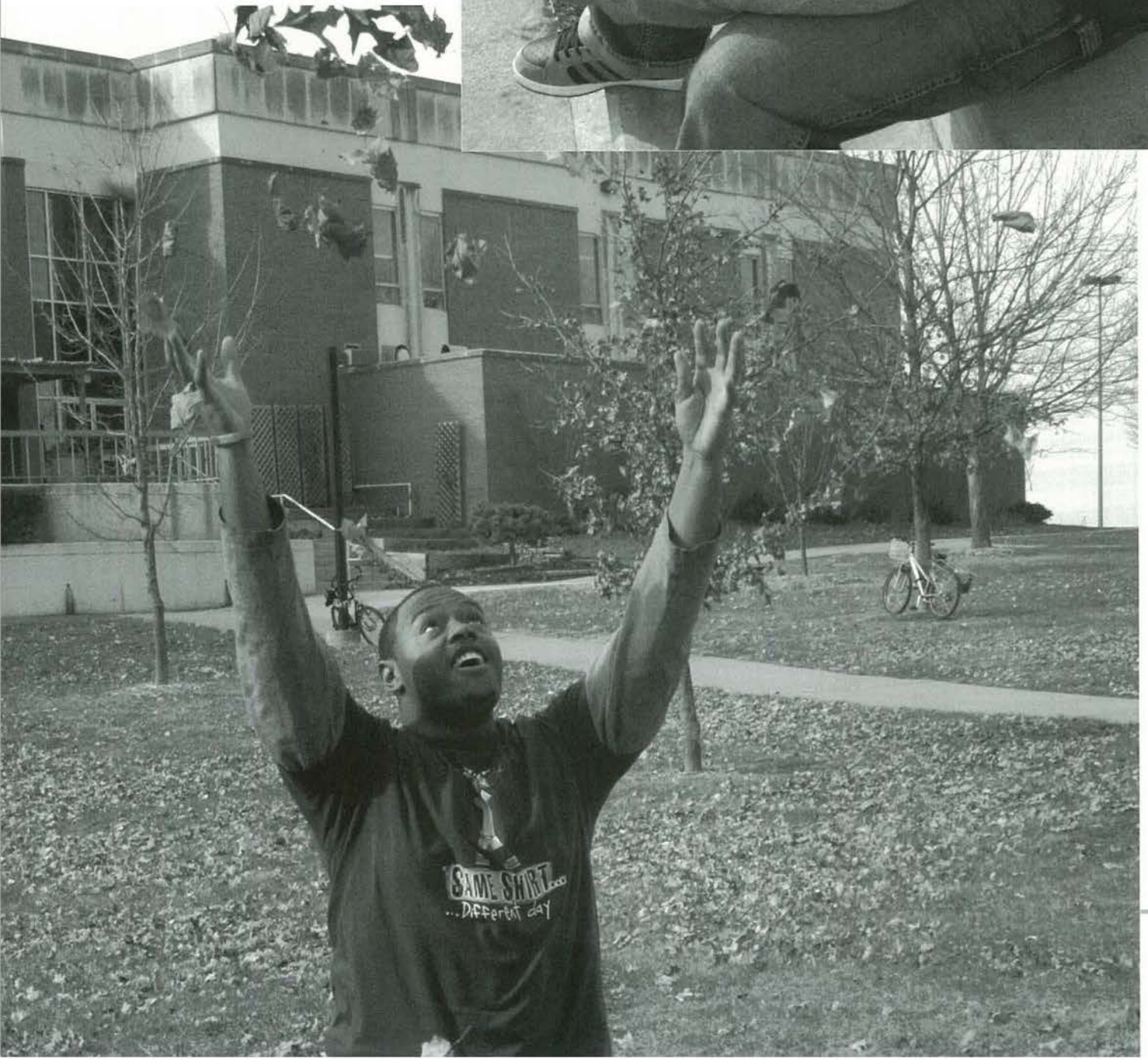
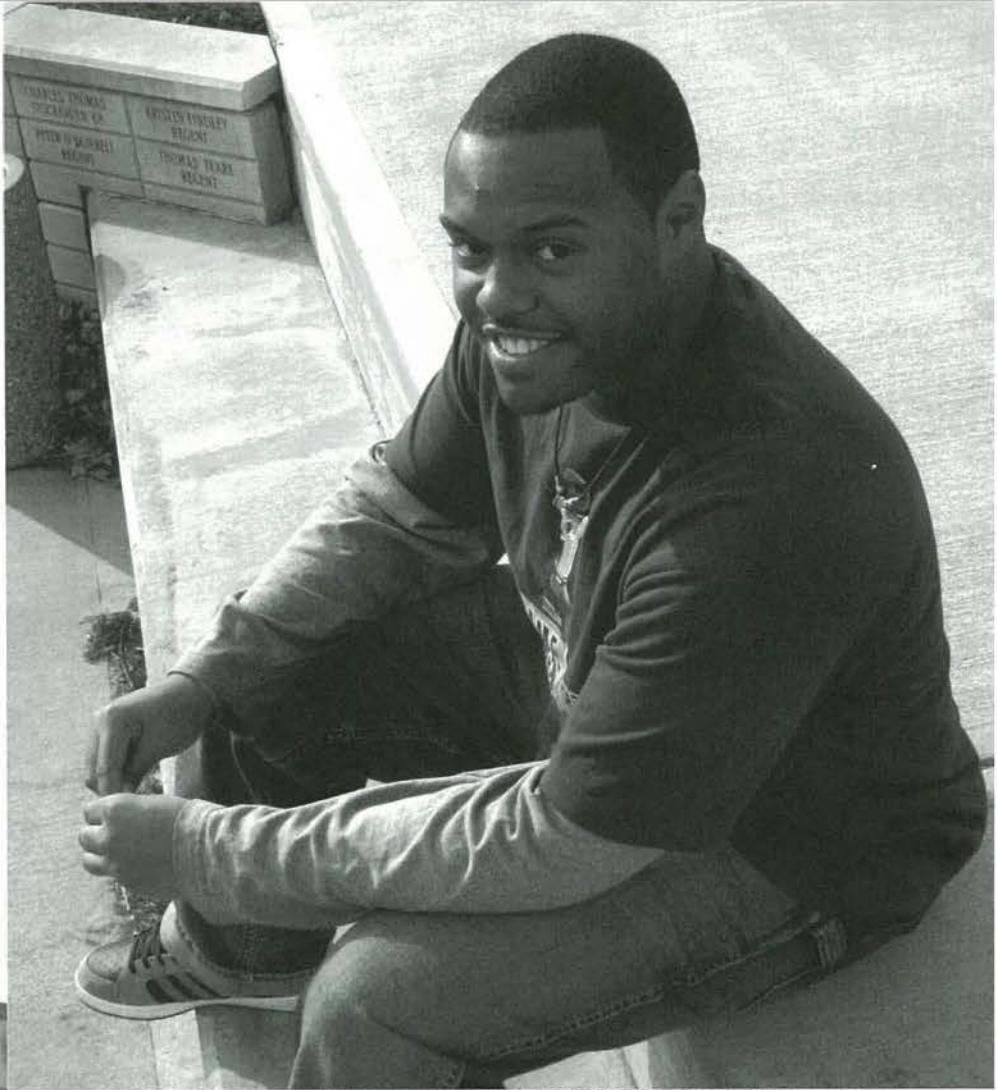
by Amy Chastain



Not all
Afghans are
terrorists, not
all Muslims
are bad, and
people are
just people.”



By getting involved, I have declared what I want in life, and what I need to do in order to get there.”



Olin Kinsey

If there was one student leader that had done all there was to do at Western, it would almost certainly be Olin Kinsey, a communications major with a public relations emphasis. Just about every opportunity that he was presented with, he took to its fullest possible potential.

Most of the time, if one saw Kinsey on campus, he inevitably had those white iPod earphones on, always listening to music.

"Every step has a beat," Kinsey said. "Even when I'm not listening to music."

Campus involvement was a huge part of the higher education experience for Kinsey.

"Getting involved on campus is the first step to getting to know what you want to do in life," Kinsey said. "By getting involved, I have declared what I want in life, and what I need to do in order to get there."

He found that interaction with people of different race, status and class is very important and had made him see what he wanted in life. Kinsey believed that everyone should get out there and meet someone new.

In college, Kinsey was involved in Campus Activities Board, now known as the Western Activities Council after the 2007 name change, which was the first leadership role he took on when he came to college. He was also a part of the Homecoming Steering Committee, where he was a parade director for both the 2006 and 2007 Homecomings.

The most challenging leadership role Kinsey undertook was a Resident Assistant in the residence halls.

"Let's just say, it's not easy to narc on the people that you live with," Kinsey said. "I have experienced things that I never thought I would. But it has given me the opportunity to be able to change what can sometimes be a negative into a positive."

Finding his place at Western wasn't difficult for Kinsey.

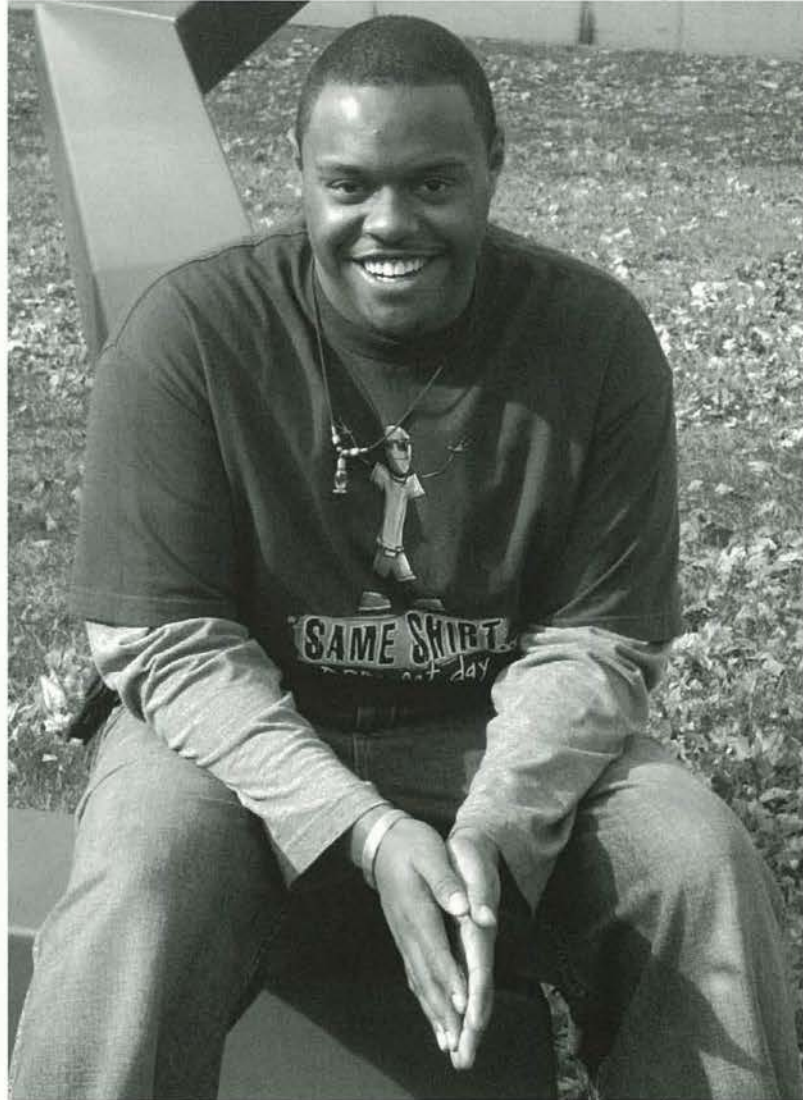
"I was never one to want to 'fit in'," he said. "I always felt as though if you focus on trying to fit in, you make yourself more vulnerable to being an outsider. Sometimes I dislike the way others behave when it comes to acceptance, but I have learned that people are people, and we all have flaws that others just can't accept."

