



Student Life 6

Academics 82

Sports 130

Witness 162

Students 176

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WINTER



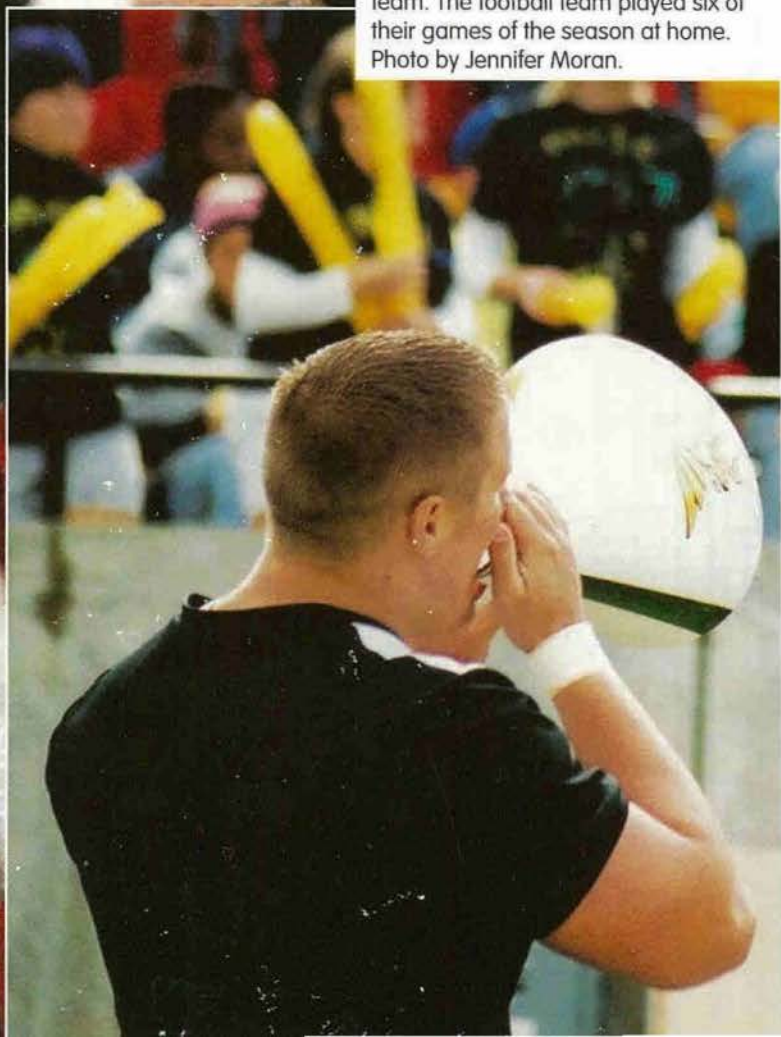
Missouri Western State College
4525 Davis Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
Volume 75
2003-2004

Western's night life is captured in this time-lapse photo of the main entrance. Students traveled on and off campus during the evening hours to attend night classes. Photo by Matt Morton.

Junior Kristen Neely shows her excitement the night she was crowned Homecoming queen. Homecoming king was junior Adrian Gray. Photo by Heidi Webber.

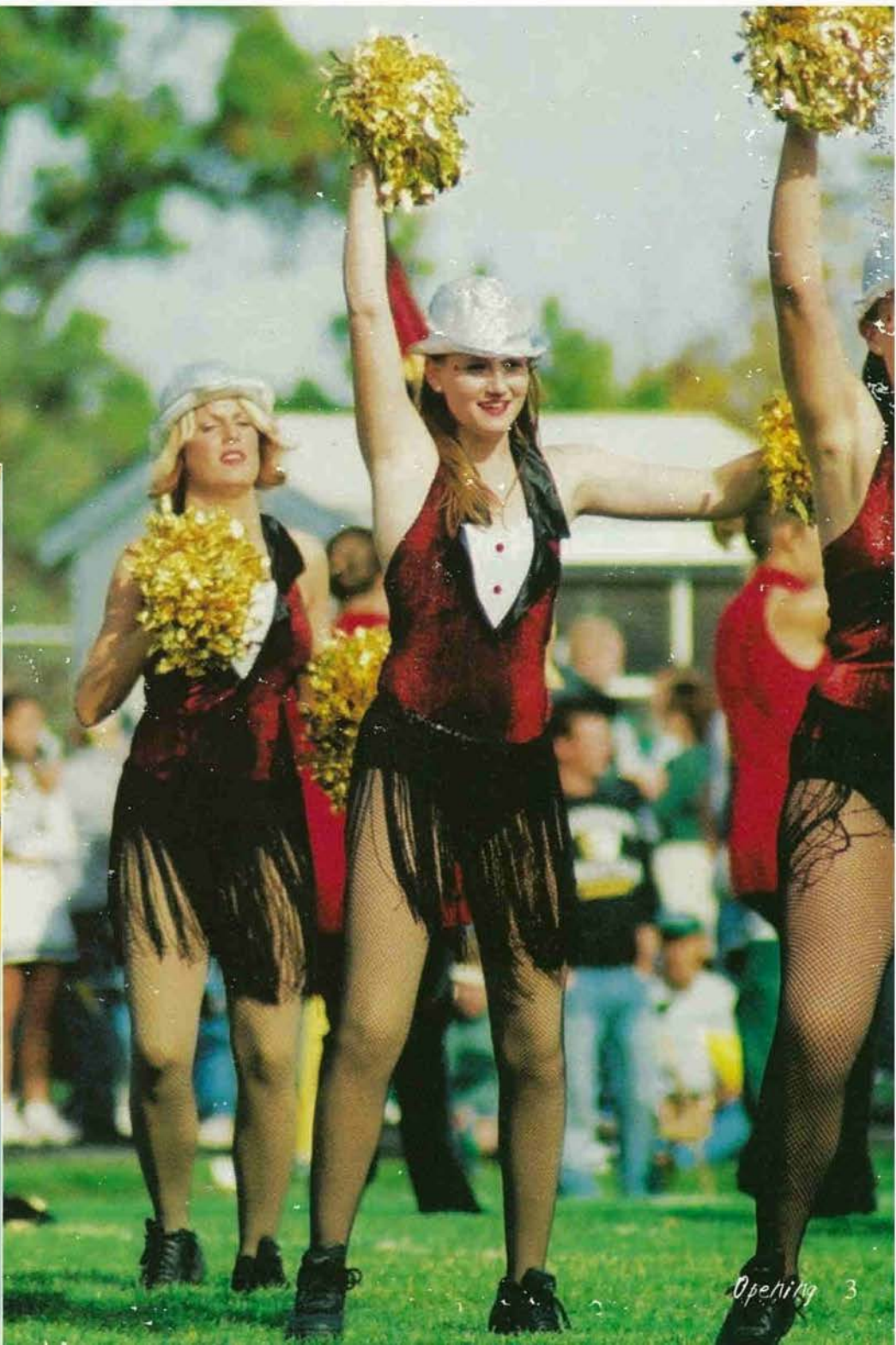


Yell leader Ben Doornink encourages the audience to cheer for the home team. The football team played six of their games of the season at home. Photo by Jennifer Moran.



EXTRA

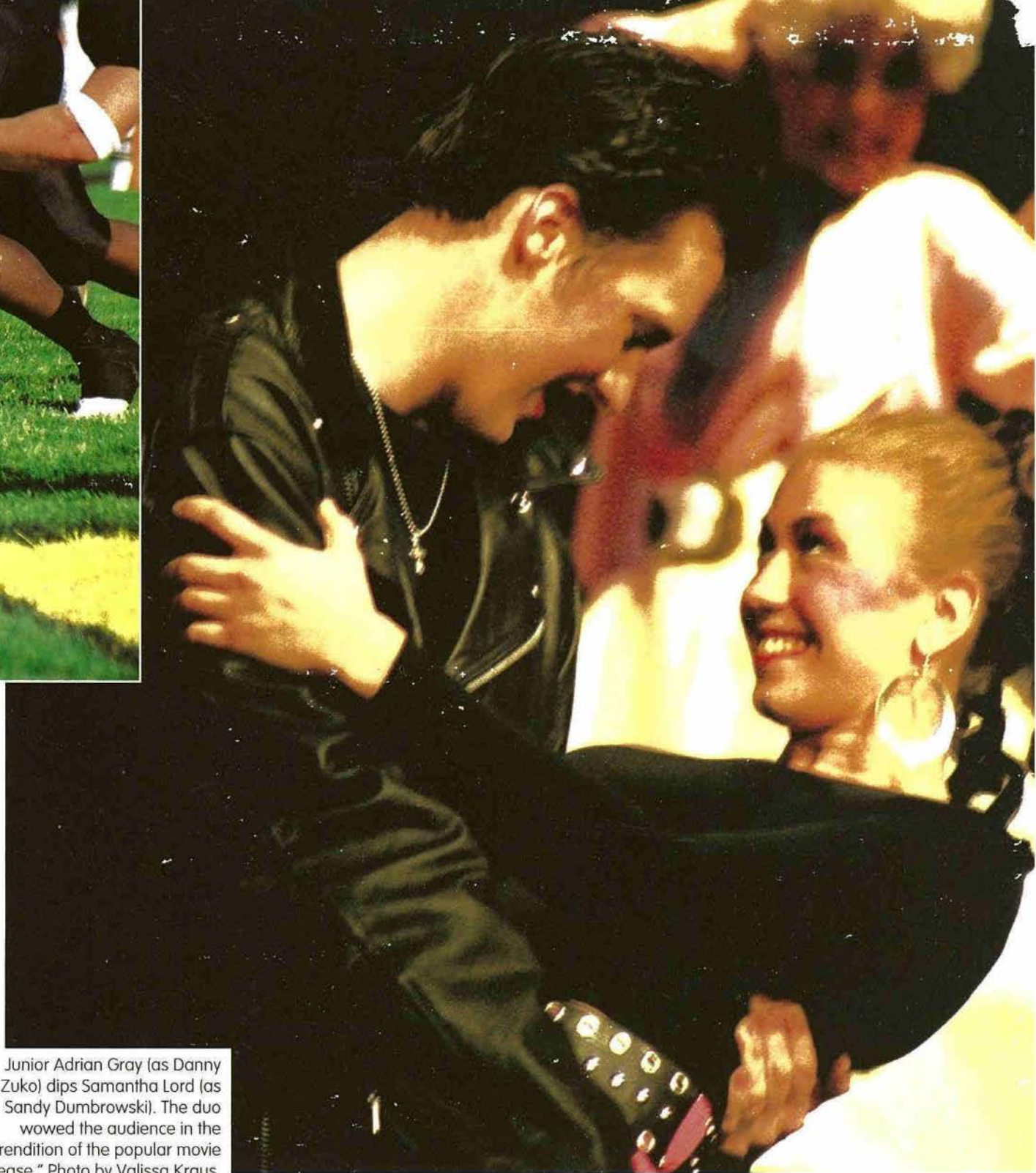
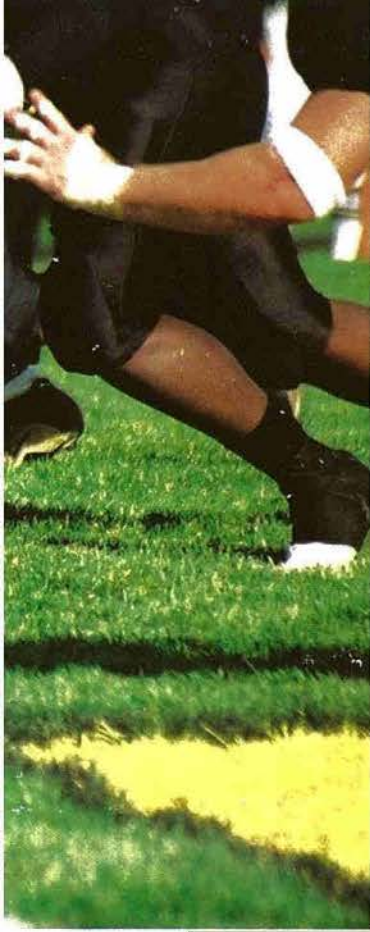
The Mystics perform during a halftime show. Cheerleaders, Golden Griffon Guard members and Mystic dancers used their talents to entertain the audience during football games.
Photo by Matt Morton.





Western's football players advance toward Northwest's team. Western won the game 30-27. Photo by Jennifer Moran.

Freshman Adranya Taylor sings the "Star Spangled Banner." She was joined by the student body in singing the national anthem during the Homecoming pep rally. Photo by Heidi Webber.



Junior Adrian Gray (as Danny Zuko) dips Samantha Lord (as Sandy Dumbrowski). The duo wowed the audience in the rendition of the popular movie "Grease." Photo by Valissa Kraus.

EXTREME

STUD EXT.



LEE

Jeffery Walker gives his interpretation of the song "He is Not Just a Man" at the annual talent show held during Homecoming week. The talent show showcased a variety of acts that attracted a large crowd. Photo by Valissa Kraus.



Addicted to Junk Food

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Amanda Daniels

Students on the go choose convenience over nutrition

Junk food eating is common to people of all ages, and college students are no exception. In fact, the lifestyle of a busy student can produce even more temptation as well as justification for this habit.

Western students seemed to prefer a more unbalanced diet than eating healthy foods like vegetables and fruit. Many preferred eating cookies for a snack and greasy fast-food for dinner.

Students who resided on campus were limited in what food they could prepare themselves. There wasn't any equipment provided for heavy-duty cooking within the dorm rooms, so if they wanted to cook, they had to use the kitchen in the housing office. As a result, students settled for easily-accessible items, something they could just grab and open.

Junior Latoria Norton said that although what she had in her refrigerator was somewhat healthy, it was the secret tote under her bed that shamed her; it contained chips, candy, juice and cupcakes.

"It's mainly for those times when I want something sweet; on a good day it's only two times a day," Norton said. "It is also a fast and convenient way to eat during my hectic schedule involving classes and commitments to more than one organization on campus."

Norton also attributed the habit to other reasons.

"Junk food can become addictive if it's the only thing in your diet," Norton said. "Plus, your environment has changed because there isn't a parental figure around to

monitor eating habits. It's sort of like leaving a kid in a candy store; they just fend for themselves."

Junior Tiffany Embry believed that one's lifestyle contributed to the "freshman fifteen," the infamous fifteen pounds that students were believed to gain during their freshman year. "A lot of freshmen don't get involved on campus, so they just sit in their rooms and eat," Embry said.

With all the vending machines around the campus, it would seem that junk food and college students just went together. The food court located in the Nelle Blum Student Union was a common place for students to dine, regardless of whether they lived on or off campus.

"The menu offers a lot of options," Natalie Itke, shift supervisor of the food court, said. "Besides healthy food, such as sandwiches, vegetables and chicken, there is also pizza, cookies, chips, Rice Krispies Treats, ice cream and several other items from which students can choose. I'd say our menu is very healthy and has a good variety. About 50 percent of the students eat healthy food, and the other 50 percent buy junk food."





Western students have many options on what type of candy to purchase. Junk food became an addiction to many students who were looking for convenience.



Left: Students on the go find it easy to grab a snack instead of taking time out to eat a nutritious meal. Junk food was a common necessity found in many students' storage units.

Right: With a few extra minutes, Josh Oliver and Matt Hill enjoy a sweet treat. Students gathered in the cafeteria to enjoy ice cream among other desserts.

Since Western was established it has been a dry campus and to this day some students wonder why. John Comerford, Director of Housing and Residential Life, explained why Western remained a dry campus for so many years.

“Our campus is approximately 90 percent or more under the age of 21 and we tend to house a lot of freshmen and sophomores who are not legal to drink,” Comerford said. “We also know that at times when alcohol is involved, some students tend to make poor decisions, which could lead to poor grades and eventually dropping out and we don’t want that here at Western.”

A dry campus had many positive sides to it, one of which was no drunken driving or fighting in the resident halls due to drunkenness. Another positive side to a dry campus was the fact that if anything happened to a student while drinking on campus, especially an underage student, then the school would be held liable if Western was not a dry campus.

Many students approved of having a dry campus. “I think that being a dry campus is a good thing because it keeps the violence down and keeps problems from happening,” sophomore Jarred Lindley said.

Junior Christy Suenshausen felt the same way. “I think that it’s pretty good,” Suenshausen said. “Students, who are 21 or older, can just go off campus if they want to drink.”

Some students disapproved of having a dry campus at all times.

“I think Western should be a dry campus during the week, but during the weekend it should be a wet campus,” Junior Jeff Huff said. “It would prevent a lot of people from drinking and driving because they would have to go somewhere else and drink on the weekends.”

Some students did not follow the

rules and paid the consequences. If caught with alcohol on campus many steps were taken by campus officials to make sure it didn’t happen again.

“We will meet with the students and talk to them,” Assistant Director of Housing and Residential Life Kristy Schulte. “We talk to them about their behavior and we have an alcohol workshop where we talk about the consequences of their actions.”

Security kept a close eye on students throughout the years, but did that stop students from sneaking alcohol on campus?

“Security does a good job of making sure that no alcohol is on school grounds,” Lindley said. “I have not seen any alcohol on campus so it seems to have been taken care of.”

Huff disagreed because he had seen alcohol on campus and didn’t think security was doing a good job. “I know a lot of people that drink on campus and get away with it every time,” Huff said.

All in all, students had different opinions on whether or not any alcohol should be allowed on campus and if campus security was doing an adequate job keeping alcohol off Western’s campus.

THE DROUGHT CONTINUES

Story By: Ross Scholz
Photos By: Valissa Kraus

Students express their feelings
on whether alcohol should be allowed on campus



AMARETTO
LIQUEUR

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AMARETTO
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Umbrellas in hand and hearts heavy, patriots all around campus came together to remember Sept. 11, 2001.

The day that terrorists took thousands of American lives and threatened America's freedom will never be forgotten, and in memory of that day, just two years later, Western students, faculty and staff set aside a specific time dedicated to the remembrance of 9/11 and the heroes of that day.

"I think it's important to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice-their lives-so we can have the freedoms we have," senior Jim McKinley said.

A memorial was held on campus at the clock tower, as had been done the previous year. College officials and faculty, as well as members of the local fire and police departments, followed in procession to the clock tower. Vocal music instructor Sharon Gray sang "The Star Spangled Banner," and college officials, including President James Scanlon, recited lines of remembrance dedicated to the victims, survivors and volunteers of the attack. Students pinned red, white and blue ribbons to their clothing and backpacks and listened as patriotic melodies rang out from the clock tower.

Students' reasons for attending the memorial ceremony varied, but the majority of students in attendance was a sign of patriotism to reflect on the tragedy that hit America so hard just two years prior. Senior

Tracy Johnson said, "It creates a bond when we all can mourn together because that was a tragic day for the whole nation, not just one person."

Despite the downpour, there were still many participants in the memorial service. "I don't know that [the rain] had an effect on those who truly believe we should remember our non-living heroes," McKinley said.

Inside, there was another way students chose to remember that fateful day. Western's Student Nurses Association joined forces with the Red Cross to hold a second annual 9/11 blood drive. Jenny Evans, president of the Student Nurses Association, said that over 100 students tried to donate, and about 88 units of blood were collected. "We had a good student turnout," Evans said.

By collaborating with the Red Cross, the organization was able to do more good for more people than it could have helped on its own.

"That's what's great about the Red Cross," Evans said. "The blood doesn't just stay in the area. It can go wherever it's needed."

Memories of Sept. 11, 2001 were not forgotten, and the annual memorial and blood drive were a way Americans at Western could express their feelings and show their loyalty to those affected by the attack and to the country as a whole.



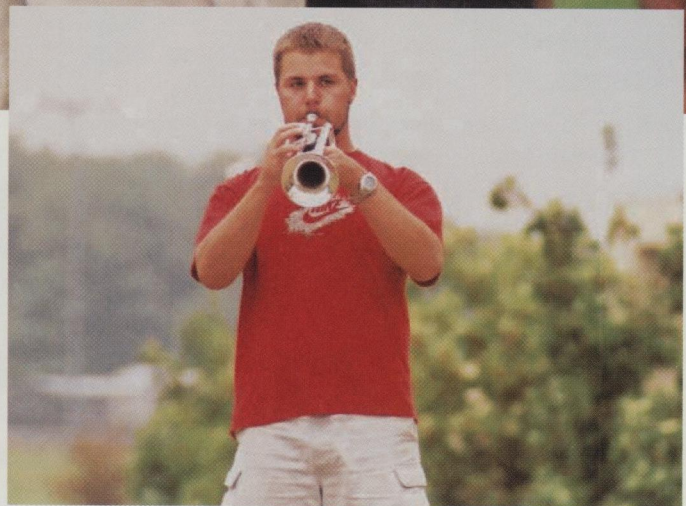
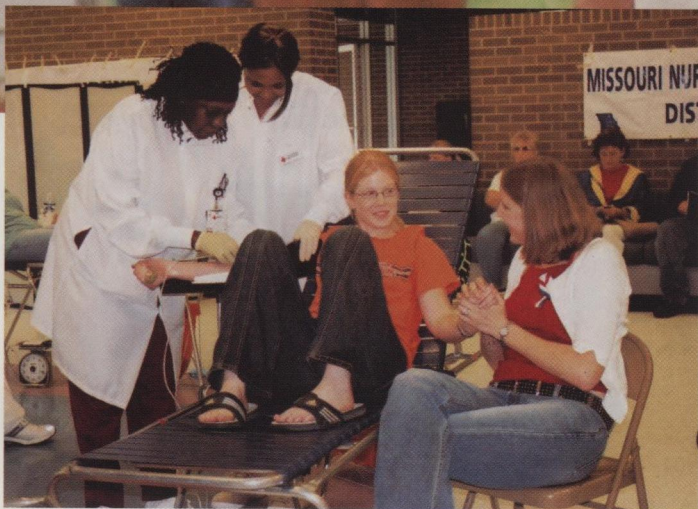
We Remember...

Story by Kellie Feuerbacher
Photos by Ashley Reynolds

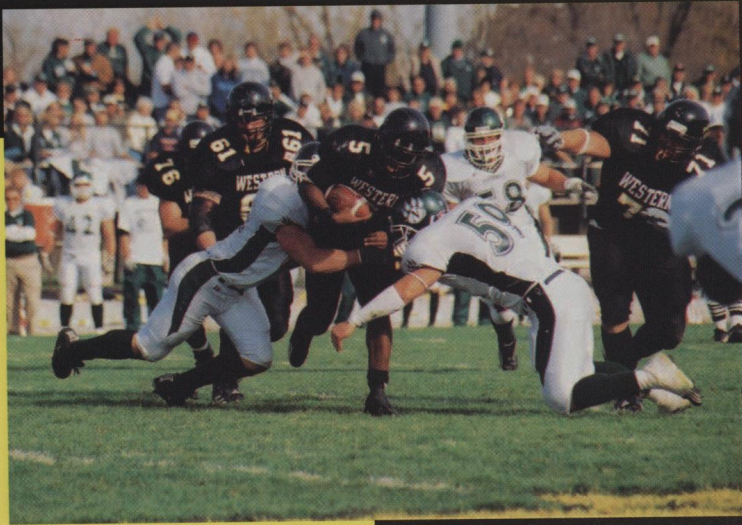
Western reflects on the tragedy that touched the lives of many.



Students gather on the lawn by the clocktower. Despite the rainy weather, many students and faculty members participated in the memorial service, donning umbrellas and raincoats.

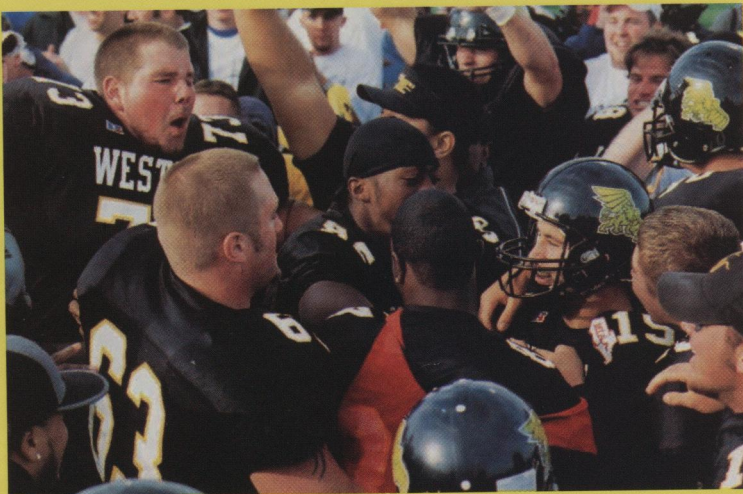


Left: Freshman Liz Boyer is given support from a friend while donating blood. The Missouri Nurses Association joined with the American Red Cross to hold the 2nd annual blood drive in remembrance of the 9/11 attack. Right: Junior Kip Veith plays a patriotic piece in honor of those whose lives were taken or dramatically altered on Sept. 11, 2001.



Above: Senior Derrick Pitts aggressively carries the ball down the field for a touchdown. Pitts was a key player throughout the season.

Center: The Griffons celebrate their win against the Bearcats. After each win, they met at the tree, as a tradition, and sang the fight song.



Story by: Sheena Kelley
 Photos by: Matt Morton

Below: Junior Roger Moore attempts to dodge two Bearcats during a play. The offense remained focused to win the victory.



On Saturday, Oct. 25, Spratt Stadium was filled with a combination of over 7,000 Western and Northwest fans that came to see one of the most important football games of the year; the Western Griffons take on the Northwest Bearcats. It was no surprise that the game was a full out battle from beginning to end. Western was able to take the game into overtime and win 30 to 27; however, the battle to get ahead was not easy.

For Western fans, Northwest was one of the major rivals and both teams always had a big turnout of fans. "The rivalry has picked up and gotten so much bigger every year that they even make t-shirts for the occasion," assistant coach Matt Williamson said.

The pressure was on during the week prior to the game and emotions ran high for the Griffons. "There were some very strong and very high emotions going on, but we try to treat it like any other week," team member John Fisher said. "The pressure was even more intense during the game, especially when Northwest made the first touchdown of the game."

Western made a touchdown soon after, but Northwest fought back gaining three more points. The Bearcats led the first quarter 10 to 7, then gained 14 more points in the second quarter making the score 24 to 7 at halftime. The first half of the game was pretty unsettling for the Griffons and their fans. During halftime, the team received a pep talk from Western coach Jerry Partridge. When the third quarter started, the team knew they had to step up their performance and play a different game if they

Various offensive strategies keep the opponents on their toes. The Bearcats were not able to compete with our unstoppable Griffons.

were going to pull off a win.

"The team came out and knew that they had a job to do," Williamson said. "The Griffons knew the game was not over for them despite the difficulties that they felt during the first half of the game."

Head coach Jerry Partridge agreed with Williamson on the team's performance.

"Northwest played really good the first half and we did not play as well," Partridge said. "We got in a hole and then we came back out after halftime and turned the tables on them."

A major change in the third quarter was a change in quarterbacks. Kyle Westerberg was replaced with Michael Cooper, who led the team into gaining three points in the third quarter and 14 points in the fourth, tying the score for overtime. Northwest gained three more points to get ahead, but Western came out on top when Cooper ran 25 yards for the winning touchdown.

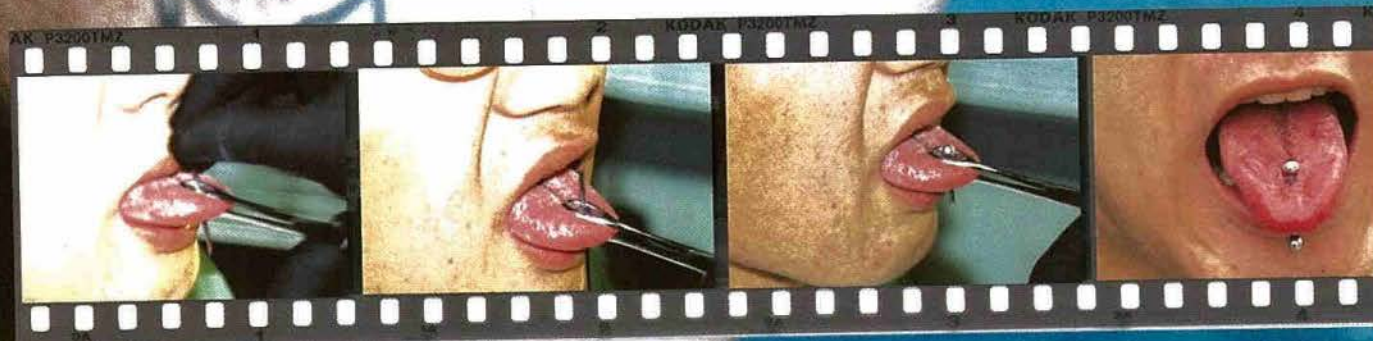
The pressure was on full throttle towards the end, which was not a surprise since in previous years it has always been a battle. "We knew it would be a battle because every time we have played them in the past few years, it has come down to the last play of the game," Williamson said.

All in all, the game was one to go down in Western's history. The battle was not easily won, but the ever faithful Western fans were out there supporting their team all the way. "It was a great atmosphere and it was great to see our fans out there with full force," Partridge said. "The game was an important win for Western."

Western Dominates

The Western-Northwest game is always the best game of the year; this year was no exception

Right: Shay Fadden shows off his arm full of art. Fadden designed three of his own tattoos. Below: This is the process of getting the tongue pierced. Piercings may look cool, but it takes a painful process to get one.



Tattoos and piercings have been in the culture of the United States for many years and Western's campus was no exception. To many people they represented a form of self-expression, while some felt that they were an addiction. Three Western students revealed what they felt about the myths and circumstances on the cultural aspect of tattoos and piercings.

Art major Aaron Kimmi had three tattoos, but felt differently about piercings. "Tattoos are a form of expression to me. On the other hand, I tend to look at piercings as holes in the body," Kimmi said.

Fellow art major Shay Fadden felt similar regarding piercings. "I see a tattoo more as art than a piercing," Fadden said.

Fadden had four tattoos, three of which he designed himself, while Kimmi designed all of his own tattoos. Fadden had a few piercings in the past, while Kimmi had none at all. Senior Tracy "Tre" Hamilton had ten piercings and one tattoo. In contrast to Kimmi and Fadden, Hamilton felt that both tattoos and piercings were an art form.

"Tattoos, for me, are a form of art because your body becomes the canvas, and piercings are also a form of art to me because they are aesthetically pleasing to the eye," Hamilton said.

While some students felt differently about tattoos and piercings being a form of art, some believed that the two could be addictive.

"I think that if you've got an addictive personality, then the habit will become addictive," Fadden said. "I know that when

a tattoo is no longer new to me, I want to get a new one, and I find myself itching to get stuck with the needle."

Each of the three students received their tattoos at different ages. Fadden received his first tattoo at the age of 15. "I got it done in my friend's basement, and he's created all of my tattoos ever since," Fadden said. Kimmi received his first tattoo at the age of 18, while Hamilton received his at the age of 16.

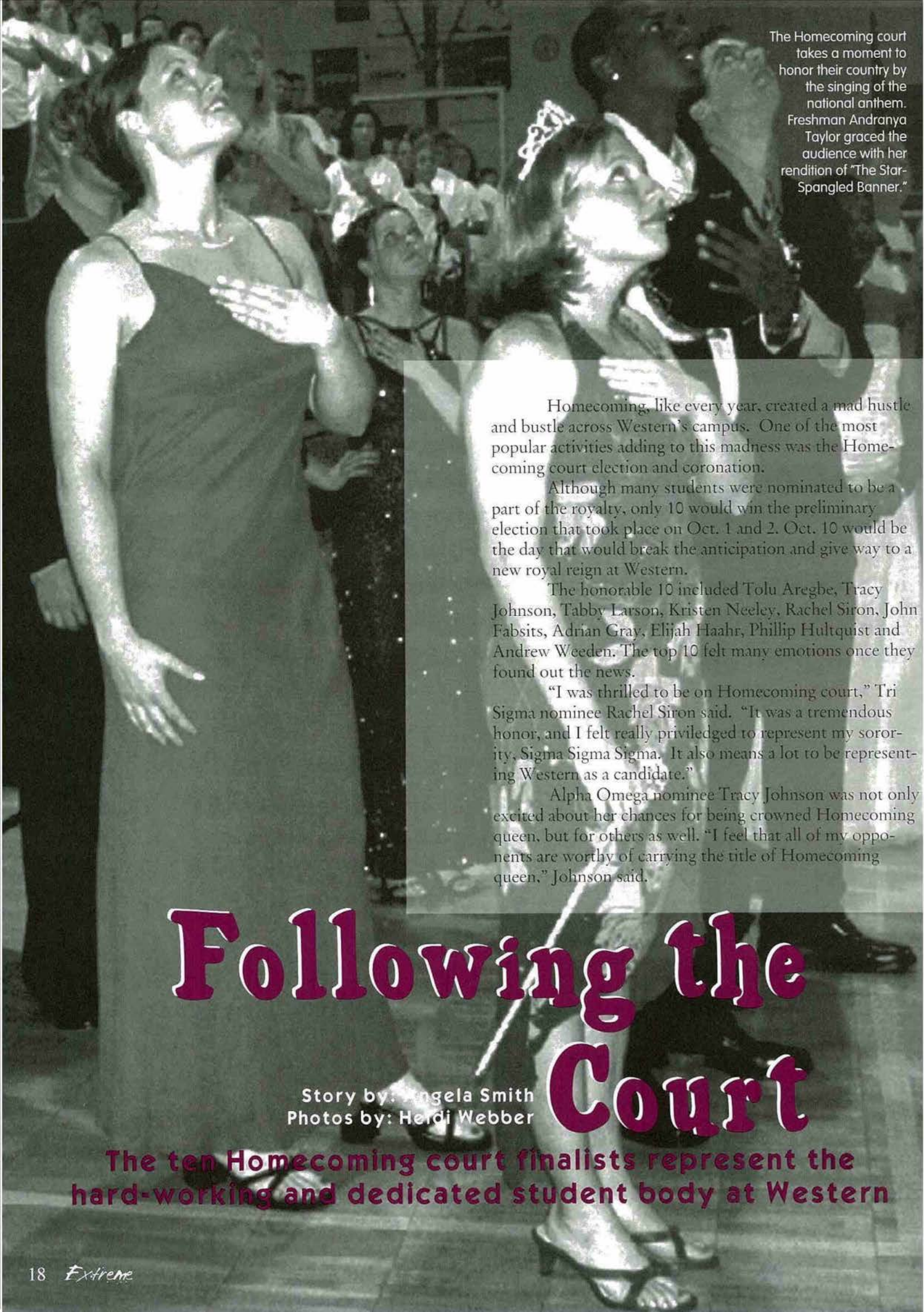
Hamilton received his first piercing back in the days before it became very common. "The first piercing I got lead on to what I call my more serious piercings such as my tongue, eyebrow and nipple piercings," Hamilton said. "I got my first one before it was really popular, and now it has become a fad these days instead of something that you want to express for yourself," Hamilton said.

All three students agreed that tattoos and piercings were not for everyone and that there were many different views about them. Each of them felt someone should only consider it if it was really what they want to do, because after all in the end it is a permanent mark.

BODY ART

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos By Jeff Winn

These painful needles are one way that students can express themselves



The Homecoming court takes a moment to honor their country by the singing of the national anthem. Freshman Andrayna Taylor graced the audience with her rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Homecoming, like every year, created a mad hustle and bustle across Western's campus. One of the most popular activities adding to this madness was the Homecoming court election and coronation.

Although many students were nominated to be a part of the royalty, only 10 would win the preliminary election that took place on Oct. 1 and 2. Oct. 10 would be the day that would break the anticipation and give way to a new royal reign at Western.

The honorable 10 included Tolu Aregbe, Tracy Johnson, Tabby Larson, Kristen Neeley, Rachel Siron, John Fabsits, Adrian Gray, Elijah Haahr, Phillip Hultquist and Andrew Weeden. The top 10 felt many emotions once they found out the news.

"I was thrilled to be on Homecoming court," Tri Sigma nominee Rachel Siron said. "It was a tremendous honor, and I felt really privileged to represent my sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma. It also means a lot to be representing Western as a candidate."

Alpha Omega nominee Tracy Johnson was not only excited about her chances for being crowned Homecoming queen, but for others as well. "I feel that all of my opponents are worthy of carrying the title of Homecoming queen," Johnson said.

Following the Court

Story by: Angela Smith
Photos by: Heidi Webber

The ten Homecoming court finalists represent the hard-working and dedicated student body at Western



Johnson recalled the moment when she found out she had made it to the top 10.

"I immediately called my mom," Johnson said. "I wanted her to be one of the first people to know."

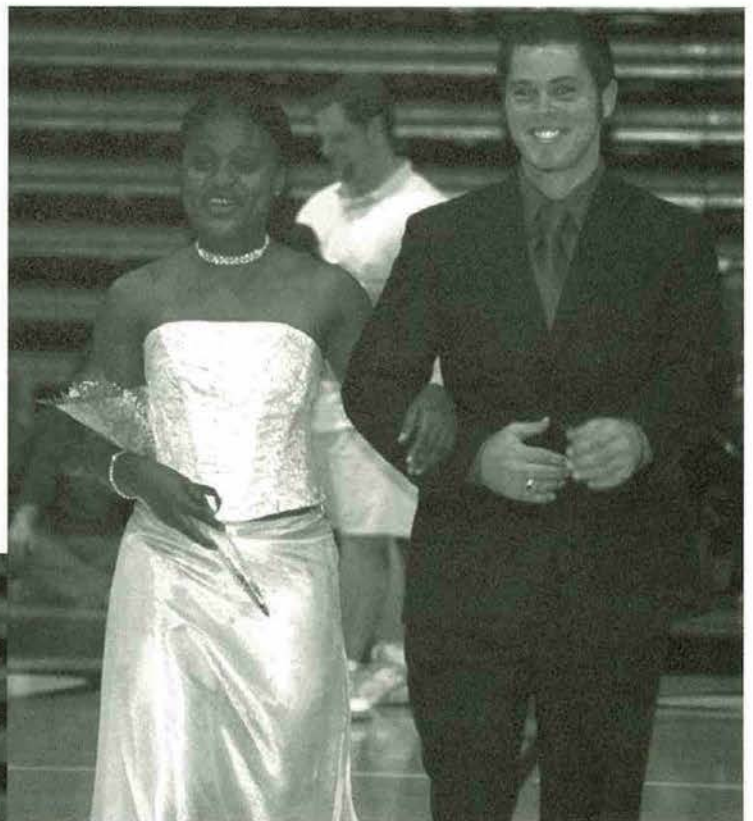
Weeden, who was nominated by Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, also felt honored to be a part of the court.

"I couldn't believe that Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority nominated me," Weeden said. "I feel honored and excited to get the chance to run for the title of Homecoming king."

Observers may not have realized the numerous responsibilities that the Homecoming court was responsible for. Throughout the week the court had many mandatory appearances. All candidates had to attend the talent show, spirit rally, coronation, bonfire, spirited fan contest, parade and football game.

"Having to attend all of the events during Homecoming week isn't so bad," Weeden said. "So far I've had a great time at all of the events, especially the talent show."

In addition to attending all of the events, all candidates must have been enrolled in 12 credit hours and at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average. Candidates were also required to be sponsored by a campus organization.



Top left: Tau Kappa Epsilon candidates John Fabsits and Tabby Larson enjoy themselves while watching Western's finest at the talent show. The talent show was one of the many required events for the candidates to attend.

Top right: Phil Hultquist escorts Rachel Siron across the basketball court during the pep rally. Siron and Hultquist were both sponsored by Tri Sigma.

Bottom right: Elijah Haahr and runner-up Tolu Aregbe enjoy the attention they receive at the pep rally. Aregbe was sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Elijah was sponsored by Alpha Gamma Delta.

Bottom left: Alpha Sigma Alpha nominees Kristen Neeley and runner-up Andy Weeden smile at the crowd. The pep rally was a chance for all candidates to show the student body their school pride.

Former king, Sylvester Brandon and the rest of the Homecoming Court show Griffon spirit at the pep rally. The pep rally got the crowd ready for the Homecoming game against Central.



Left: Hallie Ziskind performs at the pep rally. Hallie was not only winner of the talent show, she performed as Rizzo in Western's production of *Grease* in the Fall.

Right: The Mystics perform for the crowd at the pep rally to get the crowd pumped up for the big game. The Mystics danced at all major sporting events for Western.



The talent show was a crowd pleaser, while the pep rally was a spirit starter

Spirit Talented

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Valissa Kraus

The talent show that was held during Homecoming week contained a variety of acts from singing and rapping to stepping and poetry. The pep rally also saw a variety in performers from the Mystics to the Golden Griffon guard. The talent show and the pep rally were just the beginning of "Turning up the Volume."

Students kicked off the Homecoming events with the talent show on Oct. 8. The first act of the night was a band named Intrigue who performed their rendition of Mint Condition's "Pretty Brown

Eyes." Brandon Byrd, guitarist for Intrigue, felt a little pressure being the first act. "It was a little nerve racking, but I was alright," Byrd said.

Jeffery Walker followed Intrigue with his interpretation of the song "He is not just a man." Hallie Ziskind performed after Walker. Ziskind sang a cover of "I Turn To You." The next act was a rap group called 8700. There was a technical problem during their performance, and the act had to stop during their song until the problem was fixed. Kevin Fonheroy, a member of 8700, was disappointed by the problem during their performance. "I was really upset that we had the microphone problems, but we did what we had to do and managed to finish the song," Fonheroy said. 8700 was the first of a few acts to experience the technical

problems.

Ben Croskell and Megan Dungan followed 8700 and experienced a technical problem as well. Croskell and Dungan performed an original song entitled "All at Once." The Visionaries also performed an original song called "How We Roll." Alpha Phi Alpha was the next act, and they did a stepping routine. J. Tyrell Colbert took the stage next to recite two original poems. Andranya Taylor performed the last song of the night with her cover of "What About The Children." The last act of the night was a skit entitled "Madam Rene Salon."

The talent show saw its share of a few problems, but the acts did their best to finish what they had started. At the end of the show, the votes were tallied as the audience waited in anticipation. Walker came in third place, Croskell and Dungan came in second and the first place award went to a shocked Ziskind. "I went into shock and I couldn't believe they said my name, but they did and it was exciting because I've never won anything before," Ziskind said.

Since Ziskind won first place, she performed at the pep rally on Oct. 10. The pep rally was a way for fans, performers, coaches and football players to get pumped before the game against Central Missouri State University.

The pep rally started off with Andranya Taylor's performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Ziskind sang a cover of "A Moment Like This." In between the songs were performances by the color guard and the cheer squad along with the most spirited fan contest. Jon Siron won the crowd over with his interpretation of a cheerleader. The football team was introduced, and then the Mystics performed. Next came the moment most students were waiting for: the announcement of Homecoming king and queen. Tolu Aregbe and Andrew Weeden were announced as the runners-up while Adrian Gray and Kristen Neeley were crowned the king and queen.

Sleep deprivation, hunger, stress and frustration did not stop the students from putting the finishing touches on their Homecoming floats the night before the parade. Many sororities, fraternities and other organizations worked on their floats throughout the month of October to make sure they had them done by Homecoming morning. Several red-eyed groups decided to pull an all-nighter of gluing, painting, cutting and taping. As the night progressed, they found different ways to stay awake.

Sophomore Danielle Delaney found herself getting sick from staying up all night. A member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delaney only got one hour of sleep Saturday morning before she had to arrive at the parade lineup.

President of Phi Mu, Crystal Morse, felt the sleep deprivation kick in as she diligently worked on her sorority's float. "I ate pizza and took a 15 minute power nap against the cardboard so I could stay awake the rest of the night, and that's all the sleep I managed to get," Morse said.

This was the first year in awhile for the sisters of Phi Mu to have everything done by Friday night. "The reason we finished our float in time was because some girls were willing to take some things home to work on them on their own time," Morse said.

The girls of Sigma Sigma Sigma not only had a float, but they also had a car and truck to work on throughout the week. They managed to finish everything by 2:30 a.m. Saturday morning. "We had to get a lot of last-minute items like sound equipment, a genera-

tor fog machine and a few more supplies to finish our float," senior Mandy Freeland said.

As co-chair of the Homecoming committee of Sigma Sigma Sigma, Freeland found it hard to stay awake by the time Saturday rolled around.

"Before Saturday I got about 10 hours of sleep between three jobs, classes and Homecoming," Freeland said. "I actually fell asleep standing up at my jobs and sitting down at the fitness center."

Without sleep, the pressure was getting to the stressed-out students. "It's stressful every year," Morse said. "We think we are ahead, but then at the last minute we rush around frantically."

Freeland felt the same way and realized the members of Sigma Sigma Sigma had to work rapidly in order to meet the deadline. "I didn't really feel much pressure until we were assembling everything at the parade lineup; that's when it started to sink in that we needed to be ready to go and fast!" Freeland said.

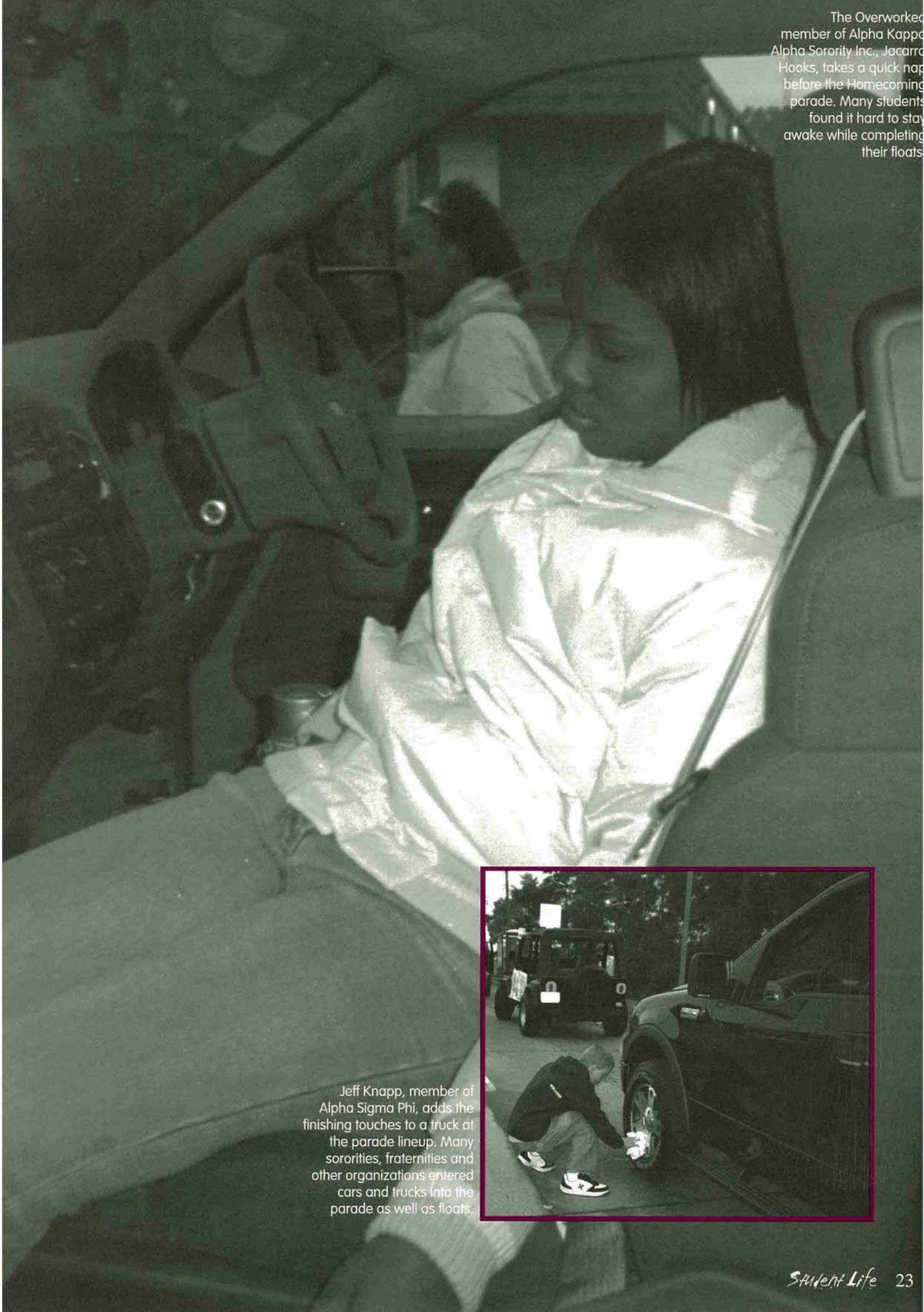
Up All

Story by Jenny Olson
Photos by Kamita Shelby

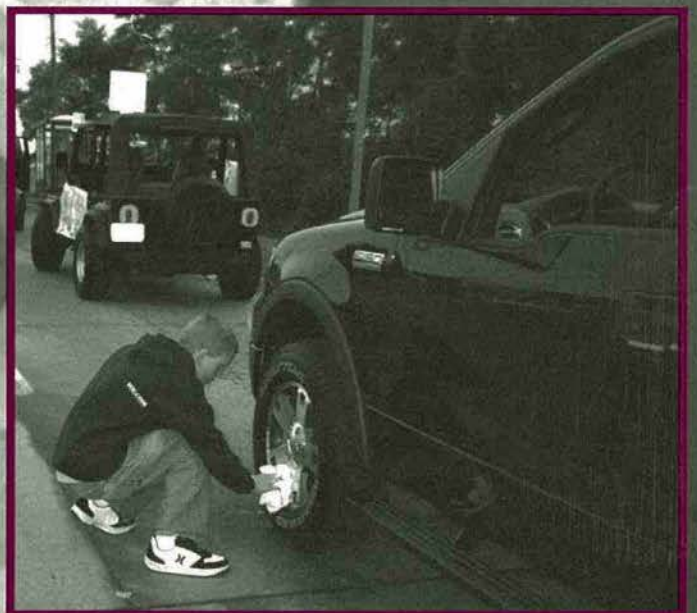
Night

As the hours tick by, students frantically put the finishing touches on their floats in hopes of winning first place in the competition at the Homecoming parade

The Overworked member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Jacarra Hooks, takes a quick nap before the Homecoming parade. Many students found it hard to stay awake while completing their floats.



Jeff Knapp, member of Alpha Sigma Phi, adds the finishing touches to a truck at the parade lineup. Many sororities, fraternities and other organizations entered cars and trucks into the parade as well as floats.



Watching From Afar

Story by Ross Scholz
Photos by Jeff Winn

As Western "Turns Up the Volume" during the parade, judges turn up the scoring

Imagine a street full of beautifully colored floats and bands moving down the streets of Saint Joseph. On Oct. 11, people of all ages gathered to see their friends and family members as they drove by throwing candy out to eager children during Western's Homecoming parade.

As the decorated floats drove by the judges, sororities, fraternities and other various organizations hoped their float would be the float to win the competition.

The judges knew what they were looking for. "We are looking for creativity, and detail," float judge Robert Warren said. "A good overall presentation of the float and making sure that the organization has its name on it are also important factors when judging a float."

Float judge Brian Stackhouse not only looked for creativity, but he also looked for how much time was spent on the floats. "We are looking for something that looks like students spent a lot of time on and that was formed from a collaboration of good ideas," Stackhouse said.

Plenty of creativity went around as many groups came up with themes of "The Beatles," "American Bandstand," "Disco Fever" and "School House Rock."

Many fraternities and sororities had spent several hours not only coming up with an idea for their floats, but also many hours building their floats in hope of grabbing the attention from all of the viewers as they proceeded down the streets in front of the community.

The judges had a hard time deciding which group of students should win first place so they gave it to two

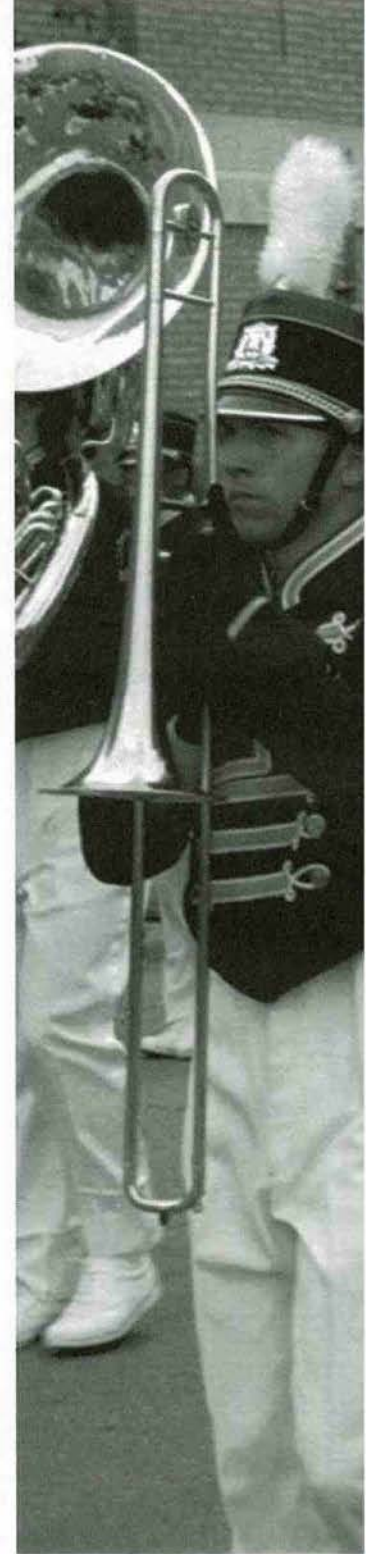
sororities as a tie, Phi Mu and Sigma Sigma Sigma. Alpha Sigma Alpha rounded out the placings with third.

Saint Joseph's Mayor, David Jones, and State Senator, Charlie Shields, were also present and involved in the parade to celebrate Homecoming week. They joined the line-up of floats and numerous high school marching bands from Saint Joseph and surrounding areas.

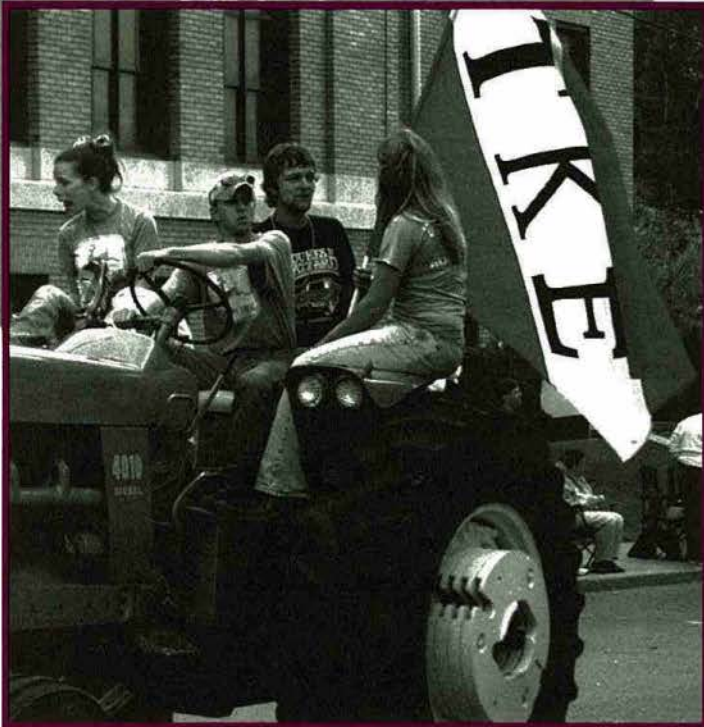
Onlookers had their opinions about the parade turnout. "I think that it is wonderful," Jean Colbert said. "I have come every year!"

Other viewers also enjoyed the parade for a specific purpose. "One thing that I liked was the organization of the parade," viewer Larry Chambers said. "It seems like it gets better and better each and every year."

Those that observed from the street, the parking garage and also those that participated in the parade seemed to enjoy themselves. Many agreed this was the best Homecoming parade they had seen yet.



Members of the Golden Griffon Marching Band march to the beat of the drum. There were over 30 marching bands from area high schools in the parade.



Left: Tau Kappa Epsilon members drive a tractor as part of their float. Phi Mu and Sigma Sigma Sigma won this competition in a tie. Right: Alpha Omega proudly proceeds down the street during the Homecoming parade. They were one of the many organizations that participated by entering a float, car or truck.

2003 Royalty Crowned

Adrian Gray & Kristen Neeley are crowned King & Queen by the student body

Story by Ross Scholz

Photos by Heidi Webber & Kristen Neeley

The moment that everyone was waiting for finally arrived. The results of the Homecoming king and queen election finally were announced. Junior Adrian Gray was elected Homecoming king, and junior Kristen Neeley won as Homecoming queen. Just like any election, the candidates had to get their names out in the public and let people know that they would appreciate their votes in the coming election.

So how did a person go about getting nominated as a candidate?

"Well, I was on my way to history class," Gray said. "And one of my friends in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority came up and asked me if anyone had talked to me about Homecoming. I asked her what she meant, so she told me they wanted me to run for them. She asked if I was interested, and I said that I would be honored."

"I was nominated by my sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha," Neeley said. "We were talking about who to nominate, and we decided between me and my roommate, and I was chosen. I was very excited because I did not think that I would make it to the top 5, but it was great."

Then it came time for the candidates to promote themselves.

"They told us that word-of-mouth was the best way of doing it," Neeley said. "So I made some fun little posters, things that would catch people's eyes, and basically talked to everybody that I know. I'm an orientation assistant and a Griffon Edge leader, so I know a lot of freshman. I just said 'hi,' and they remembered me."

"Big props to the AKA sorority," Gray said. "They made the posters and put pictures of me on them, and besides that I just went out and encouraged people to vote because that is really the only thing we can do under the rules, and it seemed that there was a good turnout."

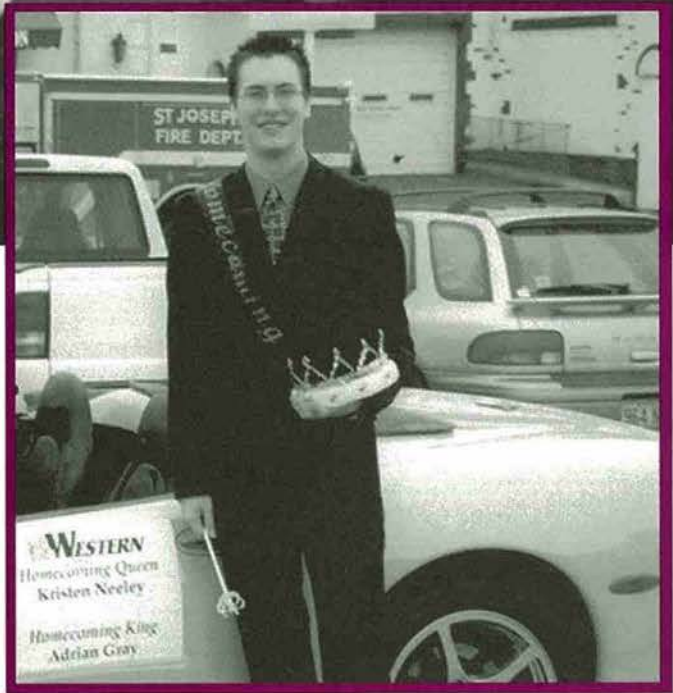
Students elected as Homecoming king and queen had certain qualities that made them the students' choice for royalty.

"Adrian Gray is an outstanding individual on campus," senior Jim McKinley said. "He is involved in mostly Christian organizations, and he's not really involved in much else, but he knows everybody, and he shakes their hand and asks them how they are doing, and that is why he won."

"Kristen is really nice," sophomore Erin Wilson said. "She has a lot of energy and is really easy to talk to."

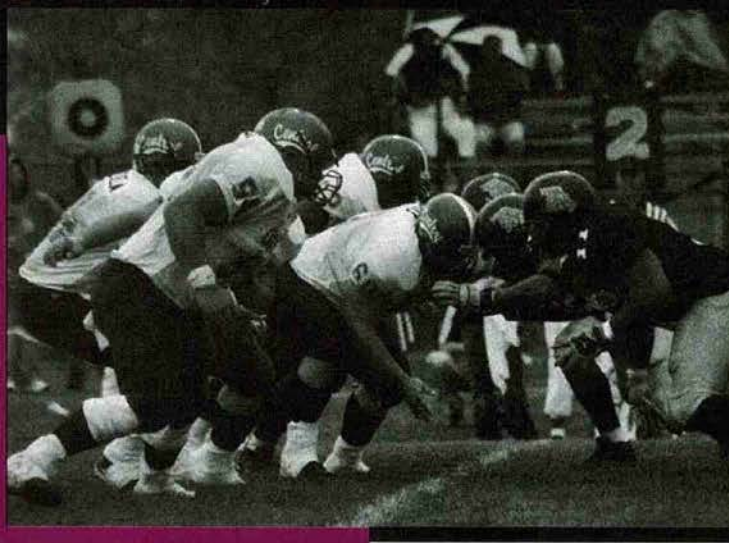
Gray and Neeley were well-known and loved on campus. Their outgoing personalities made them favorites among their peers and earned them a place in Western's royalty history.

Homecoming king & queen, Adrian Gray and Kristen Neeley, prepare to attend the Homecoming bonfire. The bonfire, a traditional event at Western, took place the night before the big game.



Left: Kristen Neeley shows her overwhelming excitement as she accepts her crown for Homecoming queen. She was nominated by Alpha Sigma Alpha and is an active member of the sorority.

Right: Adrian Gray's first act as Homecoming king is to ride in the Homecoming parade. Gray was seated next to his queen, Neeley, to represent Western in all of it's glory.



Above: Determined to stop the CMSU offense, Western pushes hard to prevent them from breaking through to the endzone. Western only allowed the Mules to score ten points.

Center: Forcefully pulling his opponent, wide receiver Matt Griffin escapes from the defense to get open for a downfield catch. With homefield advantage, the Griffons were able to dominate offensively.



Story by: Sheena Kelley
 Photos by: Matt Morton

Below: Homecoming King Adrian Gray along with other Western fans show their support with noise makers in effort to cheer on a victory. The rainy weather didn't stop the fans from filling the seats at Spratt Stadium.

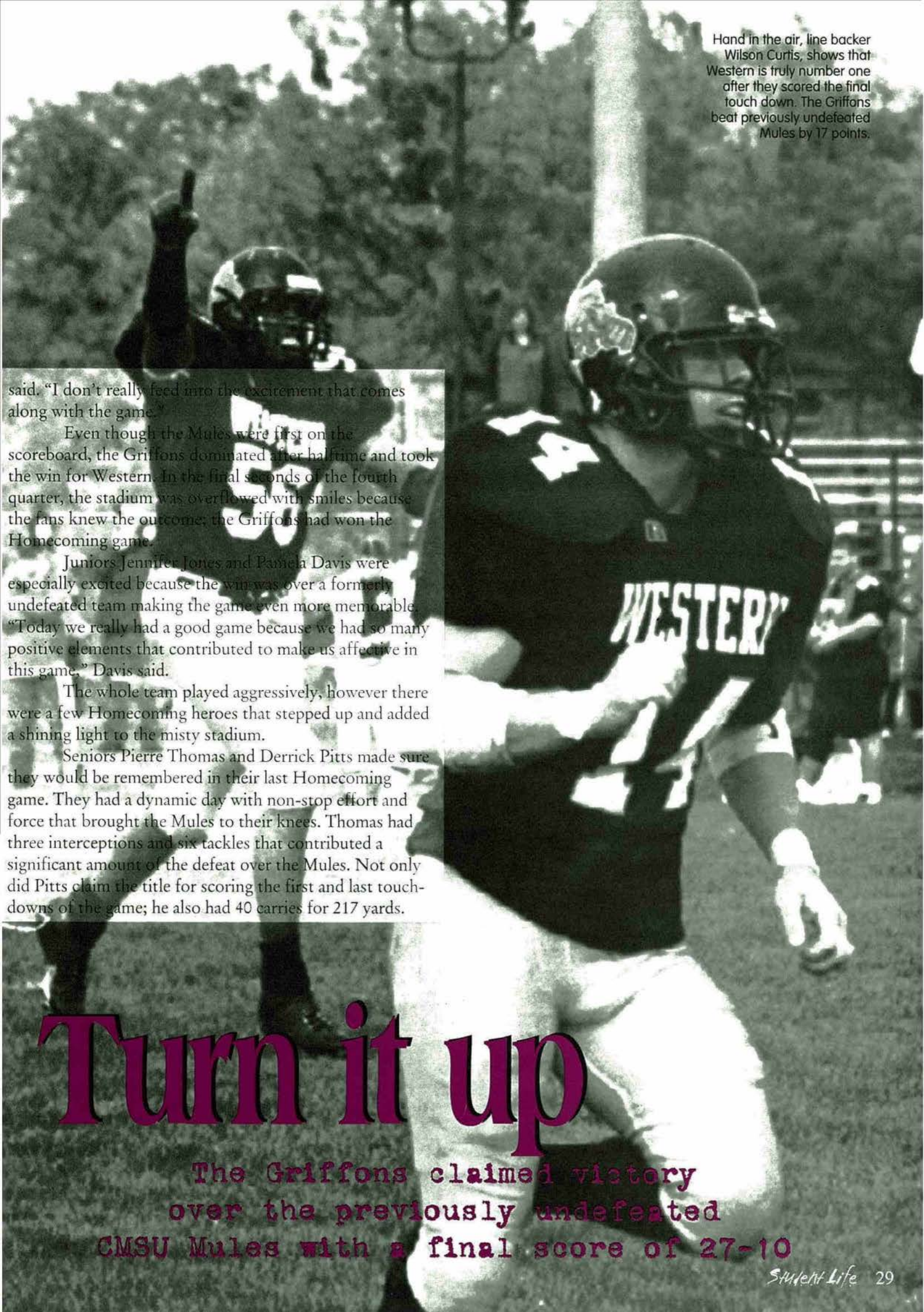


Imagine Spratt Stadium engulfed in a sea of black and gold, fans dripping wet and the Griffon football team dominating the Mules in a victorious Homecoming game. The image became a reality on a gloomy Oct. 11. Despite the rainy weather, it didn't stop the energetic fans that packed the stadium. Also, it had no effect on the players, as the intensity was high throughout the field. The Griffons claimed victory over the previously undefeated Mules of Central Missouri State University, with the final score of 27-10.

Junior Deborah Coates was one of the rain-soaked fans that didn't let the rainy day stop her from supporting the Griffons. Coates was seated in the stadium from the first second on the scoreboard to the last. "It's Homecoming and I believe that if there's ever a time we should support our team it's definitely on this occasion," Coates said.

Some of the players tried not to focus on the fact that many people considered Homecoming one of the biggest games of the year. Junior Offiong Antia, Western's starting receiver, felt that the highly rated anticipation for the Homecoming game was mostly from the fans. He treated this game like every game; the team as a whole considered every game a big game.

"We prepared and worked hard for this as well as the other games, there's not really a big difference," Antia



Hand in the air, line backer Wilson Curtis, shows that Western is truly number one after they scored the final touch down. The Griffons beat previously undefeated Mules by 17 points.

said. "I don't really feed into the excitement that comes along with the game."

Even though the Mules were first on the scoreboard, the Griffons dominated after halftime and took the win for Western. In the final seconds of the fourth quarter, the stadium was overflowed with smiles because the fans knew the outcome; the Griffons had won the Homecoming game.

Juniors Jennifer Jones and Pamela Davis were especially excited because the win was over a formerly undefeated team making the game even more memorable. "Today we really had a good game because we had so many positive elements that contributed to make us affective in this game," Davis said.

The whole team played aggressively, however there were a few Homecoming heroes that stepped up and added a shining light to the misty stadium.

Seniors Pierre Thomas and Derrick Pitts made sure they would be remembered in their last Homecoming game. They had a dynamic day with non-stop effort and force that brought the Mules to their knees. Thomas had three interceptions and six tackles that contributed a significant amount of the defeat over the Mules. Not only did Pitts claim the title for scoring the first and last touchdowns of the game; he also had 40 carries for 217 yards.

Turn it up

The Griffons claimed victory over the previously undefeated CMSU Mules with a final score of 27-10

President of the Student Health Advisory Group, vice-president and activities coordinator of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, co-captain of the Golden Griffon Guard, educational programming chair of Residence Council, resident assistant for Vaselakos hall, desk manager for the housing office and the list goes on and on. Sound like a hectic schedule? One might say yes, and senior Annette Hunthrop agrees. This was the schedule from 7 a.m. until 2 a.m., that Hunthrop juggled every day throughout her senior year.

Times for Hunthrop were not always so hectic. "I hated Missouri Western until my second semester of my sophomore year," Hunthrop said. "That semester it all came together after I got involved in color guard and Residence Council, and I've had a hectic schedule ever since."

Hunthrop was the true definition of a busy student. In addition to the extracurricular activities that she juggled, she also managed to balance three majors which were general biology, health science and natural science/chemistry with an emphasis in forensic science.

It took Hunthrop a couple of years to decide what she wanted to do with her life. "When I was a freshman I had decided to be a history and criminal justice major, but I have always been interested in the science field," Hunthrop said. "Dr. Rushin introduced me to Health Science, and that's what sparked my interest and led me to want to be an epidemiologist."

Despite Hunthrop's jam-packed schedule, she also managed to hold down a 24-hour obligation with the housing office as a resident assistant in Vaselakos hall. In addition she also became the desk manager in the housing office. You may ask 'How does someone become so engaged?'

"I just kind of started joining organizations, one by one, and ended up where I am, no one had to push me," Hunthrop said. "I became so involved because I wanted to

help the underclassmen to learn how to become more involved. It's the only way the campus can grow in student leadership."

Hunthrop's vision of influencing underclassmen helped freshman Brad Dixon.

"Annette is my resident assistant, and she influences me a lot," Dixon said. "She has planted a seed in me to grow; it's almost like she's the water bucket and I'm the garden."

Juggling academics, extracurricular activities and personal time required patience and responsibility.

"Annette has very good time management skills, especially with all the activities that she's involved in," sophomore Anthony Widhalm said. "She's very dedicated and hardworking."

Hunthrop admitted that there were pros and cons to having such a hectic schedule.

"Being really busy, you're bound to neglect something; however, the benefits outweigh the negatives," Hunthrop said. "I get to meet new people, and it keeps me out of trouble."

So when did Hunthrop make time for herself?

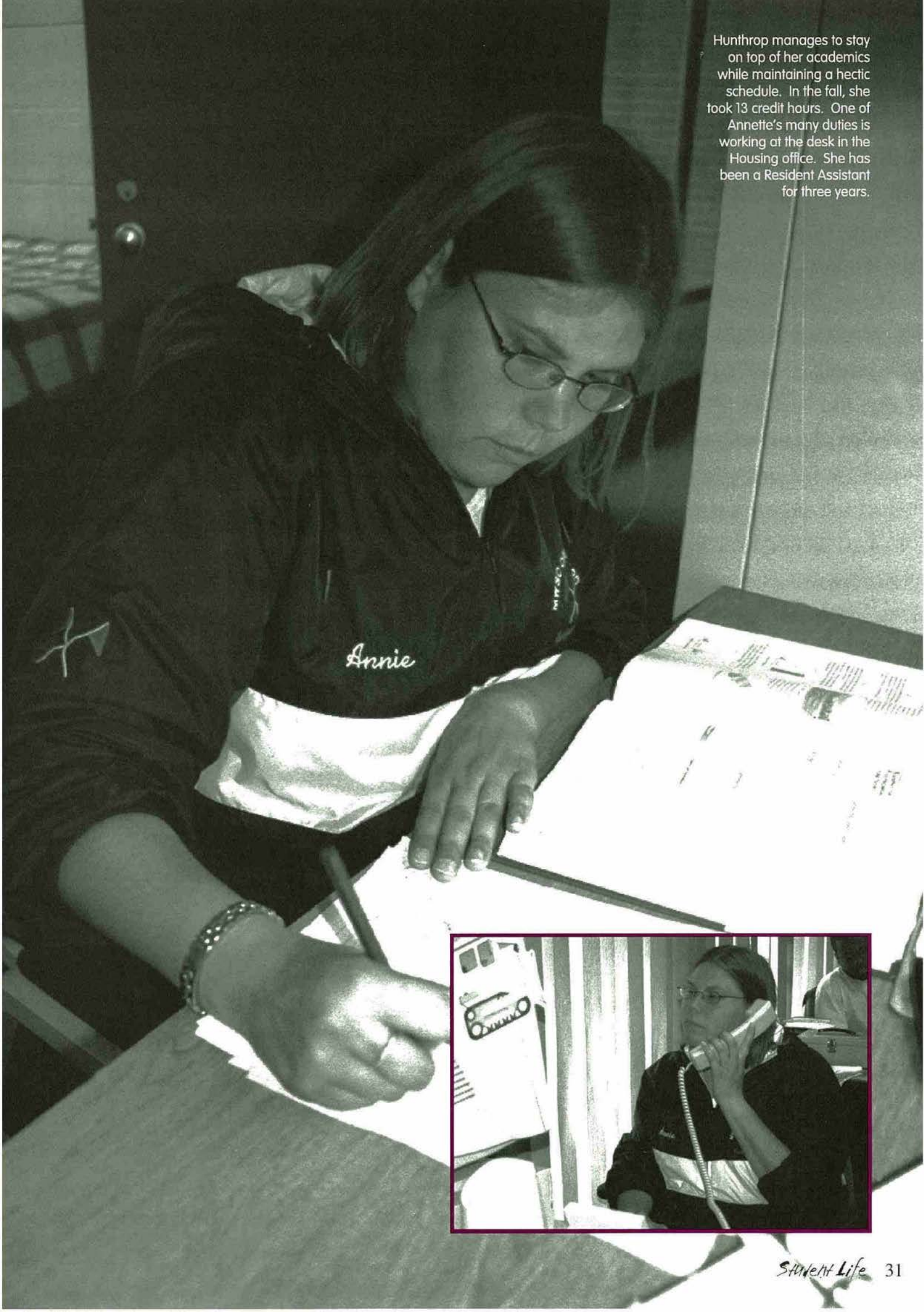
"I have spare time here and there, but my personal time, which I call 'Annette time,' is my sleep time," Hunthrop said. "I have always told my mom that if I had one whole day of nothing to do I would probably have to find something to do or else I would go insane."

