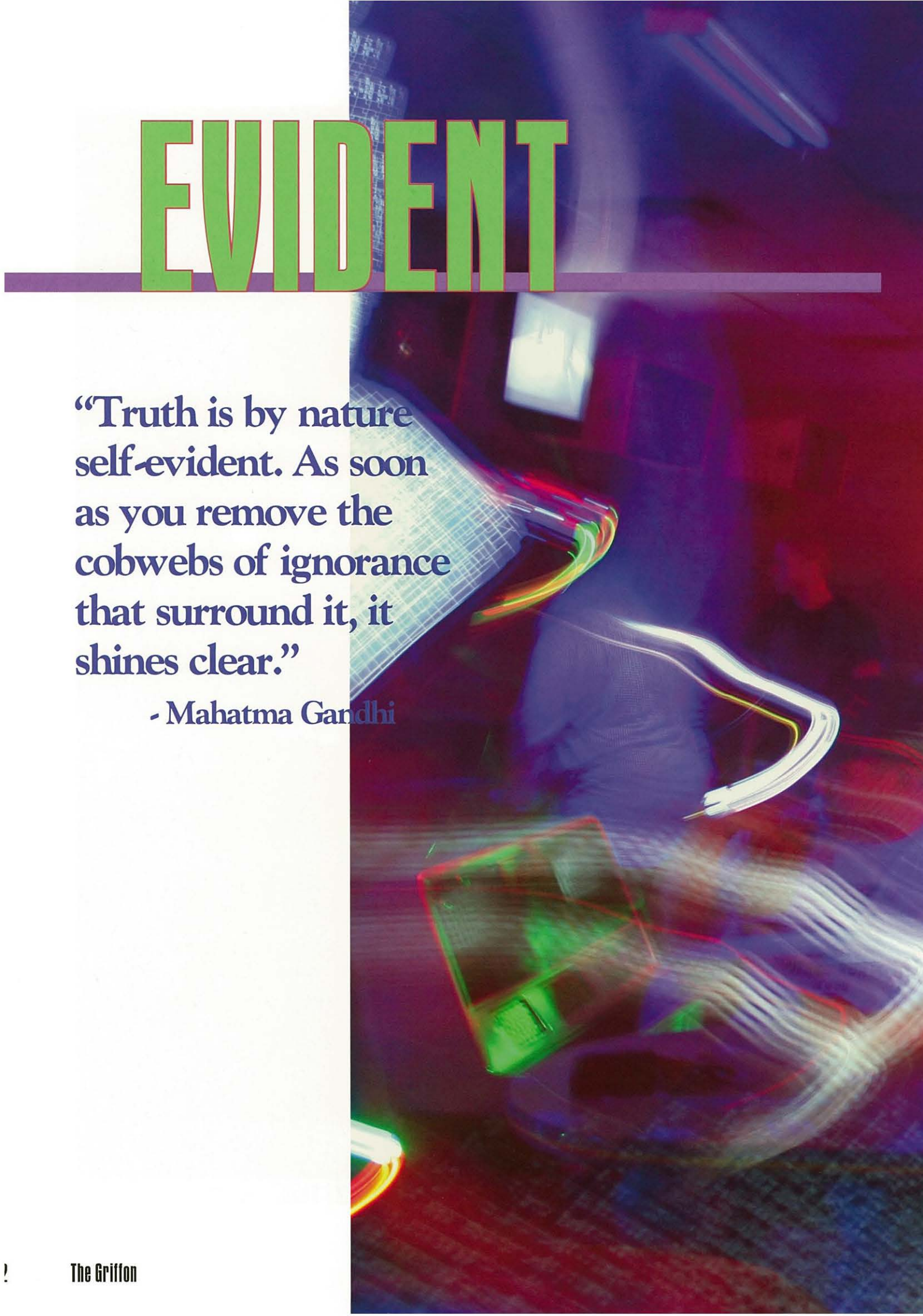


EVIDENT

The background of the page is a vibrant, abstract composition. On the left, a white vertical band contains the text. To the right, a dark, moody image features a city skyline at night, with a prominent skyscraper. Overlaid on this are dynamic, colorful light trails in shades of green, yellow, and red, suggesting motion and energy. A horizontal purple bar is positioned below the title.

“Truth is by nature self-evident. As soon as you remove the cobwebs of ignorance that surround it, it shines clear.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

This yearbook may contain images, language, or other content that could be offensive to modern users. The content may be disturbing and offensive, but should be viewed within the context of that period. The material is being presented as part of a historical record and in no way reflects the values of Missouri Western State University.

Photo by Linda Shireman

EVIDENT

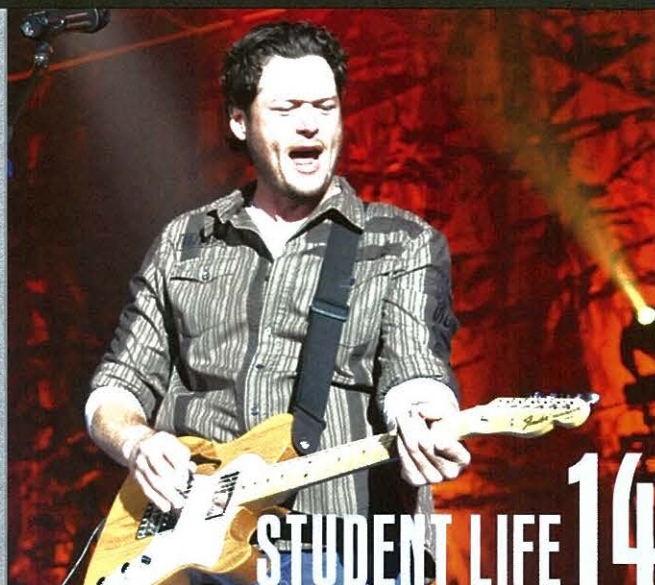
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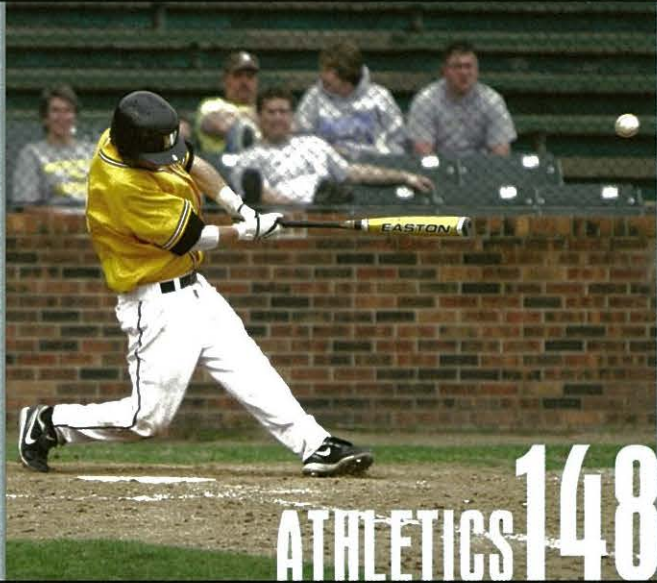
The Griffon



Photo by Courtney Slater

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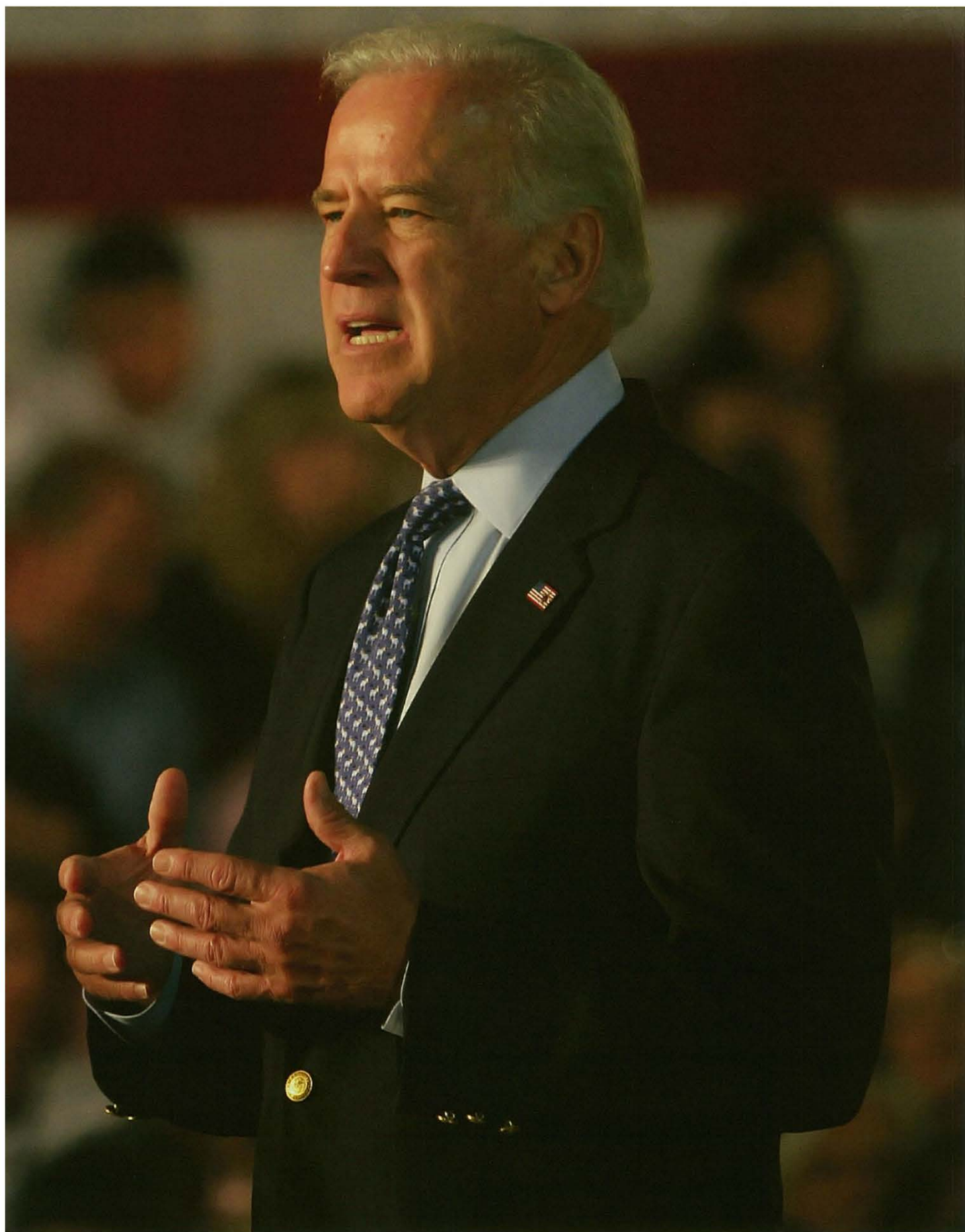
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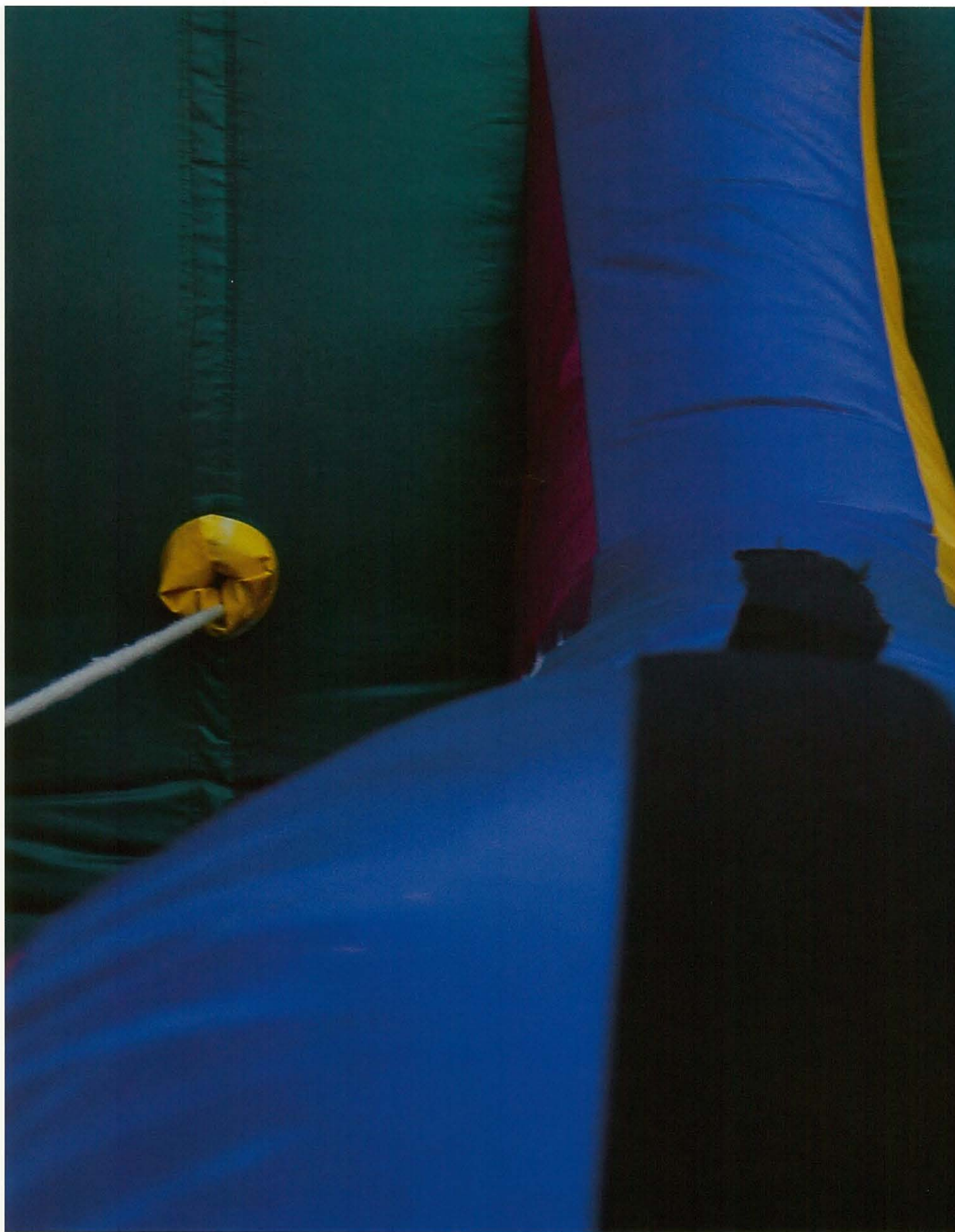


Photo by Linda Shireman



Vice President Joe Biden made a surprise visit on campus while he was on the campaign trail. *Photo by Marty Ayers*





Griffon Edge was primarily an academic setting; however, students did participate in fun activities such as Griff-Stock. *Photo by Amanda Hake*



STUDENT LIFE

“WOW! Amazing! Great show! I could go on and on describing the 2009 WAC Spring Concert.”

- “Lively Concert” page 39

Photo by Harvey Jackson

MBNA
The 2009 Leader Award

Raybestos
The Best in brakes



Chad Hunter





by Olin Kinsey

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Family Day is the one event of the year that families, students and friends always anticipate. Parents and family members love the feel of the college experience they are able to see through the lives of their students who attend Western. Unlike freshmen orientation, families and friends are able to see how their students have settled in and become accustomed to college life.

At Family Day, students and their families' enjoyed a host of activities, games and specialty foods and snacks from different tables set up by student organizations. Among the families that traveled from far and near to join their students, many different student clubs and organizations were present in greeting families. Every year, the Western Activities Council hosted a series of different novelty games, evening activities and much more to make families feel welcome to the hometown university.

"We have a lot of activities planned for the day," WAC President Jasmine Wilson said. "We have a caricature artist, who happens to be a student here at Western; a blow-up playpen for younger kids to play in and have fun; and we have a bead station where families can make souvenir necklaces or bracelets. Later this evening, we will have Blizzard of Bucks, which is a game show where you can win a lot of

cash."

Along with WAC, organizations such as NAACP, Association of Latin American Students, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Pride Alliance, Residence Council and several other student organizations were all in attendance at Family Day. Parents of Western students also enjoyed the day and events. The concluding activity of the day was the football game against Fort Hays State University.

"This is my third time coming to Family Day, and it gets better every year," Western parent Sharon Smith said. "I first came in 2004, and I had a blast. My favorite part is the football game."

Unfortunately, some parents and family members couldn't make it to the event. Some students from out of state hoped that their family could have joined them on this festive day.

"It was really hard seeing other students with their families, knowing that my family couldn't make it from Virginia," sophomore Samantha Wilkins said. "The only positive thing that affected me was seeing how students are so happy when their family was around them... makes me miss home! It really makes you appreciate your family when they are not around."

As Family Day ended, students and families all over Spratt Stadium celebrated in victory as Western defeated Fort Hays, 31-28.



Top Left: The band members jazz it up during the halftime performance. Photo by Linda Shireman

Middle: Max the Griffon shows his warm and fuzzy side with children. Photo by Linda Shireman

Top Right: Rubber ducky: you're the one; you make bath time so much fun! Photo by Linda Shireman

Above: A Griffon Cheerleader rocks the crowd with crazy, mind-bending stunts. Photo by Linda Shireman

Left: Family Day was never the same without a pie in the face of former Western Activities Council President Janell Banks. Photo by Linda Shireman

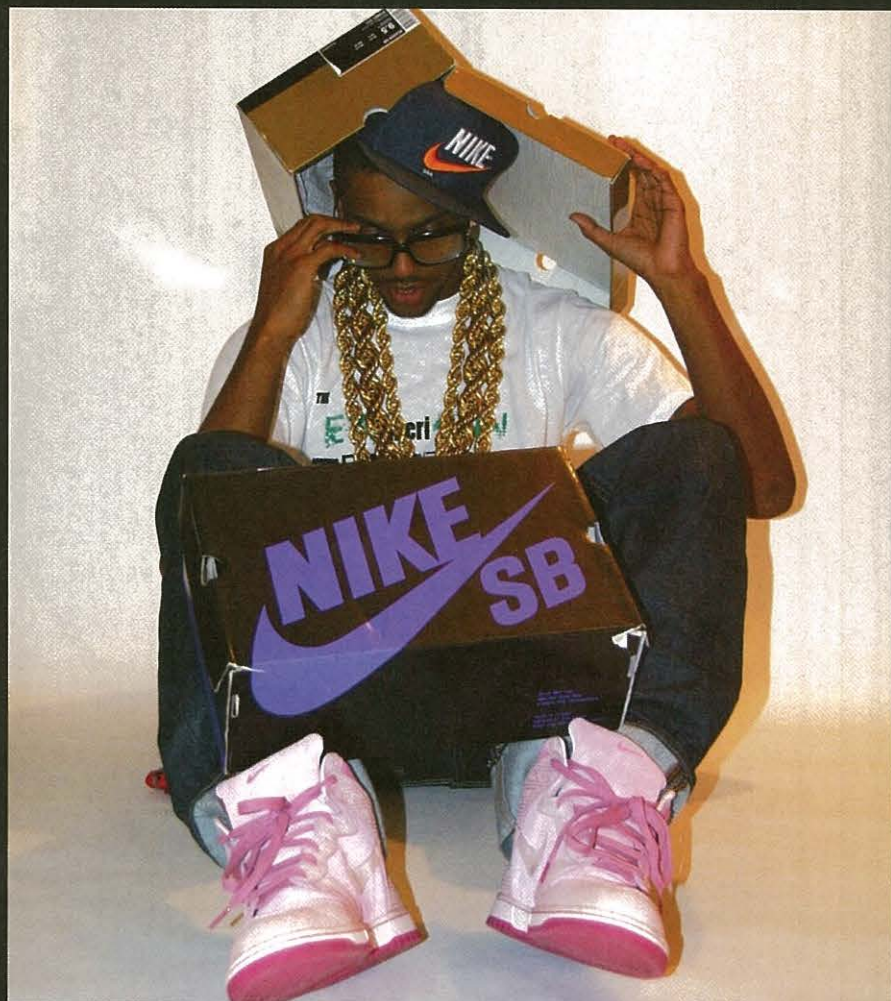


Right: The early '80s introduced Nike as a whirlwind, and to this day, it is a success. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Above: Bold and beautiful, Western students weren't afraid of standing out in a crowd. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Top Middle: Not only were the ladies dressing vintage, the guys wanted to stand out in order to fit in. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Top Right: A new spin on the poofy bangs, big hair was fierce. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*





IDENTITY IN FASHION

by EmmaLee Jones

Eighties fashion—it was nothing, but bad hair and worse clothing. For those living in that time period, they relished in the excess and outrageous fashions that the '80s introduced.

Most students considered '80s fashion to include big hair, leggings and bright shirts. "I like to wear leggings and side ponytails a lot, and I also like bright colors!" said freshman Morgan Hovenga, a physical therapy major.

In the '80s, fashion was all about individuality and identity. "I think the incorporation of '80s style into present fashion is an awesome thing," said freshman Kayla Roumas, an English major. "To me the '80s were all about being bold and taking risks in fashion, and I'm glad to see some of that coming back."

Eighties fashion was definitely bold too. For instance, pink sweaters and sweaters at the waist were in along with leather or denim jackets. "Some '80s stuff I wear are bright and bold jackets (and bright shows)," Roumas said. "I have kind of big hair, too!"

Students differed in what fashions they preferred. Some chose styles for their usefulness. "My favorite style is leggings because they allow me to wear skirts or shorts in the winter, and I think they're cute," Hovenga said.

Others liked it because it was simply attractive. "My favorite fashion item would probably be my bright purple Chuck Taylor's,"

Roumas said.

Most students liked '80s fashion coming back into style simply, because it allowed for diversity and creativity.

"I think '80s fashion is good because it gives people variety, and our generation kind of gets to 're-create' a style that's very similar to the '80s, but with a newer spin," Hovenga said.

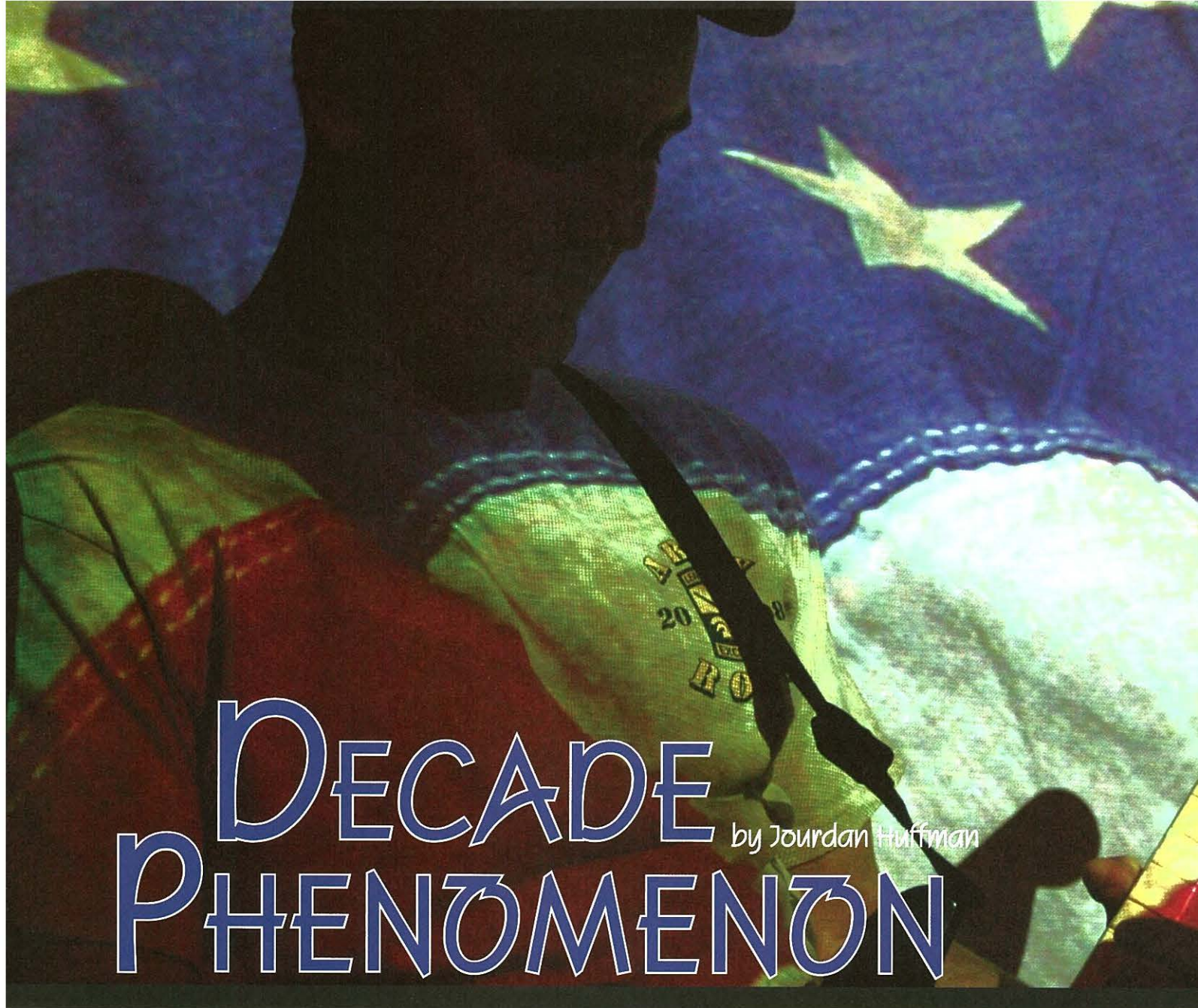
In the '80s for women, the following was in: feathered hair, side ponytails, colored glitter, beauty moles, leggings and thick belts. In the '80s for men, the following was popular: mohawks, curly hair, ray-bans and piercings, rock band shirts and spandex.

"I think bringing back the '80s sense of style can be a good thing as long as people don't take it too far," said freshman Stephanie Farr, a nursing student. "Personally, I like the straight-legged jeans and big hair, but as for the shoulder pads and heavy makeup, I don't care for those things to come back."

Where men sported heavy make-up and long hair, women wore their hair short and wore several layers of clothing.

"I think the '80s style will continue to come back and remain popular, and eventually, we will start to see some of the '70s come back," Farr said. "Vintage will always be in, and we will see many of the old eras; I don't personally mind it."

After all, a trend that allows for individual style along with creative inspiration will never go out of style.



DECADE PHENOMENON

by Jourdan Huffman

Every decade has its very own phenomenon. In the '80s, there was Pac-Man and Tetris. In the '90s, there was Donkey Kong and Mortal Kombat. So, what are our virtual weaknesses?

Guitar Hero and Rock Band seem to have taken our lives by storm. These revolutionary games were played on a number of game systems, like all three PlayStation units, as well as the Xbox 360. These games were notorious for causing players to spend hours on end sitting in front of their TV sets, engulfed in the colored notes that flashed on the screen in front of them, a plastic guitar, microphone or set of drumsticks in their hands.