Kinsey believed that leaders have the courage to face any obstacle that may come at them.

"I think there are so many leaders that have faced tremendous challenges, and I often ask myself, 'How do they do it? Could I ever do that?'" Kinsey said. "I have some abilities that a leader possesses, but I am still in training."

With the ample experience he has already had, it was obvious he was well on his way.

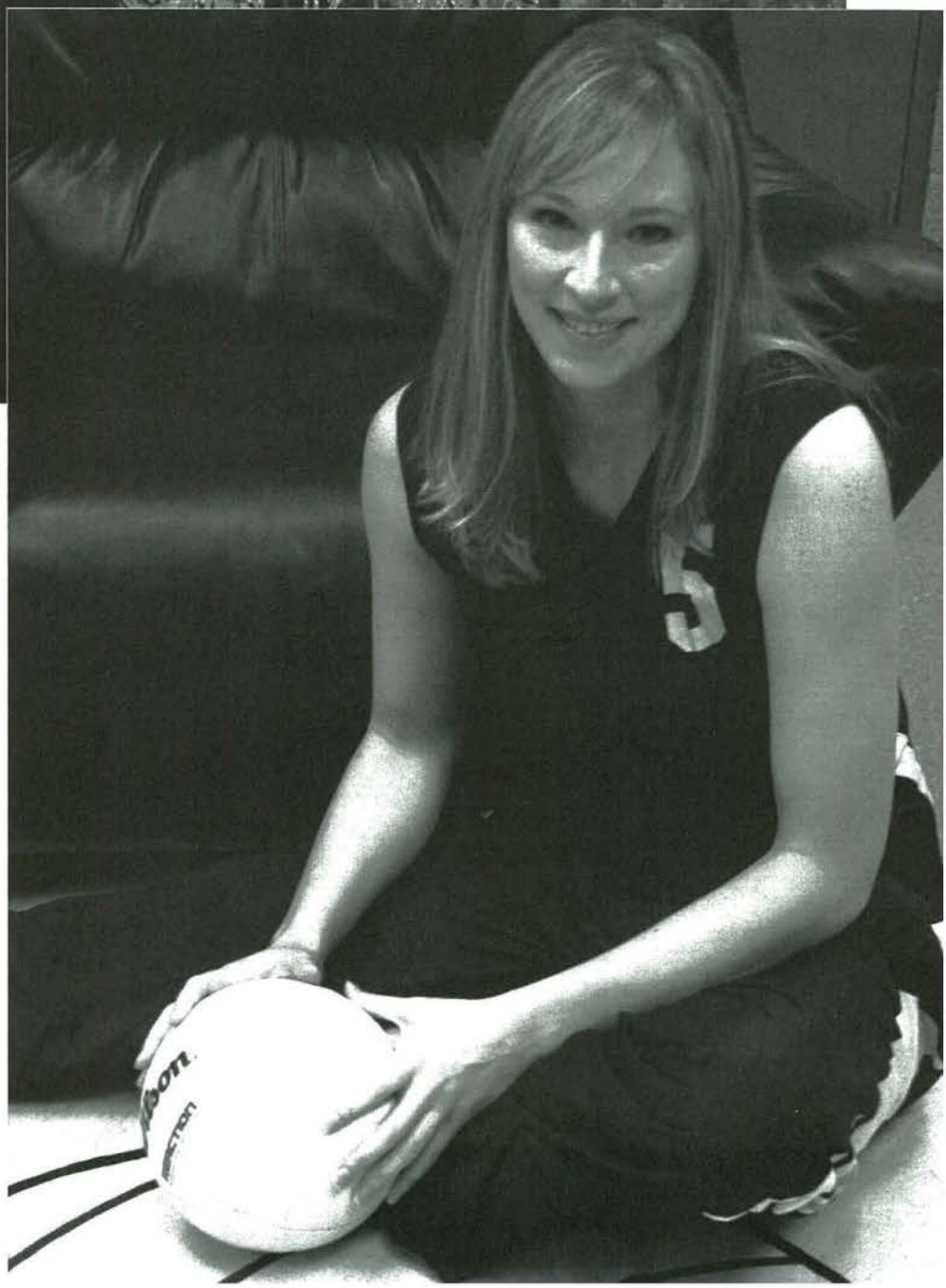
by Addison Ford



Photos by Jeremy Weikel



I was in pain constantly. I couldn't lift more than 10 pounds, and I couldn't play volleyball, which made it even worse."



Alyssa Berg

Alyssa Berg came to Missouri Western to visit the campus and fell in love. Shortly afterward, she was recruited for volleyball, which had been the main focus of her life for the past 10 years. In high school she played basketball and ran track, but volleyball was her passion.

Because her passion was so strong, Berg received honorable mention for All-MIAA three times.

"It was my third year to get honorable mention, and I am always very happy to get recognized," Berg said. "I definitely couldn't have done it without my teammates and coaches."

During Berg's freshman year of college, she almost played the full season, until she tore her meniscus, which is the cartilage in the knee. The injury took her out of the game for the rest of the season. After surgery, Berg learned that she had a disease called "pectus excavatum," which is a congenital deformity where the sternum is pressed into the chest, resulting in a sunken appearance.

"Basically my sternum was too close to my heart so it was as if I had asthma, but worse," Berg said. "I could go maybe two minutes of exercise before I got tired and had to stop."

The surgery took a lot of preparation and a lot of care afterward, but in order for Berg to better perform her athletic ability the surgery was crucial, even though it required that she wear a brace around her chest for four months.

"It was a horrible four months," Berg said. "I was in pain constantly. I couldn't lift more than 10 pounds, and I couldn't play volleyball, which made it even worse. It was the longest I had gone without playing."

Though the first year of her volleyball career was plagued with surgeries and rest, Berg stepped up to the plate to help her team have a great season.

"Considering we had a new coach and as many new players as returning players, I think we definitely created a good starting point for the future," Berg said. "There were times we didn't play to our potential, but there were also our glimpses of greatness. Toward the end of the season, everything started to come together."

Berg planned on making volleyball a priority in her future.

"I definitely think I want to coach," Berg said. "I love working with kids, and I don't think I can be away from volleyball for too long either. I think next year I'll get my master's in physical education and be a graduate assistant somewhere."

by Deanna Paolino



Photos by Stacie Batchelar

Aaron Lisenbee



Photos by Matthew Fowler

To others, the game of golf might not be a sport. It might also seem like a waste of time, but to one of Western's own, it is the game of his life.

"It is probably one of the dumbest games ever invented," Aaron Lisenbee, a business management major, said. "You hit a little, round white ball with a club into a hole, which is about four inches wide. Sometimes, the hole is nearly 600 yards away. But if you play it right, it is one of the most relaxing games ever. You go out on a nice afternoon, with no worries for about four hours and you play 18 holes of golf."

Lisenbee, a member of the Men's Golf team at Western, began playing at the age of seven. "My first time playing was in the pouring-down rain, and I was terrible. I don't know why I kept playing after that day, but I have ever since, and I love it."

He joined the Griffons as a freshman in the fall semester. With the Griffons, Lisenbee bonded well with the other members of the team on the course and off. "We all get along with each other on and off the course. We all know our own strengths and weaknesses. What we have to do now is apply our strengths and work on our weaknesses to win more tournaments for the spring semester."

In the fall semester of 2008, he won his first tournament at the Wildflower golf course in Detroit Lakes, Minn. "It was a great feeling," Lisenbee said. "I have been so close many times, but fell just a few strokes short. At first, I didn't think I would have a chance because when I came in, there were a lot of people still to come in that had a lower score the first day. When the last score came in and I had won, it felt awesome. I felt like I didn't play my best, with the weather conditions the way there were. As it turns out, I had played well enough to win that day."

His life stopped short in high school when his brother got into a car accident. "He was in ICU and in a coma for 32 days, on life support. After the accident, I take one day at a time and make things happen the best I can."

Lisenbee's continued success grew in stride following the years after his brother's car accident. His future was bright, whether it involved golf or not. "If I choose to try to play at the next level, it is going to take a lot of hard work, dedication and lots of money. Hopefully, something will happen, but I will just have to wait and see."

by Amy Chastain



I don't know why I kept playing after that day, but I have ever since, and I love it."

Jasmine Pasley



Photos by Jeremy Weikel

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The aroma of coffee filled the air in the dimly lit room as Jasmine Pasley sipped on White Chocolate Mocha. She spent time reflecting on what others thought concerning her future, which encouraged and enlightened her as she was ready to make a difference in the world after graduation.

“Unlike other students she is very concerned about other people’s development and well-being and that reflects through her selection in programming choosing,” Center for Multicultural Education Director and NAACP Adviser Tay Triggs said. “She is a great asset to the university, outspoken, but very well-spoken. Jasmine speaks well for the student body. She is very professional; acting with decorum is important to her.”

After saving the Political Science Club and getting students involved in political activity, Jasmine gained respect from Dan Cox, professor of government. “First thing that comes to mind with Jasmine is leadership,” Cox said. “She’s very vibrant – great at leading groups and getting people politically active. I think she would be very successful and a benefit to the United States as a politician.”

After electing Pasley as the most outstanding graduate for legal studies in 2008, Dave Tushaus, department chair and associate professor of criminal justice and legal studies, had nothing but good comments about her. “Jasmine is an excellent student who is a very good leader, and very capable at anything she decides to take on,” Tushaus said. Pasley had a tremendous amount of respect for Tushaus and his review of her as a graduate.

After reflecting on the views of others, she too believed that she was destined to make a difference. Trial Assistant for Prosecuting Attorney Dwight Scroggins, Jaynee McBrayer said, “Jasmine is a valuable asset to our office and she fits in just like a glove.”

Beyond academics, family played a vital role in encouragement for Pasley. “When Jasmine was in elementary school, for every A she got on her report card I gave her 50 cents,” Ira Brimmero, Pasley’s grandfather, said. “I love her very, very much and she is the light of my life.”

Reflecting yet on another one of Pasley’s biggest fans was her mother, Wini Edwards. “God has opened many doors for her, and He has your path in every choice you make,” Edwards said. “When you put God first, you’ll never make a mistake, and she’s on the right path and the future is hers.”

“What is probably different about me is that I don’t believe anything is impossible – ever, no matter what it is,” Pasley said.

by Amy Marks



What is probably different about me is that I don't believe anything is impossible - ever, no matter what it is."





When it rained, we all ran to one side of the house because it leaked.”

John Manyok

At the age when most children are making sidewalk chalk art and reading Dr. Seuss, John Manyok was fleeing his home in Sudan for a refugee camp in Ethiopia. There he stayed, not knowing what had become of his family.