SUN UP TO SUN DOWN

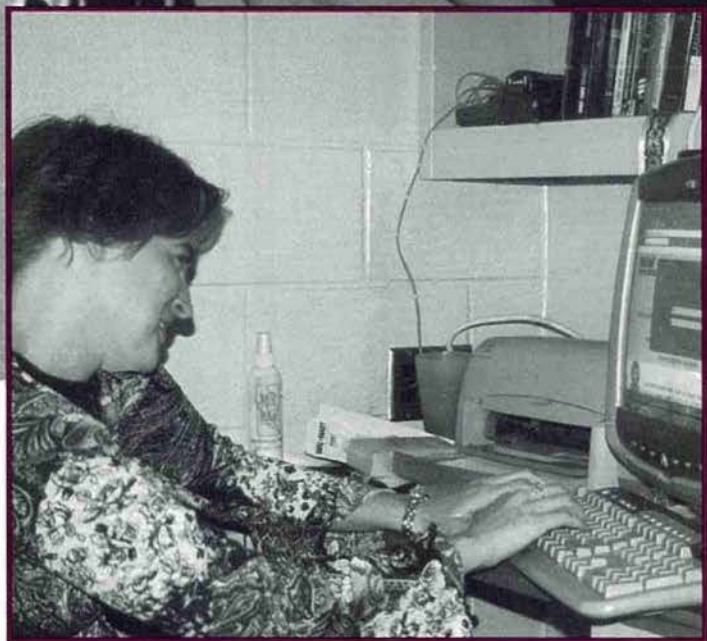
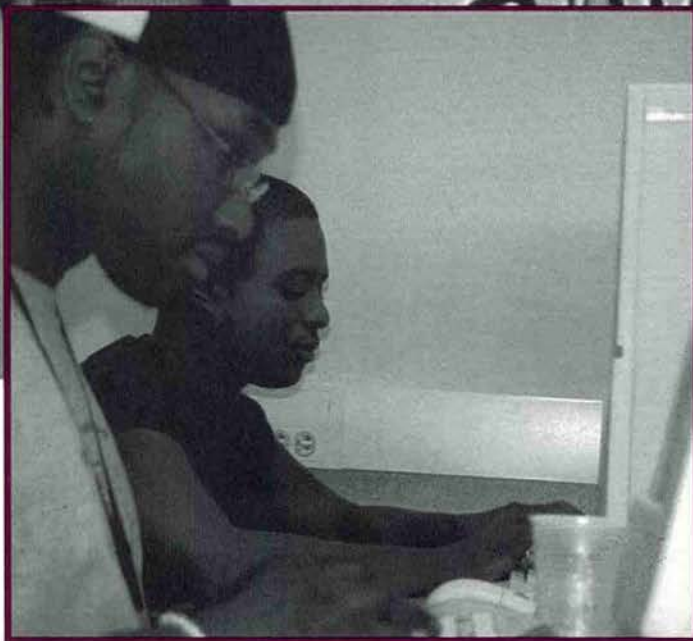
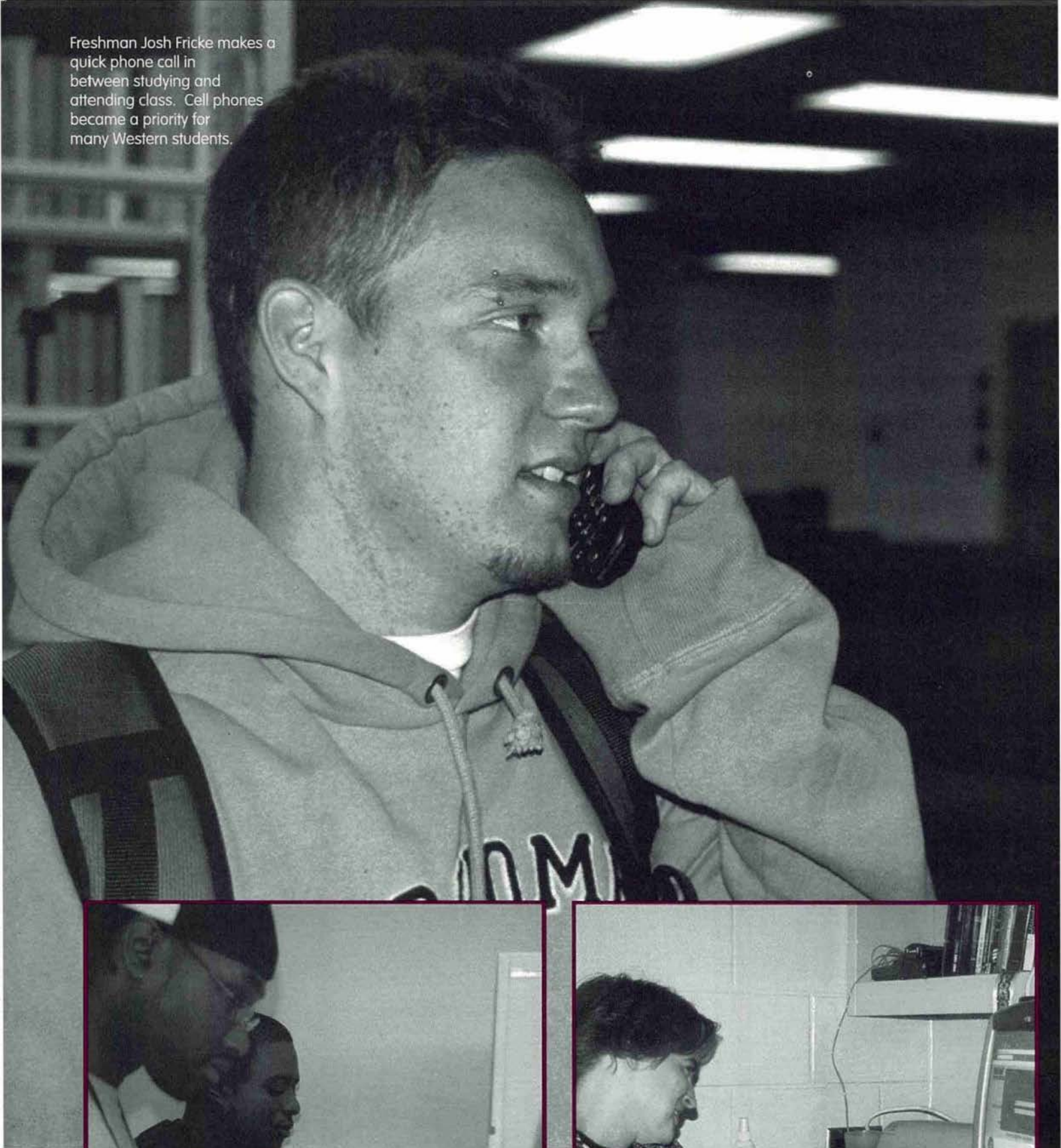
Story by Angela Smith
Photos by Heidi Webber

Hunthrop works diligently to complete her many responsibilities, only to repeat the same hectic schedule the next day

Hunthrop manages to stay on top of her academics while maintaining a hectic schedule. In the fall, she took 13 credit hours. One of Annette's many duties is working at the desk in the Housing office. She has been a Resident Assistant for three years.



Freshman Josh Fricke makes a quick phone call in between studying and attending class. Cell phones became a priority for many Western students.



Left: Seniors Henry Causey and Jarrett Dillard find some time to stop by the student union computer lab to finish up some class work. Students and faculty relied on the many computers around campus for daily tasks.

Right: Junior Carrie Benton works on her computer while talking on her cell phone in the dorms. Computers and cell phones were the most commonly used pieces of technological equipment among college students.

Relying on Technology

Classroom technology makes way for the future of learning and teaching

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Jeff Winn

Throughout daily tasks at Western, some of the technology available to students and professors alike were cell phones, VCRs and DVD players. At Western, students had the opportunity to take classes online, use the Internet in class, take notes from an overhead projector and look at digital images during lectures.

In the past, teachers made transparencies for projectors and graded papers by computer, and online classes were unheard of. However, the new technology available to campuses like Western was changing the format of various learning and teaching perspectives.

Biology professor David Ashley enjoyed being able to use digital pictures from experiments in his Microsoft PowerPoint lectures.

"A big part of technology that affects my teaching is the use of digital images from a digital camera," Ashley said. "It allows me to photograph experiments themselves or results of experiments. It has been really exciting to be able to use that type of technology in teaching."

Many general studies courses, such as English 104 and 108, were available online. The use of the Internet was also used in a regular classroom setting with the assistance

of programs such as WebCT, Web board and list serves.

English professor Patricia Donaher used WebCT, a program that enabled students to take quizzes and tests online, in many of her classes. Donaher also taught a few English courses online. She found a way to incorporate WebCT from her online courses into one of her traditional courses. With WebCT, students could get their grade from a test or a quiz almost immediately after they finished it.

"I thought to myself, if I use online testing in English 232, then I wouldn't have to physically grade every single question on every single test," Donaher said.

The quizzes could also be used as an online study guide for a final. "Before I used WebCT, the final exam scores were lower, and it has really helped students with studying for the final," Donaher said.

With all the technology available to faculty and students, the downsides of the equipment for both were usually overlooked.

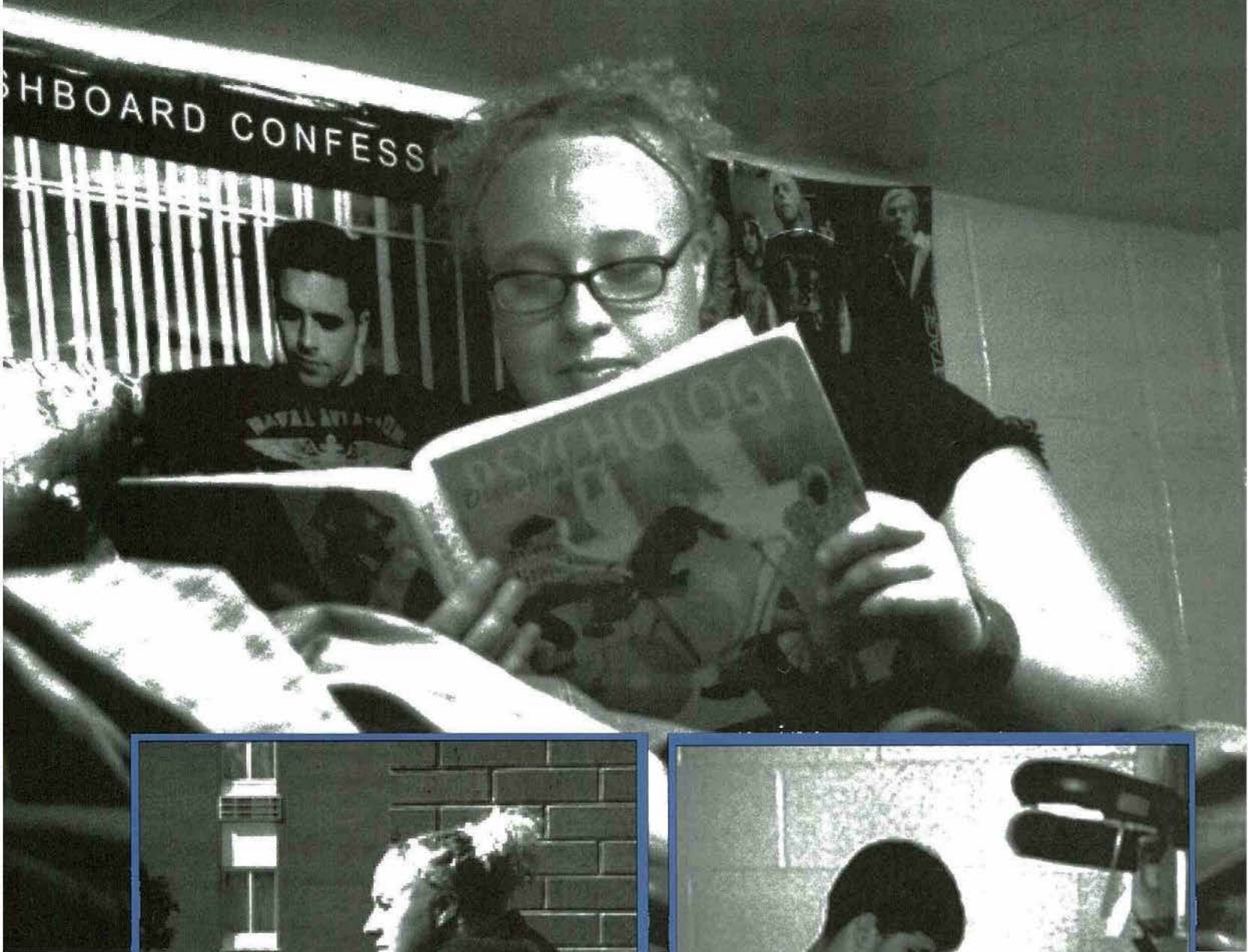
Mark Mabe, director of the computer center, which handled all of the networks and internet hookups on the computers in the classrooms around campus, felt the cost was one of the biggest downsides.

"The disadvantage that we found as an institution is with all that technology in the classroom, there comes a cost," Mabe said. "That cost is the equipment, services, maintenance, support and the replacement cost to maintain that level of technology throughout the campus."

Another downside, mainly for students, was the rapid speed of the PowerPoint lectures in the classroom. "The professors can go too fast and you don't always get to write down everything," sophomore Luke Vollmer said.

All in all, the use of technology made lectures more interesting, studying easier and information was taught faster than in the past. The format of education was truly changing before our eyes.

Abbi Pontius studies Psychology 101 in her dorm room during her free time. Studying was a decision that freshmen made during their first year in college.



Left: Abbi Pontius looks out across the campus as she ponders on her new life as a college freshman. The first semester for many freshmen was seen as the most important.
Right: Matt Fowler handles his responsibility as a freshman by keeping up with his school work. Distractions on a college campus could easily sidetrack students from their academic obligations.

In the Beginning

Two freshman battle to make the transition from high school to college

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Valissa Kraus

Orientation, Griffon Edge, move-in day, meeting people and finding classrooms was just the beginning. Whether they came from St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joseph or surrounding areas, the most difficult part of adjusting was to make the transition from their previous environments to the college environment. For Abbi

Pontius and Matt Fowler, getting used to doing things their own way was the biggest part of making it on-campus. "There is no one telling me that I have to do this or that; I actually had to be my own boss," Fowler said.

Adjusting and learning to make their own schedules was the main concern for Fowler and Pontius. The two had to plan their own days, motivate themselves, do their own laundry and make their own choices without the help of a guardian or parent. However, making and preparing a daily schedule was not the only dilemma in the lives of the two students. "I finally got a schedule down to where I would do things, but at the same time different things happen to where I'm finally getting comfortable and then something changes," Pontius said.

One of the first major changes for both students was the roommate issue. While Pontius had to adjust to

getting a roommate one month after classes had started, Fowler had to change roommates during his second week.

It was not easy for many freshmen to deal with living with a total stranger. Nevertheless, meeting people was a key element in the lives of freshman like Pontius and Fowler. "There are so many different people, and I love that because everyday you meet somebody totally different than the day before," Pontius said.

The diversity on campus often provided a situation in which students would learn something outside of class. "I learned that different types of people bring different views, which helps people to better understand the world or their society," Fowler said.

Part of meeting people and making a successful transition was the act of getting involved on campus. Karl Bell, Director of Multicultural Education, suggested that making a successful transition would include, "getting involved and finding a person on campus who's concerned about your success." Bell felt that finding that concerned person would get a student more involved. Both Fowler and Pontius were interested in a variety of on-campus clubs and volunteer organizations.

All in all, Pontius and Fowler wanted to succeed in making the transition. Each one of them had their own personal way of going about making the change much as many other freshmen do. Bell had one piece of advice for all freshmen battling to make the transition. "Embrace the change, embrace the challenge of being a college student and approach college as though it's a full-time job," Bell said.

Attending college is a challenging position for most individuals. Also, not having the major necessities to survive college life can be very stressful. When it came to getting by in college, there should have been a 'how to' guide outlined for students to help them adapt to living under certain limited living conditions.

Several students at Western felt that the top three requirements for getting through college life were to have a supportive family, a job and a car. However, not all students possessed these essentials. Sophomore Octavia Beard, who lives on campus, knew that not having a car would present several difficulties. Beard only went places that were a must, although she could freely ride with friends without conflict.

"Right now, I can't afford a car, and it's definitely a setback," Beard said. "Every day I think about how badly I need a car, and I know you can't always bug people for rides because they have their own busy schedules."

Having a job was another necessity for Beard for many different reasons. "It's very important to have a job because of tuition and living costs," Beard said. "It's also important for buying personal items like food and toiletries, and, being a woman, these are vital."

Finding a ride from place to place may have been easy for Beard because she had been in college long enough to make friends and to set up different arrangements. On the other hand, a first-time freshman would naturally have a more difficult time and a slower pace for developing friendships with people.

Freshman Latoya Tyler, an on-campus

student, had residency and employment on-campus and felt she was well situated.

Although she was a freshman, Tyler made friends quickly enough to carpool to places off-campus, even when she visited home.

"When I first came here, I didn't think that I would be going home as much as I do now," Tyler said. "When I hear of someone who I know is going home, I just ride along."

Tyler also felt that a job and a car were linked closely together and that the importance of the car depended on one's location of employment. "It depends—because I live and work on campus, it's convenient, and I just walk to work," Tyler said. "If I didn't, then a car would be needed because then you can't rely on a routine ride back and forth to work."

Junior Offiong Antia, an on-campus student, said that having a job was prevented by his hectic football and homework schedule. He also didn't have a car, but he got along just fine.

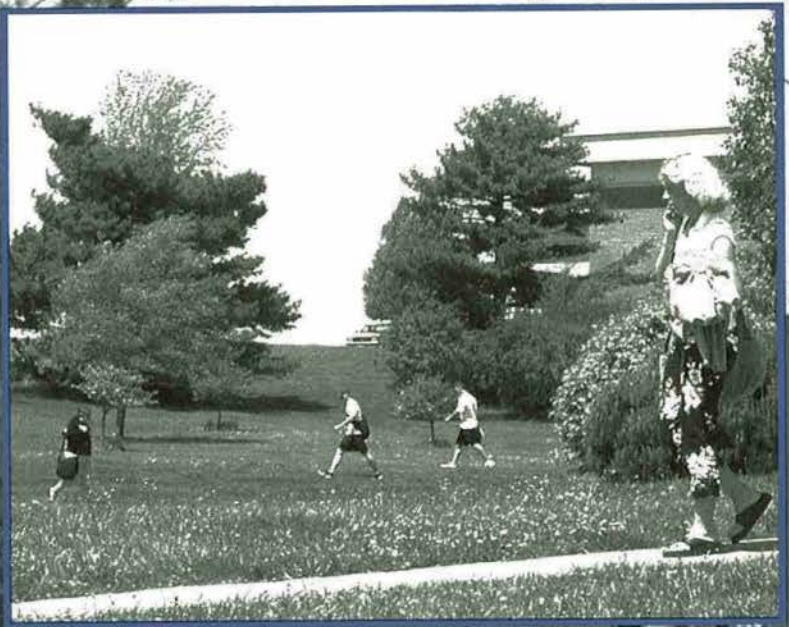
"Having a car isn't important as far as going places off-campus because I have a lot of friends who give me rides," Antia said.

Survival 101

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Jeremy Weikle

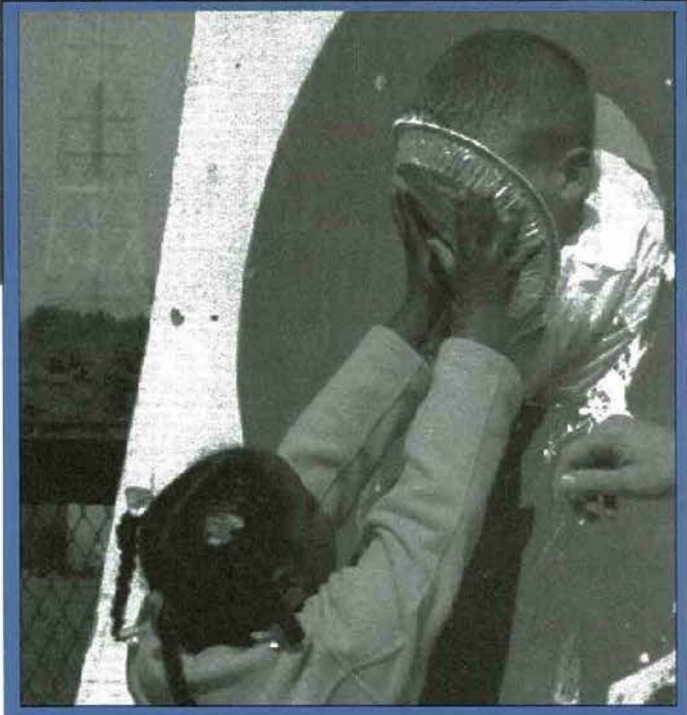
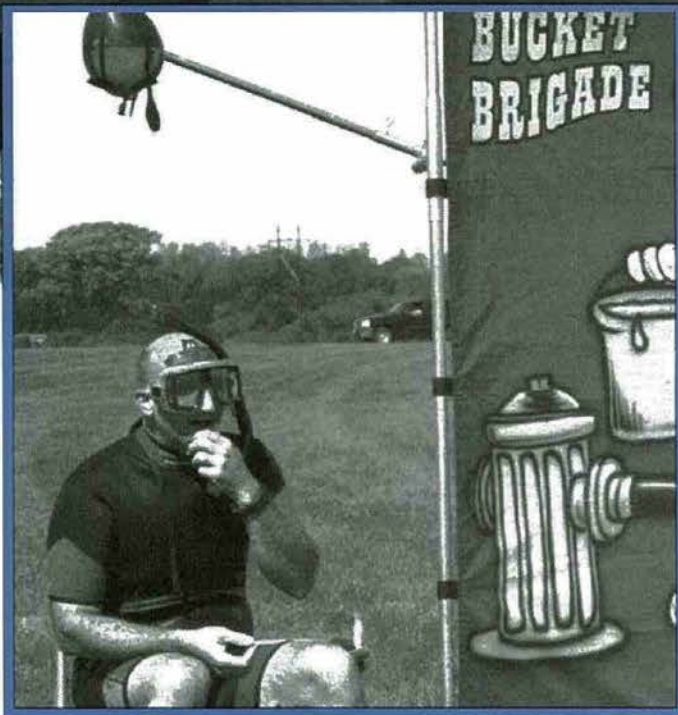
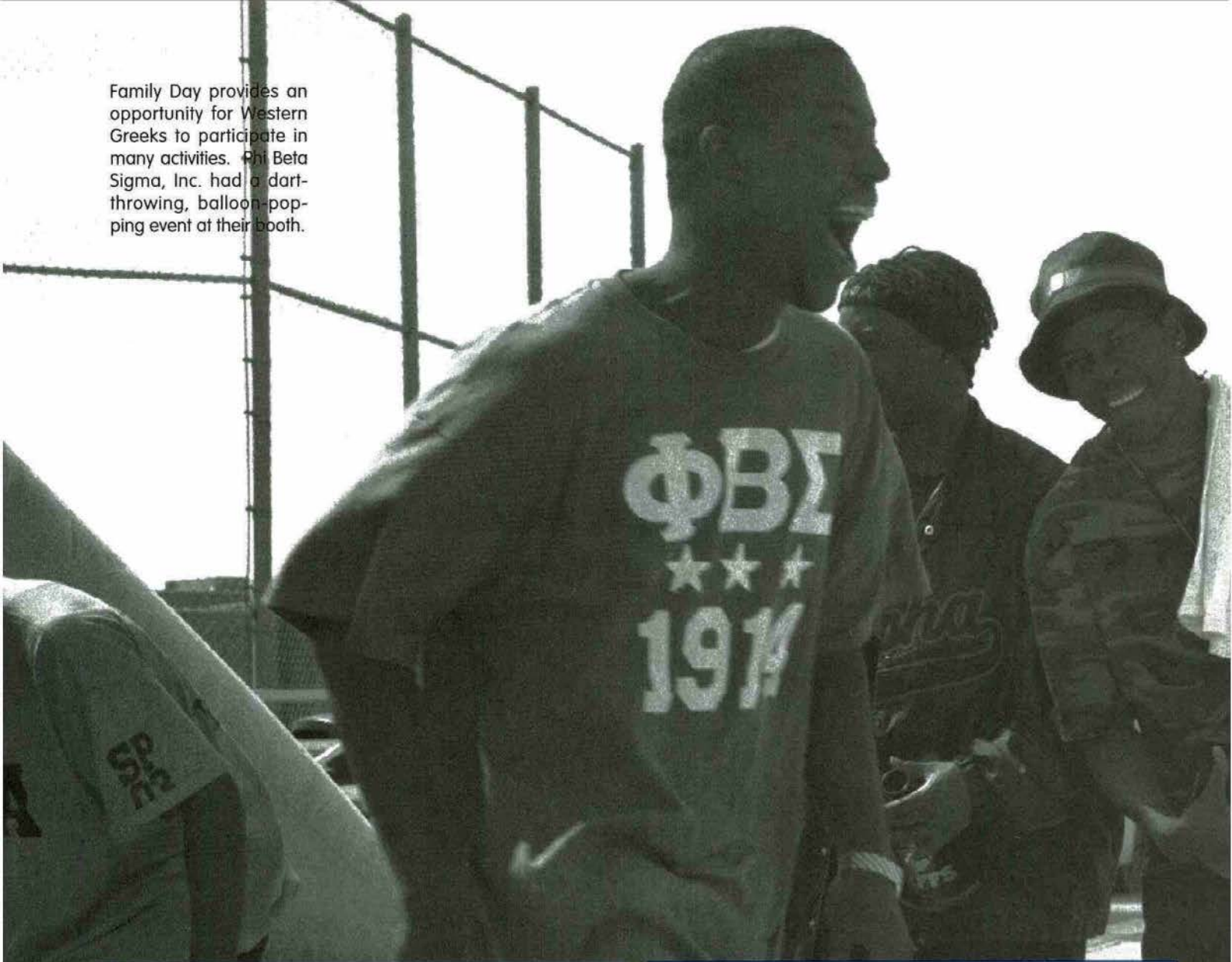
Students adjust to college life and all it entails;
jobs, homework, family, clubs

Students had to
and from classes on
campus. Adjusting to
college life took time, but
was made easier with the
help of friends.



Student's cars line
the residence hall parking
lots. Having a car or friends
to give rides was important
to college survival.

Family Day provides an opportunity for Western Greeks to participate in many activities. Phi Beta Sigma, Inc. had a dart-throwing, balloon-popping event at their booth.



Left: The unsuspecting member of the "Bucket Brigade" is unaware of what is about to happen to him. Children of all ages enjoyed this game.

Right: Phi Delta Theta provides a finger-lickin' good time at their pie-throwing booth. Western's Family Day allowed an escape from the monotony of everyday life.



A Time For Family

With a 39-7 victory over Southwest Baptist University and not a cloud in the sky, Western's Family Day is a success for students and family members

Story By Tanisha Washington
Photos By Amanda Daniels

Sept. 20 was declared Family Day at Western. Families came from various cities and states to spend a fun-filled day with students, faculty and staff.

College officials wanted to make sure Family Day was a success. "Our effort is to make Family Day the best opportunity for parents, families and friends to visit with students on campus," Chad Elifrits, coordinator of the center for student activities, said.

"We try to schedule it early in the fall semester because if the first visit to campus is successful, students' families will have many more opportunities throughout the school year for them to return to campus."

The festivities began at 10 a.m. with a variety of games and booths for people of all ages. "Many great games and activities were set up for younger children," Elifrits said. "The organizations and groups on campus and surrounding communities displayed their programs for the adults."

Greek organizations got involved in Family Day in their own special way. "Our booth consisted of dartboard throwing and the winners received candy along with information about our fraternity," junior Hakim Smith, member of Phi Beta Sigma Inc., said.

Other Greeks held raffles at their booths to give

prizes away later on in the day. "We raffled off t-shirts and sweatshirts for parents to be Family Day orientated," senior Megan Buckman, member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, said.

All of the excitement brought hunger to the students and their families. At lunchtime, Western Dining set up lunch, buffet style, for Family Day participants. Following lunch, everyone made their way to Spratts Stadium to watch the Western Griffons take on the Southwest Baptist Bearcats in football beginning at 1 p.m. The Griffons finished the day with a victory over the Bearcats with a score of 39-7.

As the day winded down, Elifrits was happy with the outcome. "Overall, Family Day was a big success," Elifrits said. "It was successful for what we intended."

Students that helped out had the same idea about the turn-out of Family Day. "It is better than it has been in the past because there are more families here," Buckman said. "It was a beautiful day to be outside."

First time freshmen were excited about their personal Family Day experiences.

"Our families were more aware of campus, the faculty and staff and it gave my family a chance to experience a day in my life on campus" freshman Recolia Thomas said. "It was a time for the organizations and important people to be seen by the community and I cannot wait until next year's Family Day because it will be even better!"

Burn Baby

Burn

Story by Ross Scholz
Photos by Valissa Kraus

Students use alternate methods to obtain music and movies

With the variety of music and movie downloading sites such as Napster, Kazaa and Blubster, the temptation to burn CDs and DVDs was too much for students to handle. Students downloaded their favorite musical choices and spent little to nothing instead of purchasing their music and movies off the rack at various stores.

Students had various reasons for choosing to burn CDs and DVDs. "Sometimes it's just cheaper," junior LeAndrea Mack said. "It just depends on the situation. If it is an artist that I want to stay around, then I have my list of artists that I go out and support."

Other students had other reasons for burning their selections for personal uses. "If I burn them, there will be more songs that I like," sophomore Adrian Voss said.

Because of the high volume of CD and DVD burning, lawsuits became more common, making many people wish they had never downloaded music in the first place. Kazaa did its business with Sharman Networks Limited. According to its policies, "Users are entirely responsible for their conduct and for ensuring that it complies with all applicable copyright and data-protection laws. In the event a user fails to comply with the laws regarding copyrights or other intellectual property rights and data protection and privacy, such a user may be exposed to civil and criminal liability, including possible fines and jail time."

Students felt indifferent about being sued and even sent to jail for burning copyrighted property. "It's dumb

being sued," freshman Shawn Kidwell said. "You can see why the company would do it. They want their money."

Junior Jenny Selay agreed with Kidwell on the punishment given for burning CDs and DVDs.

"What's the difference between cassettes, CDs and DVDs?" Selay said. "They're all music. CDs and cassettes are the same thing and no one gets after you for burning those. It's just like recording a video."

All in all, students seemed to share the same ideas that the company responsible for suing the customers was more than unfair. "I think that they should sue the company that makes the blank CDs," Voss said.

In spite of these punishments, many students continued to burn their CDs and DVDs. Some music enthusiasts were eventually caught for this crime, while others were not. In some cases free music was a dream come true; however, for others it was their worst nightmare.



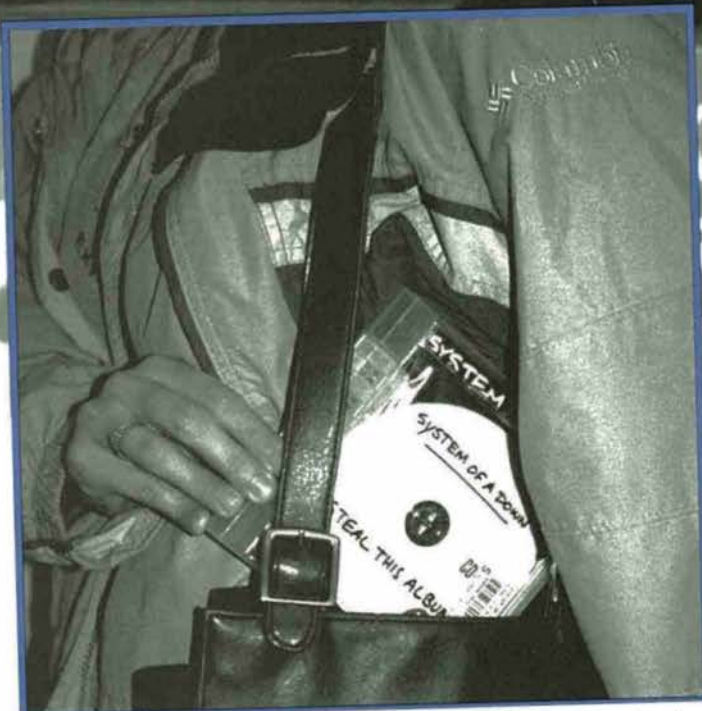


Students purchase recordable discs at various stores. Recordable discs, have been readily accessible to consumers for many

87
59⁹⁷
22⁸⁷



9⁸⁷
19⁸⁷



Left: Some students continue to get their music by downloading it off the Internet. Illegal downloading was not the only option to obtain music over the Internet. Many sites charged customers a small fee, and then downloads were legal.
Right: Senior Pam Hashman copies a CD that she borrowed from a friend. The free music enticement was too much for some students to overlook. Illegal or not, students continued to download.

A new way of life

2004 brings many new trends for a college student

Story by Angela Smith
Photos by Heidi Webber

Time breeds innovation and creativity which leads to new ideas and creations. By the time 2004 came around numerous trends had popped up worldwide. From the way people ate and exercised to the way they communicated had major changes were obvious.

This year people were constantly on the go with lists of items to accomplish and little time to complete them.

Organic foods became the new trend for health nuts around the world. Foods such as grains, meat, dairy, eggs and processed food products could all be grown organically. It was estimated that 12,000 farmers nationwide grew their crops and raised their meat organically. Some Western students found that organic foods were the way to go when deciding on what to eat.

"Organic foods are delicious and healthy for you," Jeff Wilson said. "I started eating organic food because I was tired of getting food covered in pesticides and pumped full of steroids; I'm not sure that people know the long-term effects that processed foods have on our bodies."

Along with organic foods, fitness was another aspect of life that introduced new techniques and varieties to society. One of the most popular fitness trends was pilates. Although pilates had been around since the early 1920s it didn't become a mainstream exercise until recent years.

Sophomore Melissa Smith believed that pilates changed her body, soul and mind. "I feel so rejuvenated after my pilates workout," Smith said. "Pilates relaxes my muscles which relieves tension and stress; it's a great way to start anyone's day."

Another trend that kept growing in 2004 was reality television. It had been around for years starting with MTV's "Real World" in 1992. However, in 2004 this new-found part of American life blossomed into what some

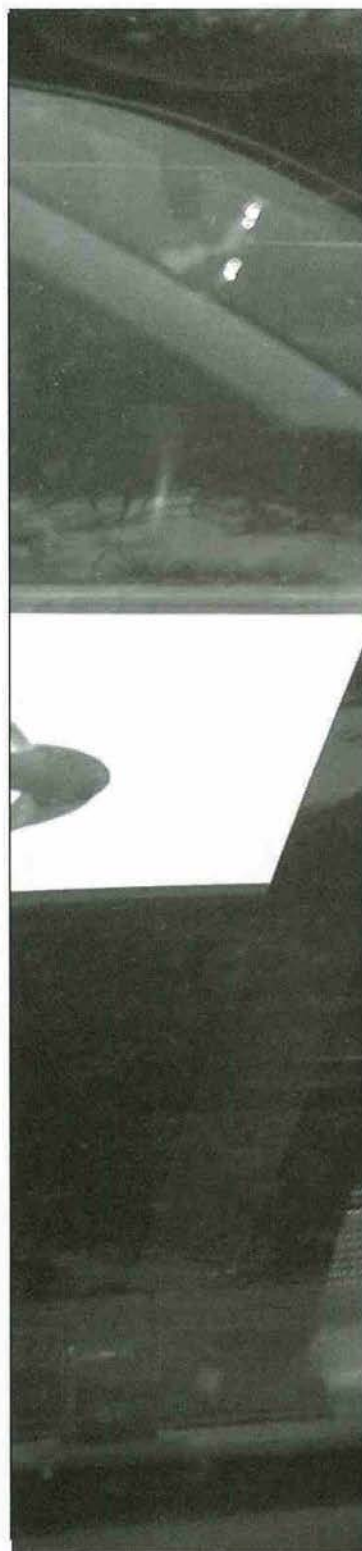
would say was a monster. The Fox network was one of many networks who participated in airing the lives of ordinary citizens for the world to see. Major networks aired close to 40 reality television shows such as "American Idol," "Cupid," "For Love or Money," "High School Reunion" and "Joe Millionaire."

Technology was at its prime in 2004 with innovations that allowed people to communicate in a plethora of ways. Cellular phones were one of the best examples of this new phenomenon. Companies such as Nextel, Nokia, and Sprint were on the cutting edge with phones that had walkie-talkie capabilities, built in cameras, color screen savers, gaming capabilities and internet access.

Music also played a big part in the cellular realm. Downloading capabilities that allowed you to import songs as ringers was another huge trend especially among college students.

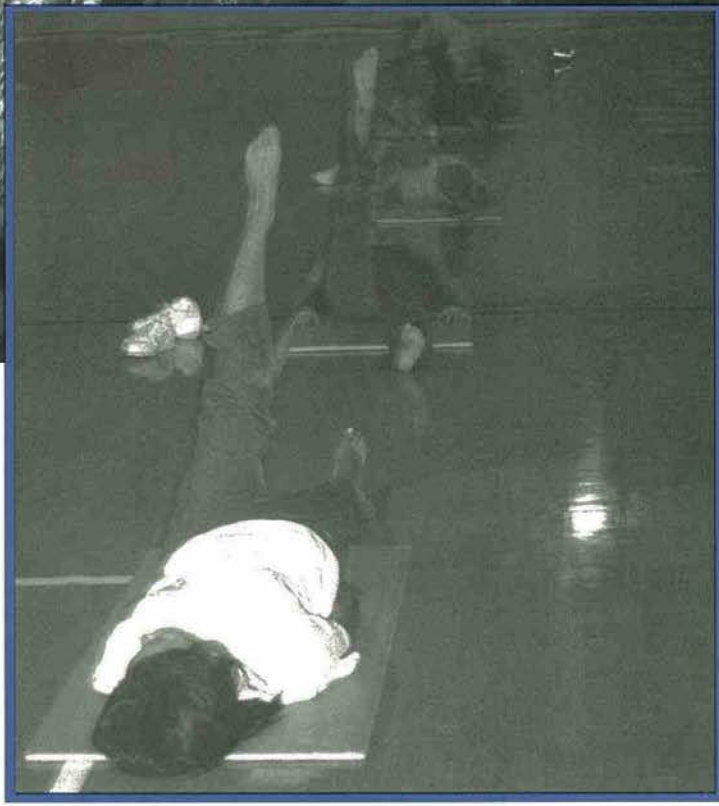
"I download songs to substitute for my boring old ringers all the time," Calvin White said. "I figure it's free so why not; not many things in life are free so I better take advantage."

With so many innovative minds wandering the world; one can only wonder what's next. What new capabilities will we have in the future?





Another popular trend of 2004 was decorating the interior of vehicles. Many students hung leis around their rear-view mirrors for decoration or added colorful steering wheel covers to decorate their vehicle interior.



Left: Many fitness centers are now offering the new craze of exercise. A well known exercise to Hollywood stars, pilates became mainstream to a younger crowd. Right: Grant Witstruck utilizes modern technology while taking a picture with his cell phone. This became very popular among college students.

With the busy lives that students carried, leisure time was at a minimum, but when they did get a chance to themselves there were numerous ways of how their free time was spent. Watching DVDs, television, sports, surfing the Internet and listening to music among others were things that entertained the students.

Senior Henry Causey, an English technical communications major, defined entertainment as something that draws him in and keeps his attention. Owning over eighty DVDs, Causey said that with his hectic schedule he hardly had time for any leisure time to himself.

"I'm really big on the visual aspect of entertainment like watching television and surfing the net," Causey said. "Even when I am not watching DVDs, my television is on 24 hours a day because I cannot sleep unless it is on."

Even though this was true, he made it known that he wasn't highly charmed by the glitz and glamour of the entertainment world. "I influence myself, I enjoy it, but it doesn't really have a large impact on me," Causey said.

Unlike Causey, sophomore business management major, Erinn Cohen said that the entertainment world and the people that were involved in it influenced her in a positive way.

"It inspires me to further pursue my career and be successful in life because I see the sky is the limit," Cohen said. "It broadens my outlook on life. Just seeing how other black women have succeeded influences me in a good way."

Cohen hardly ever watches television; her habits were few to none being that out of a week she only engages in television 35 minutes;

however, she does have the interest to follow basketball. Her favorite team was the Los Angeles Lakers. "I really enjoy watching sports, especially basketball, because I played four years in high school," Cohen said.

Not only did she watch basketball for entertainment, she played in her spare time. "When I have a lot of stuff on my mind, I play basketball because it helps me think and clear my mind," Cohen said.

Sophomore psychology major, Arlaysha Osborn said that she had a lot of free time on her hands, but she didn't spend it watching T.V. She mainly listened to music while keeping her radio on 24 hours a day. "I prefer to listen to music because I can do other things while I'm studying or working out," Osborn said.

Although Osborn would rather listen to music, she did admit becoming engaged in popular television shows such as "Friends" and "American Idol."

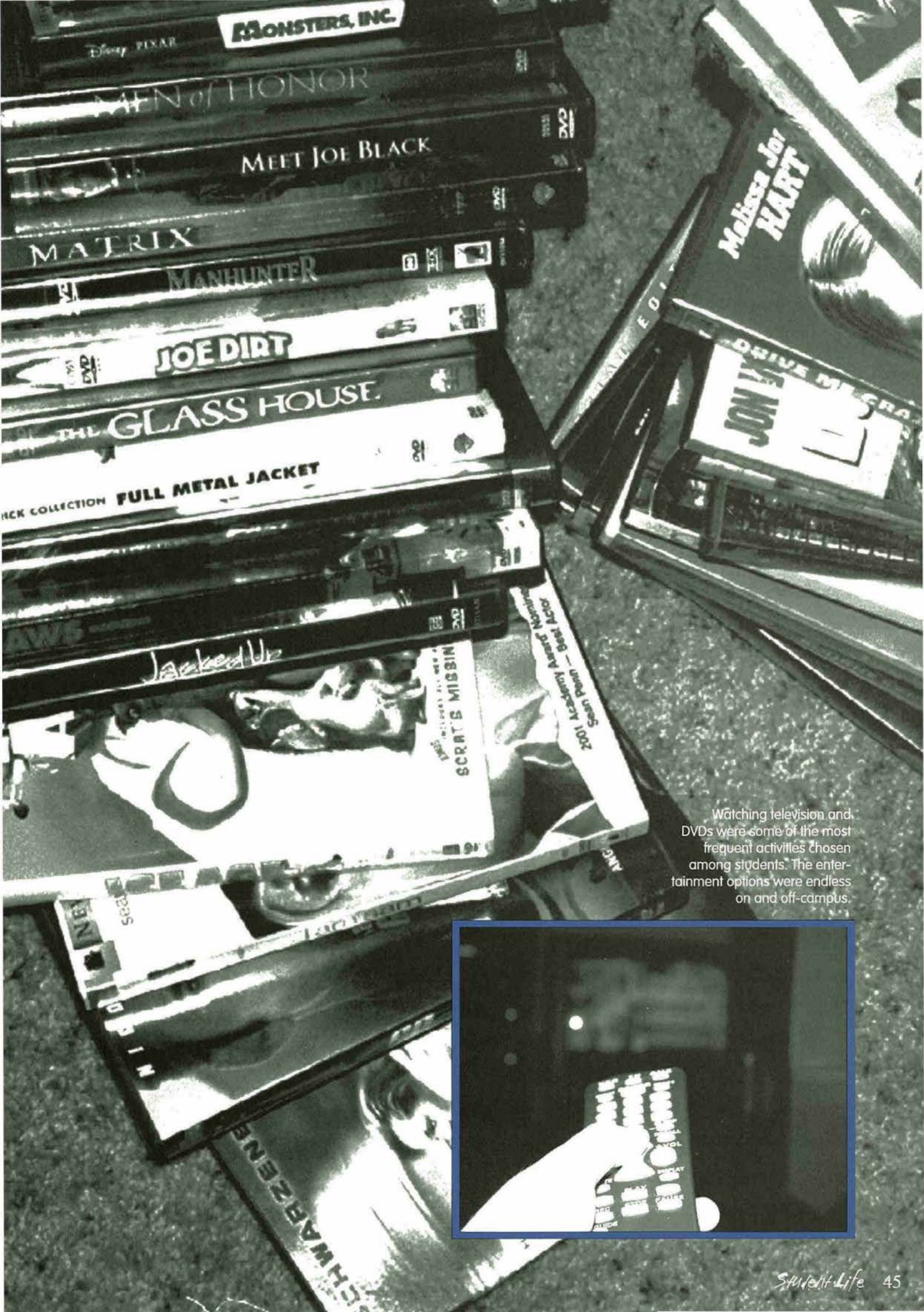
"I did follow American Idol," Osborn said. "At my job my co-workers and I used to call in and vote for Ruben Studdard to win."

Most have said that young adults can be very impressionable when it comes to life; regarding peer pressure and trends. The entertainment world consisted of a variety of music, movies, video games, sports, television and famous individuals whose talents were noticed by students and used in everyday life.

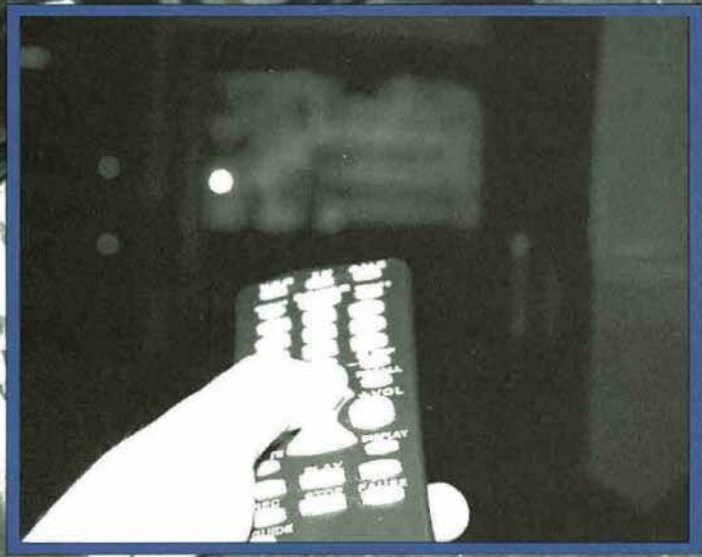
Let the Good Times Roll

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Jeremy Weikle

Students find relaxing activities for their downtime between classes and studying



Watching television and DVDs were some of the most frequent activities chosen among students. The entertainment options were endless on and off-campus.



Living on a Budget

How Missouri Western students manage their money

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Jeremy Weikel

Maintaining a careful spending habit while attending college presented a challenge for most students; however, there were some Western students who had their expenses under control.

Managing money was sometimes more difficult without a parental figure around to help. Junior Deborah Coates said she had this problem, but she managed to keep in mind that she had to be a smart spender versus becoming an obsessive shopper.

Since she was a choosy shopper, it was very important to Coates how and where her money was spent. "When I'm low on cash, I spend it only on things that I need, and when I have a lot of cash, I basically buy whatever I want," Coates said.

Although Coates said she could sometimes be materialistic, that didn't mean that she passed up deals while shopping. Three items that she normally purchased were make-up, hair products and shoes; she considered herself to be very big on fashion.

"The times when I needed things and I had a lot of money, I'd buy the name brand products instead of the ones that weren't," Coates said. "I know if I didn't do this I would save a lot of money, and I recognize that this is one of my problems involving spending money."

Unlike Coates, sophomore Kevin Fontleroy wasn't employed. In the meantime, he was seeking work and had to be very cautious on spending.

"No one provides me with money; I live off the money that I made in the summer before coming back to school," Fontleroy said. "It matters a lot to me how my money is spent because I know it's only a short supply and

once it's gone, it's gone until I find a job."

Fontleroy's spending habits included spending about \$60 a month purely on him, after he had paid for his car insurance, cell phone and credit card bill. He said the things he bought were clothes, shoes and groceries, in this order specifically. "At times I can be very materialistic because hip-hop controls my life, and I'm very big on the trends and styles involved in that lifestyle," Fontleroy said. "I admit they are not important but are just nice to have, and I like to treat myself."

Junior Abigail Houseworth considered herself a "cheap" shopper and felt that it was ridiculous for someone to spend all or most of his/her money on unnecessary things. "I only spend my money on things I need because I don't get carried away; I prioritize and get what I need," Houseworth said.

Even though she didn't have a job and her parents provided her with money and paid her bills, she still spent carefully. "I've never been a compulsive spender," Houseworth said. "I have a set budget so I don't go broke; I only spend \$10-\$20 a week."





Flipping through the selection of CDs, junior Stacie Batchelor searches for her favorite artist. When spending money, students had to budget for their needs and wants.



Left: Some students use credit cards to purchase expensive items. More and more students found it much more convenient to take advantage of the pay later option.



Right: Junior Nick Brothers stops by the local Domino's to purchase pizza for him and his friends. Spending money on food was a popular choice among students.

Big Event = Big Success

The Big Event allows students to give back to the community

Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Johntell Young

For one day out of each semester, students along with faculty and staff made an early rise out of bed to spread themselves amongst the community to participate in the Big Event.

On Sat. April 24, Western supporters gathered together for breakfast provided by Hy-Vee at 8 a.m. to prepare for their day of hard work.

"I have been planning this event since the beginning of the semester," senior Angie Smith said. "I had to contact service organizations and recruit volunteers and administration. I invited anyone connected to Western."

Trying to get the day prepared was a lengthy process.

"I had to create my own budget and get transportation," Smith said. "I also contacted College 101 classes and asked teachers to do presentations. Residence hall assistants received points for who could bring the most residents to participate."

Students who participated felt proud to put back into the community and into people's lives.

"I worked at the Open House Food Kitchen," junior Malcolm Malone said. "I had to make food and serve the hungry."

Other students spent their valuable time at other sites.

"I worked at the Habitat For Humanity," sophomore Jeff Knapp said. "I helped till dirt, dig holes and plant grass seed. The other group put up dry wall."

After the hours were over, Papa John's provided lunch.

"It was a huge success," Smith said. "It was better

than any other."

Many students learned values to better themselves.

"Volunteering helps me to stay passionate about helping the needy," Malone said. "Participating in this event gives students a good understanding of need and the importance of helping others."

Knapp felt the same way.

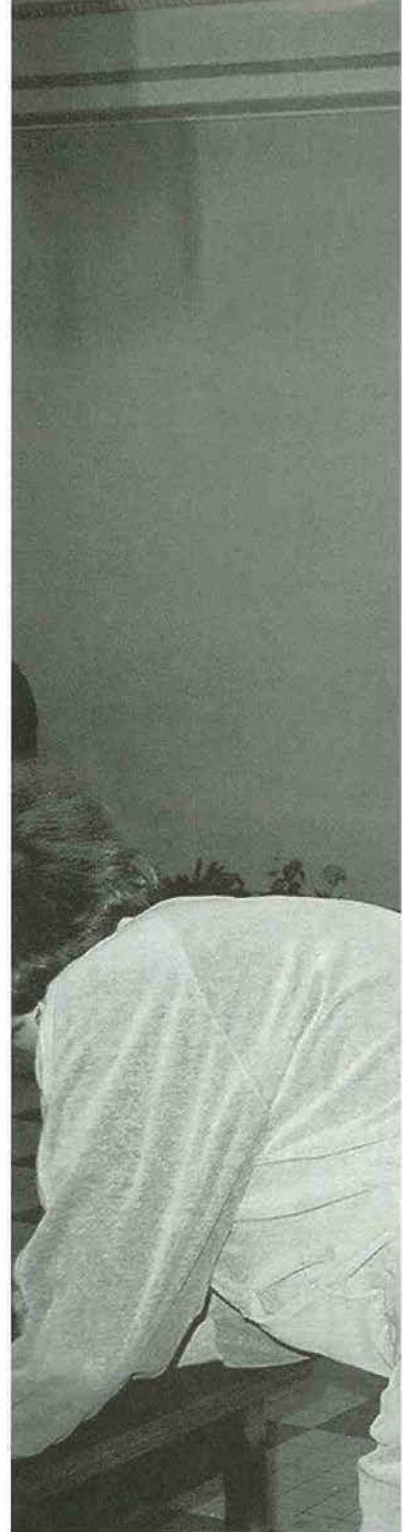
"It's always good to reach back into the community," Knapp said. "It gives you a different perspective and makes students well-rounded people."

Students were encouraged to come out and lead by example.

"The strategic plan deals with community service and service learning, but we can't expect only students to do it," Smith said. "A body can only be as good as its head."

Smith believed that participating in the Big Event helped students realize that what one receives in life shouldn't be taken for granted.

"Students learn how to be citizen scholars," Smith said. "They learn outside of the classroom."



Students help out at the YWCA. Each semester the Big Event kept getting bigger and better.



Left: A student helps at one of the many service locations for the Big Event. The service locations appreciated the additional help through the day.

Right: Volunteers do their part in helping out for the Big Event. Recruitment for volunteers was needed to make the event a success. Picture from Griffon News.

Six inches of snow, wind chill below freezing and snow constantly falling were a few of the drastic weather conditions students faced to attend their daily classes.

Surrounding public schools were closed down because of various weather conditions; however, Western's doors remained open. Western only closed campus for extreme circumstances. Off-campus students and commuters thought it was dangerous to attend classes but still felt obligated to show up.

"It takes me a half an hour longer than normal to get from home to campus," sophomore Vern Wheeler said. "I still continue to come to class since I am paying to go, but sometimes I feel I could be risking my life to make it to class on time."

Much like off-campus students, on-campus students also found that they left earlier for classes in the wintry weather. "I try to leave at least 10-15 minutes earlier than I would during the fall semester," freshman Chrissy Watts said. "I fell down in front of the dorms and all the Tekes saw; it was so embarrassing."

Students believed if there was more salt put down on the sidewalks and in the parking lots accidents could have been prevented. Maintenance shortage made it complicated for campus to be cleared; this reason was due to the budget cuts. This caused many procedures to take longer, and some areas were not always as cleared off as others.

"The snowy weather tends to make our job more difficult," campus security officer Jason Whittington said. Likewise,

students who use equipment such as wheelchairs or crutches find it more complex to maneuver on winter days.

"My crutches really slowed me down and made me more cautious when walking to class," freshman Nick Stoll said. "Crutches make it tough to walk to and from class when the sidewalks are *clean*, but when they are covered in snow, ice and salt, it's even more dangerous if I fell down and injured myself all over again."

Wheeler felt the same about being injured while driving on campus property. "One day while driving through the parking lot I did a 360 degree turn and hit a light pole; this was only because of the ice built up on the roads."

Students hope that in the future the budget would be able to allow for prevention of dangerous conditions for both on and off-campus students.

"I think if maintenance got an earlier start on roads and sidewalks, it could lessen the chances of students being injured," Watts said. "I really hope the people in charge begin to look at what the students have to face going to their daily classes before deciding to keep school in session. Hopefully it doesn't take a more severe situation such as a serious accident or even a death to help our leaders determine what is the meaning of an extreme circumstance."

Walkin' in a Western Wonderland

Story by Alison Krieg
Photos by Matt Morton

Whether icy or snow, students feel
obligated to make it to class

Watching her step, Natoya Gates carefully maneuvers over the icy condition that the snowfall brings. She bundled up quickly to flee the cold weather.



To obtain a warmer composure, a student layers her clothing. She tried to protect herself from the wind as she patiently waited for transportation.



Graduation was coming up and more seniors were getting ready to start a new chapter in their lives. Many were relieved to complete their college careers, but others were nervous about what their future held for them. What were their plans? How did they feel about graduation? Three seniors, with thoughts of graduation, shared how they were coping with moving on.

"I'm excited to be done with school, but nervous to be in the real world," said Beau Parker. Parker, a graphic design major with a minor in video production, worked at Creative Productions Group which was a great way to start his career.

"I plan on sticking with my job, then get some more experience in the real world and work my way up the ladder," Parker said. "I'm taking baby steps."

Parker wasn't alone with taking baby steps toward his future. "I plan to stay in the area for a couple of years," Nicholas McKay said.

McKay's advice to upcoming seniors was to "enjoy your time at college and make the most that you can with your degree."

He was very excited to graduate. "It's been five long years and I'm ready to get out in the real world," McKay said.

Tracy Johnson, a communications major with an emphasis in public relations, looked forward to her future and was set on her plans.

"I'm looking at being an intern for a campus ministry for another college," Johnson said. "Christ has become the center

of my life and I think that a career should be based on something you love to do."

Johnson was ready to graduate, but overwhelmed with facing a whole new part of life.

"I'm very excited about graduation, but sad to leave the relationships that I've made at Western," Johnson said. "I've definitely learned a lot from the people here rather than just from the textbooks."

Johnson received a lot of advice and support from Diana Gorcyca and John Tapia, professors in the Communications Studies and Theatre Department. "I think that getting advice and encouragement from people is a continual thing, these two professors helped me out a lot," Johnson said.

Johnson would advise undergraduates to get involved before it's too late. "There are many leadership opportunities on-campus," Johnson said. "To just go to class then go home is just a waste."

All three of these seniors felt that everything was set for their futures. They all said that they felt like they were ready for what awaited them in their next chapter of life. Western helped them prepare for what the future held.

Seniors

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran

Movin' On

Seniors express what responsibilities they have to take on to finalize their college education

Beau Parker edits a commercial that Creative Productions Group made for the new Western branding. Parker majored in graphic design and minored in video production.



Above: Graduate Stanica Church visits with Aramand Carr about his career at Enterprise, a vehicle rental corporation. Church graduated in fall of 2003.



Hiring... Now!

Hy-Vee provides many opportunities for Western students to earn extra money

Story By Kellie Feuerbacher
Photos By Jennifer Moran

When Hy-Vee opened in the summer, the community of St. Joseph was buzzing about the brand new store that offered so much variety.

The community members, however, weren't the only ones excited about it. Many Western students were affected by the store in one way or another. There were an abundant amount of students who shopped there and a large number who worked there as well.

The students who were regular customers found several reasons to keep coming back. One favorite of many was the prepared food selection.

"I go for the Chinese food," freshman Heidi Tilly said. "It's really cheap, and it's pretty good, too."

Some also chose Hy-Vee over the competition because of its convenience in location and rapidity with which they were able to finish their shopping.

"It's closest to campus," Tilly said. "Also, the lines at Wal-Mart are too long."

Others, however, felt that Hy-Vee also had some downfalls.

"I don't like it because it's a little too big, and I can't find what I need when I'm shopping," senior Shaun Agnew said.

Western students who were employed by Hy-Vee found that it had plenty to offer college students with busy lives. One aspect that many student employees found the most enticing, was the flexibility within the scheduling of work hours.

"They are so accommodating with my hours because of my schooling, and when I start the nursing program this fall, they're still going to work around my college schedule," sophomore Cathy Norgard said.

Senior Sara Hill, a manager at Hy-Vee, began

working at a Hy-Vee store in Kansas City in 1997 and became a part of the St. Joseph Hy-Vee when it opened. She agreed with Norgard in that Hy-Vee was an opportune workplace for college students. "They have flexible hours and good pay, and it's fun," she said.

Junior Shellney Barthol found several reasons to be thankful for her job at Hy-Vee. "I like it because everybody here is extremely nice to work with, and they are flexible with my schedule, which is good because I go to school, I'm in a sorority and I'm planning a wedding," she said.

Norgard, besides being an employee, also did her grocery shopping there because of the good deals she found on prices.

"A lot of people think that our prices are high, but if you shop for the Hy-Vee brands and sales, you can save a bundle," Norgard said. "That's good for me because I have two kids."

The affordable prices were just another example of how Hy-Vee became an instant favorite among students. Whether as customers, employees or both, they found in Hy-Vee a source to meet their needs as students on many levels all under one roof.



Fruit & Salads

Assistant manager, Sara Hill, makes sure all Hy-Vee customers are satisfied with their service. Making sure the customer was happy was always her first priority.



Left: Matt Hill, sophomore, keeps the shopping carts off of the streets by collecting them before too many accumulate. Hy-Vee has given numerous types of jobs to college age students. Right: Cathy Norgard sacks groceries for the many customers at Hy-Vee. Customer service and employee relations were one of the most beneficial parts of the new Hy-Vee.

Many chose to involve themselves in organizations while attending Western. There were social, religious, non-Greek and Greek organizations available to students. Fraternities were one of the oldest organizations for students to choose from. There were various reasons why the men of Western involved themselves in fraternity life.

"I am from Illinois so it was good for me to join a fraternity that way I could meet people and become more involved with school and the community," Jimmy Archibald, member of Alpha Sigma Phi said.

Other students joined a fraternity to keep a family tradition going. "I had a family member who was in a fraternity, and he convinced me that it would help me through school, plus it would be an easy way to meet people," Steve McClenton, member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated said.

Being in a fraternity was a fun pastime time for the Greeks, but this fun came with a price.

Some members maintained a steady job in order to pay for their membership. Dues were different every semester and members had various jobs to make money to remain in the fraternity. "Since our dues are \$300 per semester, I am currently doing an internship to pay for them," Brad Drummond, member of Tau Kappa Epsilon said.

The payment of dues varied among fraternities and each member found some way to pay.

"I work around 15 hours a week in the housing office to make money to pay for my dues," McClenton said.

Each of the boys proudly represented their fraternity. They did what they had to do to keep in good standing with the school as well as the community. Some Greeks worked

several times a week doing different community service projects.

"I feel that being in a fraternity has opened my connections with the community," Shane Goodin, member of Phi Sigma Kappa said. "We try to get involved with Red Cross Blood Drives as much as possible. We work in the Noyes Home about three times a week and try to work at the Carriage Square at least once a week."

Many other members felt the same way about how being in a fraternity shaped their life on and off-campus.

"Becoming an Alpha has enhanced my involvement on campus and in the community," Andy Weeden, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated said. "I have helped with various programs for our school and my fraternity."

Once someone joins a fraternity he is in it for life. Most of the members planned to remain active in the fraternity even after graduation.

"Even after I graduate college, I plan to be an active alumni and I want to help the new chapters as much as I can," Goodin said.

Various members of fraternities said they were in them for life. "I knew I had a lot of aspects to bring to Alpha Phi Alpha so that I could help enhance the fraternity, so that in turn, the fraternity could better enhance me," Weeden said. "Once you are initiated into our organization, it is a lifetime commitment. I will take Alpha to my grave."

Fraternity Life

Story by Alison Krieg

Being involved in a fraternity is more
than just fun and games

Brett Warg and Adam Gilliland show off their assets in hopes of getting high bids at the annual Buy-A-Phi-Auction. This was one of the ways the Phi Delt's raised money throughout the year. Photo by Jenny Olson



Kappa Epsilon members, Brandon Tiller and Jeremy Link, help raise money for the second Harvest food bank. Buy-A-Phi was a successful community service project for the fraternity. Photo by Ashley Ticon.

The Passion Moves Students

Students respond with a variety of emotions to one of the most successful movies of the year

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Katie Myers

Movie star Mel Gibson directed and co-wrote the screenplay for a movie that brought the lethal truth to America as well as other countries around the globe in the spring of 2004. *Passion of the Christ* was about the final 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life leading to his crucifixion. This film had people traveling near and far heading to the nearest movie theatre to view the graphic display of Christ's death.

Western students of all religions and races filled movie theatres to witness the final hours of Christ's life on the big screen. Junior Andre Burns was a Christian who said the film wasn't what he thought it would be.

"The movie to me was perfect with no blemishes," Burns said. "It went word for word with the Bible. The controversy that surrounded the film was unnecessary and people should just enjoy the movie for what it's worth."

Students had different reactions to the film. Some were emotional and others were life changing. Junior Latoria Norton felt the people that saw the movie and had a sudden sense of being weren't sincere.

"Many of the reactions were fake because people were very emotional and vowed to change their ways," Norton said. "Two or three days later they're doing the same things."

The language and subtitles did not keep students from viewing the movie either. "I heard people say the movie was excellent although they couldn't understand the language and could barely follow the sub-titles," Norton said.

Having a favorite scene to remember about the movie is what most students shared with their friends and families after seeing the movie.

"My favorite scene was when Jesus dropped the cross and Mary was watching," sophomore Robert Woodring said. "Mary was there to comfort him when he was a child, this time she couldn't do anything."

The students seemed to have similar favorite parts about Christ's struggle with the cross.

"My favorite part was when it flashed back to when Jesus was living with his mother," junior Lindsay Tremayne said. "It showed him having a personal relationship."

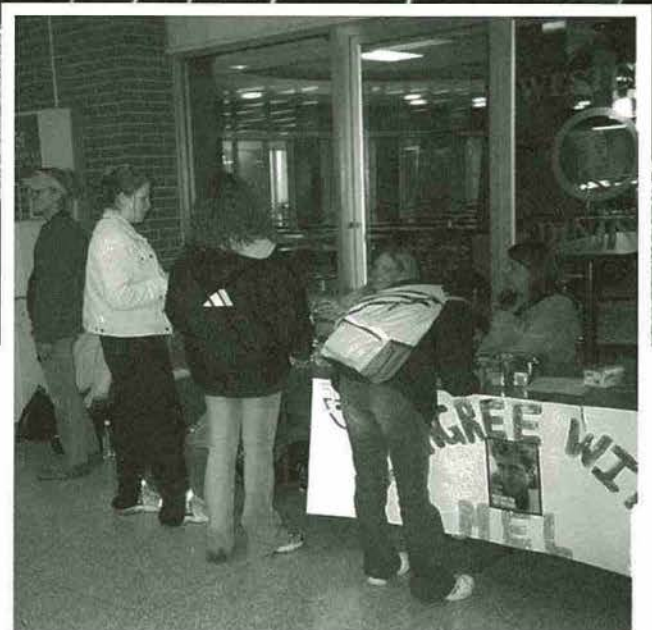
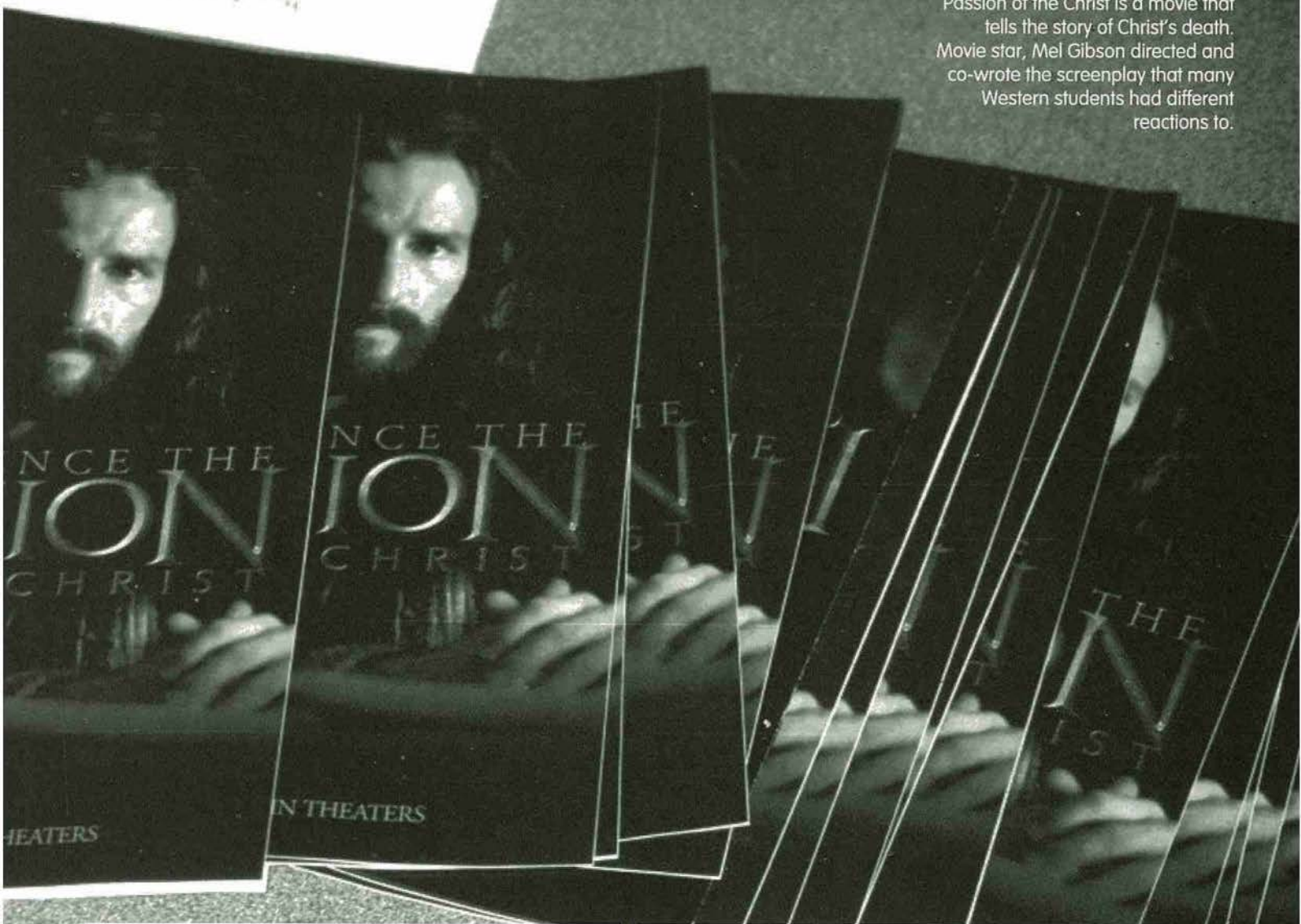
For some, the movie was a wake-up call even for those who were non-believers. After viewers saw the vivid illustration of someone dying in that way and actually doing it not for himself but for others made people think.

In general, students believed that whether students were believers or non-believers, everyone should definitely see the movie to get a better understanding of Christianity.

"The reality of what happened really struck me when I saw the depiction of what Jesus went through for us," junior Alicia Ross said. "Everyone of all ages, especially the youth, should watch the movie."



Passion of the Christ is a movie that tells the story of Christ's death. Movie star, Mel Gibson directed and co-wrote the screenplay that many Western students had different reactions to.



Left: Senior Chris Ellis takes a look at *The Passion of the Christ* poster at the local theater. The movie was one of the most popular movies of the year. Right: Several students gather in the student union to participate in a survey about *The Passion of the Christ*. The movie had been so popular that many of the students came to express their viewpoints.

A small deed can go a long way. The non-traditional students collected phone cards that were donated to send overseas. “The non-traditional students gathered stuff around Christmas time,” Cynthia Mcquerry said. “I just went off of that idea because Easter was coming up and just kind of took the load.”

They started collecting phone cards at the end of February in a box in the non-traditional student center and sent them to Freedom Alliance at the beginning of April.

“I was tired of hearing the bad publicity of the war,” Mcquerry said. “I thought that the troops should know that there are Americans who support them and are grateful for their sacrifice for our freedom.”

Mcquerry was concerned about the troops, so she did some research on the Internet. “I was looking for Lt. Col. Oliver North’s website for information about supporting the troops,” Mcquerry said.

She found a site from a place called Freedom Alliance. “They said that they wanted [phone] cards for the soldiers,” Mcquerry said. “All we do is collect them, then send them to this place.”

Mcquerry and Ellen Smither, non-traditional student coordinator, sent e-mails out to share the news.

“So far we haven’t collected very many,” Mcquerry said. “There wasn’t enough of a reaction for people to donate phone cards.”

Smither felt the Christmas season was the best time for this project. “The Christmas idea had a better response, but I believe that every little bit counts,” Smither said.

David Collins served in the military for eight years, where his main source of communication to his family was by letter. “It took two weeks for a letter to get to the person that you were sending it to,” Collins said.

Collins said that he wished this had been available when he was overseas. “When I went to Saudi Arabia, my son was 3 months old, and I missed out on a year of his life,” Collins said. “It would have been easier [to have calling cards]. When kids are that little, they don’t know what you say; they just know your voice.”

Collins supported the students’ plan. “I think that it’s a great idea, everyone should support the troops; our troops are there so we don’t have to be,” Collins said. “I know from my own experience that letters are nice to have, but the vocal connection is much more valuable because it’s not delayed communication.”

Smither was also pleased with the idea and donated a couple of cards herself.

“I was happy that our students wanted to do something nice for our troops,” Smither said. “This was a good project because it was easy and simple. It’s not expensive, and it helps our soldiers stay connected with their families. We will probably do a similar project next fall.”

Calling Across Seas

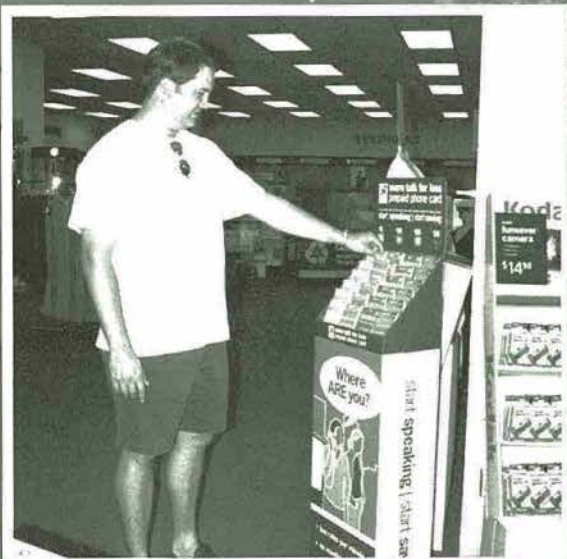
Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran

Western students donate calling cards to enable loved ones across seas to communicate with their families

Western students drop calling cards in a box located in the Non-Traditional Students Office. An outpour of support for the troops was one of the many examples of helping-hearts at Western.



Below: Jeff Hutchings picks up a calling card to donate to the cause. The cards were available at many locations.