"I could play Guitar Hero forever," sophomore Brett Ryan said. "I love playing at the expert level. It makes me feel like I really know how to play the guitar, even though I don't."

Though Rock Band and Guitar Hero were quite similar in concept, the game play itself was unique to each one. Rock Band was played with a guitar much like the one used for Guitar Hero, but it also incorporated a microphone that was used in correlation with lyrics that scrolled across the screen and a set of plastic drums. All three elements worked together to form a synthesized rock band. Four players play at once.

Guitar Hero, however, consisted of only a plastic guitar. The

game was easy to set, so that two players competed with each other simultaneously. Rock Band and Guitar Hero were great for group gatherings, because the play was fast-paced and easy to understand.

"I like to play Rock Band more so than Guitar Hero because it's fun to be able to be a rock star and a singing sensation at the same time," senior Sarah Mollus said.

The appeal of these games was simple. Western students wanted to feel like something they weren't for a while, and these games were a perfect outlet for that. All it took was strapping a fake guitar over your shoulder to instantly turn you into Poison, Heart, Nirvana or any music group of your choice. The addiction factor that seemed to follow both games was practically inevitable.

"Both games are appealing because of the interactivity," sophomore Jeff Meyer said. "Everything you do gives instant feedback and you can tell exactly how you're doing. It's the mix of two addicting things; music and a video game together in a simple way that most of the population can appreciate."

With the creation of interactive games like these came a cultural hysteria that didn't seem to let up. Already, over 21 million Guitar Hero units have been sold in the United States, and that number continues to grow. Who knows what more could come out of this virtual band trend? Polka Band, perhaps?



Top Left: Considered a cultural phenomenon, Guitar Hero has sold 21 million units, which has earned the United States \$1.6 billion in retail. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Top Right: Rock Band has received critical acclaim, selling four million units and earning \$600 million in global revenue. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Above: Guitar Hero and Rock Band are played on all three PlayStation units and the Xbox 360. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Left: Given the fast-paced devices, the gaming units were excellent for group gatherings. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*



Left: Participants who raised \$25 or more carried red balloons during the walk. Photo by Linda Shireman

Above: In 2007, Missouri Western raised \$2,653.86 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Photo by Linda Shireman

Middle: Participants who lost a loved one to cancer carried gold balloons; cancer survivors carried white balloons. Photo by Linda Shireman

Right: Held at Hyde Park, more than 850 participants were expected to raise \$75,000. Photo by Courtney Puett





COMMON CAUSE by Sarah Derr

Hundreds of cancer patients, survivors and students encompassed Hyde Park for Light the Night. Western students and the St. Joseph community alike came together to provide hope for patients and their families in order to let them know that they are not alone.

In its 10th year nationally, Light the Night celebrated a decade of difference. Teamed with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the walk was held in remembrance to those who have fought blood cancer and also in part to raise money for cancer research.

Balloons were also a part of the walk. The gold balloons were carried in memory of someone who died of cancer. Cancer survivors carried white balloons, signifying a light of hope, and walkers who raised at least \$25 carried red balloons.

Western alum and Light the Night Campaign Manager Natalie Bailey was excited to get involved with the university again. "I really enjoy being active in St. Joseph," Bailey said. "One of the reasons I took the job with LLS was because I liked their mission and thought St. Joseph could support them and the people they help. This was the eighth annual walk in St. Joseph, and it just keeps growing. The walk has become a tradition at Western, and I hope it continues for many years to come."

Funds raised provided information to the public about leukemia,

lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma. In addition, funds educated health-care professionals, created support groups and promoted research on the diseases.

According to Western Light the Night Team Captain Tricia Dickson, student involvement with the event continued to increase each year. Several campus organizations teamed up to see which team could raise the most money.

"There are 60 students, who are not involved in any of the organizations signed up to participate, that have signed up to compete under Western's team," Dickson said. "We are also trying to get faculty and staff to participate, but so far we haven't heard much from them."

Many students walked because they had a personal connection to Light the Night's cause. "I chose to participate because I have lost family and friends to leukemia and lymphoma," senior Monica White said.

Dickson felt that Light the Night provided benefits beyond a feeling of giving. "People love to hear that you're involved with the walk, and there is such a great opportunity to meet people from outside the campus," she said. "It is an awesome experience to raise money for such a great cause."



STAR-SPANGLED GRIFFS

by Jourdan Huffman

America, America, land that I love. Thanks to this year's Homecoming theme, "Star-Spangled Griff's," it looked like I was not the only one. One consideration that came into play was that this year was an election year, which gave Missouri Western a key opportunity to embrace a patriotic outlook when it came to Homecoming.

The theme was the brainchild of the Tri-Chairs and advisers, who worked hard to brainstorm and select a theme that was unique to stand out as well as diverse enough to apply it to the majority of Missouri Western students. It was also imperative that it be versatile enough to apply it to any situation or event. Furthermore, the theme was actually a late bloomer.

"The theme was late in selection, so it did take a different approach than in the past," Student Engagement Director Don Willis

said.

Willis hoped that in the future, the entire campus would be involved in selecting the Homecoming theme. "We hope to include discussion from students clubs and organizations as well as athletics, alumni, faculty and staff," Willis said.

As it turns out, the next school year marked the 40th anniversary, so perhaps an "Over the Hill" theme will be discussed?

DONATION CREATION

by Amy Chastain

Canned goods were outlined in varying shapes and sizes as organization members clambered for the race. Suitable to the theme, cans outlined the American Flag, stars, an army tank and a stethoscope.

"The point of Donation Creation is to make community service and helping others a fun event," Phi Delta Theta member Andrew Gillies said. "By putting on an event like Donation Creation, it



Top Left: Alpha Phi Alpha Incorporated performs a skit for the Variety Show. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Above: An Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority sister outlines canned goods in various shapes for a community service event. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Left: Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority sisters act as Army Nurse Corps. Photo by Harvey Jackson

is ultimately a challenge for everyone to bring in the most cans and create different things out of them."

Several organizations participated including Phi Delta Theta, Phi Sigma Kappa, Alpha Gamma Delta, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Alpha Sigma Alpha.

YELL LIKE HELL

by EmmaLee Jones

There was no better way to get a crowd pumped up for Homecoming than through quirky skits, lots of cheering and the ever-present Missouri Western fight song. Yell Like Hell incorporated each and all aspects. Five Greek organizations – Phi Mu, Phi Delta Theta, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Alpha Gamma Delta and Sigma Sigma Sigma including the Ebony Collegians presented various skits all in keeping with the Homecoming theme "Star-Spangled Griffs."

Each skit had to incorporate the Missouri Western fight song and a random action drawn out of a hat, somewhat in the tradition

of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* The various skits included songs such as "YMCA" and "Proud to be an American," a jeopardy show starring former U.S. President George Bush, a Hornet (the opposing team's mascot) and a Griffon, a dramatic football game and sorority boot camps.

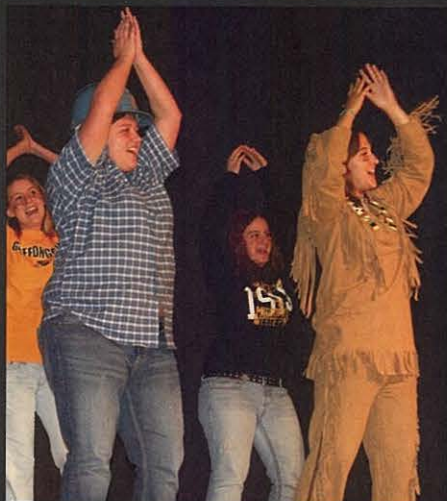
Group participation made Yell Like Hell victorious. "It shows how different organizations can come together, have spirit and lift others up," Phi Mu member Jessica McMinin said.

Yell Like Hell succeeded as the kickoff to the week by preparing students spirits to cheer their team onto victory. The event owed its success to the organizations that made it happen and the participation of Missouri Western students. Keep yelling, Griffs!

THE VARIETY SHOW

by Jourdan Huffman

With only three acts to fill the half-hour time slot for the Variety Show, there was still much added excitement. Kicking off at 7



Above: The Variety Show added exciting entertainment for the week of Homecoming. *Photo by Harvey Jackson.*

Right: A Western student acting as Uncle Sam commands the crowd's attention at the pep rally. *Photo by Linda Shireman.*

Below: Alpha Phi Alpha Incorporated fraternity brothers sample Uncle Sam's Starry Eyed Surprise during University Happy Hour. *Photo by Harvey Jackson.*



p.m., the event first began with the announcement of the Homecoming candidates. Following, Amanda Ready of Sigma Sigma Sigma performed a Color Guard themed routine, where she and a few of her sorority sisters twirled plastic guns. Sigma Sigma Sigma's theme was GI Jane.

"The women were very well rehearsed," senior Nicole Shiflett said of the performance.

Following, Tara Finley of Alpha Sigma Alpha sang "Come Home Soon" by the popular country music group SheDaisy. Alpha Sigma Alpha's theme was Army Nurse Corps. With Finley in the lead, there were also eight of her sorority sisters that stood in the background, using sign language to display the lyrics during the chorus of the song.

Lastly, Phi Delta Theta member Kyle Ellis played the acoustic guitar while singing "After Tonight" by Justin Nozuka.

The Variety Show was a definite success, but was it here to stay? Maybe a karaoke party of some sort is in the works for the following year. Hmm.

UNIVERSITY HAPPY HOUR

by Olin Kinsey

Students definitely put their taste buds to the test while deciding which organization had the best drink. Fourteen student organizations put their skills to work and came up with various mocktails and catchy drink names. As students flooded the Nelle Blum Union Food Court to sample, judges couldn't help but squeeze through the crowded lines. But, it was more than a sip that made students and judges decide on who had the best drink. Catchy drink titles such as the *American Dream*, *Phierworks*, *Uncle Sam's Starry Eyed Surprise* and many more, all gave the judges something more than they could swallow.

"It was a nice chance to see different organizations come together and enjoy themselves," junior Shignya Mitike said. "It would be nice to see something like this once or twice a year, instead of once a year."



Left: Judge Dan Echhoff samples mocktails in order to find the best one for the first prize. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Above: A Color Guard member performs a routine for the crowd during the pep rally. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Below: The bonfire, a beacon of school spirit, followed after the pep rally where the Cheer Squad chanted to rev up the crowd. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Although, no matter how many students pushed through lines to get to the next table to sample a mocktail, this was definitely a happy hour that lived up to its name.

PEP RALLY

by Frank Nemeth

Pep rallies are much of an American tradition as apple pie and football. Students from just about every higher learning institution in the country have enjoyed one at one point or another.

The night started off with the singing of the national anthem. The band continued in full force in order to pump up the crowd as the Griffon mascot ran around making the audience cringe with laughter. A few of the football players dashed to the center of the basketball court after candy was thrown, but they were soon repelled by a cute, little girl who was not denied candy.

After exciting demonstrations by the Color Guard, Mystics Dance Team and the Cheer Squad, members of the football team announced their intentions of leaving Spratt Stadium victorious at the

upcoming Homecoming game. Students showed their appreciation by celebrating with thunderous chants.

The pep rally was a success. "It allowed students to showcase their spirit and individuality," said Tonisha Buford, a third-year psychology major. "It was very nice to see the support Missouri Western has for its athletics."

BONFIRE

by Frank Nemeth

There is nothing like an enormous fire to get college students fired up, which was the exact intentions of Missouri Western before the Homecoming game against the Emporia State Hornets. Students rumbled out of the M.O. Looney Complex after the pep rally hooting and hollering. A large, engulfing orange and red flame from across the street guided them to further engagement.

The large fire served as a beacon of school spirit. Students huddled around the flames to keep warm and converse. Stories were told of years past and wishes for future success was revealed to any-



Top Left: The parade was a highlight of Homecoming with warm weather unlike the last few years where rain washed out the parade. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Above: The MWSU Marching Band was prepared for the parade on Saturday after preparation of their routine. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Left: Homecoming candidates pose for a picture; two men, Bryan Smith and David Wyble, were chosen as Homecoming Kings and Whitney Smith was chosen as Homecoming Queen. Photo by Courtney Puett

Right: At the start of the game, victory was imminent as the Griffons led by a 28-point lead. Photo by Courtney Puett

one who would listen. Many students had a bit of hysteria, or so it seemed. As a gust of wind picked up, the fire got out of control and students decided to make a break for it.

"I believe we should have these fires for every game," said Jay Summers, a West Campus staff employee. "It sends a message of support, and then, we can start to achieve and then, we can start succeeding."

PARADE

by Amy Chastain

Lines encompassed Frederick Avenue as surrounding Missouri High School Marching Bands, political advocates and floats made their way down as candy was thrown from vehicles to the open mouths of young children and adults alike. The bright Missouri sun was an advantage to the parade as the community and campus came together.

In correlation with the theme "Star Spangled Griffs," floats

were decked out in patriotic décor. Alpha Sigma Alpha's float theme was the Griffon Nurse Corps.

"It took a lot of hard work to achieve the look we were going for," Alpha Sigma Alpha member Jennifer Kohler said. "We had a large hornet lying on a bed with a screen next to him showing that he was flat-lining. There was also a large syringe and a cup of medicine. It mainly consisted of pumping, which was a really tedious process; however, it allowed for us to spend more time together."

Although the Homecoming floats took much time to put together, they were one of many attractions of the parade. "Everyone worked really hard this year, and it was great to see so much participation," Kohler said.

CORONATION

by Amy Chastain

Voting for the presidential election may be different from voting for Homecoming coronation, but the reality is that every vote



counts. For the first time in Missouri Western history, two men, David Wyble and Bryan Smith were “co-crowned” as Homecoming Kings and Whitney Smith was named as Homecoming Queen.

Wyble bumped into a friend who did not vote the night of the election. Wyble, who felt that one vote would not make a difference, was not upset. His friend, who continued to apologize, accessed the Missouri Western homepage and voted at 11:55 p.m. Voting ended at 11:59 p.m.

“I’m certain that there are a lot of situations like that happen that I will never know about, but I think it is funny to know that every vote really does count,” Wyble said.

Wyble’s nerves did not set in until he was standing on the blocks in front of more than 4,000 fans. “I was honored to be nominated and ultimately “co-crowned,” but I think the best news that I heard all day was hearing that my fraternity, Phi Delta Theta, won Homecoming overall,” Wyble said.

GAME

by Amy Chastain

As the Griffons battled for a win on the home front, the Griffons faced off against the Emporia State Hornets. With more than 4,000 Griffon fans in attendance, the enthusiasm was at a boiling point at the concluding Homecoming event.

The Griffons were up by a landslide in the first half of the game with a 28-point lead. However, the Hornets came back in the second half looking for revenge. Although the Griffons won, 28-21, they allowed the Hornets to break through a 28-point lead.

“The overall performance was ok considering they gave up a 28-point lead,” Tucker Perkins, a member of the Men’s Golf team, said. “Our pass defense was not very good the second half, because the Griffons threw a lot more than the first half.”

Despite the Griffons overall performance, it was an exciting conclusion for the “Star Spangled Griffs.”



RACE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

by EmmaLee Jones & Jourdan Huffman

Barack Obama made history books the day he was elected the first black president of the United States of America. But Obama has gone down in history as much more than a president; he has experienced a rich cultural heritage, a unique familial background and an incredibly successful career. Obama's wife, Michelle, and two daughters, Malia and Sasha, also extensively supported him throughout his presidential campaign.

Obama's parents met at the University of Hawaii. However, Obama's mother, Ann Dunham, and his grandparents primarily raised Obama after his father, Barack Obama, Sr., left Hawaii to return to his native Kenya, Africa, where he grew up herding goats in a small village.

Obama showed his determined perseverance when he worked his way through college on federal loans. After graduating from Columbia University in 1983, he took some time off from school to work with a church-based group that worked to help those living in the poor neighborhoods of Chicago, Ill. In 1991, he received his law degree from Harvard, where he achieved status as the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review.

Obama remembered the strong Christian values that his mother and grandparents invested in him, working throughout the years with

many advocacy program, which included Chicago, Ill., communities affected after the closing of steel plants and leading a successful voter registration drive.

Western students disagreed on whether or not he will be good to lead the nation. "Obama will repair our broken image abroad, and I think he will also be able to fix our broken economy," sophomore mathematics major John Igo said.

Freshman business major Caleb Shaver disagreed. "I don't know how Obama will affect the country if he is elected," Shaver said. "It will be an interesting time in American history"

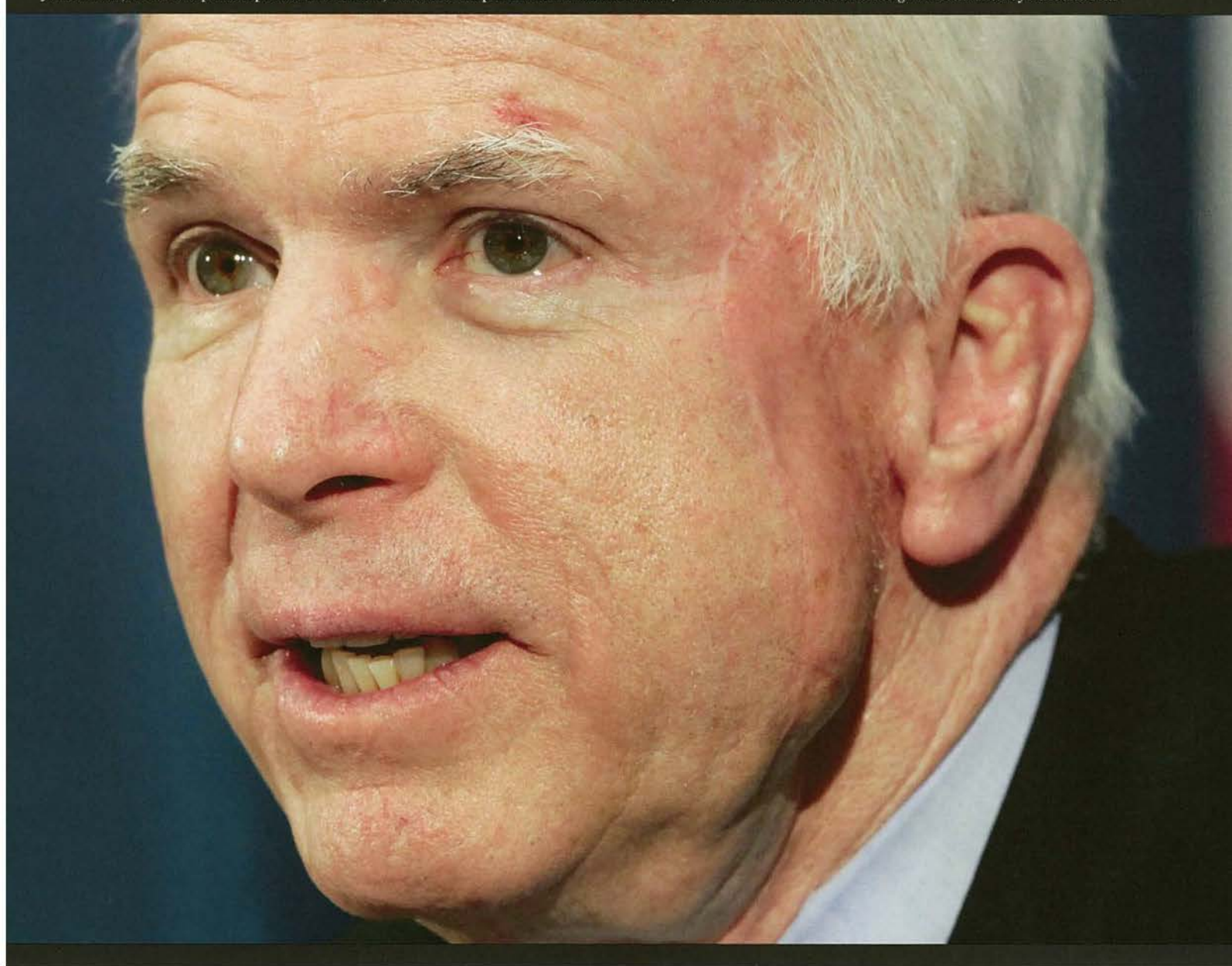
Shaver chose not to vote for Obama because of his stance on abortion and socialistic ideas.

Perhaps one of Obama's greatest assets in his race for the presidency was his ability as a public speaker.

"I saw Obama speak in Kansas City, Mo.," Igo said. "It was amazing; my 70-year-old grandmother and I stood up for four hours to see him. We both think it was well worth it."

Even Shaver agreed that Obama was a qualified public speaker, citing it as one of the few things he liked about him.

Overall Obama has had a prosperous journey to the presidency. Blessed with an exceptional family and a set of solid Christian values, he entered the presidency with one thing in mind: change.



When it came to the presidential election this year, the stakes were high, and both candidates brought very different policies to the table. But what do we really know about John McCain? What hardships has he faced? What did his father do for a living? And most importantly, what is his favorite food? (The answer is pizza topped with pepperoni and onions.) Ok, maybe that isn't all that important, but there is still much to learn about this fascinating man.

John Sidney McCain was born on Aug. 29, 1936, in the Panama Canal region, where his family was stationed. His childhood was erratic, because his father's naval career uprooted the family many times. Perhaps it was this immersion into military involvement that made his decision to enlist in the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1958 so easy, following in the footsteps of both his father and grandfather.

When the Vietnam War broke out, McCain volunteered for combat duty, which landed him with the opportunity to fly carrier-based attack planes on low-altitude bombing runs against the North Vietnamese. On Oct. 26, 1967, McCain's plane was shot down over the capital of Hanoi. McCain barely made it out alive, with both arms and a leg broken.

McCain was kept in the custody of the Vietnamese for over five years, even spending three and a half of those years in solitary con-

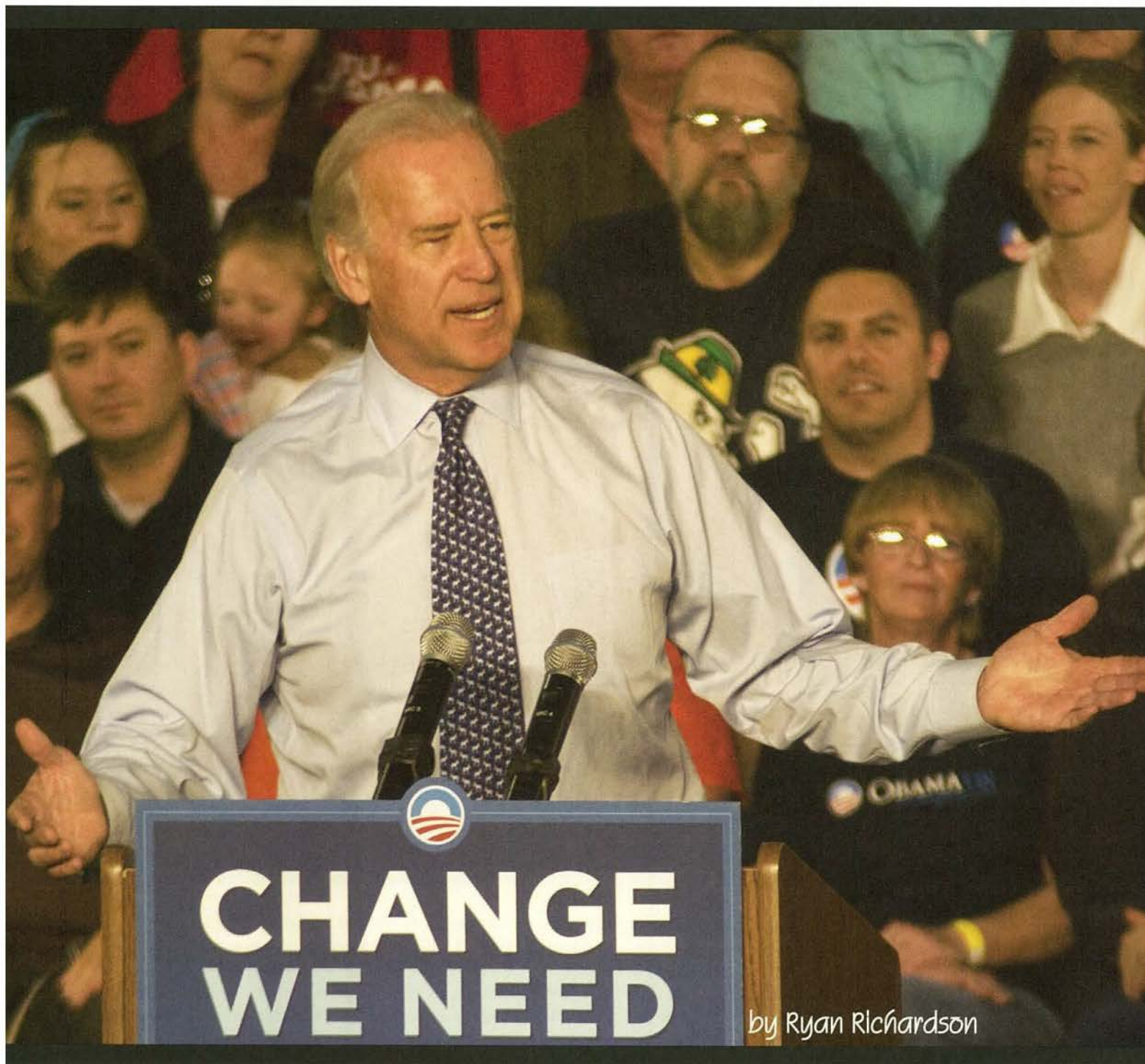
finement. He was repeatedly tortured and beaten until he was finally released on March 14, 1973. For his bravery and perseverance, McCain earned a Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross. In the months after his return home, he tried to regain his strength and continue to be a part of the navy, but his injuries were just too severe.

It was McCain's will to fight that fueled some students' vote for him in this election. "At least McCain knows this country, and what it's like to fight for our freedom," freshman Spencer Cox said.

In 1976, McCain got his first taste of politics. He was assigned as the Navy's liaison to the United States Senate. He won a seat in the House of Representatives in 1982, then re-election into the Senate three times, which only increased his reputation as a maverick politician, a man with firm beliefs and a quick temper.

But not everyone was on the maverick's side. "McCain followed the same economic policies that (former U.S. President) George W. Bush followed, and these have already been proven not to work," freshman Blake Thorne said.

McCain officially entered the 2008 presidential race on April 25, 2007. McCain did not gain the presidency, losing to Barack Obama on Nov. 4. But in the midst of this loss, McCain remained a kind-hearted war veteran, with strong morals and a deep sense of pride for his country.



by Ryan Richardson

Campaign promises and impassioned pleas for votes were on the menu for Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate Joe Biden. He became the first candidate to visit Missouri Western's campus during an election year.

Biden minced no words on hot button topics such as the economy and tax relief to the sold out crowd of over 600 students, faculty and community members at M.O. Looney Complex. In the nearly 40-minute speech, he reasserted the Obama-Biden ticket's position on the economy and openly attacked the McCain campaign for forgetting the middle class voters.