Manyok described the interview process, in which he and other lost boys were selected to be placed in the U.S. He also recalled the process by which they were transported.

"The U.N. was hiding because we were fighting against the Sudan government," Manyok said.

The young men were flown to the United States, but kept their identity a secret.

"Most people didn't know, so they would ask, 'are you going over for basketball? Are you going over for football?'"

Once in the United States, Manyok was placed in a decrepit house in Omaha, Neb., with 18 other lost boys.

"When it rained, we all ran to one side of the house because it leaked," Manyok said. "And we said, 'send us back home because we can get sick from this water too.'"

Finally, a Catholic and a Lutheran church placed a few of the young men together in better apartments, and gave them transportation to and from their jobs. They didn't anticipate that John's first night in his new apartment, snuggled deep in the Midwest, would send his emotions flying back home.

"I was moved on Sept. 11th, 2001," Manyok said, and recalled the memory of an explosion on the screen.

"We said, 'Is that Omaha?' But no, 'they told us it's in New York. Well, where is New York, 20 miles from here?' But they said 'No, New York is very far away.' So, we said 'Oh, ok.'"

Monday through Thursday, Manyok could be seen striding across Western's campus, but that education wasn't his first. John had been working in clinics and hospitals since his refugee days in Ethiopia. He was a nurse in his own country, but his certificate was meaningless in a foreign land.

After attending school in Omaha to become a surgical technician, Manyok moved to St. Joseph with some friends and applied at the local hospital, taking a temporary job at Triumph Foods.

He then began working 12-hour shifts Friday through Sunday as a surgical technician, but he didn't want to stop there.

"Somewhere along the line, someone cared about me, and I want to pay that back," Manyok said.

He worked to pay it back by pursuing a degree in nursing from Western. Despite his sometimes delicate grasp of English, Manyok remained incredibly positive.

"I don't believe in getting stressed out," Manyok said. "Look at what I've been through, and I always have hope."

by Anna Flin



Photos by Jeremy Weikel

My mother
put me in
dance, so I've
pretty much
been on a
stage for most
of my life."



Melissa Gregory

She can design the costumes, apply the make-up, play the part and direct the play, all in the same evening. Oh, and she can find the book and talk about it on the radio, too.

Melissa Gregory was a person of many talents, and she shined at them all. After she graduated in the spring with a degree in theatre, many missed her vividly animated personality.

"She'll be on a road to discovery," Assistant Professor of Theatre and Video Don Lillie said. "Her diversity in skills will help her succeed."

Gregory was also skilled as an actor combatant with training in fencing, skills she demonstrated in "Romeo and Juliet." Lillie felt that her training in fencing could open another career avenue in stage combat choreography.

Friends described her as energetic, passionate and driven. "It's just in her," said Deborah Weems, Gregory's friend of two years. "She certainly has livened up my life."

Weems' husband Fred, also Gregory's friend, was delighted to have worked with her. "Melissa is beautiful, talented, brainy and committed - the ultimate combination," Fred said. "She's not someone who can stand to be around fools or incompetence." Gregory worked closely with Fred on his production of "Patty Cake" as costume mistress, choreographer and more.

She also worked as costumer and make-up artist for the production of "Beauty and the Beast," which played at the Missouri Theatre.

Gregory started performing when she was 5 years old. "My mother put me in dance, so I've pretty much been on a stage for most of my life," Gregory said.

Her first acting gig was in high school when she played the bad girl in "Our Miss Brooks," a role Gregory enjoyed because her character was "snooty and snarky."

She was the stripping narrator in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" with her mom in the audience. "I didn't even know she was coming, which was probably a good thing," Gregory said. She felt that her performance might have been different had she known her mom was there.

Gregory juggled school with working at Borders bookstore, KFEQ radio and as costume mistress for Western's theatre department. "I'm just one of those people who have to be busy all the time," Gregory said.

After graduation, Gregory planned to move to Los Angeles, Calif., to pursue a career as a character actor. Already offered a contract, Gregory hoped to find an agency to represent her quickly in Los Angeles, Calif.

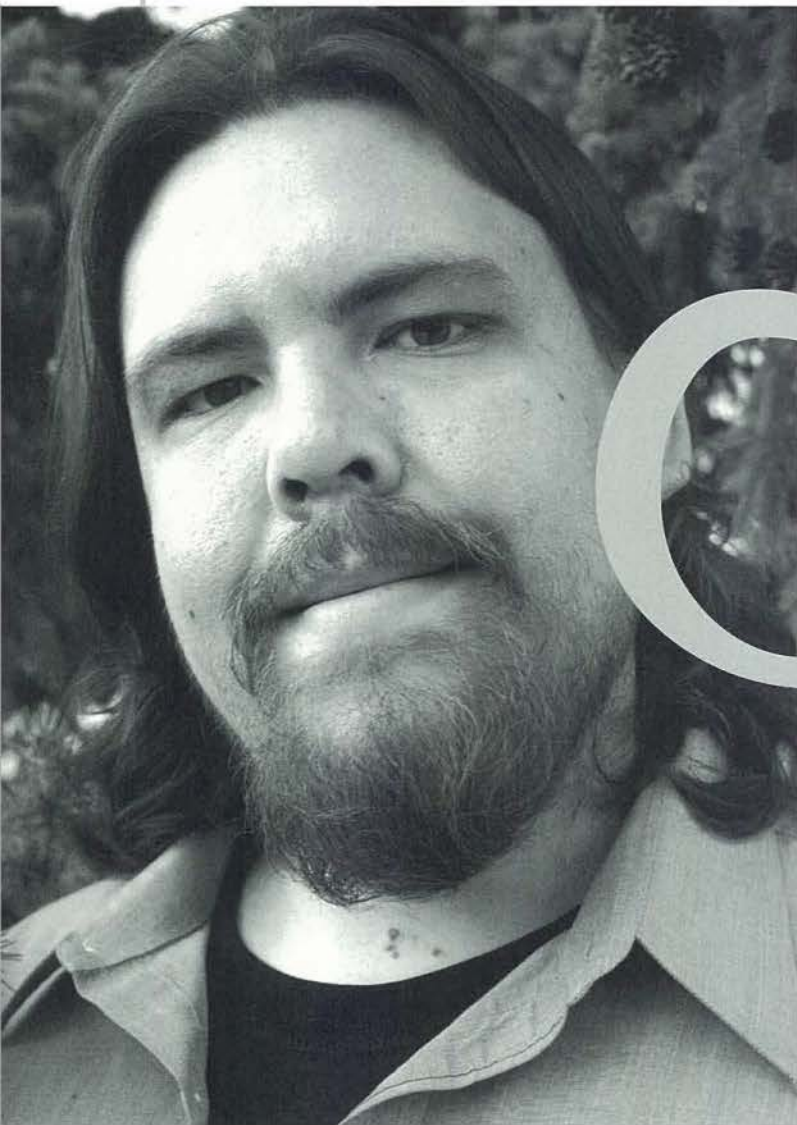
Melissa Gregory would undoubtedly make her mark in Los Angeles, Calif. She left Western with this thought, "I'm weird and I like it."

by Gerri Tracy



Photos by Jeremy Weikel

Jeremy Weikel



Photos by Stacie Batchelar

Jeremy Weikel, who began attending Western straight out of high school, had nine years to get excited about his graduation in the spring of 2008.

"I came here looking for a music degree because my high school band director went here," Weikel said. "I didn't like it so I went to theatre. And I didn't like some of the teachers in theatre and video, so I took pictures."

Weikel's interest in theatre eventually took him back to the department after the instructors he didn't care for had left. He was primarily interested in technical theatre, designing lights and sound. The length of his college career allowed him to participate in many of Western's performances. But "Grease" and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" stood out to Weikel as great productions.

"A lot of people came out for both," Weikel said.

While Weikel's true passion was for theatre, he eventually found an outlet for his photography talent as well, and became a six-year fixture of Western's yearbook, *The Griffon*.

"I needed an extra two hours and my mom suggested it, because she did it in high school and loved it," Weikel said. "So I came over and I've been here ever since. I've been through six different editors and seven books."

His new responsibility was not without its challenges, however.

"Starting out, it was people," Weikel said. "I wasn't used to going up and asking people things, so I'd take pictures from afar."

Weikel's college career had taken time and allowed him to explore his options, but as graduation approached, he faced the same uncertainty as his peers.

"I don't know what I'm going to do, truthfully," Weikel said. "I'm scared and nervous."

His ideal career was to work with a touring theatre company, and he hoped to combine his gifts for production and photography.

"You make pretty pictures," Weikel said. "That's what it is in theatre, except it's live pictures."

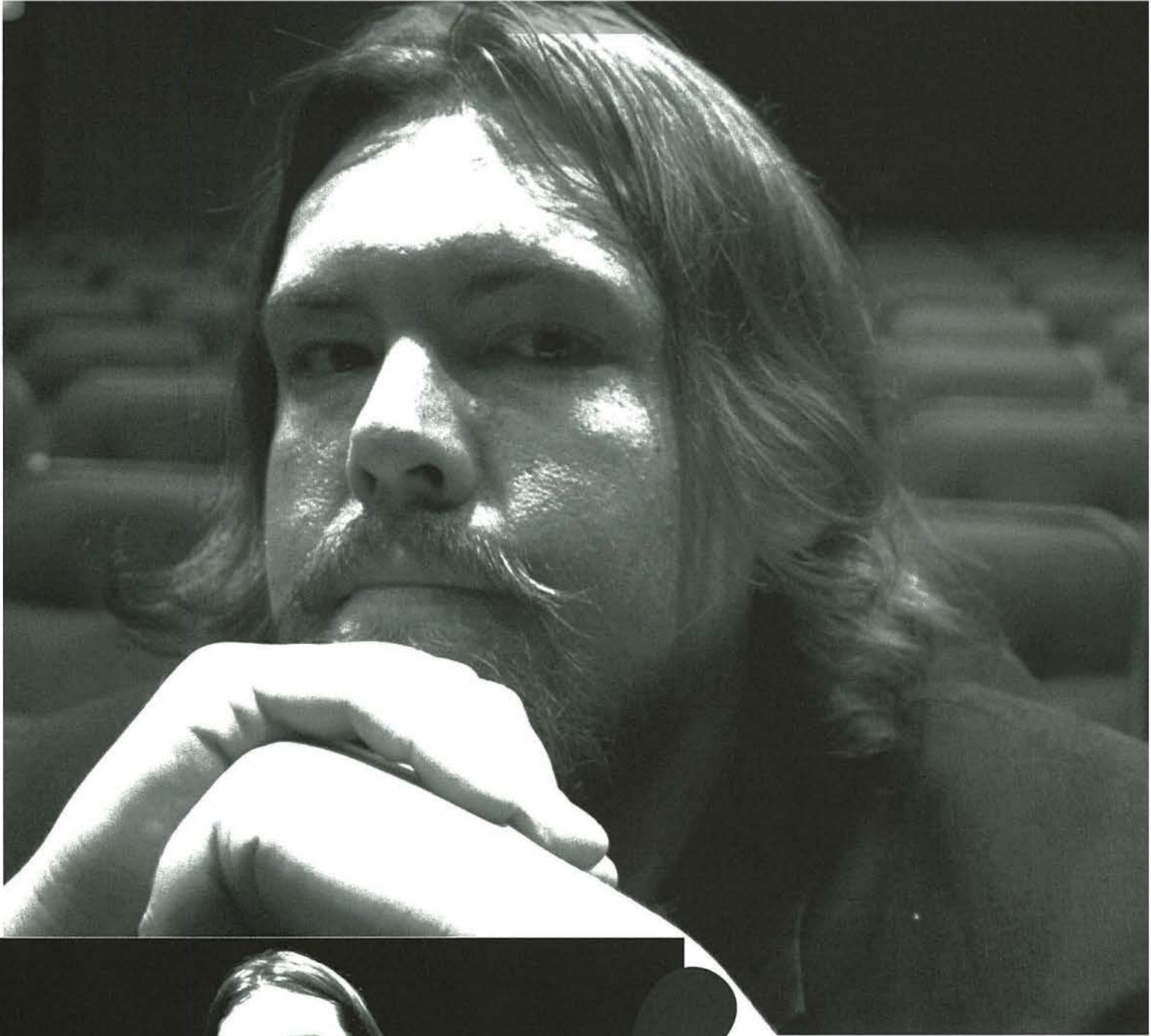
Weikel will also bring a great deal of experience shooting theatre productions to his post college career, as he usually volunteered to photograph the plays put on at Western.