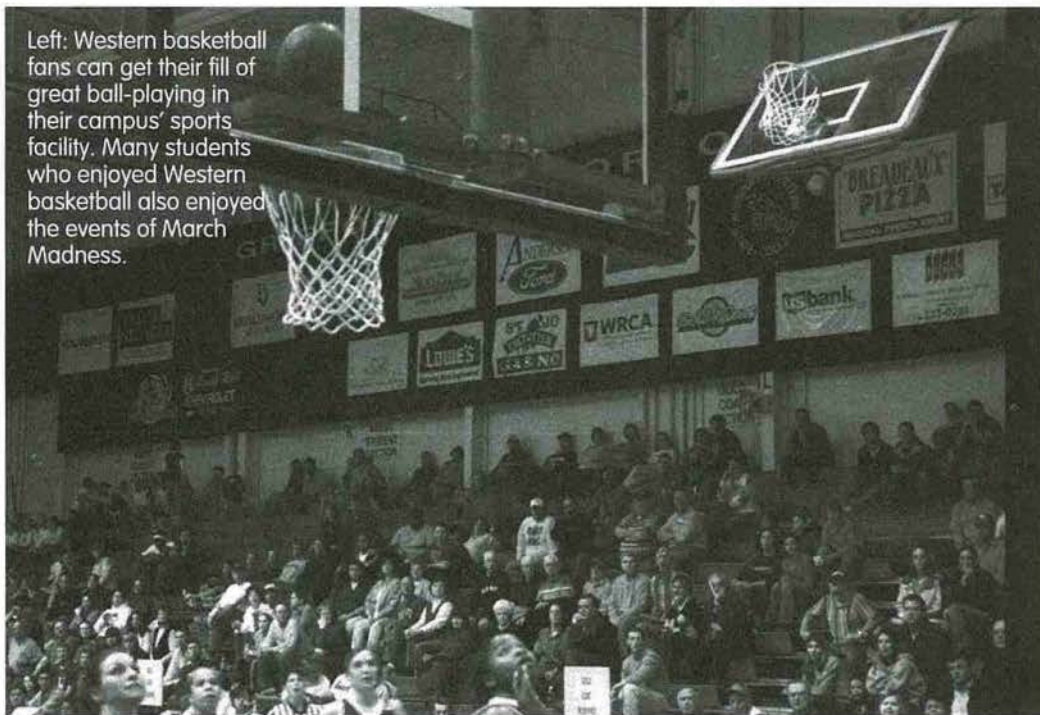


with
Phon
Cards

March Madness

Story by Alison Kreig
Photos by Ashley Bacon

Left: Western basketball fans can get their fill of great ball-playing in their campus' sports facility. Many students who enjoyed Western basketball also enjoyed the events of March Madness.



Basketball fans were hyped while watching the top 64 college basketball teams battle it out for the NCAA title

College students enjoyed the month of March for various reasons. March was the beginning of warm weather, spring break and March Madness. March Madness was a college basketball tournament that took place throughout the month of March and was a very exciting time for the fans.

"March madness is when the top 64 college basketball teams battle it out to see who's the best and becomes national champion," junior Lamont Theus said.

People had their own hobbies or passions, and when it came to athletes, they seemed to be most intrigued with sports.

"My friends and I are really into sports, so this is something fun for us to all get together to do," freshman Joey Harris said. "I get really excited to see if my teams are going to make it to the final four."

Likewise, students were persuaded by friends to get into this major sporting event.

"I am not really all that big into sports at all, but when I came to college I began getting interested in following college sports," freshman James Shoemaker said. "My roommates were always talking about it and watching the games, so I caught myself getting into it too."

Not only did it take time and dedication for the college athletes participating in March Madness, but it also took

time and dedication for the college fans to keep up with the basketball games.

"I spend as much time as I possibly can when it comes to March Madness and try to catch all the games. I probably devote at least ten hours of my week to it," Harris said. "Sometimes my friends and I like to make small bets on the games; I do it because I have confidence in my teams. At the beginning of the tournament my favorite teams were the University of Connecticut, Duke University and St. Joseph University; and sure enough U.Conn took the cake."

Some students got more serious about March Madness than others did.

"I don't get as serious with March Madness as some do. Some of my friends get really into it, and they will even bet on the games. I guess the reason I don't bet is because I'm a college student; I don't have that kind of money," Shoemaker said.

March Madness was an event known around the nation. There were a total of five rounds for the tournament, ending with the national championships. The University of Connecticut won the national championship game over Georgia Institute of Technology.

"March Madness is one of the best times for sports on television," Theus said. "If there is nothing else on, you can always count on a good, competitive game of basketball."

Basketball is on fire during the month of March. Students could look forward to seeing the best of the best in the sport of basketball.



It's game time

Video games provide a short-lived relief from the stresses of college

Story by Jenny Olson
Photos by Johntell Young

You are determined to stay up all night even though your eyelids feel heavy and your hands are cramping up, the sweat dripping from your face. No, its not your typical study session before an exam; it's a video game tournament.

Several students found a way on-campus to be entertained for hours relieving stress from their busy lives. At the beginning of the semester, fliers were seen around campus pertaining to the tournaments that took place in the dorm rooms and apartments.

From basketball to golf, to boxing to football, sports were evolving to more sophisticated and authentic video games than in the past. X-box and Playstation 2 were the two most popular game systems found on-campus. College students preferred games such as *Madden NFL Football*, *NBA Live 2004*, *Tiger Woods PGA Tour 04* and *Fight Night 2004*. Sports games were not the only thing students played. Science fiction was also in the line-up with *Halo*.

"I eat, sleep and breath *Halo*," sophomore Cody Adams said. "It's my life; I play until my thumbs bleed."

Adams held video game tournaments in his dorm room along with freshman Spencer Comfort, his roommate. "We have three TV's setup in our room so more people can join in on the fun," Comfort said.

Anyone from two to 16 people joined in on the tournaments that lasted from 30 minutes to five hours,

according to Comfort.

Comfort and Adams not only played video games in the dorms, they also played on-line. "We compete with people all over the nation via internet with X-box Live," Adams said.

Bryan Davis and Eric Brooks were two students that lived on-campus who also enjoyed participating in video game tournaments. They played with five other people for one to three hours a day.

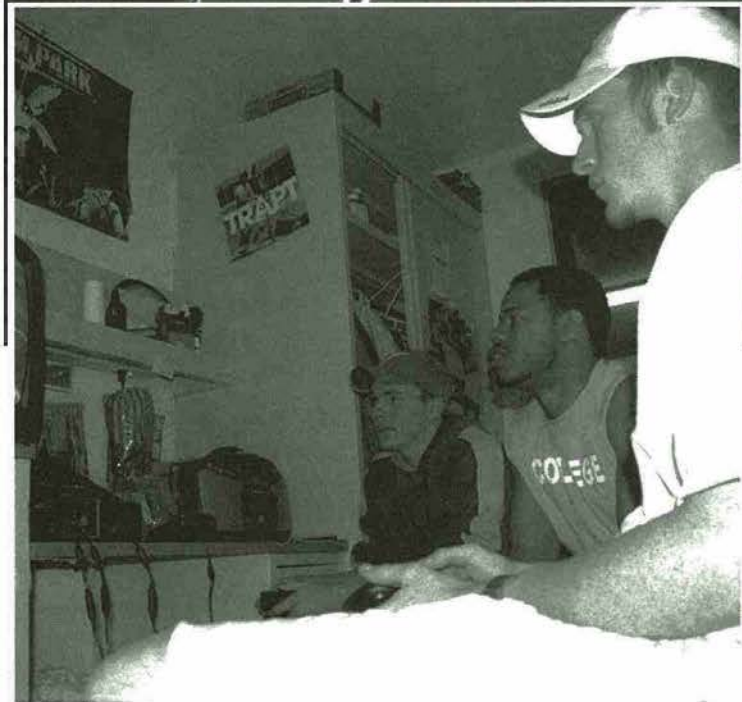
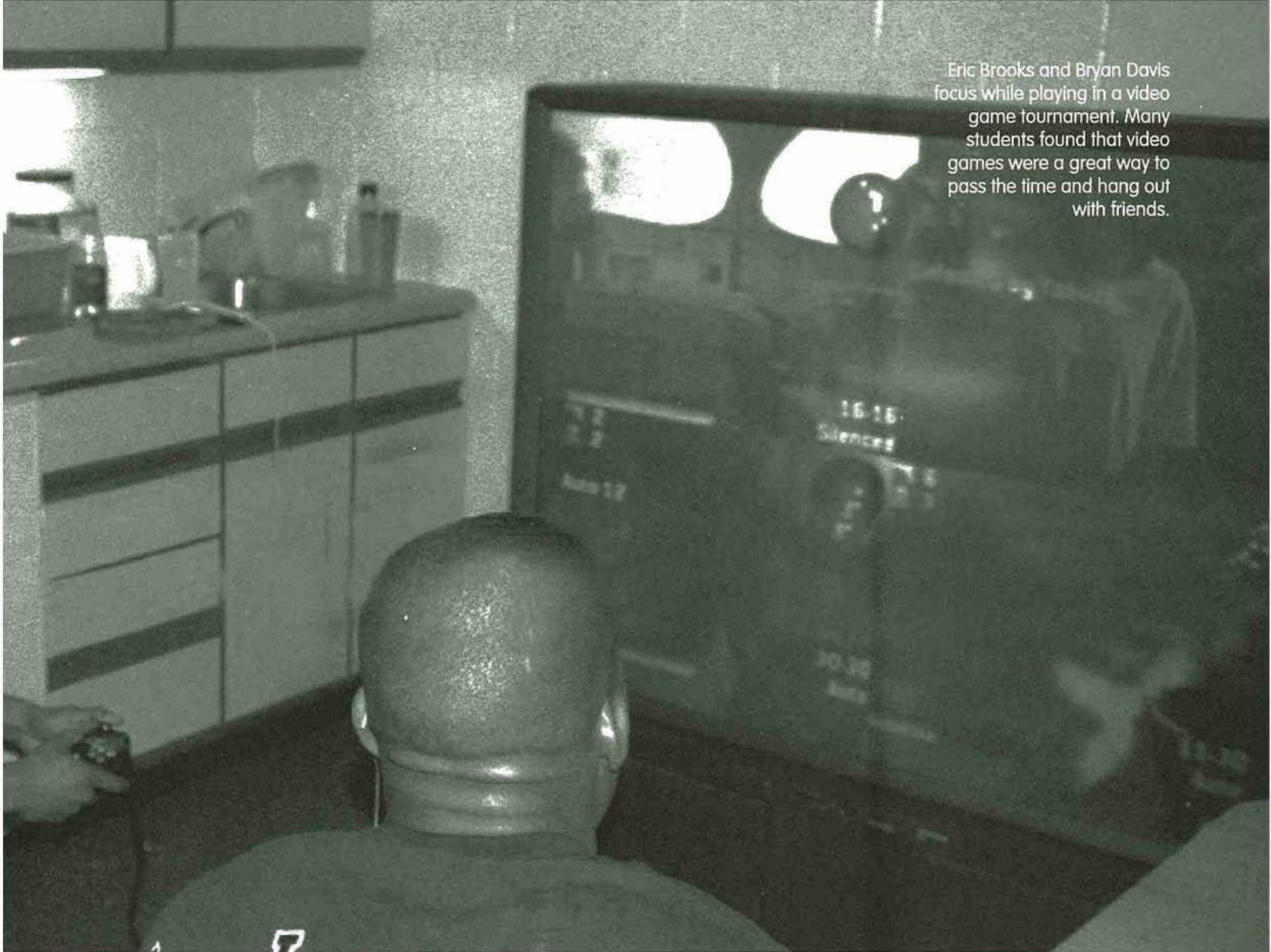
Davis preferred to play certain games. "My favorite games are *Halo* and *Fight Night 2004* because of the challenges they bring," he said.

So why participate in these tournaments? "It's fun, entertaining and competitive," Comfort said. "However, friendships have been broken and yelling and swearing are involved because of *Halo* tournaments."

Adams played in the tournaments for a different reason. "I play for the satisfaction of knowing I'm better than anyone else," he said.



Eric Brooks and Bryan Davis focus while playing in a video game tournament. Many students found that video games were a great way to pass the time and hang out with friends.



Left: Students get into the game in their residence hall room. Students have found that playing video games helps reduce stress and clear their mind. Right: Cody Adams and Spencer Comfort enjoy friendly competition while taking part in a video game tournament. Playing video games was a great way for students to take their minds off of school work.

Taste of St. Joseph

Students seek alternatives to campus dining

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Katie Myers

Imagine you're in your room with no food in the fridge. It's after 9 p.m., the school's cafeteria has been closed for hours, and the food-court employees are packing up to leave. What do you do? Better yet, what do you eat?

Several students were faced with this reality every day, whether the situation was that the dining on-campus was unavailable or they just didn't have the taste for it. With all the restaurants and fast-food places in St. Joseph, students had a wide variety of off-campus food choices.

It was common for students to sit in restaurants and eat in large groups. Freshman Lamont High said there were several instances when he and a group of friends have dined in restaurants like Applebee's or have just called in an order.

High said he preferred to eat off-campus, not just because of the food taste or the fact that the cafeteria was closed; it was the atmosphere. "Sometimes we just don't have the taste for campus food," High said. "We just want to eat somewhere that's predictable and we can sit and have the food brought to us."

Another option for students on campus was the food delivery system. There were pizza, Chinese food and sub sandwiches to choose from.

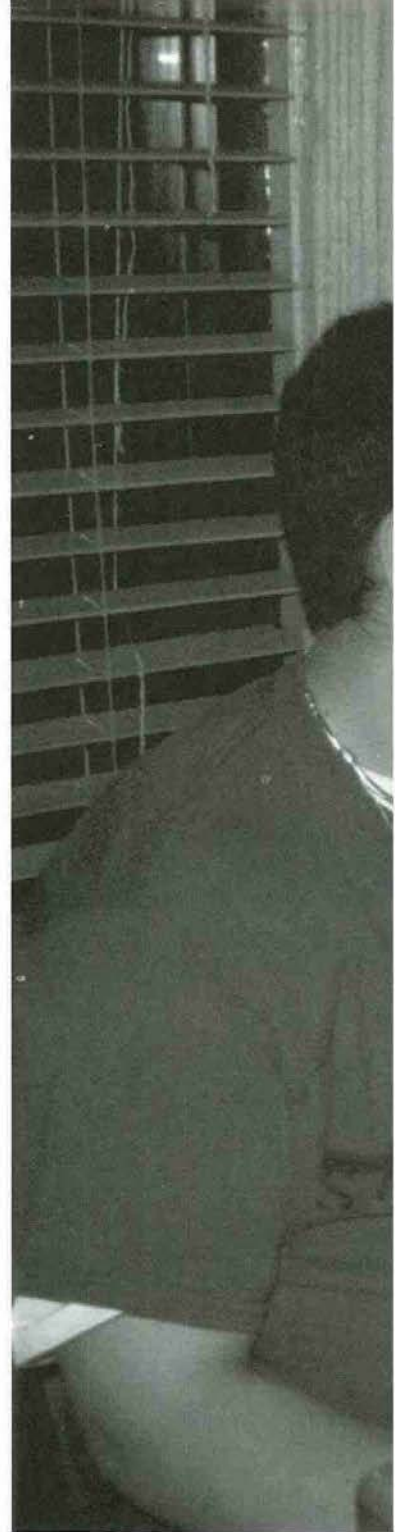
Brandon Crosser, shift manager at Pizza Hut, said that they had 15 delivery orders a day from the Western campus. That's about 105 deliveries a week. He said Sunday was especially popular for college students to order pizza.

"Every day is pretty busy," Crosser said. "I believe the students are just looking for something hot to eat and fast."

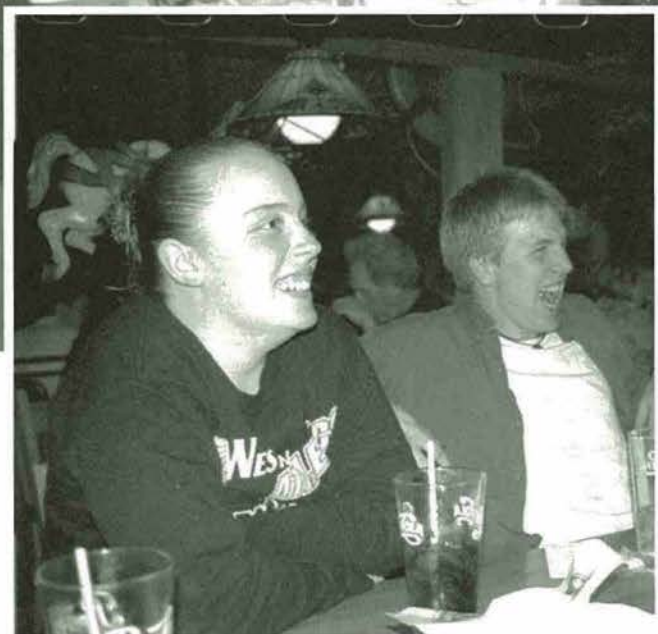
There were several students who ate on campus but said if they could afford it they would eat off-campus food more often. Other students, who no longer had meal plans on campus missed the security of having a definite meal. Some students didn't have the cash to order delivery, sit in restaurants like Fazoli's or pay a visit to the drive-thru window at Wendy's.

Sophomore Jerry Jackson, who resided off-campus, said that he would prefer to have a place that was close, within walking distance, where all he had to do was slide over his school identification card. "Although you already paid for your meal plan, it just seems when you go to eat it's free because you didn't have to give money on the spot, just a card, and then you eat," Jackson said.

Despite its monetary and distance drawbacks, off-campus dining was popular among students of all types.



A group socializes after dinner at Applebee's. Despite the cost, they needed a change from on-campus dining.



Left: Enjoying their food, students talk amongst each other throughout the night. Large groups of college students were a regular occurrence at fast-food places and restaurants.

Right: Students entertain themselves while they wait on their food at a restaurant. There was a wide variety of restaurants to choose from in St. Joseph.

The days when classes like psychology and college algebra were the norms are long gone. Western students had the chance to enroll in more lively classes that offered more thrills and frills.

Classes like cave exploring, backpacking and scuba diving were among many of the exciting classes that were offered.

Ryan Sevcik took advantage of several out of the ordinary classes offered at Western.

"I've taken scuba diving, hap-ki-do and I'm currently enrolled in cave exploring," Sevcik said. "These classes really break up the routine that school can sometimes bring."

Sevcik took his beginning cave exploring class with Professor David Ashley. The class had the opportunity to explore two caves, Lone Onyx Cave and Little Scott Cave.

"I've gained an appreciation of the natural cave environment, as well as several techniques to cave correctly and to stay safe," Sevcik said. "I also developed a strong desire to go back and cave more!"

Steve Potter taught a backpacking class in which students received one credit hour. The class met at Indian Cave State Park to go on backpacking hikes four times in a three week time span.

"We have lectures and discussion on the various types of backpacks that exist, safety and possible injuries that can occur while backpack-

ing," Potter said.

Another interesting class was Comic Book Culture, taught by Geo Sipp. During this class, students analyzed comic book characters such as Spiderman and Captain America to better understand their symbolic presence in societies.

"In the class, students learned how Captain America symbolized the true American spirit and how Spiderman symbolized the American teenager," Sipp said.

Students also learned how comic books reflected different time periods.

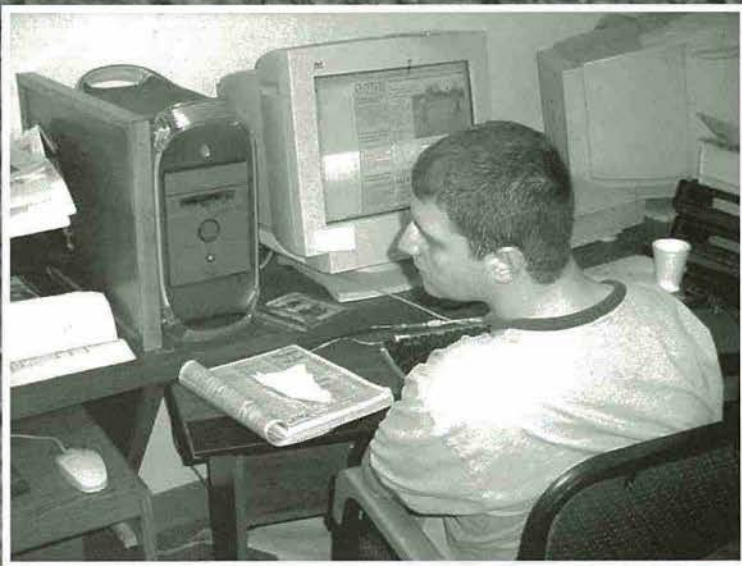
"Comic books became increasingly popular during the 1950s due to the fact the United States had just come out of World War II in Korea," Sipp said. "In addition, the nuclear bomb evolved around this time. Americans needed to enjoy more leisure time so they turned to comic books."

Classes that were offered out of the ordinary not only added more knowledge to students, but it gave students the opportunity to be involved in activities they never imagined they could participate in.

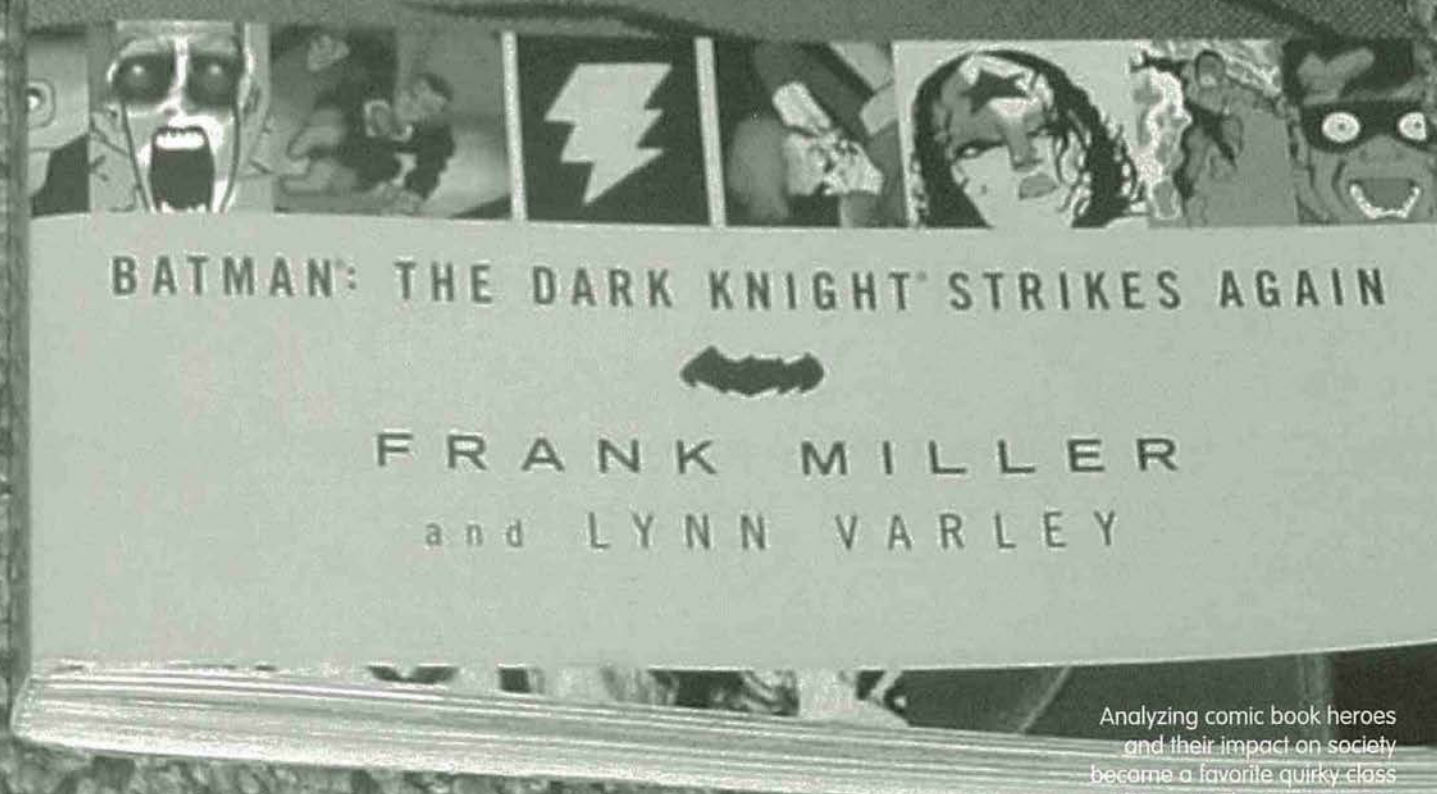
Quirky Classes

Story by Angela Smith
Photos by Jeremy Weikel

Fun and active classes are now taking the place of average classes that often fill the schedules of students



Student publication courses add to make a unique schedule for many students. The Griffon Yearbook and the Griffon News were the two fun options for students interested in journalism.



BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT® STRIKES AGAIN



FRANK MILLER
and LYNN VARLEY

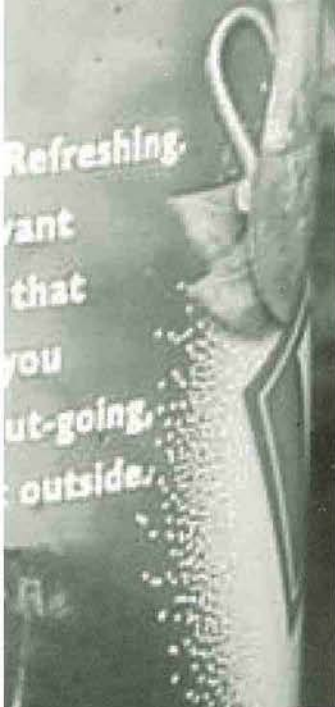
Analyzing comic book heroes and their impact on society became a favorite quirky class at Western. There were many options of unusual classes for students to choose from.

Some stressed out students
rely on cigarettes to calm
their nerves. Many started
smoking because their
friends did.

Smoking on Campus

Western shifts more toward a smoke-free campus with
the help of sponsored programs

Story by Diamikia White
Photos by Jeremy Welkle



“Yes, I smoke,” senior Megan Buckman said. “I normally have my first smoke of the day about eight or nine in the morning on my way to class. Smoking makes me feel relieved. If it’s a good day, I will smoke maybe half the pack. On a bad day, I will smoke the whole pack, but I do smoke every day.”

People who smoked every day increased their risks of long-term diseases that came to pass as they got older. Many students began smoking because their friends were.

“I started smoking socially with friends,” Buckman said. “Now I only smoke because of the freedom to do it.”

Many people felt a difference in

their bodies when smoking. “I feel light and free sometimes when I have a cigarette,” Buckman said.

Other students had the same feeling when smoking. “Smoking relieves stress and makes me feel calm,” junior Melissa Scarce said.

At Western, there were smokers who began smoking at a very young age.

“I can remember like it was yesterday. My friend Ashley and I were standing next to the school on the side of the school building, and we coughed for the rest of the day,” Buckman said. “I remember my friend and I going to the hospital because I guess we hit the cigarette too hard. We laughed for weeks about it.”

Students found that the chemicals in cigarettes made it hard to function normally.

“Sometimes my body aches, and it feels like my joints are locking up,” Buckman said. “I cough for awhile, but I am okay after about two and a half hours.”

In the past, programs and strategies were offered to help students stop smoking. “There are other ways to get that feeling in your body without inhaling anything,” Karrie Uhlman, director of the American Cancer Society, said.

“Smokeless tobacco is leaves that are stuffed inside a small pouch that is able to fit inside your inner jaw,” Uhlman said. “It’s another way to get that feeling in your body without inhaling anything.”

There were various organizations that have offered stop-smoking programs in the area. At Western, there had previously been a stop-smoking program, The Fresh Start Program, that was beneficial to students. “The hardest time to stop smoking is within the first 76 hours when the body shuts down from the continual nicotine,” Dave Brown, counselor for Western, said.

Western was not a completely smoke-free environment, since smoking was allowed outside, but with the help of peers and sponsored programs, it was coming closer to being smoke-free.



Top: Adults have a huge impact on those who start smoking at an early age. Smoking was a habit that was hard to stop. Bottom: Money is not an issue for students when it comes to smoking. The addiction overpowered the cost.

Junior Ryan Groves proudly stands near his vehicle. Groves drove a '93 BMW.

Driving in Style

Cars that students drive show off their personality and style

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran

For most teenagers, one of the best things about turning 16 is getting a new car. Some people go through multiple cars before they even enter college, and others stick with their first car, whatever the cost. With college expenses in mind, how do so many students afford an automobile? Some students managed to find their cars at a reasonable price while others look for deals on extended financing.

"For the most part, if students have to spend money on college, then they probably don't have a nice car if they paid for it themselves," Junior David Pinter said.

Pinter drove a 2003 Subaru WRX, bought by his parents.

Pinter traded in his 1998 GMC Jimmy for his Subaru. "I chose it because it's fast and it has four wheel drive," Pinter said.

Pinter worked a lot of hours at Affiliated Foods so he could pay for his insurance. "The insurance isn't that bad," Pinter said.

Junior Ryan Groves traded in his 1995 Jeep Cherokee for a 1993 BMW 325i. "I got a good deal and I like to have nice things so I bought it," Groves said.

Groves worked many hours to pay for his car. "I think that you can get whatever you want if you work hard enough," said Groves.

Junior Megan Campbell thought it was hard to pay for college and for a car. "It's hard seeing as I don't work as

much as I would like," Campbell said.

Campbell drove a 1994 Hyundai Excel that she bought from a friend for \$500.

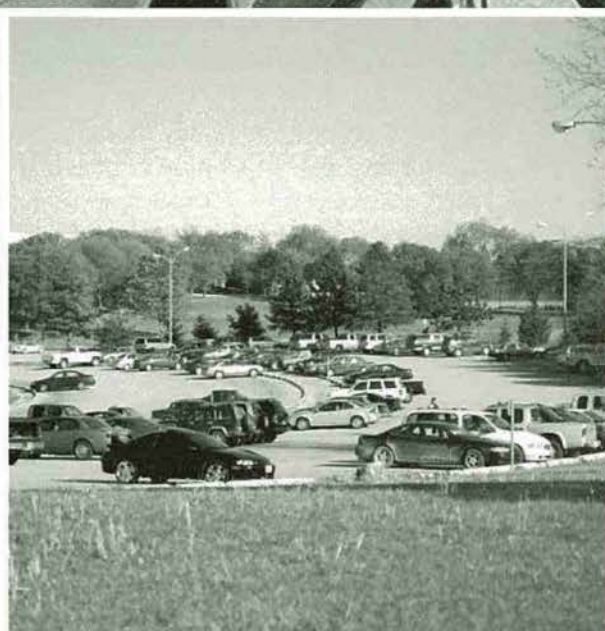
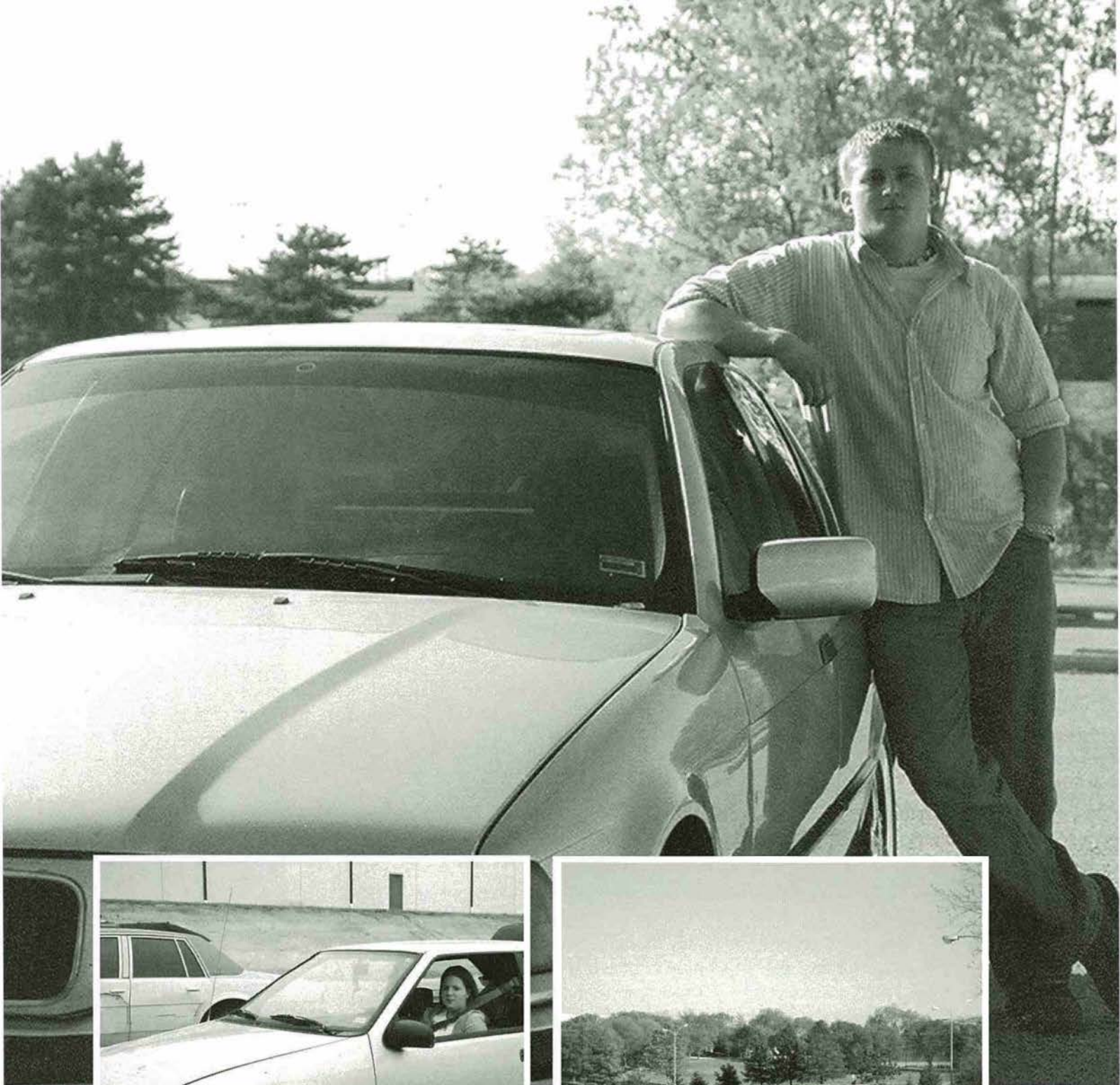
All three of these students lived off-campus so they all depended on their cars to get to and from school and work. "If my car broke down then I would come to school by my motorcycle," Pinter said.

Groves said that he would not have a problem getting to school if his car broke down because he had four roommates.

Pinter and Groves both consider their cars to be nice cars, and they both said that they never had any car problems. Campbell said that she didn't consider her car to be a nice car. "It gets the job done," Campbell said. "I don't have car problems too often, but if my car did break down, then I'm not sure how I would get to school."

All three students said that they received a good deal on their cars and were glad that they had their parents to help them out if they needed it. Like most students, that's how they could afford college and a car at the same time.





Left: Junior Megan Campbell sits in her '94 Hyundai Exel. This was the first car she purchased on her own for only \$500.
Right: Students in college travel in various types of transportation. The transportation was a necessity for students that came to and from school.

Finals - Ready or Not

Students prepare themselves at the end of each semester for their final exams

Story by Kellie Feuerbacher
Photos by Ashley Bacon

Just hearing the word “finals” produced feelings of fear and trepidation, sweat and trembling. Finals week was a stressful culmination of each semester for many students, but they found ways to make the most of it and did the best they could on each exam, project and paper.

One of the most basic steps in preparing for final exams was studying. It not only helped students do their best on the tests, but it also helped them feel a little more relaxed and prepared.

Senior computer programming major Thejaswi Karumanchi felt that studying was imperative in order to feel more prepared for her finals. “I’m not very confident [about being ready for the exams], but after I study I feel a little better,” Karumanchi said.

There were several methods students took in order to study for their final exams. Some reviewed handouts or notes from class while others made flash-cards to quiz themselves.

“I generally do an overview of all materials,” senior Spanish major Kerry Wittrock said. “I go over old tests, review notes and do study guides when available.”

Time spent studying for finals varied with each student and with each type of exam. “I probably spend about eight hours total studying for finals,” Barry Korthanke, junior math education major, said.

Wittrock said she usually averaged about one to two hours of studying time for each final exam, but she did it over a longer period of time. “I usually break the time up so as not to overwhelm myself with information and confuse myself,” she said.

Besides studying, Wittrock also had other ways of

psyching herself up for the big week. She made sure that in addition to being prepared mentally with facts, figures and concepts, she also relaxed to keep from wearing herself out with stress.

“I usually try not to worry too much about finals because I generally feel pretty well prepared,” Wittrock said. “It seems the more I worry about a certain final the worse I do on it.”

Some students relied on eating breakfast or getting a proper amount of sleep in order to do their best work. “Breakfast doesn’t matter to me, but I do like to get at least seven hours of sleep,” Korthanke said.

Others, however, preferred to spend every free moment studying, even if it meant giving up sleep and food. “I barely get any sleep, and I don’t pay much attention to eating,” Karumanchi said.

Studying, relaxing and other forms of preparation helped students do their best when it came to those end-of-the-semester exams, projects and papers. Whatever the method, and in some cases, whatever the sacrifice, they found their own ways to cope with the dreaded week of finals.



A student finds a quiet area on campus to study for her finals. Some students found it hard to study in their dorm rooms with distractions.



Left: At midnight breakfast, many students came out to celebrate the end of finals. Everyone stood in line to collect pancakes, fruit and juice. Right: As the loud music played on, students took advantage of their last opportunity to study for finals in the cafeteria. They weren't bothered by the chaotic environment.

It's Raining Men

A few good men compete for the title of Mr. MWSC

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Morgan Perry

Alpha Gamma Delta held their seventh annual Mr. MWSC contest in April to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

The sorority put together a show that lasted two hours with various contests such as, swimwear, question & answer and talent. Nine men, who were sponsored by different organizations, entered the competition.

Posters were hung up advertising the contest. "We made posters and fliers, but publicizing the event mostly got around just by word of mouth," Erin Wilson, Alpha Gamma Delta member said.

They also sold tickets in front of the cafeteria. "We had jars for the spirit portion and whoever received the most money in their jar received the spirit award," Alicia Schmidgall, member of Alpha Gamma Delta said.

Sophomore Nick Orlando, who was nominated by his fraternity Phi Sigma Kappa, enjoyed the experience. "It was definitely something that I wanted to do," Orlando said. "Acting goofy in front of the campus is what I do best."

Orlando performed a dance for the talent show. "I did interpretative dancing," Orlando said. "Dancing half-way naked around the campus was definitely unique."

Orlando put on an unforgettable performance. "The dance was the highlight of the whole night," he said. "From the crowd applause, I thought that I was going to win that part of the competition."

Sophomore Charles Bruscato, member of Phi Sigma Kappa, was nominated by the sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma. "Last year I put on a pretty good show, so the Tri Sigma's asked me to do it again this year," Bruscato said.

Bruscato ended up winning the whole contest and was crowned Mr. MWSC. "I didn't think that I was going to win at all," he said.

The girls of Alpha Gamma Delta were pleased with the outcome and thankful for another successful event that helped raise money for a good cause.

They each had their favorite parts of the event. "The best part of the event was at the beginning when all of the guys did their dance routine with umbrellas," Schmidgall said.



The candidates perform one of the many dance portions of the pageant. Alpha Gamma Delta gave individual awards for each event; Charles Bruscato was crowned Mr. MWSC after much competition from eight other worthy men.



Dance numbers was one of the favorite parts of the contest for many. Men from various organizations competed for the title of Mr. MWSC.





Showing their support, Tri-Sigma's Jessica Ryder and Britani Rusni, participate in the carnival festivities. Later that month, Tri-Sigma was announced as Sorority of the Year.

Greeks Gone Wild

Story by Jenny Olson & Kellie Feuerbacher
Photps by Jonhtell Young & Jennifer Moran

Greek Week provides fun-filled activities
and a philanthropy carnival

Throughout the week of April 19-23, Western's Greeks went wild during Greek Week. The theme was "Greeks Gone Wild," and various events took place throughout the week, including a scavenger hunt, a skit and talent show and the first annual "Party at the Clock Tower." Money was raised to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital during the "Party at the Clock Tower." The field games were cancelled due to rain.

The purpose of Greek Week was to unify the Greek organizations. "The reason we have Greek Week is that throughout the year we have competition between the fraternities and sororities, and this is a chance to unite us all," Christin Hanna, member of Tri Sigma said. "There is competition during Greek Week, but it's all in

good fun."

John Fabsits, Tau Kappa Epsilon member, felt that there was more to Greek Week than just fun and games. "It's a chance for people to see the Greek organizations out there together," he said. "As much as it's for us, it's also for others to notice that we're on campus and that we're active."

The Greek Week awards were announced at the dinner held on Thursday of that week. Sigma Sigma Sigma won the Sorority of the Year, Outstanding Scholarship and Outstanding Recruitment Program awards. Tau Kappa Epsilon won the Fraternity of the Year, Outstanding Scholarship and Outstanding Recruitment Program awards. The Outstanding Community Service award went to Alpha Sigma Alpha and Phi Delta Theta.

Awards were also given to individual Greek members. The Greek Man of the Year was Ryan Wear, and the Greek Woman of the Year was Hanna. Hanna was surprised when she was presented with the award.

"To be honest, I wasn't expecting it at all," Hanna said. "The fact that my chapter nominated me was enough. I wasn't expecting to win."

Wear was also honored to have been selected. "I have been active in the Greek community as a whole, not just my own fraternity," he said. "I think that's important for someone who is considered for Greek Man or Woman of the Year."

Laurel Homedale won the Greek Scholar award, and Jennie Lager-Holmes won the Greek Officer award. The Greek New Member of the Year was Erin Wilson.

Wilson enjoyed her first Greek Week experience. "Greek Week is a chance for us all to get together and do activities, and this is a time when we can get to know people in other organizations," Wilson said.

The Greek Advisor of the Year award went to the advisors of Alpha Gamma Delta and Tau Kappa Epsilon.



Top: Tau Kappa Epsilon members, Logan Comptom and Justin Vaughn, find a new and interesting way to enjoy jello. "Party at the Clock Tower" was a way for Western's greek community to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Middle: Phi Sig Shane Goodin and Phi Delt Ryan Groves race for the velcro finish line. The inclement weather didn't hinder the activities planned for the first "Party at the Clock Tower."

Bottom: Learning new moves from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the members of Alpha Sigma Alpha "stepped" their way to an entertaining performance. ASA portrayed the definition of greek unity.

After attending college for six years, three of those spent being a senior; Morgan Perry was ready for college to be over.

“College is a lot like a relationship,” Perry said. “You start off with the honeymoon where everything is new and interesting, then you move on to where the relationship just starts to get boring and then eventually you are just ready to get the whole thing over with. There is still that need to hold onto the comfort you are used to even though you really want it all to be over.”

Perry was the victim of something called ‘Senioritis.’ Although Senioritis was not actually a documented disease or even an actual word, it became a well-known term among college seniors.

One Western counselor had an opinion on why college students were showing signs of the symptoms of this disease. “I think that some students are just ready to get done, ready to get a job and are just getting burnt out with school,” said Steve Potter, Licensed Professional Counselor.

Marilyn Hunt, professor and chairperson of the communications studies department at Western, gave an interesting description of the mindset of those students suffering from the disease. “It is almost like the students are living with one foot in one world and one foot in another,” Hunt said. “They are still in school but they are slowly pulling away to move on to something else.”

According to Leonard Archer, professor and chairperson of chemistry, some seniors were affected worse than others. “It (Senioritis) seems to be worse in those students that have a more difficult last year,” Archer said. “When

the course load is harder, it seems to be harder for them to stay on track.”

Since Senioritis was not an actual word, then there were technically no documented symptoms. The symptoms of Senioritis varied quite a bit between students; Perry gave her opinion on the possible symptoms.

“I think there are a lot of symptoms; alcohol, procrastination, the inability to focus, complete lack of patience and the biggest urge to just get up and leave in the middle of class,” Perry said. “These are the symptoms that I have noticed, at least, since my Senioritis began last spring.”

Larry Lawson, professor and chairperson of business, advised students to make the transition to ‘life after college’ a part of the senior year activities and to make the traditional academic activities clearly important to their success later.

Potter suggested that those students who were affected talk about Senioritis and acknowledge it.

“Seniors need to realize that they are almost done,” Potter said. “You’ve made it this far, just stick with it and you’ll be walking across that stage before you know it.”

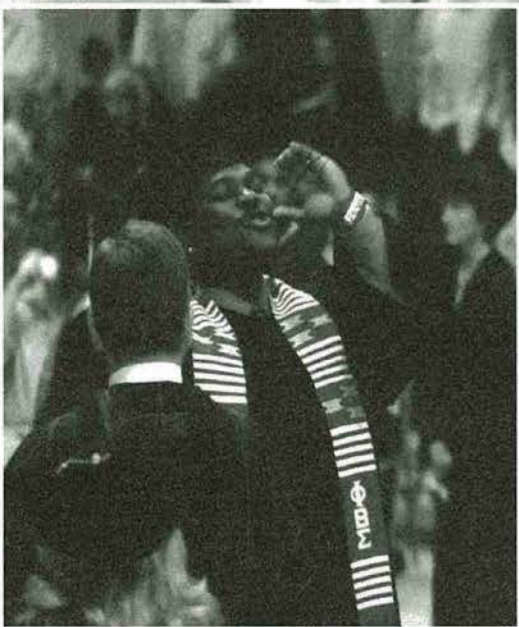
Western Senioritis

Story by Mika Snodgrass

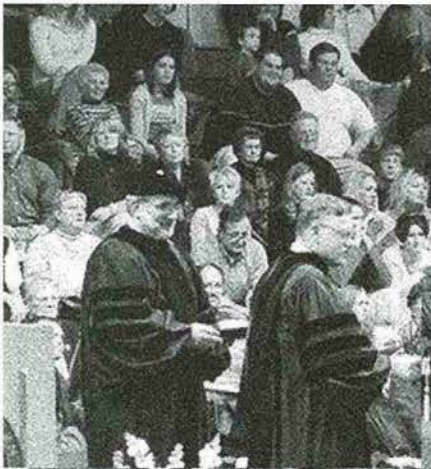
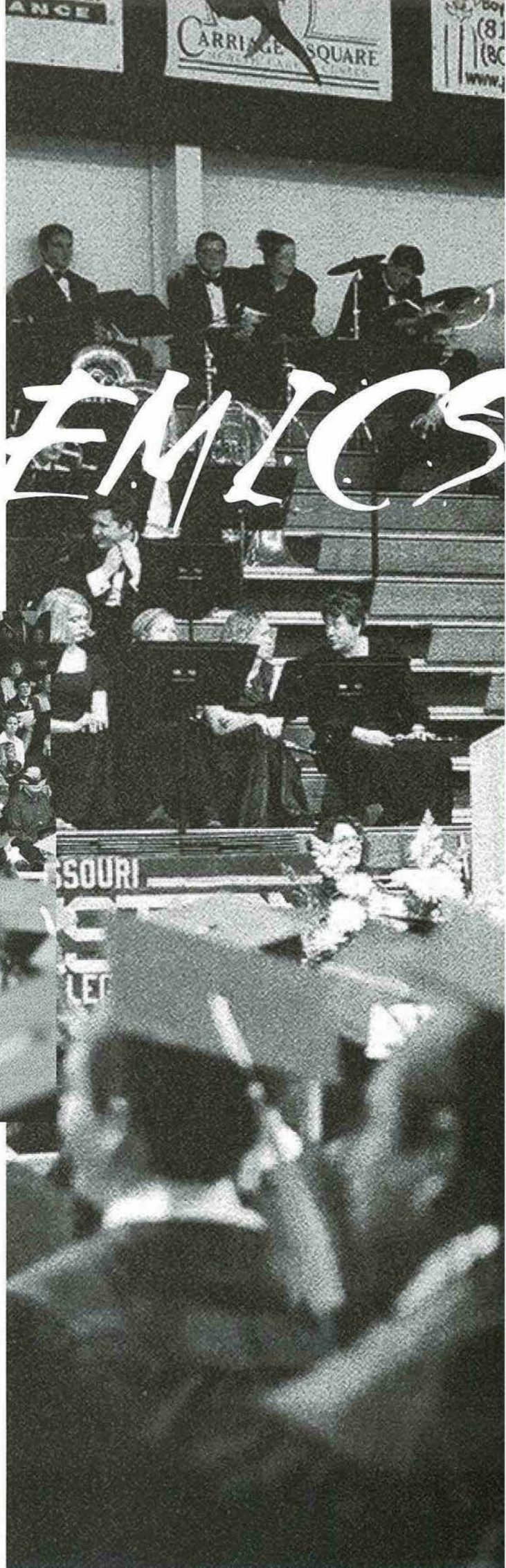
Seniors make decisions that could harm their final years at college

Trying to finish a paper toward the end of the semester, Nick McKay shows his stress from school. For seniors, the end of the semester brought more worries and stress than relief. Photo by Johnell Young.

A graduating senior shows his excitement to be graduating as he gets his diploma from President Scanlon. The graduation ceremony seemed like an unreachable outcome for those with Senioritis; for these students the end finally came. Photo by Jennifer Moran.



ACADEMICS



Two seniors eagerly receive their diplomas at the winter graduation. Graduating from college was a major step in any senior's life. Photo by Ashley Bacon.

Every student enrolled at Western made up the student association account. The duties of the SGA were to represent the student association in all matters. They were also to organize, support and supervise student activities that took place on campus.

"Some of the things we do for the student body are Readership Programs, SGA scholarships, the student union renovations, a financial oversight committee and we are trying to get more student activities together," senior Sylvester Brandon said.

Many of these activities were made possible because of the student budget.

"The Student Government Association provides approximately \$100,000 to each of the branches of government; the Student Senate, Campus Activities Board and Residence Council," sophomore Noah Haahr said. "SGA also divides some of the money between other various organizations on campus."

Our newest president to office felt that the money would be put to good use.

"I believe this year, as the first year after the SGA fee was increased, was kind of like a trial period," Elijah Haahr said. "However, with this second year right around the corner, these organizations will know what works and can better benefit the

student body."

While watching Brandon in office, Elijah received more ideas of things he might do a little bit differently while he was in office.

"We will be working very hard to bring a BIG comedian to campus for Homecoming next year, Elijah Haahr said. "Also we have learned that the MTV Campus Invasion concert was a huge success and we will be working on an even bigger show for the fall."

The Student Government Association realized that the fee increase would help them have the opportunity to plan more activities that would benefit everyone.

"I was SGA president for one year and I feel that we have done well, but there is always room for improvement," Brandon said. "I would like to see more student appealing activities take place, like three or four activities a month to keep the students enjoying what college is all about. It's about remembering events years down the road."

Show Me the Money

Story by Alison Krieg

Students want more activities to take place with the money they pay to the Student Government Association

The Essence of Leadership

Ambition + Confidence + Character = Leadership

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Valissa Kraus

The Western Field House was filled with students, faculty and area residents to attend the 10th annual

Convocation on Critical Issues on Oct. 22. With the importance of leadership being his focus, presidential adviser David Gergen

enlightened the large crowd at Western.

As Gergen began to discuss the qualities of leadership, he gave a suggestion that lies within us as individuals. "Find qualities about yourself; if you find your fire you too can be a good leader," Gergen said. "This worked for several American presidents."

Rupert James, junior business major, took this advice very seriously. "The things that he said were very appropriate because everyone should work on their leadership skills," James said. "Being a leader is something that I work on everyday, and by coming today I have a new way of looking at the way I go about it."

Ambition, confidence and character were the three elements that Gergen gave in order for a leader to be successful. After each aspect was discussed, he named previous leaders that exemplified these aspects. He mentioned some very familiar names such as Bill Clinton, Richard Nixon, Nelson Mandela and Harry S. Truman.

Another point that Gergen stressed was the signifi-

cance of maintaining a serious attitude about one's studies. "Not every reader is a leader, but every leader is a reader," Gergen said.

Many students walked away from the convocation with a sense of leadership. Senior communications major Crystal Bray felt that Gergen's ideas about leadership and education were useful. "I was interested in the fact that he touched on the subject of education and how it is an important factor of leadership," Bray said.

Gergen was an ideal speaker on the subject of leadership since he had many leadership roles throughout his life. He once was a credited commentator, editor, teacher, public servant, best-selling author and adviser to several presidents for over 30 years. He was a professor of public service at the John F. Kennedy School of Government and served as an editor of U.S News and World Report.

Holding eleven honorary degrees, Gergen has been called an active participant in American national life due to his numerous contributions, and this made him a very reliable source of information. Gergen drew in a large crowd of individuals who obtained beneficial knowledge on the issues of leadership.



Presidential Advisor David Gergen speaks at the 10th Annual Convocation on Critical Issues. He spoke about the three important elements to be a successful leader.



Above: Students listen intently to Gergen's take on leadership. The Western Field House was packed with students, faculty and community members.

Left: Gergen leads Missouri Western in the Pledge of Alliance before his speech. He spoke about the importance of leadership and education during his speech.

Change Does a Body Good

Changes were made to improve Western's student body experience

Story by Angela Smith
Photos by Heidi Webber

When students arrived back to campus this fall, they might have noticed several changes at Western. From street signs to new faculty positions and offices, things just weren't the same.

One of the first changes that students might have noticed was a new dean in a renamed department. Replacing past dean, Don Willis, acting dean, Bob Klostermeyer, was put in charge of Student Development, which used to be titled Student Affairs. The new focus of Student Development was to provide programming in identified areas.

"This side of the house is about applied learning, not just clubs and organizations," Klostermeyer said. "We want students to realize that learning doesn't stop once you leave the classroom."

Student Development encompassed Student Activities and the Center for Multicultural Education, formally known as the Office of Unity Services.

The main difference from Unity Services to C.M.E. was the focus of programming. Unity Service's main focus was addressing a variety of social awareness issues, including alcoholism and sexuality along with multicultural education. C.M.E.'s focus became strictly multicultural education, service learning and leadership.

"C.M.E.'s main purpose is to expand students' learning experience," Sandy Rogers, Student Development Program Coordinator, said. "This office gives students a chance to be a part of programs by allowing them to create the programs."

These offices housed in the same building provided convenience for students. "It's easier for students to find a point of contact, and it allows the offices to work together

to accomplish goals," Rogers said.

Campus security also underwent change by altering its name to Public Safety. Jonathan Kelley, director of Public Safety, said that the name change better depicted what they did on campus.

"Years ago we did a lot of safety and security functions," Kelley said. "Since then we've taken on more law enforcement duties. We are a full-service law enforcement agency."

Additionally, the Division of Continuing Education Special Programs department changed its name to the Western Institute for Regional Development. Along with the name change came reorganization. The institute developed a new research center for arts. This center encompassed four branches: economic development, health and wellness, life science and center for culture and learning.

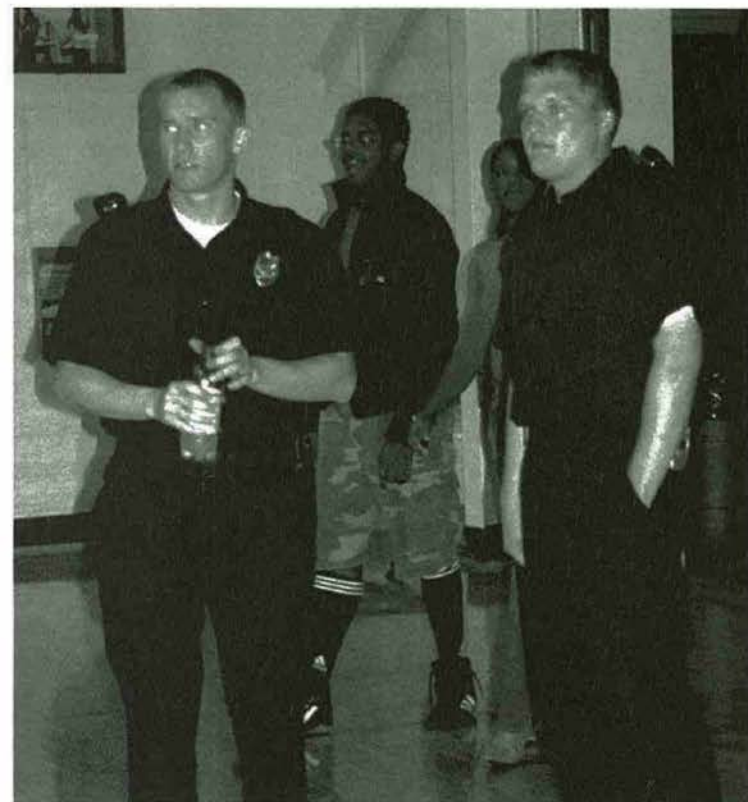
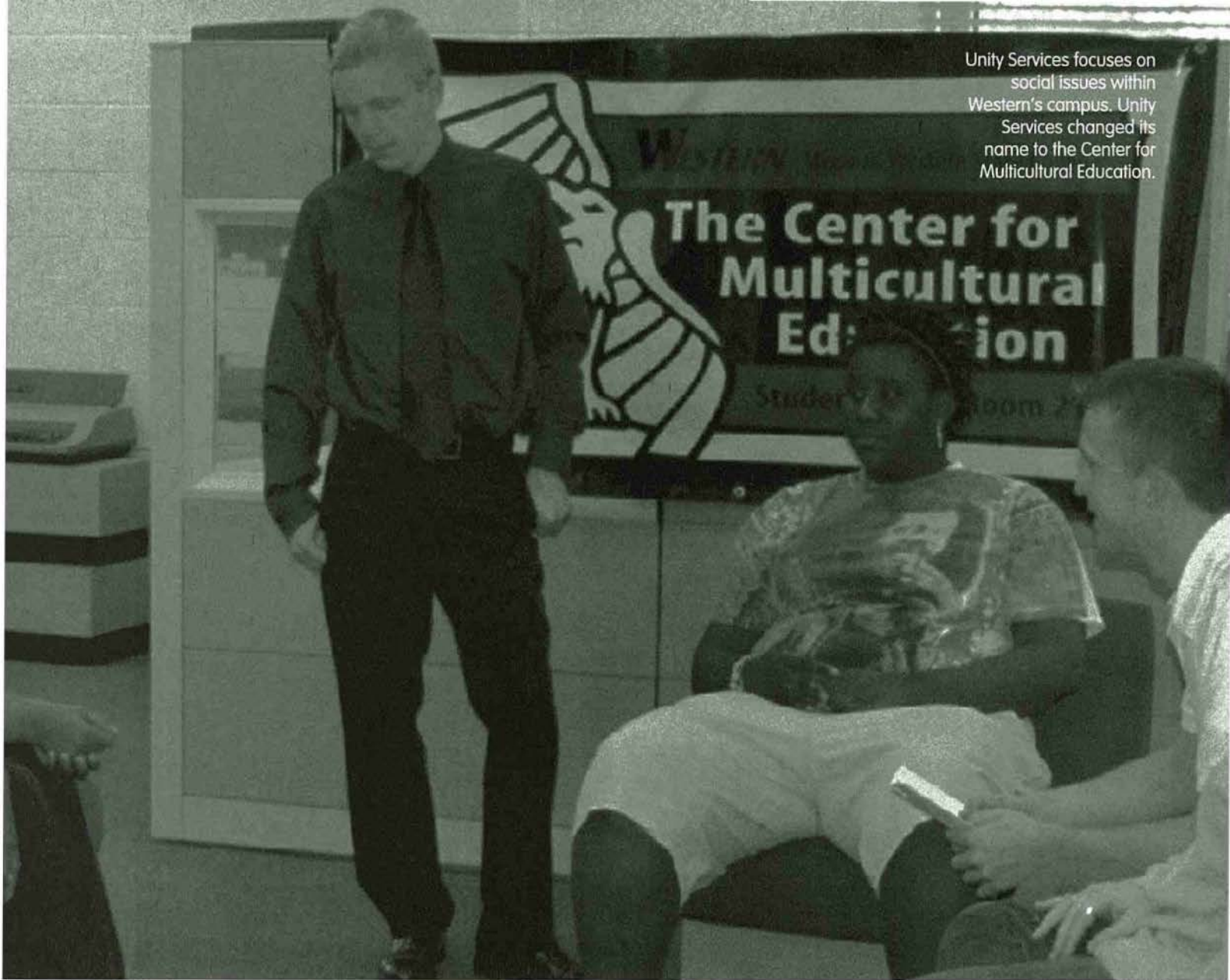
"Our reorganization ties into the strategic plan," Ed Gorsky, dean of Continuing Education, said. "We are a service to the community and provide applied learning for students."

Another change that occurred was the renaming of Northeast College Drive. It was changed to James McCarthy Drive, in honor of past executive vice-president and interim president, James McCarthy, who dedicated 18 years of service to Western before retiring in 2001.

"This is a way to recognize Dr. McCarthy's accomplishments over his many years of service at Western," R. Patt Lilly, president of the Western Board of Regents, said. "His student-centered approach is a legacy to the college."



Unity Services focuses on social issues within Western's campus. Unity Services changed its name to the Center for Multicultural Education.

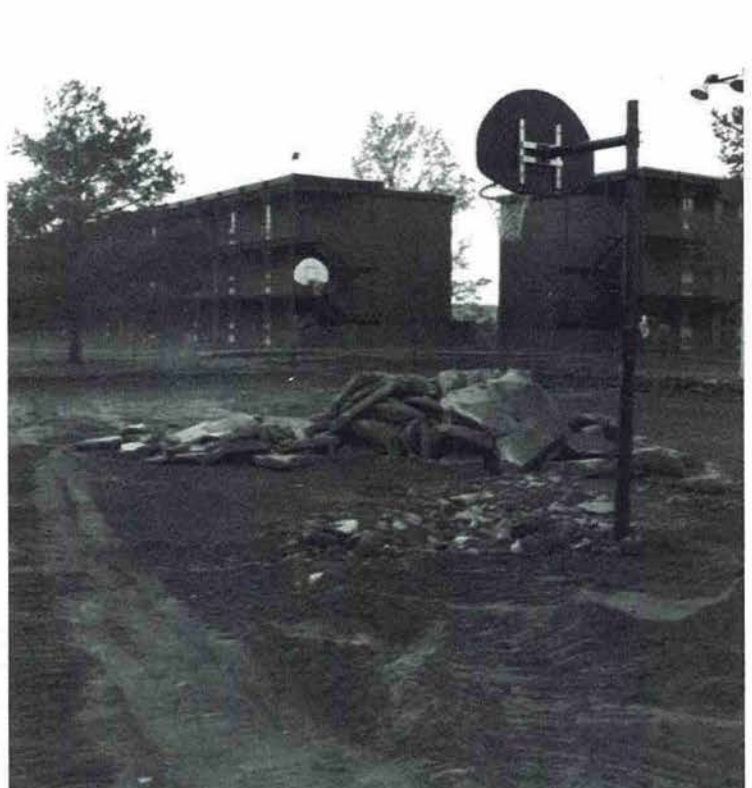


Above: To honor James McCarthy, former executive vice-president of Missouri Western, a street was named after him. The street name was changed from NE College Drive to James McCarthy Drive.
Left: Western Public Safety is now a full service law enforcement agency. This change was made to give a more accurately portray the jobs of the Western security officers.

Torn apart, the former courtyard awaits reconstruction. Many students felt the construction noise was unbearable at times, yet it meant progress at Western.



Above: The Board of Regents breaks ground for the new residence hall, set to open in fall 2005. The Board of Regents voted in April to approve the construction of a new residence hall.
Right: Dirt and construction fences are a common sight for residents. Construction for the new commons area building began early in October and was set to be completed by fall 2004.





Digging into the Future

Renovations for the new commons
building and residence hall begin

Story by Ross Scholz
Photos by Valissa Kraus

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Nov. 17 for a new residence hall and commons area. With these additions, students would soon have a new place to hang out and socialize with fellow on-campus students. The site

chosen for the new commons area, which was expected to open in the fall of 2004, will be built on the land that was formerly occupied by the outdoor basketball courts. It will include ping pong and billiards tables, a pizza shop and more.

Also, officials were expecting the new residence hall to be built in the fall of 2005 just south of Vaselakos Hall. It was expected to provide students with 400 beds, both double and single rooms, a lounge/study room and also a kitchen for those who enjoy cooking a home-cooked meal.

Students were looking forward to the improvements.

"I'm excited about it," junior Nicole Goetz said. "I just wish that it would be open while I'm still here. It sounds great, though, for the residents who will get to stay there."

Junior Darren Wibberding agreed.

"I think that it's great to be able to see the college expand," he said. "It's like Missouri Western is moving into a more residential era. What I am most looking forward to is the commons space where students can hang out and socialize outdoors with each other."

The college was making an attempt to improve a feeling of connection and social interaction among students who lived on campus.

"The new residence hall is designed for community of the residence halls," David Arnold, of Academic and Student Affairs, said. "We want to maximize the student learning outside of the classroom."

Many believed the growth of Western was a great thing, and they were looking forward to the opening of the new facilities.

"We want the capacity to grow on-campus student life," Western President James Scanlon said after digging up the first piece of soil on the future site of the new hall. "It just gives us that capacity to do that. It also, as Dr. Arnold said, allows us to focus on learning communities for student learning and student development."

With the addition of a new residence hall already in the works, there were still more things that the college had in mind to accomplish in the future.

"I'm sure in the future there will be more residence halls," Scanlon said. "Our master plan has the long range plan of where we could locate future residence halls."

In brief, students planned on keeping an eye on the building of the new residence hall and commons, and couldn't wait to step through the doors for the first time and experience all that the new facilities would have to offer.

The Show-Me

Awards

Two professors from Western receive prestigious awards for their support of Western journalism

Story By Angela Smith
Photos by Melissa Scearce

Two professors, Kenneth Rosenauer and Ann Thorne were both awarded at the National College Media Convention in Dallas,

Texas on Nov. 7.

Rosenauer, chairperson of Western's English, foreign languages and journalism department, became the 18th inductee into the John A. Boyd Hall of Fame. The criteria for this award was to have served in the collegiate journalism education profession for at least 20 years. In addition, nominees had to be active members of College Media Advisors (CMA). The nomination that Rosenauer received came from past Hall of Famers. Once Rosenauer received the news that he had been nominated he had to submit letters of recommendation from three colleagues and three former students.

Receiving this award meant a lot to Rosenauer mostly because the nomination and letters of support came from his own personal colleagues.

"It's different for people who don't know you to say 'That a boy' and give you a pat on the back for your work," Rosenauer said. "But for people who know me to say I've done them proud is a true honor. This for me is a lifetime achievement award because it symbolizes long-time dedication to the profession and to students."

Rosenauer was also pleased to be a part of the elite in the college media profession.

"I look at the previous inductees, most of whom I know, and say 'Goodness, what fine company I've been inducted into,'" Rosenauer said. "It's almost comparable to the memory I have of the birth of my children and marriage to my wife."

Thorne was honored with the Four-year Distin-

guished Yearbook Advisor award. This award goes to one college student media adviser who has been in this role for at least five years. In addition, the person must have been a member of the CMA. Recipients of this award must have submitted five letters of recommendation, three being from students and two from colleagues.

"I worked with Ann as editor-in-chief of the Griffon Yearbook for two years," Rachel Siron said. "She always had answers to questions and solutions to problems when I, or anyone else, had a question."

Thorne was overwhelmed with the thought of receiving this award. "It feels great to be on the same list as the people that I admire in this profession," Thorne said.

Under Thorne's leadership, the Griffon Yearbook had won every major national award given by Associated Collegiate Press and Columbia Scholastic Press Association. Thorne's modesty gave all the credit of her success to her students.

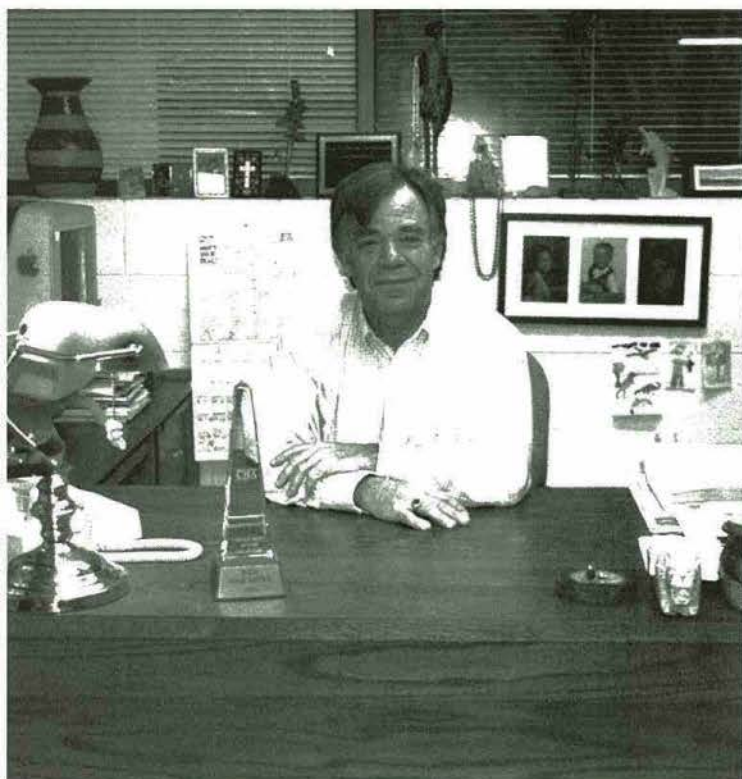
"The truth is my students make me look good," Thorne said. "They take pride in what they do, and they are always so willing to work hard to accomplish the goals of the yearbook."

After achieving such great success, Western could only wonder what was next on the agenda for these professors.

"I want to keep putting out a great yearbook," Thorne said. "We've placed three years in a row in Best in Show, and I want that to continue."

Rosenauer's goals, like Thorne's, was student-oriented. "I want to keep improving my own teaching and help students grow," Rosenauer said.

Dr. Rosenauer and Dr. Thorne feel very privileged to receive these awards. They both have been admired faculty at Western for more than a decade.



Above: Dr. Thorne receives the Four-year Distinguished Yearbook Advisor award at the CMA awards ceremony. Thorne was overwhelmed with this honor.

Left: Dr. Rosenauer is the 18th inductee into the John A. Boyd Hall of Fame. This honor was only bestowed upon professors who fulfilled many detailed qualifications including dedication to CMA for the last 20 years.

The Minor

Details

Some Western students feel that minors provide extra benefits, while others think they are unnecessary

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Heidi Webber

During a student's time at Western, it was often difficult enough to get through all of the classes for a major, let alone having a minor on top of it. However, a significant amount of students chose to carry a minor as "Plan B."

"If you can't find a job in your major, then a minor will give you something to fall back on," junior Aaron Johnson said. Johnson was an art major carrying a minor in theatre. As part of his minor, Johnson took classes in set design and stage combat in the theatre department.

Johnson became interested in theatre after taking Theatre 113 during his sophomore year. Johnson liked the class so much that he decided to carry a minor in it as well. "A minor gives you more opportunities to learn as well as more options when you graduate," Johnson said.

However, felt that carrying a minor would add to the length of their time at college. "I was interested in having a minor in business, but I decided against it because I felt that it would keep me here longer than I expected," junior Donny McCubbin said.

Other students agreed with what McCubbin felt about carrying a minor. "I thought for a short while about having a minor in biology, but I didn't want to be at college for a year or two longer," junior Dane Ault said.

Johnson felt differently. "If you work your major and minor at the same time and do it just right, then it shouldn't take much more time to graduate," Johnson said.

While some may have felt that carrying a minor was difficult enough, there were a few students who were double majors. "I thought about a double major in art and biology for about ten minutes before I realized that it was insane," Ault said.

Johnson felt similar to Ault on the subject. "I know it's hard enough to carry a major and a minor, but having two majors—well, I wouldn't even want to try it," Johnson said.

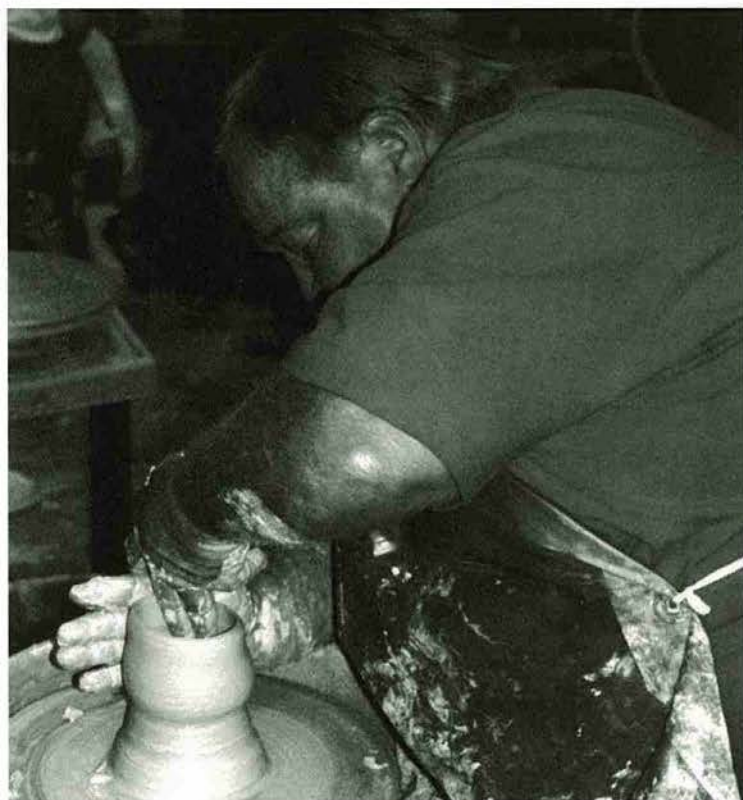
McCubbin had a similar belief, "No offense to those who have a double major, but I wouldn't want to be in college for eight years," McCubbin said.

All in all, carrying a minor in a specific area had its rewards, if a student didn't mind adding a little more time to his or her college experience. Not all of those who carried a minor felt that having a double major was worth the same rewards. However, having more options upon graduation was not a bad idea to many.





Kim Posch adds to her painting in the painting studio in the Fine Arts. Many students chose to minor in something they enjoyed.



Above: Sophomore, Brian Davis listens to his advisor as she suggests what classes he should enroll in to fulfill his major. The decision to add a minor was a difficult one for many students.

Left: Ed Harris works on a project for his ceramics class. For many students, a hobby could turn into the perfect choice for a minor.

College: Heaven or Hell

College life can be heaven on earth,
but for some it can be a living hell

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Kristen White

Of all the students who attended Western throughout the years, most of them had many questions that they asked their professors, parents, peers and roommates. However, one of these questions was an age old one, is college heaven or hell? A group of three upperclassmen shared their opinions.