"We don't have the luxury of ignoring the middle class anymore," Biden said. "It is not enough to just get us out of this immediate

crisis. When we talk about change, we talk about wholesale in the economic philosophy that got us in this hole."

Missouri was one of the most hotly contested battleground states and its 11 electoral votes were key to the McCain campaign. Missouri voted Republican in the last two campaigns in the last two elections. The speaking event was part of a whirlwind two-day campaign tour throughout Missouri, which also made stops in four additional cities.

The event was announced one day before and sold out nearly instantly. Director of External Relations Beth Wheeler said that this was the cornerstone of enhancing campus awareness of national events.

"We worked hard to put this on at this short of notice," Wheeler said. "We are amazed at the turnout of the community and we have



extended the same invitation to Sen. John McCain and Gov. Sarah Palin.”

Former two-term mayor for Kansas City, Mo., Kay Barnes preceded Biden as she made her case to voters for herself and the Obama campaign. Barnes was involved in a highly contested congressional race with incumbent Sam Graves for the Sixth District Congressional Seat.

“This campaign is here with a clear plan, especially for the hard-working American that have made our country so great.”

Biden acknowledged the economic hardships and the healthcare issues that have developed in Missouri and issued a challenge to the voters to look at their programs as superior.

“They just don’t get it,” Biden said. “They are using a recycled

idea from the Right. Their answer is he’s going to give a tax credit, and the way he’s going to pay for that tax credit is to tax everybody who has health insurance.”

The handlers for the campaign used this tour to promote the campaign and to finally flip Missouri to the Democratic column for the November election.

Left: U.S. Vice President Joe Biden attempted the Democratic presidential nomination in 1988 and in 2008, but dropped out early. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Inset: Biden is the first Roman Catholic to hold the vice presidential office. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Right: Even though U.S. President Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States, Missouri went to Republican presidential candidate, John McCain. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*



VOTE OR SHUT UP

by Olin Kinsey

Election 2008 had finally sprung among us and students were all anxious to cast their vote! The two candidates, Sen. John McCain (R) and Sen. Barack Obama (D), swept the nation as they went state-to-state campaigning for an electoral win. But it took more than charm and well-rounded contributions to win this election. Of the issues in the 2008 election included the nation's current economy standing, the war in Iraq, health care and education.

Missouri Western students played a huge role in the 2008 election. The Center for Multicultural Education sponsored the "Vote or Shut Up" rally to get students involved in taking part in the election. The CME also transported those students who were unable to drive to the polls.

"I believe the CME's main goal was to simply encourage everyone to get out and vote and know the candidates," CME intern Mark Gomez said. "We wanted both sides represented and wanted students to get enthusiastic about voting. This was thought to be the most important election in decades, many of the issues directly affected the students on campus and their families. By encouraging them to vote, we hopefully made them aware of the issues and the impact they will have on everyone."

Certainly, students who owned TV sets and kept up with the

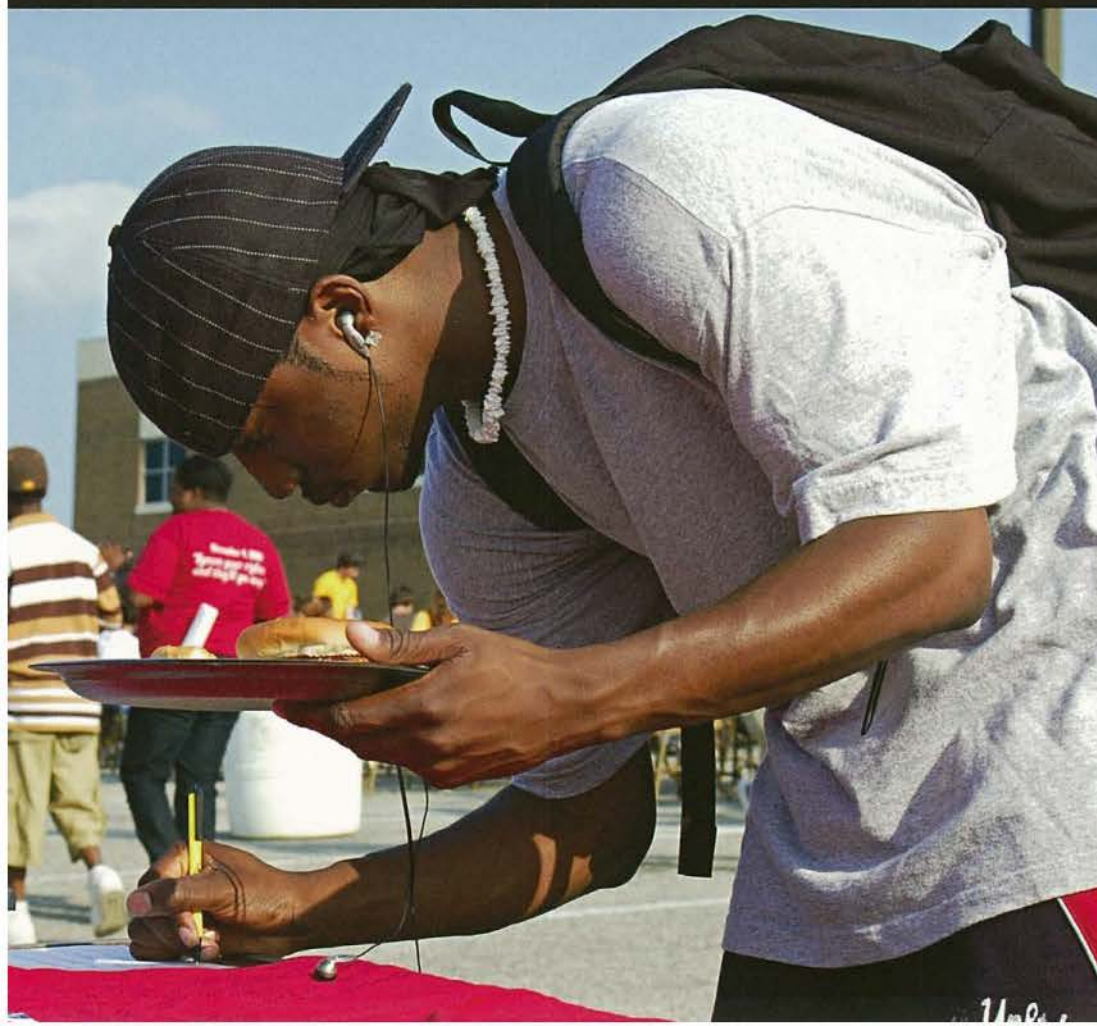
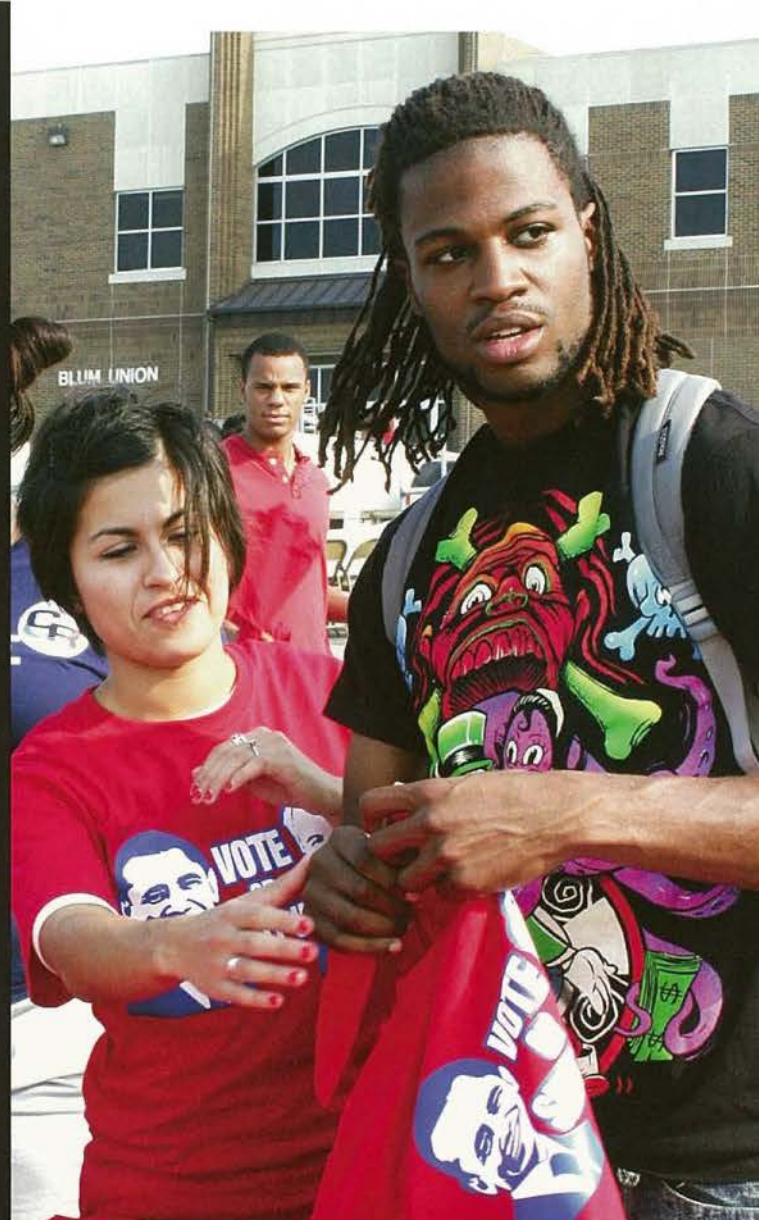
media realized that choosing a candidate was a piece of cake.

"One of the main issues for me when voting for a candidate is if he or she is pro-life," junior Jordan Martinosky said. "I am a strong advocate of the Pro-Life Movement-Love the Least. If the candidate cannot support the weakest among us, then I do not feel confident that he (or she) will support any other problems in this nation. I don't trust a candidate that does not have experience and has never done anything except vote for the party line."

Celebrities and various media outlets such as MySpace and Facebook strived in getting youth to rock the polls. Reportedly, Facebook had an estimated five million youth and college students participated in the election. Furthermore, some claimed that this election was in the hands of a younger generation of Americans.

"One of the biggest issues that I mainly focused on this election was health care," junior Tasha Hayes said. "In my last two years of college, I have come in contact with more than a handful of peers that do not have health care. In many situations, they have had to come out of pocket for their health care needs."

On the night of the 2008 election, Nov. 4, Obama was elected the 44 President of the United States with a 52.6 percent win over McCain's 46.1 percent. Surprisingly, Missouri was the single state that finished with an undecided number of votes toward the election.



Left: The Center for Multicultural Education hosted several forums where students signed up to vote and received a free t-shirt. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Above: Former Student Government Association Vice President Luke Herrington supported Sen. Barack Obama (D) as president. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Middle: Pamela Covarrubias helps one student with a shirt; she helped out at the CME forums. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Right: The CME transported students to voting locations for those who did not have transportation. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*



Above: Clothing came from The Buckle, American Eagle, Maurice's and Kohl's. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Right: Each model chose his or her own outfit that best described his or her personality. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Middle: There were different categories of the fashion show such as retro, spring wear, summer wear, business, night time and athletic wear. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Far Right: Scarfs were popular among all seasons. Photo by Kailey Alexander





by Lauren Dillon

DEFINITION OF CREATIVITY

Fashion Frenzy in France—the theme for Western Activities Council annual fashion show—began with Definition of Creativity, a dance crew from Western who performed before the show.

The fashion show featured clothing in genres such as spring wear, retro, summer wear, business attire, night-time, athletic wear and express yourself. Clothing stores in Saint Joseph were asked to provide the outfits for the models to wear in exchange for free advertisement of their lines. Buckle supplied the retro clothing; American Eagle provided spring wear; Maurice's was in charge of business attire; and Kohl's offered to cover the rest. In the express yourself category, the models were asked to choose one of their own outfits that best described their personality.

Keisha Caldwell, business administration and marketing major, was head of the committee that ran the fashion show. This was her first year in charge, but she was confident in how everything worked since she was a model the year before.

"I think that the show was a huge success," Caldwell said. "It was a lot more professional, on the models' part, this year than last year, but it could still stand a little improvement next year. It was very stressful, but I am glad that it turned out so well."

Freshman Robin Ussher was a model for spring wear and retro.

As a first time model to any fashion show, this all was new to her, but also fun and exciting.

"It definitely was not what I expected," Ussher said. "But, I had a lot of fun. I loved wearing clothes that didn't belong to me and it was a great feeling to work the runway."

Brandi Glenn, business management and accounting major, attended the fashion show and had a great time.

"I really enjoyed looking at all of the clothes they showed," Glenn said. "I also liked that they had a deejay playing music in between the sections of the show. I think it would be better if there was one runway, instead of the maze-like one they had, so I could see the clothes better."

Ussher agreed that it would have been better with only one runway. "It would make it so much easier for us models not having to remember which way to go in the maze and just walk down a straight runway," Ussher said.

Caldwell planed on making further improvements for next year's fashion show. "I thought there was too much down time between the genres," Caldwell said. "Next year, I would like to have an emcee, in addition to a deejay. It will keep people entertained and the time will pass more quickly."





LIVELY CONCERT



Left: Blake Shelton made his debut in 2001 with the hit single "Austin." Photo by Ryan Richardson

Top: Husband-and-wife Duo Joey and Rory has had hits on the Top 40 Billboard country music charts with singles like "Cheater Cheater."

Photo by Ryan Richardson

Above: The husband-and-wife duo received top nominations such as *Top Vocal Duo* and *Duo Video of the Year* for "Cheater Cheater." Photo by Courtney Slater

This year's Western Activities Council Spring Concert was filled with several surprises. One of the biggest surprises was that this was WAC's biggest concert in the seven years WAC has hosted. Some of us can remember the first country concert in 2006, which starred Emerson Drive and Chely Wright. This year, Joey & Rory and headliner Blake Shelton boosted a little more flavor through the ears of students. WAC Adviser Don Willis was excited about this year's turnout and overall concert.

"WOW," Willis said. "Amazing! Great Show! I could go on and on describing the 2009 WAC Spring Concert. I've been doing activities for 27 years and that was easily the best event I've ever been associated with. This concert was an excellent activity that joined the campus with the community. This is one of the goals with this event and I think we significantly achieved that goal."

As excited as Willis was, the Western students and community members were even happier. Joey & Rory opened up for the concert and brought students to their feet with hit songs such as "Cheater Cheater" and "Play the Song." The crowd began swaying to the melodies of Joey & Rory and the anticipation for Blake Shelton grew even larger.

The community almost matched the number of students in attendance this year. The total number of attendance for the concert reached a record-breaking 2,730 people outselling the last country concert by over 2,000 guests. The CSE

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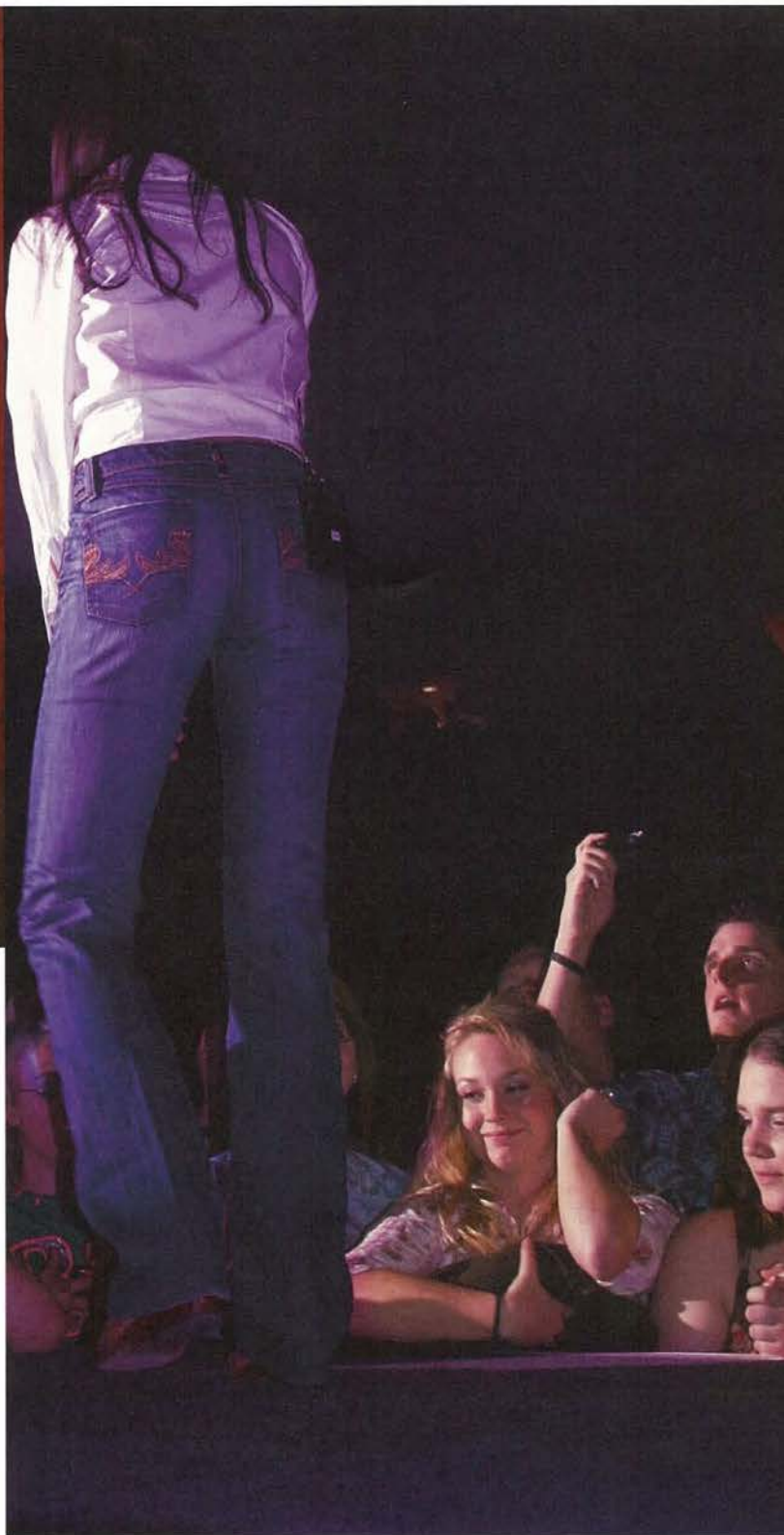
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distributed over 500 tickets to students alone in the first few weeks of ticket sales. Country music fans came from near and far to witness the sweet sound of country music.

"I heard the advertisement on the radio on my way to work one morning and figured I needed to call Ticketmaster," Blake Shelton fan Laurie McDaniels said. "I got to work and told one of my girlfriends about it, and we set our calendars all in the same day."

As Blake Shelton took the stage, the Civic Arena gave an echo of welcome to the country sensation. Shelton performed some of his hits such as "Some Beach" and "She Wouldn't Be Gone." He even filled the crowd in on a little secret. "I'm Blake Shelton and there are two things I'm good at: drinking beer and raising hell!"

To add another surprise to the concert, Shelton's girlfriend and country singer Miranda Lambert graced the stage for the duet entitled "Home" with Shelton. As Shelton left the stage, Lambert performed her own hit song "Kerosene" to keep the crowd pumped. The audience as well as some of the WAC members had no idea Lambert was in attendance. While Lambert wasn't under contract to perform, Willis assured that he knew she was there. Sure enough, this was a concert that students and community members will remember for some time.

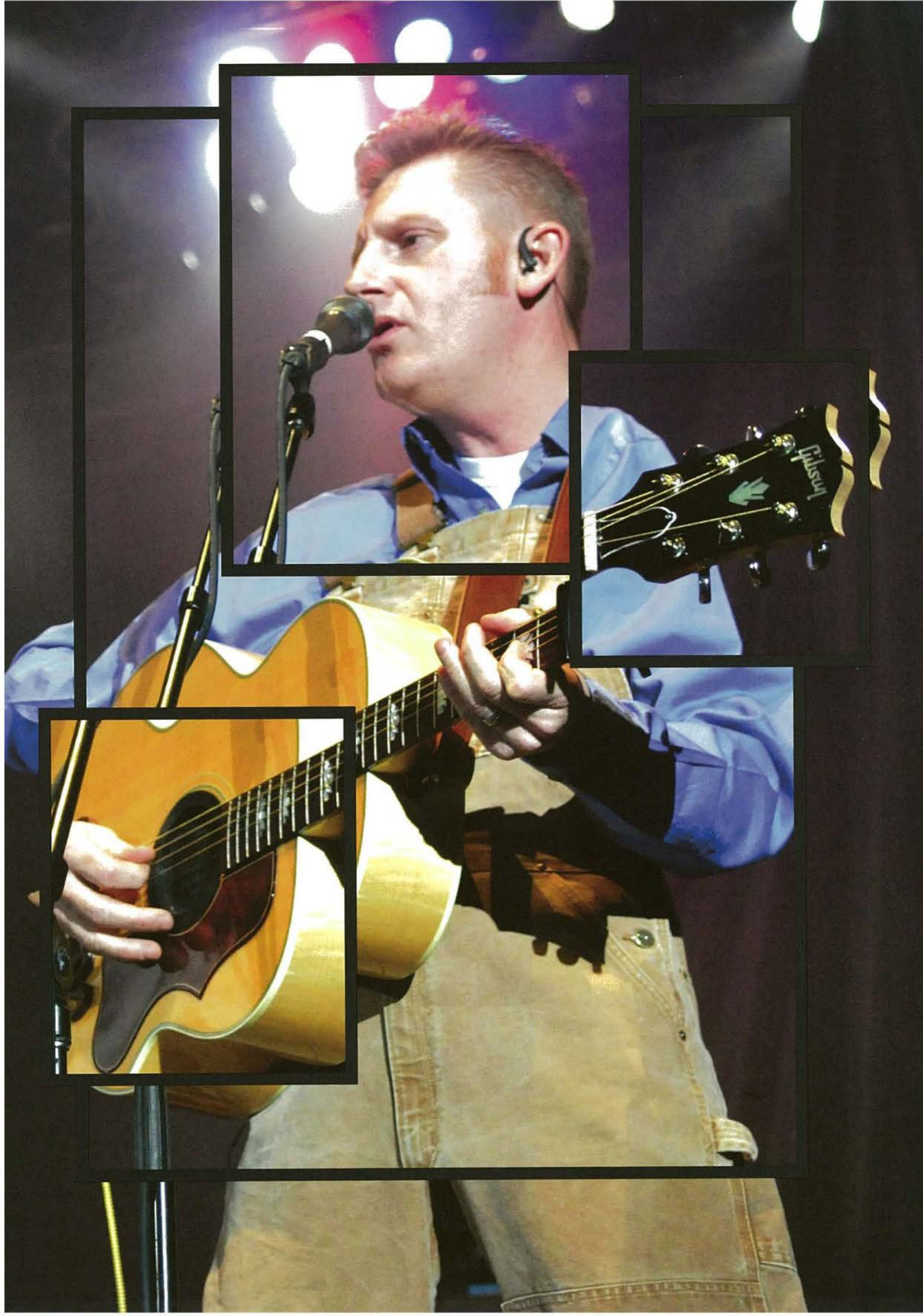


Left: Shelton's girlfriend, Miranda Lambert, a popular country music artist, made a surprise performance. *Photo by Ryan Richardson*

Above: Lead Vocalist Joey was signed with husband, Rory, to Vanguard Records in 2008.

Photo by Courtney Slater

Right: Rory, who sings background vocals and plays the guitar, was a third-place finalist on *Can You Duet* with Joey. *Photo by Ryan Richardson*





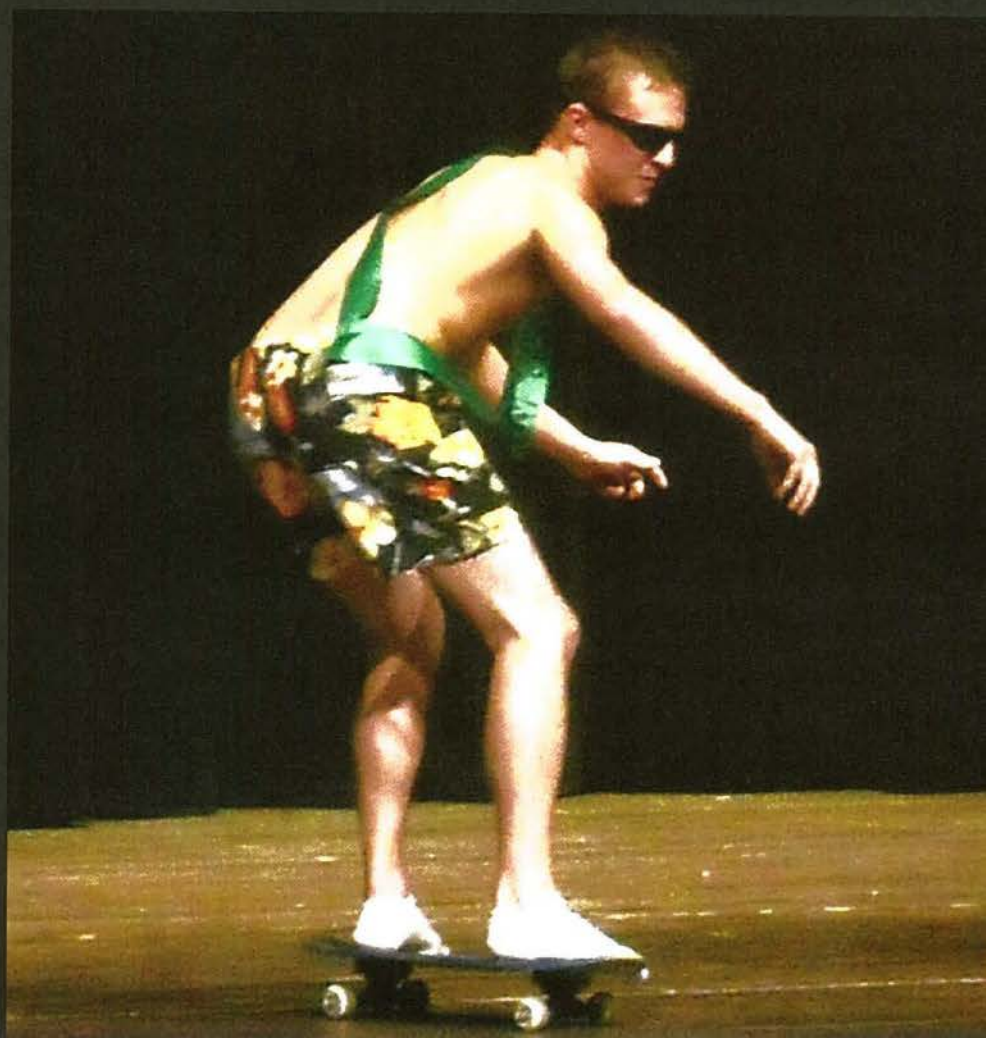
Top Left: Phi Delta Theta member Bradley Brush performs a skit for Mr. MWSU. Photo by Kelsey Wear

Middle: Greek sororities and fraternities wait in anticipation for the Greek Olympics to begin. Photo by Courtney Slater

Top Right: Decked out in blue and white creased painted faces, fraternities battle it out in an old game of Tug-of-War. Photo by Courtney Slater

Right: Mr. MWSU was not unlike a beauty pageant; men competed in all sorts of categories. Photo by Kelsey Wear

Above: Phi Sigma Kappa members and Sigma Sigma Sigma members continue the tradition at the Greek Olympics. Photo by Courtney Slater





JUNGLE FEVER

by EmmaLee Jones

The monkeys and gorillas let loose as Western Greeks began Greek Week with the theme "Escape to the Jungle." Greek Week was a time for the National Panhellenic Conference, the Inter-Fraternal Council and the National Panhellenic Council, the three Greek organizations on campus, to come together and promote important causes.