"I think it'll help me because I can say that I'm a photographer also, and that opens so many doors," Weikel said. "Like, there's set photographers, or in movies there's photographers for continuity. That'd be fun to do."

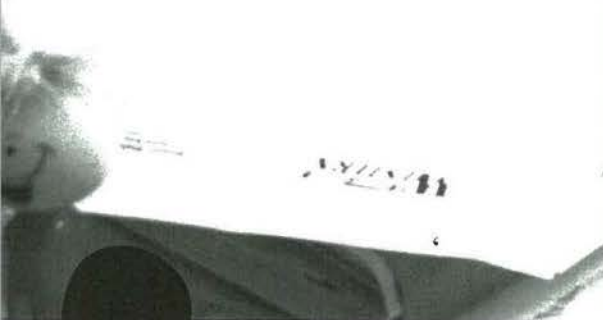
Weikel remained positive and kept an open mind about the coming summer.

"Tours start up in June," Weikel said. "So, we'll see."

by Anna Flin



I needed an extra two hours and my mom suggested it, because she did it in high school and loved it.”



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borrow what
we need; I
don't want
my children
broke.”

Deana Elder

Deana Elder was a people person, whose office in the back of the Financial Aid department became a beacon of encouragement and motivation.

She saw the young adults she encouraged not as numbers, but as unique individuals in need of guidance.

"I always wanted a houseful of kids," Elder said. "Well, I've got a houseful of kids right here. When someone walks through that door that is exactly how I'm going to treat them, as if they were my own child. It makes no difference to me where they come from or what color their skin. They're all human beings and they all deserve an education."

This passion to help others went with a job Elder didn't expect when she first came to Western.

"I honestly have never completed my bachelor's degree," Elder said. "I came here to Western as an intern."

The internship, part of Elder's responsibility while taking a business management course at another school, opened the door for her to move up as responsibilities were rearranged in the department.

"Whatever we needed, she was able to jump in and do," Angie Beam, assistant director of Financial Aid, said. "Really quickly, we realized how much she loved helping students. She had a great personality and we knew she was detail-oriented."

Mother of two and soon to be grandmother, Elder understood the needs of incoming freshmen.

"I pull the mom routine," Elder said. "We only borrow what we need; I don't want my children broke. I want them to go out and be able to buy that new home, to buy that nice car and get the things that they've worked hard to get."

Elder's passion came from a valuable upbringing.

"It's my grandmother that has always been my inspiration," Elder said. "She was the one that always encouraged me to never be afraid to step out and do something different. And she didn't complete anymore than just her eighth grade education, which was a great desire of her's to see people succeed. She was proud of people for reaching their goals successfully."

Elder's fond description of her grandmother was not unlike her friend Robert Moore's description of her.

"I think she really values education," Moore, developmental math director, said. "She sees that that's really the door that opens opportunities to so many people. She's very passionate about helping them make the most out of their own lives."

Moore believed many would be touched by Elder's passionate encouragement. "Many of them will realize, here's somebody that cared enough about me, that I thought if they care then I ought to care about myself."

by Anna Flin



Photos by Jeremy Weikel

Daniel Kirk



Photos by Jeremy Weikel

Daniel Kirk received several prestigious awards during his time at Western; although he was seen as someone who had achieved greatness, he was also an individual heavily influenced by the piano.

"Daniel is gifted with an amazing musical talent," senior Brad Dixon said. "He is a pianist, and when he plays you can feel the emotional energy in the room because of the passion and desire for greatness behind his work."

Kirk's greatest passion was the piano.

"I started taking piano lessons on my eighth birthday," Kirk said. "Over 15 years ago, I chose to focus on piano amongst many instruments. Piano is mostly a solo instrument and there's nothing better than to escape an ensemble and retreat back to an instrument that you and only you control. I also love piano literature. It's so vast and deep that one couldn't even begin to play all the masterworks in a lifetime."

Kirk wanted to become a teacher, so he could influence others with his passion.

"I have a deep love and passion for music and I want to pass that onto others through teaching," Kirk said. "I love students, and I love learning."

He was well known around campus and made an impact on many people's lives.

"Daniel is like the brother I never had," Dixon said. "When we first met we clicked, and we became instant best friends and have since then. We've always been around for each other."

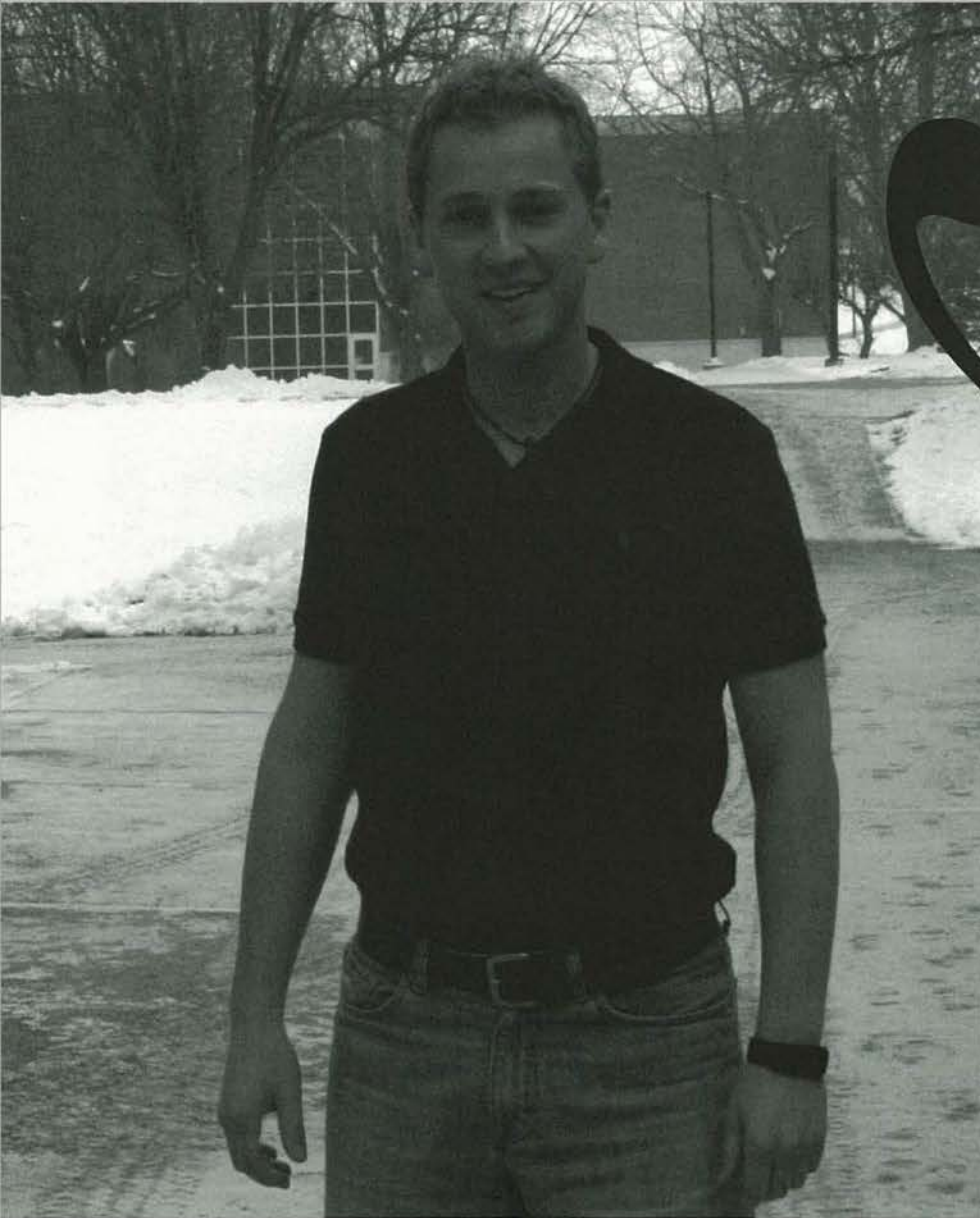
He became very open-minded and took people's opinions to heart.

"Daniel and I have similar, but yet very different backgrounds," Dixon said. "As the years go on, I feel as though I have opened his mind to things he has never thought about before or rather challenged him to view it from another perspective."

He was liked within his classes and the music department.

"He was an excellent student in class, always," Matt Gilmour, department chair and professor of music, said. "He really wanted to learn and master the material. He gave a very strong senior recital performance. We are all very proud of his accomplishments and look forward to having him out in the world teaching music and as one of our fine graduates."

by Traci Haug



I have a deep love and passion for music and I want to pass that onto others through teaching.”



graduating

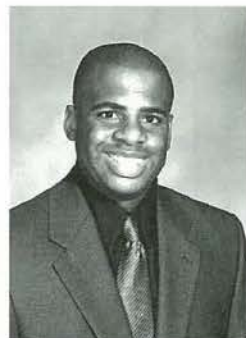
Angela Abeln
Amanda Adams
Caleb Adkins
Charlene Allbury



Samantha Allen
Bradley Anderson
Natalie Bailey
Nicole Ballard



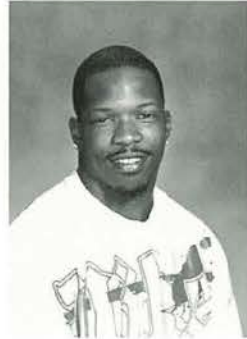
Tiara Burns
Nicholas Bates
Kendall Bell
Anothney Bennett



Roschelle Bisping
Jennifer Bonnezz
Samantha Bridgeman
Jason Briscoe



Seniors



Christopher Brough
Ally Browning
Meredith Buckler
Jamison Burns



Susan Cain
Stephanie Caldwell
Donna Carroll
Rikki Cason



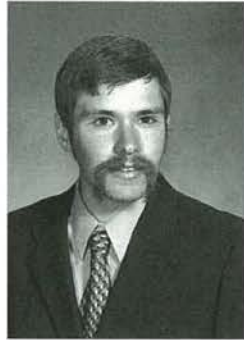
Amy Chastain
Leila Clemmons
Deborah Coates
Christen Creekmore