Junior Chris Jones was a non-traditional student who returned to college after many years in the workforce. Jones attended college for a short time after high school, but dropped out in pursuit of a full-time job. Jones believed that college was heaven his second time around. "For me, college is heaven because I'm married with three children, I don't have to work full-time because of a disability and I get to be here which is a privilege," Jones said.

Jones, like a lot of people, was unhappy with the work force. "I worked 12 years in the work force building houses and doing other things that just generally sucked," Jones said.

Junior Katy Alvarez also felt that college was heaven, however, she felt that it was heaven for a different reason than Jones. "I think it's heaven because you get to move out, get your first taste of freedom and build some character that makes you who you are and what you will do with your life," Alvarez said.

It could have been argued that by the time students reached those last couple of years, they have made up their minds over the age old question. Senior Tre Hamilton felt that students have made their minds up before they reached

their junior and senior semesters. "I think that by the time you reach where I'm at, you have to think that college is heaven to still be here because if you think it is hell than you would have quit already," Hamilton said.

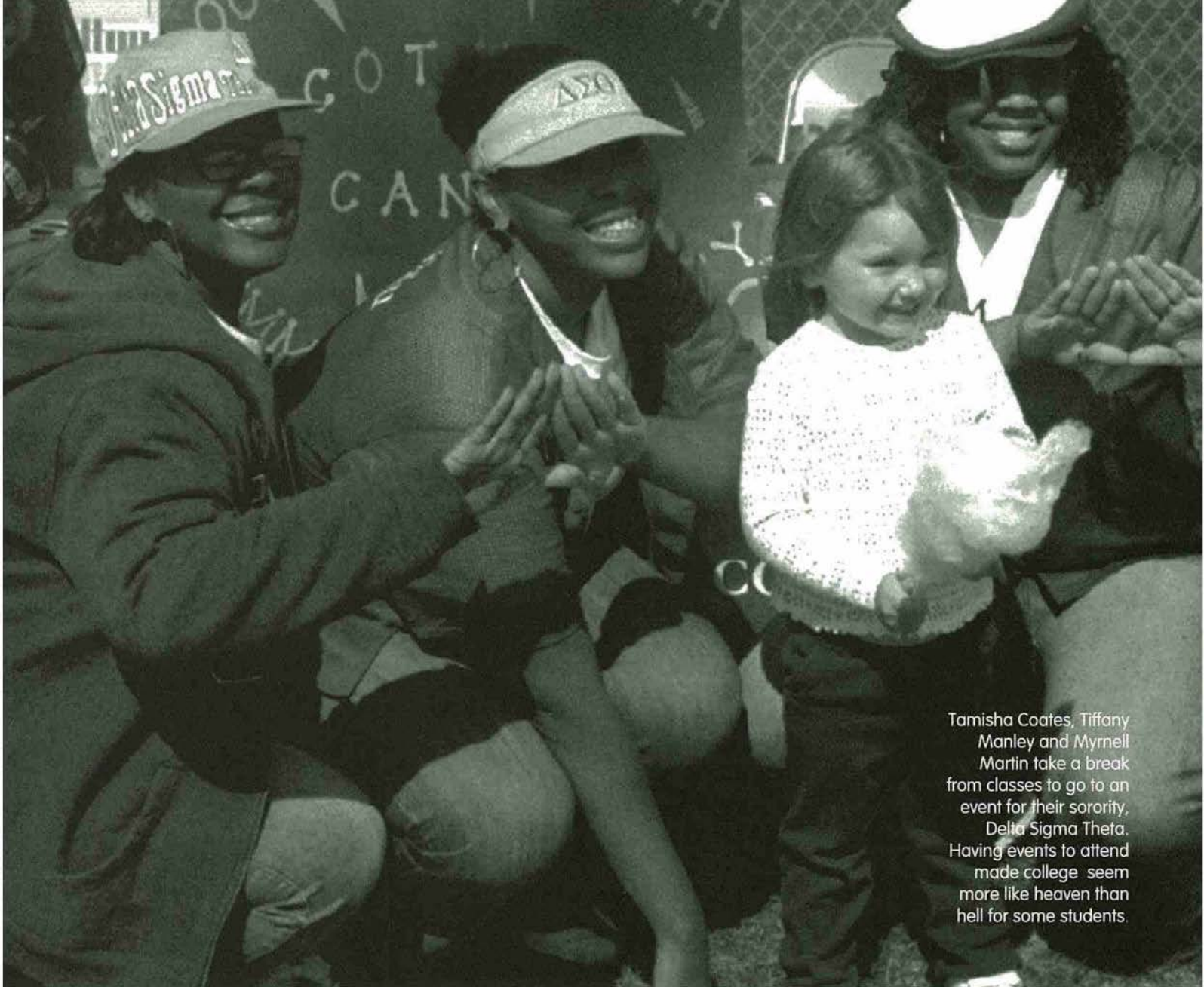
Hamilton also felt that at times college could have been both. "College can be hell, especially during finals, but overall I believe it is heaven and that's my two cents about it," Hamilton said.

Even so, some students still saw college as hell. Alvarez felt that some students might have believed college was hell because of the way they went about it. "Someone might think it's hell because they're making it harder than it really is, they're making wrong decisions or they're not living up to the fullest extent of what they could be doing," Alvarez said.

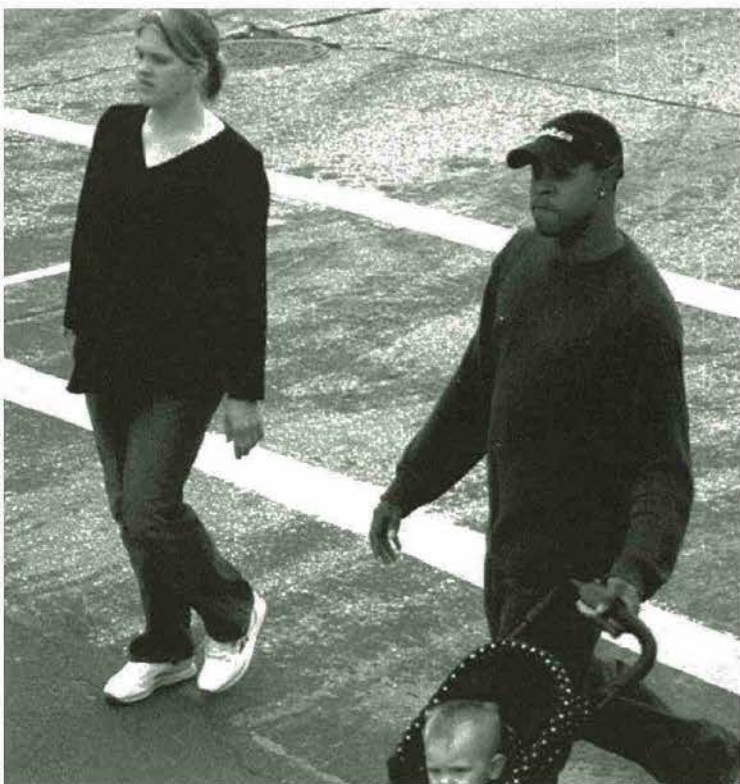
Jones had a similar opinion to that of Alvarez. "I think that if students don't apply themselves than it would be hell, because to me, students that do apply themselves have an easier time getting through college," Jones said.

All in all, each student who attended college had their own opinion on the question. Each of these students probably changed their minds every once in a while especially depending upon how their day was going at certain moments. No matter what side of the fence they were originally on, for most students, college was most likely a little bit of both heaven and hell.



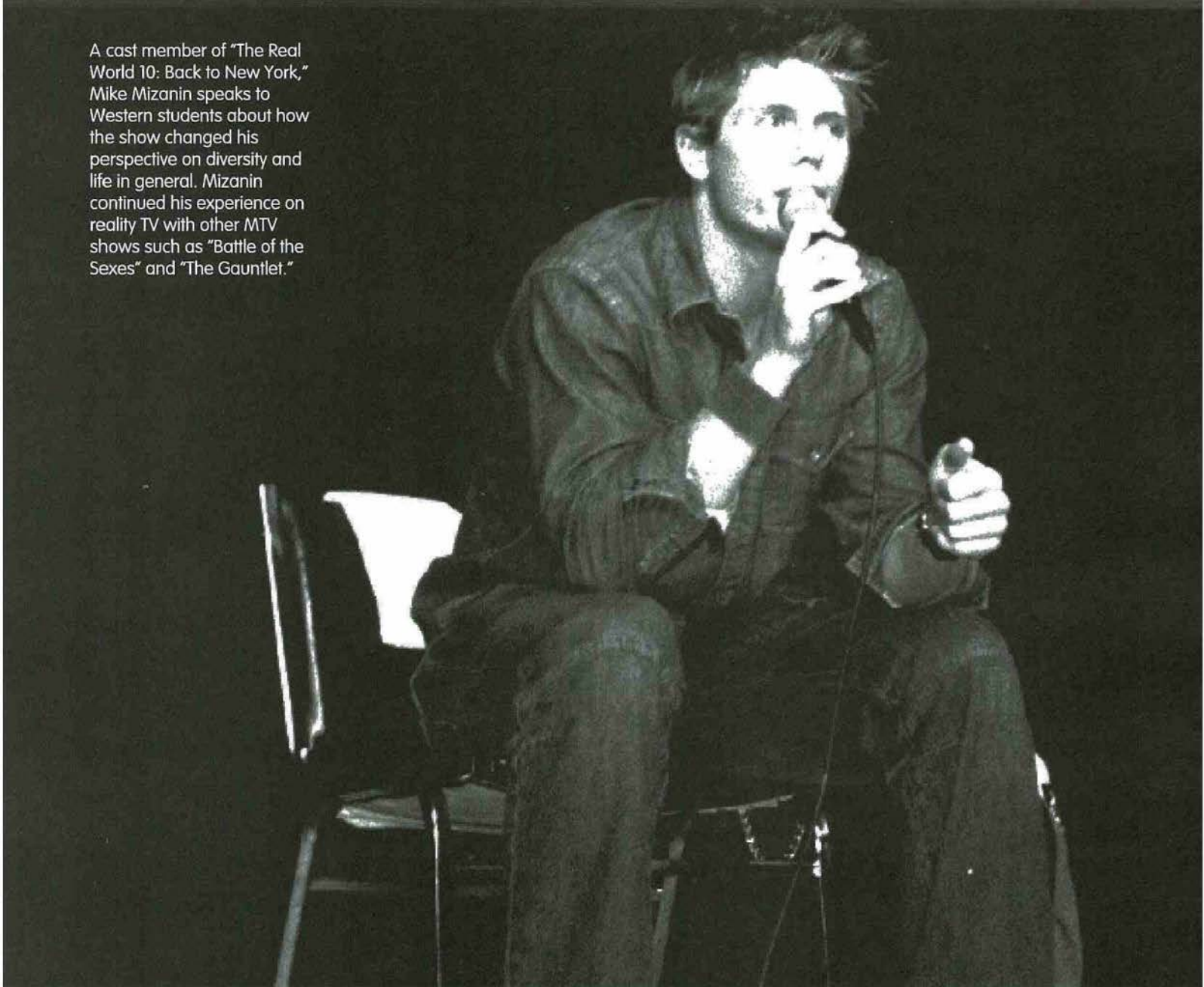


Tamisha Coates, Tiffany Manley and Myrnell Martin take a break from classes to go to an event for their sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. Having events to attend made college seem more like heaven than hell for some students.



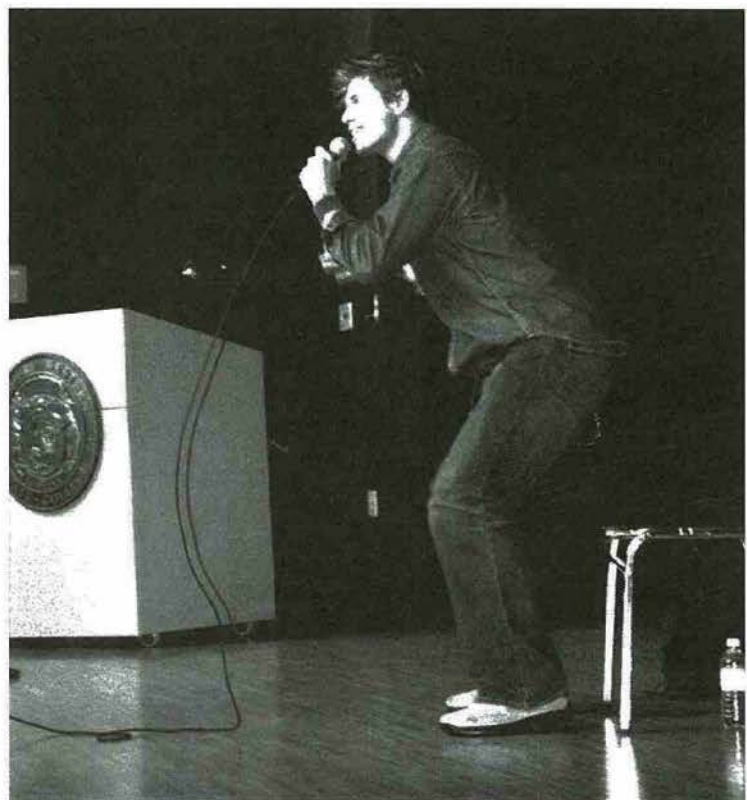
Above: Cynthia Allen studies for a class in the library. Studying made college seem like hell for most students. Photo by Ashley Bacon. Left: A family walks together to the annual Family Day event. Family Day was just one of many events that helped students to see college more like heaven than hell.

A cast member of "The Real World 10: Back to New York," Mike Mizanin speaks to Western students about how the show changed his perspective on diversity and life in general. Mizanin continued his experience on reality TV with other MTV shows such as "Battle of the Sexes" and "The Gauntlet."



Above: The audience listens as Mizanin discusses the importance of giving back to the community. This event was sponsored by Campus Activities Board.

Right: Mizanin introduces the audience to "The Miz," his alter-ego, which is a trash-talking wrestler. Wrestling was a hobby for Mizanin that he planned to pursue as a career.



Are you ready for the Miz?

Mike keeps it real with Western students as he speaks on diversity and other issues

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Amanda Daniels

This is the true story of a member of "The Real World 10: Back to New York," speaking on Western's campus on Nov. 13.

Twenty-three year old Mike Mizanin, also known as "The Miz," shared his views and experiences concerning diversity and other topics to Western's students.

The event, sponsored by Campus Activities Board, filled the Leah Spratt Multi-Purpose Classroom Building with students that expressed their views on diversity and opened their minds to what Mizanin had to say.

Mizanin mentioned the importance of having an open mind to all experiences especially when it came to diversity.

"Just open your minds, a lot of people are so closed minded that they don't listen to each other," Mizanin said. "Having the knowledge about yourself and other cultures and ways of living is very important because it helps you grow into a more grounded person."

Erin Harris, CAB member, said the organization picked Mizanin to speak at Western because of his familiarity with college students and his issues concerning diversity. "I felt that his speech was very appropriate especially at this time because CAB is dealing with some diversity issues of our own," Harris said.

Jennifer Jones, CAB member agreed with the majority of the topics touched upon by Mizanin, especially the topic about stepping out of your comfort zone. "I was very pleased with the outcome of the speech, and I learned a lot about Mike and the problems he faced," Jones said.

Mizanin not only appealed to the college age

because he was on MTV, but he also was an experienced speaker. He attended George Bush's Points of Light speakers training course at Sonoma State University where he learned how to speak effectively to students about different issues.

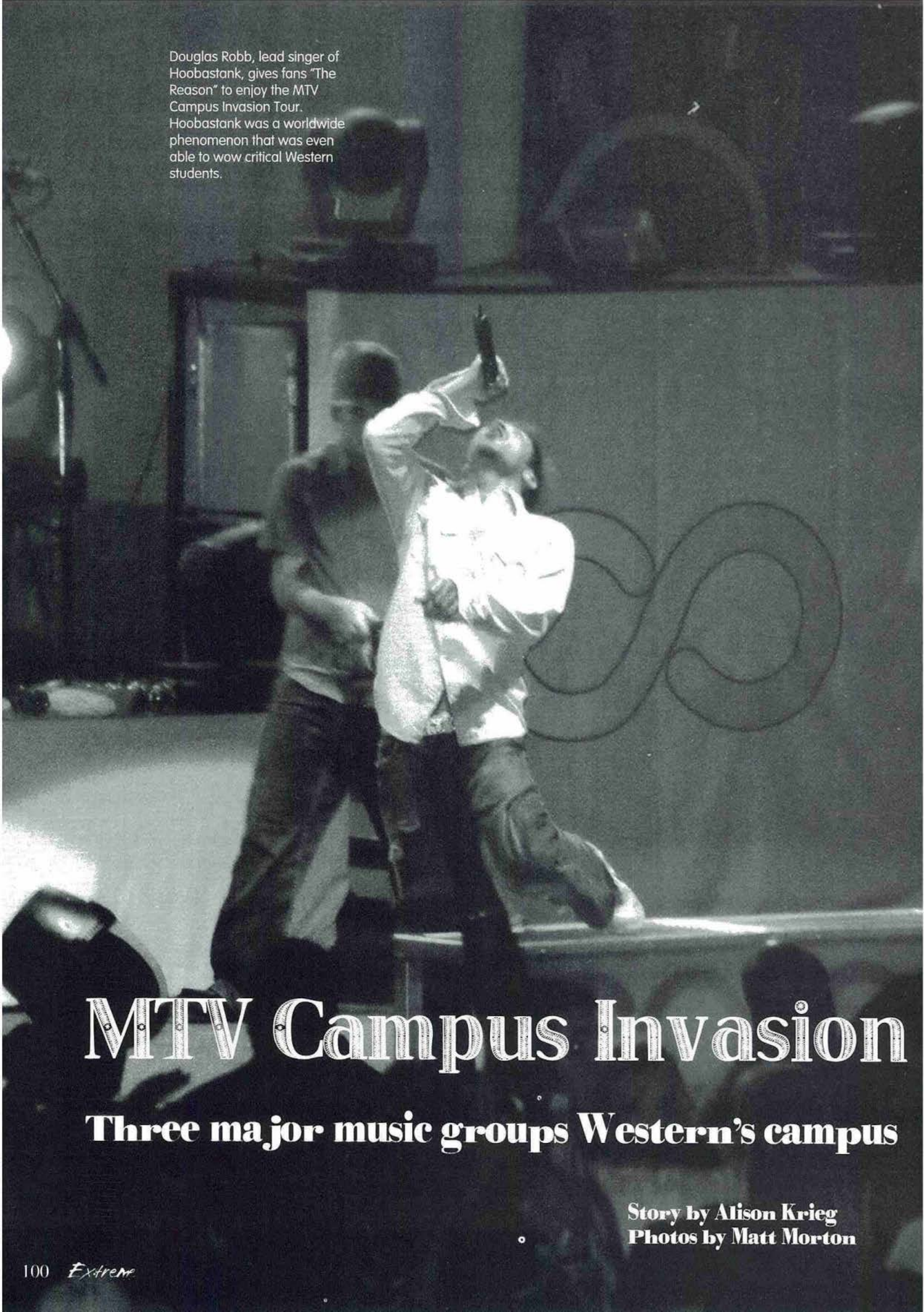
Even though Mizanin had experiences dealing with diversity, that was not always the case prior to his "Real World" experience. As an Ohio native, he was never faced with diversity. Everyone he knew seemed to be just like him, even when he went to college. He wanted a sense of change so he auditioned for "The Real World 10", a situation that definitely put him out of his comfort zone.

"My college was not very diverse," Mizanin said. "Although my social life was great, my college life as a whole was not very fulfilling."

The reality television show brought Mizanin to a sense of reality since he had to live in a house with six strangers who all had different personalities. "I thought I knew everything about life and myself, but the show allowed me to open my eyes up to see that I didn't know that much about myself," Mizanin said.

Along with "The Real World 10: Back to New York," Mizanin also appeared on "The Battle of the Sexes," "The Gauntlet" and "The Inferno," which were three "Real World-Road Rules" challenges.

So why did he keep doing the shows? "I loved everything about being on "The Real World," and the challenges," Mizanin said. "I keep doing it every chance I get because it challenges me and tests my boundaries emotionally, physically and mentally."



Douglas Robb, lead singer of Hoobastank, gives fans "The Reason" to enjoy the MTV Campus Invasion Tour. Hoobastank was a worldwide phenomenon that was even able to wow critical Western students.

MTV Campus Invasion

Three major music groups Western's campus

Story by Alison Krieg
Photos by Matt Morton

Who would have expected a broadcasting station known worldwide to come to Western's campus, not to mention, bringing along famous bands, to perform in a concert that excited fans everywhere they went? On April 13, MTV in company with Hoobastank, Lost Prophets and Ima Robot brought this answer to the students of Western.

Some students were very excited to have the MTV Campus Invasion Tour come to Western, but not too shocked when they heard they were coming.

"When I first saw the posters around that showed MTV was coming to Western I thought it was cool, but I wasn't all that surprised that they had picked a smaller school like ours to come to," freshman Nick Bates said. "I am glad they came here, we have deserved something big like this for awhile."

The Campus Activities Board made it all possible, allowing it to be free admission for Western students if they showed their student ID's. Non-Western students received tickets for \$20.

It was a pretty big deal to most to know that the same tour that came through St Joseph was the same tour that had gone all around the nation, which started off in Tennessee and ended in Virginia.

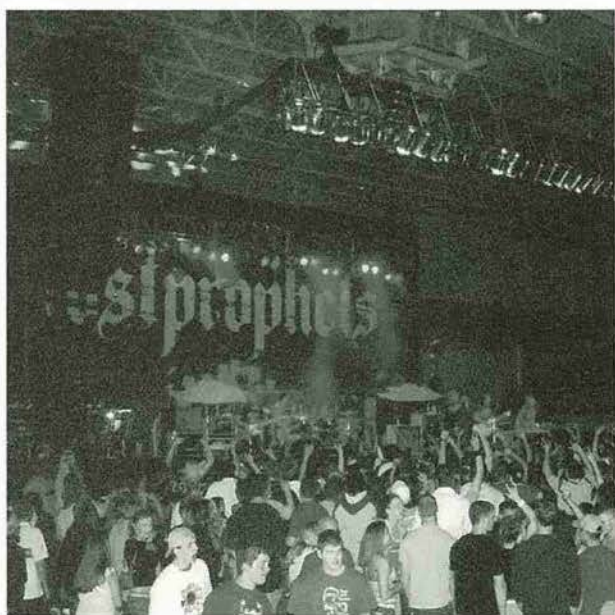
"We started off in the East Coast and now are making our way through the West Coast," Alex Ebert, lead singer from Ima Robot said. "St. Joseph is a great town, it is very small compared to most towns we've been through, but on some free time I got to take a walk so it was nice."

Before the concert, MTV set up a meet-and-greet on campus so some students had the chance to get autographs from the bands. Others had a chance to get pictures with the band and talk to them, but only a few got to actually work with them.

"CAB asked for some extra help setting up the stage and tearing it down," junior Dustin Racen said. "I knew this would be a fun and good experience for me, so I volunteered to help out; my job was to help with the mics, the sound production and the lighting. I also helped set up the stage between each act; it was a great experience to be working with people so well known."

Even the people who just came to sit back and enjoy the show felt like they were into it all too. The floor of the Civic Arena was open for standing room.

"I came to the concert with some of my frat brothers, we were all on the floor in front of the stage," Bates said. "It was like a big loud party, everyone was just hanging out singing and yelling for the bands and having fun."



Top: Singing along with Hoobastank, the crowd knew all of the songs from both albums. "Crawling in the Dark" and "Running Away" were two familiar songs from the band's first album.

Bottom: Energetic fans rock out as they gather at the front of the stage. Many fans got their excitement by crowd-surfing through the audience.

Student Internships

Students get experience by working in major-related fields

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Katie Myers

College students have all heard about them and were told we needed them, in some cases even expected them, at some point in our career as college students. Internships were believed, by some, to be vital in obtaining the hands-on practice needed for job preparation.

Oftentimes students could acquire them because their major required it for the experience itself before entering the work field.

Western offered all kinds of internships on-campus, locally and long-distance. Most students found out about internships through an advisor in their department or from brochures and posters in the career development center. No matter how they came across internships, they were seen as a head start in one's career.

Corporal Robert Bidding of the public safety department was in charge of managing the internships for prospective students. These internships were available to mainly criminal justice, which required it. Bidding focused one central aspect of the internship that was beneficial to students.

"We offer an entry level experience, and that is the main bonus for students," Bidding said. "Anyone can receive an education in college, but experience is what will get you by in the job market."

This internship in particular was most valuable for students who wanted to go into the law enforcement field, and the student could take the internship as a practicum course or actually get paid for it.

There were several sources where students at Western

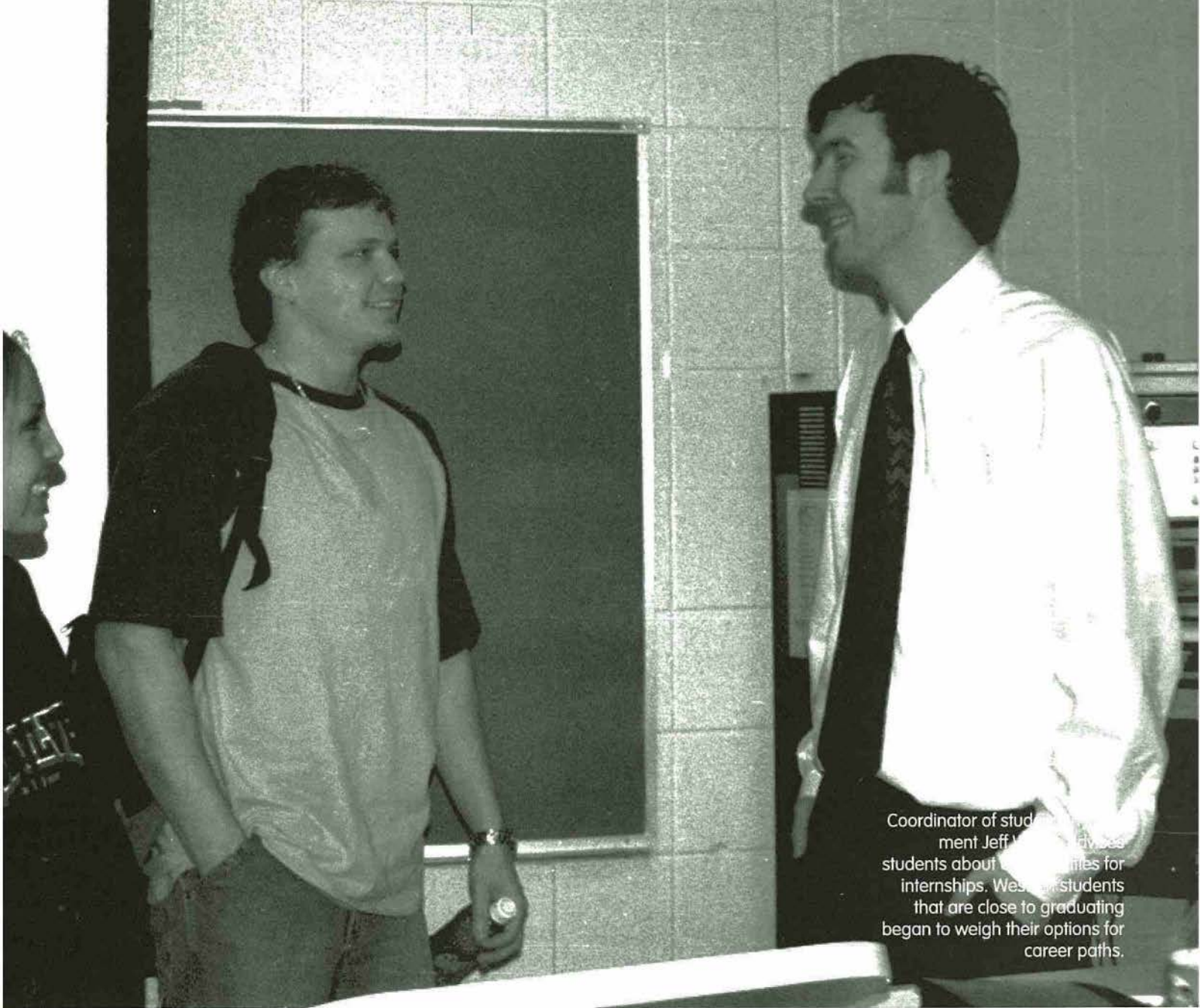
could seek internship opportunities. The career development center was a place where students were not only informed about an internship, they could also receive help on preparing for the program.

Linda Garlinger, director of the career development office, said that they offered help with resumes, cover letters, practice interview and several other job etiquette tips. "We help students with acquiring and preparing for internship programs, also for future employment," Garlinger said.

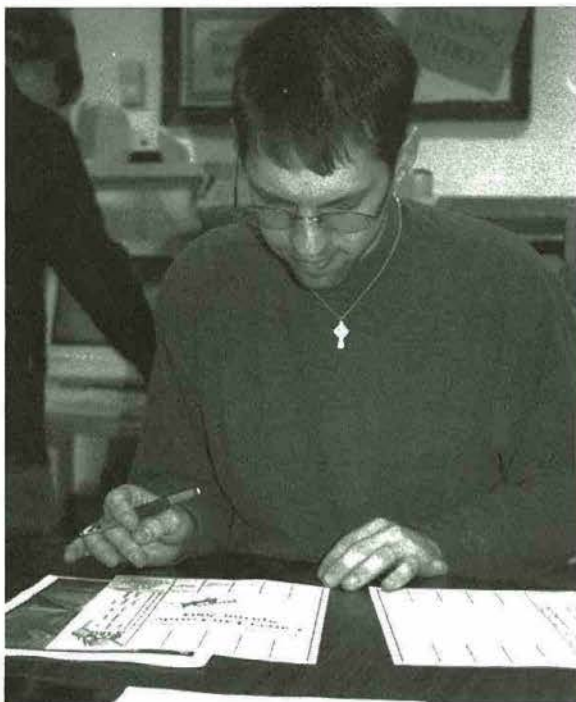
In order for a student to have been accepted into internship programs they would have already declared a major. "A good time for students to start looking for internships would be the summer of their sophomore year," Garlinger said.

Long-distance internships can also be a good opportunity for some considering the change of environment. The Walt Disney World college program was one among many long distance internships that were offered to students. Missouri native sophomore Erinn Cohen was apart of the internship at Walt Disney World, which provided a job, room and board and six credit hours toward college.

"It's really a great opportunity for me as a student because we go to class and also work," Cohen said. "The disadvantage would be that I'm so far away from home and also my friends at Western until August."



Coordinator of student services
 ment Jeff Williams provides
 students about the opportunities for
 internships. West students
 that are close to graduating
 began to weigh their options for
 career paths.



Left: John Seever studies the computer charts as a part of his internship in the CAI Lab. Internships were helpful in giving students a foot in the door toward their future careers.

Above: Junior Beth Williams works as an intern in the public safety office. Williams had to keep a log of her worked hours.



Members of the Color Guard wave their flags high in the air as they show off their moves. A windy day made the Color Guards' flags hard to control.

Twirling with Spirit

The Color Guard shows their school spirit whether it be on the field or the court

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran

To most people a flag is something they say the Pledge of Allegiance to, but to some a flag is a form of art. The Golden Griffon Guard practiced day and night with their flags, making sure that every move was perfect. "We practice every day with the band in the afternoon; then, we practice twice a week from 9 to 11 p.m.," sophomore Katie Dunn said.



Top: The Western Color Guard align themselves before they perform during halftime at a home football game. The Color Guard performed with the Mystics and Golden Griffon Marching Band. Center: The Color Guard performs at the Homecoming game after weeks of practice with the Mystic Dancers and band. Practice for the big performance took place everyday after school. Above: The Gold Griffon Guard perform at a football game. The group organized each routine with help from all members.

The women also attended a camp over the summer for more practice. "It takes a lot of dedication, time and skills to be in the color guard," sophomore Alisha Montgomery said.

Dunn agreed with Montgomery. "It takes dedication, patience, hard work and a creative mind," Dunn said.

Band Director Jeff Hinton, chose junior Tara Stull as captain. "This year I learned how to be a leader," Stull said.

Stull had participated in the color guard for six years. "After high school I figured 'let's go for it in college,'" Stull said. "I figured it was a logical step, and I enjoy it."

Most of the women had participated in the color guard for seven to eight years. "I did it in high school, and thought that it would be a good way to meet people," senior Dawni Collins said.

The Golden Griffon Guard performed at football games, pep rallies, Homecoming and parades with the marching band and the Mystics.

"Color guard is part of the band," Stull said. "We and the Mystics are the vision of the sound."

Being in the color guard took up time and patience. They had to work hard to be in sync with the bands, the Mystics and each other all at the same time.

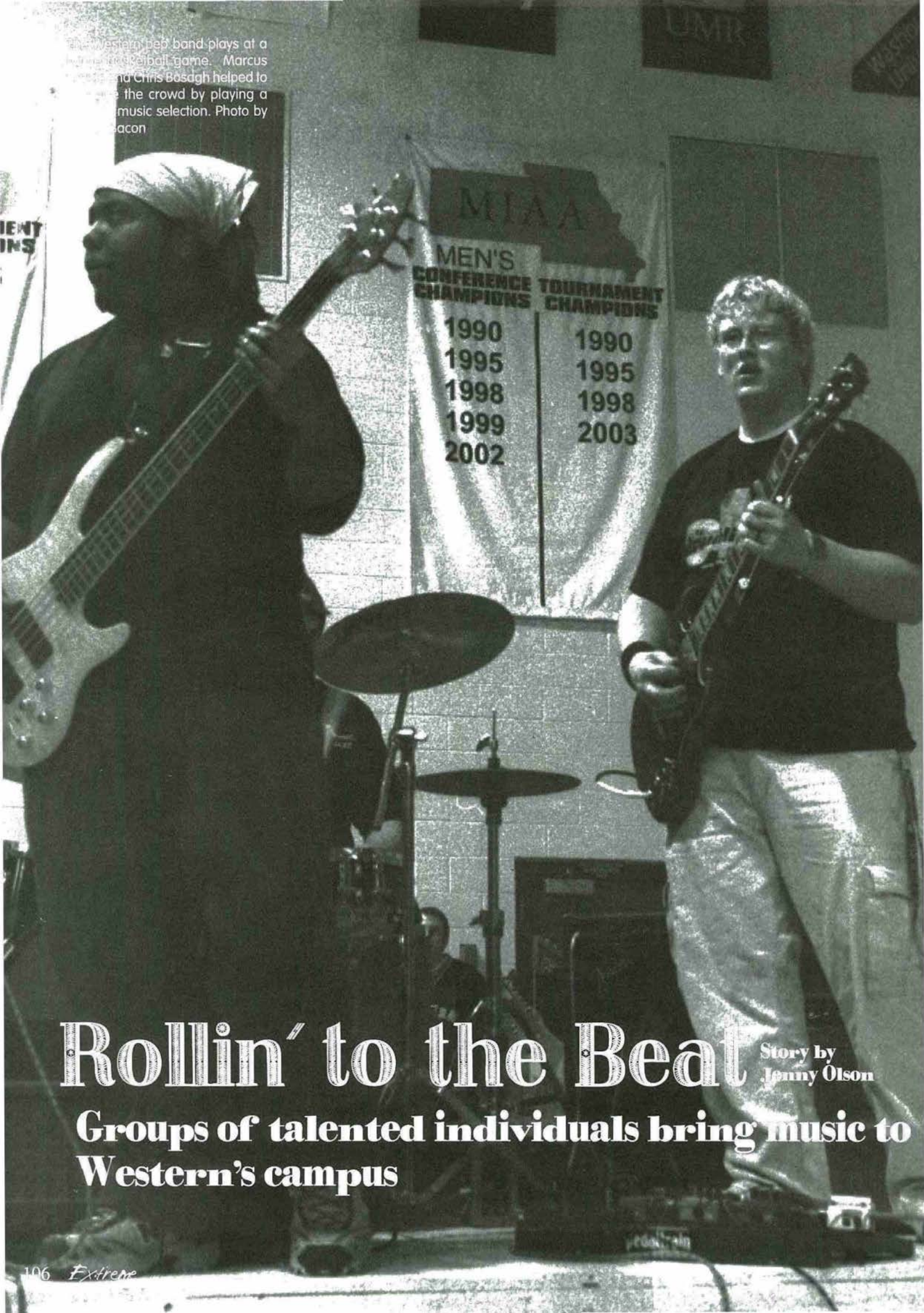
"It's not as easy as everyone thinks it is," Dunn said. "People don't realize the commitment that has to go into it."

Although the color guard could be difficult, the women thought that anyone who was dedicated enough could do it. "I think that anyone can be in the color guard as long as they have the dedication and they gain the skill," Montgomery said.

A lot of the girls said that they have learned some skills from being in the color guard that they will take with them in life. "I've learned teamwork, hand and eye coordination and communication skills," Collins said.

Being a member of the Gold Griffon Guard had many benefits and the girls were proud to say they were in the group.

The Western pep band plays at a football game. Marcus [Name] and Chris Boudgh helped to [Name] the crowd by playing a [Name] music selection. Photo by [Name] Bacon



Rollin' to the Beat Story by Jenny Olson

Groups of talented individuals bring music to Western's campus

What's a football game without a halftime show? What's a parade without a marching band? It's hard to think what life would be like without music. The Western bands provided music for their audience in many different ways.

"Missouri Western has a very active music department, and we host several festivals throughout the year," Jeff Hinton, director of bands and instrumental studies, said. Every year, the Golden Griffon Marching Band hosted the Tournament of Champions, a high school marching band competition, and marched in the Homecoming parade. The band also toured to various cities in the Midwest.

It took time and dedication to prepare for these performances. The time of practices varied depending on the type of band.

"For marching band, on a game week, we spend 10 to 14 hours in preparation," Hinton said. "For concert band, we like to perform after 10-14 rehearsals so the music stays fresh and the challenge level remains high."

The time-consuming practices paid off for the Western Symphonic Winds when they performed at the Missouri Music Educators Association Convention in Osage Beach.

"Over 1,000 fellow music educators gave our band an instant standing ovation after our performance," Hinton said. "It was very gratifying to realize that we have a great college band that is able to be compared with nine other larger universities/colleges in the state."

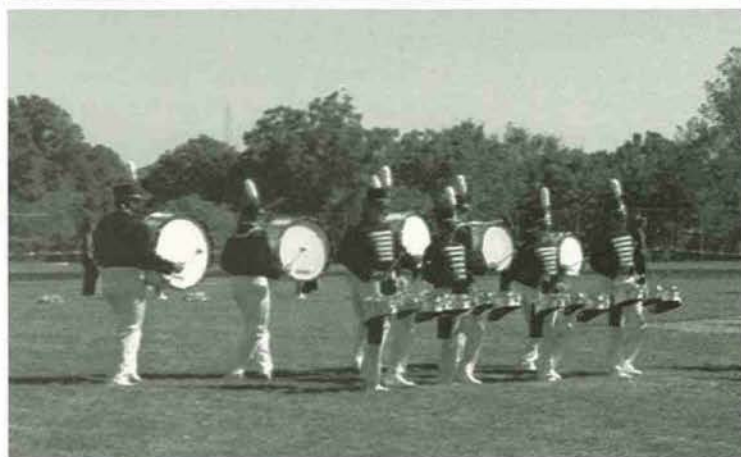
For some band members, the time put into practice outside of class seemed like a disadvantage at times. "There is a lot of work involved in preparing for concerts and games, but it is worth it in the end," junior Christopher McDonald said.

Sophomore Tyler Shafer felt the same way. "Band is a one hour credit, but in reality much more time is put in it," Shafer said. "We meet for an hour and a half every day during the week and on some Saturdays, and we should practice outside of class as well."

Both McDonald and Shafer knew what they were getting themselves into because they played in band throughout high school. However, they soon found out that high school band and college band had many differences.

Hinton knew from firsthand experience how different a high school band and a college band were, since he taught high school bands for seven years before he became a collegiate director.

"The musicians in a college band are here because they have a passion for what they do," Hinton said. "Because of that, we perform more difficult and rewarding music; we get to work on artistic and aesthetic qualities instead of 'this is how you play the part;' it's a rewarding experience."



Top: The band requires many hours of practice as they prepare for the new season. They were completely dedicated to perfect their sound. Photo by Johntell Young. Middle: The trumpet section helps the crowd cheer on the Griffon football team. Our Fight Song, "Fight on Griffons!," was played after every Griffon touchdown. Photo by Jennifer Moran. Bottom: The drumline showcases their skills during the halftime show of a football game. The drumline had always been the ultimate crowd pleaser. Photo by Johntell Young.

Middle East to MO-West

Western professors speak about
Operation Iraqi Freedom

Story By Tanisha Washington
Photos By Johntell Young

Living in America and going through various dramatic situations can become stressful. However, it could be even more stressful and confusing for those who grew up in another country that

America is fighting with.

The land of opportunity and dreams soon became the land of reality for two professors from the Middle East. Nader Vargha and Reza Hamzaee, both of the economics department, expressed how it felt to be from the Middle East and be a part of American life.

Hamzaee and Vargha resided in the United States for numerous years, but they still had great concerns about their homeland in Iran as well as the many endeavors of the United States. The main concern was the outlook of the war, Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"No, I don't think the war was a mistake if it was done through a collective decision at the international level," Hamzaee said. "But, I don't think it is going as planned."

Vargha felt a little differently about his stance on the war.

"The war was unnecessary," Vargha said. "Our efforts to fight terrorism should have been concentrated in Afghanistan. That is where the guy responsible was located."

The professors believed OIF's failure was due to the planning process. "If the planners had truly thought this thing through, they would have come to the conclusion the effort has to be a multinational effort," Vargha said.

The focus on the war by the media was seen as a distraction from the election.

"Changes and counterchanges in the election are being modified," David Steiniche, professor of political science, said. "Campaign advertising is being replaced by actual events such as what is going on in Iraq."

All three professors had different views on the issues of the removal of Saddam Hussein by President Bush.

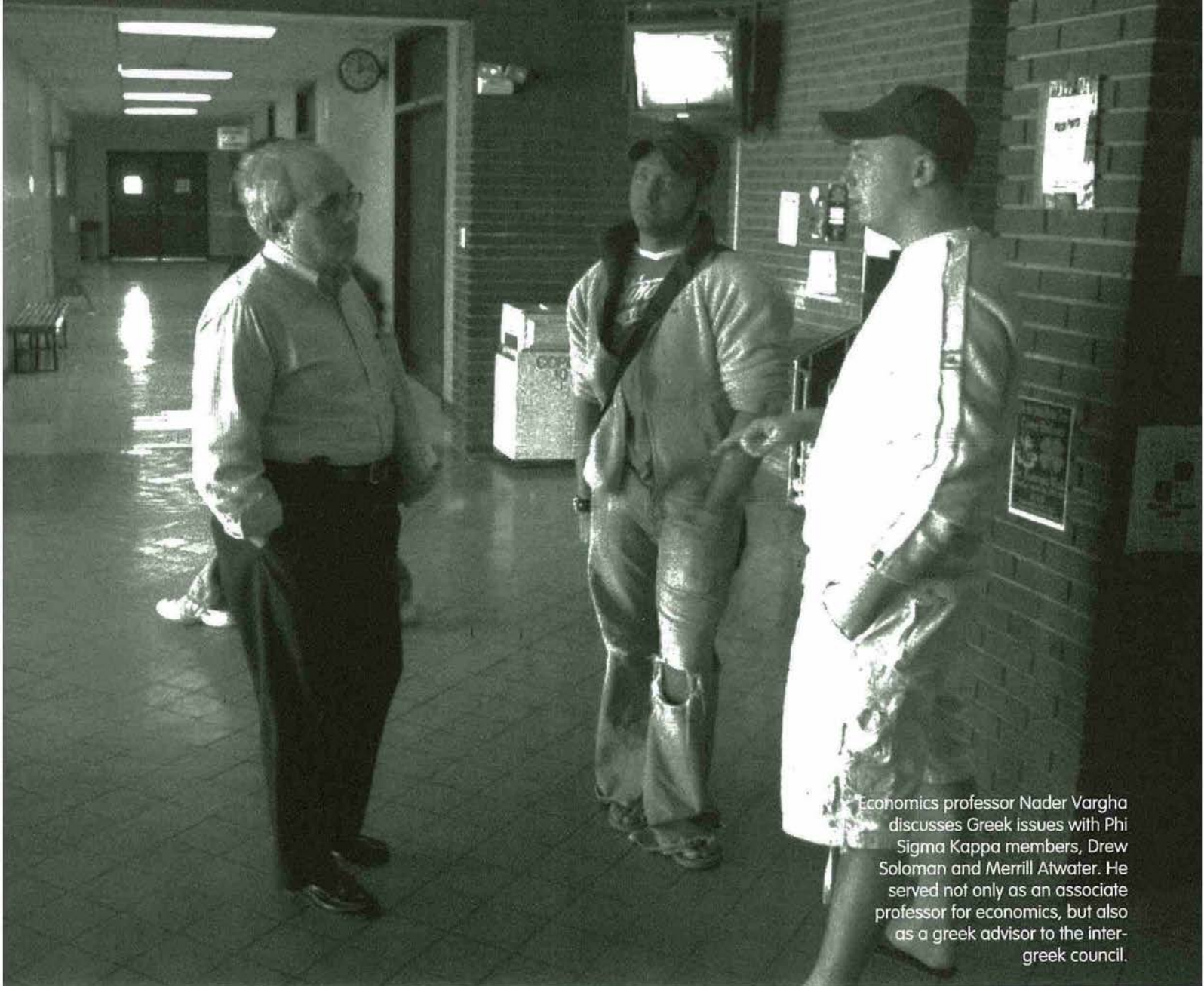
"I believe the removal of Saddam was one of the best things ever done for the Iraqis and the rest of the world," Hamzaee said. "Yet, it was done in a wrong way."

Steiniche had a different view. "Bush thought all the Iraqi citizens would rejoice with liberation from dictatorship, but there is obviously more resistance than he thought there was going to be."

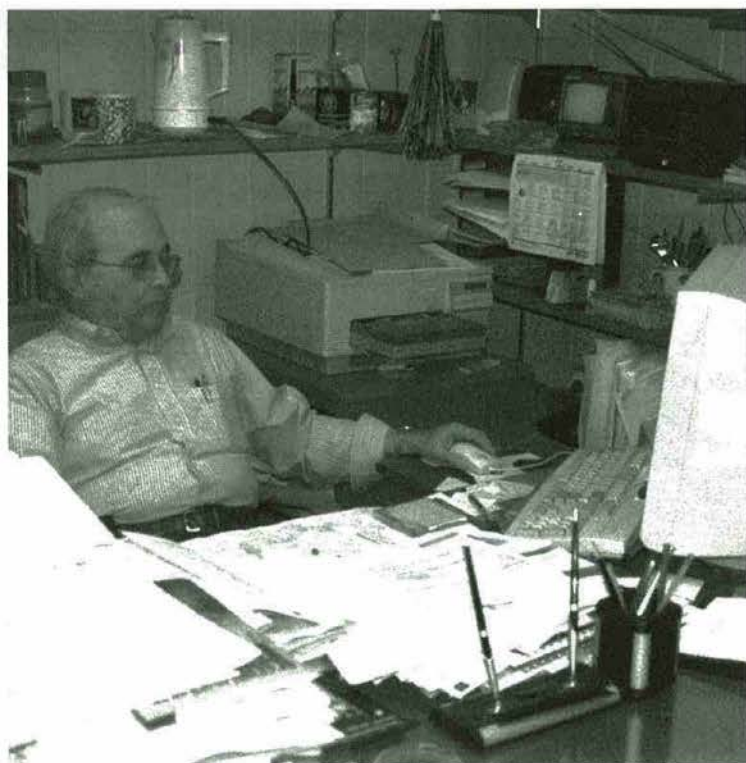
Another concern was whether or not the citizens of Iran were concerned about the war going on around them. Since the war was in Iraq, Iran did not seem deeply concerned about it. "I'm not sure a large part of Iran is worried about Iraq, but they are worried about the large number of Americans in Iran," Vargha said.

With all the current war problems and effects of the election, many wondered if the right decisions were being made. "The United Nations and other international coalitions would work best," Hamzaee said.

All in all, it was believed that terrorism would increase as long as mistakes were made. "A wise global diplomacy is urgently needed to bring the evil of terrorism and war under a gradual control by and for the global community," Hamzaee said.



Economics professor Nader Vargha discusses Greek issues with Phi Sigma Kappa members, Drew Soloman and Merrill Atwater. He served not only as an associate professor for economics, but also as a greek advisor to the inter-greek council.



Above: Reza Hamzaee remains focused in teaching economics even with all the turmoil occurring in his homeland. He dedicated 20 years of his career to Western.

Left: Preparing for each of his classes, Vargha spends numerous hours working on his computer. He also found time to keep up on the current events in his war-locked, native country.

Powerful Hands

The physical therapy department sponsors
Massage Day to relieve stress for students

Story by Alison Krieg
Photos by Ashley Bacon

“I cannot think of a better time for the physical therapy department to sponsor a Massage Day for

Western students other than during midterms,” senior Lindsay Olinger said.

Massage Day was held in the middle of March, during the week of midterms. The program took place two days out of the week. It cost six dollars for a fifteen minute massage.

“We have been providing our massage days for about three years, we try to have a Massage Day twice a year, director of the physical therapist program Maureen Raffensperger said. “We have noticed that the best time to provide these services is during midterms.”

During midterms students all over the nation stressed out and spent many late nights cramming for tests.

“A friend of mine is a physical therapy major and she knew how stressed out I had been with late night studying plus working a part time job,” Olinger said. “She insisted that I come to the massage day to get a massage. It was a nice experience, I couldn’t believe how much more relaxed I was afterwards.”

Participants had a choice of whether they wanted to be massaged on either their neck or back. The money went toward the physical therapists club fund. With the money, the students would help pay for the professional activities that took place.

“This is our best fundraiser we have, it can benefit everyone,” physical therapist, Juana Reed said. “Each time we do this our turn-out improves, this year we made about \$300. The Massage Day is a wonderful way for us to practice the different massage techniques we have learned and it also helps us raise money to go on PTA trips, conferences and ceremonies.”

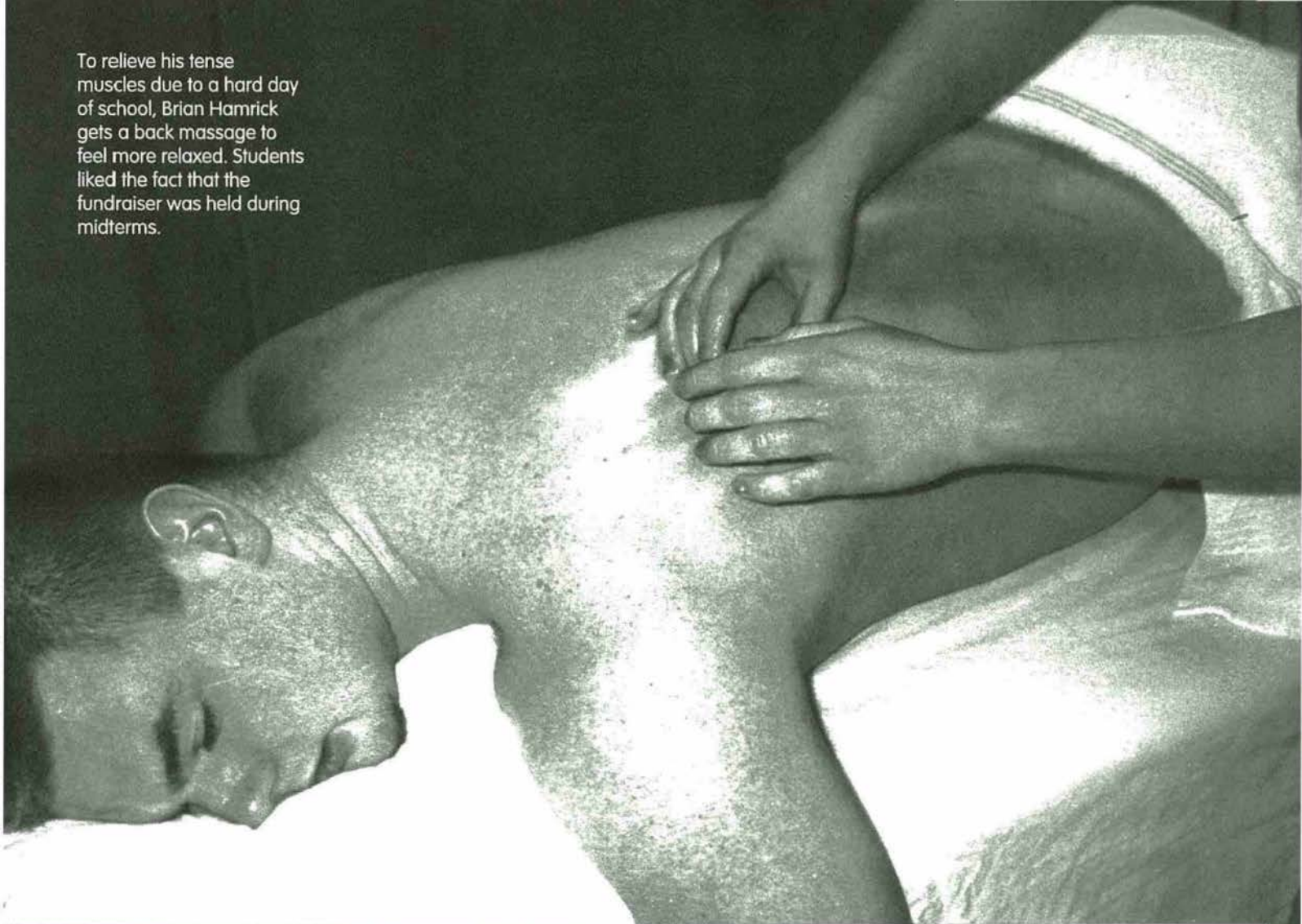
The students who demonstrated their talents were the ones who had been in the program for a couple years; they knew which techniques worked for specific sore or tense muscles.

“The students who provide the massages must be at least second-year students,” Raffensperger said. “All the students get the opportunity to be involved with the fundraiser, but only the upper-class gets to do the actual massaging. The newer students to the program assist the older students. They do the laundry and get them whatever materials they might need.”

If Massage Day was a free event, the turn-out would have been overwhelming.

“Of course the turn out would be better if it was free, but it was well worth my time and money,” Olinger said.

To relieve his tense muscles due to a hard day of school, Brian Hamrick gets a back massage to feel more relaxed. Students liked the fact that the fundraiser was held during midterms.



Left: Jessica Gifford gives a massage to a student during midterms. The physical therapy department sponsored Massage Day to raise money for the professional activities they participated in.

Right: A Western student enjoys the massage given by Dan Bruce. The session lasted 15 minutes for \$6 a student.

Giving through Adoption

Western VIPs find a way
to give by adopting a family

Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Rachel Siron

Helping the less fortunate was something numerous students at Western learned as part of building themselves to be citizen scholars. A number of students participated in community services to gain experience, earn scholarships or just to have a sense of knowing they helped someone in need.

The Western VIP organization took time out of their schedule and money out of their account to help a whole family. They adopted the family of a Western student. The process began around Thanksgiving and the VIPs made contact with Ellen Smither who chose a non-traditional student's family to adopt.

Smither evaluated students who really needed assistance and the family made a list of things they wanted and needed. A few of the gifts were items such as bedspreads and clothing for the children and clothing and a jewelry box for the mother. Six VIPs went shopping to buy the gifts and everyone helped wrap them.

"Wrapping the presents was fun," junior Kristin Neeley said. "It was exciting knowing that someone else is unexpectedly giving to have a merry Christmas. It's like a dream come true."

After presenting the gifts during finals week, the

family was very thankful for all they had received. The VIPs were also thankful and glad they could give the gift of happiness.

"It helps us understand that we shouldn't take things for granted," Neeley said. "It brings us back down to earth and reminds us that everything isn't as bad as it seems because some have it worse."

The group agreed about the value of giving.

"Anytime I take time out to help someone else, the more I begin to understand it and like it," sophomore Andy Ewing, fellow VIP said. "It becomes something students like to do and eventually something they will do for the rest of their lives."

It was also believed that students should involve themselves in this type of service.

"It's wonderful because the place that we find true greatness is in serving," Mason Mortimer, admissions counselor said. "The wise man once said 'if any of you want to be great in the kingdom, let him be the servant of all.'"

The VIPs had been participators of the adopt-a-family program for multiple years and planned on continuing with the service for many years to come.



Western VIPs look over the gifts for their adopted family. The organization shopped for two hours looking for various gifts.



Above: Kristen Neeley, Hollie Swank and Kim Prosak write gift tags for the presents. Presents were bought for a family of five. Left: Admissions Counselor Kim Prosak wraps a comforter for a child in the family. The Western VIPs were sponsored through the Admissions office.

Below: The production of Grease with its many songs, dance routines and characters dazzles the audience. The Burger Palace Boys and the Pink Ladies played a huge part in the musical. Right: Danny Zuko, played by Adrian Gray, and Sandy Dumbrowski, played by Samantha Lord, get ready for a kiss during the production. The two locked lips numerous times, causing the crowd to cheer.



Story by: Ross Scholz
Photos by: Valissa Kraus

Go Greased Lightnin'

Western students rock 'n' roll in one of the most popular productions in Western's history

Who wouldn't want to be Sandy and Danny? They shared some summer lovin', had a blast and were hopelessly devoted to each other. Western's interpretation of *Grease* was a hit like it was in the 1950s. Many people found themselves strolling down memory lane, and others experienced it for the first time ever.

Grease was the word at Western on Oct. 2-5 as students got a chance to perform one of the most successful musicals of all time. With the hot 1950s cars, the Burger Palace Boys gang and the Pink Ladies, it felt like Western had taken a step back in time.

Directed by Deny Staggs and performed by students, *Grease* was the first musical in three years at Western. Staggs had performed in a production of *Grease* professionally over 30 times so he knew from experience what the audience was looking for.



"The musical *Grease* has a lot of young characters, and the college age is appropriate," Staggs said. "I wanted to bring more people out to Missouri Western."

Staggs accomplished that goal as the house was packed every night. It had been 13 years since the last sold out performance, and people found it had been well worth their time and money.

"I thought it went very well," high school senior William Strong said. "I enjoyed it a lot; it was a really nice play."

Many thought the cast portrayed their characters to a tee. "The students were the perfect cast for the perfect play," Strong said.

Junior Adrian Gray transformed into the Burger Palace Boys gang leader Danny Zuko with ease. "The key to my success was just relaxation, having a good time and making sure I got inside the character to the best of my ability," Gray said.

So whether the audience was leaning back in their chairs listening to "Beauty School Drop Out," "Sandra Dee," "Greased Lightning" or "We Go Together," they enjoyed every moment of it. Even the cast noticed how the audience reacted to the play.

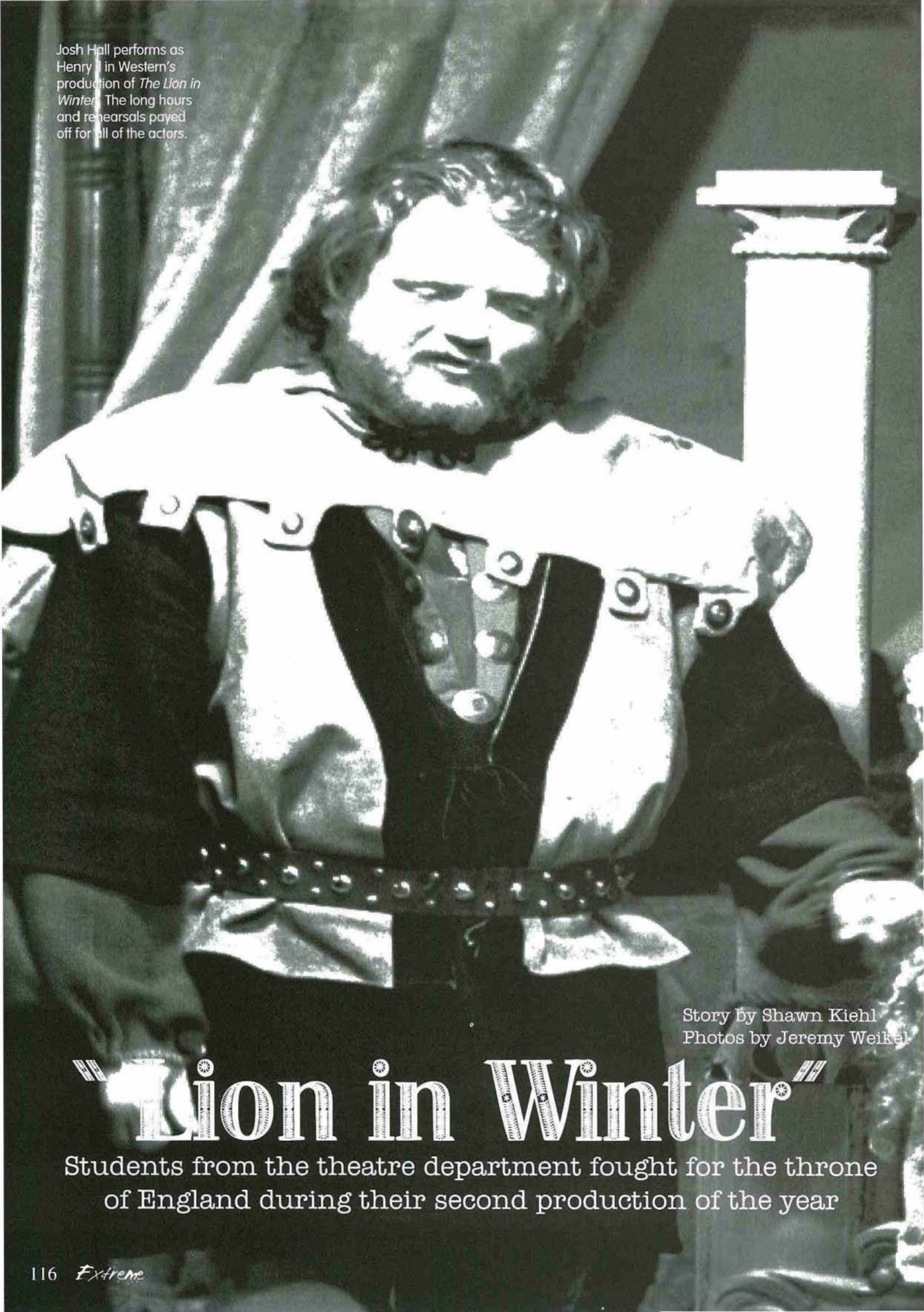
"I thought the audience was electric tonight," Gray said. "It was a packed house, and anytime you here that, your adrenaline gets going. You get pumped up for the performance."

Freshman Anthony Bossler, who played Buddy, a Burger Palace Boy, was thrilled that the audience enjoyed the play. "The audience was awesome; they gave us a lot of energy every night," Bossler said.

The cast and crew worked hard to make sure the play was a success. "It was a lot of hard work, but the students put their time and effort in, and it showed," Staggs said. "The hours of practicing the dance routines and coming together as an ensemble really paid off."



Top: The Burger Palace Boys dance to "Go Greased Lightning." This group of guys were known for greasy hair and fast cars. Middle: The Pink Ladies back up Sandy, played by Lord, as she performs "All Choked Up." The lively production of *Grease* made for a Western favorite. Bottom: Gray, as Danny, performs at the drive-in after Sandy deserts him. This love story with an edge brought about laughter for Western's students.



Josh Hall performs as Henry II in Western's production of *The Lion in Winter*. The long hours and rehearsals payed off for all of the actors.

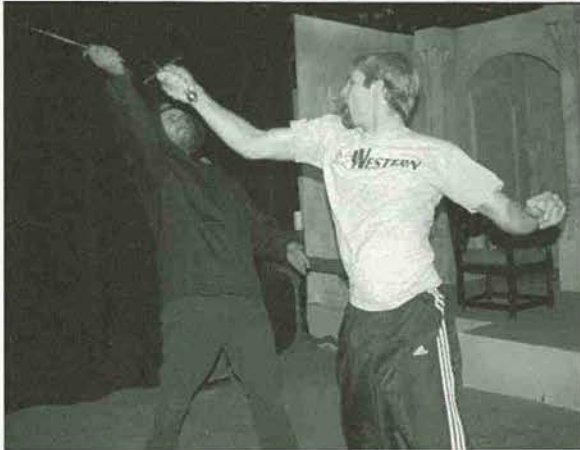
Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Jeremy Weikel

“Lion in Winter”

Students from the theatre department fought for the throne of England during their second production of the year

Toward the end of the fall semester, the theatre department performed its second production. The students did a production of a fictional story based on historical figures, James Goldman's, "*Lion in Winter*." The play was shown November 20-23 in the Black Box Theatre located in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Building.

The plot involved the characters of Henry II; his three sons Richard, Geoffrey, John and their fight over which son would gain the throne of the King of England after Henry's passing. Don Lillie directed the play. "Don did a good job at directing it and we had an excellent cast that did a great job with their individual characters," sophomore, Justin Gabbert said.



Top: Seniors Josh Hall and Nathan Schmoe practice their sword fighting. It took a lot of dedication and practice to get the fight scenes to look realistic. Middle: Richard Lionheart, played by Schmoe, begins a powerful monologue. The actors put in months of rehearsal for the three performances. Bottom: Justin Gabbert, Sophomore, staggers forward with knife in hand. "*Lion in Winter*" made for a more serious dramatic piece to Western's choice of productions.

"The script is interesting, and it's an interesting read with a lot of sarcasm and wit in it," Senior Liam Davis-Mead said. Mead played the role of Geoffrey who was the middle son of Henry II, played by Josh Hall. The oldest son, Richard Lionheart, played by senior Nathan Schmoe, agreed that the script was his favorite part. "It's a great script and it was really fun to do," Schmoe said.

An essential part of the play was how it was written. James Goldman wrote the script with both a serious and funny manner. The play pulled off the two extremes successfully.

"It's a weird play because it's serious and hilarious at the same time," Schmoe said. "It's fun to do something like that, where you can actually play with the mood of the play and the ups and downs."

Gabbert, who played the role of the youngest son, John, loved the way the characters were presented. "It's a witty play and I love the way the story is played out with each character," Gabbert said.

The remaining three characters were Eleanor, Henry's wife, played by Morgan Perry; Alais, a French Princess, played by Lauren Spencer and Philip, King of France and sister to Alais, played by Kellen Perry.

Many of the actors have done plays in the past; however, "*Lion in Winter*" was Mead's first play at Western. "This is the first time I've been involved in the theatre at Western. I'm taking an intro to theatre class and they want everyone to do something, so I decided to go read and then Don gave me the part of Geoffrey," Mead said.

All in all, Western's production of *The Lion in Winter* was an astonishing play. The production was yet another genre of play under the belt of Western's theatre department. The actors thanked all of those who attended.

The theater department of Western worked to open the minds of students and community members. The department wanted to bring something new to the table, so it brought Western a play which exposed the audience to the controversial issues of homosexuality and religion by performing the play "Angels in America" by Tony Kushner.

Freshman Steven Hickman played the role of Joseph Porter Pitt. In the play he was a Mormon man married to a woman who heard voices and saw imaginary people. His inner struggle throughout the play was that he was a homosexual male trying to lie to himself to cover the fact.

"I was actually not all that uncomfortable playing that particular role," Hickman said. "The kiss scene was a little uneasy, but it wasn't like it was the hardest thing I have ever had to do."

Seeing these particular scenes made an impact on the audience. "When some people got up and walked out after a couple of the more vulgar scenes, we weren't all that shocked," stage manager Candice Schrader said. "We knew we were taking a chance with this type of play. People probably heard the title "Angels in America" and did not expect to see what they saw; it was definitely way different from something well-known like "Grease."

The reaction of some was expected by cast members as well. "There were a variety of reactions which I expected to happen; there were laughs, gasps and people walking out," Hickman said.

Some people involved in the theatre department were unsure of how the play would go over with the students and the community.

"As controversial as the play was, I was shocked that there wasn't more of a reaction or protest," sophomore Brandon Tiller said. "I thought the play was very well done and that the actors did a great job."

Being in the production was seen as a good experience by the people who participated. There was a lot of time and effort that went into making the play a success.

"I did not realize how much time it would take to perfect something; it took many hours of the day for practice and also personal time to get all my lines learned," Hickman said. "Being in this play made me see how much time and effort it takes to put on a good production."

The production was an opportunity for Western to show what the theater department was capable of.

"This was a great chance for our school to open some eyes; we hope to have more productions similar to this one in the future," Schrader said. "It was neat to be able to demonstrate so many different controversial issues."



Top: Prior Walter reassures lover Ironson, played by Tim Cross, who was sick, that his disease would not keep them apart. There were a variety of reactions from the audience, many enjoyed it, but others were appalled and even walked out.

Middle: Husband and wife, Joseph Porter Pitt, played by Steven Hickman and Harper Amanty Pitt, played by Melissa Gregory, have a confrontation over Joseph's sexuality. Hickman felt comfortable playing the role of Joseph Porter Pitt, although he was a little uneasy with kissing another male.

Bottom: Ironson and Pitt interact during one of the many controversial scenes of the production. A play with such controversy was something new for the audience of Western.

One Man's Journey

Western's final production took students inside the sudden fame of an average man

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran

Alpha Psi Omega presented "Valparaiso," the last play of the semester, on April 22-25 in Western's Black Box Theatre, directed by Kellen Perry.

This was Perry's first play to direct at Western. "I wasn't really nervous about directing because these people are my friends," Perry said. "I've known about this for a year, so I was ready for it."

The production followed main character Michael Majeski, played by sophomore Brent Cory. Majeski was a businessman who planned on taking a trip to Valparaiso, Fla. He ended up in Valparaiso, Chile and his story turned him into an instant celebrity.

Cory had his major role debut by playing the lead character. "It was such a big role and it was a lot of work," Corey said. "I'm used to small parts in plays and this was my first big part so it was a little nerve-racking."

Senior Erika Pontius played Livia, Michael's wife. Livia was very obsessed with certain things and was a constant reminder of an accident that Michael caused, which injured their son. This causes them to have a troubled marriage that they tried to hide from the media.

Pontius had to overcome a few obstacles when

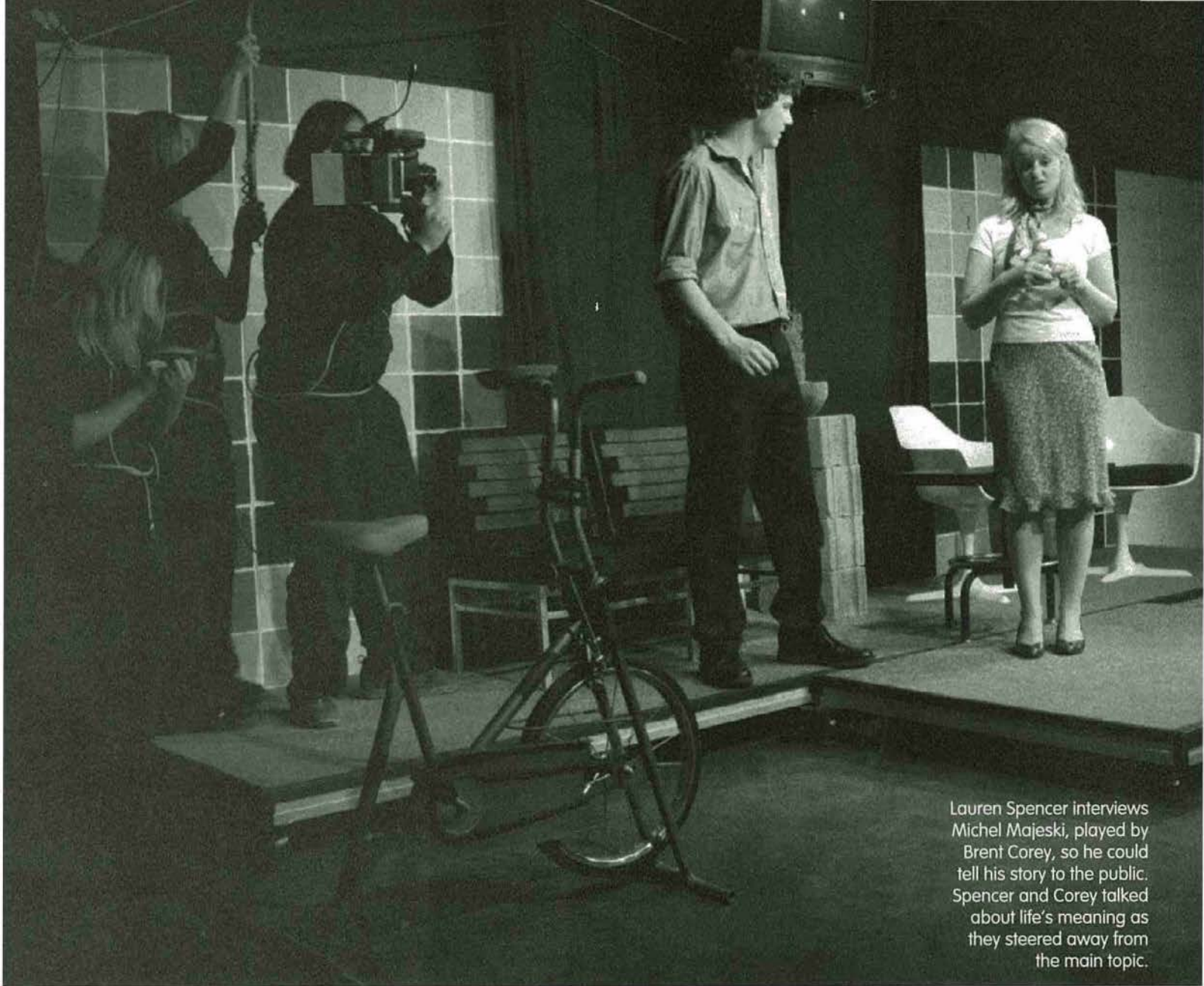
getting to know her character. "The most challenging thing that I found about playing Livia was finding the energy to focus," Pontius said.

She knew from firsthand experience how to overcome this challenge. "I transferred to Western my sophomore year and just dived into acting and couldn't stop; it became addicting," Pontius said.