It was also a time for the Greeks to promote their individual organizations, attempt to recruit newcomers and unite the historically African-American Greek organizations with other Greek organizations.

Many non-Greeks attended the events that were planned throughout the week, including those who came to watch their significant others perform in the many contests.

"I'm here for the laughs and entertainment, but also to support the Greek organizations," sophomore biology with emphasis in zoology major Adam Spencer said.

Spencer's girlfriend, Rita Sobbing, was a member of Phi Mu who performed at the Lip Sync. Lip Sync was a contest among the different Greek organizations where the performers lip synced a planned song which, after one minute of being played, was interrupted by a song that the performers had not planned on performing to. The first song was "I Like to Move It" by Sacha Baron Cohen and performed to by Sigma Sigma Sigma who dressed in animal hats and wore shorts embellished with "Move It" across the back. Despite a few minor difficulties includ-

ing technical difficulties and getting started late (the jungle atmosphere continued), the Lip Sync did very well.

Spencer and Sobbing agreed that their favorite event of the week was the Olympics. "I loved the Greek Olympics because we rocked at them!" Sobbing said.

Greek Week was important for many reasons. "Greek Week helps show that Greeks can unite," Sobbing said.

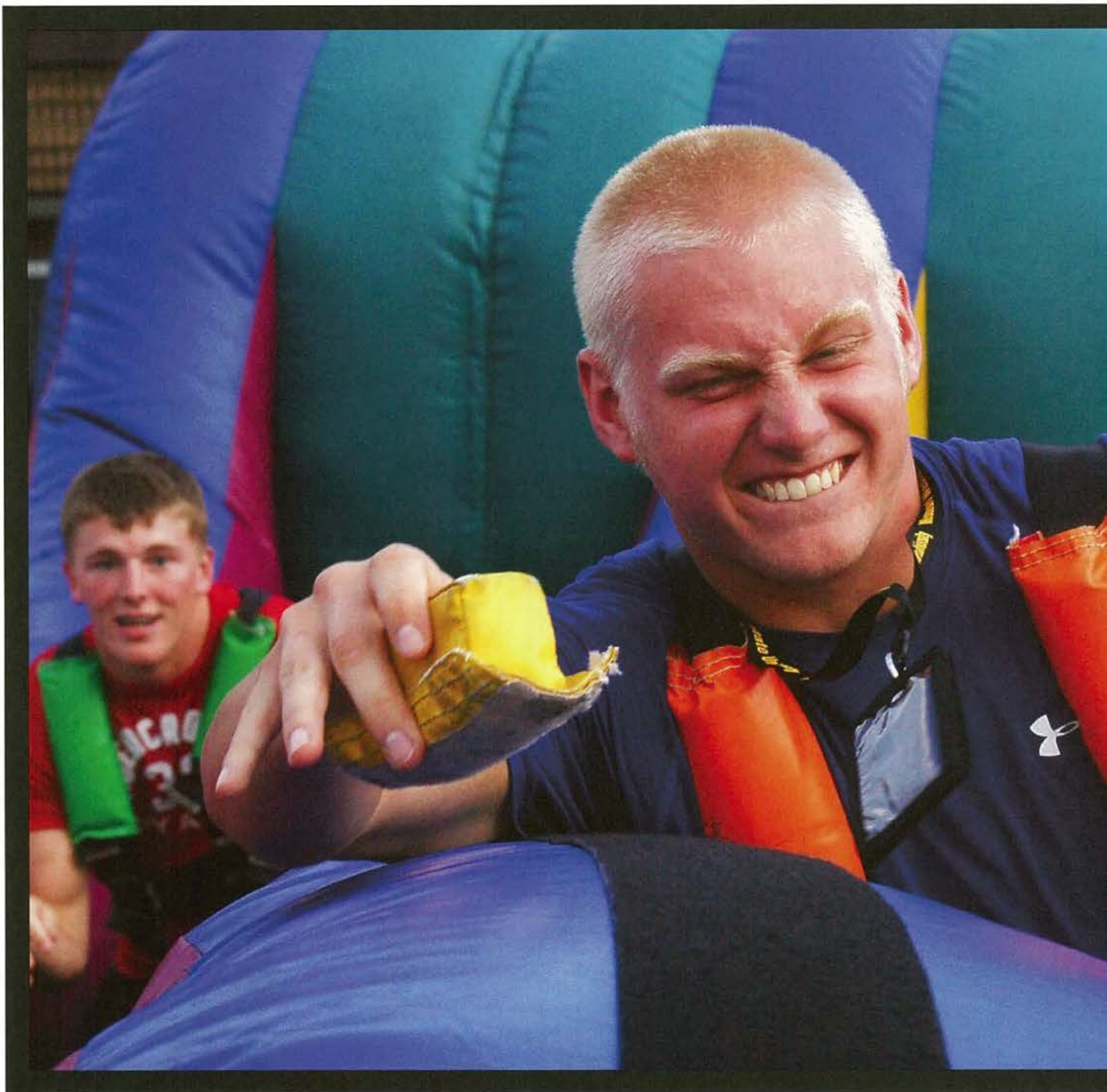
Spencer agreed. "Greek Week shows that Greek organizations are a part of the campus," Spencer said.

"Everybody knows more about Greeks after Greek Week," junior history with education major Megan Stahl said.

Mr. MWSU, a pageant show for men hosted by Alpha Gamma Delta, was also enjoyable to the students who attended. "I can't wait to have fun and laugh at my boyfriend," sophomore art education major Cyrena Greclius said.

Greclius's boyfriend was a participant in the pageant. Mr. MWSU included costume, swimsuit, talent and dance contests and benefited the foundation of diabetes research.

Greek Week was especially exciting as it had been cancelled the year before. Other Greek Week events included a the Greek Barbeque and the Greek Olympics, Community Service Day and an awards banquet at the end of the week.



Caylin Slavin, a 2008 graduate of Savannah High School, anticipated the changes college would bring. She chose to remain near her family and friends, so Missouri Western was the only available option. She was like many of her peers who were excited, but nervous about adapting to college life. Griffon Edge, designed for incoming freshmen and transfer students, provided a head start with the college experience, which was perfect for students like Slavin.

"Griffon Edge is useful and provides new students with much information that can be very beneficial," Slavin said. "I think that it is very worthwhile in the sense that it gives you that one extra credit

hour that you may need four years down the road when it is time to graduate."

Griffon Edge introduced new students to Western facilities and services, activities and traditions. The orientation program broke down Western's six core values in four days. Wednesday, Aug. 20 was devoted to Quality where students attended the New Student Convocation and the Campus Schedule Crawl. Thursday, Aug. 21 was devoted to Enthusiasm where students attended the Griffon Edge Block Party and the Welcome Fair. Friday, Aug. 22 was broken down into three core values Freedom, Courage and Respect. Students watched the file The Great Debaters and attended Griff-Stock '08. The last day of Griffon Edge, Saturday, Aug. 23 was devoted to Service where students at-

The Edge

by Amy Chastain



Left: Freshmen enjoy the perks of Griffon Edge. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

Above: Although Griffon Edge presented many academic aspects, it also allowed students to engage in some well-deserved fun. *Photo by Amanda Hake*

tended the Service Fair and completed a service activity.

Slavin's favorite activity throughout the four-day orientation program was the service activity. "We didn't sit in classrooms all day, we actually got to go somewhere and do a service project. My group picked up trash at Bartlett Park, which was fun because it allowed us to interact more as a group."

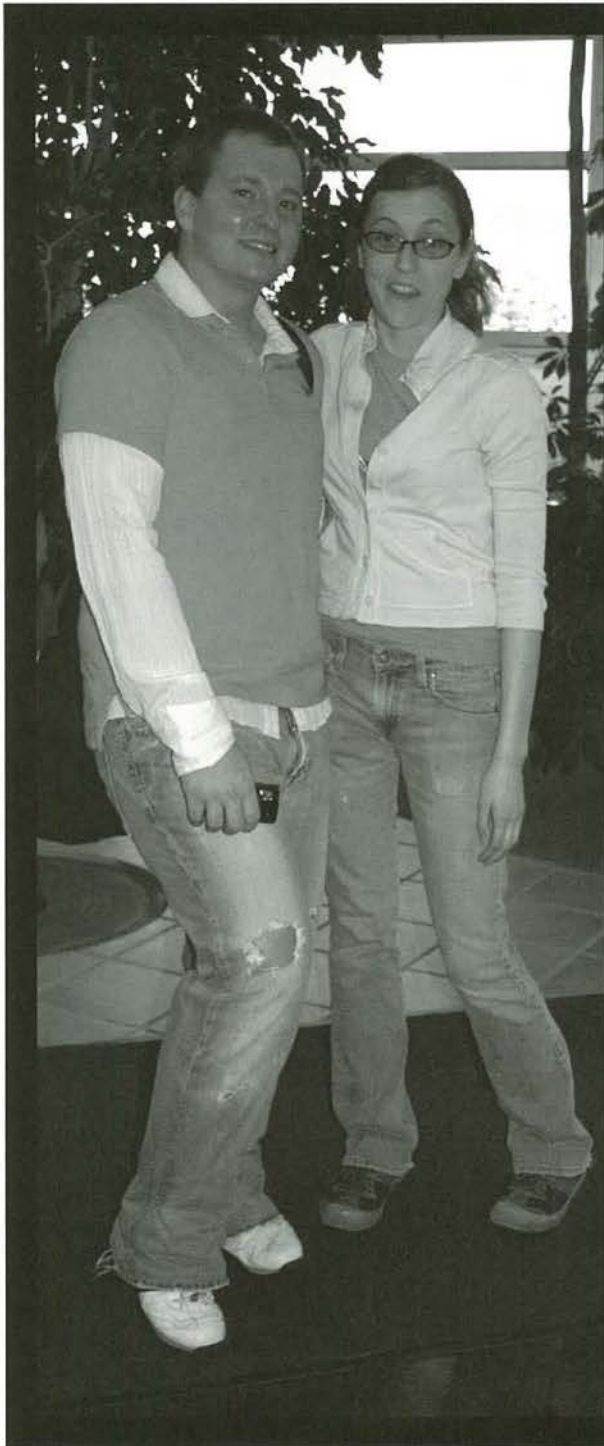
She did not like all of the downtime of Griffon Edge. "The duration of Griffon Edge varied day by day, sometimes from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but it actually could've been a couple hours shorter each day if it were more organized."

Some of the smaller components of Griffon Edge introduced new students to campus buildings, campus e-mail and WebCT, repre-

sentatives of departments and campus organizations.

"I thought that Griffon Edge would be an opportunity for me to meet new people, make new friends, and figure out my way around campus, having never really been on campus before. I did meet a few people and became better friends with people I already knew, but I wasn't shown at all where things were on campus. My expectations were definitely not fulfilled, but that may have been because instead of initiating "ice-breakers", my Griffon Edge leader just let us sit in silence for the many hours of downtime that we had."

Slavin did settle into life at Missouri Western as an excited pupil. Whether Griffon Edge fulfilled its duties or not, Slavin walked the halls of Missouri Western with confidence.



"A

little paint, powder, high heels and a dream will take you a long way," Drag Performer Katinka Mangina said.

The Pride Alliance hosted the annual drag show for the first time since 2005. After hanging up signs all over town, over 150 students, faculty and community members came to support the organization and flash a few dollar bills to support the organization. Students and staff members were present to learn more about the anticipated event and catch a glimpse of entertainment. The drag queen performers included

The Shaft Night Club: Noel Winters and Katinka Mangina. Hosting the show was "Ms. Gay Missouri," Sparkle Iman and co-host, one of The Shaft Night Club's popular drag divas, Bianca Bliss.

Pride Alliance Event Coordinator Tyler Rhoad was thrilled about the turnout of the show.

"All I can say is wow," Rhoad said. "Things could not have gone any better. I look forward to next year's drag show."

The drag performers certainly put on a show as students emptied their pockets for support of the organization. Audience members sang and hummed to the lyrics of familiar songs drag performers lip-synced

And the Queen Is...

by Olin Kinsey



Far Left: The Second Annual Pride Alliance Drag Show attracted a large audience. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

Left: Sparkle Iman, whose real name is Richard McCroy, was named Miss Gay Missouri-America. *Photo by Courtney Slater*



Right: Drag Show performers entertained the crowd with flamboyant costumes and lip syncing. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

Far Right: Phi Delta Theta member Tyler Rhoad was the main person behind the event. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

to. After the hyped debate about an entry fee for the show, the organization raised over \$350 in only a couple of hours. Pride Alliance hosted the drag show to collect money for their organization to educate Western students about a shinier side of diversity.

"The money we raised will help us with future events such as World AIDS Day and hopefully in the future, a bigger, and better drag show," Pride Alliance member Alyse Gordon said. "I think it was a fabulous show that featured some of the best drag queens in Missouri and the audience seemed to love the show. I am very proud of the show and our organization."

Students really took a shine to Sparkle Iman who fought for the title of "Ms. Gay Missouri" for a long time. "It was an accomplished goal I have been fighting for the last few years of my life, and I have finally reached the top."

Student interacted with the performers all night and even partied at The Shaft Night Club with the performers. Co-host Iman decided to get a little personal with the crowd and discussed sexy topics that most of the students seemed to relate to. The Shaft Night Club's owners Mike Lefring and Dustin Matthews also expressed their support to the organization and to their club performers.

Four Christmas Memoirs

Kailey Alexander

I believe every family has traditions. In my family's case, getting together for the holidays is where our tradition begins. Ever since I can remember, Christmas Eve was one of my favorite days of the year. The image lays fresh in my mind when my father would carry his 20-pound camera on his shoulder, capturing some vivid moments in my young life. I can still remember my mother and her three sisters singing, "Christmas in Kansas City" in the kitchen while doing their version of a Radio City Rockette kick line. After finishing dinner, all the kids ran downstairs, trying to "snoop" for our gifts under the tree.

Amy Chastain

Christmas has always been my favorite holiday since I was a young girl. This Christmas was as equally important, because I got to share it with my new baby sister. One-year-old Addie joined the Chastain family in the spring of 2008. My father and my step-mom adopted her because Addie's family was unable to provide for her. I am excited to finally have a sister. I have four brothers: Chris, Aaron, Axle and Alex. Although, I am out of the house and getting ready to graduate, she holds a candle to my heart. At one, she is already bustling with energy. Her chunky cheeks remind me of a chipmunk. Her short blond hair and beautiful brown eyes captivate me. I am taken back each time I see her. I see her as my little sister and I remember that blood or no blood, she is my heart and soul.

Raphaëlle Drew

One of my favorite traditions that just my mom and younger brother share is staying up until the wee hours of the morning decorating the house for Christmas. Meanwhile going through all the decorations one by one, and remembering cherished memories for almost every item that we use. My mom has always made holidays special for my brother and myself. She has always given us at least two ornaments or decorations each every year for Christmas since I can remember. So when we get older, we will have these things for our homes to share with our families. As you can imagine we have a lot of priceless memories packed throughout our home. My mom brought a ton of things she gave to me over the years, including one of my most favorite things, it is a silly old fashioned '70s or so plastic mistletoe. It may be overlooked in some households, but in mine, it means a lot.

Linda Shireman

Dinner included the usual – from ham to mashed potatoes with pumpkin pie for dessert. Everything was spread out buffet style in the kitchen and the children sitting at the special table in the playroom. Decorations in the middle of the table and colorful napkins set the mood for the presents to come. Following, it was time to open presents. Because of the tough economic times this year, we all decided that the adults would not exchange presents. However, that did not stop the children from having more than enough gifts to unwrap. My grandchildren, Christopher, Lily, Courtney and Zaria, and Madison, my great niece, all less than 7-years-old were the only children. Still, that did not stop the floor from being covered with train sets, storybooks, stuffed animals and colorful toys.



Photo provided by Amy Chastain



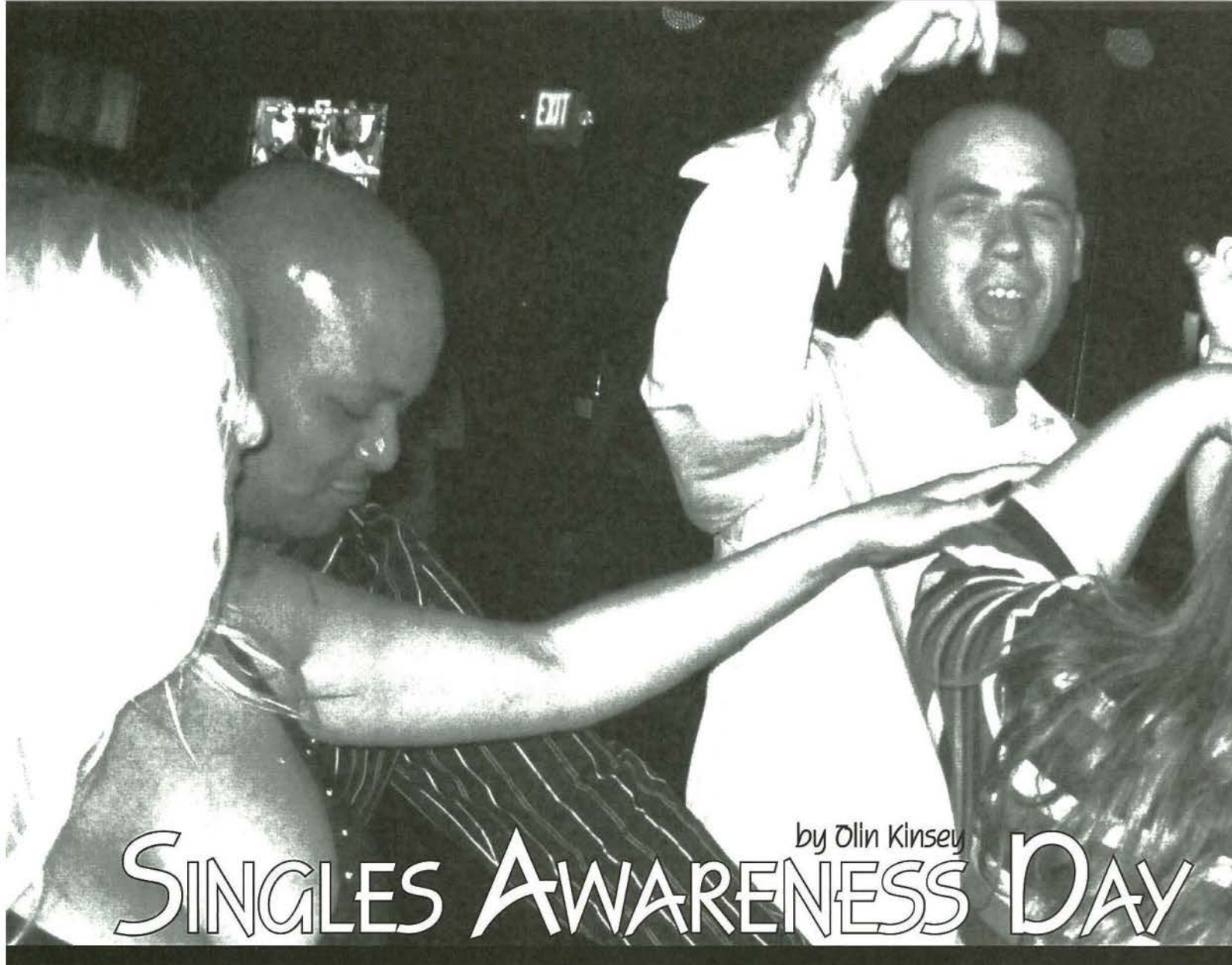
Photo provided by Kailey Alexander



Photo provided by Linda Shireman



Photo provided by Raphaelle Drew



by Olin Kinsey

SINGLES AWARENESS DAY

"Be Mine." "I Love You." "Crazy for You." "Kiss Me." "I'm Yours."

Every Feb. 14 across the nation, millions celebrated the satisfaction of love. Flowers, candy and love songs filled the hearts of many individuals in honor of Valentine's Day. But it was not all hearts and chocolates for most individuals who saw Valentine's Day as just another day of the week. For some single individuals, Valentine's Day was just another holiday to spend mending a broken, lonely heart.

"I hate seeing all these happy people walking around asking me how my Valentine's Day was because they had a great one," junior Michelle Allen said. "I really don't care. I wish they would keep their happiness to themselves. It reminds me that every day I have to love myself even more until I find that one to love me."

Getting over it sounds like an easy thing to do right? CNN reported that Valentine's Day was the most miserable day for people who aren't in relationships. Of those, many found Valentine's Day pointless and another way to unnecessarily spend lump sums of money for one particular day. Over the years, it has collected such aliases as "Singles

Awareness Day" and my personal favorite, "Love Sucks Month."

Toni Coleman, a licensed therapist and relationship coach in private practice in McLean, Va., offered ways singles could spice up their Valentine's Day.

"Un-Valentine's Day parties are very popular and can be a lot of silly fun," Coleman said. "You can attend one or throw one of your own. If that doesn't work, go to the movies with a fun friend or have dinner for three or four. Focus on what you enjoy and make a conscious decision about how to mark the day."

Some individuals found easier ways to deal with making it through the day without having to focus on the so-called "happier folk."

"I really don't have any feelings about Valentine's Day, because I know no one is going to do anything for me or send me anything," sophomore Paige Munk said. "It is another typical day. It bothers me a little when people receive things in the mail or flaunt it around, but I get over it."

Perhaps, we'll never see the day when Cupid can put a smile on everyone's face. As for many singles, they can all agree that the best part of Valentine's Day was when the clock struck midnight.



Top Left: Those who were not attached, went out on the town and danced the night away with close friends. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

Above: Alcoholic drinks were a favorite among singles and those with significant others. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

Left: One sad patron did not want to be photographed on this sad and gloomy day. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

Virtual by Jourdan Huffman Workout



Left: Cale Hill, left, and Kyle Barclay, right, compete in an all out bowling match. *Photo by Heather Kietzman*



Middle: Kimber Rounds begins a new session of Wii Fit by entering her age, weight and height. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Right: There are four categories to Wii Fit: strength training, aerobics, yoga and balance games. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

I was sitting in my living room when I thought to myself, "I could really go for some tennis right now." Unfortunately, it was impossible to step outside without instantly becoming completely drenched in rain. So, what solution did I come to?

That's simple. The Wii Fit portion of the Wii gaming system was introduced on May 19, 2008. This system combined the ability to check one's virtual age based on health and fitness levels with the ability to find out what one's Body Mass Index will be by entering in some basic information.

It was revolutionary because it was the first of its kind. This system utilized motion detecting sensors and a small remote. With its

drastic popularity, the Nintendo Company could not keep up with the high demand for Wii gaming systems. No matter how many were produced, there never seemed to be enough to stock an entire store for longer than a couple of hours.

"I don't even think that we get Wii systems in our store anymore," Best Buy Employee Ben Healey said. "So many people want them that we had to start selling them online."

So, why was this gaming system so popular anyway? Maybe it was because many different age groups could participate. The game appealed predominately to children, though it was easy and fun to use that even older age groups got a kick out of it. With the release of Wii



Sports, an added gaming component that allowed players to mimic the real life movements of many popular sports, such as baseball, tennis, bowling and even golf, the appeal intensified.

"I really like to play Wii Sports," Game Stop Consumer Jaelyn Haggard said. "I play baseball in real life, but it is just as fun to play it on the Wii."

Another real benefit to the Wii was that it also tapped into fitness with the creation of Wii Fit. This kit included a wireless balance board with over 40 exercise routines. A person's weight and balance was calculated in order to calculate a BMI. The exercises themselves covered a wide range of techniques, such as yoga, strength training and

aerobics. There was even a personal trainer that appeared on screen, who offered personalized feedback.

"Wii Fit is insane," Best Buy Employee Liv Peterson said. "The way that it knows enough about you to give you a virtual age and fitness level is the coolest. It's the easiest way to work out without even realizing that you are."

All in all, what made Wii, and more specifically Wii Fit so incredible was that it bridged the gap between video game play and personalized fitness. I mean, come on, why run on my treadmill when I can knock out a virtual boxer?

FREE OF STRESS

by EmmaLee Jones

Fighting the current of freshman first semester drop outs, students came out on top still breathing, but with one unhealthy and frustrating consequence: stress. Stress overwhelmed and complicated students' lives, bringing tearful distress and anguish for many. So, what was the solution?

Russell Phillips, assistant professor of psychology who taught a course on stress, said there are several ways to cure stress.

"First, you can change the situation, the 'stressor,'" Phillips said. "Actively deal with the problem. This might mean setting limits, being assertive. Second, you can lower your physical reaction to stress. This means doing constructive things to get out the stress, or to relax. Third, you might change your thinking about the stress by considering how much worse things could be or redefining success. There is also the good standby of social support—getting advice or help from friends, family, organizations or a religion."

In terms of relieving stress, Phillips recommended such steps as exercise and playing sports. In relation to relaxation, he recommended a hot shower, yoga, a walk in the woods or simply, reading a book.

Students themselves found many ways to lighten their load and take the pressure off. Ashlee Ackley, a sophomore vocal and instrumental education major, named several tips she used to aid in stress relief. These included placing air fresheners, drinking decaffeinated hot tea with agave nectar, eating one ounce of dark chocolate a day and getting massages. Scents like lavender and cinnamon calmed her and citrusy smells boosted her energy.

Ackley also suggested other important stress relievers for all students to incorporate into their own lifestyle.

"Exercise helps stress; it releases endorphins," Ackley said. "Reading also de-stresses. You put yourself in another world and forget everything. Also, scavenger hunts in Wal-Mart work when it's midnight and you can't sleep."

Cassy Mohling, a freshman elementary education major, agreed that exercise was good for stress. "I like to ride my bike when I'm stressed," Mohling said.