Timothy Damgar
Tanisha Davis
Wiley Davis
Dana Deister

graduating

Coral Derry
Brady Drannan
Patricia Eckdahl
Ashley Evans



Jennifer Farrow
Allison Faulkner
Anna Flin
Brandi Forney



Shamika Gaddy
Sarah Gaukel
Caleb Gentry
Jennifer George



Letisha George
Kortnie Goodrich
Autumn Greear
Melissa Gregory



Seniors



Amy Hall
Colbi Hanes
Bradley Hankins
Theresa Hanson



Wallace Harris
Traci Haug
Katie Heard
Haley Hengstenberg



Taleshia Hester-Hawkins
Brooke Hodge
Danny Houston
Kelly Huffman



Jennifer Hughes
Jill Johnson
Lindsey Johnson
Theresa Jordan

graduating

Laura Keith
Sheena Kelley
Vicky Kivler
Andrea Kuhnert



Gretchen Kunkle
Ciarra Leathers
Megan Lober
Abby Lovell



Sierra Maag
Kady Mabury
Jodi Main
Tyson Malone



Barbara Martin
Chave May
Chauncey Mayfield
Linda McBride



Seniors



Kimberly McCoy
Carlie McDowell
Joshua McMillen
Brenda Merriett



Barbara Meyer
Megan Miller
Victoria Miller
Jennifer Mitchel



Bethany Morrison
Michelle Morrison
Samantha Mosier
Emily Neal



Elizabeth Needham
Julie Norman
Kassandra Norris
Jasmine Pasley

graduating

James Pauley
Julianna Payne
Tera Petersen
Stephanie Phillips



Lori Porter
Laura Price
Natasha Price
Sarah Rathburn



Christine Rehm
Emily Reigher
Lauren Richardson
Kayce Riggle



Keri Rogers
Tracie Rouse
Jason Ruiz
Andrea Ryan



Seniors



Tabitha Salsberry
Rylan Sampson
Kathy Sardo
Michelle Scherder



Melony Schmidt
Jacob Schoonover
Drew Schuman
Katy Schwartz



Crystal Scott
Olivia Scott
Carolyn Sipp
Joseph Sisto



Cathy Snead
Heidi Stankevicius
Shawn Steedy
Shannon Steward

graduating

Latosha Strong
Brandi Stuart
Jerri Swoboda
Samantha Teegarden



Kristen Thomsen
Stephanie Thomsen
Janelle Tindle
James Tonn



Joy Tuey
Tysa Updike
Anturo Valenzuela
Anthony Vans



Danielle Wachtel
Michael Walgren
Ivan Walker
Whitney Watson



Seniors



Jeremy Weikel
Barbara West
Pauline White
Mignon Wilkins



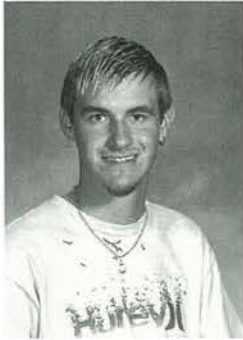
Victoria Williams
Cody Wolf
Carrie Woods
Chemia Woods



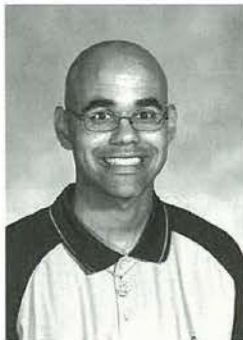
Kevin Woodson
Donnie Wright
Danny Young

Underclassmen

Tyler Adcock
Kailey Alexander
Nichelle Bailey
Dustee Baker



Jason Beach
Amanda Beaver
Rachael Beyer
Alesha Bird



Jasmine Brown
Kimberly Buckles
Nicholas Bush
Amber Buzzard



Richard Caldwell
Harold Callaway III
Amber Callihan
Ernest Chamblee





Zackary Craft
Jonathan Cundiff
Katrina Darr
Kolin Davis



Sarah Derr
Nicole Deveau
Mark Diggs
Rena Diggs



Raphaelle Drew
Tammy Elias
Brittany Enyeart
Ryan Evans



Larry Fendelton, Jr.
Kelly Findley
Addison Ford
Orcinneo Gaines

Underclassmen

Chastity Garcia
Linda Gardner
Brandi Glenn
Lindsay Goforth



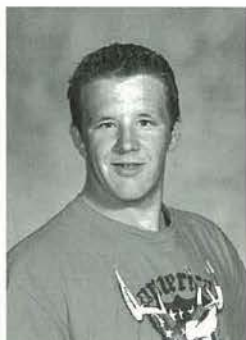
Terrie Goodpasture
James Green
Malia Guillaume
Marie Guillaume



Amanda Hake
Lavonda Harris
Devin Hart
Amanda Hirter



Kolby Hoerrmann
Kirby Hoerrmann
Amber Hodson
Candace Hughes

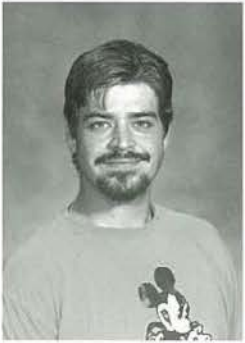




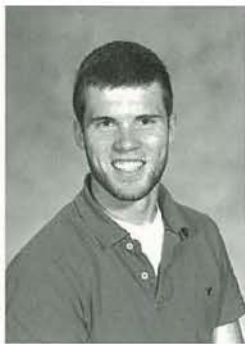
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Amber Lessor
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Eric Mabury
Amy Marks
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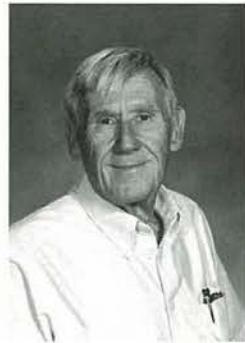


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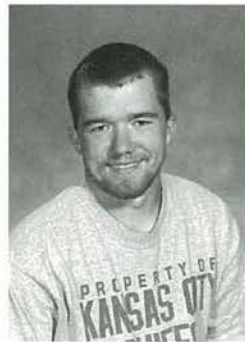


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Brandon Singleton
Cecelia Smith
Morgan Speichinger





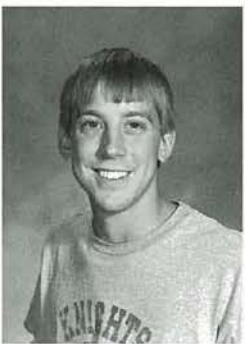
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 Joshua Steltenpohl
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David Winder
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alchemist club

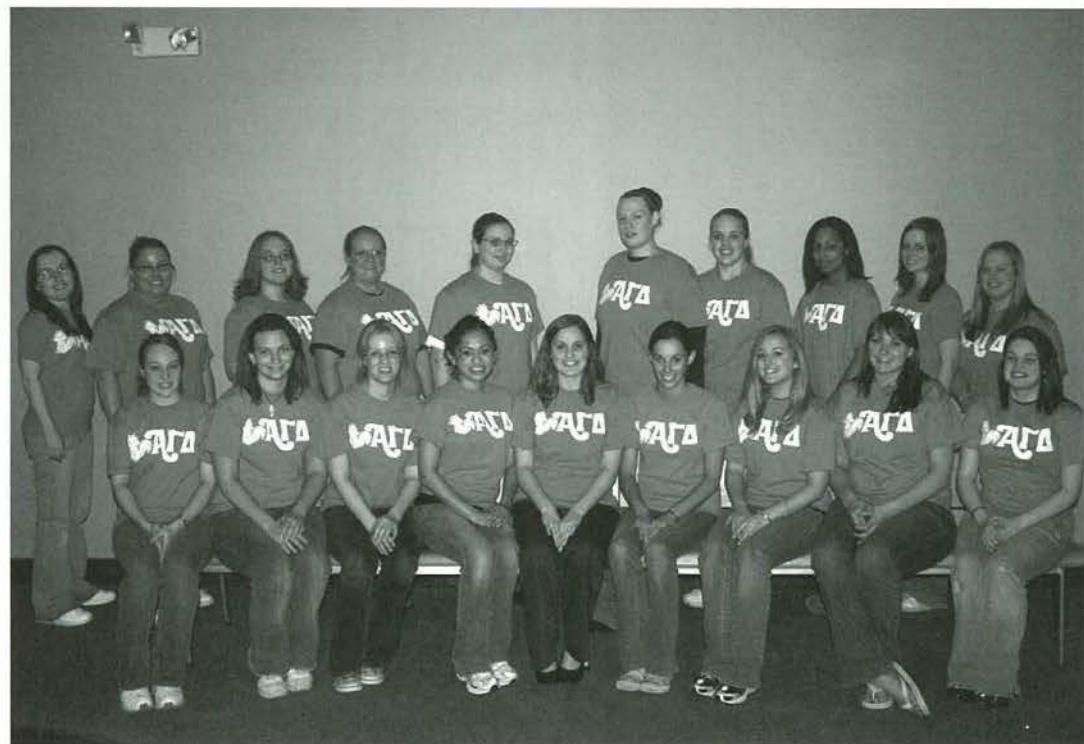
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Back Row: Tom Crowley, Joe Noyn-aert, Jason Barnett, Matt Unzicker



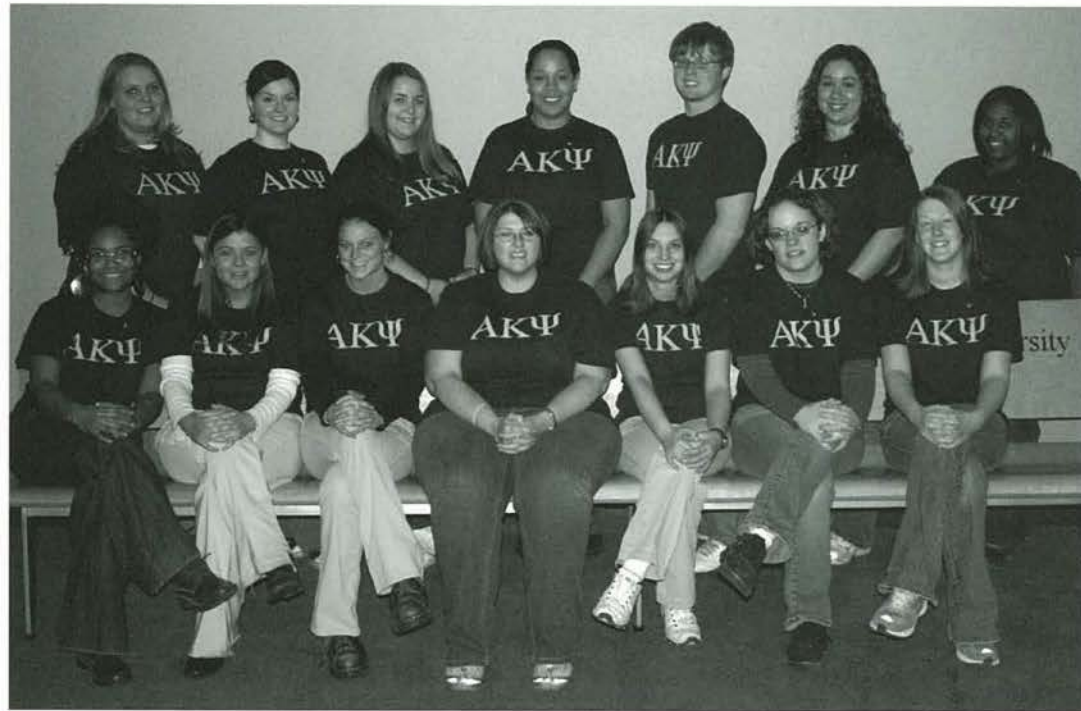
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Back Row: Beth Murphy, Hillari Krull, Amanda Powell, Tricia Dickson, Julia Stubblefield, Ashley Skidmore, Hanna Taylor, Endya Carbin, Trisha Steele, Hillary Monroe



alpha gamma delta

αLpha Kappa psi



Front Row: Deborah Coates, Lindsey Helfery, Ashley Weakley, Monica White, Erin Ward, Lauren Stuck, Jessica Hills