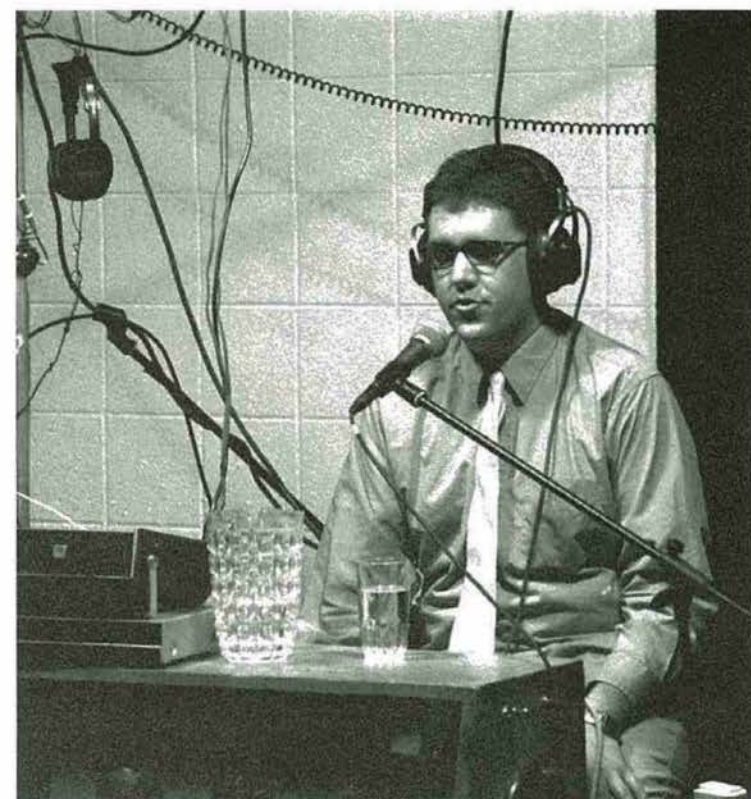
Even though she had experience in acting, Pontius still found her nerves taking over at times. "I always get nervous right before I get on stage, but once I'm out there I am fine," Pontius said. "The audience completely calms my nerves and makes me want to put on a great performance."

The cast wasn't sure if everyone would like the play. "This was an odd play and I think that some people will like it and others won't," Corey said.

The play was about a look into human nature under the constant attention of the media. What set "Valparaiso" apart from other productions held at Western was the structure of the play. The audience was stripped from reality and brought into the realm of the story by the characters speaking to the audience as if they were a part of the play.



Lauren Spencer interviews Michel Majeski, played by Brent Corey, so he could tell his story to the public. Spencer and Corey talked about life's meaning as they steered away from the main topic.



Above: Erika Pontius, who played Livia Majeski, is being interviewed by Tim Cress, ABC Australia. Cress interviewed Pontius and videotaped her house to show audiences how she lived.

Left: Tim Cress talks on a radio show as one of the scenes with the media. Cress was interviewed by the media after taking the wrong flight twice.

It's a Girl Thing

The "Vagina Monologues" brings light to a variety of women's issues

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Katie Myers

Vagina. The word gave most people a sudden feeling of discomfort, but curiosity was exactly what drew the crowd of spectators when word got out that "The Vagina Monologues" came to campus on Feb. 13 and 14. This production was sponsored by the Center for Multicultural Education and cost \$3.

"The Vagina Monologues," created by playwright Eve Ensler in 1996 was based on interviews she did with more than 200 women of all ages, race and sexual preferences. The purpose of the interviews was to share intimacy and to familiarize themselves with their vaginas. The monologue added humor to a topic that was often avoided.

The play touched on all kinds of issues that involved women such as: domestic violence, politics, self-discovery, child molestation, exploring sexuality and several more. Childbirth was another serious subject shared with the audience that filled the Leah Spratt Multipurpose Classroom Building. The monologue, "I was there in the Room" was about a woman who experienced another woman giving birth to a child.

With other titles within the production like, "Because He Likes to Look at It," "Reclaiming Cunt," "The Flood" and "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could,"

some had presumptions that the play was about nothing more than sex. Morgan Alder who performed "The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could," said that it was her first time ever hearing of the play and she liked it, but she knew people would be thrown off by the title.

"I think it's a really good play, but a lot of people prejudice it based on the title alone," Alder said. "It's not all about sex."

For some, the explicitness of the title was something they just couldn't get past. Student Tiffany Embry didn't attend the event because she felt the title was a little too much for her to handle.

"The name is what turned me away; I didn't know what it was totally about," Embry said. "If I would have known previously what it was about, I wouldn't have wanted to miss out on it."

The title didn't stop junior Lauren Tsutsumi from curing her curiosity about the play. She wanted to see what it was all about and liked what she saw.

"It was very enlightening; I never really thought about a lot of the stuff they talked about," Tsutsumi said.

Barbara Meyer performs her monologue "Reclaiming Cunt." The "Vagina Monologues" was written in 1996 by Eve Ensler.



Above: The actresses interact with each other in short dialogue back and fourth. Each woman presented a monologue representing a woman's issue. Left: Christiana Hanson performs as part of "The Vagina Monologues" Production. Hensen's monologue was entitled "My Short Skirt."

Discover Gold

Western says out with the
old slogan and in with the new

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Johntell Young

Western's image was made golden when "The Western Advantage" was changed to "Discover Gold." "We will still use 'Western Advantage,' but 'Discover Gold' will just be more memorable and unique," James Scanlon said.

Scanlon had various college faculty to assist him with the new branding. Kristy Hill, director of public relations and marketing, was put in charge of the campaign.

"We needed to create a strong image for the community," Hill said. "We needed something for the folks who didn't know us that well. 'Discover Gold' will be exclusively for outer audiences."

With the right contacts and a few ideas, "Discover Gold" was the end product of the long selection process.

"We contacted a marketing firm, Callahan Creek, to help us come up with an idea for a new brand," Scanlon said. "Callahan Creek recommended 'Discover Gold.'"

"Discover Gold" was considered a brilliant change to describe our school.

"It connects with our school color," Scanlon said. "Gold, in the minds of most people, is something precious, something that lasts forever. Gold is conceived as the most precious metal. The same high quality of the staff here."

Hill felt the same about how "Discover Gold" helped promote the college.

"I think that it reflects our campus quality and engagement as well," Hill said. "The significance of gold really refers to a student's experience at Western."

Students also expressed their personal opinions about Western's name change.

"It will define us as an institution, so when people hear 'Discover Gold' they think Western," senior John Fabsits said. "Western students are gold. They excel in areas higher than the national average and what is required of us in the classroom."

Other students liked the way it made Western fit in with other institutions.

"It's more of a catchy slogan," senior Nick Richardson said. "It puts our school in with the rest of the colleges and universities."

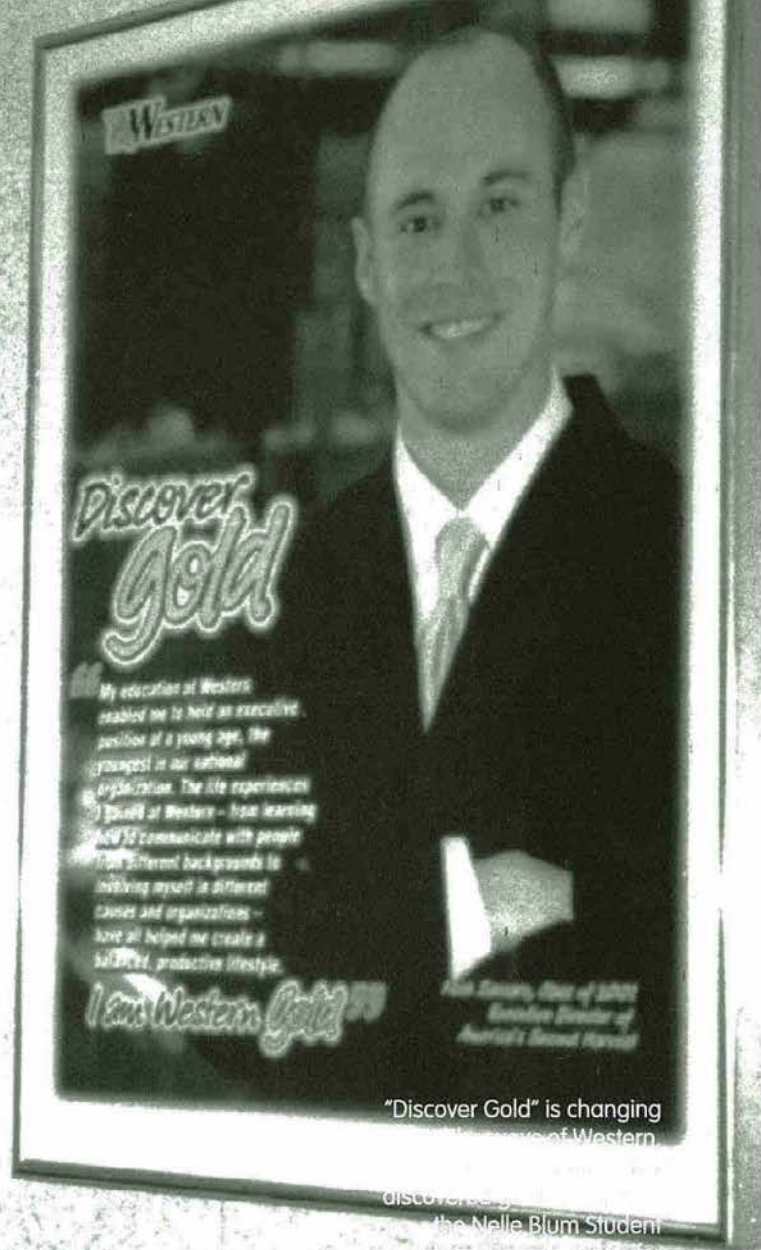
Western hoped "Discover Gold" would draw more people to the campus.

"There are many people we will communicate with who don't know Western," Hill said. "I think that it will help us communicate to others."

With television and radio advertising in the future, it was hoped that it would help Western recruit more students from areas outside northwest Missouri.

"Discover Gold" Week was held so students could learn more about the change that Western took on; however, the question kept coming up whether or not students approved of 'Discover Gold.'

"So far, some students at Western don't understand it, but then again it has only been out for a few weeks now," Fabsits said. "If we give it time, students will understand and be able to relate to it."

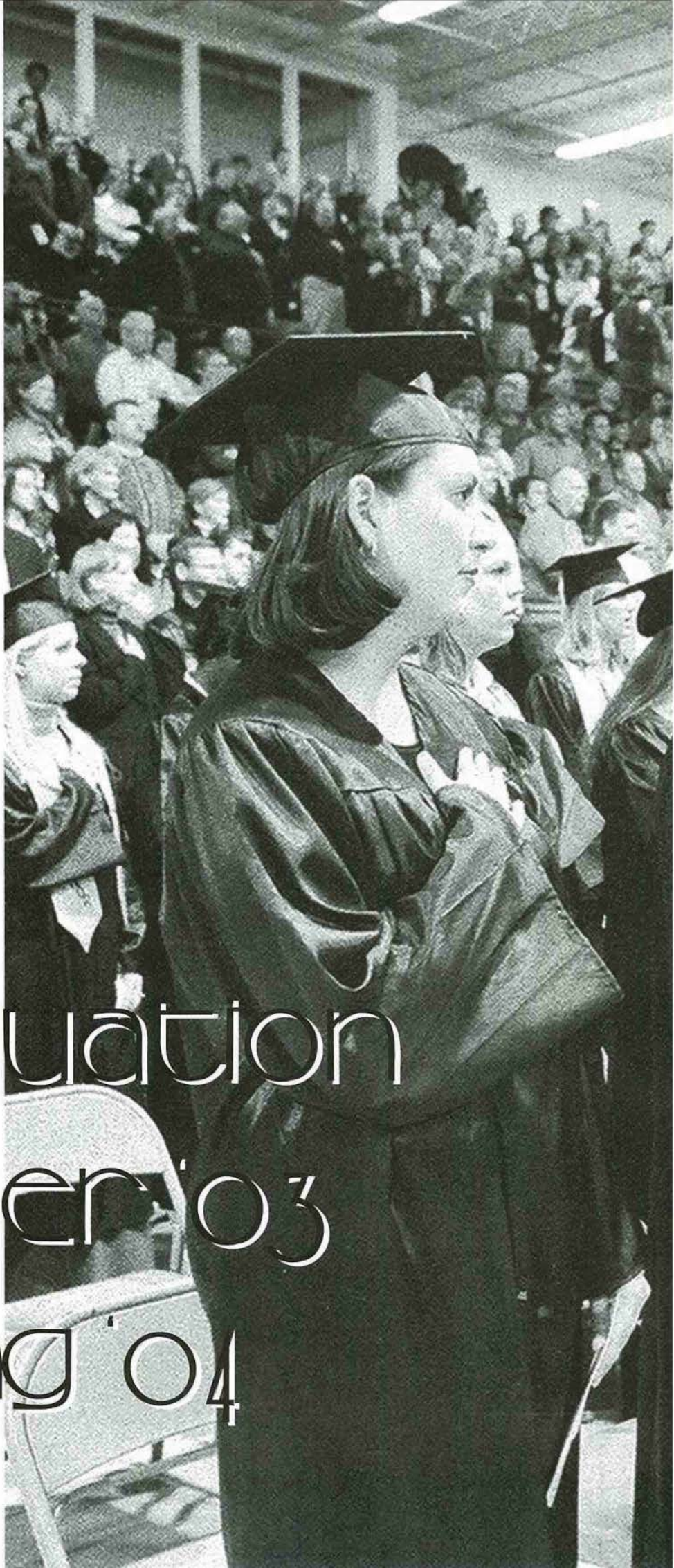


"Discover Gold" is changing the image of Western.

discovered by the Nalle Blum Student

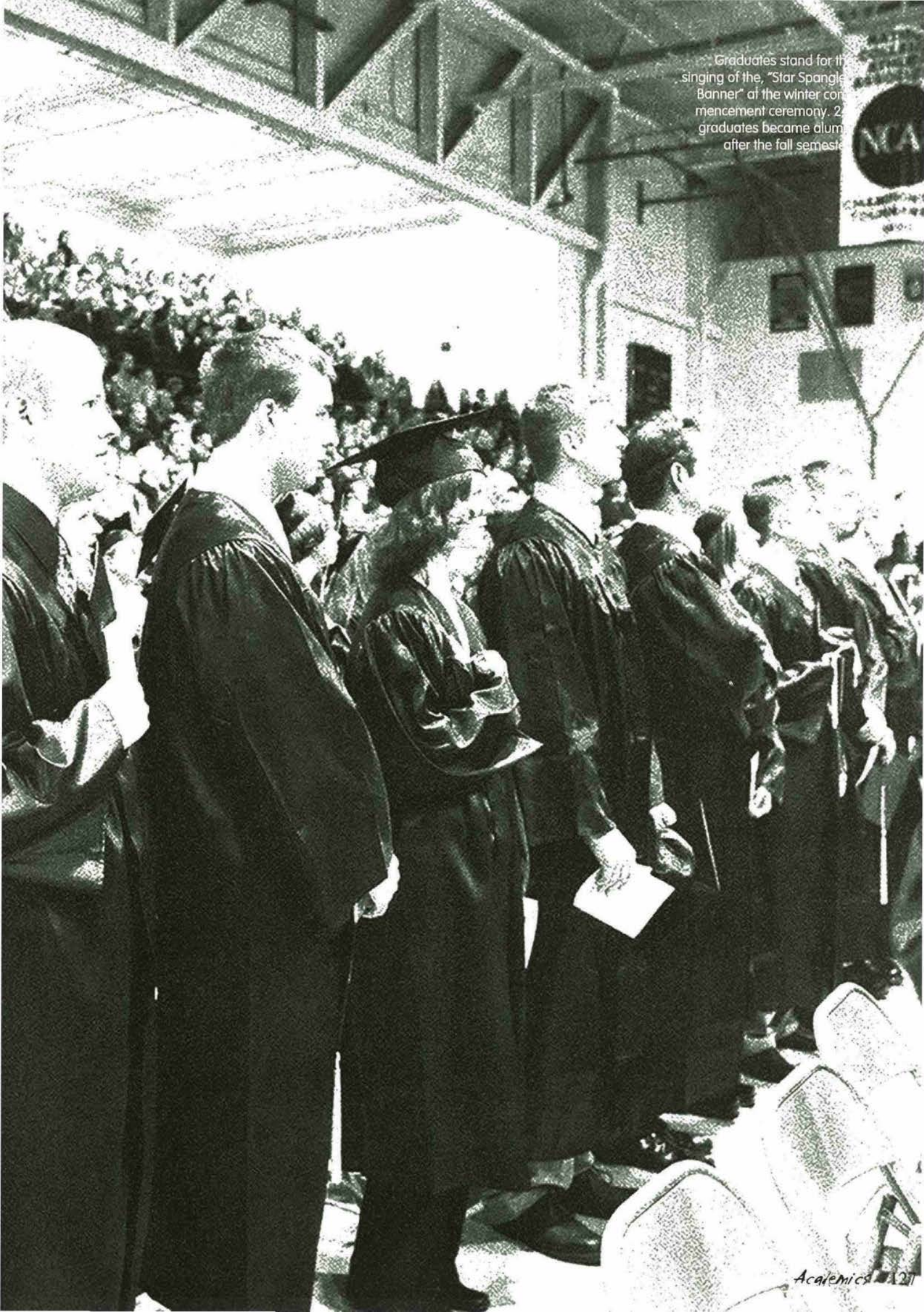


Left: Darell Johnson shares his ideas about "Discover Gold." A banquet was held for faculty and branding staff for the new logo. Above: These are just a few of the promotional items for "Discover Gold." Posters were seen all over campus.



graduation
winter '03
spring '04

Graduates stand for the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" at the winter commencement ceremony. 23 graduates became alumni after the fall semester.



Graduating college was a huge step in any student's life; however, when students were eligible to graduate was another situation. Students could wait to graduate in the spring, but many had the opportunity to graduate in the fall.

On Dec. 20 and May 15, many students closed one chapter of their life to begin another.

"It felt great!" Jeff Dozier, bachelor in science, communications studies major said. "To be truthful, there are many different emotions involved. While I was happy about completing the degree, I was also sad to be leaving behind many friends I got to know here at college."

Other students expressed their thoughts about finally being done with college.

"It feels weird not having to go to class or have any homework," Angela Combs, speech communications with a video emphasis said.

Students were overjoyed to be finished with college, but at times it was difficult to keep up to finish tasks on time.

"As a non-traditional student, I found myself studying a lot more than when I first attended Western," Dozier said. "The most difficult challenges for me occurred when I became so involved with my course work and I didn't make time to relax."

Time management was a common thing among seniors; however, they used their personal strategies to work through stressful times. "I tried dealing with stress day by day and tried to think about the days to come," Combs said.

Stress didn't last long until the end finally came. Students may not have been working their dream job, but they eventually found something to do in their spare time.

"I have been applying for jobs, but I have yet to locate a full-time position," Dozier said. "In the meantime I have been working as a substitute teacher."

Some students did find work that pertained to their major after graduating. "Surprisingly, I work in my major with KQ2 and I am still working on finding a job in the television field in Texas," Combs said.

Reaching goals may have or may have not gotten students where they wanted to be in life at this point. They hoped many others students would reach graduation day just as they did.

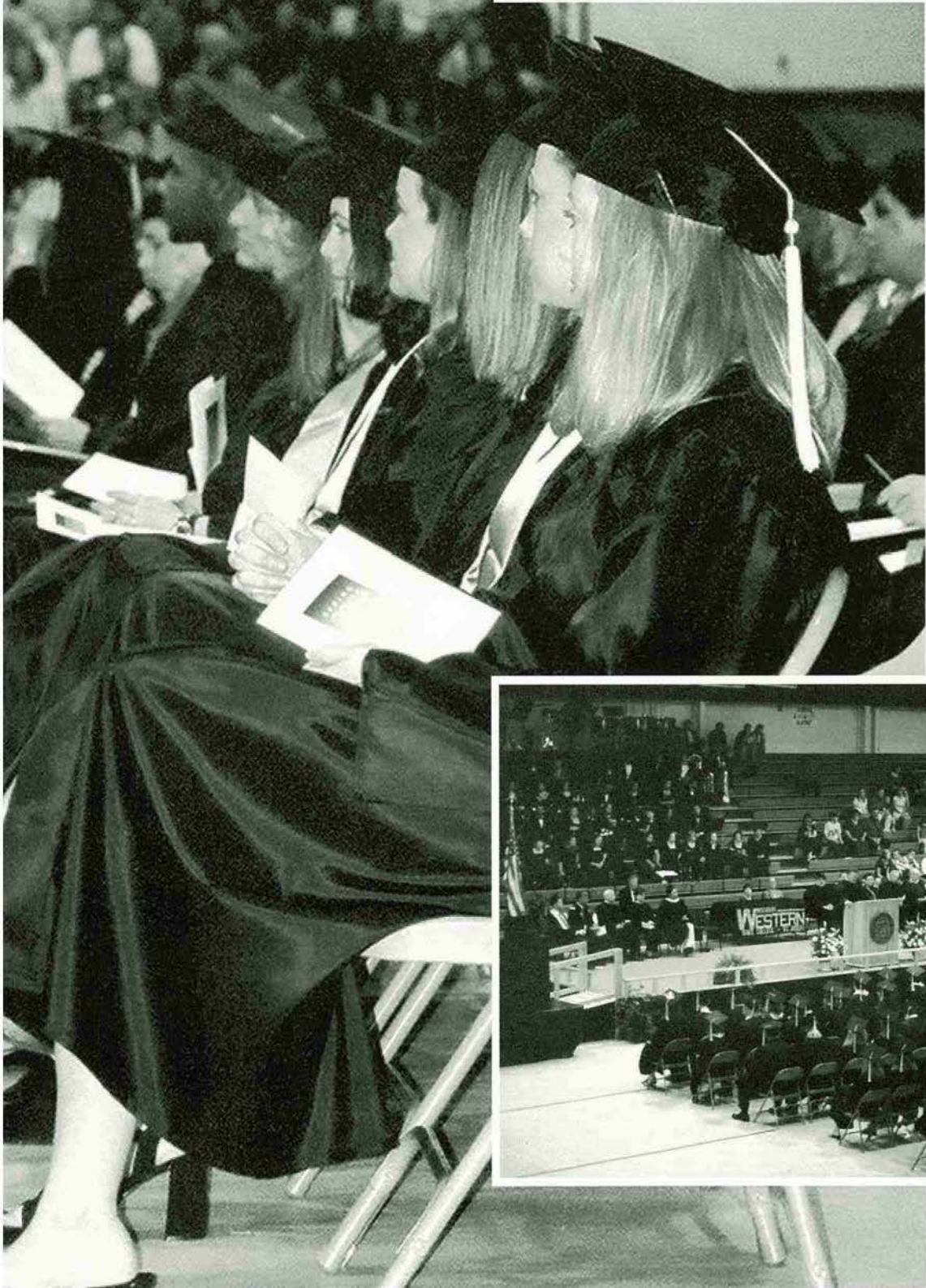
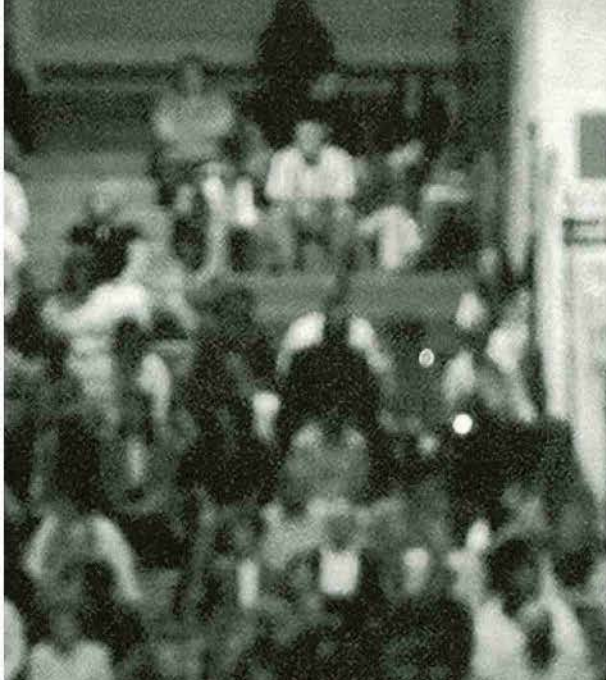
"With the economy these days, a family needs more than one income or at least one parent with a degree in higher education," Angela Prashak, a business management major said. "It's not always true, but since I graduated, it's a lot easier finding jobs and standing up for my employee rights than for some of my friends that didn't go to college and don't have the education or experience."

Because students were determined to make it to the end, it was evident to themselves that they knew more about their strengths, weaknesses, capabilities and skills.

"In the long run, it's the best thing students can do for themselves and their family," Prashak said. "If students could just deal with it day by day it will pay off."

Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Jennifer Moran

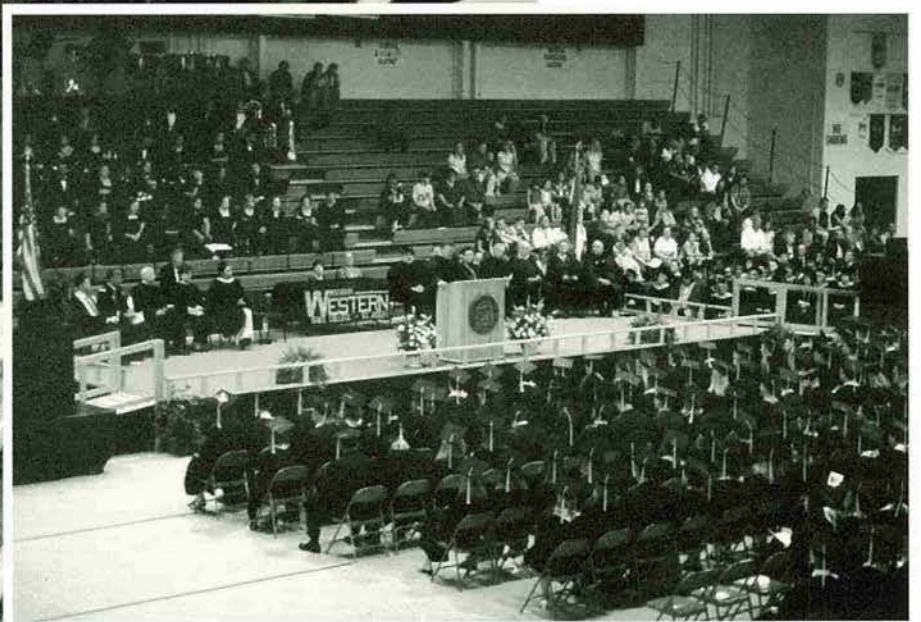




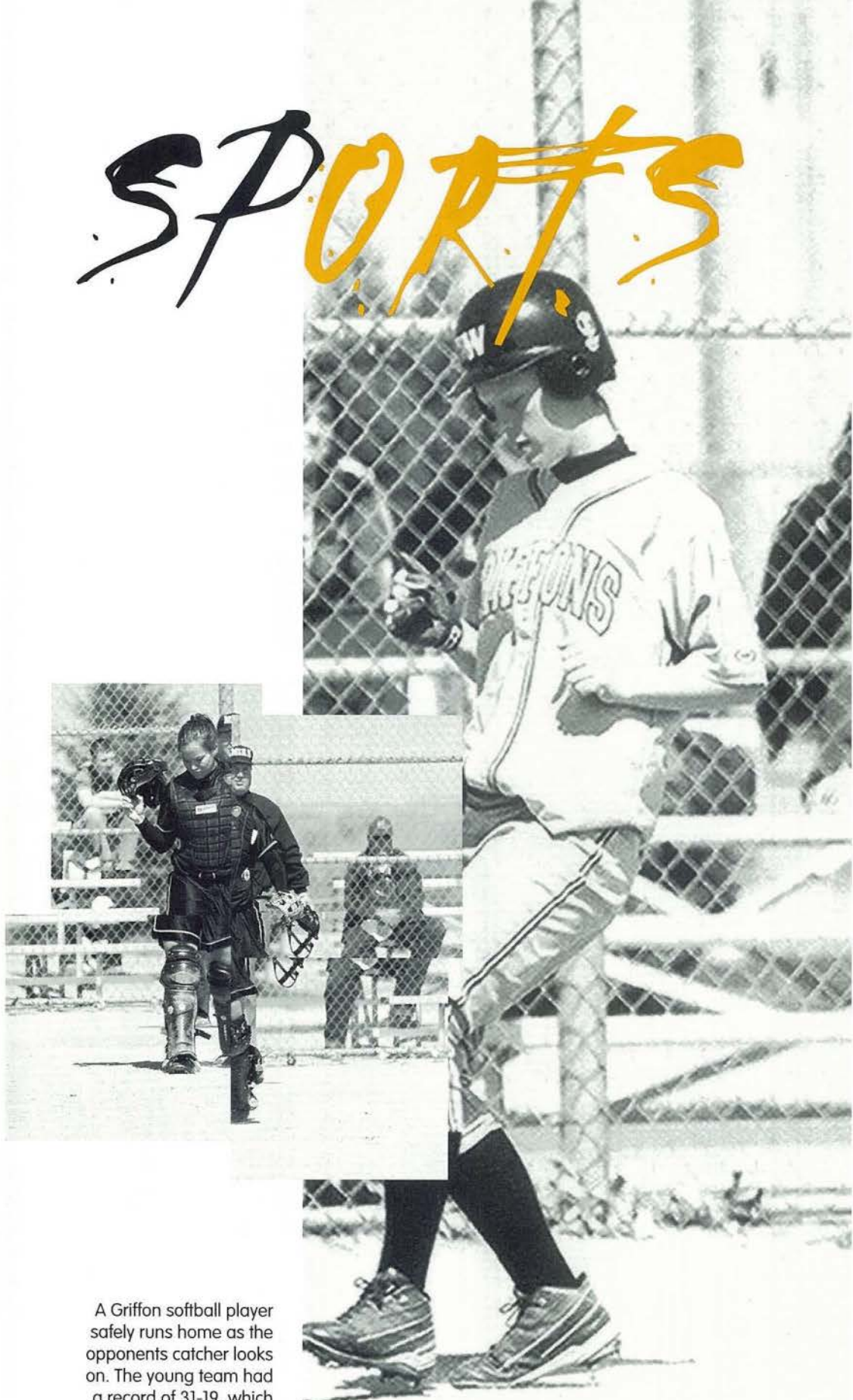
Above: Students line up along the stage to get their diploma at the spring commencement ceremony. Alumni of Western, Jamel Santa Cruze Bell gave the commencement address to the graduating seniors.

Left: One row of graduates listen as Bell gives her speech about the future. There were two ceremonies for the spring graduation, one in the morning and one in the mid-afternoon.

Below: A distant view of the graduates as President Scanlon confers the degrees for graduation. Scanlon was one of the many that took part in leading the ceremonies.

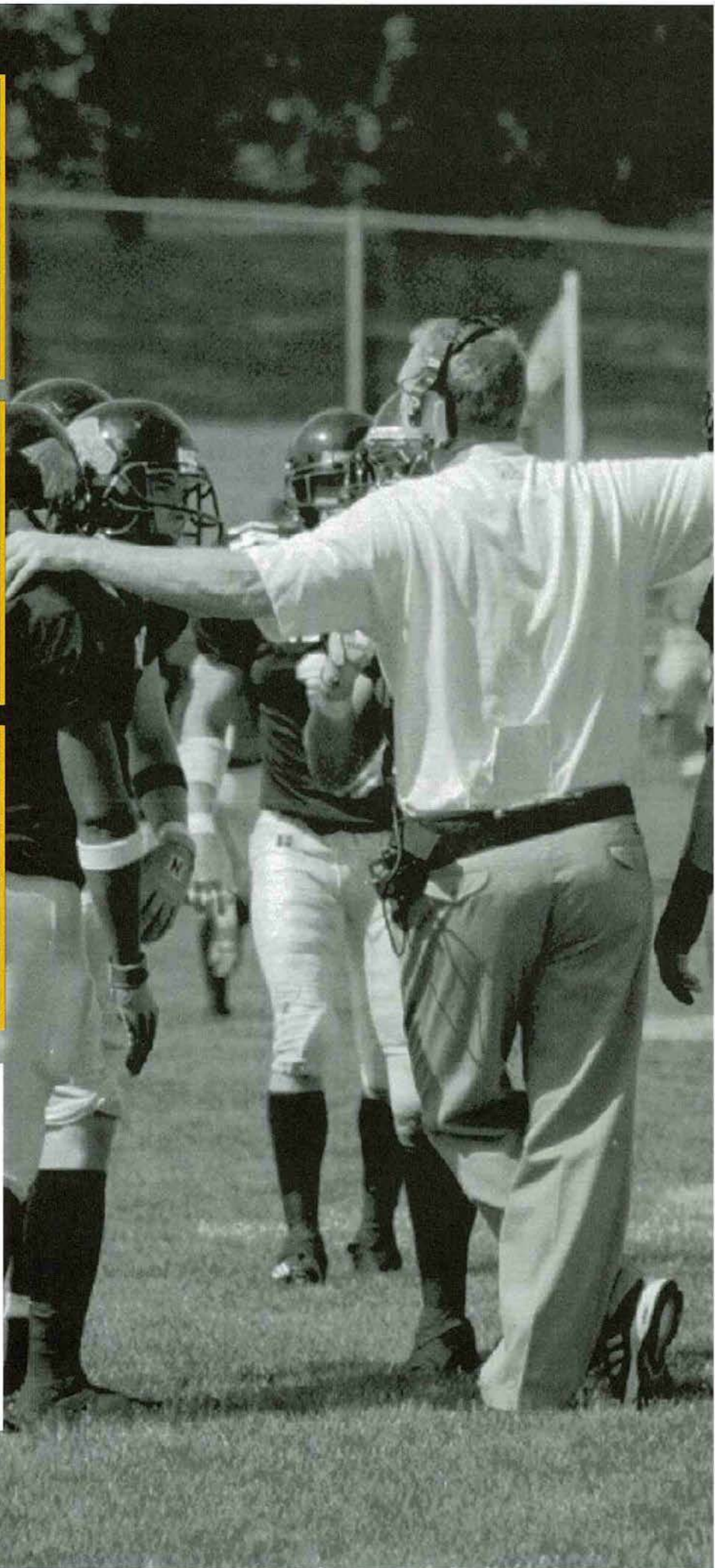
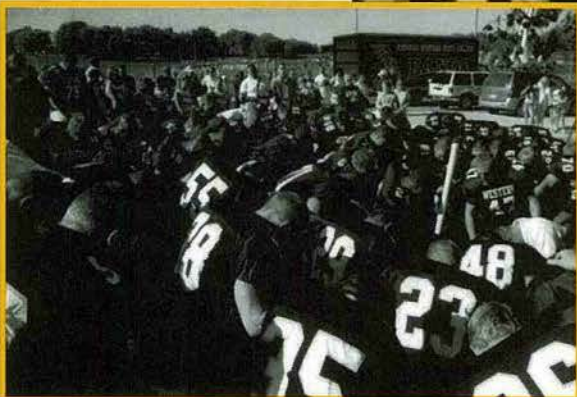


SPORTS



A Griffon softball player safely runs home as the opponents catcher looks on. The young team had a record of 31-19, which was the best record since 1997. Photo by Ashley Bacon.





Top: Offensive lineman Brett Mingee gets his arm taped during a timeout. Athletic trainers were an essential part of the safety of players. Photo by Jeremy Weikel.

Middle: A player watches from the side lines awaiting his turn to get in the action. Many players stepped up to make sure it was a successful season. Photo by Matt Morton.

Bottom: After a hard fought victory against the Northwest Bearcats, the Griffons huddle by the fitness center for team prayer. The team met around a tree after each home game to focus on their victory or defeat. Photo by Johntell Young.

Right: A coach meets with his players on the field during a timeout. Coaches supported their players on and off the field. Photo by Jennifer Moran.

Griffon football focuses on a hard season with victories, defeats and a Mineral Water Bowl Title

Winona: L 3-46

The football season was one that many Griffons will not forget, as the team went 9-3 overall and 7-2 in the MIAA. The Griffons won the MIAA title for the first time since the program began in 1970. They also made an appearance in the Mineral Water Bowl held at Roosevelt Field in Excelsior Springs, Mo., defeating Concordia-St. Paul. The players also broke some Western football records to go along with their outstanding year.

Benedictine: W 24-3

SW Baptist: W 39-7

It was the first time in history the Griffons have ended a season with nine wins, and included in the victories was a win over Northwest Missouri State University. The coaches and players were very satisfied with the season record.

Emporia: L 24-27

Missouri Southern: W 33-6

“Everyone was spectacular this year,” Griffon football coach Jerry Partridge said. “We had a really great team, and we won nine games this season. If you win eight games in a season, it is always considered a great season, and since we made it to the Mineral Bowl, then that makes it even greater.”

Central: W 27-10

Truman: 39-6

Freshman quarterback Kyle Westerberg, who held the school record with five touchdown passes in a single game, was happy with the team’s success. “Well first of all, I think that the season went great,” he said. “It started off kind of rocky, but as a team we got better and better each week.”

Northwest: W 30-27

Westerberg, being only a freshman, had many people wondering if he could pull it off, go head-to-head against other teams and come out with a victory. The fans had a high level of expectation for him, and he met those goals and went beyond them.

Pittsburg: L 7-27

“I think that everyone wanted the team to win and to be successful,” Westerberg said. “I really did not set high expectations; I just knew that in order to be a starting quarterback as a freshman I had to work hard and set goals for myself.”

Washburn: W 30-14

Senior defensive lineman Eric McDowell, who had 12 sacks for the season and led the MIAA in that category, was also pleased with how the season turned out.

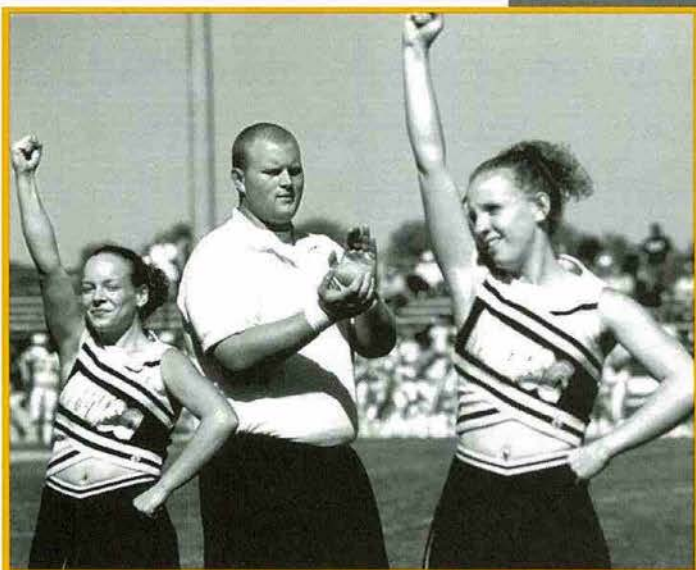
Missouri-Rolla: W 30-23

“I think that the season went very well,” McDowell said. “9-3 is a very good record in our conference. Obviously there were a few games that we could have played a lot better in, but I think that next year’s team will build on those and be just as successful, if not more.”

Concordia-St. Paul: W 24-14

The Fast & Furious

Story by Ross Scholz



Top: Kim Arn, Josh Spray and Adrienne Long cheer on the Griffon football team along with the fans. The Yellleaders were a nice addition to the squad as they all cheered together.

Middle: During a home game, the cheerleaders do a group toe-touch to show off their abilities. The squad worked to perfect the quality of their jumps.

Bottom: Adrienne Long shows off one of her skills as she does a side hurdler. The perfect form of the cheerleader's jumps were evident at every game.

Right: Senior Ben Doornink lifts Adrian Voss into a cupie. Voss stood tall to get the crowd pumped.



Though the cheerleaders
faced many obstacles,
their leadership and
teamwork shined through

The cheerleading season had been one of many changes and obstacles; however, these spirited Griffons had one of their most important motivations in mind; the fans. With the departure of the squad's captain for medical reasons and two new additions to the roster, these ladies had their work cut out for them.

The problems were fixed over time because of the non-stop hard work the cheerleaders did throughout the year. Head coach for three years Nicole Huston said that the minor ups and downs were expected, but they weren't going to let that stand in the way of the squad progressing throughout the season.

"We've had some bickering, but we dealt with it," Huston said. "Overall it has been a very good semester for us."

Former cheer squad captain, senior Rashawnda Walker took on a new role, after she was injured, in order to contribute to the team. Walker was appointed the position of student coach, working directly with the squad she used to lead. "I love to cheer, but stepping into a coaches shoes can definitely be challenging for me at times," Walker said.

Walker said that she had to distinguish between the friend and coach levels with the team.

"It's hard to get respect from your peers in any situation, that's why I tend to make a clear distinction in that area," Walker said. "I believe it's a good situation because they can relate to me as a peer, and also there's mutual respect."

A new addition to the second half of the team was Crystal Bray. Having had previous experience cheering all four years of high school, Bray always knew she wanted to be part of a college cheerleading squad. "I've always wanted to be on the Griffon squad, because they act as a support system for the athletic teams, win or lose," Bray said.

Bray described how the experience was for her personally and the arrival of her first game with anticipation and curiosity. "I'm really nervous and excited for many reasons because I've never cheered for this many fans and I'm the only African-American on the squad so it can be nerve-racking," Bray said.

At times Huston felt that the squad didn't get the recognition they deserved throughout the year.

"The cheerleading squad plays a huge role because we work all year-round with practicing and cheering at all the games, not to mention all the different fundraisers," Huston said. "I don't think people really realize the dedication it takes because they just get to see the performances and there are many things we do behind the scenes."

Cheer Up

Story by: Sheena Kelley
Photos by Jennifer Moran

The Mystics bring a whole new meaning to dance

The “Golden Girls” of the Mystics dance team were rhythmic eye candy during the football and basketball season.

The team was directed by Kayla Hinton, coached by Lindsay Fiscus and the captain was Angela Seek. In addition to Fiscus and Seek, the dance team was comprised of 10 members: Kristy Baugh, Kristin Bibb, Kelli Brandts, Meghan Groom, Adrienne Kastner, Joshena Lee, Cara McDowell, Tyree Peterson and Tegan Sampson.

One of the main goals the Mystics had in mind this season was to change the image of the team.

“People have always perceived the Mystics as an outdated dance team,” Fiscus said. “Once basketball season starts, I want to show them that we can be modern. People have to remember that we have to appeal to everyone like Gold Coat members, students and parents.”

Seek agrees with Fiscus that Western needs to change its perspective of the Mystics.

“I want people to respect the Mystics more,” Seek said. “We just want to support the students and the college, and in return for them to support us.”

In order to change the image, Fiscus along with Hinton, choreographed all of the routines for the season.

“This year we are a combination of funk, jazz, pom and band,” Fiscus said. “We want to be crowd pleasers.”

The team practiced every Tuesday and Thursday for two hours in order to perfect their moves. In addition, the Mystics also practiced with the Golden Griffon Marching Band.

Showing off their moves, the Mystics not only performed during both football and basketball seasons, but at pep rallies, tailgates and charity events, such as the Relay for Life Walk-A-Thon.

“We walked around the Wathena High School track to help raise money for the cause,” Fiscus said.

During the season the Mystics were faced with the challenge of being comprised of six new members.

“We don’t have as many veterans as we’ve had in the past,” Seek said. “We have to do a lot of teaching, but it’s a good experience for all of us.”

Freshman Megan Groom is one of the six novices on the team.

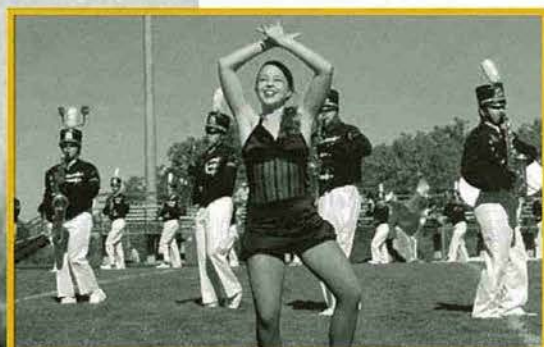
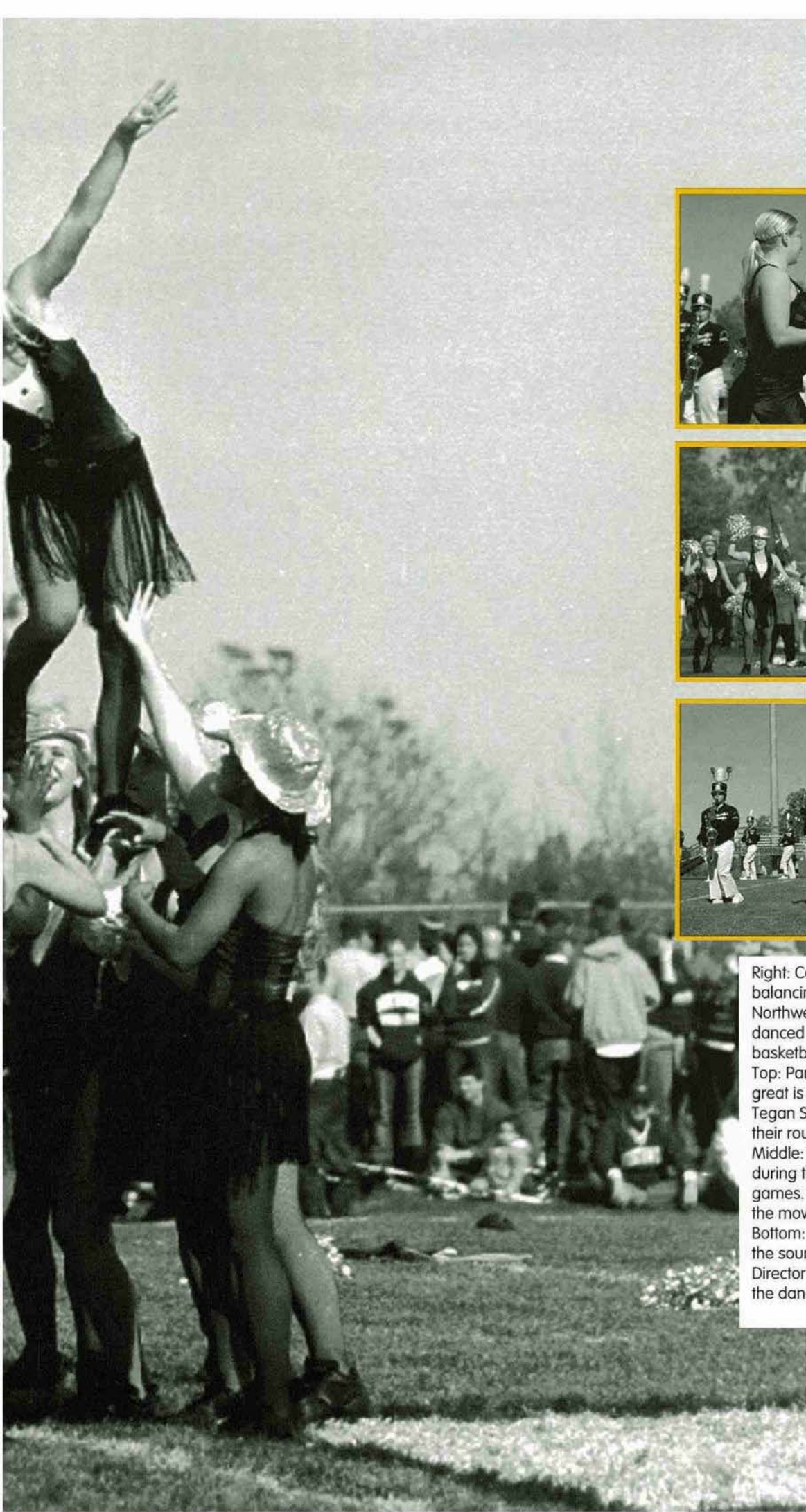
“So far everything has been great,” Groom said. “The upperclassmen have really taken the time to teach us the routines and help us out.”

Becoming a Mystic was more than just smiles and fancy dance moves. There were certain criteria that had to be met in order to be accepted onto the team. Each member had to have a 2.5 grade point average and be a full-time student in order to tryout. The prospective members were taught a routine that they had to perform before a panel of judges. The panel was comprised of people with past dance and coaching experience. In addition, the members had to go through an interview process that tested how committed they would be to the team if they were accepted.



Dance It, Live It

Story By Angela Smith
Photos By Jennifer Moran



Right: Captain Angie Seek performs a balancing act at the halftime show of the Northwest football game. The Mystics danced at all the home football and basketball games.

Top: Part of what makes the Mystics so great is teamwork. Adrienne Kastner and Tegan Sampson demonstrated this during their routines.

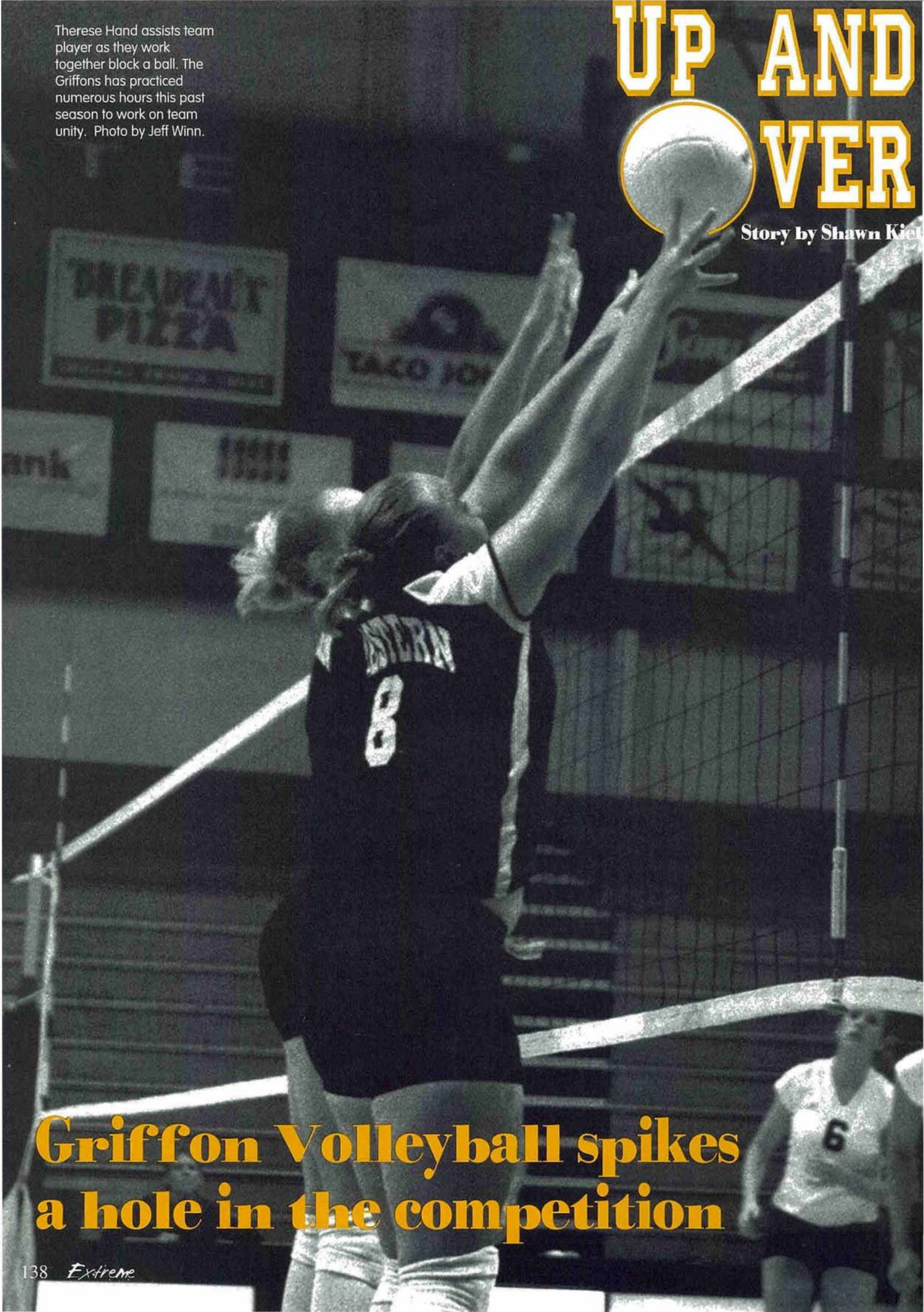
Middle: The Mystics express themselves during the halftime shows at the football games. They danced to the music from the movie *Chicago*.

Bottom: Megan Groom strikes a pose to the sound of the music. Angie Seek and Director Kayla Hinton choreographed all of the dance routines for the Mystics.

Therese Hand assists team player as they work together block a ball. The Griffons has practiced numerous hours this past season to work on team unity. Photo by Jeff Winn.

UP AND OVER

Story by Shawn Ki



Griffon Volleyball spikes a hole in the competition

The volleyball team overcome a few changes from the previous season, including three major players graduating prior to the 2003 season. However, the team came out above the changes and won a majority of its games.

“We graduated three pretty powerful seniors last year who made up 75 percent of our offensive production, so we didn’t know how our team was going to come together,” head coach Cindy Brauck said. However, with determination the team was able to pull together and make the best of the season.

“We’re very pleased with our team chemistry, their preparation for each and every game and with all of our younger players,” Brauck said. Overall, the volleyball team came out 15-13 in the season, which may not have been the best scores Western had seen, but the team did have some very important matches.

CMSU: L 3-2

Western State (Colo.): W 3-0

Montevallo: W 3-1

Arkansas Tech: W 3-0

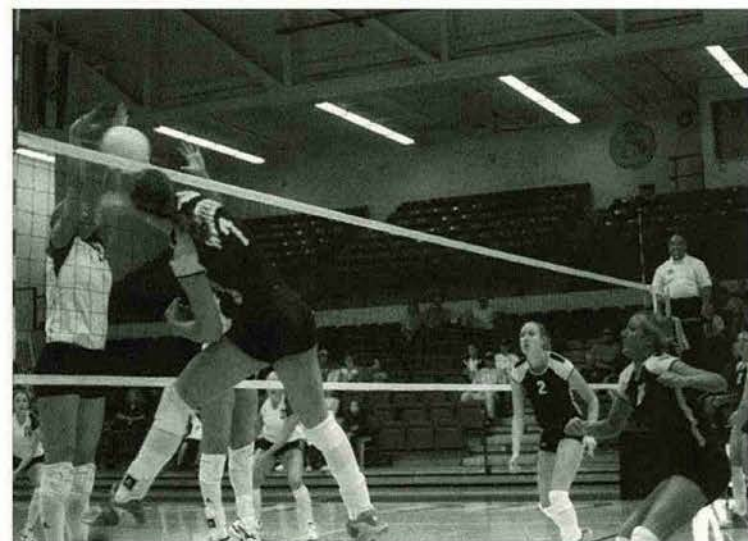
Ashland: W 3-0

Christian Brothers: W 3-0

College of St. Mary: L 3-0

Colorado Christian: W 3-2

Teammates cheer each other on after a winning play. Motivation was always one of the key aspects that kept this team on top. Photo by Kristen White.



Above: Shelly Chiles spikes the ball while the opposing team attempts to block it. Strength and skill distinguished the team from its opponents. Photo by Jeremy Weikel.

“We beat two nationally ranked teams and broke one team’s string of an 18-match winning streak,” Brauck said. One important win of the season was against Central Missouri State University. The team faced a difficult problem with beating tough teams and then losing to less threatening teams.

“The low point was beating a team like CMSU and then turning around the next night and losing to Emporia State University who was really nowhere near the same caliber of team,” coach Cory Frederick said.

Player Blair Lehr felt similar to Frederick. “Going to away games and losing to teams that we really shouldn’t have lost to because they were ranked lower than us was the lowest point of the season,” Lehr said.

The season started off fairly well with five wins. Then the team was defeated by the college of St. Mary’s.

The women had some success with the next couple of games followed by a period of ups and downs to a four-game winning streak, ending out the rest of the season with wins and losses every other game.

The chemistry between teammates held the team together throughout the season. “I think everybody was very good at fulfilling her role on the team, and that gave us an advantage,” Brauck said. The team’s advantage gave them the opportunity to be able to come close to winning, even in the games that were lost.

“As much as we hate to lose 13 matches, we were very close to winning all those games,” Frederick said. Playing tough enough to come close to winning could hardly be construed as a bad season, even if the team didn’t play in the regional competition. “I think we played pretty tough,” Lehr said. “It was disappointing that we didn’t make it to the regionals, but we played so well together.”

All in all, the team had an unusual season full of many pleasant as well as unpleasant surprises. There were some big wins and some unbelievable losses to a few lower-ranked teams. The team undoubtedly learned from both types of surprises this season. Though the season was unusual, it was one the players won’t forget.

Washburn: L 3-2

Emporia State: L 3-0

Truman: L 3-0

Missouri Southern: L 3-1

Pittsburg State: W 3-2

Southwest Baptist: W 3-0

Alabama-Huntsville: W 3-0

Henderson State: W 3-1

Harding: L 3-0

West Alabama: W 3-0

Washburn: L 3-0

Central Missouri: W 3-0

Emporia State: L 3-0

NWMSU: W 3-0

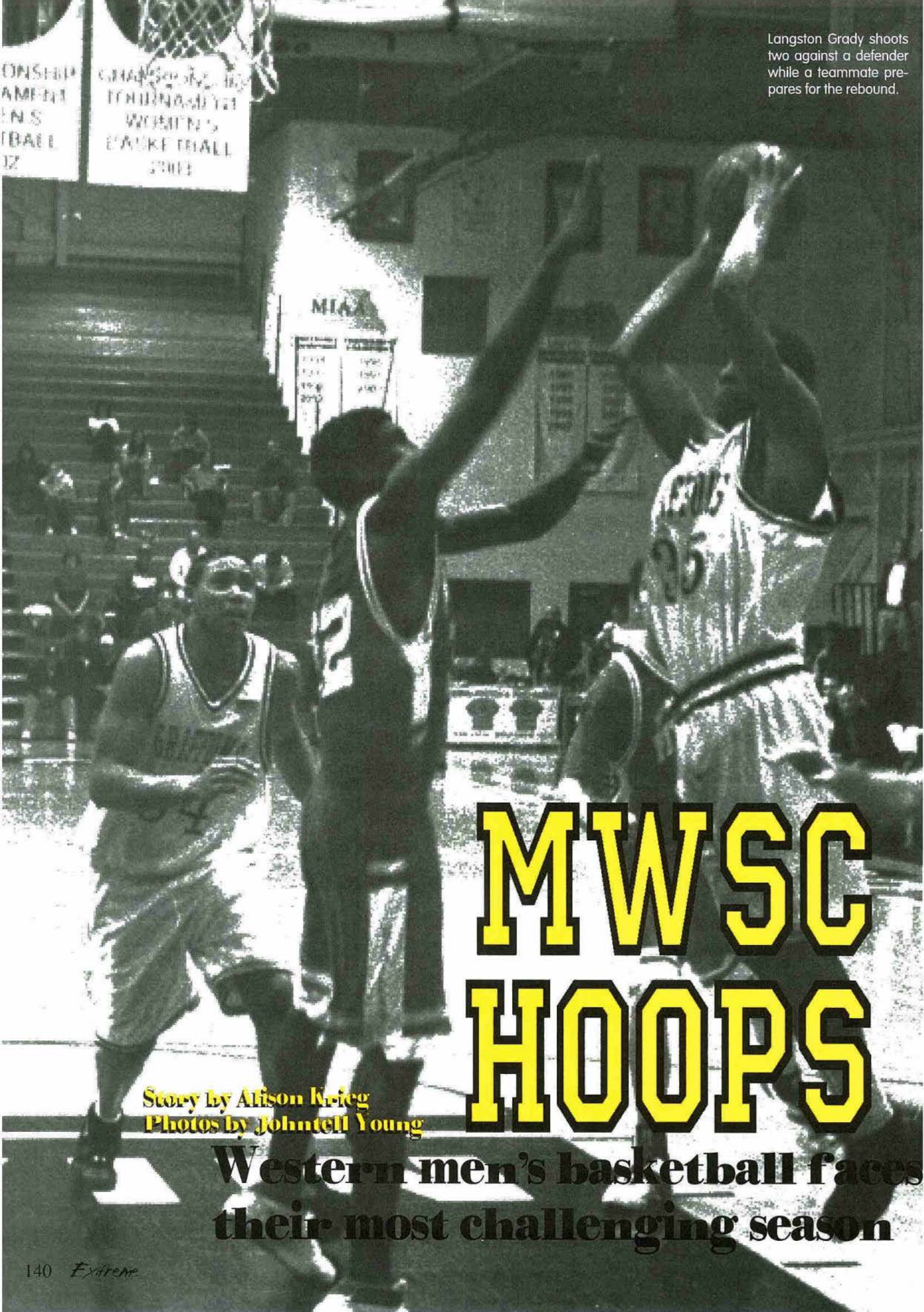
Truman: L 3-0

Missouri Southern: L 3-1

Pittsburg State: L 3-0

Southwest Baptist: W 3-0

Rockhurst: L 3-0



Langston Grady shoots two against a defender while a teammate prepares for the rebound.

MWSC HOOPS

Story by Alison Krieg
Photos by Johnell Young

**Western men's basketball faces
their most challenging season**

Central Bible W 111-75

The men's basketball team kept a positive attitude throughout their season despite both winning and losing games. The final outcome of the season was 14 wins compared to 15 losses.

Park University W 64-60

Lincoln Univ. W 87-78

"This was the worst season Missouri Western has seen in the division two level, and it was very disappointing," assistant coach Mike Nicholson said. "We had a team full of new players, so it was difficult for a team leader to emerge."

Northeastern State W 63-48

Lincoln 65-69 L

One conflict was the team was new and did not have a lot of experience playing together. This was a huge factor to why the season was not as successful as the years in the past.

Drury University WOT 87-81

UCO WOT 93-89

Cameron 84-88 L

"I am a transfer student from Cedar Valley Junior College in Lancaster, Texas, and the games we played here were so much more challenging than what I

Washburn 64-67 L



College in Lancaster, Texas, and the games we played here were so much more challenging than what I



Top: Fred Battles and Devonte King motivate each other during the game. The boys came together, and their teamwork showed throughout the season. Bottom: The Griffons regroup during a timeout to come up with a strategic plan to win the game. The basketball team finished the season with a 14-15 record.

Missouri Southern 63-78 L

NWMSU 65-74 L

CMSU 67-71 L

was used to before," junior Justin Collins said. "Even though our record was not the greatest this year, it does not mean we will not improve next season; there is always room for improvement. This season just showed us how much harder we will have to work for next season."

Truman W 67-51

Coach Nicholson agreed with Collins that next year would be a better all around season.

Missouri-Rolla W 92-75

"Next season will absolutely be better for everyone," said Nicholson. "The players now have at least one year playing together under their belts. The team will play better as one in the next season because they will have trust in their teammates."

Pittsburg State 54-71 L

Emporia State WOT 73-69

Fans remained supportive throughout the season no matter what.

Washburn 68-76 L

"I am the number one fan of Western basketball because I go to every home game, and if I can make the away games then I go to those too," junior Andre Burns said. "No matter win or loss I will always support the team."

Emporia State 53-70 L

Southwest Baptist W 85-57

Pittsburg State W 72-70

Each player has their favorite highlight of the year and for once it didn't have anything to do with Western's main rival school, Northwest Missouri State.

Missouri-Rolla 54-82 L

"My most memorable moment from this season

was when we played against Emporia State, everyone came to the game expecting us to lose because Emporia was ranked in the nation and we were far from it," Collins said. "It was a great feeling to win that particular game because everyone expected Emporia to win—it was like the 'underdogs' took the win for once."

Truman WOT 90-79

CMSU 82-90 L

Missouri Southern W 76-72

The men's basketball team will train extra hard to improve their game. There will be seven returning players to work together as one once more.

Emporia State W 65-80

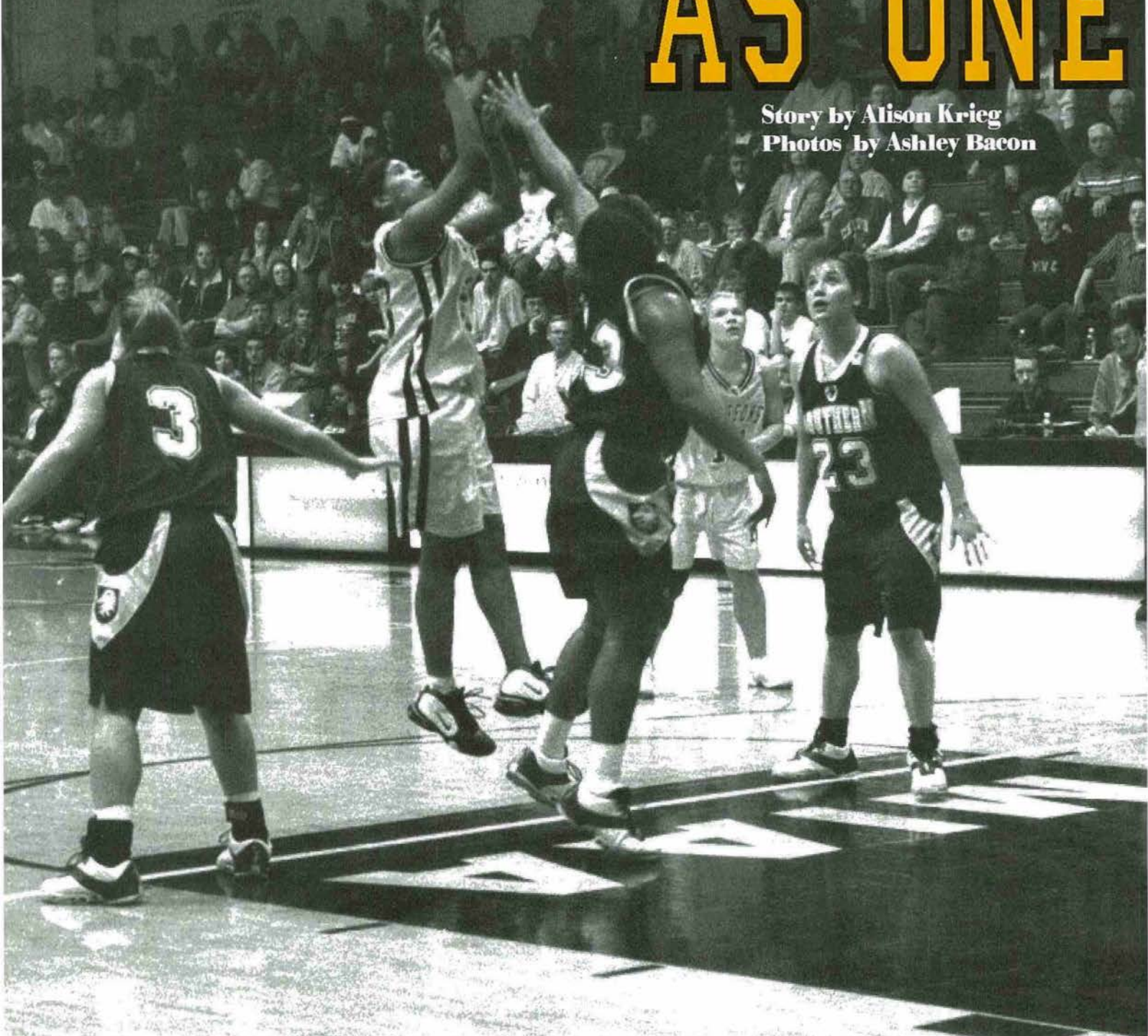
Northwest Missouri State 65-87 L

"I expect the chemistry will be better because the team will have played together for a year," Burns said.

A Griffon basketball player makes an amazing shot over her opponent. The women's team practiced many long days to be as successful as they were.

ALL AS ONE

Story by Alison Krieg
Photos by Ashley Bacon



The women's basketball team worked as one maintaining a record of 21-9

Ferris State University 65-70

OMSU 72-79 L

"It is so much fun to play with a team who is so

"We finished the season with a 21-9 record. This

close," junior Carly Lee said. "I have been a part of the Lady Griffon basketball team for four years, and I felt that this year the team was closer than the past years."

was a good enough record to make it into the NCAA tournament again, but we got beat out the first game we played," coach Josh Keister said. "Next season we hope to be deeper, with more players and more experience."

Rockhurst University W 96-52

Peru State W 102-42

Lincoln Univ. W 74-37

Pittsburg State W 79-72

The women's basketball team maintained a weekly workout and practice agenda to prepare them for the season.

The most exciting games of the year took place

College of St. Mary W 91-40

Southwest Baptist W 72-67

"We practice six days out of the week for about two

"Even though we did lose to Northwest this year, I

and a half hours," Lee said. "That does not include the time we have to spend in the weight room. Working on the courts and in the weight room is not the only thing we

would still say those were the most memorable games," Lee said. "The crowd gets so pumped up it just makes it fun to play; the atmosphere was so great."

must keep up to remain playing on the team; we also must keep a grade point average of 2.0."

The fans agreed that the atmosphere had a lot to do with the way the players performed on game night. Keeping the school spirit is what kept the team determined to

The outcome of the season was a fairly successful

Missouri Southern W 65-57

keep their heads up and keep playing in spite of the score.

one.

"I think the girls play great offense," Andre Burns,

NWMSU 53-69 L

Pittsburg State W 78-64



Western student fan. "I have fun going to the games and sitting in the front row. I love getting the crowd pumped

up. The energy from the student section is what gets the

Truman State University W 99-60

players pumped up. I feel that the players feed off of our

high energy. I predict the team next year will be awesome,

and I have a feeling we will see a slam dunk from one of the girl players."

Missouri Southern W 76-59

The outcome of the season was decent but the

coaches, players and fans always hope for

Emporia State 75-90 L

improvement in the years to follow.

"You can never know what to expect

Drury Lady Panthers 57-74 L

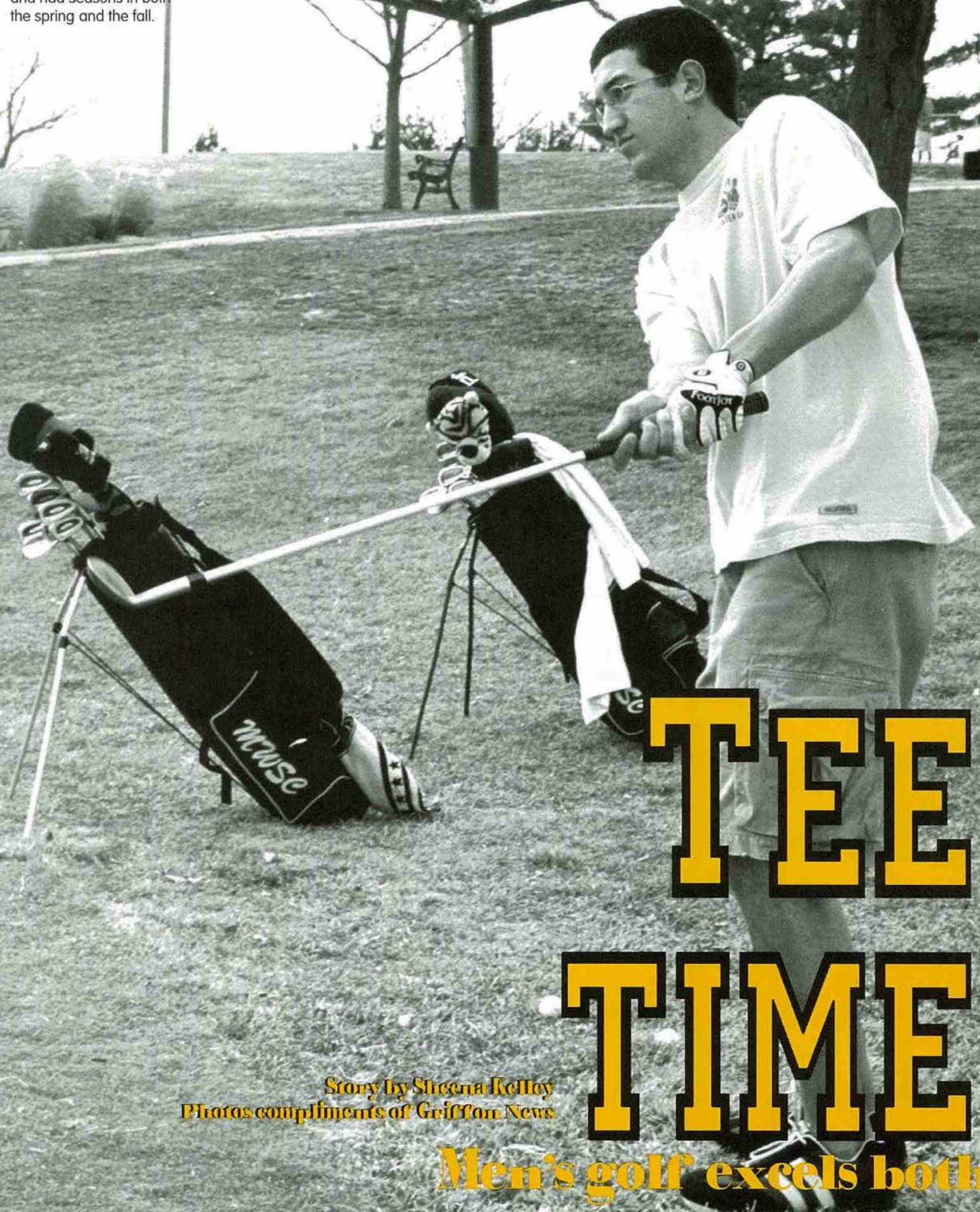
from year to year but I always hope for the

best each year," Lee said.



Top: Tera Petersen shoots a freethrow as her opponents look on. Fouls were not uncommon in the aggressive games of the Griffon women. Below: The Griffon point guard pushes off her Missouri Southern opponent. Missouri Southern was one of the biggest competitors for the Griffon team.

One Missouri Western Golfer practices his swing to prepare for an upcoming meet. Men's golf practiced and had seasons in both the spring and the fall.