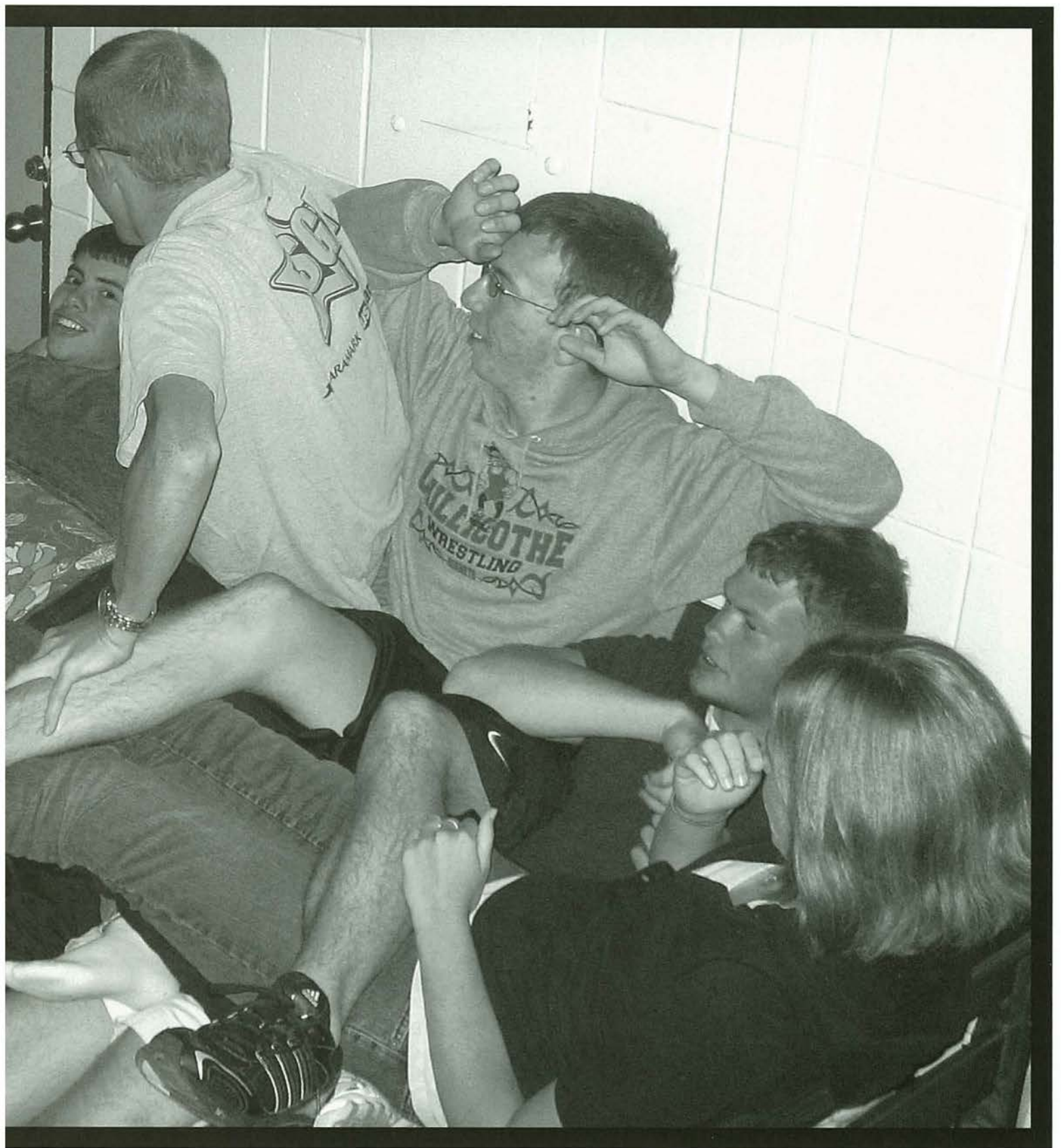
Relationships also factored in stress reduction, as already explained by Phillips.

"Just reaching out to another person and putting some of your weight on their shoulders helps," Ackley said. "If you have a significant other, make him or her rub your shoulders!"

Common stressors of college students included greater academic demands, being on your own in a new environment, which enabled new responsibilities and preparing for life after graduation. Stress affected college students in different ways such as physical, emotional, mental and social. Although stress might have been a natural part of life for these students, they found ways to overcome it and enjoy life in the tradition of other fighters who came before them.



Left: To lighten the load of classes and finals, students opted for more sleep. Photo by Emma Pichl



Above: Students often found comfort and relaxation in the presence of friends. Photo by Emma Piehl



A

long-held American tradition was that when one is provided good service, it is customary to tip the person who provided the service. Has this tradition gone too far? Are restaurant owners using this courtesy as a cop-out for paying their employees?

Often, servers considered the amount of a tip to be a judgment of themselves and their work ethic. "Servers work very hard," senior Aryn Gilbertson said. "When you work for someone, and in return get no tip, or a bad tip, it can change your attitude. I tend to take it personal because then I ask myself, 'what did I do wrong?'"

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 established a federal minimum wage. However, restaurants were not required to comply. Therefore many servers labored for around \$3.52 an hour and sometimes, less.

"Overall, I feel that tipping should be reserved for outstanding service," Carrie King, a nursing student, said. "I'm already paying an arm and a leg for this food. If the service isn't great, I feel I shouldn't be obligated to tip anything. However, our American society demands tipping to be expected and sometimes, required. Employers should pay their employees the same as any other job does instead of mandating that their customers pay the servers."

The Standard

by Sarah Derr



Left: Jesse Irwin leaves more than a 20 percent tip, \$4.09. Photo by Shawn Lesny

Above: Brad Daniels, left, works hard at getting the tip he deserves; 18 percent was the going rate for tips in St. Joseph. Photo by Shawn Lesny

Several Missouri Western students worked as servers. Although the money was great, those who chose to work as servers felt that you should at least tip 15 percent. After all, for those who do a service for you, you should tip them in return. Many servers simply wanted the public to understand their viewpoint.

"When you go out to eat, you must remember that you are not only tipping your server," Gilbertson said. "The server in return has to tip out the busser, the host and the food runners. Some people think it is not fair to tip that much to pay for other people's wages, but it all affects the service you receive when you go out to eat. I like people to think of it as, when they come in to eat, they are 'renting' that table from the server. When he or she

stay for hours to chat with his or her friend and there is a wait, it is taking away from the server."

Other servers also requested that people consider the person who was waiting on them. Truman State University graduate Angela Dailey was originally from St. Joseph. In order to put money aside for law school, Dailey took over a year off from college and worked at 54th Street Grill and Bar.

"It is a service that we are providing for you," Dailey said. "You should appreciate us and respect us at our jobs, as you should be at your own. Have some patience. Don't make ridiculous demands. Realize you are not the only table in the restaurant and not the only people that one server is taking care of."

Food by Frank Nemeth For Thought



Left: The cafeteria offers a small variety of food for students, some of which include cereal during breakfast, lunch and dinner. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Right: Of what Western offered food-wise, several students opted to eat off-campus. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Picture a bunch of rag-tag soldiers in from the cold putting their trays up to a counter to have a combination of slop dumped onto them. They are hungry, so they eat.

What about a college environment? Food in a cafeteria setting can be less than desirable. Missouri Western has several places on campus to grab a bite to eat, but despite this convenience, many students elect to eat off campus.

The number of students, faculty and staff at Missouri Western was about enough to make any lunch lady shake in her apron, but the lines weren't long and the masses kept their distance. Was the food

here really repelling everyone or was there more to the story?

The options in town outweighed the options on campus considerably. Normally, students who live off campus did not consider the cafeteria as an option. Most of the cafeteria's business came from students who resided on campus.

"I think we need to add more variety, because they get tired of the same foods," said Sue Wood, cafeteria-dining supervisor. The City of St. Joseph added Panera Bread as well as several other restaurants such as Olive Garden, Buffalo Wild Wings and Jimmy Johns, which provided the students with more of a variety in food service.



"The food at Western isn't bad, but the variety lacks," said Weston Baker, a first-year student.

Other factors played a role in the minimal business done on campus. "I'd rather eat on campus, but it's hard to find a parking spot," said Josh Erpelding, a third-year physical education major. Erpelding felt that the consistency of the campus cafeteria was not up to par, yet simply stated, "some days, the food is good and others, it is not."

In order to provide healthier options, Missouri Western implemented more nutritional options. "They can have whatever they ask for including fruits and vegetables," Wood said.

Western provided nutritious meals at an affordable price to every student, faculty and staff member. Other venues around campus also served beverages, fruit smoothies and food such as the vending locations in Popplewell Hall and Agenstein Hall and the coffee stand in the library.

After review of the situation, the food and drink served on campus was not terrible, but unknown to some and unappreciated by others. Inconsistency and more variety off campus was the reason for lost business. Despite the thousands that left campus to fulfill their hunger, the eateries at Western did well enough to survive.



SMALL CITY, BIG SHOPPING

by EmmaLee Jones

St. Joseph had never really been a popular spot for shopping. Until a few years ago, East Hills Mall was the only major shopping location in town. Even with the addition of the North Village Shoppes, many still continued to drive to Kansas City, Mo., for shopping. However, this all changed with the renovations to the East Hills Mall.

During the construction many people were frustrated with the repairs, including senior Linda Shireman, a student of business, public relations and art and employee of the St. Joseph License Office. "The construction is taking way too long; last I heard they are not going to be done until sometime in December," Shireman said. "If that is the case, I think they will cause serious problems with holiday shopping."

Still, students agreed that the construction was worth the advantages in the long run. "I have seen pictures of what it is supposed to look like when it gets done and if it looks anywhere near as good, it will be really nice," Shireman said.

Junior Katrina Darr, a dental hygienist major, agreed that the stores helped St. Joseph. "By having a nicer mall, which is more updated, people will like to shop more in St. Joseph," Darr said. "With the price of gas, this will be nice."

Nevertheless, mixed emotions were raised concerning whether or not the mall reconstruction influenced St. Joseph to be more like

Kansas City, Mo.

"St. Joseph will definitely become more like Kansas City, Mo.," art major Hillary Black said. "Other stores will need to renovate after the mall is finished in order to keep up with the competition. This will raise the city's overall appeal. I believe it will be a good thing for the city to gain a little more recognition."

Shireman disagreed with this. "As far as St. Joe turning into Kansas City—I certainly hope not! I was born and raised in the Kansas City, Mo., area and would hate to see that happen. I don't believe that is a possibility, though, because the people here are friendlier and have a more laid-back attitude. I am sure it has to do with their rural upbringing. People know each other here; I lived in a house in Raytown for three years and never knew my neighbors' names."

Planned additions were supposed to include the Sunporch Café, Ward's Tire and Battery Demo and a new food court, but many of these have cancelled because of construction delays. The East Hills Mall first opened in 1965 after undergoing several changes including a major renovation and expansion. In 1988, Dillard's and Sears' department stores were added including 34 new storefronts. The construction in 2008 revitalized the mall through renovation and expansion and attracted new national tenants.



Top Left: The East Hills Mall in St. Joseph, Mo., was originally supposed to be completed by October 2008, then November 2008, before Christmas of 2008 and as of late March 2009, the construction was not completed. *Photo by Missy Clinton*

Above: The exterior of the mall also received renovations aside from the interior of the mall. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Left: Despite construction woes, shoppers were out in full force especially during the Christmas holiday. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Shots of Energy

by Sarah Derr and Jourdan Huffman



Above: Stacy Saythany's energy drink, Amp, aids him in some late night studying. *Photo by Kelsey Wear*

Right: Robin Uksher gets instant rejuvenation as she sips her Starbucks Doubleshot before class. *Photo by Kelsey Wear*



For many Western students, sleep was a luxury. There was always a party, a T.V. show or a term paper that was more important than the comfort of a warm bed at a decent hour. Near the end of the semester, this only became more evident as students began feeling the rush of last minute projects and tests. It was very common for busy students to begin seeking supplemental forms of energy.

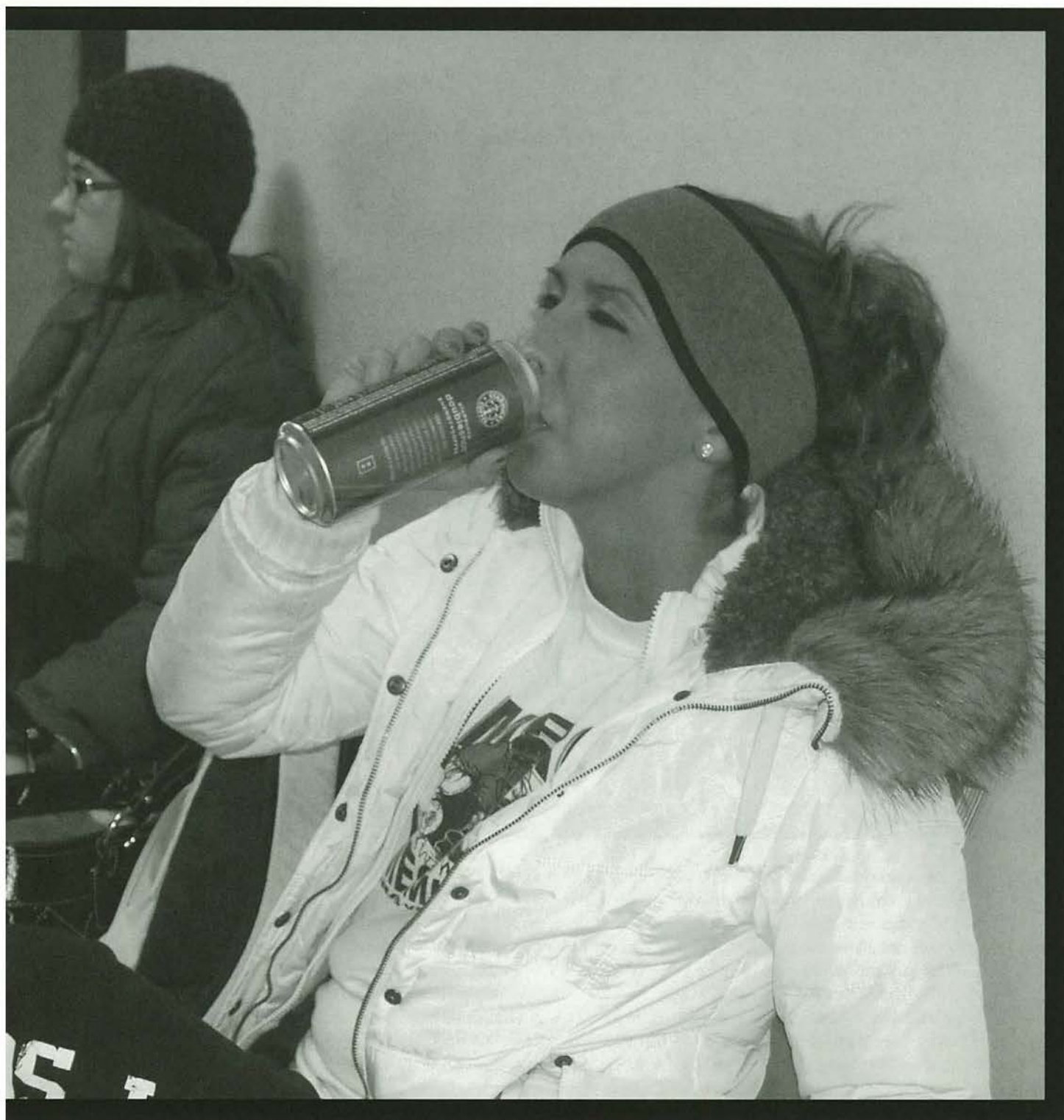
Energy drinks and coffee-based beverages typically contained 80 to 141 milligrams of caffeine per eight ounces, which was equal to two 12-ounce cans of a soft drink such as Mountain Dew, Coke or Dr. Pepper. Nonetheless, these energy boosters seemed imperative to busy,

overwhelmed college students.

"When I study, I usually have to have my mocha latte to function," senior Aimee Whitacre said.

Caffeine was the driving force in a typical day at Western. As classes became more stressful, and the workload became heavier, so did the amount of coffee consumed by most students.

Energy drink consumption continued to flourish since Red Bull stepped onto the scene in 1997, the current leader in the vast energy drink market. Because of the stressful nature of a college student's lifestyle, energy drinks were targeted to young adult consumers. It was not uncommon that a student with a lot on his or her plate would require a



little boost here and there. Some had so much going on between classes and their lives outside of school that they resorted to these forms of on-the-go stamina with the use of energy drinks like Full Throttle or Monster.

"I have a two-year-old, plus I work almost full-time and go to school full-time," senior Sarah Barrett said. "Energy drinks help me get through the day and get everything done."

Some students managed to get along just fine without the help of energy boosting beverages. "Energy drinks are fine for other people, but they just aren't for me," said Karyn Daugherty, a full-time student and mother of five. "I drink a lot of water and try to get plenty of

sleep."

Statistics show that although college students generally only consumed one energy drink four days in a month, but the side effects from consuming energy drinks were fairly common, and a significant dose effect was found with jolt and crash episodes. Everyone could all use a little extra jump in our step. The safest way to achieve this was to turn off the T.V., leave the party a little early or get caught up on homework whenever possible. The world doesn't slow down for anyone, so people shouldn't be forced to speed up for it?



SPECIAL FRIENDS

by EmmaLee Jones

Dog owners have called dogs “man’s best friend.” Animal-lovers have even carried this over to other pets, like cats and fish. However, on-campus students were not allowed to own pets. Did they miss out because of this? Residential Housing Director Michael Speros did not think so.

“Well, technically they can still have a pet at their parents’ house and also once they graduate,” Speros said. “While that may seem sarcastic, it is not. Students have ample time to own a pet and invest energy in taking care of it. In this sense, I don’t believe they are missing out.”

Of course, not all students visited home frequently, and many parents took over caring for their children’s pets because of this.

The rules for students concerning pets in the dormitories could be summed up in one statement made in Missouri Western’s handbook: “Pets other than fish are not allowed.” The handbook stated no other rules concerning pets. Allergies, property damage and safety were the main reasons for this rule, causing many students to agree with it.

“Kids are not that responsible,” Michelle Ritter, a senior mathematics major, said. “They would not do their part in taking care of

a pet.”

Tina Williams, a sophomore elementary education major, agreed. “Pets do not help dorm life,” Williams said. “I have lived in the dorms, and it is chaotic enough without taking care of a pet.”

However, residential housing excused hall directors from this rule. “Many schools around the country allow hall staff to have pets, but not students,” Speros said. “The reason why is this is their home 24/7, 365 days out of the year. Staff does not ‘go home’ over breaks or during the summer. They live here and should be allowed some of the same comforts of professionals living off-campus in apartments and homes. Having a pet also helps in relieving work-related stress; a less-stressed employee is also happier and more productive.”

Basically for hall directors, pets were a perk. Hall directors did have rules for their pets. Pets had weight 35 lbs. or less and could not be from an aggressive breed. Their owners also had to clean their carpets professionally before checking out and clean up after the pet throughout the semester.

Hopefully, most students went on to own pets after graduating. No one should have missed out on experiencing man’s best friend, even college students.



Top Left: Dodger lounges on the couch after a long day of barking, wondering about and playing. Photo by Heather Kietzman

Top Right: On-campus students could not own dogs; however, hall directors were allowed animals who weighed 35 lbs. or less and were not from an aggressive breed. Photo by Heather Kietzman

Above: Cats, like Chester, were at times easier to take care of because they were more independent than dogs. Photo by Heather Kietzman

Left: Tiffany White, who lives off-campus, poses with her miniature Yorkie, Lily; on-campus students were not allowed to have cats and dogs. Photo by Heather Kietzman



FLOCKING FOR AN OPEN SPOT by Olin Kinsey

Can you imagine waking up every morning and arriving to class early just to find yourself sitting in traffic? Well, it happens! For some Missouri Western students, early morning parking and traffic are a huge concern. Even still, the long line leading to the student parking lots has become an irritation for commuter students.

James R. McCarthy Drive was the busiest street for students who entered campus from the back entrance to Western. Some Western students were held in traffic for more than 15 to 20 minutes. Junior LaTricia Adkins found herself as one of those students who waited for traffic to clear.

"I feel that there is too much traffic," Adkins said. "It's always backed up whenever you are trying to get into and out of the school entrances. I feel that there should be some kind of expansion to the parking lots, so parking won't be as hectic."

So how long did this ongoing traffic problem continue to hurt commuter students? Sadly, student commuters may be facing this traffic issue for some time with the new formation of Remington Hall. Since the completion of Remington Hall will not be complete until December 2009, students had to arrive earlier than they expected to

classes. Until then, the idea of getting to class on time became an old expression. At this point in the semester, students came up with their own solutions in order to fix this ongoing problem.

"Parking here is terrible," senior Crystalle Haralson said. "This is my first year living off campus, and now I understand what off campus students last year complained about. Every day it is a struggle to get here and it makes no sense!"

But while commuter students steadily struggled to get to campus on time, residents on campus had no worries. With class just being a few buildings away, on campus residents' mornings were less hectic while getting to class. Not only did students who lived on campus not have to worry about traffic or warming up the car, but also class was just a few steps away. Diedre Mitchell, a resident of Beshears Hall, didn't understand why traffic was backed up in the mornings.

"I get up on time every morning and notice how there is always a long line of traffic," Mitchell said. "Maybe off campus students should consider moving on campus to reduce time for getting to class."

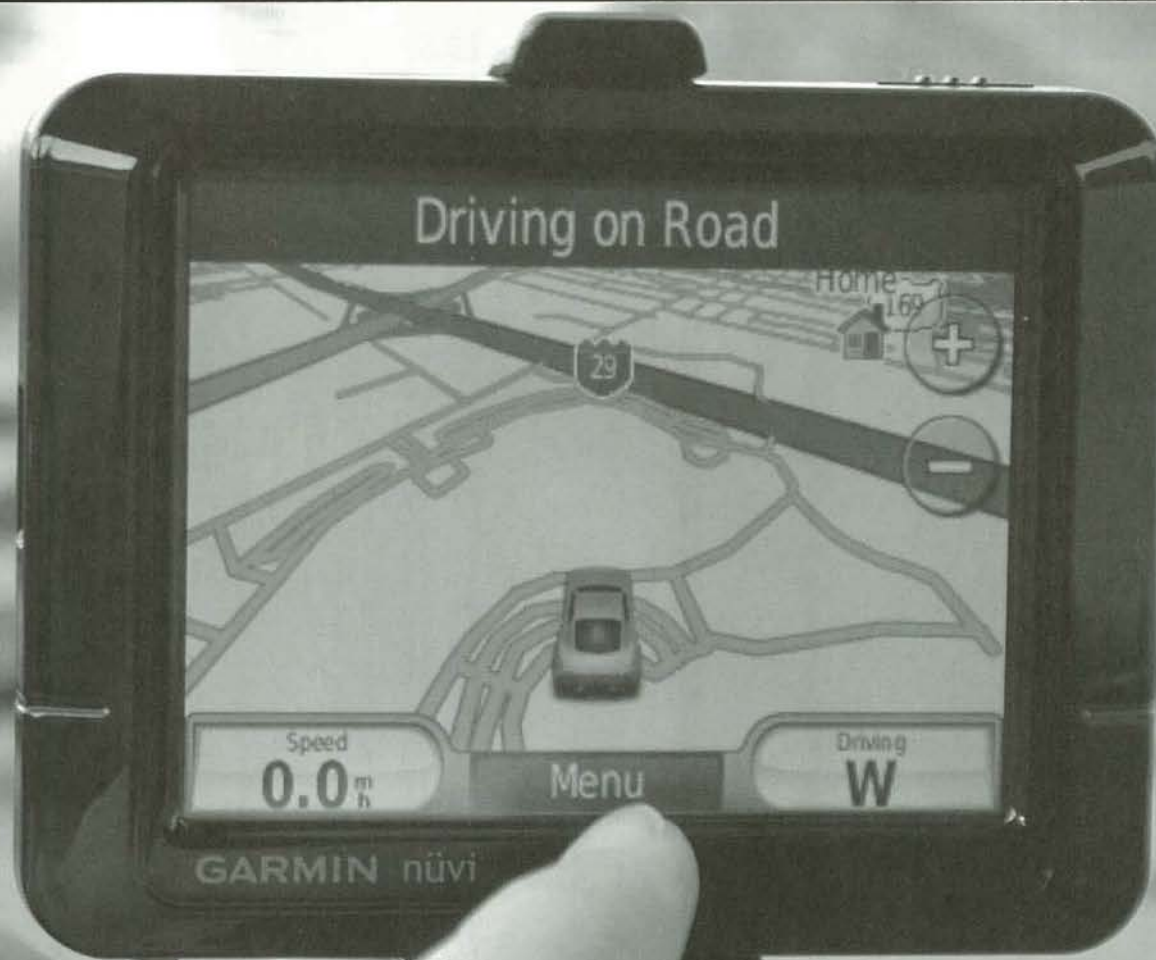
Whatever the solution may be to the current traffic problem, commuter students only real solution may result in arriving even earlier than they expected.



Top Left: At the beginning of the fall semester, students, faculty and staff alike battled for an open parking spot. *Photo by Kelsey Wear*

Above: Some students opted other means of transportation such as bicycles, which were cost-free and accessible parking near all campus buildings. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Left: The best time to locate an open parking spot was in the early morning hours. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



ELECTRONIC TOYS

by Sarah Derr
and Jourdan Huffman

You've got your Blackberry, your iPod or your Nintendo DS. You have your Wii, your Xbox or your MacBook. If all of these things sound foreign to you, then clearly you have been living under a rock for the last few years. In this day and age, it is impossible to avoid the explosive emergence of laptop computers, technologically advanced cell phones, MP3 players that can hold thousands of songs and videos and pocket organizers that maintain a busy schedule. Electronics were becoming increasingly essential to everyday life.

"I have my entire schedule on my phone," senior Aryn Gilbertson said. "However, it's expensive to keep up with technology, so I try to work with what I have for as long as possible."

Popular manufacturers such as Apple, Nintendo, Palm and Microsoft introduced new technology, making it difficult for students to feel like their gadgets were up-to-date. With every supposed best came something better, and then something better, like a never ending cycle to keep up with the Jones'.