Back Row: Ashley Wheeler, Erica Ricker, Tiphani White, Vanessa Morris, Alex Mallen, Melanie Douglas, LaKeitra Brown



Front Row: Nykitta Henson, Alesha Bird, Gretchen Kunkle, Amy Parnell, Shardaë DuPriest, Margaret Slayton, Jessica Littlejohn

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αLpha omega

organizations

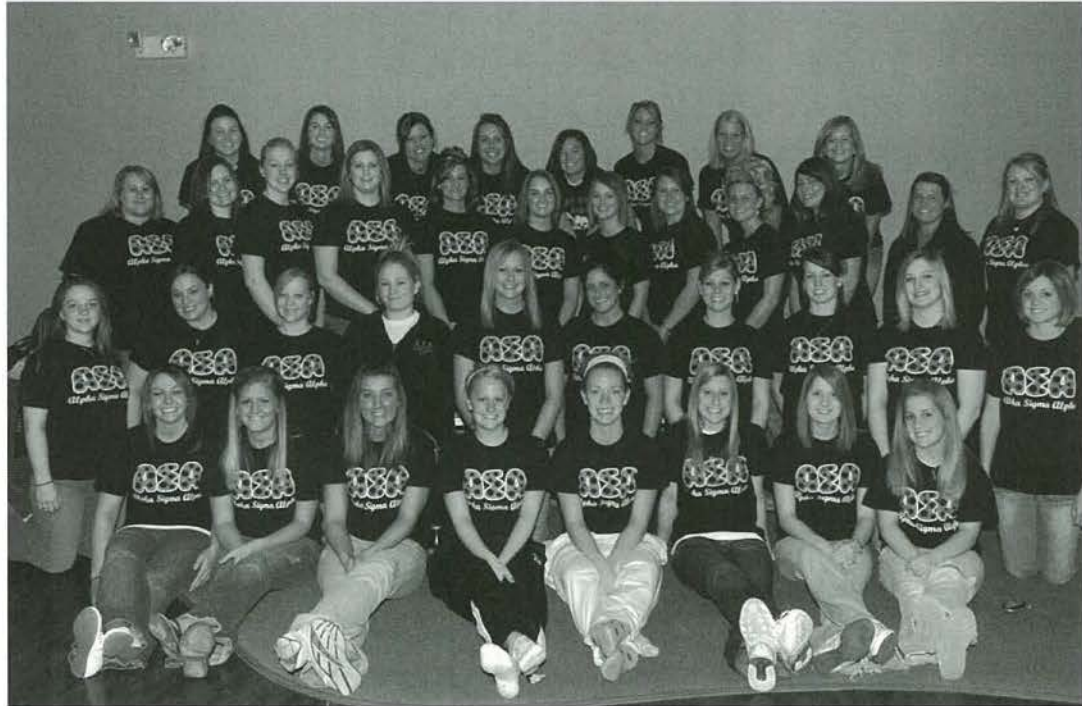
αLpha sigma αLpha

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Second Row: Nicole Shiflett, Alie Koile, Angie Ketsenburg, Amanda Marks, Tara Finley, Dominique Leone, Kaela Charles, Kristin Parker, Taylor Cunningham, Ashlee Stuver

Third Row: Rachel Carroll, Katherine Hangartner, Nichole Ketchem, Bethany Gilliland, Daidre Moskau, Cami Swope, Jennifer Kohler, Mariah Mueller, Kendra Myers, Danielle Swallow, Laura Brandhorst, Jennifer Cammann

Back Row: Jessica Hinnen, Tiffany Zimmerman, Jayme Morrison, Sarah Czarev, Whitney Smith, Kalee Wattenbarger, Brittany Enyeart, Triston Schroeder



Front Row: Jacely Alcantara, NaTisha Smith, Pamela Covarrubias, Mark Gomez



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Back Row: Jeredine Hughes, Tiquila Parnell, Qiana Mixson

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organizations

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Brent Lockmiller, Traci Haug, Kayla
Wymore, Amber Adams

Back Row: Bonnie Drees, Kendall Bell,
Jen Kacere



Front Row: Linda Shireman, Dan
Drope, Dawn Dille, Robin Wormsley

Back Row: Amanda Daly, Les
Wilkeson, Ellen Kisker, Ellis Thomas,
Heather Hughes



non-traditional student association

phi delta theta



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Back Row: Brandon Huddlerton, Zach Slater, Chris Brown, David Wyle, Logan Parker, Kevin Hamera, Lucas King, Andrew Gillies, Daniel Janovec, Luke Mazur, Casey Brooks, Dan Young, Jessie Irwin, Morgan Wyle, John Lester III



Front Row: Keenan Glise, Heather Woolery, Rita Sobbing, Jenny Hardin, Alicia Bryan, Jackie Potter

Back Row: Monica White, Kerri Rollins, Jessica Ross, Trista Dowell, Kortnie Batson, Joesey Jackson, Candace Black, Jacinda Seese, Kiley Slater

phi mu

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residence council

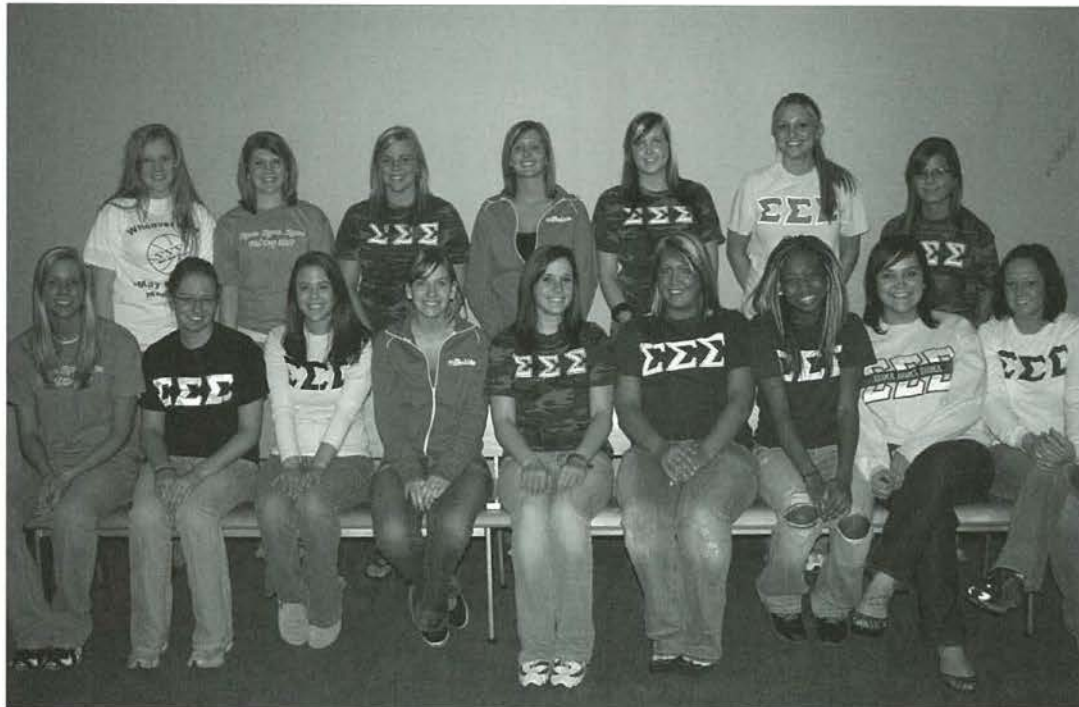
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Back Row: Anna Shipman, Bonnie Drees, Charles Howell, Brent Lockmiller, Jen Kacere



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Back Row: Malorie Varner, Abbey Sale, Kimberly Gilmore, Ashlee Rosmolen, Jordan McCall, Kali Conrad, Brea Dixon



sigma sigma sigma

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Front Row: Alyson Frazier, Tara Dugger

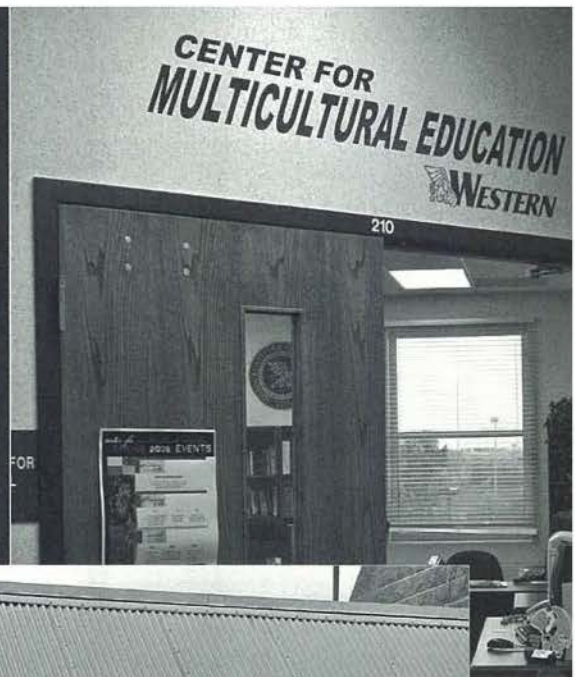
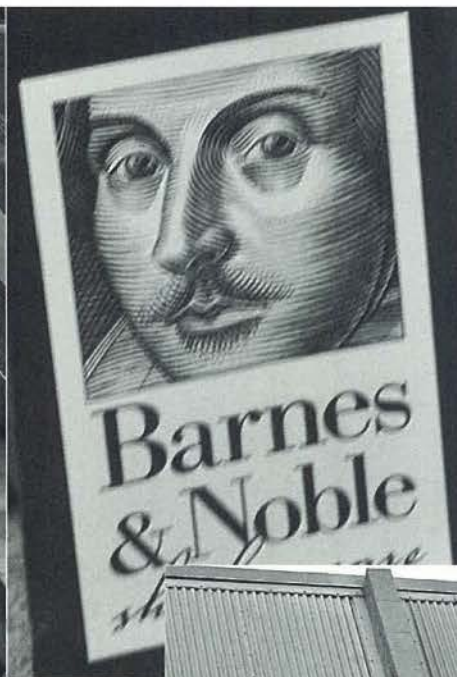