TEE TIME

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos compliments of Griffon News

Men's golf excels both
on and off the course

The Western Men's Golf team was very impressive in academics and performance in the past season, both going to nationals and having had an average team GPA of 3.1.

Truman Invitational: 315 303 318 (5th out of 9 Teams)
NCAA Div. II Invitational: 310 287 597 (1st out of 13 Teams)

With much dedication and practice at the sport, this was a close-knit team that took pride in each other's success. They finished first in the Northern Son's tournament, second in the Missouri Southern tournament and fourth in the home tournament.

Missouri Southern Invitational: 297 289 585 (2nd out of 10 Teams)

Head coach for three years, Jim Perry, had a special interest when regarding his team's achievements and success in general. "I initially look for a good golfer when I'm recruiting," Perry said. "What really helps me is a sound academic background."

Drury University Classic: 322 310 532 (15th out of 21 Teams)

Players were also proud of their season accomplishments.

"This is probably the closest, most successful team I've ever been a part of," junior Dustin Holcumbrink said. "We spend countless hours together on and off the field and we have the ability to be competitive while still having fun with each other."

Arkansas Tech Collegiate Classic: 309 305 314 (9th out of 15 Teams)

Perry and his team set many goals. They believed

they got along well because of similar goals.

"Having the same goals in mind plays a huge part in our compatibility," Perry said. "Also, we're on the road with each other a lot."

Perry held four meals at his home for the whole team to establish relationships with each other in a relaxed environment. "It's like we're a little family; the guys get to see me in my home setting and that's where we really get to know each other," Perry said.

KWSC Invitational 289 310 599 (4th - 13 Teams)

308 313 521 (9th - 13 Teams)

When it came to motivating each other, the team let it be known that everyone's score counted no matter how high or low it was. "We had a successful season, and we achieved many goals, but we constantly pulled for one another," Holcumbrink said.

Out of the five young golfers Brice Garnett went on to represent Missouri Western while competing in Nationals.

"I believe Brice is the best player at Western, and he's only a sophomore," Holcumbrink said. "Just imagine how good he'll be once he fully develops his skills."

The outlook on the upcoming season was to positively strategize based on the past season. "Being

NIAA Tournament: 312 155 140 301 908 (3rd - 7 Teams)

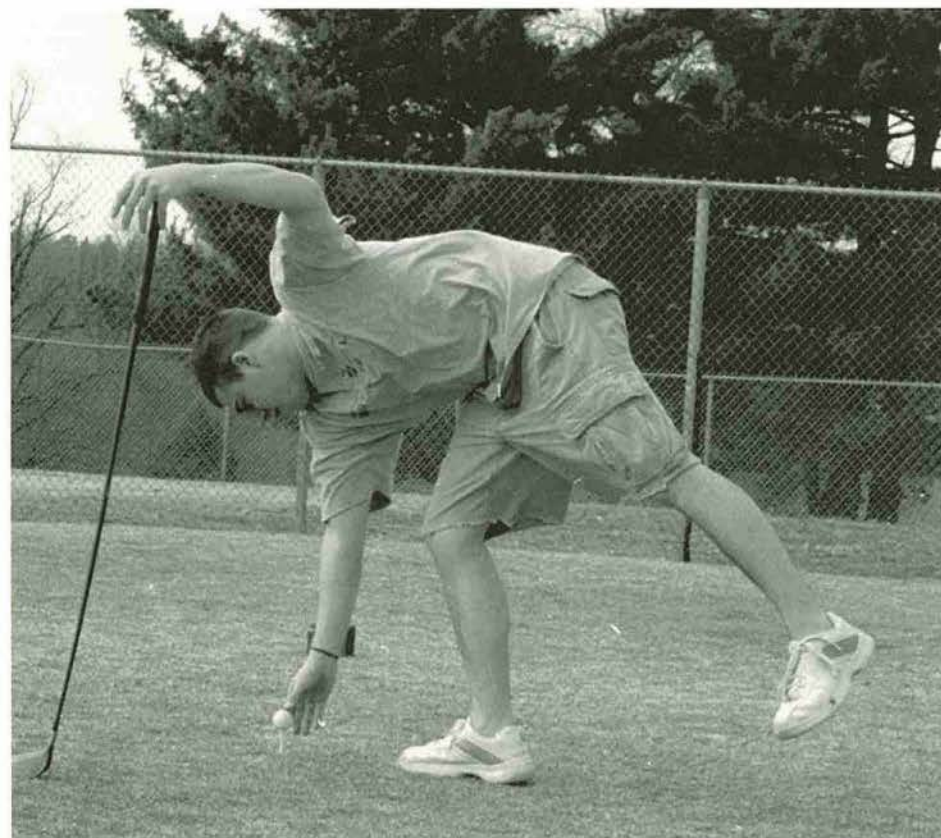
optimistic, we could be better this coming year," Perry said.

The Men's Golf team played a very significant role in the athletics at Western. Perry said they are very proud to be a part of the golf program, and it's a great opportunity for students.

NCAA Great Lakes/Central Super Regional: 313 315 307 935 (5th - 8 Teams)

Holcumbrink agreed but slightly contested. "I feel like we're an important team; we're always at the top of our conference," He said. "I believe a lot of people don't know we have a golf team; it's clear that we don't get the most attention."

Although the Men's Golf team may not have had a large fan base, they always seemed to strive for the best in order to meet their goals.



A Western golfer sets up his ball as he practices. Being a part of the golf team meant challenges as a part of the team and as an individual.

The women's golf team held strong during its second year.

"We've had a good season as a team," sophomore Amy Silcott said. "We had a stronger team this year." Cougar Classic: 355 358 713 (4th - 12 Teams)

Taira Roth agreed that the season went well. "This is my best season yet," she said.

The women's golf team had some difficulties to overcome since it just began the year before.

Rockhurst Tournament: 342 342 (3rd - 5 Teams)
"The obstacle of it being a new sport to the program was challenging, and so was building up from last year," Silcott said.

Whitney Vessar, sophomore majoring in health and exercise science, felt the same way. "It was challenging to get over the big obstacle because a lot of people don't even know that we have a women's golf team," she said. Nebraska-Kearney Tournament: 371 342 713 (6th - 8 Teams)

Besides being a new team, the players believed one of the greatest difficulties was mental control.

NE Oklahoma Classic: 361 354 715 (10th - 13 Teams)



"Golf is definitely a mental challenge," Vessar said.

Roth agreed. "Golf is a very mental sport," she said. "If you let your mind get

involved in what you are doing, then you are probably going to have a bad day."

Roth believed she had made progress in controlling her thoughts.

"Mentally I have overcome a lot," Roth said. "I have learned to forget what happens the hole before." MWSC Invitational: 331 330 667 (1st - 3 Teams)

Roth set a goal to make it to the Division II Regional Tournament. Unfortunately, the team did not make it there this year. However, they did end up making a lot of memories.

"My most memorable moment was during the Drury University Tournament," Roth said. "I not only shot my best two-day tournament, but I also had a blast with my coach. He was right along with me every step of the way." SW Oklahoma Tournament: 339 335 764 (5th - 11 Teams)

Silcott and Vessar thought the season was full of memorable moments. "There's not just one moment," Silcott said. "Every time we go on trips we have fun and joke around." UMKC Kenneth Smith Classic: 350 340 694 (4th - 8 Teams)

For a majority of the women, their love for golf began during childhood, and they took the opportunity to play at Western when it came along.

"I've played my whole life," Silcott said. "My dad is a golf pro, and I've always enjoyed it." MWSC Invitational: 343 343 (2nd - 4 Teams)

"I just started playing golf in high school, and the opportunity came here," Vessar said.

"I enjoy golf," Roth said. "I have played for such a long time that when the chance to play college golf came along I jumped at it." UMKC Invite: 335 335 (1st - 3 Teams)

All three of them said that they saw golf as a team sport, even though they played individually.

"Although this is an individual sport, every team member needs to come on with a good score," Roth said. "I always want to do well, but I also want my team to win." Truman State Invitational 359 350 709 (4th - 10 Teams)

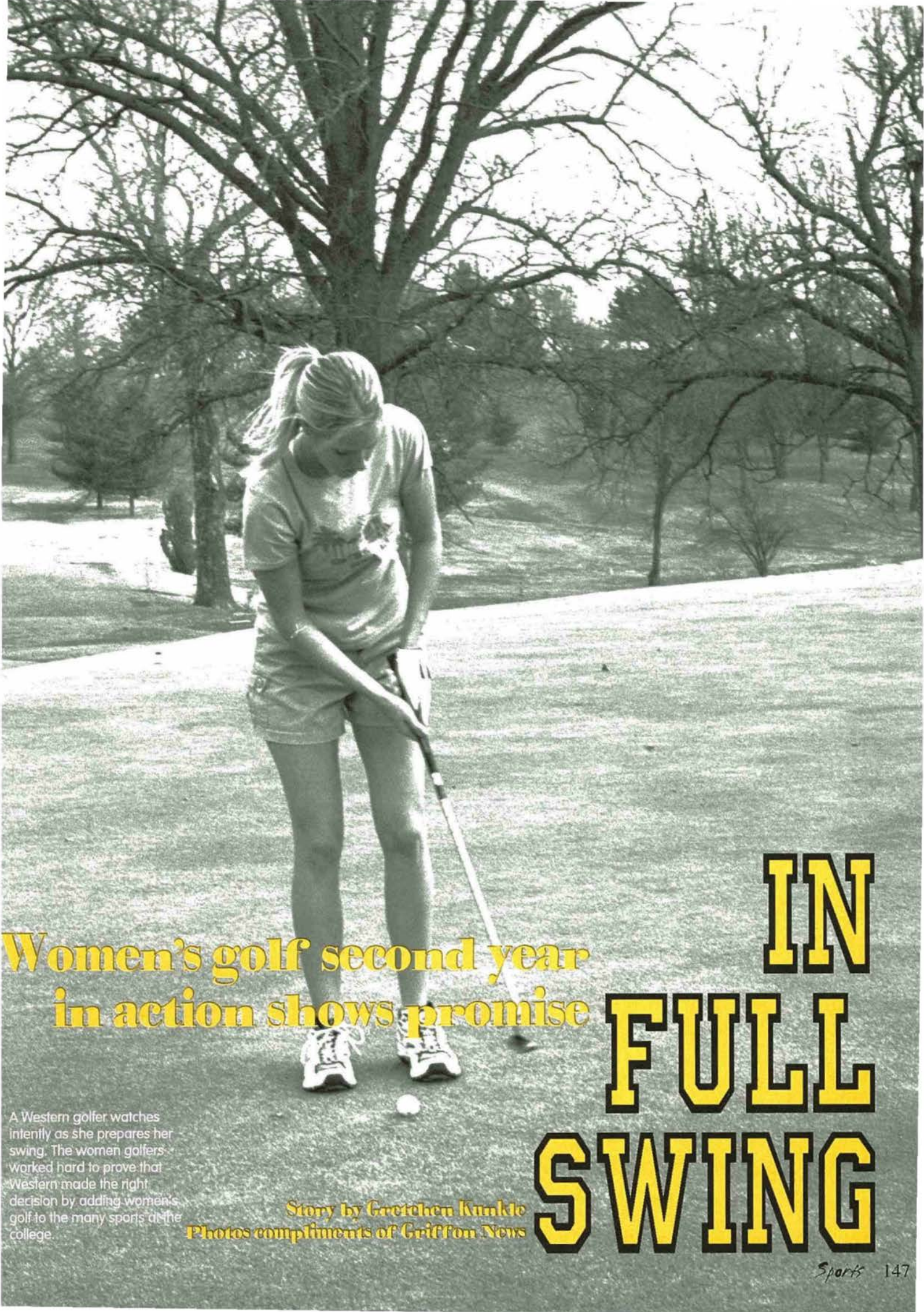
Vessar also believed that team spirit was important.

"We play individually, we compete individually, but I don't consider us as an individual sport," Vessar said.

Drury Lady Panther Invitational 363 350 713 (2nd - 4 Teams)



Top: A golfer watches as one of her teammates takes her turn during practice time. The women travelled and practiced a lot during their season. Bottom: Taira Roth kneels down as she waits her turn to putt after her teammate. Individual skill was an important quality to have to be a member of the women's golf team.



**Women's golf second year
in action shows promise**

**IN
FULL
SWING**

A Western golfer watches intently as she prepares her swing. The women golfers worked hard to prove that Western made the right decision by adding women's golf to the many sports at the college.

**Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos compliments of Griffon News**

SHE GOT SERVED!



Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Johntell Young

Tough circumstances brought about a positive experience for the tennis team

Doubles partners Mary Pankiewicz and Liz Beeson anticipate their opponents' next move. Pankiewicz and Beeson had to trust in each other to be successful partners.

Most team players wouldn't dream of being coached by someone with no experience in their particular sport, which was the case with the Griffon tennis team. They faced many challenges including a new team, a new coach and one player facing heart surgery; however, in the end, they realized having teamwork made them true champions.

With a 2-16 overall season record, Josh Keister, head basketball coach, took on coaching tennis for a year to gain head-coaching experience.

"I had to think about it because of my lack of tennis background," Keister said. "I would at least give it a shot."

The one major challenge faced was the team's youthfulness. It included freshmen, sophomores and one senior. "The team was pretty good as far as improvement

from last year in wins and individually," Keister said.

One of Keister's strongest players agreed with him about the team's improvement.

"The season went very well," senior Liz Beeson said. "After only having four players last season it couldn't have gotten much worse. We worked hard all year."

Even though Beeson was excited to play tennis, she had to overcome heart surgery to continue playing the sport she loved the most.

"I rested over Christmas break and workouts began the day I was released," Beeson said. "I played tennis every day and played better than I had expected. I was glad I was able to return."

Beeson's other teammates, especially her doubles partner, freshman Mary Pankiewicz, felt Beeson was their leader to help them through discouraging times.

"Liz was a great leader," Pankiewicz said. "She was able to pump me up when I needed it. Since she was a senior, I learned a lot from her and was very happy to have played with her."

Being a first year player, Pankiewicz feared what would be expected of her.

"I didn't know how college tennis worked," Pankiewicz said. "It was a little scary."

As a whole, the team was unsure of how the season would turn out, but instead of counting the victories, they counted the ideas to improve strategies.

"A strength was the team's work ethic," Keister said. "They worked hard and tried to get better. They were very teachable and did what was asked."

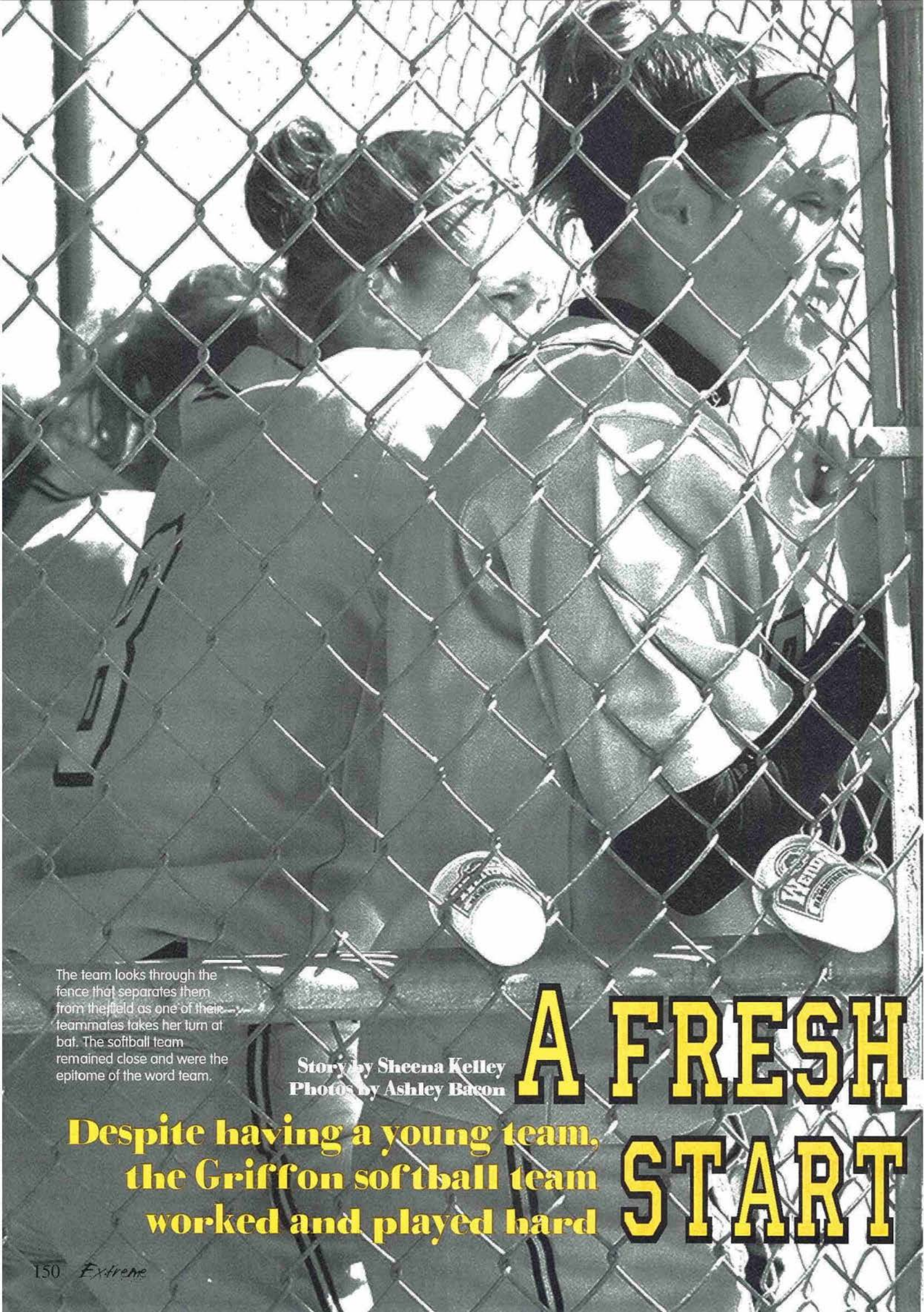
The players agreed with Keister. "I thought everyone on the team got along very well on and off the court," Pankiewicz said.

Beeson felt the same as Pankiewicz. "The girls have a lot to learn, but overall, I have lots of fun," Beeson said.

In spite of the season outcome, Keister believed that if there were more stability in the coaching position, it would help the team more than anything.



Top: A strong serve provides an important part to each match. Many hours were spent practicing those beneficial skills. Bottom: Overcoming huge obstacles, Beeson returned to the court for her senior year. Her drive and motivation were important qualities that will be hard to replace next season.



The team looks through the fence that separates them from the field as one of their teammates takes her turn at bat. The softball team remained close and were the epitome of the word team.

Story by Sheena Kelley
Photos by Ashley Bacon

**Despite having a young team,
the Griffon softball team
worked and played hard**

A FRESH START

BelleVue: W 6-5

BelleVue: W 2-1

Augustana: 4-5 L

St. Cloud 0-2 L

Augustana W 4-2

Nebraska-Omaha 4-6 L

St. Edwards 2-3 L

Angelo State 0-1 L

Concordia 3-4 L

Concordia W 6-1

Wayne State W 13-2

Concordia W 10-0

South Dakota W 4-1

Minnesota State W 3-0

South Dakota W 10-1

South Dakota State W 17-2

Nebraska-Omaha 1-8 L

Nebraska-Omaha W 4-3

NWMSU: W 3-0

NWMSU: 0-4 L

CMSU: 1-4 L

CMSU: 4-7 L

SW Baptist: W 1-0

SW Baptist W 5-2

Missouri-Rolla W 1-0

Missouri-Rolla W 1-0

Park University W 11-0

Park University W 8-0

Emporia State W 4-3

Emporia State 2-4 L

Minnesota State W 7-2

Nebraska-Omaha 2-3 L

Augustana 1-2 L

South Dakota State W 6-1

South Dakota W 9-0

Truman 0-1 L

Truman 0-1 L

Missouri Southern 1-2 L

Missouri Southern W 5-3

Pittsburg State W 7-0

that hasn't been taken full advantage of,"

Bagley said. Pittsburg State 3-4 L

Junior Andre Burns, sports management major, regularly attended the

home games of the lady Griffons and

enjoyed the games. "First off, I'm a fan,"

Burns said. "Also, the weather is most

likely to be nice when they play, and that's

really fun." Minnesota State W 5-3

For the next season the Western

softball team planned on sticking with the

same method that had brought them so far

in victory and growth and also hoped that it

would get even better.

Missouri-Rolla 3-7 L

In the past year, thanks to the consistent performance of a few-fresh faced Griffon athletes, the Western softball team had a strong season.

The expression "experience comes with age" was irrelevant regarding the women's softball team because it had a starting lineup of all freshmen, sophomores and one senior.

This could have presented a problem for some coaches; however, head coach Jen Bagley said that although the team was young, it didn't have an impact on their ability to do well.

"This has been the most successful season since I've been here," Bagley said.

Bagley had only been at Western three years and managed to guide the team through a solid season which left them with a record of 31-19 (which was the best record since 1997) and ranked sixth in the region. Another accom-

plishment of the season was that they had four players named all-conference.

One of the underclassmen who played a huge role on the team was first baseman sophomore sports management major Amy Beverly. While Beverly was satisfied with the turnout of the season, she admitted that it wasn't what she expected.

"I didn't really know what to expect from the freshmen, regarding being ready for games," Beverly said. "A lot of people stepped up, and that's what made it an excellent season."

The season overall was parallel to the attitudes and relationships between the coaches and teammates. "I love how our team gets along. It seems as if we have the same personality," Beverly said. Bagley described their interaction as very strong with a loose atmosphere. "I feel we have a combination of having a good relationship on and off the field," Bagley said.

"The girls get along so well with one another; I believe that's a huge part of their success," Bagley said. "They support each other so unconditionally that it motivates them to do well."

Bagley said the qualities she looked for in a player were solid academics, competitive attitude, good communication skills and physical strength.

Athletics at Western have always been an important part of the social experience during college. "Softball is another women's sport that's an important opportunity that hasn't been taken full advantage of,"

Bagley said.

Junior Andre Burns, sports management major, regularly attended the home games of the lady Griffons and enjoyed the games. "First off, I'm a fan," Burns said. "Also, the weather is most likely to be nice when they play, and that's really fun."

For the next season the Western softball team planned on sticking with the same method that had brought them so far in victory and growth and also hoped that it would get even better.



Top: Nicole Mosley reaches out for a catch as she attempts to get a player from Truman State out. Western played Truman State twice in their season and lost a close game both times. Bottom: Shannon Benash takes her lead as she watches the play beyond her. Teamwork was one of the most important things for the softball team this year.

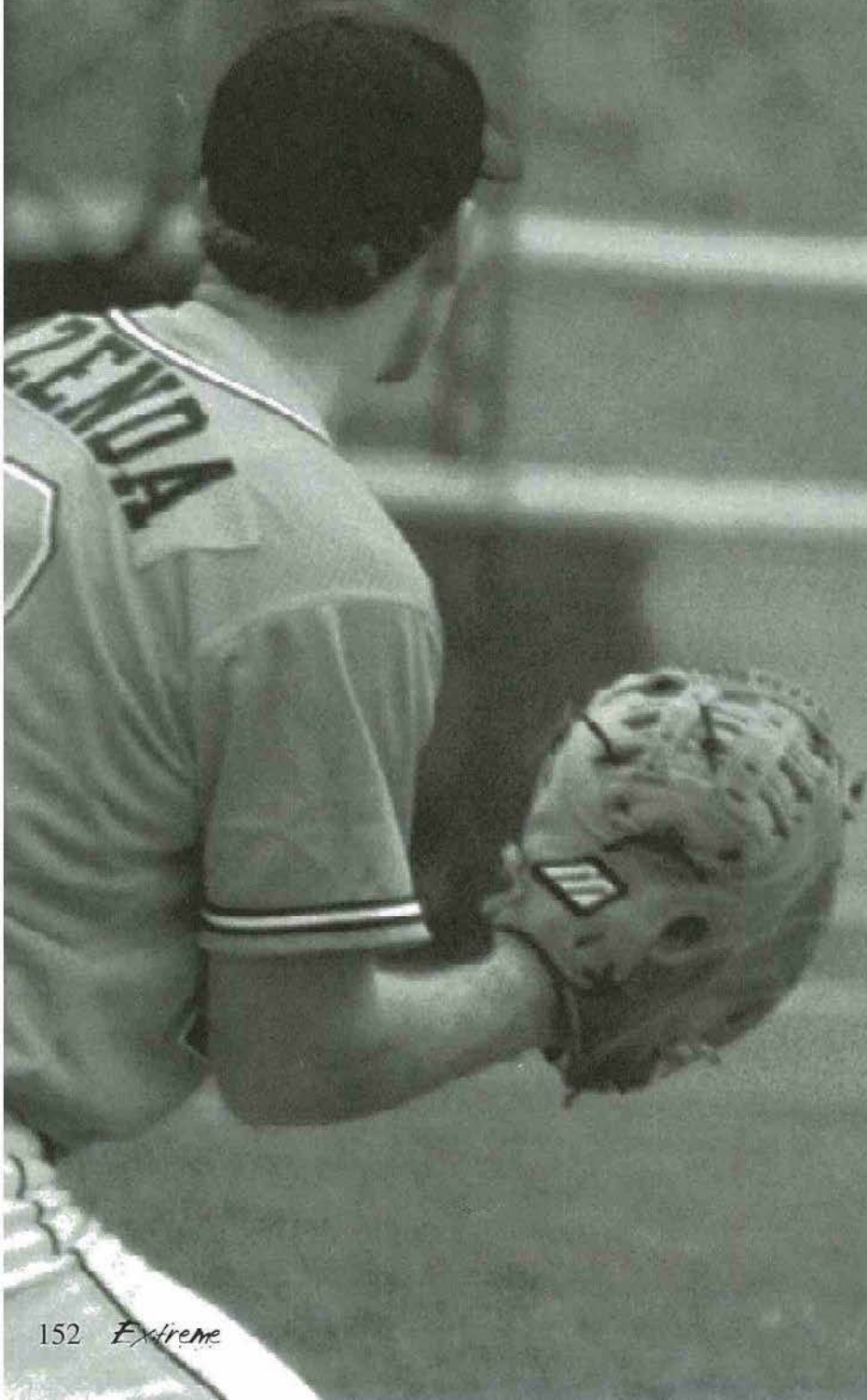
SWINGING

The Griffon baseball players carry one another on their backs to bring home their best record since joining Division II

FOR

SUCCESS

Story by Kellie Feuerbacher
Photos by Jeremy Wiekel



Jake Grzenda stretches to ensure the Griffons an out at first base. Making the routine play was a key aspect of the Griffons winning season.

Wayne State (Neb.) W 11-2

Happy players and pleased fans were the results of the Griffon baseball team's successful season.

Pittsburg State W 3-0

Lincoln W 3-0

The Griffons started the season with a five-game

Lincoln W 9-0

winning streak. The team continued strong with several wins throughout most of the season.

Nebraska-Omaha 0-2 L

Nebraska-Omaha W 7-0

Despite the number of wins slightly dwindling

Nebraska-Omaha W 4-3

toward the end of the season, the team still came out with an impressive season record. The Griffons ended the season with 33 wins, 18 losses and an MIAA record of 17-14.

Nebraska-Kearney W 9-0

Nebraska-Kearney W 13-2

Even in the games the team lost, the average difference in score was only three points per game, and the average

Nebraska-Kearney 2-3 L

difference in score for the games the team won was five points. The large number of wins and close losses speaks

Nebraska-Kearney W 10-5

Benedictine W 8-7

Augustana W 3-2

Augustana W 9-3

Augustana 4-10 L

for the hard work ethic, dedication, motivation and pure skill each of the team members possessed.

Augustana W 8-5

Emporia State W 6-2

The players contributed much of their accomplishment to their positive attitudes and the camaraderie the teammates shared.

Emporia State 6-10 L

NWMSU: W 9-2

NWMSU: W 8-4

NWMSU: W 10-3

"We come together as a family," senior pitcher Lee Ring said. "We all pick each other up when someone else is down."

NWMSU: 3-0 L

Washburn W 16-10

Washburn W 13-1

Lincoln W 5-1

DeRay Ivie, senior outfielder, agreed that the

Lincoln W 11-1

players worked well together. "We have good team chemistry," he said.

SW Baptist 1-2 L

SW Baptist W 10-3

The men used that chemistry to defeat the school rival, Northwest Missouri State University, in three out of the four games played against the Bearcats.

SW Baptist W 11-6

Emporia State 7-8 L

Emporia State W 4-2

The team's success was also due in part to the extreme amount of experience that could be found on the field among the players.

Missouri Southern 1-2 L

Missouri Southern 2-5 L

Missouri Southern W 2-1

"A big reason we've done so well is because we have a lot of returning seniors," senior second baseman John Dano said.

Truman W 8-4

Truman W 10-0

Central Missouri 2-9 L

With the efforts of the returning seniors and the entire team, the Griffons proved successful on the home

Central Missouri 5-11 L

Central Missouri 1-4 L

field as well as away. The home record was

Washburn 2-4 L

20-10, and the away record was 12-8, with a neutral record of 1-0. The Griffons con-

Washburn W 3-1

cluded the year with a satisfied assurance of a job well done.

Pittsburg State W 5-4

Pittsburg State 3-4 L

Pittsburg State 6-7 L

Missouri-Rolla W 11-1

Missouri-Rolla W 9-1

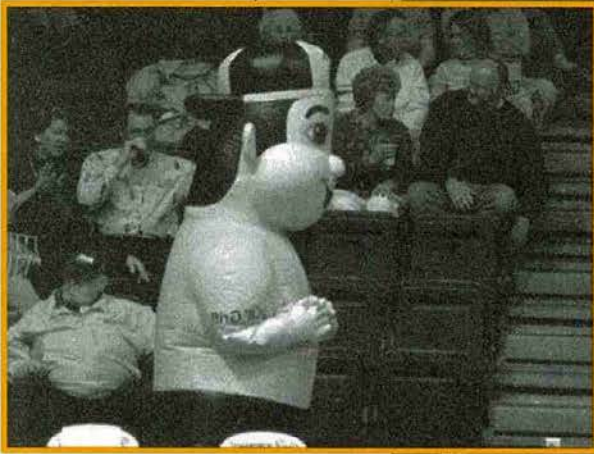
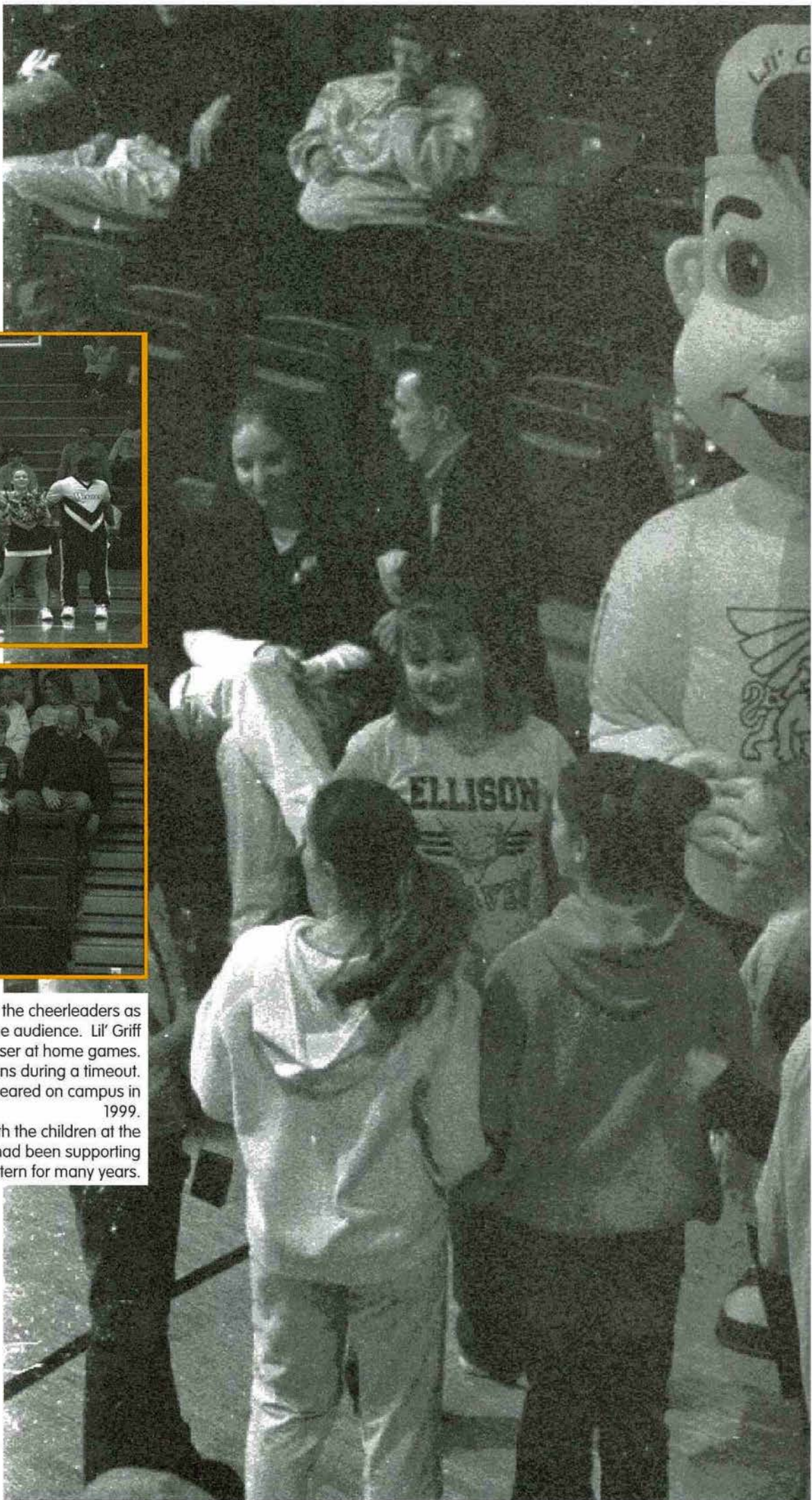
Missouri-Rolla 1-8 L

Truman 5-6 L

Truman W 3-2

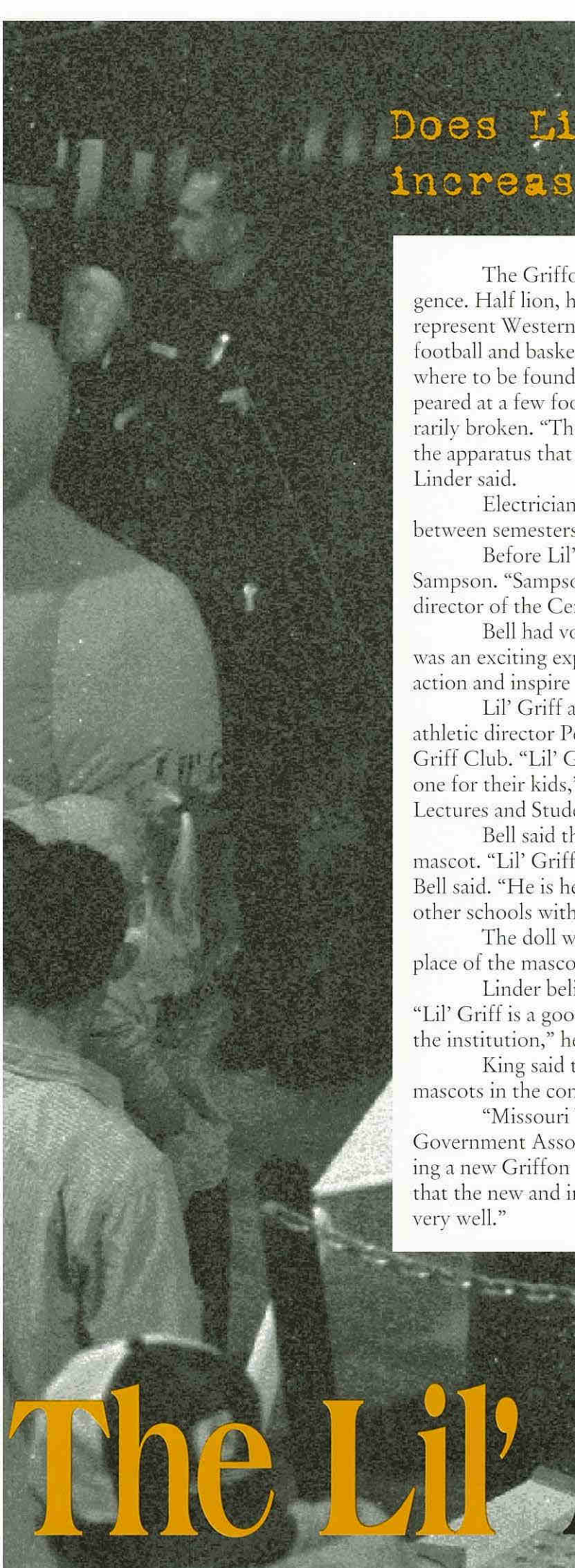


Top: Freshman centerfielder, Ben Schleppenbach, sizes up the pitch before making a move. Being aggressive yet selective was the main goal for the Griffon hitters in their successful season. Bottom: Every play starts with the pitcher. One of the Griffon pitchers, Alan Cartwright, was a good left-handed arm out of the bullpen.



Above: Lil' Griff participates with the cheerleaders as they prepare to perform for the audience. Lil' Griff had always been a crowd pleaser at home games. Below: Lil' Griff entertains the fans during a timeout. The blow-up doll mascot appeared on campus in 1999.

Right: Lil Griff interacts with the children at the Truman State game. Lil' Griff had been supporting Western for many years.



Does Lil' Griff really increase school spirit?

The Griffon was known as a symbol of strength and intelligence. Half lion, half eagle, the mythological creature was chosen to represent Western as the official mascot. But, when events such as football and basketball games took place, a Griffon mascot was nowhere to be found. Instead, a blow-up doll known as Lil' Griff appeared at a few football games before he became damaged and temporarily broken. "There were electrical problems between the battery and the apparatus that generated the air flow," athletic director Mark Linder said.

Electricians were hired to fix the problem. "Lil' Griff was fixed between semesters," Brett King, sports information director, said.

Before Lil' Griff, Western had a Griffon mascot named Sampson. "Sampson the Griffon fell to despair; he broke," Karl Bell, director of the Center for Multicultural Education, said.

Bell had volunteered in the past to be Lil' Griff at games. "It was an exciting experiment," Bell said. "I really got to be part of the action and inspire the crowd."

Lil' Griff appeared on Western's campus in 1999. Former athletic director Pete Chapman purchased him to represent the Lil' Griff Club. "Lil' Griff is part of a club. The Nebraska Huskers have one for their kids," Robert Mitchell, committee chairperson for the Lectures and Student Services for Campus Activities Board, said.

Bell said that Lil' Griff was an ambassador for the college, not a mascot. "Lil' Griff is here to interact with a youth group for Western," Bell said. "He is here for games, to appear in parades and to go to other schools with the athletes when they have away games."

The doll was here for the kids, and he temporarily took the place of the mascot until Western would receive a new one.

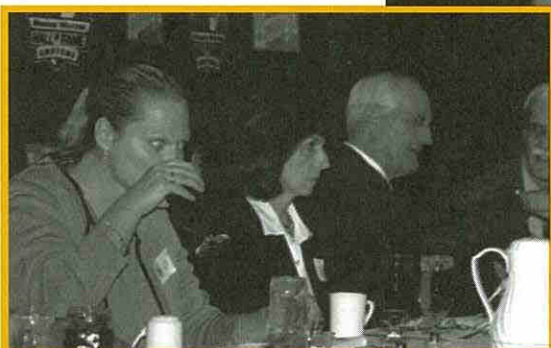
Linder believed that a new mascot was what Western needed. "Lil' Griff is a good secondary mascot but not a primary mascot for the institution," he said.

King said that the new mascot would be equivalent to other mascots in the conference.

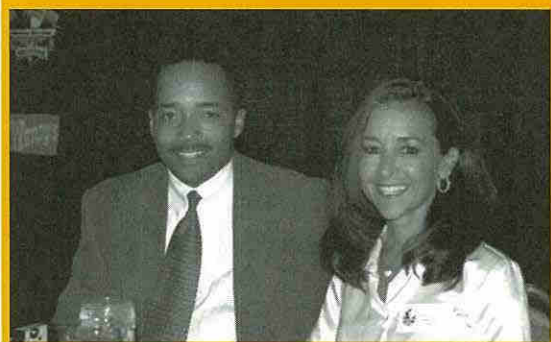
"Missouri Western Athletics in conjunction with the Student Government Association and Campus Activities Board will be unveiling a new Griffon mascot in the summer of 2004," King said. "We feel that the new and improved Griffon will represent Western Athletics very well."

The Lil' Mascot

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran



2003



Top: Kim Palmer, former basketball and softball player for the Griffons, takes time out for a drink during the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Kim Palmer was acknowledged for her many achievements in softball, including 2nd team All-American honors.

Bottom: Mr. and Mrs. Marc Lewis enjoy their dinner at the Western Griffon Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Lewis played football for Western from 1978-81.

Right: Bob Orf, master of ceremonies and KFEQ radio voice, introduces Greg Kastner, former Missouri Western baseball great, to accept his induction into the Hall of Fame. Kastner pitched for Western's baseball team from 1971-1973.



Six alumni and one former faculty member are inducted into Hall of Fame

The Hall of Fame started in 1986 and was officially established in 1991. However, the Hall of Fame went on a hiatus for a number of years until the fall of 2000. "In the fall of 2000, we resurrected it and we now have by-laws to allow a program that will go on," chairman Zach Workman, former hall of fame inductee, said.

Induction was held annually since 2000. Most of the inductees were chosen for induction for their achievements playing an athletic sport, meritorious service or coaching.

On Oct. 3, 2003, five former athletes and one former director of athletics joined 33 current members in the Athletics Hall of Fame. The five athletes were mostly compiled from the 1970s and 1980s. All inductees graduated from Western five years prior to being considered for induction.

Among the six inductees was Myasthia Kelley-Editone. Kelley-Editone was inducted in 2002 for her performance on the women's basketball team 1978-1972, but was unable to attend the ceremony until 2003.

The other five inductees for the class of 2003 were: Greg Kastner, who played baseball from 1971-1973, Marc Lewis, a football player from 1978-1981, Kim Palmer, who played both softball and basketball from 1982-1985, Keith Evans, a football player from 1974-1977 and Ed B. Harris, the director of athletics from 1985-1995.

The inductees felt the Hall of Fame was a great honor. Palmer who was already in the Hall of Fame as part of the 1982 National Softball Champions, thought it was great to be recognized once again for her contribution to Western. "It's a neat feeling to think that this many years later somebody remembers that you made a contribution," Palmer said.

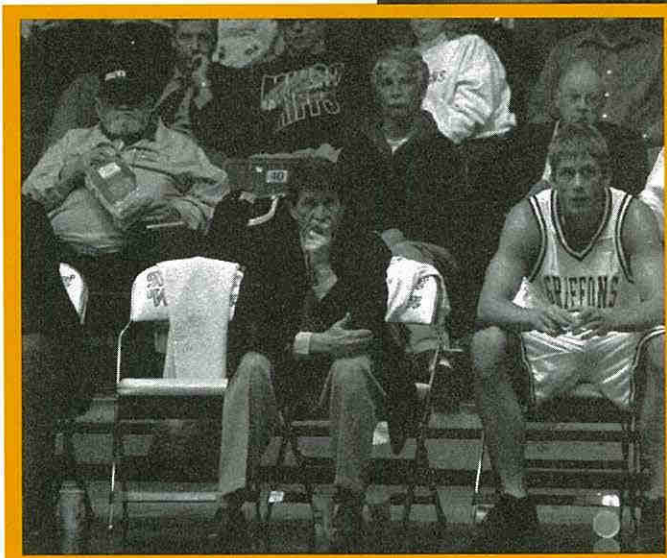
A few inductees were surprised they were picked, Lewis being one of them. "I really didn't think that I would be inducted, but it's a great honor and probably the best honor I've had since playing professionally," Lewis said.

The Hall of Fame gave Western's future athletes a long list of mentors to look up to. For those who made achievements in the fields of athletics, Western recognized and honored them in an annual ceremony that became a part of Western's history.

Story by Shawn Kiehl
Photos by Jeff Winn

Honoring Athletes

Tom Smith cuts the net after winning the MIAA tournament in 2003. Smith has been coaching at Western for 16 years.



Top: Smith sits with his team and assistant coaches. This year, Smith received his 500th win.
Bottom: Smith thinks about the next team strategy during a game. Smith kept his patience even when games became intense.

After 16 years and 500 wins, Tom Smith reminisces experiences from the past and thinks about the future.

This season Tom Smith won his five hundredth game. Smith was also the third head coach with the most wins in Western's history.

Smith coached at Western for 16 years. "I felt like I had the opportunity to be successful and the administration was looking for good, positive individuality," Smith said.

Smith had most memorable moments throughout his coaching experience. "My first year here we moved from NAIA to NCAA, we won our league tournament and we finished, in what we called the sweet sixteen," Smith said. "In 1995 and 1996 we won our record 26 wins and 5 losses."

Smith expressed how doing something he loved didn't make it seem he was working.

"It's always the nicest thing, in this profession because I feel like I don't have to work," Smith said. "It's not like a job. I always feel fortunate to work here."

Smith played basketball in high school, where he was an all-star player in the state of Indiana. In college, he was an honorable mention All American. Smith wanted to give that same chance to his own players. "I always wanted to play college basketball, and me [Coach Smith] gave me the opportunity," senior Cy Musser said.

Smith loved coaching his team because he helped build relationships that were life changing.

"For me, the best thing about coaching is the relationships with the kids," Smith said. "I enjoying putting together teams every year with kids and establishing relationships."

Smith's players approved of him trying to help them in any way possible.

"His tolerance for players makes him a good coach," junior Langston Grady said. "He really cares about you as an individual, not just as a player."

Smith had two strategies to keep the team's spirit up after losing a game. One was to stay positive and to not dwell on negative things. The second was being prismatic and forgetting the past.

Some players learned from Smith's attitude.

"I learned a lot from him because I want to be a coach," Musser said. "You have to work together as a team to be successful."

Other players felt the same about Smith's personality.

"He has taught me that my attitude is what hinders me from being a great player," Grady said. "I've learned from him that the right attitude will take you a long way in life."

This team shared many memories together. "One of my favorite memories is the 500th win and coach slipping on the floor falling," Grady said.

Others had different favorite memories.

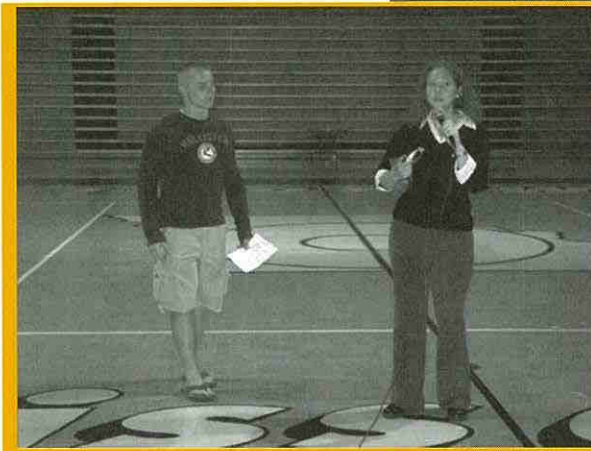
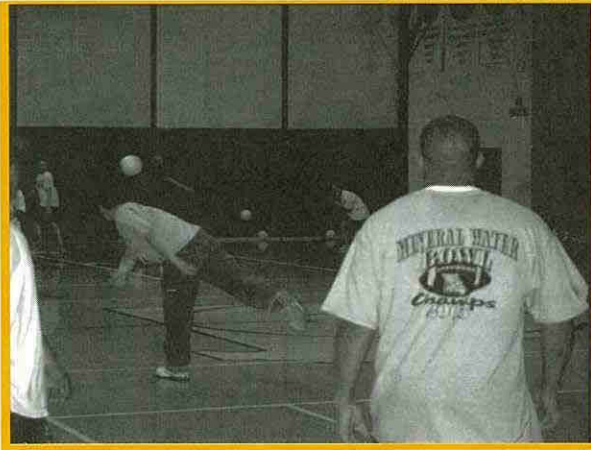
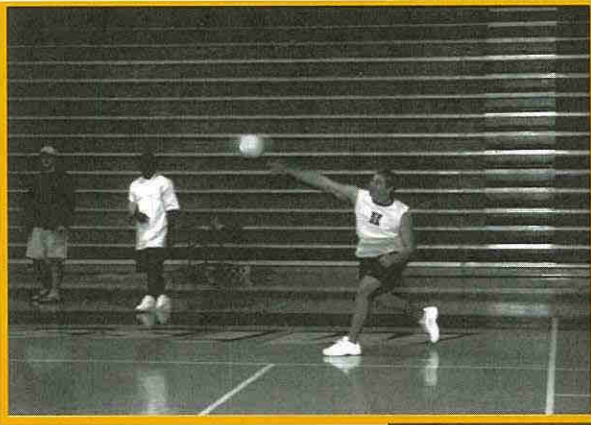
"My favorite memories are when we won two conference championships," Musser said. "He's always there for us on and off the court helping us."

Smith has touched the lives of these two players as well as the whole team.

Thanks Coach

Story By Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Jennifer Moran

A Griffon athlete displays proper follow-through when throwing a dodgeball. Proper stretching and form was key to opponent annihilation.



Top: Student athletes are taken back to elementary school gym class with a dodgeball tournament. Each month brought a different learning and bonding experience for the Griffon athletes.

Middle: A Western athlete hurls the ball at other athletes in a dodgeball match to the death. Dodgeball was one of the many activities athletes participated in to have stress-free fun.

Bottom: Andy Davis, Griffon football player and Kate Pierson, a Griffon trainer prepare the student athletes for an evening of dodgeball debauchery. Kate was the creative planner behind all of the Lifeskills lessons.

The CHAMPS/Lifeskills program benefits athletes through special events

Western's student athletes received more than academic knowledge and playing time on the field or court with the CHAMPS/Life Skills program. The students were provided with opportunities to grow in a variety of areas that would benefit them as student athletes while in college and in the future as professionals in the field of athletics or any other area.

CHAMPS/Life Skills, which stands for "Challenging Athletes' Minds for Personal Success," started in 1994 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association Foundation and the Division 1-A Athletic Directors' Association, and since then, over 400 institutions had become involved.

By participating in the program, Western received benefits in return. "Since we have a CHAMPS/Life Skills program, we are able to nominate four student athletes to get to go to the NCAA Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla.," Kate Pierson, CHAMPS/Life Skills coordinator, said.

Every semester, the athletic department held four events, one per month, for the athletes to attend, and each athlete was required to attend all events. One event was an etiquette dinner during which the athletes learned how to conduct themselves properly at a formal dinner, when to use each utensil, how to fold the napkin and other useful tips.

Other events included swing dance lessons and a "Supporting Athletes" activity in which the students worked together as teams to accomplish tasks. The athletic department also brought in speakers to inform the students about such topics as healthy and unhealthy dietary supplements and drunken driving. In order to learn how to give an interview, radio and television professionals were brought in to conduct mock interviews with the students, and then the professionals critiqued the students and gave them tips on being interviewed.

Pierson saw the current and lifelong benefits students received by attending the events provided by the program.

"They get to work together and get to know different student athletes," Pierson said. "We hope they take something away from the events and that they learn from them."

Athletes agreed that the program has helped them personally.

"I think for me, the best part is having the interaction with other athletes," junior Taira Roth, women's golfer, said.

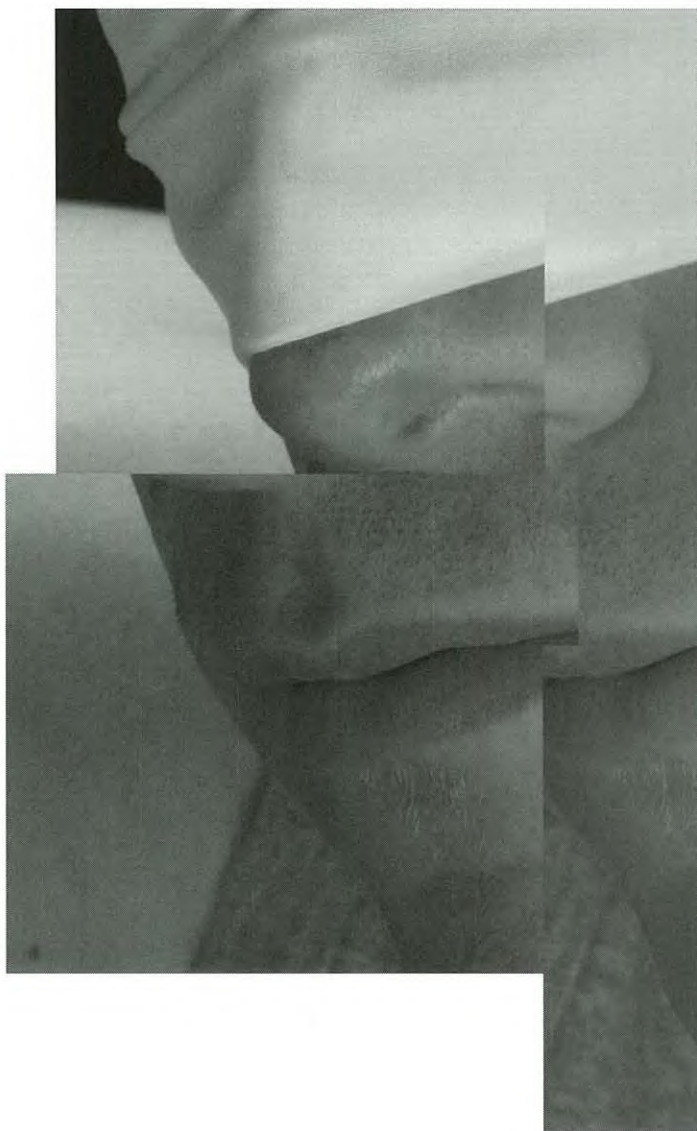
The program also benefited members of the St. Joseph community through the "Night out on the Griffs" event. During this, the students gave up a Friday night to hold a fun night on campus for children in the community to attend while their parents had an evening to themselves free of charge.

Roth also enjoyed helping that evening. "A lot of people from the community give to the college," she said. "It's a chance for us to give back."

Learning Life Lessons

Story by Kellie Feuerbacherr
Photos by Johntell Young

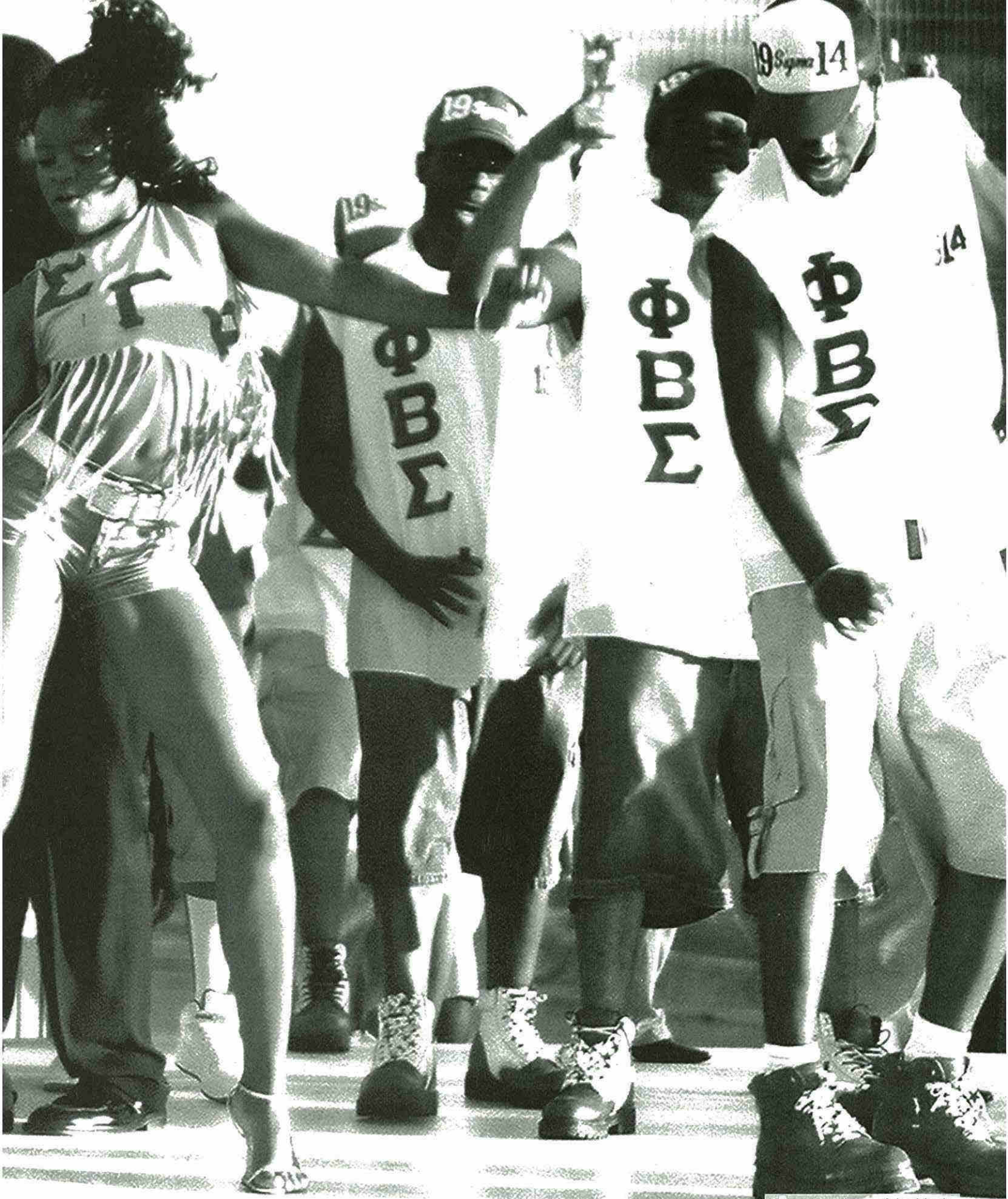
WITNESS



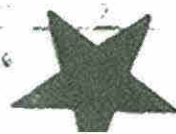
Beginning the Witness section, Jake Grzenda represents a witness remaining blind to what is in front of him. Picture by Ashley Bacon.





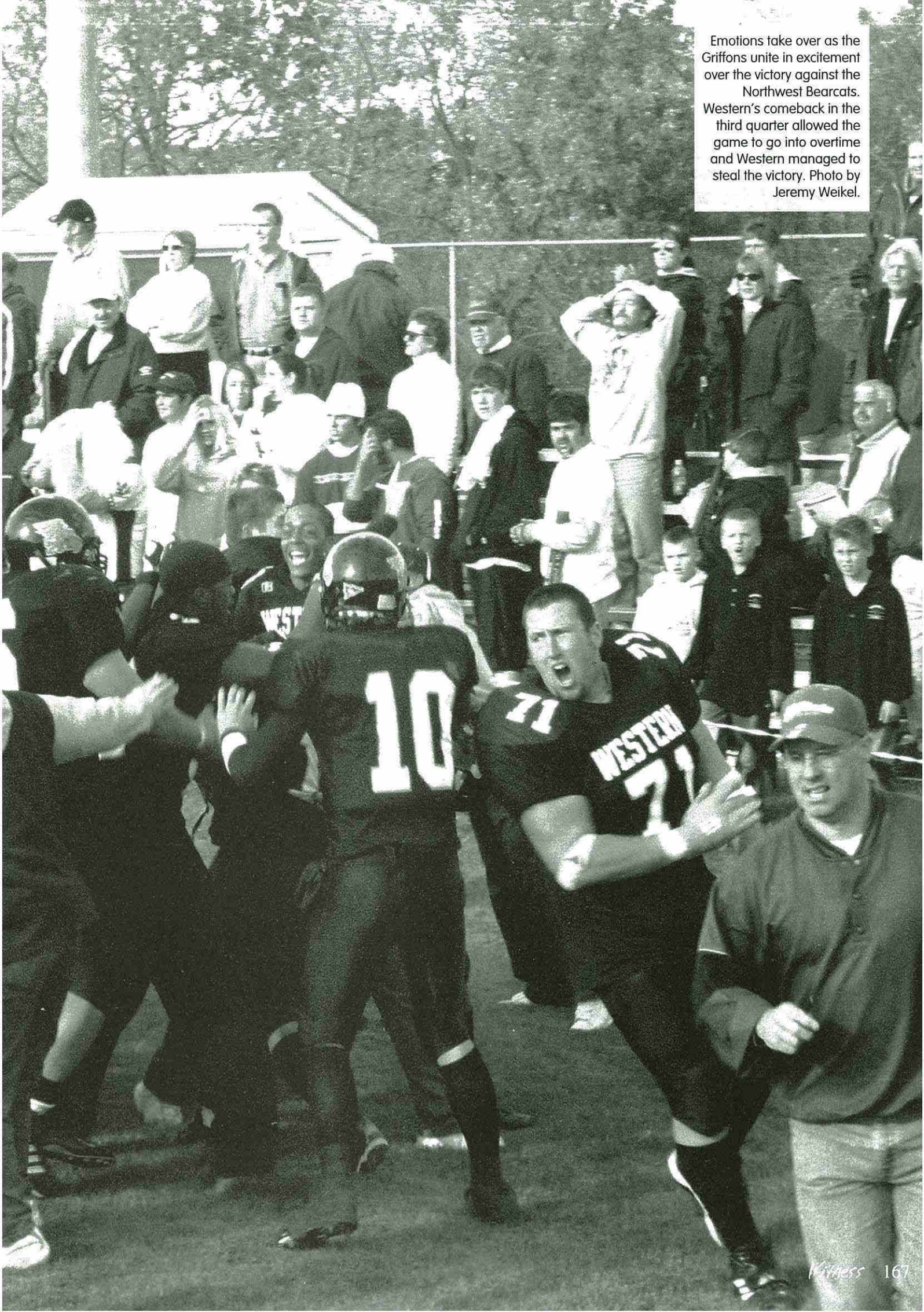


Many members of the black sororities and fraternities at Western show off their synchronized steps at the Fall Step Show. The step show was one of the many opportunities for greeks to show off their new steps. Photo by Johnell Young.





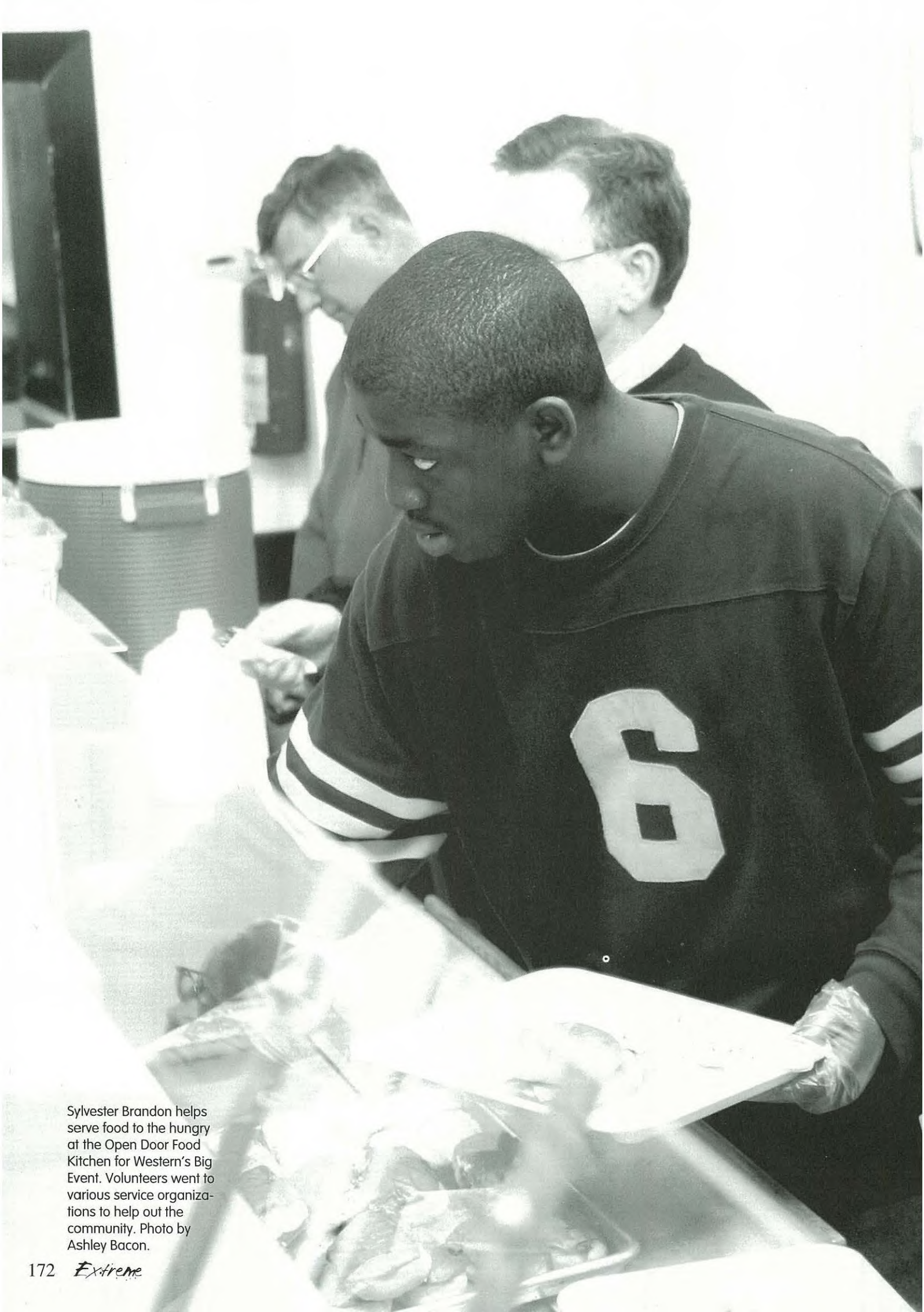
Emotions take over as the Griffons unite in excitement over the victory against the Northwest Bearcats. Western's comeback in the third quarter allowed the game to go into overtime and Western managed to steal the victory. Photo by Jeremy Weikel.





Three students hang out in front of the clock tower on the deck of the Fine Arts building. Western was known for the tower and its spacious campus. Photo by Valissa Kraus.



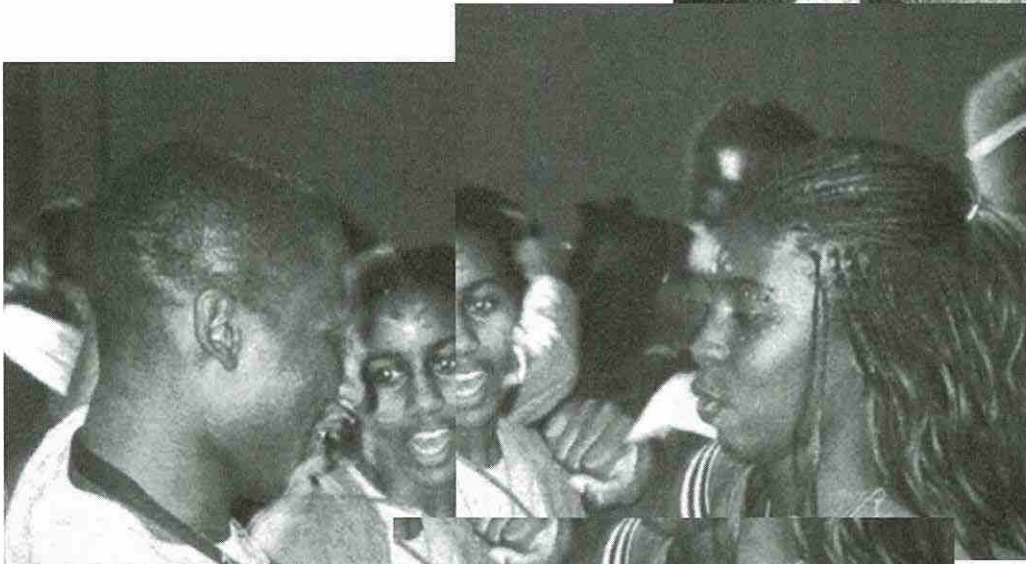


Sylvester Brandon helps serve food to the hungry at the Open Door Food Kitchen for Western's Big Event. Volunteers went to various service organizations to help out the community. Photo by Ashley Bacon.

Two members of the Mystics dance team wait in anticipation for the halftime show of the football game. They not only performed at football games, but also at pep-rallies, tailgates and basketball games. Photo by Heidi Weber.



PEOPLE



Maurice Bush and LaKeeia Hawkins show off their dance moves at a party. It wasn't always easy for students to find free time during the busy semesters. Photo by Kamita Shelby.



Steve Allee
 Jeenan Allen
 Wendy Allen
 Tara Anderson
 Elizabeth Anderton
 Elizabeth Armstrong
 Megan Ashley

Dane Ault
 Emily Auxier
 Ashley Bacon
 Arthur Ballard
 Ryan Bane
 Angie Barber
 Megan Barnes

David Bell
 Don Bentz
 Kimberly Bentz
 Jeanette Berger
 Nicole Berry
 Mary Bishop
 Adam Blackman

Aylesi Bobo
 Hannah Bogle
 Evelyn Borske
 Amber Bouge
 Amber Bowie
 Vance Bradley
 Sylvester Brandon

Devree Brinnon
 Mary Bronson
 Nicole Brown
 Desirae Bruhs
 Jennifer Buckallew
 Stephanie Bullimore
 Brandon Burns

Mark Butcher
 Tosha Byers
 Lindsey Campbell
 Armand Carr
 Ethel Catron
 Henry Causey
 Jason Chancellor

Lacey Christopher
 Stanico Chruh
 Nathan Clair
 Anthony Clark
 Cara Clark
 Amy Coleman
 Jana Collins

Angela Combs
 Anita Combs
 Charity Cordray
 Stephanie Crandall
 Courtney Crawford
 Wilson Curtis
 Jonathan Davidson

Nicole Dejongh
 Francisco Diaz
 Tammy Dickmeyer
 Jarrett Dillard
 Ryan Donalson
 Reuben Doornink
 Jeffrey Dozier

David Drake
 Paula Dyer
 Linsey Edington
 Letisha Edwards
 Jennifer Ellis
 Rebecca Evers
 John Fabsits

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Erin Fehling
 Natalie Fennell
 Gabriela Fernandez
 Kellie Feuerbacher
 Lindsay Fiscus
 Keri Foster
 Lindsay Fuller



Mystique Gant
 Patrick Gentry
 Brent Gerling
 Jamie Giefer
 Joan Gillahan
 Melody Grier
 Rebecca Groves



Jacob Grzenda
 Emily Guinn
 Christy Hall
 Heather Hall
 Amy Halling
 Loita Hannah
 Pamela Hasman



Hussen Hassen
 Bradley Hausman
 Lakeeia Hawkins
 Joshua Hayden
 Bridget Head
 Aimee Heasley
 Amanda Heffron



Kristina Henderson
 Elanda Herman
 Cara Hicks
 Kevin Hill
 Sara Hill
 Carliss Holland
 Jennifer Horkman



Brenda Howard
 Elizabeth Howard
 Robert Howard
 Rachael Hunt
 Christian Hunold
 Junichiro Ichikawa
 Amy Ives



Tyler Ives
 Aaron Johnson
 Michael Johnson
 Tracy Johnson
 Amy Kanak
 Shawn Karlin
 Thejaswi Karumanchi



Tiffany Keeney
 Amy Kerling
 Coid Kerr
 Gretchen Lane
 Janel Lantz
 Amber Larue
 Travis Lawson



James Letcher
 Matthew Lewis
 Scott Lightle
 Sarah Lindsay
 Lawyang Liu
 Cynthia Long
 Sandra Lopez



Stephanie Madison
 Eric Magness
 Jennifer Magness
 Catherine Mahoney
 Tiffani Manley
 Mandy Marrs
 Myrnell Martin



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His daily school schedule was no different than others, his involvement on campus was more than usual and his talents were endless. You think you know, but you have no idea. This was the college life of Adrian Gray.

Adrian Gray was a junior at Western with a major in vocal music performance. Along with being involved in musical activities, Gray also stayed involved with numerous other activities on campus.

"I am involved with the Campus Activities Board, the Student Government Association, The Ebony Collegians, Campus Crusade for Christ, the Baptist Student Union, Chi Alpha, I am an Orientation Assistant and a Griffon Edge leader," Gray said. "I have also been excepted as a VIP Student Ambassador for next semester."

Gray managed to find time outside these organizations to enjoy singing in the school and church choirs as well. He also starred in the Western play, "Grease" as Danny Zuko.

Being involved in all these organizations had some advantages. "I was the Western Idol winner in 2003 and this past year I was a judge of Western Idol," he said. "One of the biggest honors of all, I was crowned Homecoming king in fall of 2003."

Gray had no regrets with keeping himself busy with various organizations and activities.

"I am glad that I kept myself involved with everything while I have been in college," Gray said. "I have made so many life long

friends. Campus Crusade helps me clear my head every week and is a great chance to get with my peers and converse about life. CAB has been very beneficial to me as well because it gave me the opportunity to use my outgoing personality."

Gray's outgoing personality was what made him well known on campus by his peers and teachers. "Adrian is full of energy, a very personable guy," Megan Matt said. "I first met Adrian in choir and he was always trying to make people laugh. He likes to have a good time whatever he is doing."

Gray was a positive influence to the people around him. "Adrian has motivated me to get more involved with school because of his actions," Megan Dungan said. "He knows what he wants in life and that encourages me to step up my involvement on campus as well."

Gray was just as busy off-campus as he was on-campus with his two jobs.

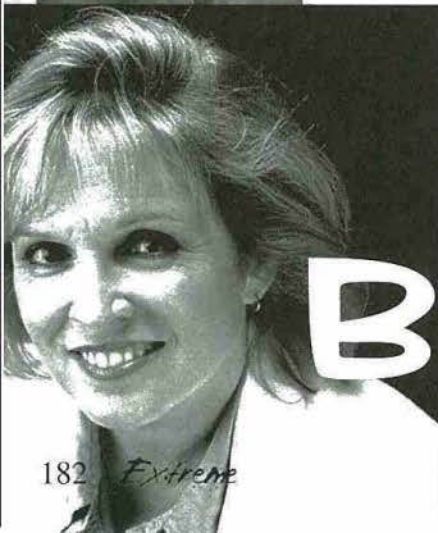
"Monday through Friday I work on a Christian Radio show called the Kingdom from 6 to 11; you can tune in to 12.70 KG&M to check it out," he said. "On the weekends I am a waiter at Whiskey Creek."