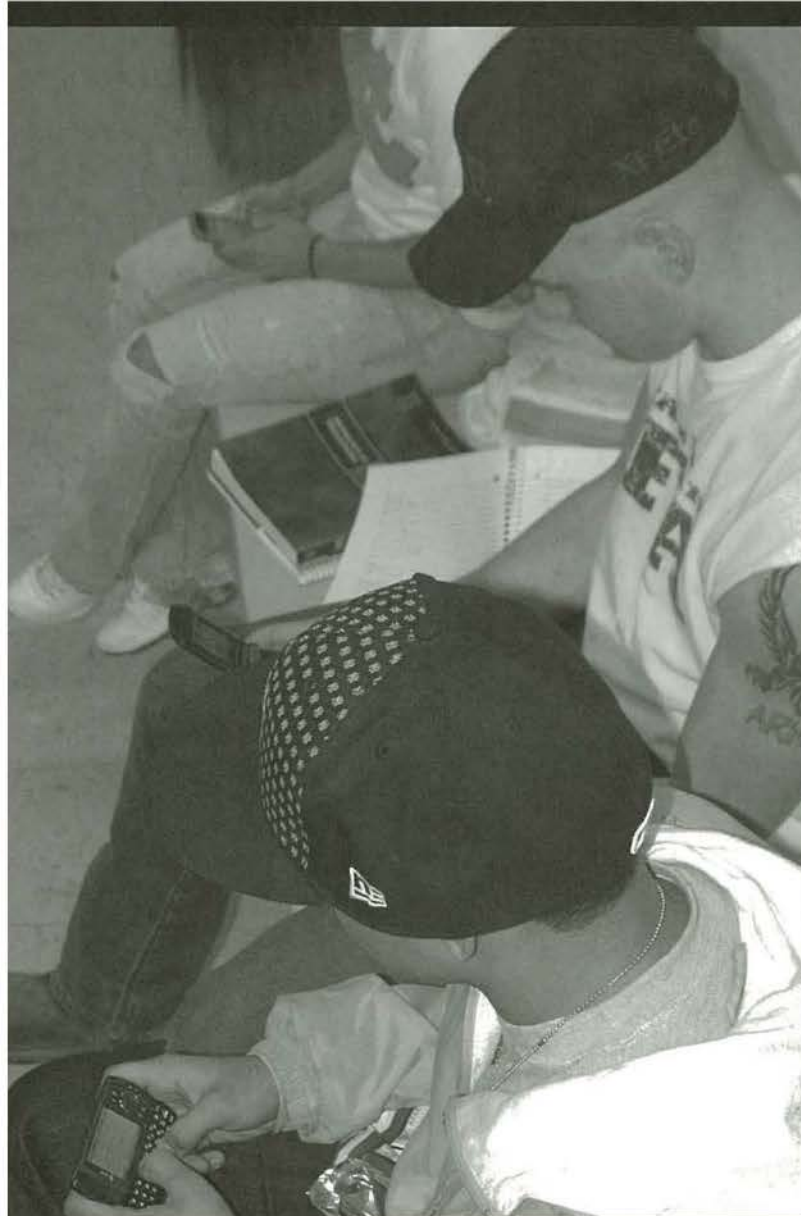
"I can't imagine not having my cell phone or laptop," sophomore Josh Rieken said. "There are always new gadgets coming out that I want, but anytime you buy a new piece of technology, it is outdated within a couple months. I don't buy new gadgets very often because they are too expensive."

However, for some students, this technology craze meant nothing.

"This obsession with technology doesn't really phase me," freshman Cami Solano said. "It's true that technology puts out new things every day and they advertise them desperately, but I don't feel I have to buy them, just because some company says I should. I'm happy with the technology in my life."

But how do we avoid this phenomenon altogether, when we were surrounded by the latest trends in technology? Some phones, such as the Palm Centro, carried by many cell phone providers, offered Microsoft Office Mobile, calendar functions, e-mail and web browsing. In addition, nursing students could purchase software for the phone that would allow them to leave their books at home. The iPhone, made by Apple, was a powerhouse of features, with full-screen web pages, GPS navigation and tons of applications.

"Apple brings out a new computer, MP3 player or phone every couple months," junior Jonathan Crosswhite said. "It seems like there isn't much Apple doesn't have their hands in these days, but their products are definitely the most popular right now. I used to carry my laptop, iPod, and phone with me on campus. Now, I don't really need to because I have almost everything I need on my iPhone."



Top Left: GPS Navigation, a growing phenomenon, offered cool features such as turn-by-turn instructions with voice prompts, 2D and 3D map views and up to one GB of memory. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Top Middle: The Sidekick was popular among students, offering attractive features such as a full keyboard, real-time e-mail, instant messaging, GPRS support and web browser. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Above: Although the Sidekick was affordable, it was somewhat bulky, had mediocre battery life, lack of speaker phone and no memory-expansion slot. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Left: Electronic gadgets were very popular among poor college students such as the MacBook, the Instinct and the Wii. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

by Jourdan Huffman

CLOUDED BOUNDARIES

Have you ever been walking out of one of the campus buildings and stumbled right into a cloud of smoke outside the entrance? Did you ever have to walk around stagnant smokers in order to proceed to your next class? According to statistics, 28.5 percent of current college students smoke cigarettes on a regular basis, even on campus. With over one-fourth of our student population engaging in this activity, should there be some sort of action taken to prevent it?

Would a campus-wide ban strip students of their rights? Likewise, would no policy at all strip other students of their ability to breathe when walking to and from classes outside of the buildings? There were so many questions to ask when it came to an issue as broad and widespread as this one, and the concrete answers seemed almost impossible to find. Nonetheless, Western students had formulated their own ideas.

"Most smokers are considerate enough to smoke outside without bothering anyone, so why can't non-smokers show them the same decency?" freshman Tim Wang said.

More than 90 percent of college students who smoke daily and nearly 50 percent of occasional college smokers will continue smoking for at least four more years longer, according to a new study conducted by the University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention.

"Smoking bans might be stepping on rights, seeing as it is the smoker who chose to smoke, not the institution," freshman Lauren Grable said. "But it might help smokers quit, whether or not they want to."

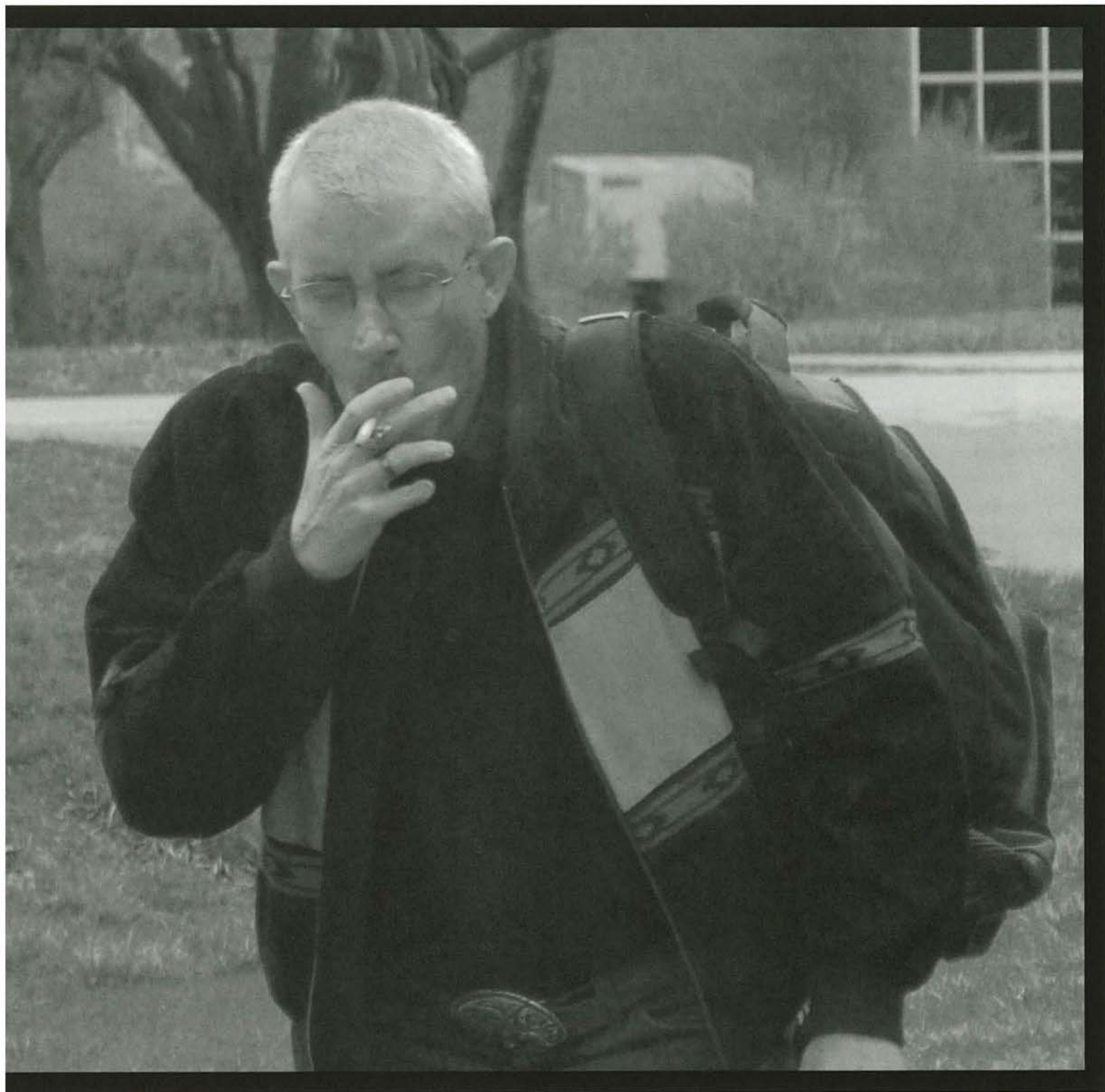
It was hard to narrow down a fair policy for an issue as common as smoking. Legally, students should have been allowed to smoke outside almost anywhere, but what sort of action should have been taken when posted "No Smoking" signs began to be ignored altogether? How many times could the parameters be pushed and pulled before they snapped? Smoking did not seem to be the problem. It was the way that some of Western's smokers violated this privilege.

"There are several designated smoking zones on campus but I don't see very many of them following these rules, especially around Eder Hall and Murphy Hall," junior Rebecca Weddle said. "The underpass is always filled with smoke even though it says 'No Smoking.' There are several smokers who take their smoking breaks at the side entrance of Wilson Hall and I am forced to walk through their smoke just to get into the building. It makes me choke."

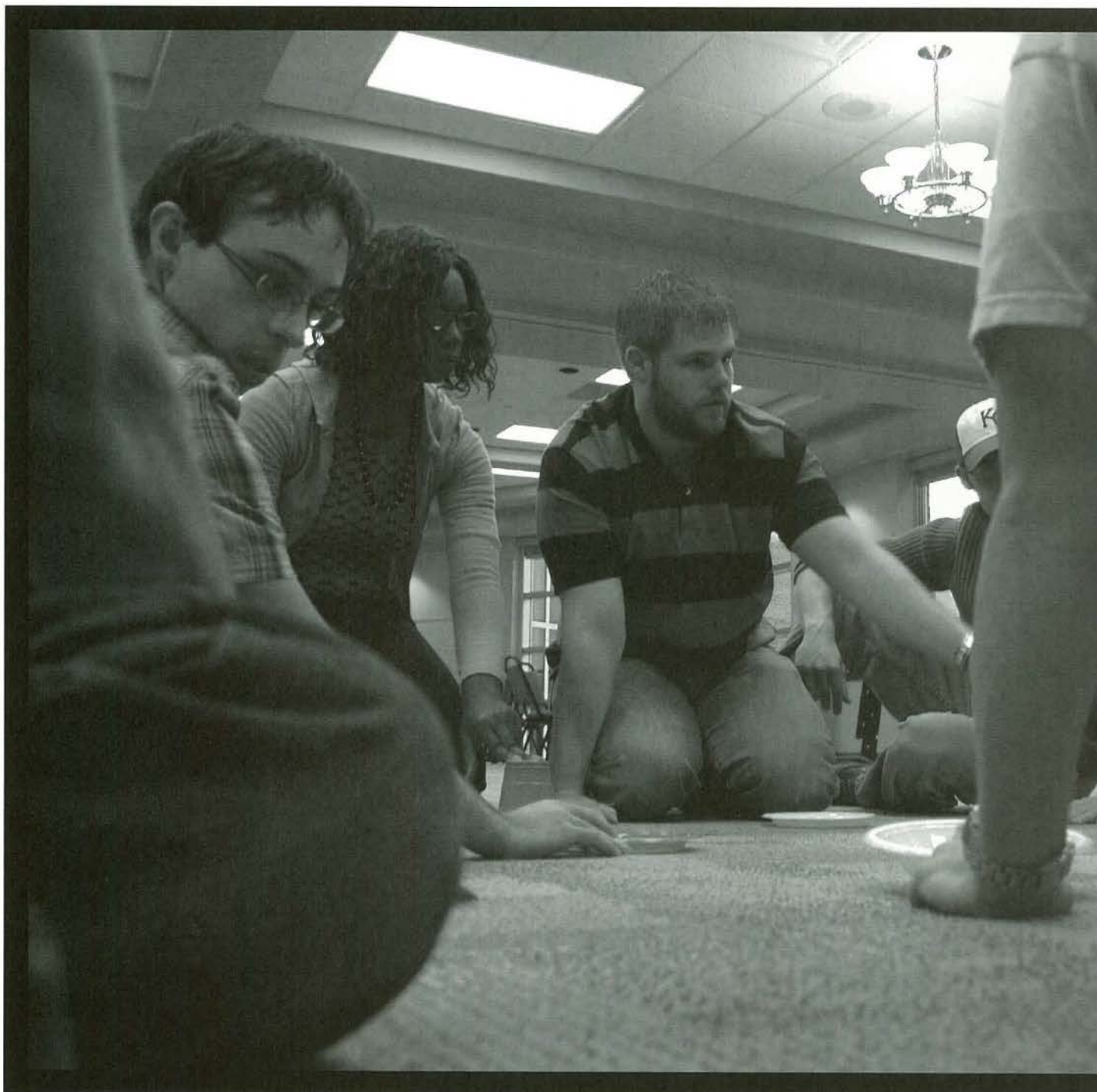
All in all, this smoking phenomenon was difficult to handle, and a campus policy may be necessary. Then again, who are we to say that one cannot smoke on campus at all? Stepping on the toes of Western's students could potentially cause an even larger fiasco. We just have to hope that when all the smoke clears, the solution will remain.



During the cold weather, students huddled close to buildings for a quick drag. Photo by Brittany Rivers



All of Missouri Western's buildings were smoke-free. Photo by Brittany Rivers



I wake up every morning in the same bed that I have slept in for the last 18 years of my life. I have always found a certain sense of comfort in that. However, sometimes I wonder if I am missing out on the authentic college experience by not spending these four years in a dorm room, with a roommate. Is it possible that by living at home with my parents, I am losing an important social element of college life?

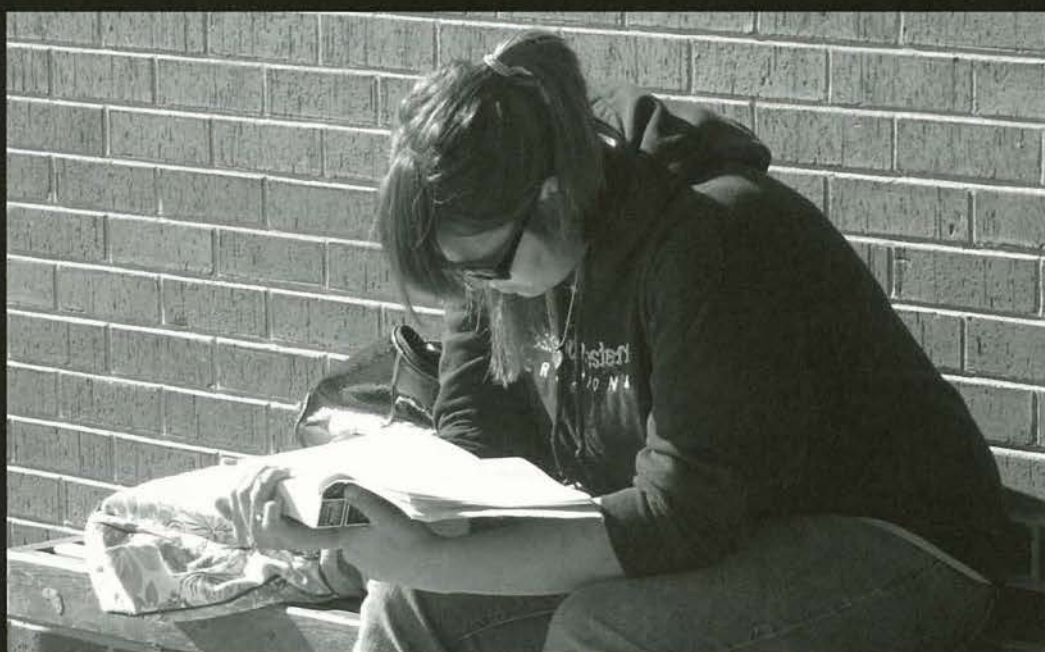
"Dorms mean living in a very small space shared with numerous individuals, right down the hall from numerous other small spaces with numerous other individuals, and that is not my idea of fun," senior Daisy Buntin said.

Each living situation had its pros and cons. On campus students were the first to know about campus events, the ones who were able to spend all of their time with people their own age and there was also that whole freedom thing. At the same time, these students were entirely responsible for themselves. Any tangible need that they had could not be purchased by a parent or guardian, which was a new concept to someone who may have spent their entire lives in the comfort of a stable, supervised home.

"I like the freedom that comes with living away from home," freshman Dani Barton said. "But at the same time, I feel like I'm missing out on my younger sister's high school activities that my older sister

Elements of College Life

by Jourdan Huffman



Left: On-campus students enjoyed more interaction with their peers and campus activities. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Above: On a nice day, on-campus and off-campus students studied outdoors. *Photo by Courtney Slater*

shared with me."

There were positives and negatives for those who lived off campus too. Off campus students may have felt out of the loop sometimes, which made forming friendships harder, considering that much of their time was spent outside the perimeters of Western. But living off campus wasn't all that bad either. Students didn't miss their families, because they were still able to come home to them every day. Financial issues were virtually nonexistent, since most off campus students had their room and board paid for by their parents, which obviously saved these students a lot of money, but that's not all.

"By living off campus, I believe that I have more time to get

homework done," sophomore Melea Youtsey said. "Living on campus with another person could be a major distraction. It's too busy of a life for me. I need to have time alone and dorms make it hard to have that."

Either way, our college experiences were what we made them. If we tried to be involved, it was simple to stay connected to our peers and our school. College life wasn't based merely on where we lived or whom we lived with. It was based on how much experience we allowed ourselves to have.



Above: Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters prepare pancakes for the public. Photo by Linda Shireman

Middle: The pancake breakfast was open to the St. Joseph community and Western campus. Photo by Linda Shireman

Top Right: The pancake dinner was a success. Photo by Linda Shireman

Right: Sigma Sigma Sigma sisters Lacee Laurence and Kali Conard look to see how the pancakes turned out. Photo by Linda Shireman





SIGMAS PANCAKE FEAST

by Lauren Dillon

For the very first time, Sigma Sigma Sigma held a Pancake Dinner at the Wyatt Baptist Church. This dinner was a fundraiser for any chapter expenses that the sorority might have, but in particular to help pay for Rush Week and Greek Week.

"We ended up buying a ton of food during Rush Week, because we are together so much and that is what girls do when we get together," freshman Kelsey Huwe said.

Kelsey was the head of all the organization of the fundraiser. "This was a lot of fun, but I am looking forward to not having as much stress," Huwe said. "So I hope we have a great time tonight, but I will be glad when it is over."

A lot of work went into the fundraiser, and their efforts were well rewarded. The guests showered compliments about the dinner and the sorority. Everyone praised the cooking skills of the sorority, even though it was most of the members' first time cooking, especially pancakes.

"The pancakes are delicious!" said parents of Sierra Travnichuk, a freshman Sigma member. "We are very proud of her and her sorority sisters."

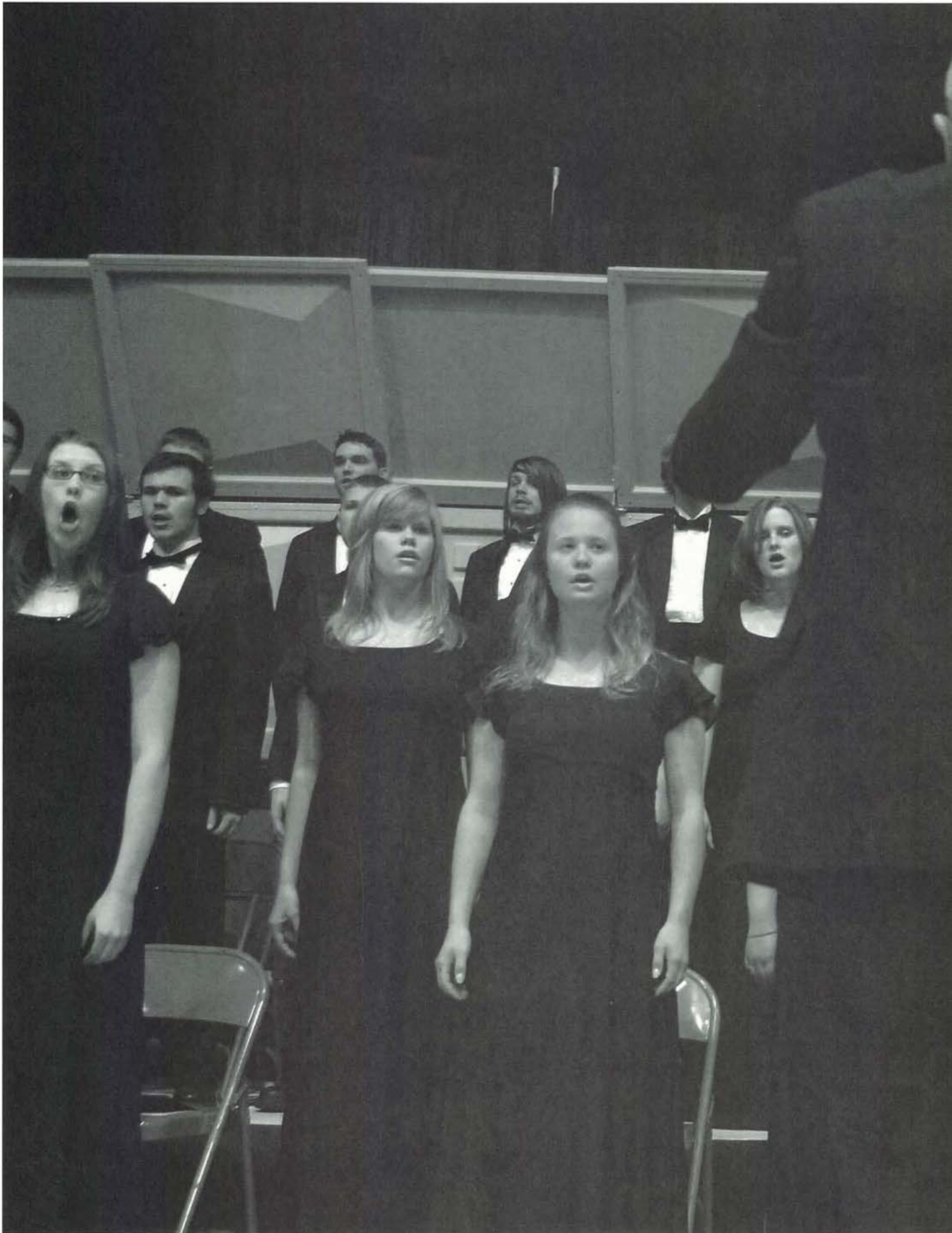
"Everyone is pretty new to cooking," Huwe said. "Most of them are still asking when to flip the pancakes or how much batter to put in the skillet. So they might be a little messy, but we will learn."

Phi Delta Theta members also showed up to support the Sigmas. "We do a lot of activities together, so we sure were not going to miss this, even though we have our own dinner later," said David Wyble, Phi Delta Theta president.

The Sigmas were familiar with fundraisers. They put a lot of work into getting money to cover expenses. Previously, they completed work for the Red Wheel food program and sold candles. They were all big successes, so Huwe was very optimistic about how the dinner would turn out.

When asked why the Sigmas chose to have pancakes for dinner, Huwe laughed.

"Because spaghetti has already been done," Huwe said. "And even though you would think it was weird to have pancakes for dinner, we thought we would have a better turnout at night instead of breakfast. With a lot of people working or going to school, they have more time to come to a dinner. Besides, no college student wants to get up early!"



The Missouri Western choir sing during important campus events. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*





Students act out in "Night of the Living Dead." Photo by Shaun Lesny





Missouri Western ROTC participants and their dates let loose on the dance floor. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*



ACADEMICS

“I love watching them absorb and produce and get excited about what they just created. I call it the ‘aha moment’ when all of the sudden it just all clicks.”

- “Capturing Minds” page 135







Director Donald Lillie opted for a comedy, rather than a thriller for the production. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Farce of the Zombies

by EmmaLee Jones

The Communication Studies and Theatre department put a new twist on the Halloween classic, "Night of the Living Dead." Director Donald Lillie chose this play specifically because of its ability to be made humorous, yet still fitting for Halloween.

"I think we may have started a tradition for the Halloween weekend with 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show,'" Lillie said. "It gives people who are over 10 some fun, sober, harmless and safe play time."

"Night of the Living Dead" tells the story of Barbara—who finds herself stuck in an abandoned farmhouse with Johnny, Harry, Helen, Karen, Tom and Judy—as zombies, who have begun turning up in droves, pursue them on the night of Halloween. Some of the humor included blood-thirsty zombie interaction with the audience, Barbara's fearful antics of climbing in the refrigerator and under tables, the crowd being drenched with blood and a laughably predictable ending where everyone was killed by zombies.

Western knew that as a small-town university they couldn't entertain the masses with high-quality, fear-inducing gore, so they instead attracted their audience with comical farce. Unlike scary movies, they also engrossed a younger audience.

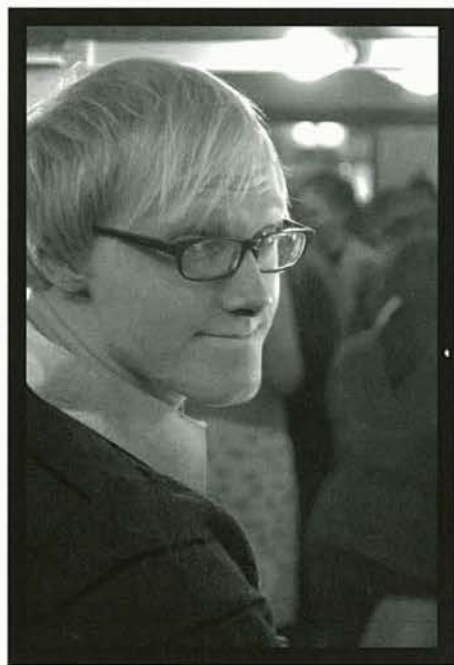
Every director has his or her own idea, or "concept," for the play he or she directs. Lillie's concept drew many surprised looks as he made drastic changes from the movie version of the story, mainly through the introduction of comedy. The actors and audience alike loved the result.

"Don's (Lillie) interpretation of the show was awesome," junior theatre and video major Laura Baum, who played Helen's understudy and a zombie, said. "If we had tried to make the show serious, as it was in the film, it wouldn't have been nearly as awesome as it was when we went over the top."