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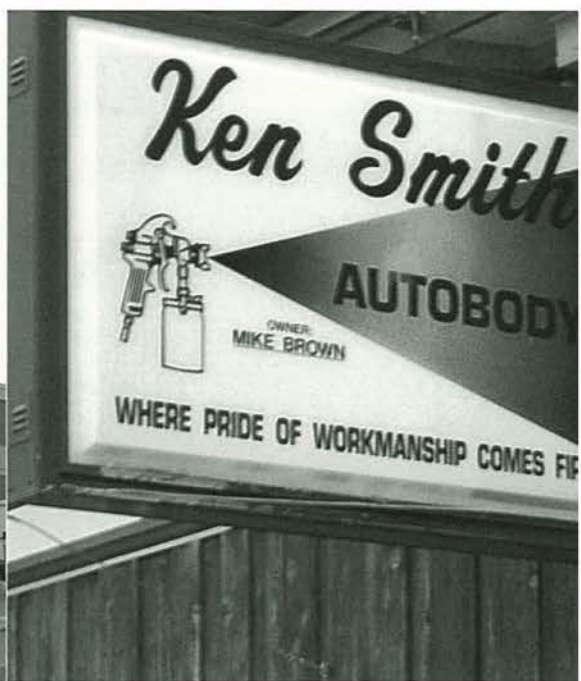
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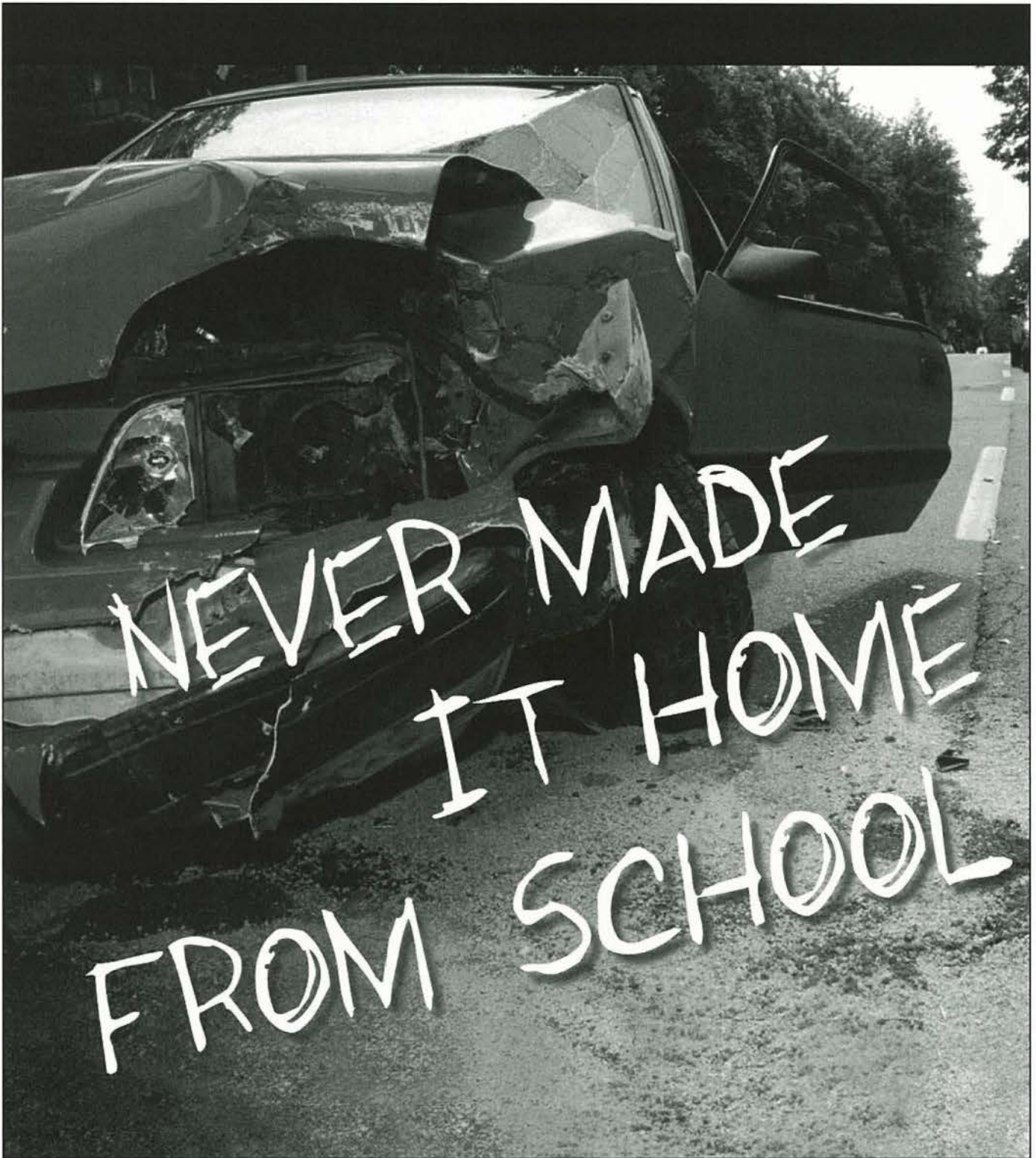
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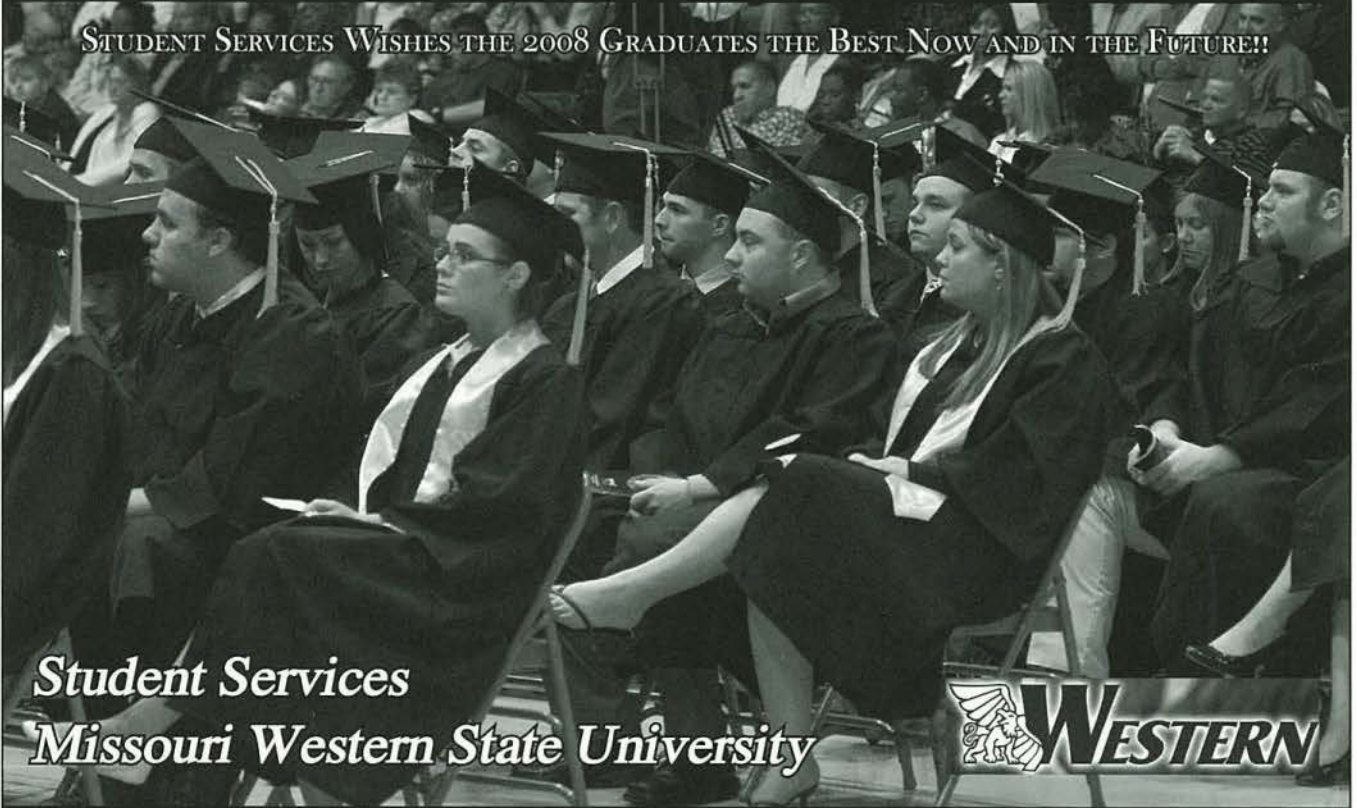
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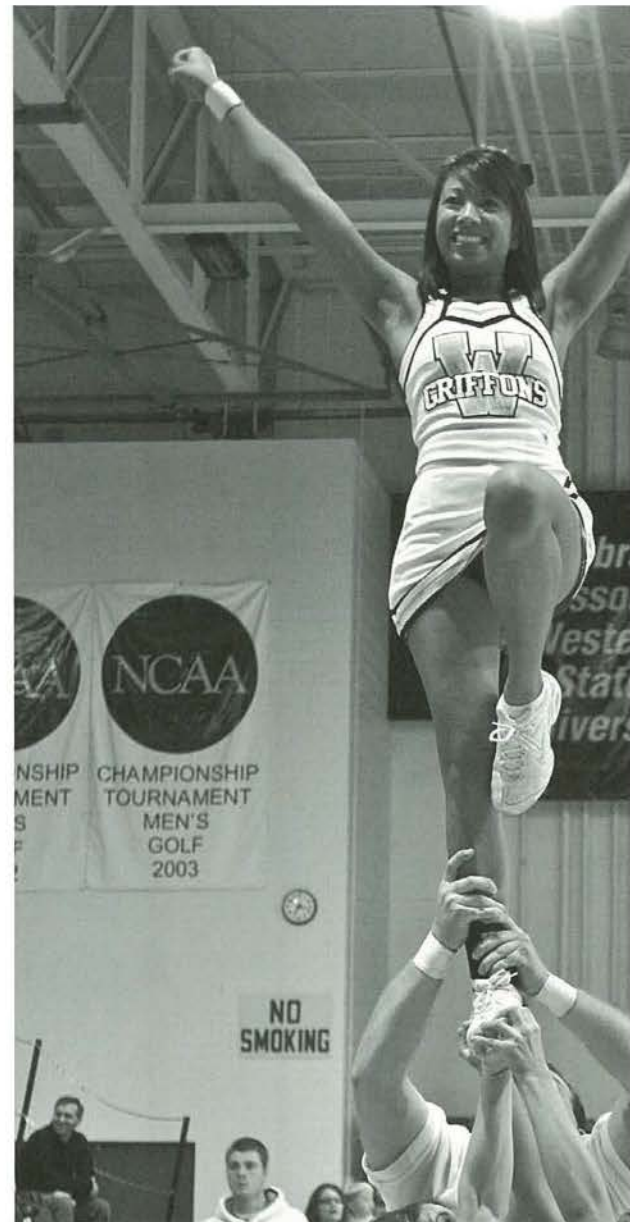
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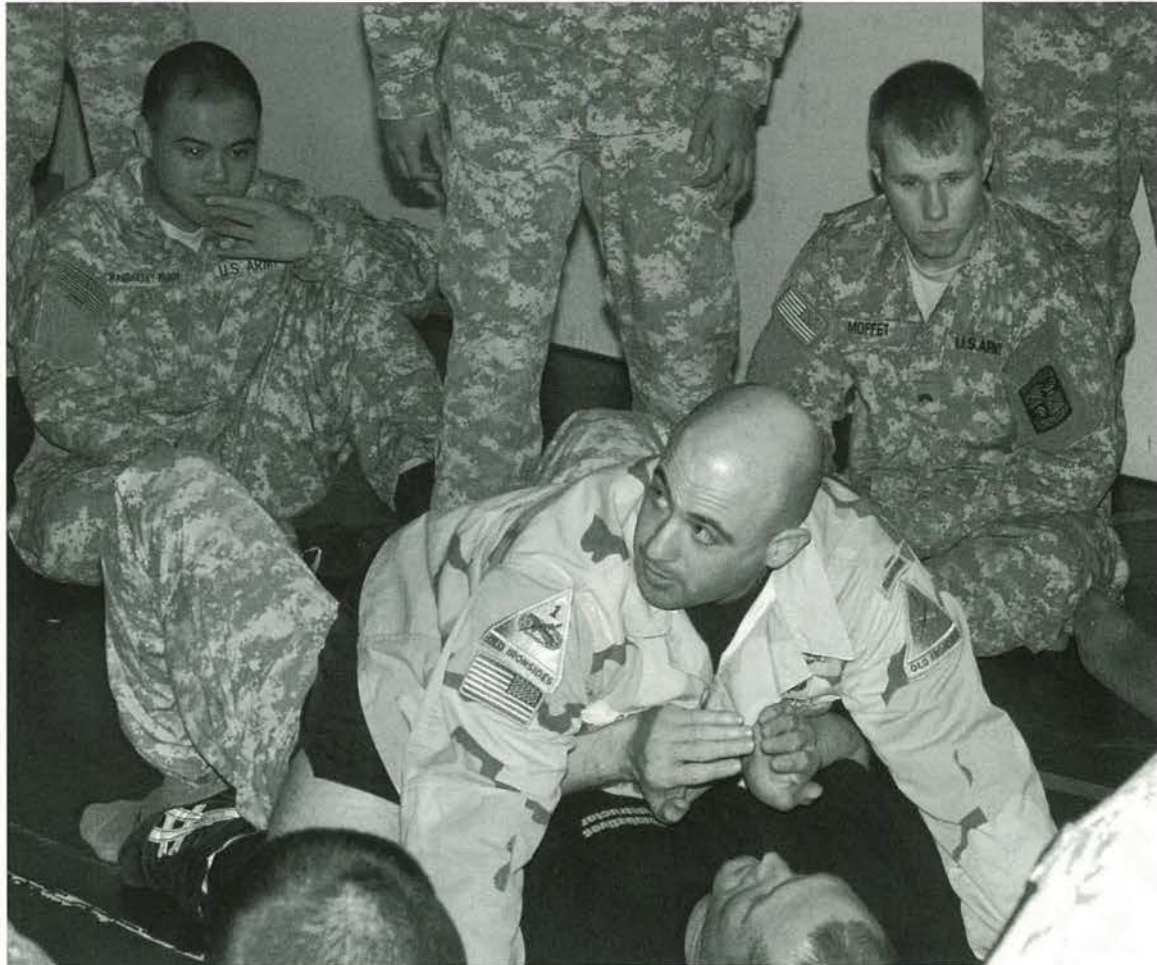
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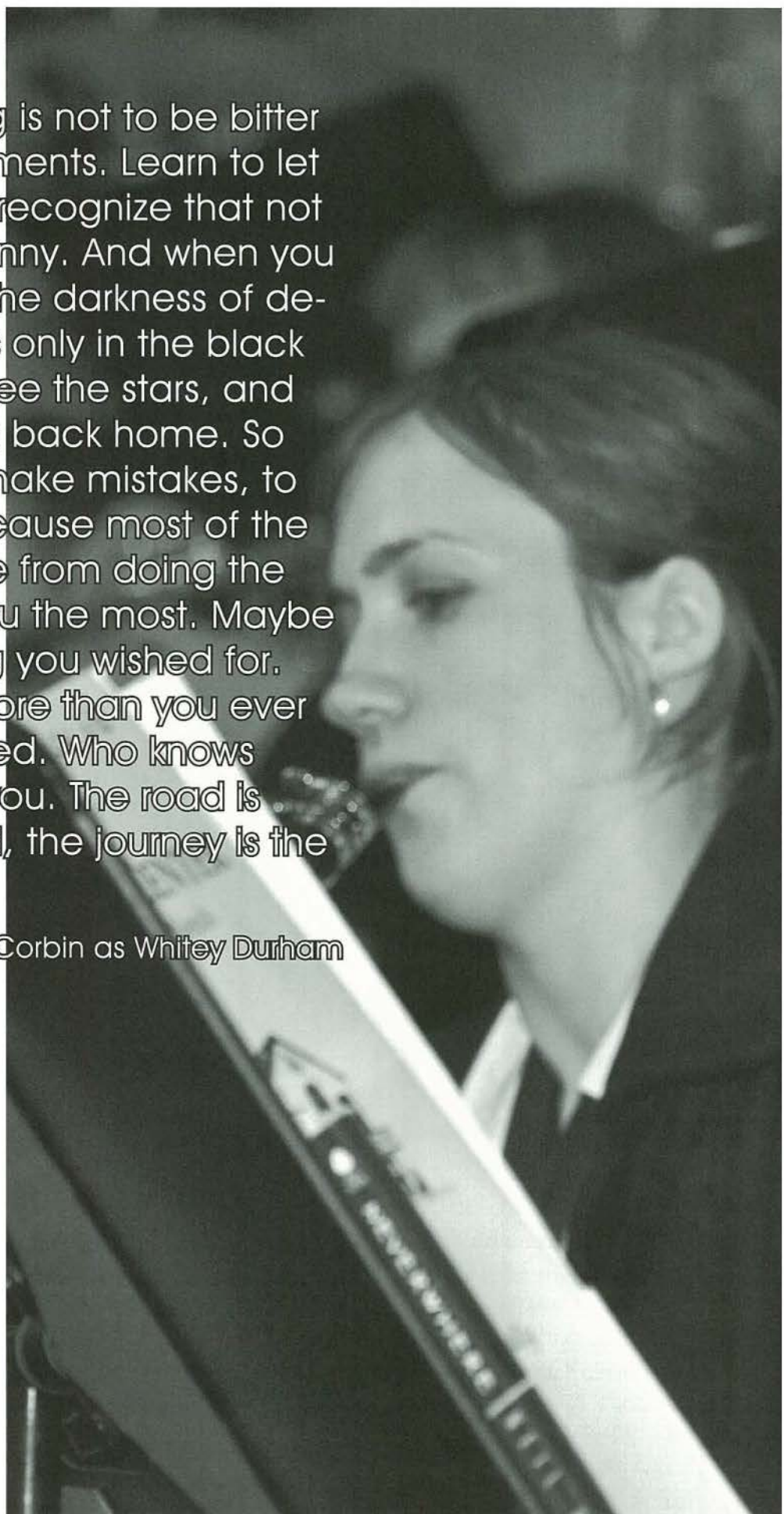
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"The important thing is not to be bitter over life's disappointments. Learn to let go of the past and recognize that not every day will be sunny. And when you find yourself lost in the darkness of despair, remember it's only in the black of night when you see the stars, and no star will lead you back home. So don't be afraid to make mistakes, to stumble, or fall, because most of the time, rewards come from doing the things that scare you the most. Maybe you'll get everything you wished for. Maybe you'll get more than you ever could have imagined. Who knows where life will take you. The road is long and in the end, the journey is the destination."