The future looked bright for Gray with his talents and determination to succeed. "I hope to be graduating in May 2005 and from there my future is wide open," he said. "I could be doing anything from leading worship at church to touring and being on contemporary Christian music charts; I will go wherever God leads me."



Adrian Gray

By Alison Krieg
Photos by Ashley Bacon



When she proposed an idea for a student fee decrease, they said no. When she wanted to revise the plan for renovating the food court, they looked at her strangely. Finally, when students attempted to impeach her, the same students began to understand her views and gave her the support to continue doing what she has the passion to do. What student went through these various situations and still remained standing? Junior Barbara Black, an accounting major, encountered these circumstances.

Black was involved in a variety of activities around campus. A few were the College Republicans Club and the Non-Traditional Student Organization. There was one other activity where Black stood out above the rest because she was considered different by a few other students. This organization was the Student Government Association.

"I've been involved in the student senate since spring of 2002," Black said.

Having the opportunity to be a senator allowed Black to be the representative for students who didn't speak for themselves.

"There are two groups of students, the active and the non-active," Black said. "I represent the non-active, the ones who talk to you in the hall because that's all the time they have."

Students, who had the chance to work with Black, had their own personal opinions.

"I met Barbara in history class and in student senate," senior Elijah Haahr said. "Of all the senators, she's the one with the most passion regardless of whether you agree with

her or not."

Other students had a similar first impression of Black.

"I met Barbara when we did a forum for SGA," senior Lucas Gorham said. "She was very interested and supportive of the idea."

Being supportive was what Black wanted to accomplish; however, fellow members felt she sometimes gave a negative vibe. "Sometimes she comes off as being defensive when we try to explain things and it makes her sound rude," Gorham said.

Others believed Black was just misunderstood.

"A lot of people see her as a negative person because she questions us," Haahr said. "I think once they get to know her, they find out she's really a passionate person."

Black knew she sometimes appeared to be overbearing. "I'm sure some think that, but when you're representing the silent majority, you can't get discarded easily," Black said.

After working with Black, students who felt she was too forward with her opinions began to see the drive Black had within. "At the beginning, it was really hard, but towards the end she tried harder at working with people and campus issues as a whole," Gorham said.

Black's long-term goals were to keep in mind what affected the students. When she felt she was doing the right thing, it helped her find strength not to quit.

"We can mirror some parts of other colleges, but it's better to have our own identity," Black said. "We're a small college who gives personal attention. Academics should be first and social aspects should come with the territory."

Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Ashley Bacon

Barbara Black



Candace Martinez
 Shelia Mccullough
 Jim Mckinley
 Timothy McMullin
 Amber Mcnear
 Bobbie Meador
 Ashley Medsker

Donna Michelle-Childs
 Brandi Miller
 Brian Moeckel
 Ashley Monach
 Luiz Moreira
 Samantha Morrison
 Sean Morrison

Shela Munyon
 Richard Murphy
 John Mwabuki
 Stephanie Myers
 Derek Nart
 Jill Nesslage
 Edward Nickell

Bridget Nigh
 Pamela O Connor
 Manuel Pablo
 Jennifer Pawlowski
 Traci Peetoom
 Brianna Peterson
 Laura Phillippe

Carla Piranio
 Tracy Pitts
 Angela Prashak
 Kathleen Randall
 Cortez Randolph
 Lashaundra Randolph
 Traci Rapp

Carrie Reistroffer
 Kimberly Richner
 Melody Ritzer
 Maurice Robinson
 Penny Robinson
 Gina Roggy
 Jenni Rope

Christopher Rospe
 Lisa Rost
 Cherry Ryan
 David Schank
 Tyson Schank
 Allisha Schultz
 Debbie Scoggins

Angela Seek
 Rachel Seward
 Peter Shapiro
 Ashley Sheets
 Lee Shepard
 Keith Sherman
 Shameka Simmons

Rachel Siron
 Lisa Slobodnik
 Nicholas Sloop
 Nichole Sloop
 Angela Smith
 Geraldine Smith
 Matthew Smith

Mika Snodgrass
 Amanda Sollars
 Judith Sprague
 Amber Stafford
 Mildred Stewart
 Victoria Stith
 Marcy Sullwold



W
 Carrice Swartz
 Jill Takes
 Colette Talbot
 Jessica Tanner
 Melissa Taylor
 Keriann Thompson
 Stacy Tibbles



E
 Emily Tucker
 Andrew Turnage
 Jessica Twyman
 Erica Uehlin
 Mary Vanderpool
 Stephanie Webb
 Carissa Wells



S
 Sherrie Whalgemuth
 Lauren Wheeler
 Diamikia White
 Paula White
 William White
 Jima Whitmore
 Jo Ann Whittington



T
 Christopher Wiley
 Trisha Williams
 Gabe Wishnie
 Holly Wisneski
 Ryan Woyski
 Dusty Yungeberg
 Ramon Aaron



F
 Aric Abraham
 Tawana Abrought
 Christopher Acklin
 Jennifer Agee
 Deirdre Alders
 Angela Allen
 Elizabeth Allen



F
 Lacy Allen
 Jania Amador
 Megan Antle
 Fatimot Aregbe
 Kimberly Arn
 Adam Arnold
 Emily Asher



R
 Brooke Atha
 Ryan Atkinson
 Jerome Bailey
 Natalie Bailey
 Joshua Baker
 Melissa Banning
 Sara Barbosa



R
 Nick Bates
 Kristy Baugh
 Charles Baxter
 Christopher Beard
 Megan Becker
 Juana Beed
 Cody Benitz



N
 Camie Binder
 Brett Blakemore
 Elizabeth Blank
 Lisa Bledsoe
 Christopher Blodgett
 Amy Bogace
 Megan Boone



N
 Malcolm Bordelon
 Lanisha Bosby
 Javacia Boston
 Ellen Boyd
 Seth Brackman
 Crystal Bray
 Heather Brinkley



Ross Martin

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Ashley Bacon

Not many people, who went to college, could say they started their career before they even received their degree, but Sophomore Ross Martin did just that.

An English major with an emphasis in journalism, Martin managed to land a job with the St. Joseph News-Press during his college years. "I have been a newspaper writer for a little over five years," Martin said.

Along with the St. Joseph News-Press, Martin also worked on the campus newspaper, the Griffon News, for two years. He was editor-in-chief his sophomore year.

Since Martin had been on staff, the paper went from an eight page spread to a 10 to 12 page spread. "It wasn't solely because of Ross, but it did start at the top," Sophomore Nick Draper said.

Draper had worked with Martin on the Griffon News for two years. "I got to know Ross on Sundays when we laid papers out," Draper said.

Martin said that the staff on the Griffon News wasn't just a staff, but they were people who became his close friends.

"I've been able to surround myself with people who will get up at 4:30 in the morning to get me out of the bathroom," Martin said. "We have a working relationship here and a friendly relationship

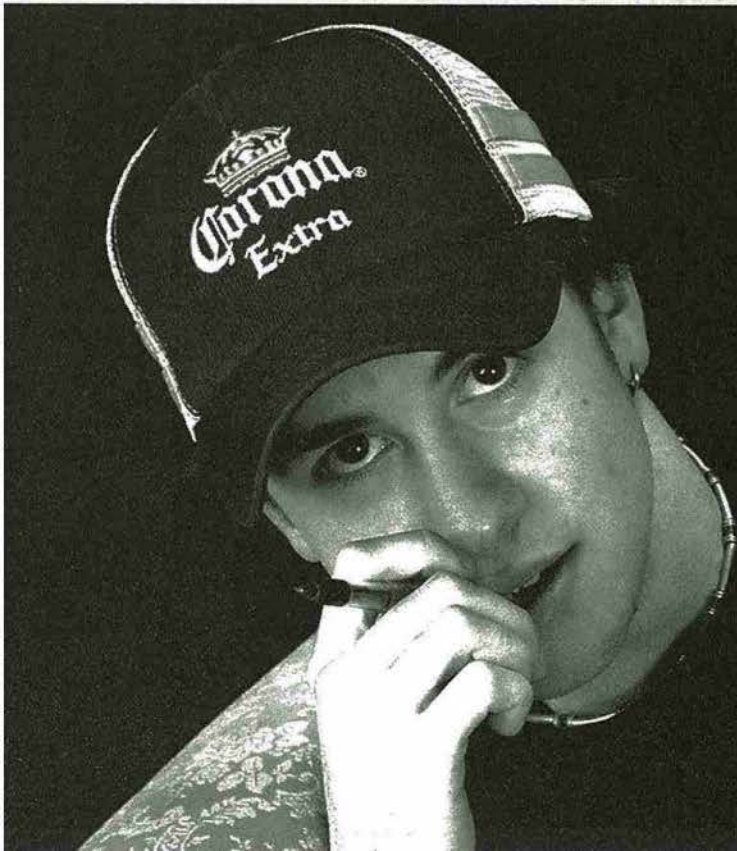
outside of work."

Draper thought that Martin had a great future ahead of him. "I think that he's going to be what he wants to be," Draper said. "Some people go where they need to go and some choose to expand their horizons; he's one that goes the extra mile."

Professor Robert Bergland, Griffon News advisor, agrees with Draper. "I think that he'll do very well," Bergland said. "He's got good skills and great experience. He also has good journalism instincts."

Despite his focus on school and a career, Martin maintained a lighter side of his personality throughout his life. "He can be the most serious 21-year-old anyone ever met, and then jump right into a dancing circus clown," Senior Andrea Schmitt said.

Martin left an impression on his friends and co-workers with his witty humor and easygoing attitude. "My most memorable moment of Ross is the night we spent 30 minutes trying to get him out of the bathroom," Draper said. "He locked himself in there; it's something that he can look back on and laugh about for years to come."



Colleen Hinshaw

Story by Alison Krieg
Photos by Ashley Bacon

On a typical day some students were up and dressed and in the classroom by 8 a.m. with three classes to consecutively follow. After classes, students either worked or tended to their family and homes. This seemed to be a hectic schedule for a student to keep on a daily basis; however, there was at least one student who accomplished these tasks; her name was Colleen Hinshaw.

Hinshaw, a wife, a mother of two and a non-traditional student, realized that after raising a family she became more responsible, caring and reliable. Residing in Mercer, Mo., Hinshaw took classes at Western, which made for an hour and half drive on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Hinshaw had to leave her home by 7 a.m. to make it to her first class on time and even enrolled herself in night classes, which created long days.

Some might think that it would be a challenge to raise a family and make time to go to school. Some may even wonder why one would put him or herself through all of that. Hinshaw had her reasons for returning to school.

"I started taking classes in 1997 at Trenton College to further my education," Hinshaw said. "I wanted to get a better career, one that was more satisfying for me and my family."

Hinshaw wanted to be involved in something on campus, so she joined the Griffon News. As an English major, joining staff was a great opportunity to freshen up writing skills. It also helped her meet new people and get involved with the school.

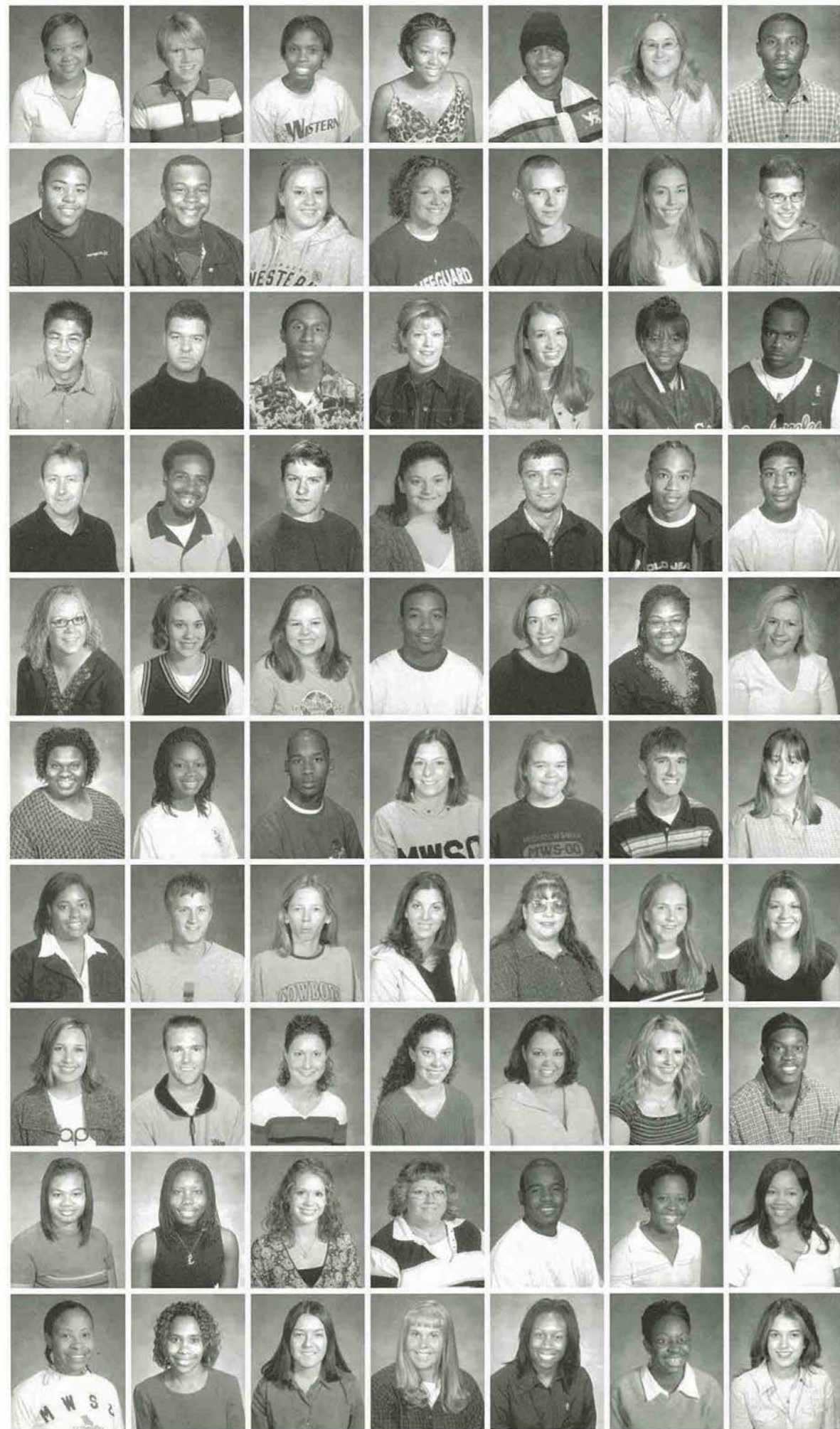
The newspaper staff had nothing but pleasant things to say about her. "My first impression of Colleen was that she was a very positive person. She is a pleasure to work with because she is always smiling," Ross Martin, editor in chief, said. "She is a very hard worker with lots of motivation."

Being a non-traditional student might have been difficult for some, but Hinshaw seemed to get along with everyone. Numerous people believed that the toughest thing about being a non-traditional student was the age difference, but this did not seem to bother Hinshaw or any younger students she knew. "She acts the same as all of us; I don't see age as a factor," Allen Conway said.

Although Hinshaw led a busy life, she continued to make time to get an education and take care of her family all at the same time.

"I think it's great that Colleen decided to come back to school," Conway said. "It's good to see someone with such a busy life coming back to school to fit an education into her schedule."





Mallori Briscoe
Adam Brown
Amber Brown
Lea Bryant
Andre Burns
Rachel Burton
Maurice Bush

Brandon Byrd
Michael Calhoun
Shana Campbell
Kate Carpenter
Adam Casto
Christa Cerniglia
Matt Chaney

Jason Chen
Lucas Chisam
Ronald Chisolm Jr
Adrienne Chleborad
Stefanie Clifford
Robin Cody
J. Tyler Colbert

Robert Coleman
Tayaace Coleman
Logan Compton
Allison Conningham
Morris Conway
Phillip Conway
David Crockett

Lisa Cross
Ashley Cumpton
Amanda Daniels
Brian Davenport
Jennifer Davidson
Leah Davis
Meghan Davis

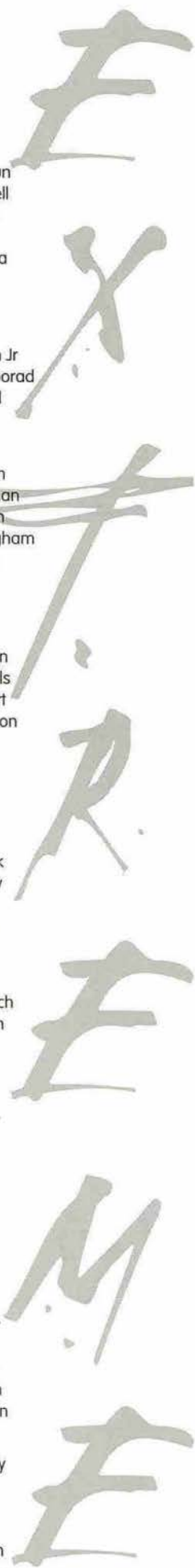
Pamela Davis
Tanisha Davis
Cedric Day
Melissa Dedrick
Miranda Dickey
Bradley Dixon
Rachel Donnell

Pam Downs
Nick Draper
Christina Dubach
Megan Dungan
Annett Dunlap
Katie Dunn
Kelly Eischens

Rachel Euchner
Andy Ewing
Alicia Falter
Ashley Falter
Kristen Farnan
Jenny Farrow
Derwin Finley

Shanan Finley
Lindsay Fisher
Rebekah Fisher
Kelly Flanders
Kevin Fontleroy
Lasilvia Franklin
Teresha Franklin

Tanisha Fuller
Shamika Gaddy
Amanda Gann
Celia Gann
Natoyia Gates
Princess Gilliam
Tara Gnuschke



Sarah Goddard
Nicole Goetz
Heather Goforth
Adrian Gray
Jazzmine Gray
Lashelle Gray
Autumn Greear



Tominick Greene
Anthony Gress
John Grogan
Amanda Gruber
Marie Guillaume
Veronica Gutkowski
Jeannie Haggard



Christina Hammond
Brian Hamrick
Cody Hanavan
Tiffany Hargrove
Amanda Haring
Erin Harris
Essence Hightower



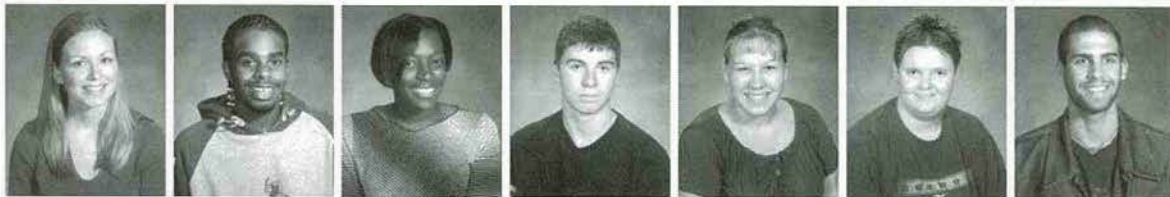
Colleen Hinshaw
Dustin Holcumbrink
Ashlee Holloman
Elizabeth Holthaus
Monay Hooker
Jacarra Hooks
Lanell L. Hopkins-Kondratehko



Amanda Housewirth
Abigail Houseworth
Ella Howser
Jennifer Hughes
Cara Humphrey
Rebecca Humphrey
Melissa Hunter



Becky Jackson
Brandon Jackson
Kelley Jackson
Matt Jackson
Melissa Jackson
Penny Jayodzinski
Eric Jessen



Brian Jacobs
Elizabeth Johnson
James Jolly
Jennifer Jones
Lashawnda Jones
Jerry Jordan
Joshua Goodlow



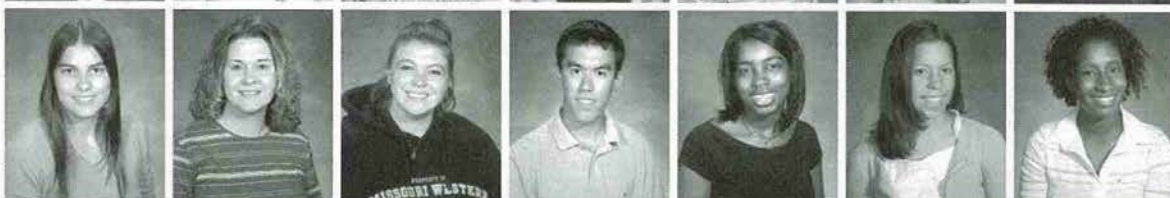
Joy Motsinger
Melissa Jung
Brittney Kelley
Sheena Kelley
Nick Kennedy
Dochelle Kernal
Shawn Kiehl



Rashaunda King
Heather Klinedinst
Nyasha Knighten
Valissa Kraus
Jennifer Krause
Alison Krieg
Rebecca Kuehn



Gretchen Kunkle
Kathy Kunze
Michelle Lakebrink
Keith Langabee
Jamekia Leatners
Rachel Ledbetter
Kelly Lee





The love of a parent can cause them to go through extreme measures to help make their child's dreams come true. Terry Alder did just that for his daughter Morgan, a sophomore majoring in video and theatre production. He helped Morgan in a miraculous way many others would not be able to. Donating one of his kidneys to his daughter gave her the opportunity to perform in the musical production "Grease."

Morgan had an incurable disease called IgA Nephropathy, a kidney disease that could be cured by a transplant. "My first choice for a donor was my father," Morgan said.

Her father was also knowledgeable that he was the key to his daughter's survival. "From the very beginning, I knew that if anyone was going to be a donor then it was me," Terry said.

Morgan and her father have always been close; however, the surgery brought them even closer.

"I am the oldest and the only girl," Morgan said. "I'm a daddy's girl."

Terry was under anesthesia during the entire surgery. "After the surgery, I felt pain, but it was a good pain," Terry said.

Morgan felt she did well during the surgery process also.

"I did exceptionally well," Morgan said. "They let me out three days earlier than they were supposed to because I was improving faster than they thought. I got out just in time to perform in *Grease*."

Morgan always dreamed of perform-

ing in "Grease" since she was six years old. "If it wasn't for my dad, I wouldn't have been able to perform and I would still be in the hospital waiting for a donor," Morgan said.

Morgan never verbally thanked her father. Instead, she dedicated her performance to him before the first show began.

"She asked the cast and I if she could make the dedication and we were more than happy for her to do it," Deny Staggs, director of "Grease", said.

Fellow cast members also approved of Morgan's request.

"I started tearing up," junior Tara Stull said. "She has always been a positive person. Even though she has been through sickness, she is still positive and outgoing."

Morgan's performance was the thank you to her family for their help and support during the time of her illness, surgery and recovery. "She never really told me thank you, but that night was a heck of a way of saying it," Terry said.

Overall, everyone who enjoyed the performance saw Morgan's success.

"Her dedication was a happy ending for her," Staggs said. "I would say that she's very strong. If you are between her and her prize then she would go right through you in a nice way, but she wouldn't waste her time."

Others agreed with Staggs about Morgan's determination to keep going in spite of the tough situations she had faced in life.

"She's been through a lot, but she always manages to get back on top," Stull said. "She's like the Energizer Bunny. She keeps going and going."



Morgan Alder

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Ashley Bacon



Three previous schools, one previous major, the fear of starting over and the support of a good friend were the keys that eventually worked together to help shape the personality of senior Morgan Perry.

Perry, a theatre and English/literature major from Salisbury, Mo., did not always feel her college life would be what it finally became. After attending Moberly Area Community College, Truman State University and Indian Hills Community College, Perry made the decision to attend Western.

"I started out as a political science major at Truman State," Perry said. "Because of student lectures I gave, I got involved in theatre to keep my voice in shape. I could let go of my stress, and it gave me the feeling that I could touch people's lives."

Perry switched her major to theatre when she came to Western with a friend she had known previously.

"When I came to Western, I thought I needed to drop all of my activities and concentrate on theatre," Perry said. "I didn't think I was capable of carrying the amount of responsibility because of my experiences at past colleges."

Outside of being heavily involved in theatre with acting, directing, costuming and stage managing, Perry became involved in other various activities. She was the first learning assistant for housing, an intern for the Center for Multicultural Education, a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, part of the Intergreek Council

and a Western VIP. Being a VIP helped her learn that for every stumbling block Western gave her, she was capable to see the worth of having an education. That is what she showed prospective students.

"When I first met Morgan, I thought she was a funky chick, and that she would be fun to hang out with," Kristen Neeley, a fellow VIP, said. "She shows everyone how to be real and she makes me feel like I can do whatever I want and not be ashamed of it."

Perry was also involved with the Griffon News as the lifestyles editor.

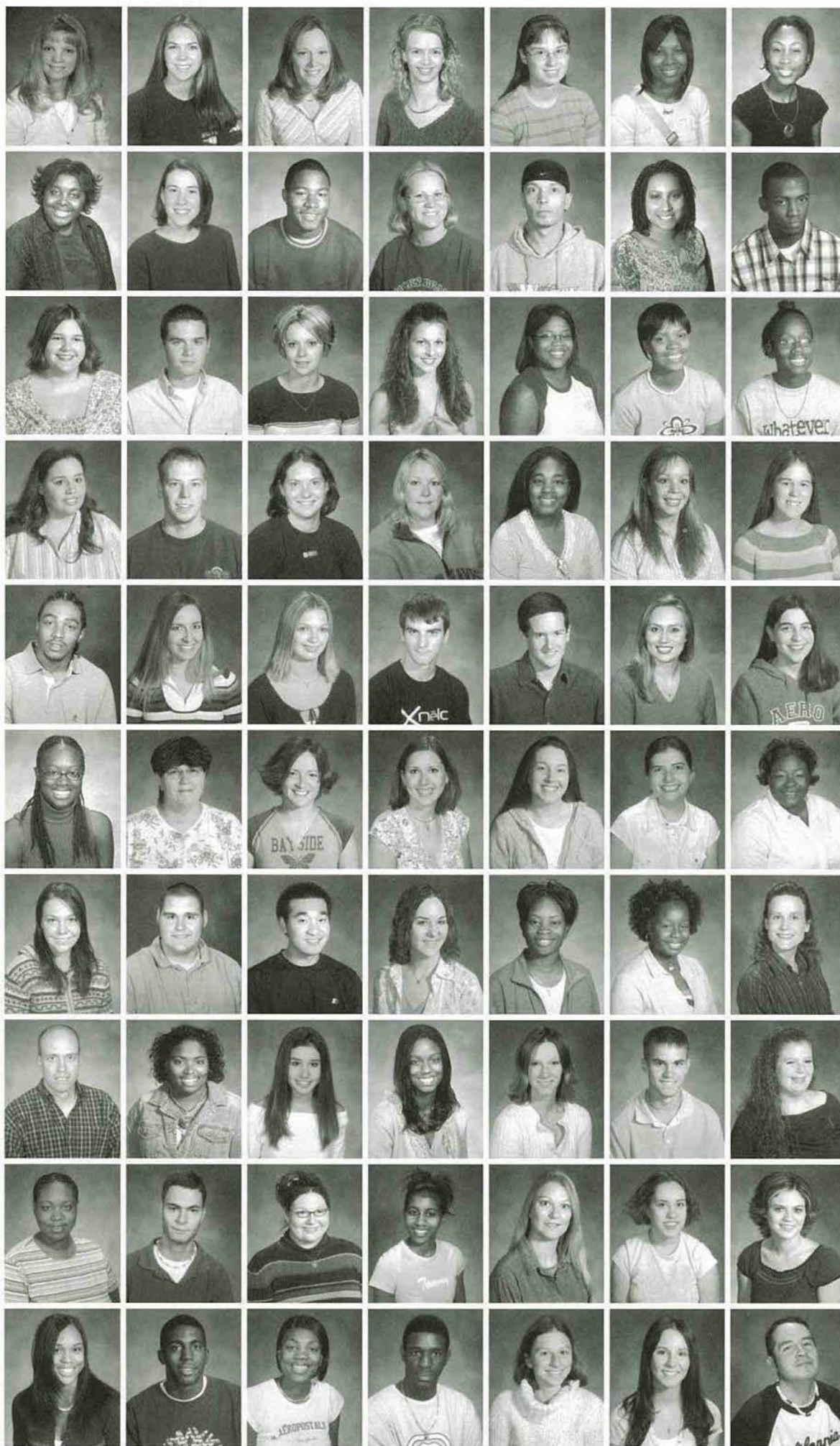
"Morgan brings a great deal of enthusiasm to both her page and the staff in general," Bob Bergland, Griffon News advisor, said. "I've worked with Morgan for a year, and getting to know her better at the national media convention was my most memorable moment. She encouraged us to attend a medieval time banquet/theatre event, and we had a great time."

Toward the end of her final semester, Perry planned a party-a-thon with the help of her friends. She put together a huge benefit for St. Jude's Research Hospital for her brother who had brain cancer. "It will bring unity to clubs and organizations, giving them a chance to develop a sense of ownership and community service," Perry said.

Western gave Perry so many challenges and opportunities that, at the same time, it allowed her to possess the tools to face adversity and to gain the confidence to persevere.

Morgan Perry

Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Ashley Bacon



Tiffany Lee
Blair Lehr
Lisa Lewis
Melissa Lewis
Ashlee Liebhart
Tanesha Liggins
Vanecia Lindsay

Mya Locke
Amy Long
Ryan Long
Catherine Lucast
Monty Mace
Leandra Mack
Tyson Malone

Melisa Maples
Kevin Marasco
Alison Marek
Kayleen Marullo
Nieshia Mason
Lakeisha Mccoy
Virginia Mcdaniel

Sarah McDonald
Eric Mcgrath
Jennifer Mckinley
Lacey Merrell
Gwenlyn Midgyett
Janna Miller
Lisa Miller

Chauncey Mayfield
Rebecca Monnig
Alisha Montgomery
Craig Moore
Thomas Moore
Lauren Morehead
Stephanie Morgan

Latasha Mitchell
Brenda Nave
Rebekah Needham
Erica Neier
Ashley Neilson
Heather Nichols
Canise Nicole-Cook

Dana Noland
John Nyman
Brad Ogden
Jenny Olson
Arlaysha Osborn
Mallory Paines
Amy Pankau

Jason Parkinson
Micalea Pascal
Kandace Payton
Kyayea Perkins
Laura Peschong
Thomas Pfister
Janelle Phillips

Cierra Pickens
Fabian Popel
JacquelinePottier
Dianna Preyor
Jennifer Puckett
Anastasia Reid
Bethany Rethemeyer

Sabrina Rhone
Maatyce Riley
Tiffany Riley
Cledell Robinson
Kristen Robinson
Ashley Rockhold
Brandon Rodriguez

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Amanda Roe
 Sarah Rogers
 Gabrielle Roseberry
 Jason Ruiz
 Nicole Salfrank
 Tegan Sampson
 Dean Sandefur



Sheena Sawyer
 Melissa Scearce
 Lori Schaefer
 Shebie Schaffer
 Lavon Schaffner
 Michelle Scherder
 Hollie Schindler



Alicia Schmidgall
 Melony Schmidt
 Andrea Schmitt
 Ross Scholz
 Elaine Schreiman
 Stephanie Searcey
 Jacinda Seese



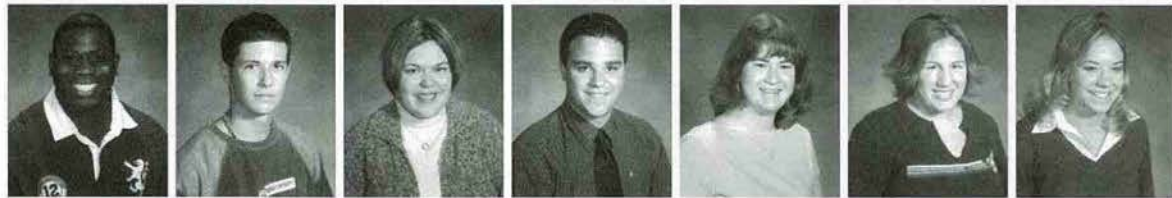
Kathy Shane
 Kristy Shaw
 Tonya Shaw
 Dorris Shawrath
 Kamita Shelby
 Jayna Shirley
 James Shoemaker



Ashley Singleton
 Kristin Slatten
 Brian Simms
 Alicia Smith
 Amber Smith
 Ashley Smith
 Ashley Smith



Hakim Smith
 James Smith
 Melissa Smith
 Anthony Snook
 Kari Snyder
 Sarah Soetaert
 Melinda Southarn



Laurie Spalding
 Roberta Starmer
 Brenda Stein
 Cichal Stephens
 Dustin Steven
 Carol Stevens
 Michael Stevens



Brooke Stewart
 Ashley Stinson
 Emily Stock
 Sarah Stout
 Stephen Strehl
 Tara Stull
 Aisha Tanner



Elizabeth Tarr
 Sarah Taylor
 Sarah Terry
 Annabell Thomas
 Megan Thomas
 Michelle Thomas
 Roddell Thomas



Shereesa Thompson
 Heidi Tilly
 Jennifer Toalson
 Autumn Todd
 Caleb Tounzen
 Lindsay Tremayne
 Tierrus Tucker



Darren Wibberding

Story by Gretchen Kunkle
Photos by Ashley Bacon

Junior Darren Wibberding emerged himself in numerous activities at Western. He was a residential life administrator, a resident assistant, president of the Economics Honor Society, vice president of the Economics Club, a Western VIP, member of Alpha Chi, part of the Student Honors Organization, a Learning Assistant in fall of 2003 and a member of Beta Chi Delta. On top of all this, Wibberding was also an economics major with a minor in philosophy.

Being a VIP was an honor and a large responsibility for Wibberding. "He juggles everything and gives it 110 percent," VIP sponsor Peggy Payne said.

While Wibberding was involved with all of these activities, he still managed to find time to work and do his homework. "I have fairly good grades," Wibberding said. "I'm an Insignis Scholar."

Alicia Saunders also agreed with Payne on how responsible Wibberding was. "His organization skills and his ability to handle multiple tasks make him different," VIP sponsor, Alicia Saunders said.

Fellow workers and friends felt Wibberding was a good influence on everyone he came in contact with.

"Darren is different because most people struggle with immaturity that's disproportionate to their age, but Darren struggles with maturity that's disproportionate to his age," fellow VIP Morgan Perry said.

Wibberding has always been a very busy

person. "I was very involved in high school," Wibberding said. "I think that is what pushed me to be involved here."

Being highly involved meant Wibberding had to know how to respond under pressure in certain situations.

"I think the thing that makes Darren so different is his sense of humor," Payne said.

Wibberding had the capability to make anyone feel comfortable around him.

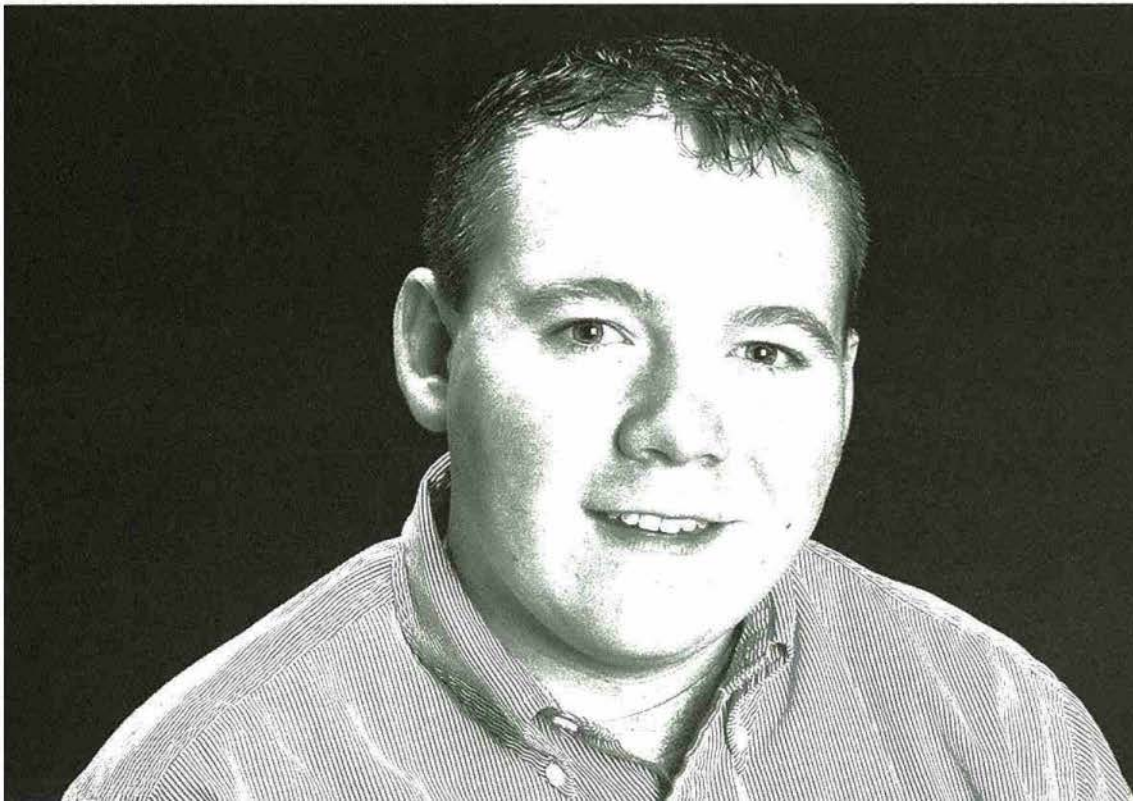
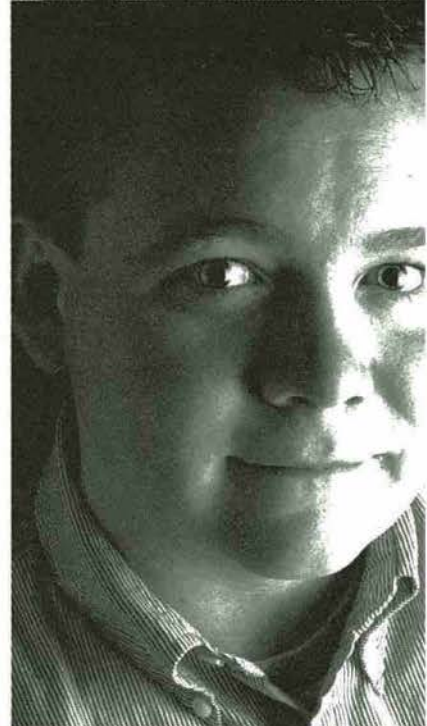
"He is just such a unique individual," Saunders said. "He can give a tour to a 17-year-old jock or to a 50-year-old grandma and have them love it here. Everybody loves him."

Even though Wibberding did some humorous things, these people admired him for being so successful in everything that he did. "I admire Darren because he's unique," Perry said.

Others had their own assumptions on why Wibberding was so well-known and loved.

"I think most people admire him because he's on task and he never acts like he's upset or stressed," Saunders said. "I will always remember Darren wearing his pajamas to a VIP meeting that was early in the morning."

All of these people felt that Wibberding was special, and he inspired many people. Payne and Saunders as well as others who knew Wibberding agreed that he's one student they will not forget.



Jailall Jairam

Story by Tanisha Washington
Photos by Ashley Bacon



Love can make people do things they never imagined they would do. Freshman Jailall Jairam, a native from Guyana, South America, experienced the power of love firsthand. Meeting that special person, who he eventually married, opened the door to numerous opportunities for his future.

"I thought about coming to the United States when I met my wife, who was in the Army," Jairam said. "One of her friends worked at the U.S. Embassy. She left me a note to give her a call, and I kept in touch. She scheduled an interview at the embassy and with the U.S. government, and I received my visa soon after."

Jairam was excited to leave home for America, but at the same time, he felt sad about leaving his family.

"The night before I left, my feelings of happiness changed because I am close to my family," Jairam said. "I was going to miss my family and my favorite food, dhol and rice." After Jairam received the news he was going to America with his wife, he had no idea where they would be residing. Jairam instantly felt a sense of change when he reached American soil.

"When I flew into the country, it was cold," Jairam said. "The changes of the weather were different. My wife was driving, and there was a lot of traffic and tall buildings."

Jairam's wife received a job working for the *Saint Joseph News Press*. Jairam had hopes of attending a university, but because it

was closer, Jairam applied to Western.

"The first time I came to Western was orientation," Jairam said. "I met Firas and I was excited because I thought I was the only international student at the school."

Senior Firas Al-takroui had a similar first impression of Jairam.

"I gave him a campus tour during a VIP day," Al-takroui said. "He added to our multicultural club and contributed to our struggle of creating diversity for Western's campus."

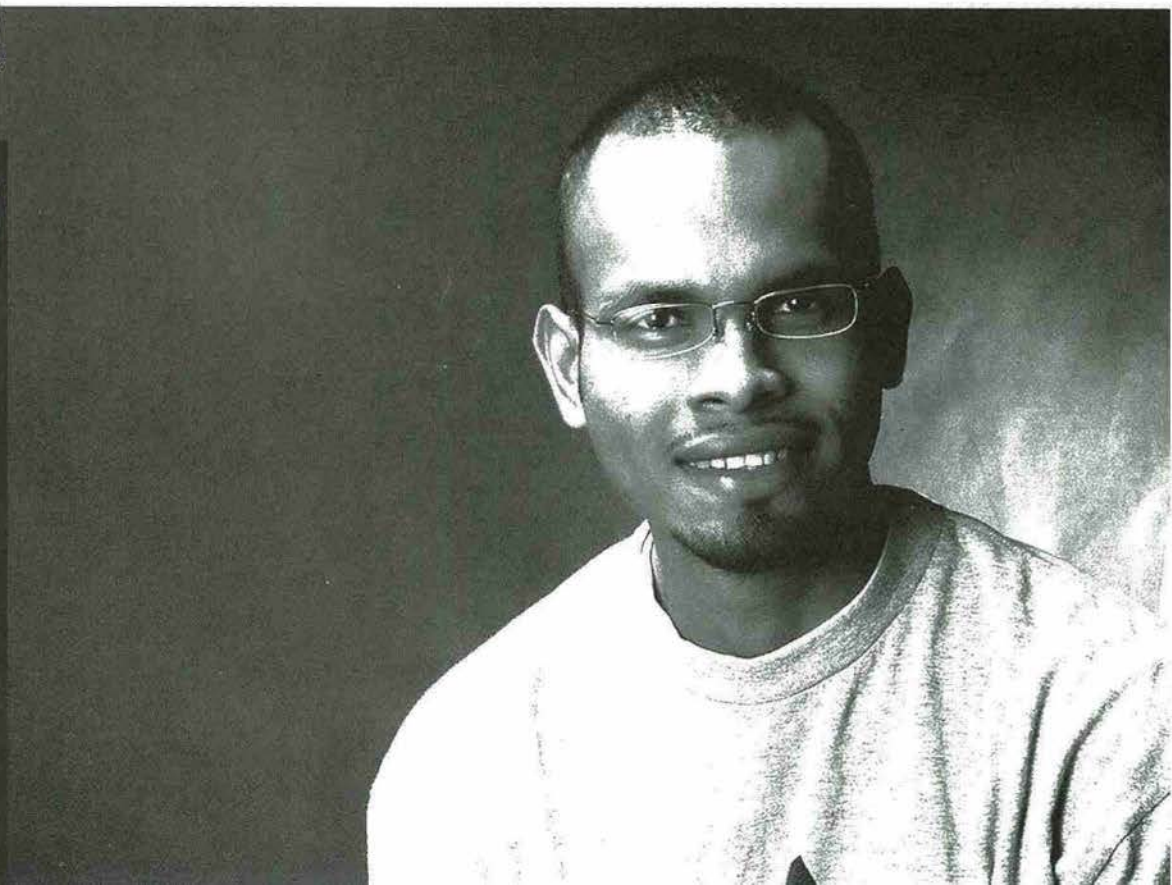
Outside of Jairam's involvement in school activities, he also stayed busy with his schoolwork; however, there was one subject he felt was very complicated for him.

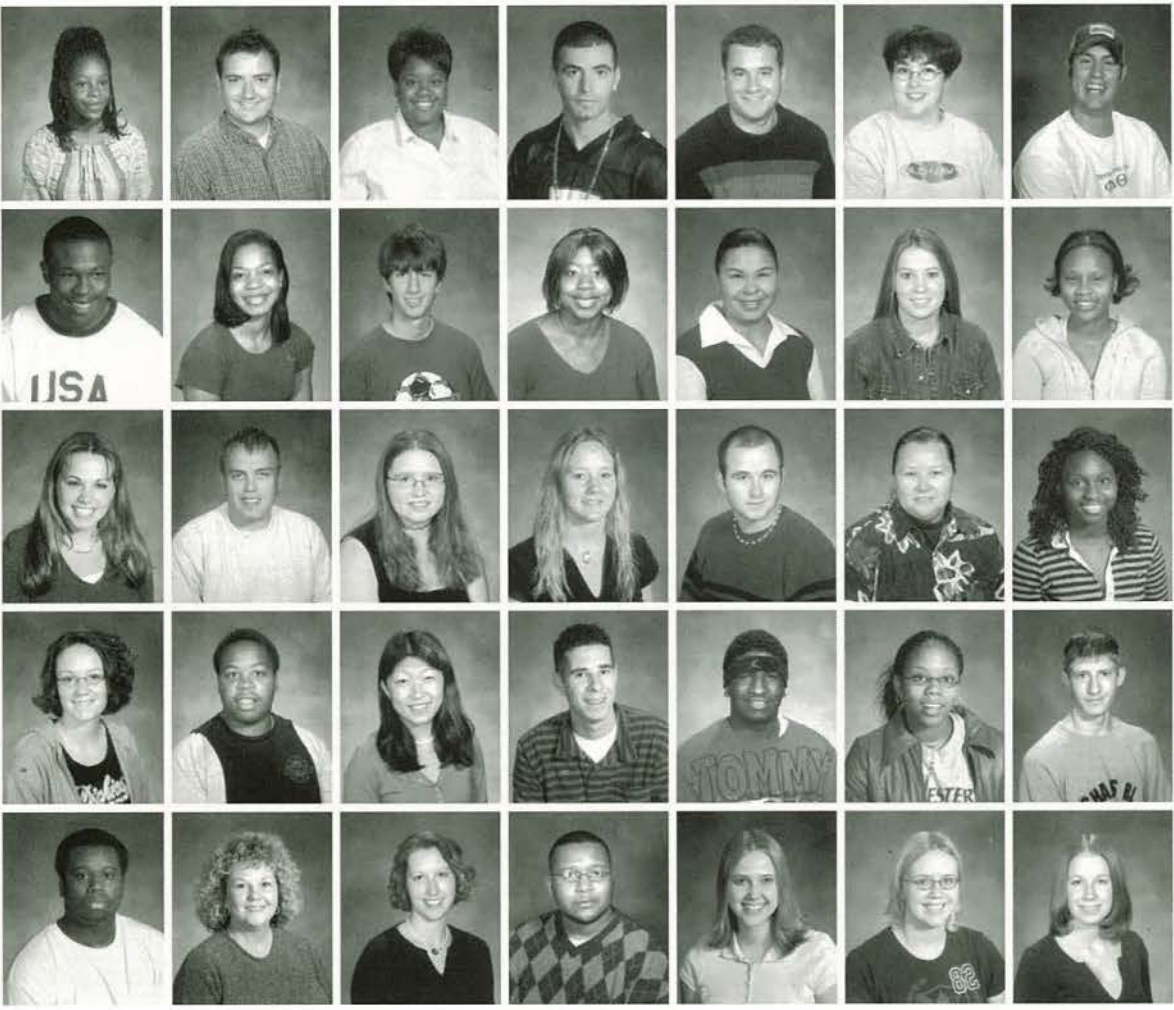
"My most difficult class is computer drafting," Jairam said. "I never had access to computers before I came to America."

George Yang, assistant professor of engineering technology, believed Jairam would have a bright future. "Jailall works really hard and keeps a positive attitude even when he becomes frustrated," Yang said.

Jairam worked hard towards his four-year degree at Western, hoping to graduate to work with his degree for at least two years. Eventually Jairam wanted to attend graduate school to further his education in computer engineering.

Jairam planned to visit his homeland periodically, but not permanently due to the lack of technology and opportunities, which was what the United States could provide.





Latoya Tyler
 Kenneth Shafer
 Aimee Vaughn
 Travis Verdi
 Michael Vickers
 Kerri Volz
 Chip Wade

Jeffrey Walker
 Rashawnda Walker
 Bradley Walter
 Tanisha Washington
 Jewel Watson
 Kimberly Weaver
 Dewanda Weeks

Cheena West
 James Wheller
 Casey White
 Kayla Wiebelhaus
 Justin Williams
 Ronda Williams
 Victoria Williams

Amber Wilson
 Andrew Wilson
 Erin Wilson
 Jeffery Winn
 Brandon Woodard
 Toyia Woods
 Aaron Wright

Brandon Wyatt
 Betty York
 Amy Young
 Johntell Young
 Hollee Yrjanson
 Jaymee Yrjanson
 Melissa Ziegler

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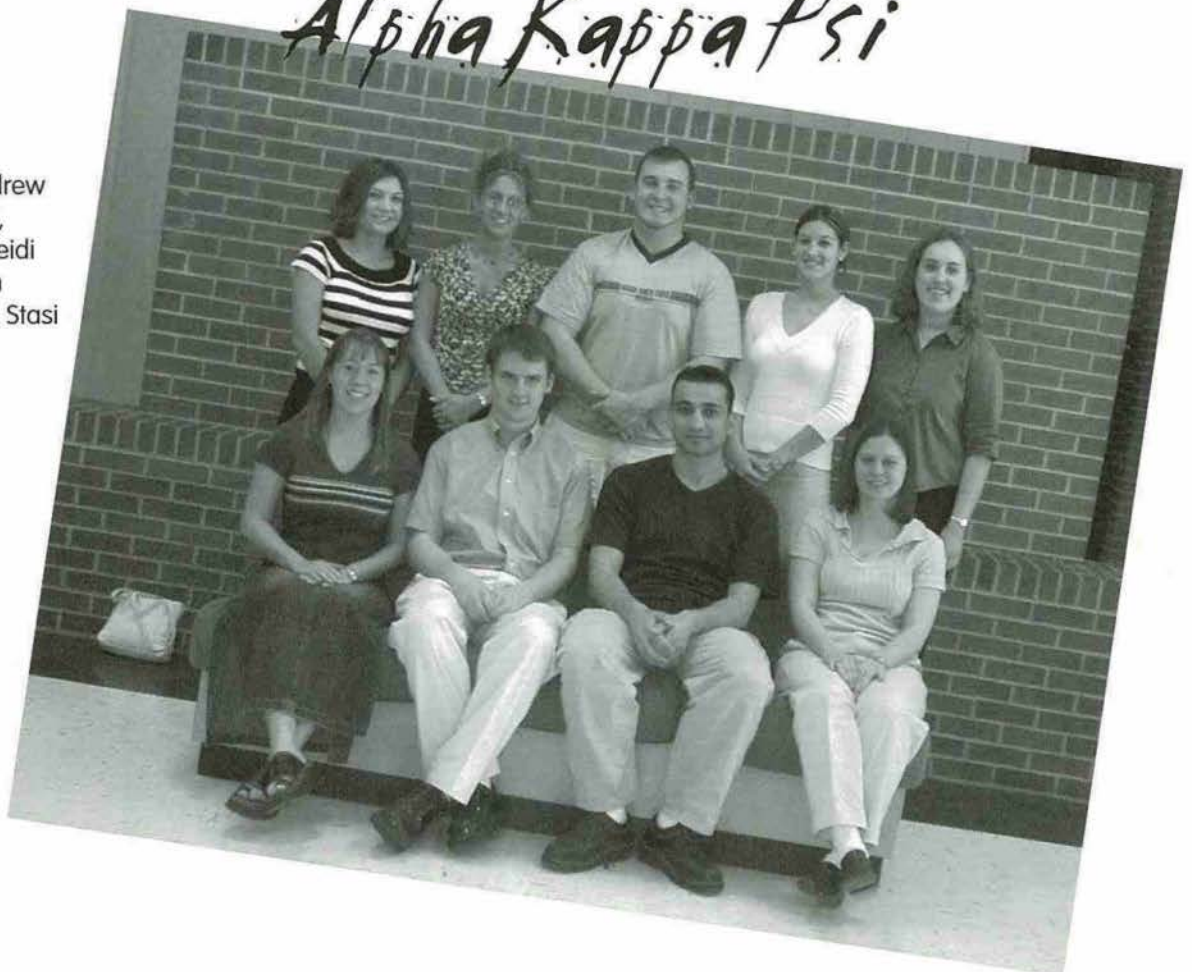
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Alpha Gamma Delta



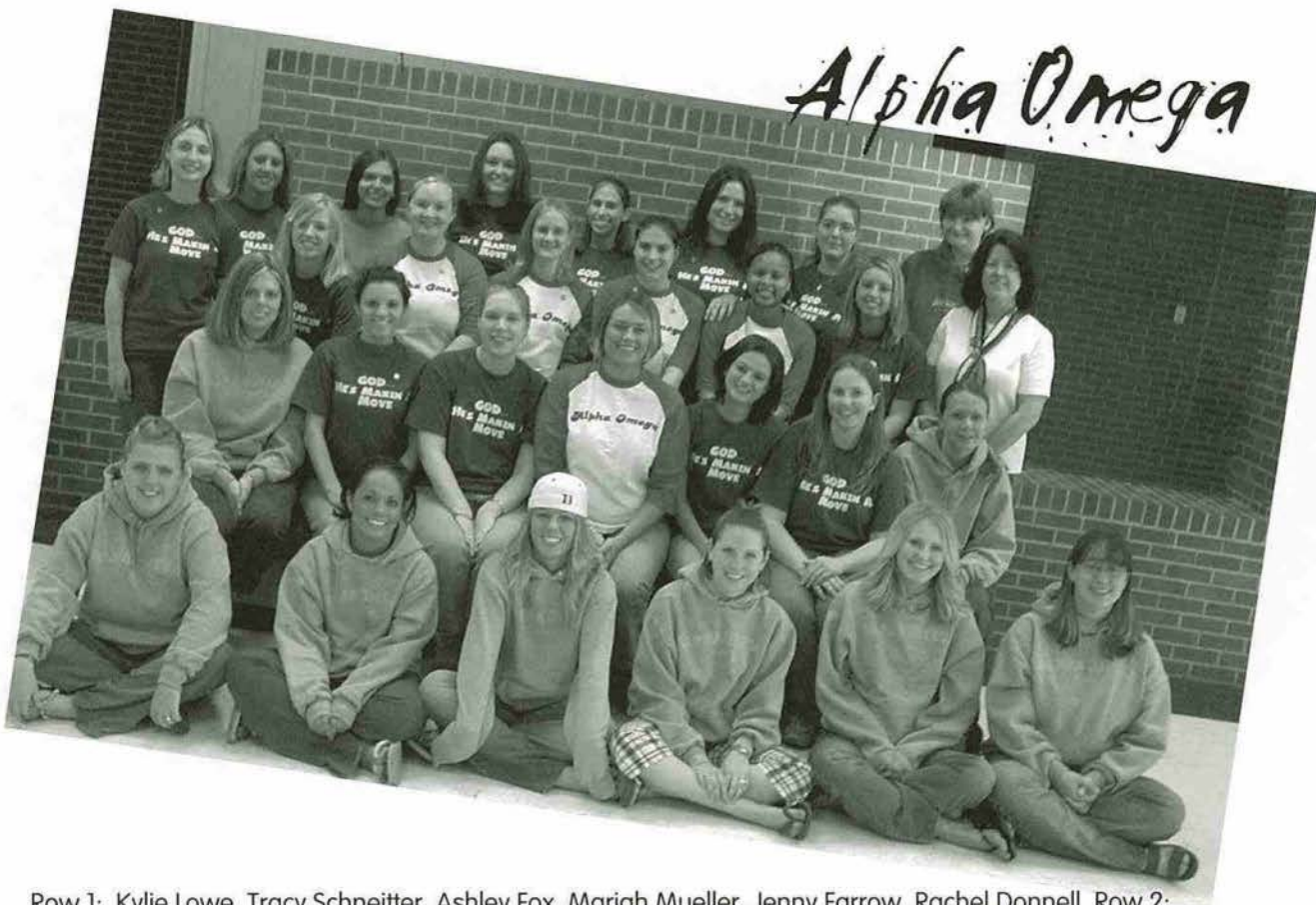
Row 1: Erin Wilson, Laura Peschong
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Alpha Kappa Psi



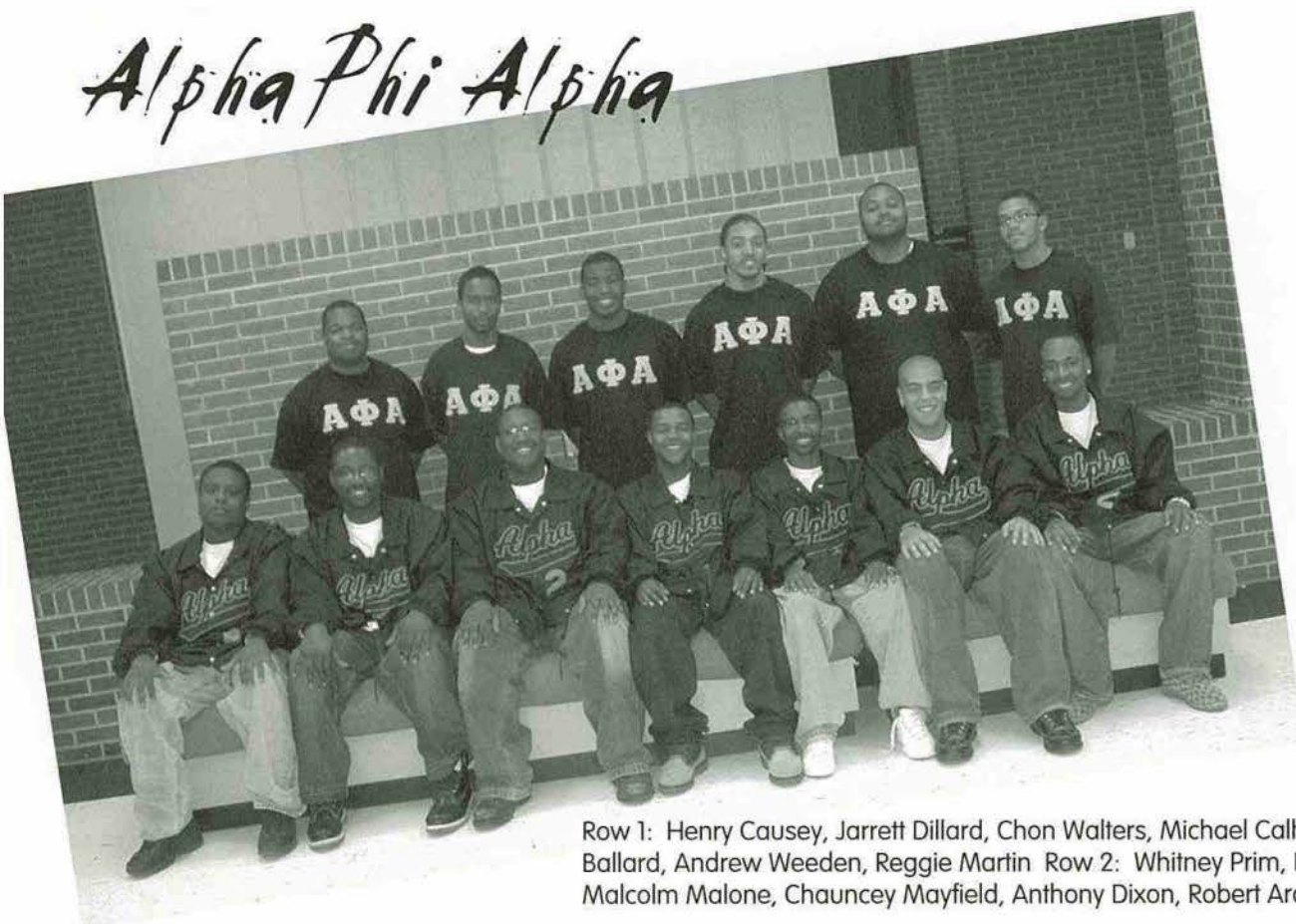
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Row 2: Heidi Drew, Ashley Moses, Jim McKinley, Amber Bouge, Stasi Rein

Alpha Omega



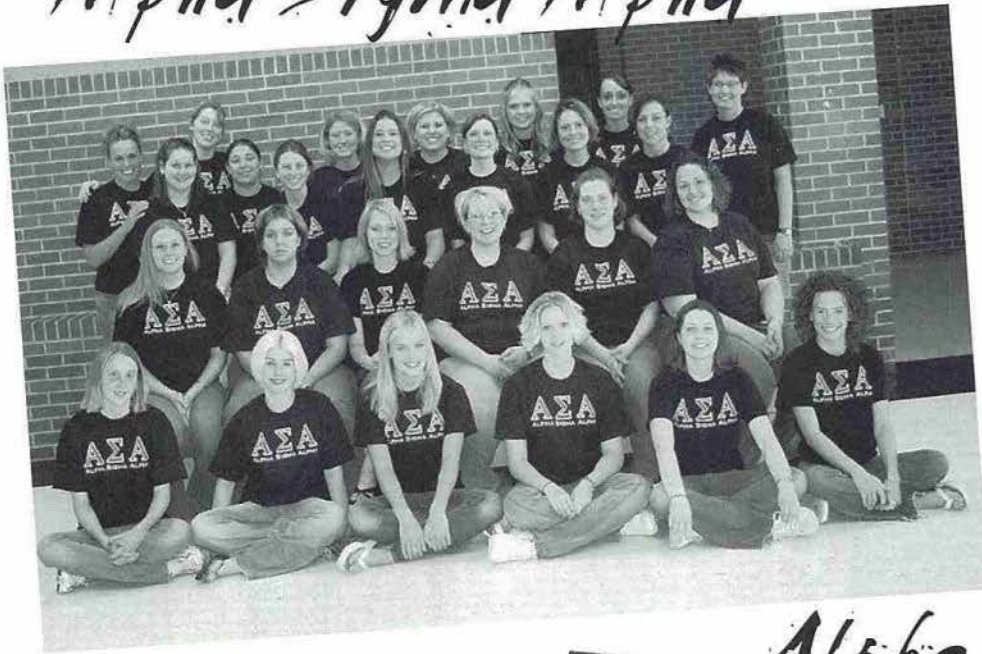
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 Row 3: Summer Pauley, Whitney Cook, Sarah Chenoweth, Kellie Feuerbacher, Gretchen Kunkle, Dewanda Weeks, Jessica McHolland, Kit Blake
 Row 4: Ashley Moses, Stacy Schneitter, Ashley Crowell, Sarah Taylor, Tracy Johnson, Andrea Bradshaw

Alpha Phi Alpha



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Alpha Sigma Alpha



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Delta Sigma Theta

Psi Chi



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Residence Council

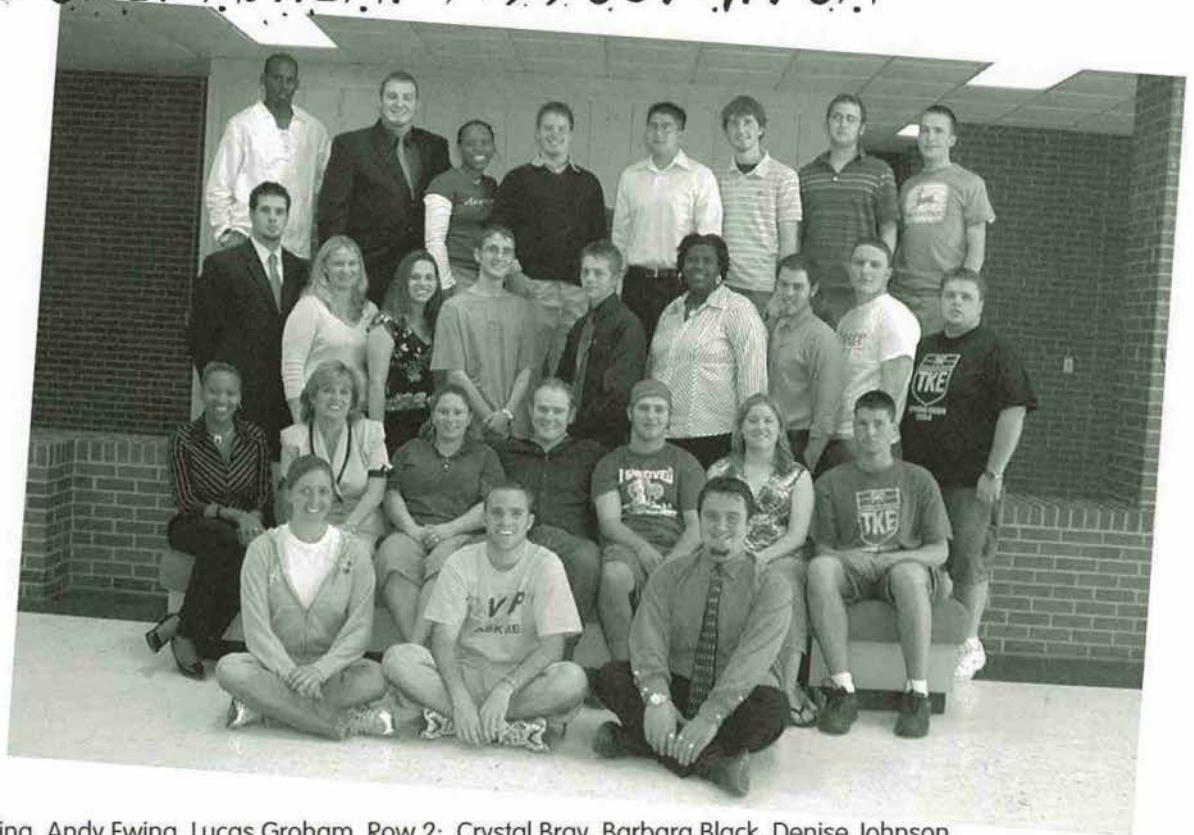
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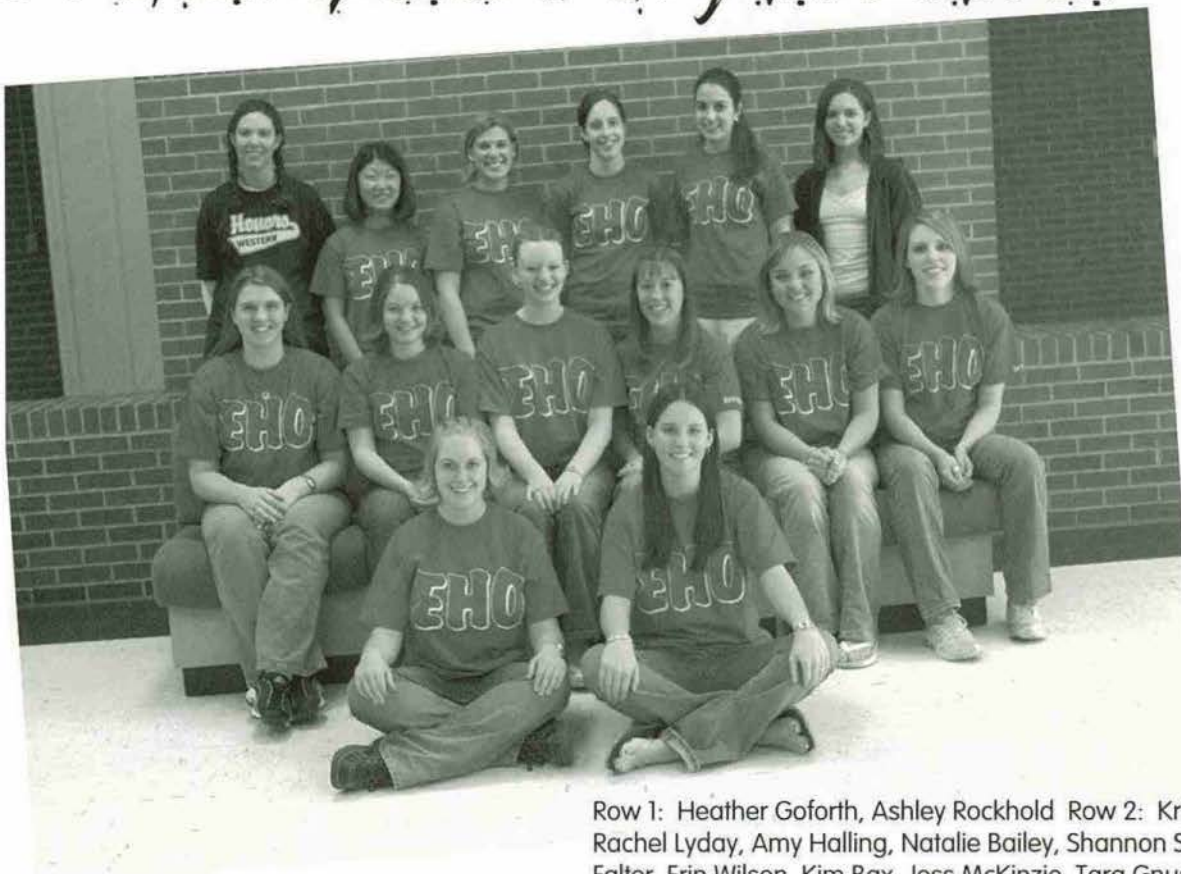
Sigma Sigma Sigma

Student Government Association



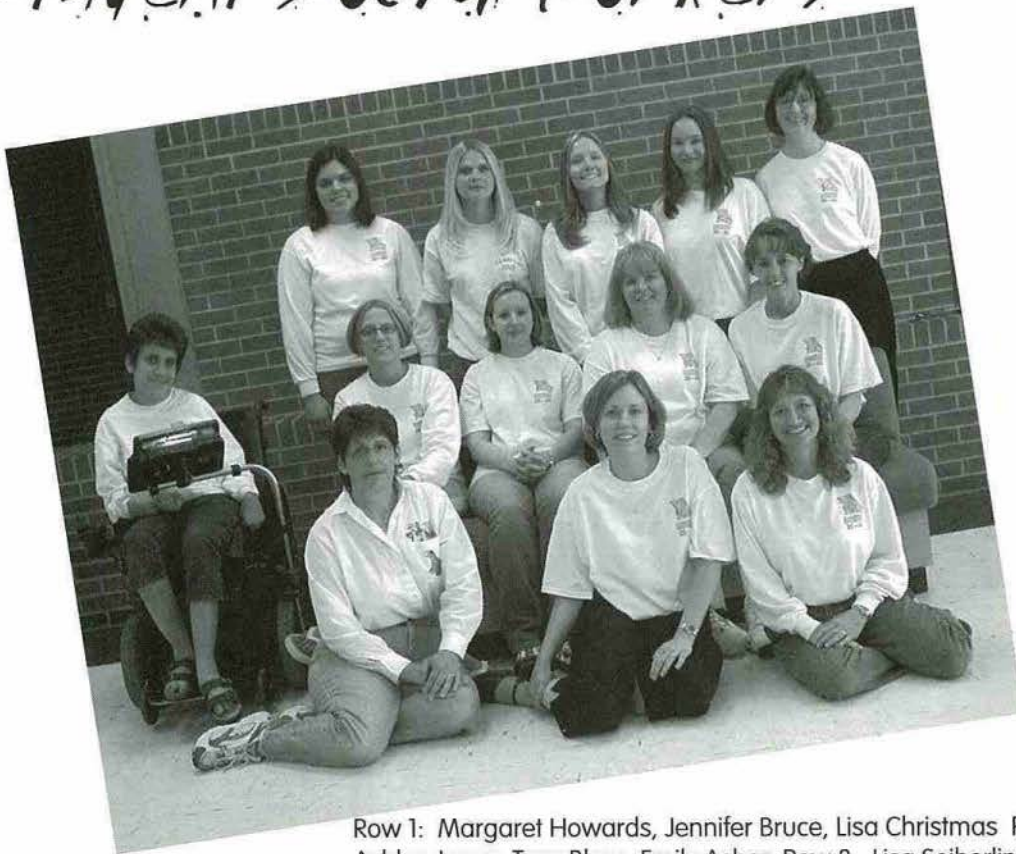
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Student Honors Organization



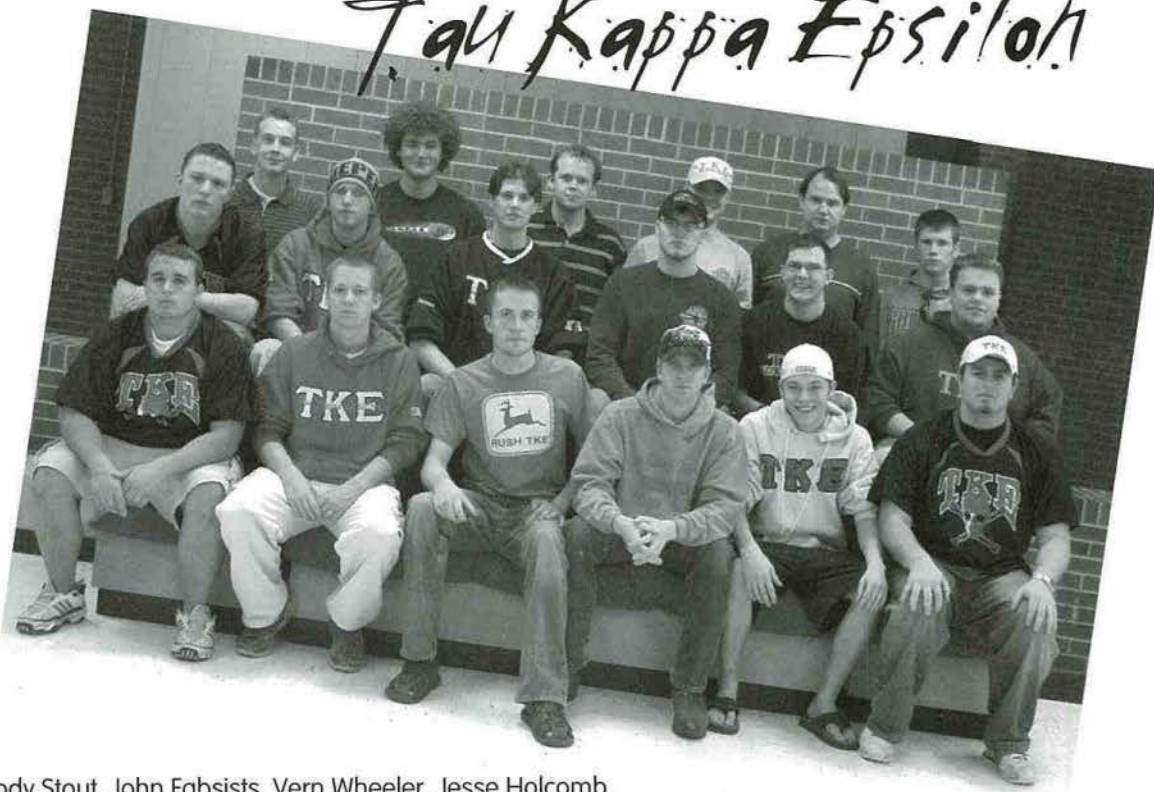
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Tau Kappa Epsilon