The Communication Studies and Theatre department employed various forms of advertising to draw in crowds. One of the especially noticeable advertisements included the one that convinced freshman graphic design major Angelice Henderson to attend. "I saw the new electronic billboard by my house, and then I noticed the flyers on campus," Henderson said.

The billboard was put up shortly before the play began on the Belt Highway near Cool Crest Golf Course.

The play succeeded, judging from the laughing, blood-besmeared students who left the theatre each night. Their smiles complimented Lillie's successful directing and the actors, technical crews and production assistants who made it all possible.

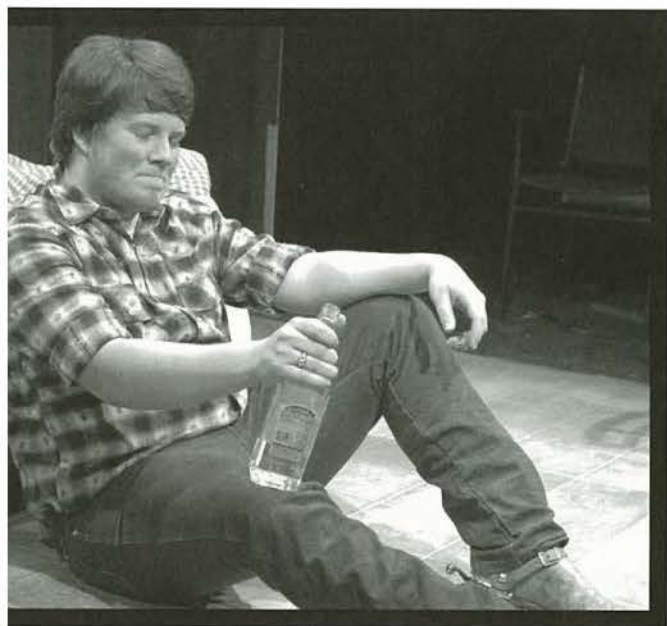


Left: Director George Romero directed an independent black-and-white horror film in 1968; Lillie's direction was over the top. Photo by Shawn Lesny

Right: Several students posed as blood-thirsty zombies, who interacted with the audience. Photo by Shawn Lesny



Rachel Perry, as May, stars opposite Sterling Dorrell as Eddie. Photo by Courtney Slater



Fool for... My Brother?

by Jourdan Huffman

Boy met girl. Girl fell for boy. Boy turned out to be girl's half sibling. It was a classic story of forbidden love, or was it? Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love" was performed in the Black Box Theatre, with a cast of only four students. The intimate setting that the theatre provided lined up perfectly with the deep, twisted storyline that made the play so famous on a larger scale.

Eddie, played by Sterling Dorrell, was a dark, tormented individual, dwelling on the dysfunctional relationship he had as a child with his now deceased father, played by Matt Wright. It was the manic nature of this character that ultimately drew Dorrell to the role.

"I love Eddie because he's completely crazy," Dorrell said. "In the play, he is referred to as 'a fantasist', but I personally think he is delusional. In a sense, I relate to Eddie because he always sees things exactly how he wants them."

The intensity of the play only escalated as it continued, as little by little, the perverse story began to unravel. The audience slowly realized that Eddie was deeply in love with his half sister, May, played by Rachel Perry. Pierce Karguth rounded out the cast, as May's current boyfriend, Martin, who was unwillingly thrown right into the middle of this incestuous story. The striking language and underlying message morphed together to create an intricate story that left audiences speechless.

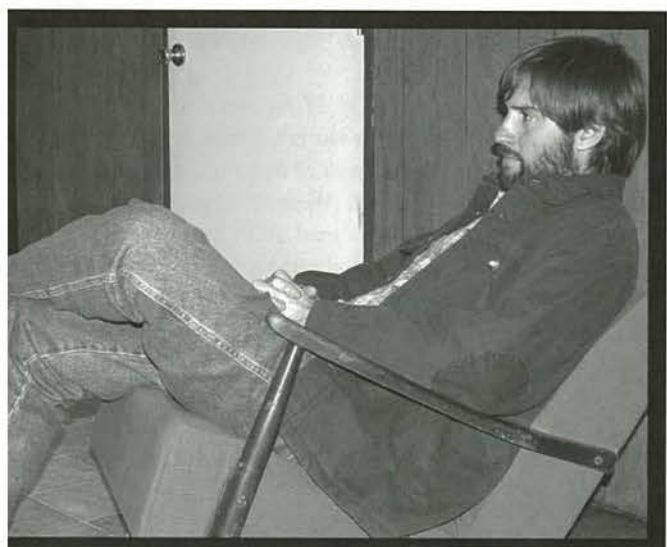
"It's fun to watch your friends perform," theatre major Amy Bryant said. "You know what it's like to be in front of an audience and it's so different to be sitting on the other side, watching."

The process by which this particular play was chosen was long and tedious. Student Director Daisy Buntin selected it, with the help of Assistant Director Grant Metcalf. "Fool for Love" was a very special project for Buntin.

"I love a show that has a small cast and takes place in an intimate setting," Buntin said. "That is what I enjoy working on, shows that are all about actors and working with them to develop characters and moments."

But what was the significance of the play anyway? Why should an audience care? "The show is all about love and hate, as equals and opposites," Buntin said. "It is also about fantasy and reality. What May and Eddie create in their minds is their reality. They are fantasists. It makes the audience question what is real and hopefully understand May and Eddie's incestuous relationship in an empathetic way."

The message was clear. Love knew no boundaries. This play showed all of us that no matter how repulsive this love affair appeared to the world around it, the lovers involved simply saw no fault, because when all the judgment was stripped aside, all that was left were two fools for love.



Top: Dorrell's character, Eddie, was a dark character. Photo by Courtney Slater

Middle: Matt Wright, who plays Eddie's father, rounds out the small production with only four actors. Photo by Courtney Slater

Bottom: In "Fool for Love," Eddie is in love with his half-sister, May. Photo by Courtney Slater

Double Take

by EmmaLee Jones

Mozart, Franck, Copland and Rachmaninoff danced out of the black piano in Potter Hall as brothers T. Matthew and David Allen Edwards played simultaneously during "Double Take," a program of works for two pianos. Matthew is an associate professor of music and director of keyboard studies at Western; has appeared nationwide as recitalist, guest artist, concerto soloist, and collaborative artist; taught a series of Master classes in Seoul and Busan, South Korea; has been rehearsal pianist/coach for the Annapolis Opera and musical director for Opera AACC; has had major works premiered in Chicago, Salt Lake and Baltimore and has edited the Schirmer Classics Performance Editions and American Music Teacher Magazine.

David has performed along the east coast as soloist, collaborative artist, and chamber musician; held piano faculty teaching and collaborative performing posts at USC Aiken and Columbia College; built a conservatory-style piano studio in Columbia, SC and served a tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force as the pianist for the premier Tactical Air Command Concert Band of Langley, VA.

This performance had long been in the works, Matthew noted at the beginning of the recital. "We've been talking about doing this concert for twenty years," Matthew said.

Senior music and technology major Andy West knew Matthew

from his classes, but local Beth Haenni knew of him from other sources. "My sister took piano lessons from Dr. Edwards and my mom's a music teacher so she told me about the performance tonight," Haenni said.

Haenni said that her knowledge of piano music made the performance more enjoyable. West was just excited to hear two pianists play all at once.

"I really like the music," West said. "My favorite is the last song. Plus it's cool to see two piano players."

The last song was Suite No. 2, Op. 17 for two pianos by Sergei Rachmaninoff, which included an introduction, waltz, romance and tarantella. Also performed were Sonata in D Major, K. 448, for two pianos by W. A. Mozart, which included Allegro con Spirito, Andante and Allegro Molto; Prelude, Fugue and Variation by César Franck; Hoe Down from Rodeo by Aaron Copland and various other solo works.

Matthew was noted for his "honest musicianship and formidable technique," according to his website <http://www.thomasmatthewedwards.com/Bio.html>.

For musically inclined students, Missouri Western offered several outlets where students could express themselves such as Chamber Winds, Commercial Music Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Woodwind Ensemble.



David played opposite his brother, Matthew, as they presented Double Take to the audience. Photo by Kelsey Wear



Matthew received his bachelor's and master's in music from Bob Jones University and his D.M.A. from Peabody Conservatory of Music. Photo by Kelsey Wear



The Edwards brothers were both musically inclined pianists. *Photo by Kelsey Wear*



Of the 150 band members, the percussion section is recognized nationally as one of the prominent percussion divisions in the country. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



1, 2, 3 March...

by Jourdan Huffman

The Griffon Marching Band is one of many extracurricular activities at Western that students can get involved with. The band itself is made up of three major components. First, there is the horn line, the percussion section and finally, there is the Golden Griffon Guard and the Mystics Dance Team, who work together to add excitement to the half-time performances.

Director of Bands Jeffrey Hinton, Griffon Marching Band Assistant Richard Yeager and Percussion Director Dennis Rogers led the band. These men worked together to create the success story that was the Griffon Marching Band. But the real success lay within the band itself, in the skills and dedication of its members. Every individual brings something different to the table, each with his and her own set of talents and strengths.

"The dynamic of the marching band is great," sophomore Brett Ryan said. "We all really know how to play off each other, which is good because we have to be on the same page musically if we want to sound as good as we should."

The popularity of the marching band has done nothing, but increase. This year alone, there were over 150 members. Not only did these students receive financial compensation toward their tuition, but they also formed lasting friendships, experienced personal growth and developed a stronger work ethic. But it was not all fun and games, the hours were long and the work was sometimes tedious.

"Practice every day definitely takes getting used to, but in the end, the band definitely prospers from it," freshman Emma Piehl said.

Not all marching band participants were consistently happy to be involved. The added stress that came along with the hectic atmosphere of the marching band definitely took a toll on some. "Sometimes, I do regret joining the marching band," senior Andy West. "I just don't always agree with the idea of having band students make shapes on a football field to popular music. The concept really doesn't sit well with me."

College life was all about finding a way to make your mark. It was about standing out, and finding a place to call home, a place to fit in. Most of all, it was about doing something you could be proud of.

"I love marching band more than anything," Piehl said. "The majority of my friends here are from the marching band and the color guard. I can't imagine what college life would be like without the marching band and all of my friends there."



Top: The Griffon Marching Band performs at home football games, special events and festivities throughout the state. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: The marching band, made up of three components, is also recognized for their strong, well-balanced horn line. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Bottom: The Griffon Marching Band members receive a stipend for their hard work and dedication. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



For the first time, Missouri Western invited two speakers, husband-and-wife political commentators James Carville and Mary Matalin. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Living in History

by Sarah Derr

"Of course Missouri was founded in 1826, which is relevant because that's the same year John McCain was born," said James Carville at the 15th Annual Convocation on Critical Issues. A battle of wits ensued as Carville used humor to engage the audience by degrading his political opposite, Mary Matalin.

Missouri Western hosted the Convocation on Critical Issues Tuesday, Sept. 30. Guest speakers included husband-and-wife political commentators Carville and Matalin.

Matalin began by humorously insulting her husband's credentials. "I would like to express how all of James' success is more product of only in America. He was on the 11-year program at Louisiana State University, where he received 55 hours of consecutive F's. Yet, I continue to tell my girls he had a 4.0 on graduation day. They don't know that was his blood-alcohol level."

Matalin encouraged students to focus on four subjects in order to have a better perspective on policymaking. These subjects included history, the Constitution, journalism and communications. Matalin claimed that many policies fail because the bill was not able to convey what it meant. Studying communications encouraged "clarity of thought."

Carville followed Matalin's speech. "You are living in history," Carville said in his opening remarks.

This phrase was followed throughout the speech as he reminded the audience that everyone has a chance to influence politics. "There are stunning changes that are taking place, and they're taking place right in front of you," Carville said. "Do you want to watch history, or do you want to help make history?" He encouraged audience members to understand and be active in political policymaking, rather than simply allow someone else to make these decisions.

Carville also spoke briefly about what it was like to be a democrat while being married to a conservative. "To me, it's much easier to be married to someone who thinks passionately and differently than to someone who has no passion and has no thought," Carville said.

The Convocation on Critical Issues was less formal than in previous years.

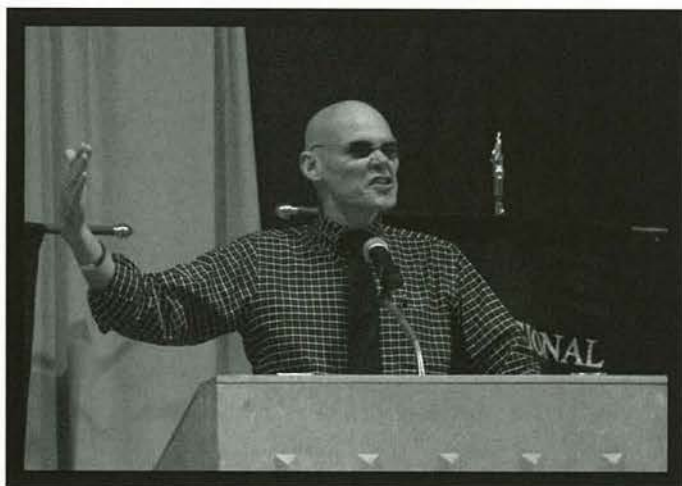
"I think that Convocation is really good for the community," junior Jessica Roberts said. "It gets people to think about what is important, how they can be involved and make a difference. Each speaker did a good job talking to both sides and giving good advice to everyone about our role in history."

Other Missouri Western students had similar opinions.

"The speakers talked to us, rather than at us," senior Erica Neier said. "Sometimes we get caught up in our own problems in the Midwest, so having a speaker bring national issues here makes St. Joseph take notice of something bigger than ourselves."



Matalin was the first White House official to hold a double title as assistant to former President George W. Bush and counselor to former Vice-President Dick Cheney. Photo by Harvey Jackson.



Carville guided former President Bill Clinton to the White House in 1992 as he unseated former President George H. W. Bush. Photo by Harvey Jackson.

Transforming Lives

by EmmaLee Jones

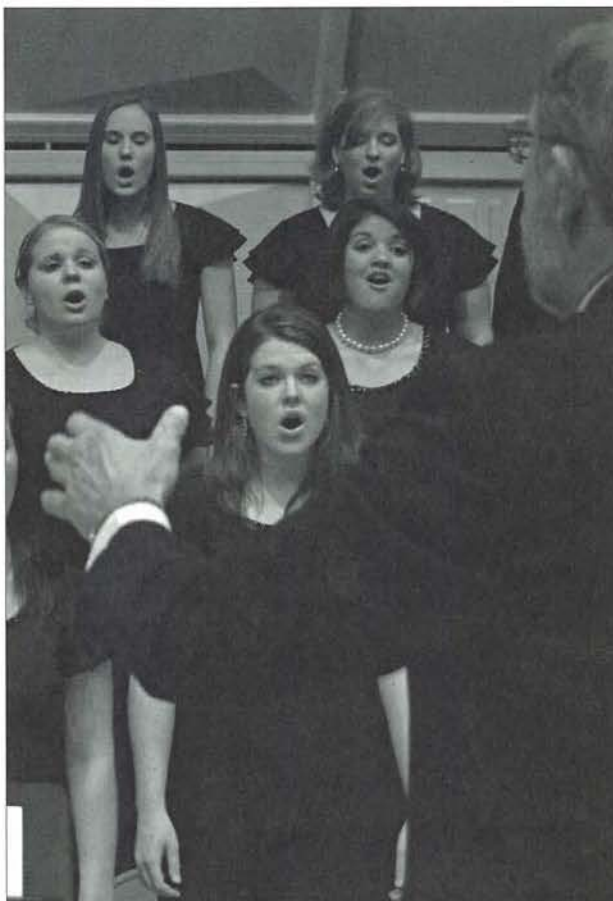
Western celebrated the inauguration

tion of its first president since becoming a university with a special ceremony. The service kicked off with a formal processional and Dan Nicoson, vice president of university advancement and chair of the Inauguration Steering Committee, introducing Robert A. Vartabedian, Western's fourth president.

Student Government Association President Harold Calloway, Alumni Association President Greg VerMulm, Staff Senate President Dan Eckhoff, Faculty Senate President Brenda Blessing and Dean Emeritus of West Texas A&M University Sue Park, also a professional colleague of Vartabedian's delivered congratulatory messages. Following, Chair of the Board of Governors Dirck Clark, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Joseph Bragin and Western President Emeritus James Scanlon presented Vartabedian with two unique symbols, a presidential medallion and ceremonial mace, completing the formal installation.

Vartabedian experienced a rich background before coming to Western. Involved in music and baseball as a youth, he received a well-rounded education and held many important positions.

"President Vartabedian has a bachelor's, a master's and a Ph.D. in speech communication from Fresno State University, Wichita State University and University of Oklahoma respectively," Nicoson said in his introductory speech. "Prior to com-



Missouri Western's Concert Chorale performs at the inauguration of Dr. Vartabedian. Photo by Harvey Jackson

ing to Missouri Western, he held faculty and administrative positions at East Oklahoma State University, Wichita State University, West Texas A&M University, Western Carolina University and Eastern New Mexico University."

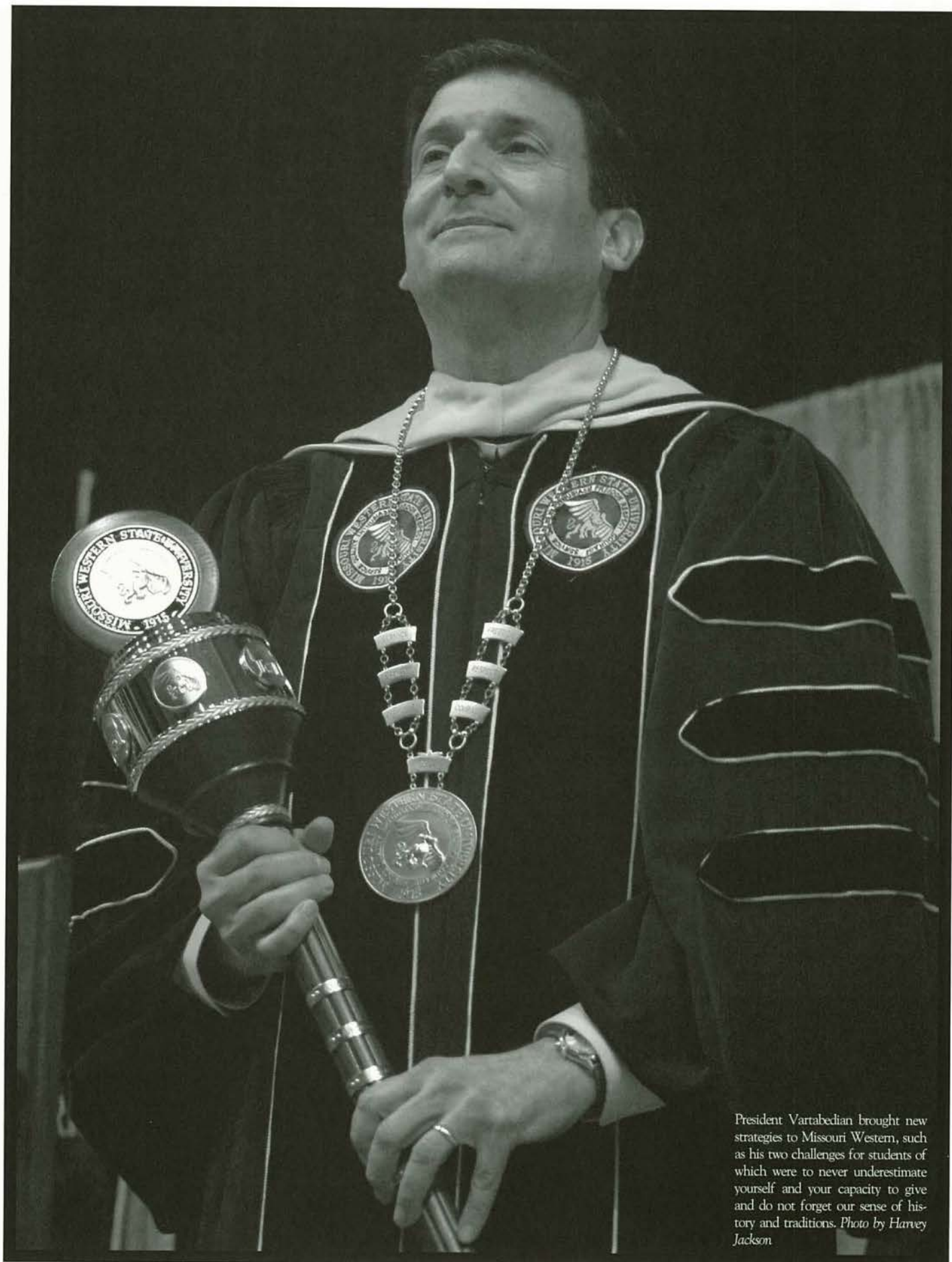
Overall, students felt Vartabedian would be good for Western. "President Vartabedian has a lot of experience to bring to Western," Tiffany Hill, a junior criminal justice major said.

Eric Boner, a senior economics major, agreed. "With a new president comes new strategies, inevitably bringing some change," Boner said.

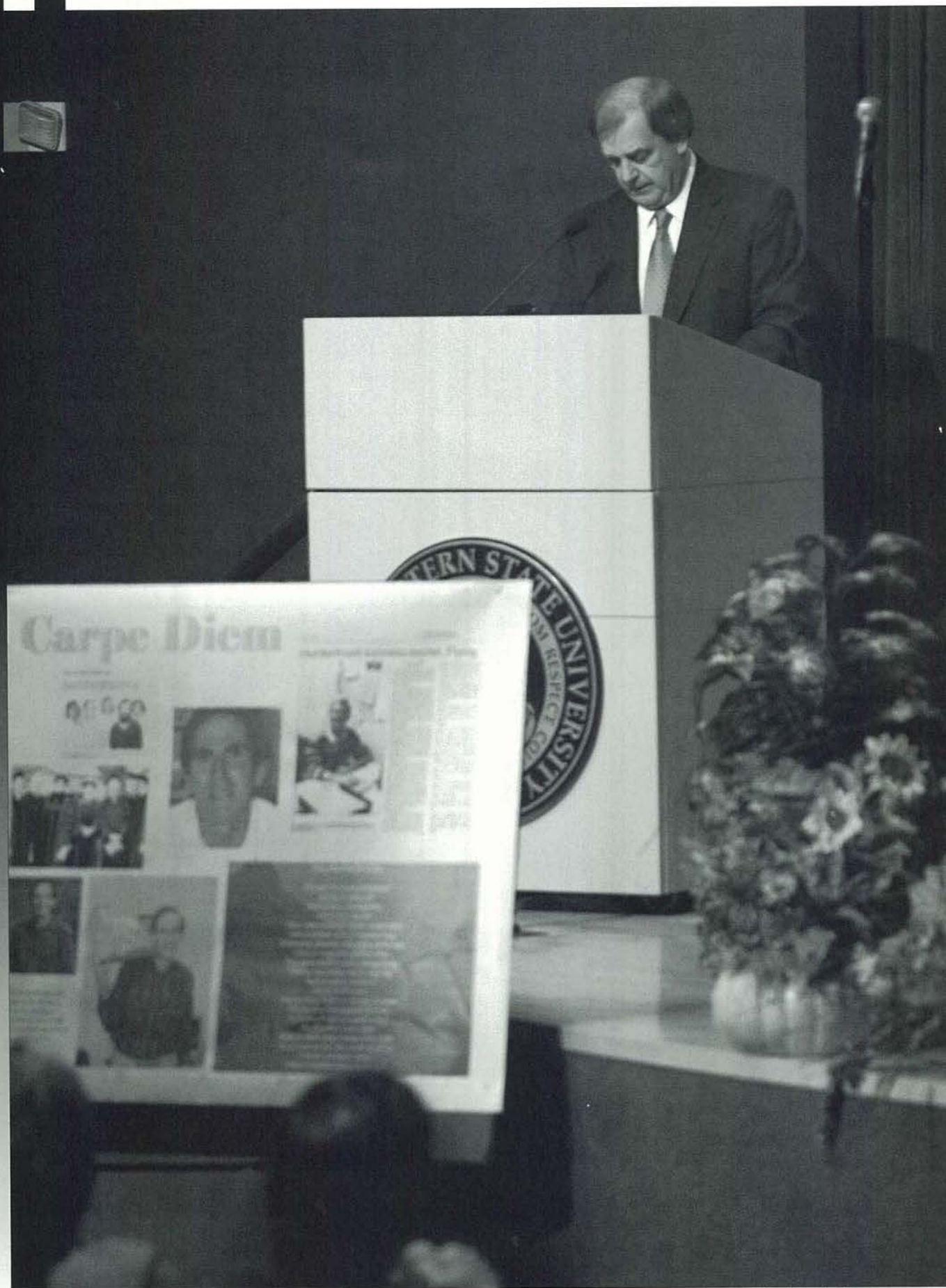
Western took a new step forward as a university with Vartabedian's inauguration. After that it became up to the students to live out Vartabedian's two challenges as they went out into the world, teaching others

from the education they received. Vartabedian then presented the inaugural address, describing his love of higher education and leaving those present with two challenges.

"One, never underestimate yourself and your capacity to give," Vartabedian said. "Second, in beating all the challenges in the days to come, let's not forget our sense of history and sense of traditions. In 1918, we chose the Griffon as our mascot. The Griffon is a mythological half-lion, half-eagle that protects the treasure of our education. With this history and tradition in mind, and all the wonderful things yet to come, let us roar like a lion, let us soar like an eagle, and let us always protect the treasure of higher education."



President Vartabedian brought new strategies to Missouri Western, such as his two challenges for students of which were to never underestimate yourself and your capacity to give and do not forget our sense of history and traditions. Photo by Harvey Jackson



James Huntermark, a psychology professor, passed away on Oct. 22, 2008, after teaching for 28 years at Missouri Western. Photo by Linda Shireman



More than a Professor

by Frank Nemeth

How is the success of a man measured once his time comes to an end? For former Assistant Professor of Psychology James Huntermark, the number of lives he positively affected defined success. By this, Huntermark was a very successful man. His popularity among his students and peers was shown in full force at his memorial service.

Missouri Western students, staff and faculty gathered at Kemper Recital Hall, Spratt Hall Room 101 to remember the life and times of Huntermark. Huntermark passed away Oct. 22, 2008 after teaching and touching a number of lives for 28 years at Missouri Western. As he cared deeply for his students, friends and family, his approach to teaching and life shall serve as a model for Missouri Western.

With a positive attitude and bright outlook on life, Huntermark's passions included teaching, travel, nature and baseball. Furthermore, each weekend he would fly to Florida, a state he loved where he trained his favorite animals, dolphins. At his memorial service, pictures and sounds of the beach in Florida were part of the presentation.

Huntermark's work ethic was unparalleled. "I always thought of him as the utility infielder of the psychology department, always willing to step in where necessary," said Phillip Wann, the chair of the psychology department.