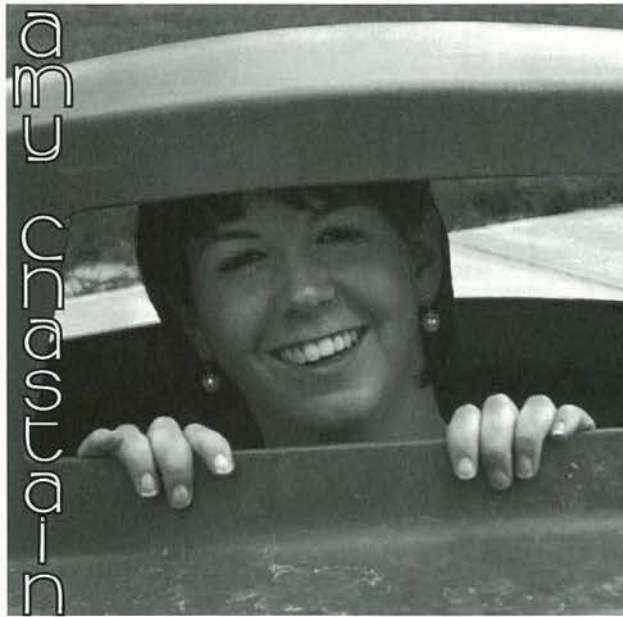
- Barry Corbin as Whitey Durham





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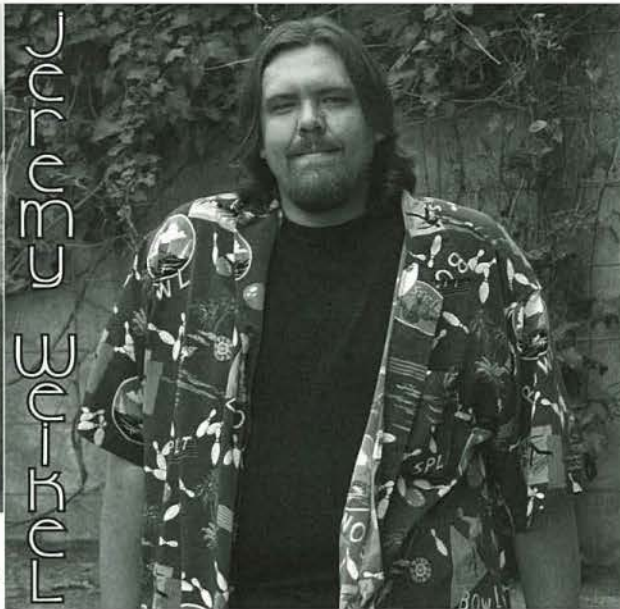


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COLOPHON



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First and foremost, I would like to thank the staff and editors of the 2008 Griffon. Without you, there would be no Griffon or in the least, nothing, but blank pages. To my graphic design editor, Raphaelle, you were my savior when it came to InDesign. You helped create a yearbook I am proud to put my name on. To the photography editors, Linda, Kailey and Jeremy, without your beautiful pictures, all we would be left with is the copy. And to Jen, thank you for filling the pages of the Griffon with hilarious, inspirational tales. To Sarah, without you, we would have no advertisements to support us in what we do. To Ann, my adviser, you have been there for the past seven semesters. Without your knowledge or wisdom, I would not be where I am today. And last, but not least, to Michelle Brosemer, George Reinhardt and Amy Lewis, we would still be stuck at square one if it weren't for you. To my fellow Griffons, I hope that we have created a book that you may cherish over the years.

Over the course of my seven semesters on staff, I have learned a great deal about the quality and integrity of this publication. As I reflect on the themes, which are engraved on our seal, I am truly proud to be a part of this publication and university. Freedom, quality, respect, enthusiasm, courage and service represent Missouri Western State University and most importantly, it represents us: students, staff, faculty and the St. Joseph community. It is with these six themes, which define the 2008 Griffon. To My Fellow Griffons, Amy Chastain