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Row 2: Sarah Vardiman, Tara
Gnuschke, Nathan Roberts, Aaron
Gnuschke, Kandi Kepner



Western VLPs



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Tibbles, Melissa Searce Row 2: Alicia Saunders, Erin Wilson, John Fabsits, Jim
McKinley, Andy Ewing, Darren Wibberding, Peggy Payne

A

Aaron, Ramon 184
 Abraham, Aric 184, 206
 Abrought, Tawana 184
 Acklin, Chris 184, 201
 Adams, Cody 64, 65
 Agee, Jennifer 184
 Agnew, Shaun 2
 Al-Takroui, Firas 194, 196
 Alavarez, Katy 96
 Alder, Morgan 122
 Alder, Terry 189
 Alders, Deirdre 184
 Alexander, LaQuitta 199, 200, 202
 Allee, Steve 179
 Allegri, Daniel 203
 Allen, Angela 184
 Allen, Cynthia 97
 Allen, Elizabeth 184, 198
 Allen, Jeenan 179
 Allen, Lacy 184, 204
 Allen, Wendy 179
 Alsager, Matt 203
 Amador, Jania 184
 Anderson, Jeremy 204
 Anderson, Tara 179
 Anderton, Elizabeth 179
 Antia, Offiong 28, 36
 Antle, Megan 184
 Arceneaux, Robert 197
 Archer, Leonard 80
 Archibald, Jimmy 56, 198
 Aregbe, Fatimot 184
 Aregbe, Tolu 18, 19, 21
 Armstrong, Elizabeth 179
 Armstrong, Roxanne 206
 Arn, Kim 134, 184
 Arnold, Adam 184
 Arnold, David 91
 Asher, Emily 184, 206
 Ashley, David 33
 Ashley, Megan 179
 Atha, Brooke 184, 198
 Atkinson, Ryan 184
 Atwater, Merrill 109
 Ault, Dane 179, 200
 Auxier, Emily 179

B

Bacon, Ashley 179, 201, 246
 Bagley, Jen 151
 Bailey, Jerome 184
 Bailey, Natalie 184, 202, 205
 Baker, Amanda 197
 Baker, Joshua 184
 Ballard, Arthur 179, 197, 202
 Ballou, Meg 204
 Banasik, Kristine 204
 Bane, Ryan 179
 Banning, Melissa 184
 Barber, Angie 179
 Barbosa, Sara 184
 Barnes, Lindsey 197
 Barnes, Megan 179
 Barthol, Shellney 2, 198
 Batchelor, Stacie 47
 Bates, Nick 101, 184, 198
 Baugh, Kristy 136, 184
 Bax, Kim 205
 Baxter, Charles 184
 Beard, Christopher 184

INDEX

Beard, Octavia 36
 Becker, Megan 184
 Beed, Juana 184
 Beeson, Liz 148, 149
 Bell, David 179
 Bell, Jamel 129
 Bell, Karl 35, 155
 Bell, Ronell 200
 Benitz, Cody 184, 198
 Benjamin, Nicolle 198
 Benton, Carrie 32
 Bentz, Don 179
 Bentz, Kimberly 179
 Berger, Jeanette 179
 Berger, Terence 199
 Bergland, Bob 185, 190, 200
 Bergman, Melissa 201
 Berry, Nicole 179
 Beverly, Amy 151
 Bibb, Kristin 136
 Bidding, Robert 102
 Bigham, Ryan 198
 Binder, Camie 184
 Bishop, Mary 179
 Black, Barbara 182, 205
 Blackman, Adam 179
 Blake, Kit 197
 Blakely, Steve 203
 Blakemore, Brett 184
 Bland, Eric 199
 Blank, Elizabeth 184
 Bledsoe, Lisa 184
 Blodgett, Christopher 118, 184
 Bloss, Tara 206
 Bobo, Aylesi 179
 Bogace, Amy 184
 Bogle, Hannah 179
 Boone, Megan 184
 Bordeaux, Danyell 199
 Bordelon, Malcolm 184, 202
 Borske, Evelyn 179
 Bosagh, Chris 106
 Bosby, Lanisha 184
 Bossler, Anthony 115
 Boston, Javacia 184
 Bouge, Amber 179, 196
 Bowen, Crystal 203
 Bowie, Amber 179, 196
 Boyd, Ellen 184
 Boyer, Liz 13
 Brackman, Seth 184, 203
 Bradley, Vance 179
 Bradshaw, Andrea 197
 Brandhorst, Jeff 206
 Brandon, Sylvester 20, 84, 94, 172, 179, 199, 205
 Brandts, Kelli 136, 204
 Brauck, Cindy 139
 Bray, Crystal 86, 135, 184, 205
 Brennan, Luke 203
 Brinkley, Heather 184
 Brinnon, Devree 179
 Briscoe, Mallori 187, 200
 Bronson, Mary 179
 Brooks, Eric 64, 65
 Brothers, Nick 47
 Brown, Adam 187
 Brown, Amber 187

Brown, Dave 71
 Brown, Holly 204
 Brown, Nicole 179
 Bruce, Dan 111
 Bruce, Jennifer 206
 Bruhs, Desirae 179
 Bruscato, Charles 76, 77, 203
 Bryant, Lea 187
 Buckallew, Jennifer 179
 Buckman, Megan 39, 71, 198
 Bullimore, Stephanie 179
 Bunker, Aaron 203
 Burke, Erin 198
 Burns, Andre 58, 141, 143, 151, 187
 Burns, Brandon 179
 Burris, Rachael 204
 Burton, Rachel 187
 Bush, Maurice 176, 187, 201
 Butcher, Mark 179
 Byers, Tosha 179
 Byrd, Brandon 21, 187

C

Calhoun, Michael 187, 197, 202, 201
 Campbell, Cody 244
 Campbell, Lindsey 179
 Campbell, Megan 72, 73
 Campbell, Nichola 196
 Campbell, Shana 187
 Carl, Shanna 200, 200
 Carpenter, Kate 187, 198
 Carr, Armand 179
 Carroll, Nicole 204
 Carson, Chris 204, 206
 Carter, Ashleigh 204
 Cartwright, Alan 153
 Cason, Rikki 200
 Cassity, Jen 204
 Casto, Adam 187
 Catron, Ethel 179, 202
 Causey, Henry 32, 44, 179, 197, 204
 Cerniglia, Christa 187
 Chambers, Larry 24
 Chancellor, Jason 179
 Chaney, Matt 187
 Chapman, Pete 155
 Chen, Jason 187, 203, 201, 205
 Chenoweth, Sarah 197, 198
 Chiles, Shelly 139
 Chisam, Lucas 187
 Chisolm, Ronald Jr 187
 Chleborad, Adrienne 187
 Christmas, Lisa 206
 Church, Stanico 53, 179
 Clair, Nathan 179
 Clark, Anthony 179
 Clark, Cara 179
 Clark, Willie 202
 Clemens, Rocky 203
 Clifford, Stefanie 187
 Coates, Deborah 28, 46
 Coates, Tamisha 97, 199
 Cody, Robin 187
 Cohen, Erinn 44, 102
 Colbert, Jean 24
 Colbert, Tyler 187
 Coleman, Amy 179
 Coleman, Robert 187
 Coleman, Tayaace 187
 Collins, Ashlea 197, 207
 Collins, Candace 196
 Collins, David 60

Collins, Dawni 105
 Collins, Jana 179
 Collins, Justin 141
 Combs, Angela 128, 179
 Combs, Anita 179
 Comerford, John 10
 Comfort, Spencer 64, 65
 Compton, Logan 79, 187, 205, 206
 Conningham, Allison 187
 Connor, Pamela 183
 Contreras, Traci 206
 Conway, Allen 186
 Conway, Morris 187
 Conway, Phillip 187
 Cook, Canise 200
 Cook, Paige 198
 Cook, Whitney 197
 Cooksey, Allison 198
 Cooper, Michael 15
 Cordray, Charity 179
 Corey, Brent 121, 200
 Cory, Brent 120
 Cox, Luke 198
 Crandall, Stephanie 179
 Crawford, Courtney 179
 Cress, Tim 121
 Crockett, David 187
 Croskell, Ben 21
 Cross, Lisa 187
 Cross, Tim 119
 Crosser, Brandon 66
 Crowe, Rich 198
 Crowell, Ashley 197, 198
 Cumption, Ashley 187
 Cunningham, Reagan 204
 Curtis, Wilson 29, 179



Daniel, Joy 196
 Daniels, Amanda 187
 Dano, John 153
 Davenport, Brian 187
 Davidson, Jennifer 187
 Davidson, Jonathan 179
 Davis, Andy 160
 Davis, Bryan 64, 65, 95
 Davis, Diane 202
 Davis, Joseph 198
 Davis, Leah 187
 Davis Mead, Liam 117
 Davis, Meghan 187
 Davis, Pamela 29, 187
 Davis, Rachel 197
 Davis, Tanisha 187, 201
 Day, Candice 199
 Day, Cedric 187
 Detrick, Melissa 187
 Dee, Sandra 115
 Dejongh, Nicole 179
 Delana, Janelle 203
 Delaney, Danielle 22
 Dial, Jenna 198
 Diaz, Francisco 179
 Dickey, Miranda 187, 198
 Dickmeyer, Tammy 179
 Dickson, Tricia 204
 Dillard, Jarrett 32, 179, 197, 202
 Dixon, Anthony 197
 Dixon, Brad 30, 187, 204
 Donaher, Patricia 33
 Donaldson, Ryan 179
 Donelson, Joy 202
 Donnell, Rachel 187, 197, 204

Doomink, Ben 2, 134
 Doomink, Reuben 179
 Downs, Pam 187
 Dozier, Jeff 128, 179
 Drake, David 179
 Draper, Nick 85, 185, 187, 200
 Drew, Heidi 196
 Drummond, Brad 56
 Dryer, Paula 179
 Dubach, Christina 187
 Duck, Sanotro 200
 Duncan, Ebony 202
 Dungan, Megan 21, 181, 187
 Dunlap, Annett 187
 Dunlap, Cody 204
 Dunn, Katie 105, 187, 197
 DuPree, Chantell 199



Ebert, Alex 101
 Edington, Linsey 179
 Edwards, Chris 201
 Edwards, Letisha 179
 Eischens, Kelly 187
 Elifrits, Chad 39
 Ellis, Chris 59
 Ellis, Jennifer 179
 Embry, Tiffany 8, 122
 English, Dave 202
 Erickson, Grek 203
 Euchner, Rachel 187
 Evans, Jenny 12
 Evans, Keith 157
 Evans, Lindsey 204
 Evers, Rebecca 179
 Ewing, Andy 112, 187, 205, 207



Fabsits, John 18, 19, 79, 124, 179, 205, 206, 207
 Fadden, Shay 16, 17
 Falter, Ashley 187, 202, 205
 Farnan, Kristen 187, 204
 Farrow, Jenny 187, 197
 Fehling, Erin 180
 Fennell, Natalie 180
 Fernandez, Gabriela 180
 Feuerbacher, Kellie 180, 197, 201, 247
 Finley, Derwin 187
 Finley, Shanan 187
 Fiscus, Lindsay 136, 180
 Fish, James 202
 Fisher, John 14
 Fisher, Lindsay 187
 Fisher, Rebekah 187
 Flanders, Kelly 187
 Fontleroy, Kevin 21, 46, 187
 Foster, Keri 180
 Fowler, Matt 34, 35
 Fox, Ashley 197
 Frahm, Tia 207
 Franklin, Lasilvia 187, 205
 Franklin, Teresha 187
 Frederick, Cory 139
 Freeland, Mandy 22, 171
 Frick, Ryan 199
 Fricke, Josh 32
 Fritz, Shelley 199
 Fuenfhauser, Christy 196
 Fuller, Lindsay 180, 204
 Fuller, Tanisha 187
 Funk, Jeremy 57



Gabbert, Justin 117
 Gaddy, Shamika 187
 Gallup, Greg 206
 Galloway, Jennifer 202
 Galloway, Preseley 202
 Galvan, Jenniet 201
 Gann, Amanda 187
 Gann, Celia 187
 Gant, Mystique 180
 Gardner, Andy 203
 Garlinger, Linda 102
 Garnett, Brice 145
 Gates, Natoyia 51, 187
 Gates, Whitney 202
 Gentry, Patrick 180
 Gerdes, Andrew 196
 Gergen, David 86, 87
 Gerling, Brent 180, 202
 Giefer, Jamie 180, 204
 Gifford, Jessica 111
 Gifford, Randy 198
 Gillahan, Joan 180, 204
 Gilliam, Princess 187
 Gilliland, Adam 57
 Gnuschke, Aaron 207
 Gnuschke, Tara 187, 205, 207
 Goddard, Sarah 188
 Goetz, Nicole 91, 188, 204
 Goforth, Heather 188, 205
 Goodin, Shane 56, 79, 203
 Goodlow, Joshua 188
 Gorcyca, Diana 52
 Gorham, Lucas 182, 199, 204
 Gorsky, Ed 88
 Grady, Langston 140, 159
 Gray, Adrian 2, 5, 18, 21, 26, 27, 28, 114, 115, 181, 188
 Gray, Jazzmine 188
 Gray, LaShelle 199, 202
 Gray, Lashelle 188
 Gray, Sharon 12
 Greear, Autumn 188
 Greene, Tominick 188
 Gregory, Melissa 119
 Gress, Anthony 188
 Grier, Melody 180, 206
 Griffin, Matt 28
 Griggs, Sarah 196
 Grogan, John 188, 199, 200
 Groham, Lucas 205
 Groom, Meghan 136, 137
 Groves, Rebecca 180
 Groves, Ryan 72, 79, 203
 Gruber, Amanda 188, 202
 Grzenda, Jake 152, 162, 180, 201, 247
 Guillaume, Marie 188
 Guinn, Emily 180
 Gutkowski, Veronica 188



Haahr, Elijah 18, 19, 84, 182, 198, 205
 Haahr, Noah 84, 198, 204, 205
 Haecker, Jael 199
 Haggard, Jeannie 188
 Hall, Christy 180
 Hall, Heather 180
 Hall, Josh 116, 117
 Halling, Amy 180, 196, 205
 Hamilton, Tracy 17

Hamilton, Tre 96
Hammond, Christina 188
Hamrick, Brian 111, 188
Hamzaee, Reza 108, 109
Hanavan, Cody 188
Hand, Therese 138
Hank, Kristen 196
Hanna, Christin 79, 204
Hannah, Loita 180
Hansen, Chanel 198
Hansen, Morgan 204
Hanson, Christiana 123
Hargrove, Tiffany 188
Haring, Amanda 188, 204
Harris, Ed 95, 157, 202
Harris, Erin 99, 188, 201, 201
Harris, Joey 62
Hashman, Pam 41
Haskamp, Greg 202
Hasman, Pamela 180
Hassen, Hussien 180
Hatcher, Kellen 203
Hausman, Bradley 180
Hawkins, Lakeeja 176, 180, 201
Hayden, Joshua 180
Head, Bridget 180
Heasley, Aimee 180
Heffron, Amanda 180
Heidbrink, Kristin 198
Heldenbrand, Dana 199
Helin, Erika 203
Helm, Theresa 202
Hembree, Brad 198
Henderson, Kristina 180
Herman, Elanda 180
Hickman, Steven 119
Hicks, Cara 180
Hidritsch, Erica 198
High, Lamont 66
Hightower, Essence 188, 201
Hill, Kevin 180
Hill, Kristy 124
Hill, Matt 9, 3
Hill, Sara 2, 3, 180
Hinshaw, Colleen 186, 188, 200
Hinton, Jeff 105, 107
Hinton, Kayla 136, 137
Hochard, Joe 206
Holcomb, Jesse 205, 206
Holcumbrink, Dustin 145, 188
Holland, Carliss 180
Holloman, Ashlee 188
Holthaus, Elizabeth 188
Homedale, Laurel 79, 204
Hooker, Monay 188
Hooks, Jacarra 23, 188
Hopkins-Kondratehko, Lanell 188
Horkman, Jennifer 180
Housewirth, Amanda 188
Houseworth, Abigail 46, 188
Howard, Brenda 180
Howard, Elizabeth 180
Howard, Robert 180
Howards, Margaret 206
Howser, Ella 188, 201
Hudson, Susan 204
Huff, Jeff 10
Hughes, Jennifer 188
Hultquist, Ben 203, 205
Hultquist, Phil 18, 19, 203, 205
Humphrey, Cara 188
Humphrey, Rebecca 188
Hunold, Christian 180
Hunt, Marilyn 80

Hunt, Rachael 180
Hunter, Melissa 188
Hunthorp, Annette 30, 31, 196, 200
Hussey, Richard 206
Huston, Nicole 135
Hutchings, Jeff 61



Ichikawa, Junichiro 180
Ingrim, Tyler 199
Ike, Natalie 8
Ives, Amy 180
Ives, Tyler 180
Ivie, DeRay 153



Jackson, Becky 188, 204, 201, 247
Jackson, Brandon 188
Jackson, Jerry 66
Jackson, Keisha 199, 202
Jackson, Kelley 188, 202
Jackson, Matt 188
Jackson, Melissa 188
Jacobs, Brian 188
Jairam, Jailall 194
James, Rupert 86
Jaynes, Brian 203
Jayodzinski, Penny 188
Jessen, Eric 188
Johnson, Aaron 180
Johnson, Denise 196, 204, 205
Johnson, Elizabeth 188
Johnson, Michael 180
Johnson, Tracy 12, 18, 52, 180, 197, 207
Jolly, David 203
Jolly, James 188
Jones, Ashley 206
Jones, Chris 96
Jones, David 24
Jones, Jennifer 29, 99, 188
Jones, Lashawnda 188
Jones, Stefanie 207
Jordan, Jerry 188
Jung, Melissa 188



Kanak, Amy 180
Karlin, Shawn 180
Karumanchi, Thejaswi 74, 180
Kastner, Adrienne 136, 137
Kastner, Greg 156, 157
Keeney, Tiffany 180
Keister, Josh 143, 149
Kelley, Brittney 188, 200
Kelley, Jonathan 88
Kelley, Sheena 188
Kelley-Editone, Myasthia 157
Kempf, Emily 204
Kennedy, Nick 188, 205, 206
Kepner, Kandi 207
Kerling, Amy 180
Kernal, Dochelle 188
Kerr, Codi 180, 198
Kidwell, Shawn 40
Kiehi, Shawn 188
Kilgore, Devon 204
Kimmie, Aaron 17
King, Brett 155

King, Devonte 141
King, Rashaunda 188
Klinedinst, Heather 188
Kling, Adam 199
Klostermeyer, Bob 88
Knapp, Jeff 23, 48
Knighten, Nyesha 188
Koebel, Jenni 206
Kolieboi, Ashlee 205
Koncevie, Mark 202
Korthanke, Barry 74
Kraus, Valissa 188
Krause, Jennifer 188
Krautmann, Josh 202
Krieg, Alison 188, 201
Kuehn, Rebecca 188
Kunkle, Gretchen 188, 197, 201
Kunze, Kathy 188



Lacey, Christopher 179, 205
Lager, Jennie 198
Lager-Holmes, Jennie 79
Lakebrink, Michelle 188, 204
Landers, Scott 199
Lane, Gretchen 180
Langabee, Keith 188
Lantz, Janel 180
Larson, Rachel 198
Larson, Tabby 18, 19, 198
Larue, Amber 180
Lawrence, Don 198
Lawson, Larry 80
Lawson, Travis 180
Leatners, Jamekia 188
Ledbetter, Rachel 188
Lee, Carly 143
Lee, Joshena 136
Lee, Kelly 188
Lee, Monica 94
Lee, Tiffany 191
Lee, Valerie 204
Lehr, Blair 139, 191
Lenon, Levi 203
Letcher, James 180
Lewis, Lisa 191
Lewis, Marc 156, 157
Lewis, Matthew 180
Lewis, Melissa 191
Liebhart, Ashlee 191
Liggins, Tanesha 191
Lightle, Scott 180
Lilly, Patt 88
Linder, Mark 155
Lindley, Jarred 10
Lindsay, Sarah 180
Lindsay, Vanecia 191
Lippert, Abra 196, 204, 205
Liu, Lawyang 180
Locke, Mya 191
Long, Adrienne 134
Long, Amy 191
Long, Cynthia 180
Long, Ryan 191
Lopez, Sandra 180
Lord, Samantha 5, 114
Lowe, Kylie 197
Lowrance, Elizabeth 204
Lucast, Catherine 191
Lyday, Rachel 205



Mabe, Mark 33
 Mace, Monty 191
 Mack, Leandrea 40, 191
 Maddex, Tiffany 203
 Madison, Stephanie 180
 Magness, Eric 180
 Magness, Jennifer 180
 Mahoney, Catherine 180
 Malone, Malcolm 48, 94, 197
 Malone, Tyson 191
 Manley, Tiffani 97, 180, 199
 Maples, Melisa 191
 Marasco, Kevin 191
 Marek, Alison 191, 198
 Markowitz, Lyla 204
 Marrs, Mandy 180
 Martin, Myrnell 97, 180, 202
 Martin, Reggie 197
 Martin, Ross 185, 186, 200
 Martin, Shay 199
 Martinez, Candace 183
 Marullo, Kayleen 191
 Mason, Nieshia 191
 Matt, Megan 181
 Mayfield, Chauncey 191, 197
 McArin, Morgan 202
 McCarthy, James 88, 89
 McClenton, Steve 56, 202
 Mccoy, Lakeisha 191
 Mccullough, Shelia 183
 McDaniel, Virginia 191, 201
 McDonald, Christopher 107
 McDonald, Sarah 191
 McDowell, Cara 136
 McDowell, Eric 133
 McGinness, Mary 204
 Mcgrath, Eric 191
 McHolland, Jessica 197
 McKay, Nick 52, 81
 McKinley, Jennifer 191, 198, 201
 McKinley, Jim 12, 26, 183, 196, 198, 205, 207
 McKinzie, Jess 196, 205
 Mcmullin, Timothy 183
 Mcnear, Amber 183
 Mcquerry, Cynthia 60
 McQuinn-Campbell, Natalie 204
 Meador, Bobbie 183
 Medsker, Ashley 183
 Meinders, Jeff 203
 Merrell, Lacey 191, 204
 Merrill, Anisha 200
 Meyer, Barbara 123
 Micheel, Benjamin 198
 Michelle-Childs, Donna 183
 Midgyett, Gwenlyn 191
 Miller, Amanda 204
 Miller, Brandi 183
 Miller, Janna 191
 Miller, Lisa 191
 Mingee, Brett 132
 Mitchell, Latasha 191
 Mitchell, Robert 155, 203
 Mittag, Jake 203
 Mobley, Angela 204
 Moeckel, Brian 183
 Monach, Ashley 183
 Monning, Rebecca 191, 205
 Montgomery, Alisha 105, 191, 200
 Moore, Craig 191
 Moore, Roger 14
 Moore, Thomas 191

Moran, Jennifer 201
 Morehead, Lauren 191
 Moreira, Luiz 183
 Morgan, Stephanie 191
 Morrison, Josh 206
 Morrison, Samantha 183
 Morrison, Sean 183
 Morse, Crystal 22
 Mortimer, Mason 112
 Morton, Matt 201
 Moses, Ashley 196, 197, 207
 Moten, Darren 197
 Motsinger, Joy 188, 198, 204
 Mueller, Mariah 197
 Munyon, Shela 183
 Murphy, Richard 183
 Musser, Cy 159
 Musser, Jared 199
 Mwabuki, John 183
 Myers, Stephanie 183



Nacke, Jacob 198
 Nagel, Suzi 196
 Nahn, Jaci 204
 Nanneman, Jennifer 203
 Nart, Derek 183
 Nave, Brenda 191
 Needham, Rebekah 191
 Neeley, Kristen 2, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27, 112, 113, 190
 Neier, Erica 191, 202, 204
 Neilson, Ashley 191
 Nesslage, Jill 183, 204
 Nichols, Heather 191
 Nicholson, Mike 141
 Nickell, Edward 183
 Nicole-Cook, Canise 191
 Nigh, Bridget 183
 Noland, Dana 191
 Nolen, Bridget 197
 Norgard, Cathy 2, 3
 Norton, Latoria 8, 58
 Nyman, John 191



Ogden, Brad 191
 Olinger, Lindsay 110
 Oliver, Josh 9
 Olson, Jenny 191, 201, 247
 Orf, Bob 156
 Orlando, Nick 76
 Osborn, Arlaysha 44, 191
 Owen, Kristine 204



Pablo, Manuel 183
 Paines, Mallory 191, 200
 Palmer, Kim 156, 157
 Pankau, Amy 191
 Pankiewicz, Mary 148, 149
 Papadopoulos, Christos 199
 Parker, Beau 52
 Parker, Blake 206
 Parkinson, Jason 191
 Partridge, Jerry 14, 133
 Pascal, Micalea 191
 Pauley, Summer 197
 Pawlowski, Jennifer 183

Payne, Peggy 193, 207
 Payton, Kandace 191
 Peetoom, Traci 183
 Perkins, Kyayea 191
 Perry, Jim 145
 Perry, Kellen 117, 120
 Perry, Morgan 80, 117, 190, 193
 Peschong, Laura 191, 196
 Petersen, James 203
 Peterson, Brianna 183
 Peterson, Tyree 136
 Pfister, Thomas 191
 Phillippe, Laura 183
 Phillips, Janelle 191
 Pickens, Cierra 191
 Pickering, Jamie 200
 Pierson, Kate 160, 161
 Pike, Aimee 203
 Pinter, Dave 72, 203
 Piranio, Carla 183
 Pitts, Derrick 14, 29
 Pitts, Tracy 183
 Pontius, Abbi 34, 35
 Pontius, Erika 120, 121
 Popel, Fabian 191
 Posch, Kim 95
 Potter, Steve 68, 80
 Pottier, Jackie 191, 203
 Prashak, Angela 128, 183
 Preyor, Dianna 191
 Prim, Whitney 197
 Prosak, Kim 113
 Puckett, Jennifer 191



Racen, Dustin 101, 199
 Raffensperger, Maureen 110
 Ramsay, Zachary 206
 Randall, Kathleen 183
 Randolph, Cortez 183
 Randolph, Lashaundra 183
 Rapp, Traci 183
 Rathburn, Sarah 203
 Reed, Juana 110
 Reid, Anastasia 191
 Rein, Stasi 196
 Reistroffer, Carrie 183
 Rethemeyer, Bethany 191
 Rhone, Sabrina 191
 Rich, Amy 204
 Richardson, Ryan 206
 Richey, Saralynn 198
 Richner, Kimberly 183
 Riesterer, Andrea 204
 Riley, Maatyce 191
 Riley, Tiffany 191
 Ring, Lee 153
 Rippy, Jennifer 204
 Ritzer, Melody 183
 Roberts, Lisa 199
 Roberts, Nathan 207
 Robinette, Steve 202
 Robinson, Cledell 191
 Robinson, Kristen 191, 198
 Robinson, Maurice 183
 Robinson, Penny 183
 Rockhold, Ashley 191, 196
 Rodriguez, Brandon 191, 201, 203
 Roe, Amanda 192
 Roether, Jennifer 204
 Rogers, Mike 203
 Rogers, Sandy 88

Rogers, Sarah 192
 Roggy, Gina 183
 Rope, Jenni 183
 Roseberry, Gabrielle 192
 Rosenauer, Kenneth 92, 93
 Rospe, Christopher 183
 Ross, Alicia 58
 Rost, Lisa 183
 Roth, Taira 146, 161
 Ruiz, Jason 192
 Rush, Britani 78, 204
 Ryan, Cherry 183
 Ryder, Jessica 78, 204



Salfrank, Nicole 192
 Sampson, Tegan 136, 137, 192
 Sandefur, Dean 192
 Saunders, Alicia 193, 207
 Sawyer, Sheena 192
 Scanlon, James 12, 91, 124
 Scearce, Melissa 71, 192, 199, 207, 201, 247
 Schaefer, Lori 192
 Schaffer, Shebie 192
 Schaffner, Lavon 192
 Schank, David 183
 Schank, Tyson 183
 Scherder, Michelle 192, 202
 Schindler, Hollie 192
 Schitz, Christopher 198
 Schleppenbach, Ben 153
 Schmid, Shannon 204
 Schmidgall, Alicia 76, 192, 196
 Schmidt, Melony 192
 Schmitt, Andrea 192
 Schmoe, Nathan 117, 243
 Schneitter, Stacy 197
 Schneitter, Tracy 197
 Scholz, Ross 192
 Schrader, Candice 119, 200
 Schreiman, Elaine 192
 Schulte, Kristy 10
 Schultz, Allisha 183
 Schuster, LeeAnn 205
 Scoggins, Debbie 183
 Scott, Patricia 206
 Searcey, Stephanie 192
 Searcy, Ryan 203
 Seek, Angela 136, 137, 183
 Seese, Jacinda 192, 203
 Seever, John 103
 Seiberling, Lisa 206
 Seiter, Elizabeth 203
 Selay, Jenny 40
 Sevcik, Ryan 68
 Seward, Rachel 183
 Shafer, Kenneth 195
 Shafer, Tyler 107, 198
 Shane, Kathy 192, 202
 Shapiro, Peter 183
 Shaw, Kristy 192, 205
 Shaw, Tonya 192
 Shawrath, Dorris 192
 Sheets, Ashley 183
 Shelby, Kamita 192
 Shepard, Lee 183, 201
 Sherman, Keith 183, 199
 Shields, Charlie 24
 Shirley, Jayna 192, 200
 Shoemaker, Danielle 204
 Shoemaker, James 62, 192
 Shuster, LeeAnn 202

Silcott, Amy 146
 Silcott, Kristen 205
 Simmons, Shameka 183
 Simms, Brian 192
 Singleton, Ashley 192
 Sipp, Geo 68
 Siron, Jon 21
 Siron, Rachel 18, 19, 92, 183, 204, 201, 246
 Slatten, Kristin 192
 Slobodnik, Lisa 183
 Sloop, Nicholas 183
 Sloop, Nichole 183
 Smith, Alicia 192
 Smith, Amber 192, 203
 Smith, Angela 48, 183
 Smith, Ashley 192, 199
 Smith, Cassandra 201
 Smith, Ellen 202
 Smith, Geraldine 183
 Smith, Hakim 39, 192, 202
 Smith, James 192, 206
 Smith, Jason 199
 Smith, Justen 203
 Smith, Matthew 183
 Smith, Melissa 42, 192
 Smith, Tom 158, 159
 Smither, Ellen 60, 112
 Snapp, Brandy 204
 Snodgrass, Mika 183, 201, 246
 Snook, Tony 192, 203
 Snyder, Jessica 204
 Snyder, Kari 192
 Soetaert, Sarah 192
 Sollars, Amanda 183
 Soloman, Drew 109
 Sosa, Mark 198
 Southam, Melinda 192
 Spalding, Laurie 192
 Speelman, Wade 205
 Spencer, Lauren 117, 121
 Sprague, Judith 183
 Spray, Josh 134
 Stackhouse, Brian 24
 Stafford, Amber 183
 Staggs, Deny 115, 189
 Starmer, Roberta 192, 202
 Stein, Brenda 192
 Steiniche, David 108
 Stephens, Cichal 192
 Steven, Dustin 192
 Stevens, Carol 192
 Stevens, Michael 192
 Stewart, Brooke 192
 Stewart, Mildred 183
 Stinson, Ashley 192
 Stith, Victoria 183
 Stock, Emily 192
 Stoll, Nick 50, 198
 Stout, Cody 206
 Stout, Sarah 192, 199
 Strehl, Stephen 192
 Strong, William 115
 Stull, Tara 105, 189, 192, 200
 Suenshausen, Christy 10
 Sullwold, Marcy 183
 Summa, Stefanie 204
 Svendsen, Ross 198
 Swank, Hollie 113
 Swanson, Shannon 205
 Swartz, Carrice 184



Takes, Jill 184
 Talbot, Colette 184
 Tanner, Aisha 192
 Tanner, Dallas 203
 Tanner, Jessica 184
 Tapia, John 52
 Tarr, Elizabeth 94, 192
 Taylor, Andranya 4, 18, 21
 Taylor, Erica 200
 Taylor, Melissa 184
 Taylor, Sarah 192, 197, 198
 Terry, Sarah 192
 Theu, Lamont 62
 Thomas, Annabell 192, 204, 207
 Thomas, Megan 192
 Thomas, Michelle 192
 Thomas, Pierre 29
 Thomas, Recolia 39
 Thomas, Roddell 192
 Thompson, Kerriann 184
 Thompson, Shereesa 192, 200
 Thorne, Ann 92, 93, 201, 246
 Thyfault, Nick 198
 Tibbles, Stacy 184, 207
 Tiller, Brandon 57, 119, 206
 Tilly, Heidi 2, 192
 Tinker, Amy 204
 Toalson, Jennifer 192
 Todd, Autumn 192
 Todd, Brandon 205
 Tounzen, Caleb 192
 Tremayne, Lindsay 58, 192, 200, 200
 Trexel, Crystina 205
 Tsutsumi, Lauren 122, 196
 Tucker, Emily 184
 Tucker, Tierrus 192
 Turnage, Andrew 184
 Twedi, Adam 203
 Twyman, Jessica 184, 207
 Tyfault, Nick 205
 Tyler, Latoya 36, 195
 Tyson, Mike 199



Uehlin, Erica 184
 Uhlman, Karrie 71



Vader, Adam 198
 Vanderpool, Mary 184
 Vardiman, Sarah 207
 Vargha, Nader 108, 109
 Vaughn, Aimee 195
 Vaughn, Justin 79
 Veith, Kip 13
 Verdi, Travis 195
 Vertin, Natalie 198
 Vessar, Whitney 146
 Vickers, Michael 195
 Vollmer, Luke 33
 Volz, Kerri 195
 Voss, Adrian 134, 201



Wade, Chip 195, 203, 201

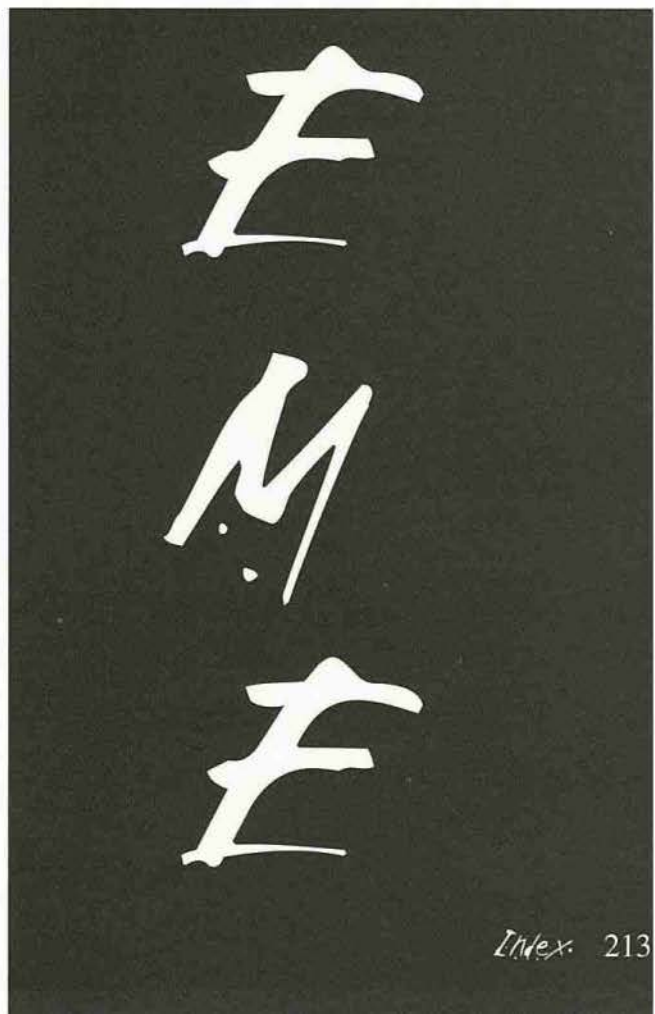
Wales, Ashley 204
 Walkenbach, Lisa 198
 Walker, Doni 203
 Walker, Jeffery 6, 21, 195, 200
 Walker, Rashawnda 135, 195
 Walters, Chon 197, 202
 Walters, Trent 203
 Waltor, Bradley 195
 Warga, Brett 57
 Warren, Robert 24
 Washington, Ronnie 203
 Washington, Tanisha 195, 207, 201, 247
 Watson, Jewel 195
 Watts, Chrissy 50
 Watts, Daniel 241
 Wear, Ryan 79, 203, 205
 Weaver, Kimberly 195
 Webb, Stephanie 184
 Wedekind, Rachel 197
 Weeden, Andrew 18, 19, 21, 56, 197, 202
 Weeks, Dewanda 195, 197, 200
 Weikel, Jeremy 201
 Wells, Carissa 184
 West, Cheena 195, 198
 Westerberg, Kyle 15, 133
 Whalgemuth, Sherrie 184
 Wheeler, Brad 199
 Wheeler, Lauren 184
 Wheeler, Vern 50, 206
 Wheller, James 195
 White, Calvin 42
 White, Casey 195
 White, Diamikia 184, 201, 246
 White, Jessica 198
 White, Paula 184
 White, Rob 200
 White, William 184
 Whitmer, Nathan 203
 Whitmore, Jima 184
 Whittington, Jason 50
 Whittington, Jo Ann 184
 Wibberding, Darren 91, 193, 199, 207
 Widhalm, Anthony 30, 198
 Wiebelhaus, Kayla 195
 Wilder, Jeremy 199
 Wiley, Christopher 184
 Williams, Beth 103
 Williams, Justin 195
 Williams, Ronda 195
 Williams, Trisha 184
 Williams, Victoria 195
 Williamson, Matt 14
 Willis, Don 88
 Wilson, Amber 195
 Wilson, Andrew 195, 201
 Wilson, Erin 26, 76, 195, 196, 204, 205, 207
 Wilson, Jeff 42, 103
 Winn, Jeff 195
 Winslow, Dana 198
 Wishnie, Gabe 184
 Wisneski, Holly 184
 Wittrock, Kerry 74
 Wittstruck, Grant 43, 199, 204, 205
 Wood, Heather 206
 Woodard, Brandon 195
 Woodring, Robert 58
 Woods, Toyia 195, 200
 Words, Marcus 106
 Workman, Zach 157
 Woyski, Ryan 184
 Wright, Aaron 195
 Wyatt, Brandon 195

Y

Yang, George 194
 Young, Amy 195
 Young, Johnnell 195, 200, 201
 Young, Michele 198
 Youngberg, Dusty 200
 Yrjanson, Hollee 195
 Yrjanson, Jaymee 195
 Yungeberg, Dusty 184

Z

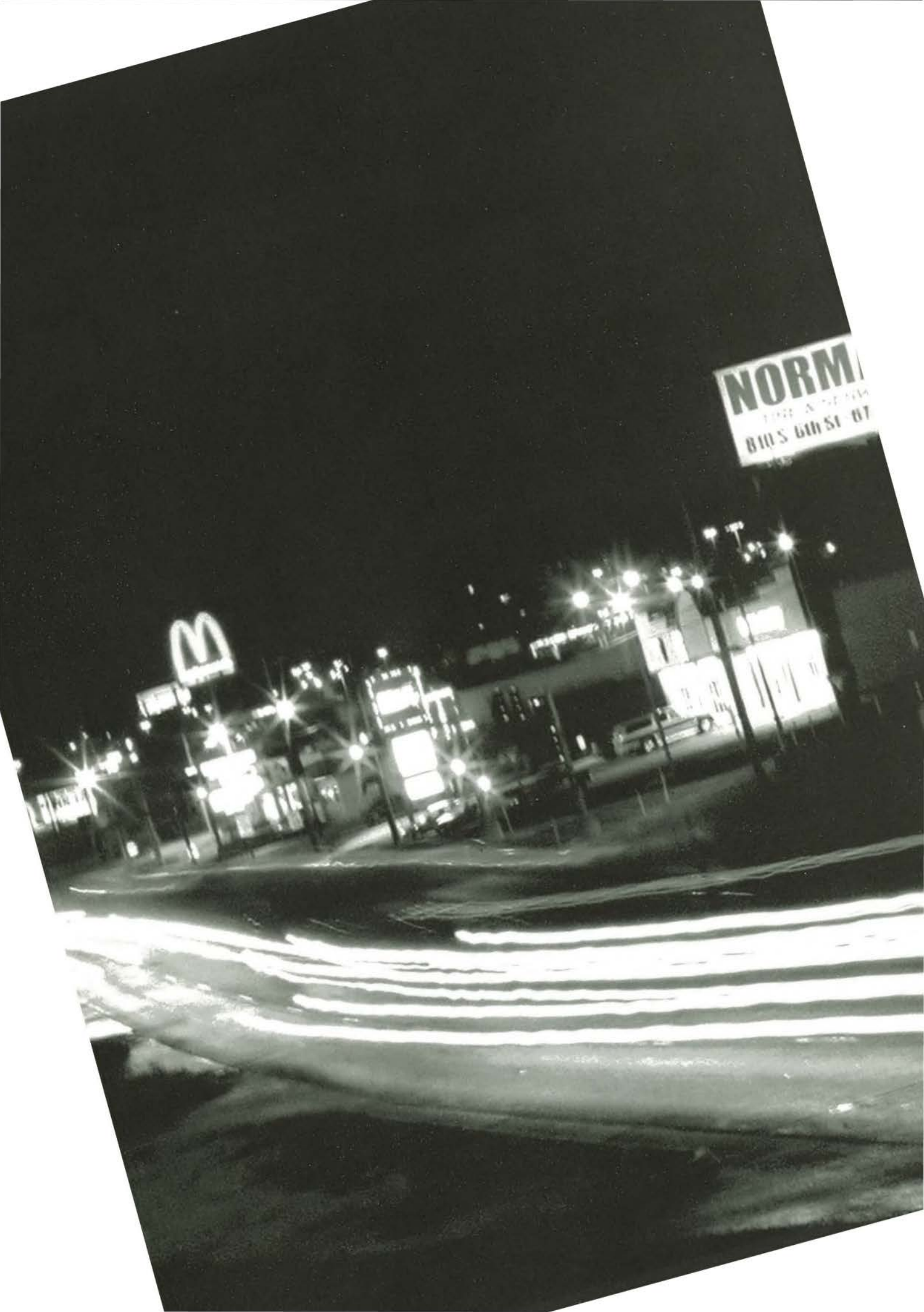
Ziegler, Melissa 195
 Ziskind, Hallie 20, 21
 Zuko, Danny 115



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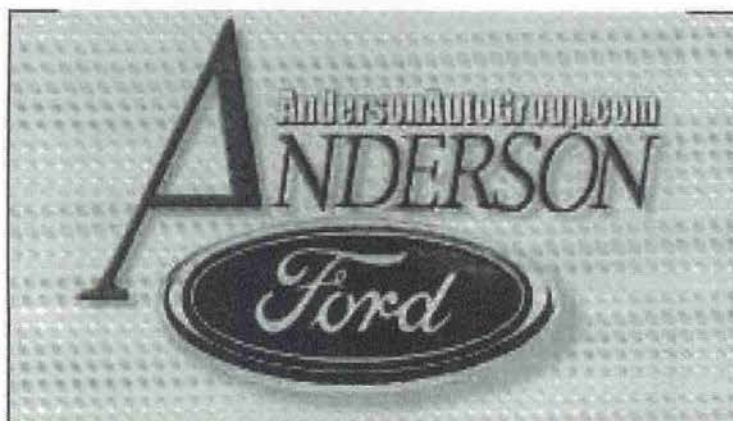
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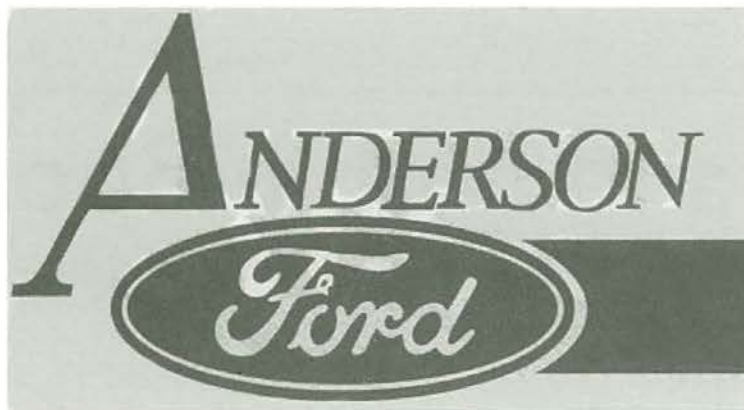


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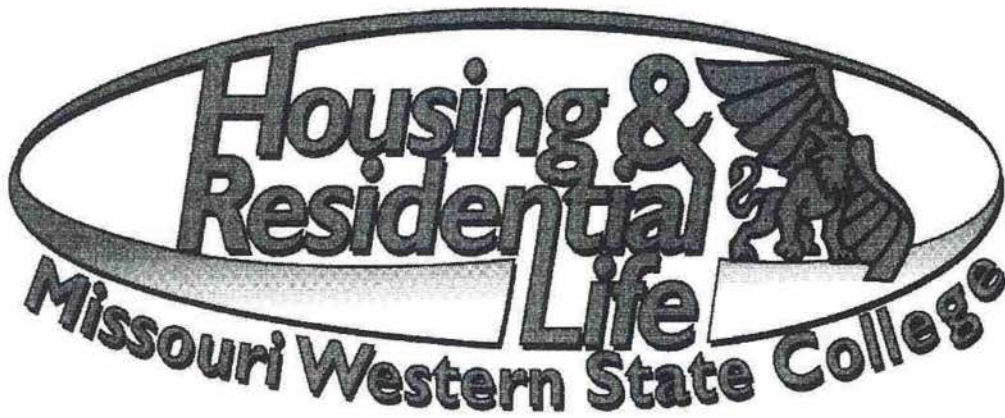
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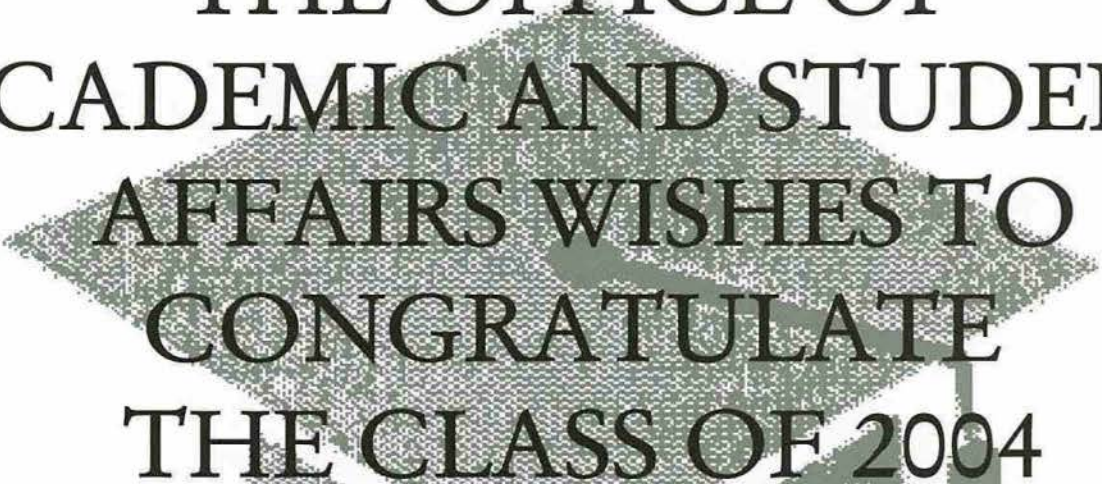
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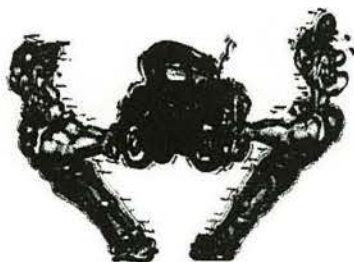
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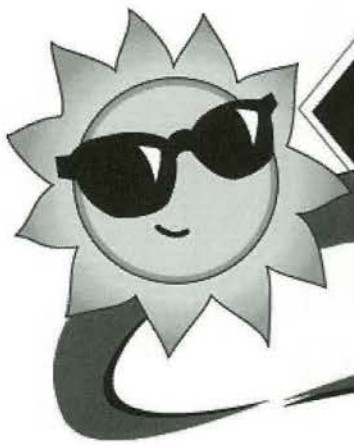
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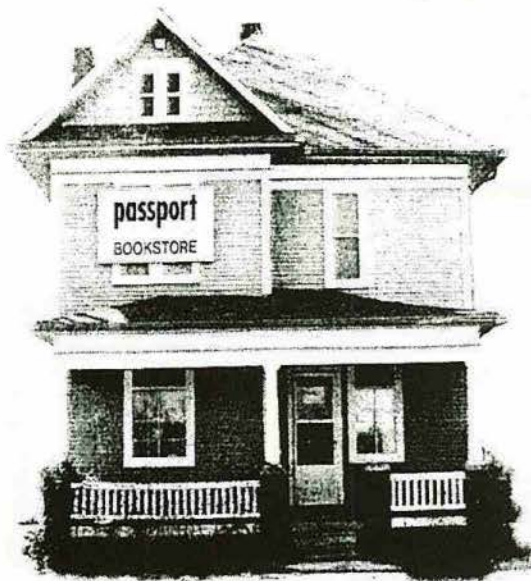


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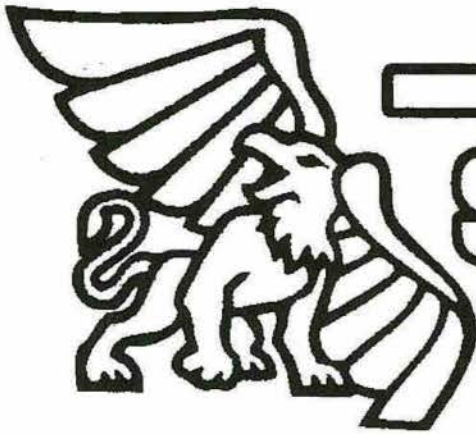
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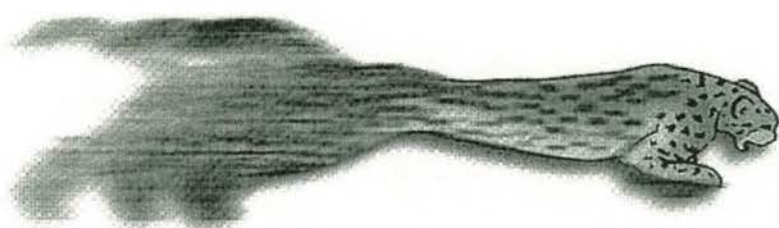
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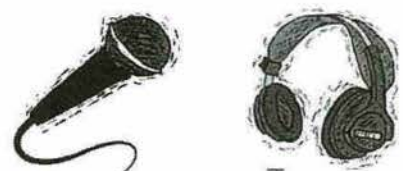


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Good Luck
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An Open Letter to Daniel

What we would have said, had we known,
was don't make that cold, dark drive all alone.
Wait here with us 'til you're well again and get your rest,
or else let us ride beside you, as your guests.
We'll steer while you sleep your way back home.
That's what we would have said, had we known.

What we would have done, had we known,
was chain you to the wall—if we had to break your bones.
We'd have slammed you in a cell and swallowed down the key,
or else lashed you to a sailing mast and shipped you out to sea.
We'd have strapped the scythe into your hands so you could reap the seeds you'd sown.
That's what we would have done, had we known.

What we would have prayed, had we known,
was Dear God, please don't take him. Turn us instead to stone.
If all he seeks is silence, then forever still our tongues.
If he seeks light in brilliant blasts, serve him our slice of sun.
We'd have prayed to trade our blood for your own.
That's what we would have prayed, had we known.

But now we're huddled with grieving hearts,
unfinished laments—a thousand false starts,
in air so rare we choke back our words
and rely on our eyes to speak the unheard.

Yet what we must say, now that we know
is that you loved life in woods, books, and songs,
in sunlight on water, dew beaded on grass
as you skipped across campus, barefoot to class,
the wind in your hair, the sun caught in your eyes
and lyrics on your lips as you waved us goodbye.
So what we must say, now that we know,
is thank you, Daniel Watts, for the effing great show.



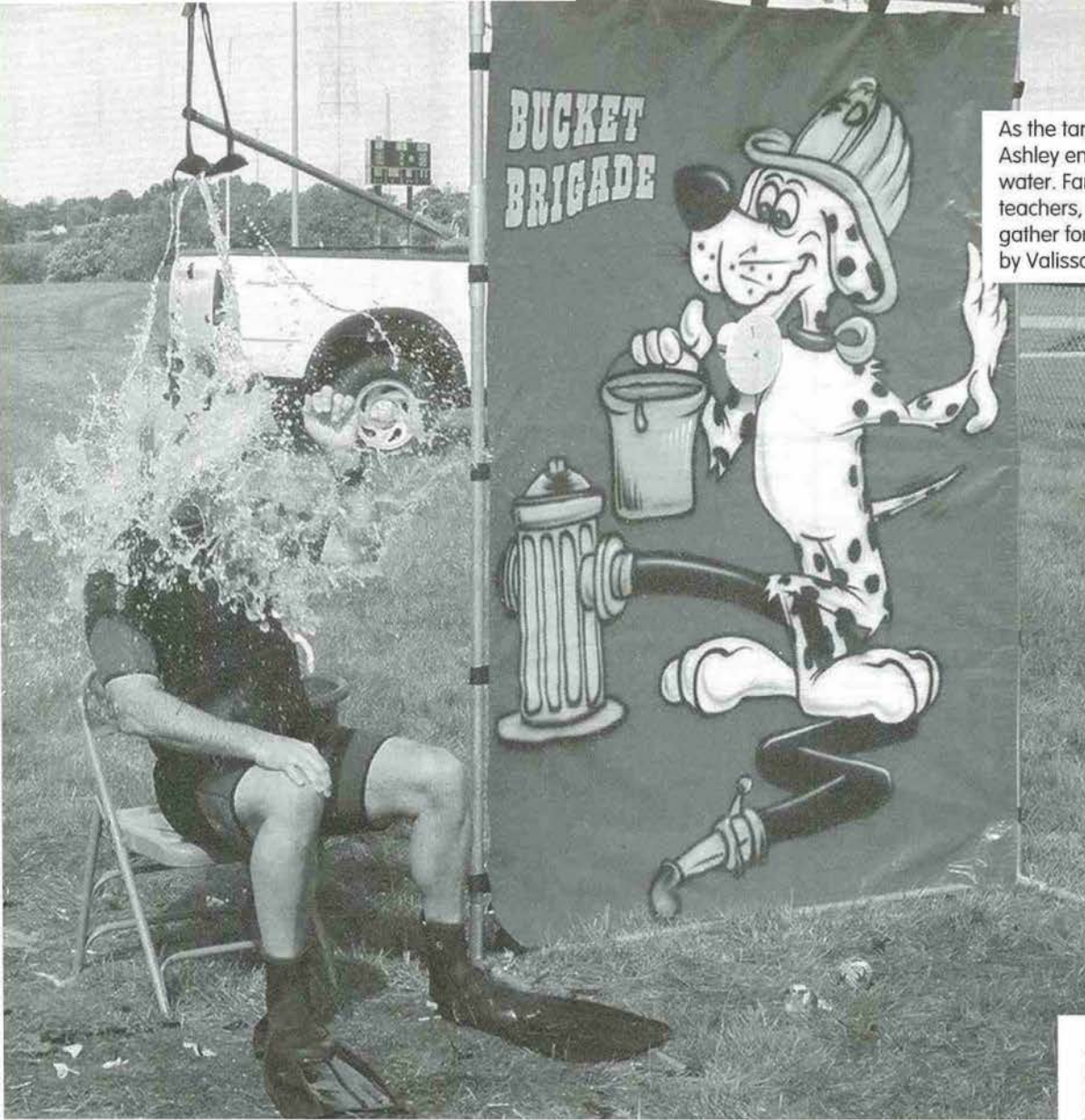
Poem by Dr. Bill Church



Character is the echo of respectability that some carry like an aftertaste in their thoughts and actions. Objects too have character, however this spark of personality is usually only found in well-worn things, loved things. Often they reflect their owner.

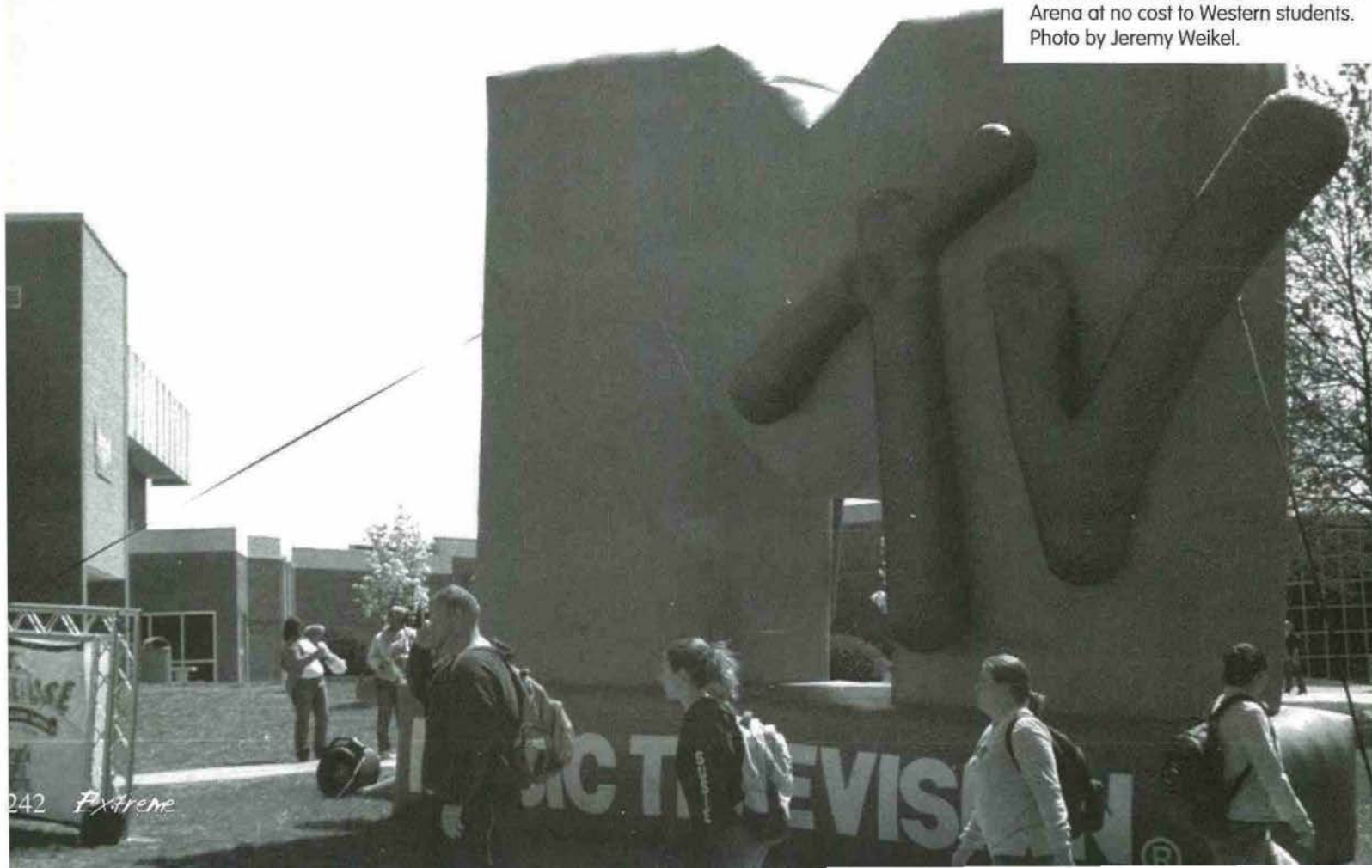
*-Daniel Watts
1982-2004*

Photo courtesy of Morgan Perry



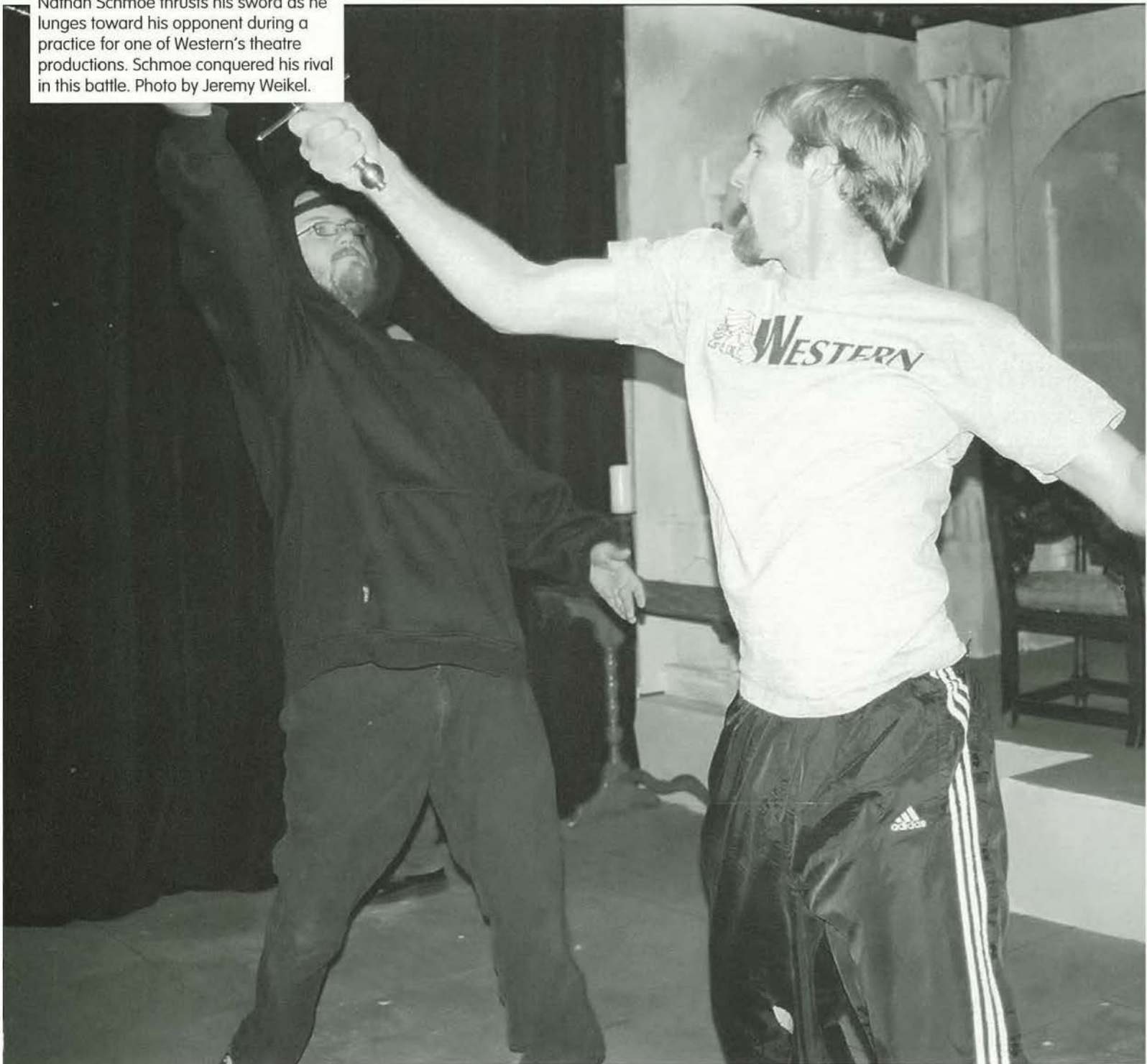
As the target is hit, Professor David Ashley endures a cold rush of water. Family Day allowed teachers, students and families to gather for fun-filled activities. Photo by Valissa Kraus.

MTV comes to Western bringing Hoobastank, Lost Prophets and IMARobot to perform for students. The rock bands performed at the Civic Arena at no cost to Western students. Photo by Jeremy Weikel.



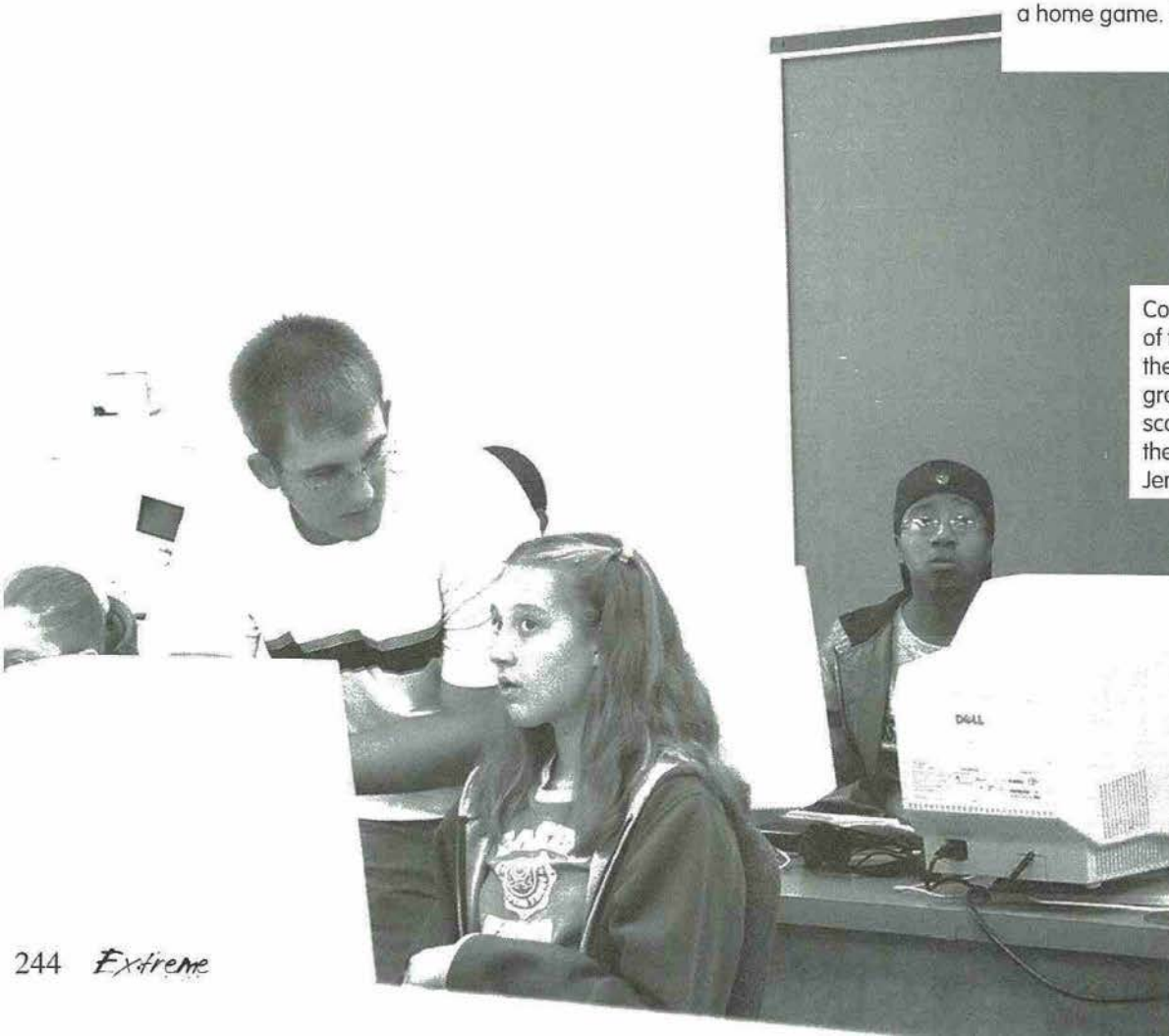
EXTREME

Nathan Schmoe thrusts his sword as he lunges toward his opponent during a practice for one of Western's theatre productions. Schmoe conquered his rival in this battle. Photo by Jeremy Weikel.





In the air, the Griffon cheerleaders execute a group toe touch. The squad cheered on the football team as they claimed victory at a home game. Photo by Jennifer Moran.

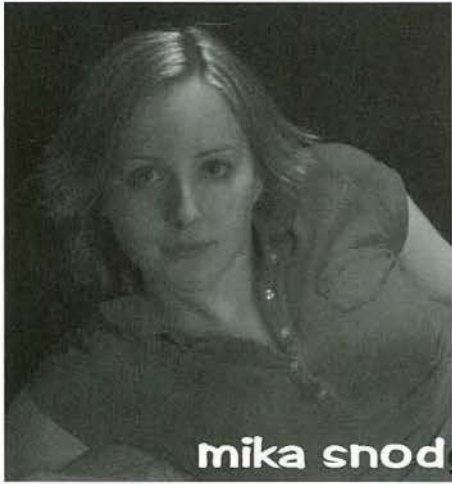


Cody Campbell assists members of the Girl Scouts while teaching them computer skills. The program, "The Matrix" brought the scouts to Western to introduce them to new technology. Photo by Jennifer Moran.



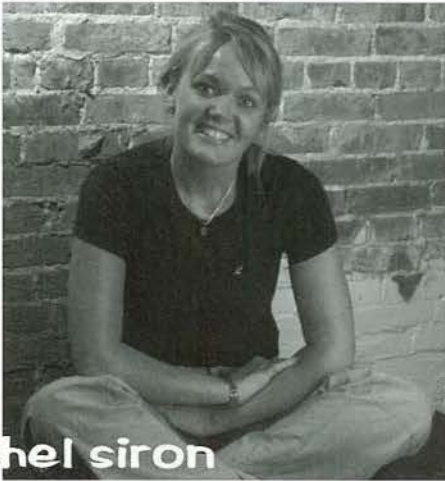
The men of Alpha Phi Alpha, Inc. hype the crowd while performing on the stage at the Step Show. The fraternity worked night and day to perfect their routine before the show. Photo by Johntell Young.

EXTREME

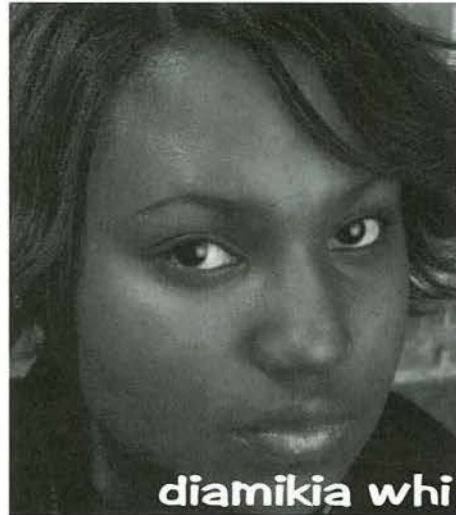


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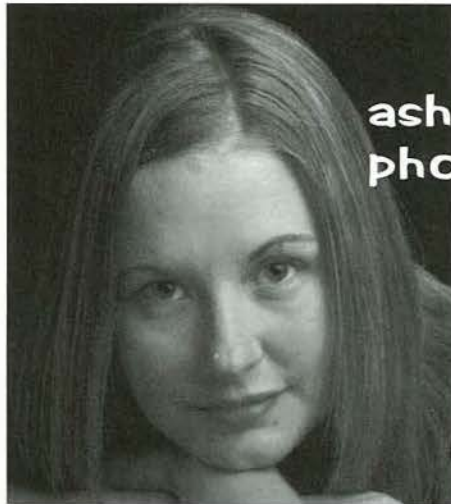
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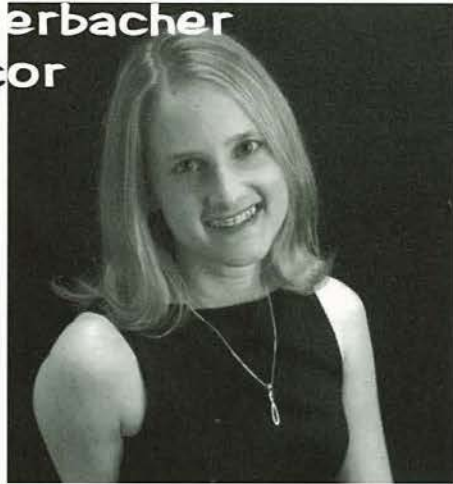
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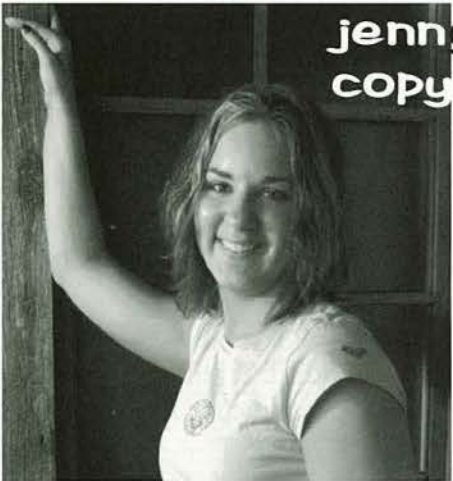
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