Huntermark earned his bachelor's degree from Duquesne University, his master's from Marshall University and his doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

"He was friendly and helpful, always willing to fill in when needed," Dean Emeritus Martin Johnson said.

Huntermark loved teaching and his students. Despite the number of students in his classes each semester, he would remember each and every student's name and something personal about each one. Before each class period, Huntermark would arrive anywhere from 10 to 20 minutes early to talk with his students. Wann stated that Huntermark cared deeply about his students and developed close relationships with many of them.


He began his career as a social worker and used these skills in the world of psychology to stick it out. "Jim always had the heart of a social worker," Wann said.

An emotional moment in the memorial service came as Shawna Wolfe delivered a heart-felt speech that was filled with tears. She spoke on behalf of other students as she stated, "He was more than a professor."



Top: Students were visibly upset at the news of the death of a truly admirable professor. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: Described by the chair of the psychology department as having "the heart of a social worker," Huntermark developed close relationships with each of his students. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Bottom: Even at a mature age, Huntermark flew to Florida each weekend where he trained his favorite animals, dolphins. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



The government in the northern region of Sudan supplied the terrorists with weapons. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Story of Survival

by Olin Kinsey

As American children, we grow up believing and knowing that home is a safe haven, a place to rest and enjoy our lives. Unfortunately for Simon Deng, home was all of those things until the unexpected changed his outlook on his own home and life. Deng grew up in the southern region of Sudan with his family and friends until his village was attacked and invaded by Islamic forces in 1987 due to a war.

Deng witnessed several murders including his family and friends. As his village was destroyed, several of the village elders were killed, women were raped and beaten and children who didn't escape were turned over to the hands of the Islamics as slaves. Perhaps the worst event he witnessed was of his father's death right before his very own eyes; Deng was only 7-years-old. His father was next in line to be chief of the small village in which they lived in.

"There were anywhere from 100 to 30,000 boys who tried to escape from Sudan," Deng said. "We had to cross a river and the only way to get across was to swim. If you couldn't swim, you drowned, were eaten by the alligators in the river or killed by the soldiers who followed after us. They would chase us with spears and machine guns."

In 2001, the International Rescue Committee was one of many organizations who helped the "lost boys" resettle in the United States.

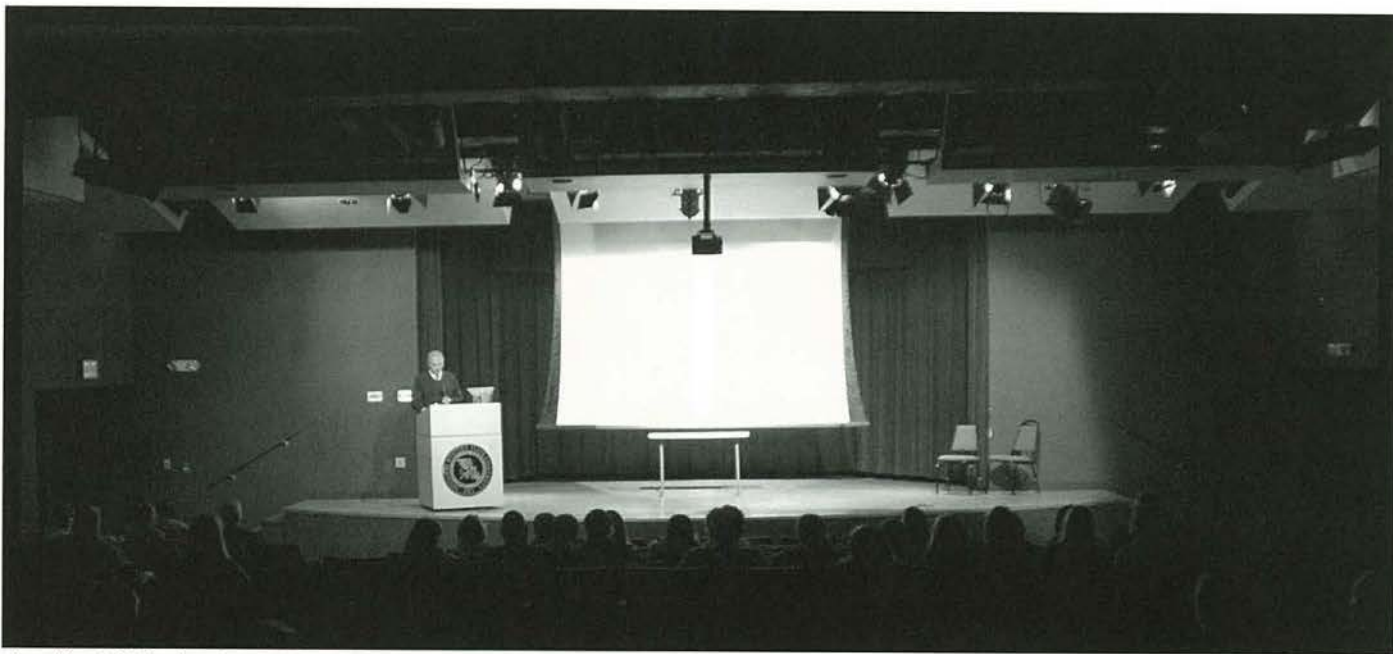
Every week, a list of names with 90 lost boys would be placed on the list for the refugees to be placed in the United States. Deng was able to come to United States on Sept. 19, 2001. The next day, he moved to Kansas City, Mo.

"The event was informative and touching," Center for Multicultural Director Tay Triggs said. "I learned facts about the history of the conflict between Christian and Muslims and the Southern Sudanese and Darfurians. I also realized that it is not enough to feel sorry for the lost boys, because we all have an opportunity and responsibility to get involved."

Several of the lost boys were still in southern Sudan. There were only 4,000 of them who were able to make it to the United States. Deng went on to note that one of the most important things he cherishes was an education. This was his one goal for coming to the United States, but other lost boys as well.

"I was moved by everything I saw and heard today," junior Patrick Banks said. "It wasn't easy to hear and see everything that the video displayed. It made me realize how blessed I am."

Deng reflected on his thoughts as a lost boy. "When I think about myself as a lost boy, I think about how I lost my childhood and lost my identity."



Roughly, 16,000 lost boys departed the southern region of Sudan, and only 4,000 made it to the United States. Photo by Linda Shireman

G.A.M.E. by EmmaLee Jones On Griffs!

Ln an effort to reach out to local children, Western hosted "G.A.M.E. - On Griffs!", an interactive program where student mentors were brought together with local parent-child teams in an effort to improve health among children. "We originally got the idea of preventive intervention to help middle school and elementary age children in St. Joe," said William Russell, assistant professor of health, physical education and recreation (HPER) and co-director of "G.A.M.E. - On Griffs!"

The program was the brainchild of Russell and Stephanie Corder, assistant professor of nursing and co-director of "G.A.M.E. - On Griffs!" "I completed some research looking at interactive video games and had always been interested in childhood obesity," Russell said. Corder, learning of his idea, jumped on board and the two began to plan the program, along with Diana King, assistant professor of nursing, and Justin Kraft, assistant professor of HPER.

The importance of the program was relevant in a culture where kids' "screen-time" was becoming detrimental to their health. Studies show that the chance of obesity has increased six percent for every hour of television watched per week and children watch 44 hours of television a week.

"St. Joseph really needs this program; we're not very physical and don't support activities," Chelsea Carver, a nursing student and mentor, said. "Hopefully, it will stick."

The two most important components of the program were the parents' involvement and the participation of the mentors. "We knew it would be a more meaningful message coming from someone they [the kids] got to know," Russell said.

Mentors had to show an interest in preventive health and have experience working with kids. "I wanted to learn more about how to interact with my community and with children," Carver said.

The activities for the event were chosen with the goal that the kids would enjoy them enough to do them at home. This meant that the games chosen often involved interactive video games.

Tanner Baldwin, a fifth grader at Pickett Elementary School, enjoyed swimming the most. The parents were also encouraged to do the activities and the biggest result hoped for was that of an attitude change in the children.

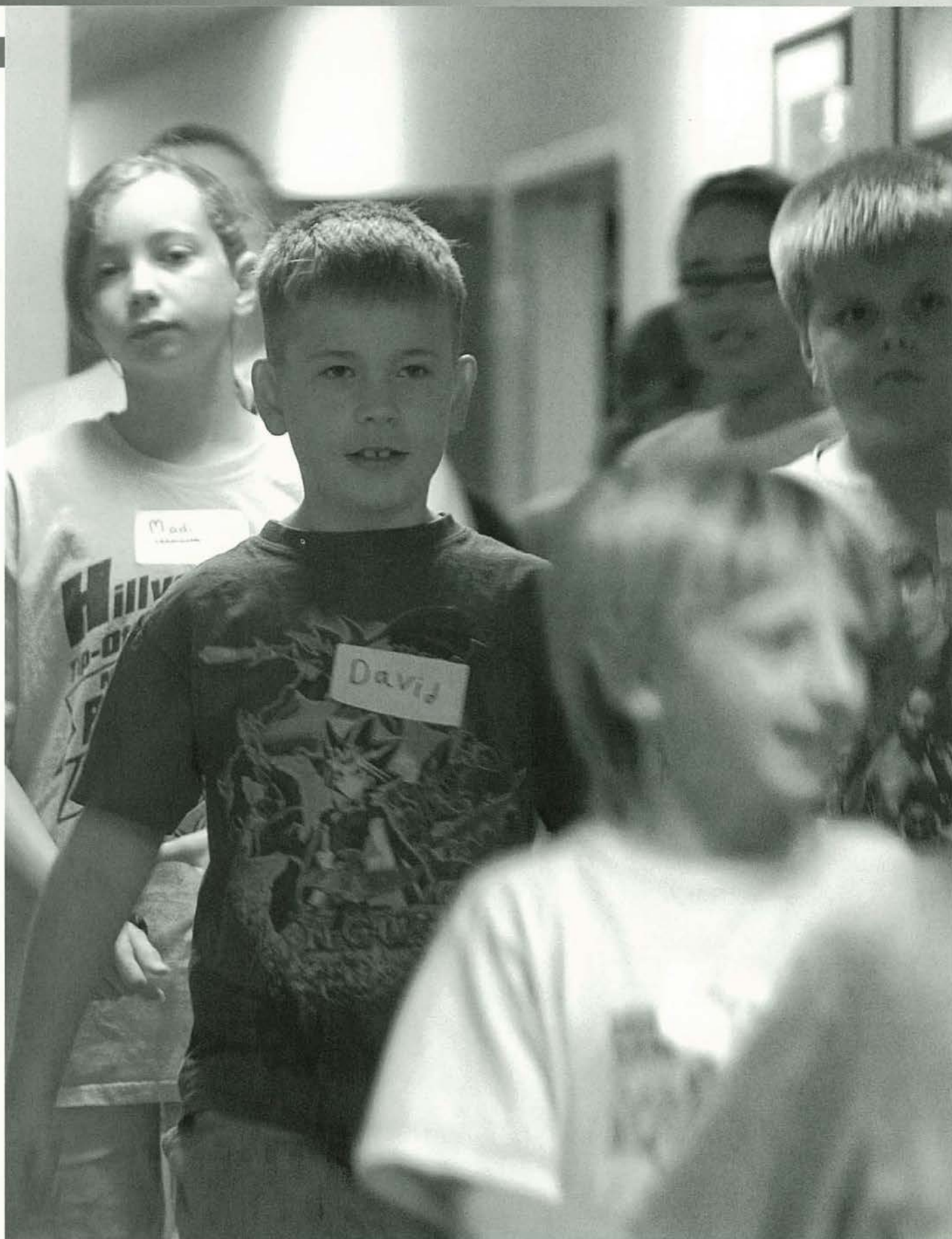
"If we can impact kids' enjoyment of physical activities...then they will be more physically active," Russell said.



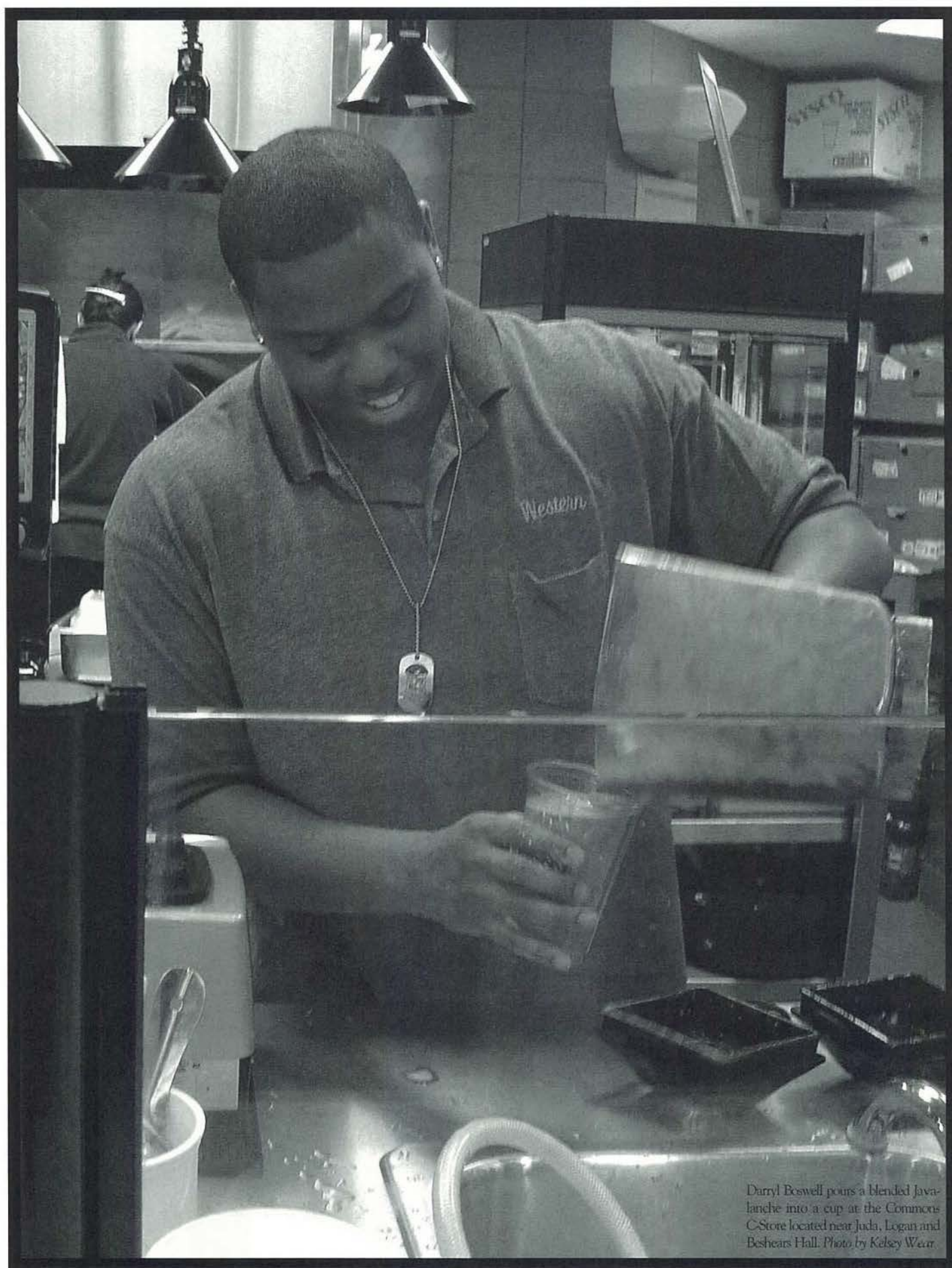
In order to get fit, kids engaged in scavenger hunts, Frisbee golf and Dance Dance Revolution. Photo by Linda Shireman



In the last year, the obesity rate in children has increased by six percent. Photo by Linda Shireman



G.A.M.E. On Griffs is a program designed to allow students to serve as mentors for children in the community to help them meet their goal to get fit. Photo by Linda Shireman



Darryl Boswell pours a blended java-lanche into a cup at the Commons C-Store located near Juda, Logan and Beshears Hall. Photo by Kelsey Wear.

Pros and Cons

by EmmaLee Jones

Minimum wage has existed since 1938 when the Fair Labor Standards Act was created because of the need for better laborer conditions and an improvement in worker's health and well being. In the last 18 years, the federal minimum wage increased from \$3.80 to \$7.25 and the Missouri minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.05. The Missouri wage increase from \$6.65 to \$7.05 took effect with the start of the year and the federal increase from \$6.55 to \$7.25 took effect in July.

The wage increase produced good and bad effects. "Our student employees are faced with pros and cons because of the wage increase," Student Employment Coordinator Matthew Gregg said. "Their paycheck will be more, but the government didn't increase our funds, so a compression has happened. In other words, financial aid has the same money to work with, but still has to give out larger quantities."

Stephen Corkins, a student aid in the library, agreed. "Overall, I think that the wage increase is a good thing for the individual, but a bad thing for the market. The increase forces employers to clamp down on creating new jobs and redirect their resources to paying wage increases."



On-campus employees like Julie Allen received \$7.05 for each hour he or she worked; however, college students could only work 20 hours each week. Photo by Kelsey Wear

Even those who were not paid minimum wage saw the pros and cons to the increase.

"The increase is a good thing because it helps students," Lauren Trenkle, a Michael's employee, said. "You can't survive on minimum wage, but every little bit helps. However, it can also be negative because it encourages people to attempt to try and live on minimum wage rather than getting an education."

No actual positions were reported as being cut either on or off-campus because of the wage increase, but there were reports of cuts in hours. Furthermore, this did not affect campus employment as much as off-campus jobs, because Western student employees were only allowed to work 20 hours a week. Gregg noted that this was a plus for working on campus.

"I hope the wage increase doesn't affect students wanting to work on-campus,"

Gregg said. "There are lots of pros to it and students are going to see more money going into their paycheck. Student employees can only work 20 hours a week, allowing for a balance of schoolwork and work."

Overall, the campus experienced a general sense of hope because of the minimum wage increase. Gregg summed it up with this basic idea: "Change is important for us to grow, but we are going to go through growing pains."

Blueprinted Lines

by Jourdan Huffman

With a school as lively and populated as Western, bustling with activity, the students climbing out of the woodwork, what more can we possibly add to benefit our campus experience?

The answer lies in the blueprinted lines of the newest addition to the Western family, Remington Hall. This 59,740 square foot building will be built east of Evan R. Agenstein Hall, that currently houses the chemistry, biology, mathematics, computer science and physics departments. Furthermore, Remington Hall will have a three-story glass atrium that attaches the two buildings to one another.

"It sounds like a very extensive project already," freshman Carli Wright said. "Obviously, a lot of time and hard work went into even the idea of adding a brand new building to Western's campus."

Remington Hall's name comes from the couple responsible for its construction, Wes Remington and his wife, Patsy, who contributed a substantial gift toward the \$37.5 million dollar project. The renovation will offer 120,000 square feet of technologically advanced classrooms and laboratories, a great benefit to the science and mathematics departments, nearly doubling the amount of space dedicated to these areas.

"The new facility will give students better opportunities to experience undergraduate science and mathematics, either as a major or non-major," Professor and Chair of the Biology department Todd Eckdahl said. "It will be a modern facility that supports the collaboration of students and faculty on applied learning projects."

With the completion of Remington Hall comes expansion and updated research facilities for students and more spacious classrooms. Spaces will be set aside primarily for group work and studying, which will be beneficial for any student majoring in mathematics or biology.

"As a nursing student, I am excited to see what Remington has to offer me," Wright said. "I hope to be spending a lot of my time there."

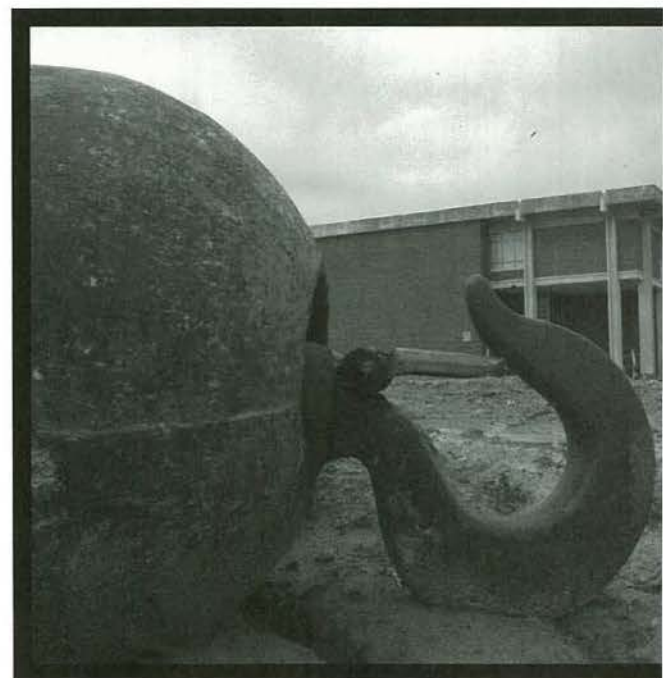
Inside Remington Hall, there will be new food outlets to enjoy such as Einstein Bagels. Students, faculty and staff look forward to the completion of Remington Hall, a place that will encourage the pursuit of more science and mathematics degrees. It will also strengthen the focus of those already majoring in a math or science-related field. Remington Hall will be completed in December 2009.

"We think with the additional money given, there is a lot of future heading into the sciences," said Wes who with his wife Patsy donated \$5 million in order for Remington Hall to be constructed. "We wanted to be able to enhance the area to allow higher education to increase within chemistry and the different areas. We want to see St. Joseph grow, as well as increase its future with higher education."

Top: Construction on Remington Hall began in the summer of 2008. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Middle: Construction stalled as rain and snow wore on during the fall and winter months. Photo by Carmen Smith

Bottom: With the completion of Remington Hall, new research facilities, classrooms and food outlets such as Einstein's Bagels will be added. Photo by Shawn Lesny





Remington Hall, a 59,740 square foot building, will be built east of Evan R. Agenstein Hall, the science and mathematics building. *Photo by Harvey Jackson*

Defeating the Odds

by Sarah Derr

Overcoming national averages and statistics, the Missouri Western nursing department defeated all odds. One hundred percent of the Spring 2008 graduates passed their licensure exam on the first try.

Missouri Western averaged 85 to 90 percent of all graduates passing the exam on the first try. These averages are consistent with the state and national averages. The exam, called the NCLEX, was a national certification test required to become a registered nurse.

Many students felt that the results would increase the popularity of Missouri Western's already bulging nursing program.

"I think that the program's reputation is going to be better because of this result," nursing student Denette Pasho said. "Its reputation was already good before this, though. I think that more people are prone to hear about the program and want to come here because it shows that it is possible to pass on the first try and that the program is effective in preparing students for the exam."

Professors worked hard to prepare students to pass the NCLEX exam. National tests were given at the end of each semester. These

tests gave students a good idea of how well he or she was doing in the program.

"Professors create their exams to reflect questions that one might see on the NCLEX exam, so that students have practice answering those types of questions," nursing student Carrie King said. "ATI is also a helpful resource. It's the Assessment Technologies Institute and has a website that has a lot of practice quizzes that prepare students for the NCLEX. The professors also include some of these tests as part of the students' grades."

Ironically, the Spring 2008 semester was also the first time the nursing program offered an NCLEX preparation course for graduating seniors.

"Obviously, the whole program prepares them for the exam," associate professor and nursing department chairperson Kathleen Andrews said. "We try to set our standards very high. Students really have to study hard throughout the whole program. The feedback we received for the preparation course was that it was very helpful. All the faculty work hard to make sure that they are testing the students at a rigorous level and making sure that they know the material."



Two nursing students perform life-saving procedures on a dummy. Photo by Heather Kietzman



The Missouri Western Nursing department overcame national statistics when 100 percent of nursing students passed the NCLEX. Photo by Heather Kietzman



The exam poses questions that reflect what nursing students have learned throughout their coursework. *Photo by Heather Kietzman*

FAFSA Frenzy

by Lauren Dillon

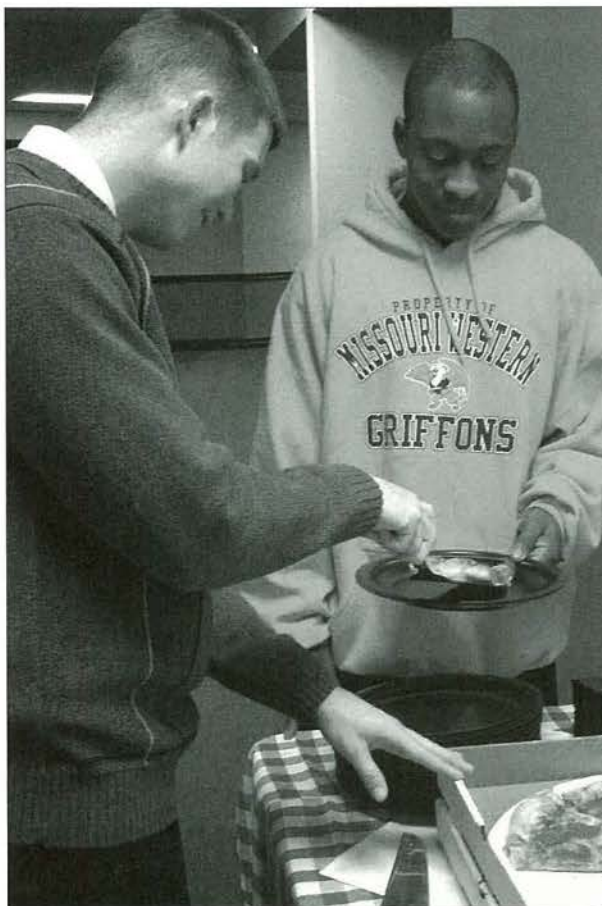
For college students, this date was one deadline that we dreaded the most. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as FAFSA, was mandatory for any student who wishes to apply for any type of financial aid. We all hated filling out this lengthy application, but it had to be done.

The Financial Aid office began to do something to help students and their parents fill out their FAFSA. On Feb. 23, *FAFSA Frenzy*, held by the Financial Aid office, had several Financial Aid coordinators on hand to help if need be and a lab full of computers for students to apply online.

Angela Beam, assistant director of the Financial Aid office, explained that though this was the first time the event was held, it was very successful.

"We intend to hold another *FAFSA Frenzy* on April 1, because even though the priority deadline has passed, people still need to get in their applications," Beam said. "We would like to target certain groups and have special events just for them, such as Greek Night, Sports Night or Honors Night."

Beam also said that anyone can visit the Financial Aid office anytime to get help with their FAFSA. Moreover, they do not have to wait for an event to come up before they can ask questions.



The Financial Aid office held *FAFSA Frenzy*, a night where college students could fill out their FAFSA with a delicious slice of pizza next to them. Photo by Kelsey Wear

Freshman Ceasera Robinson answered her FAFSA questions for the second time on Monday. She said that having people there to assist her with any problems she had really helped. She did not complain much about the length of the application, but rather the wording of some questions.

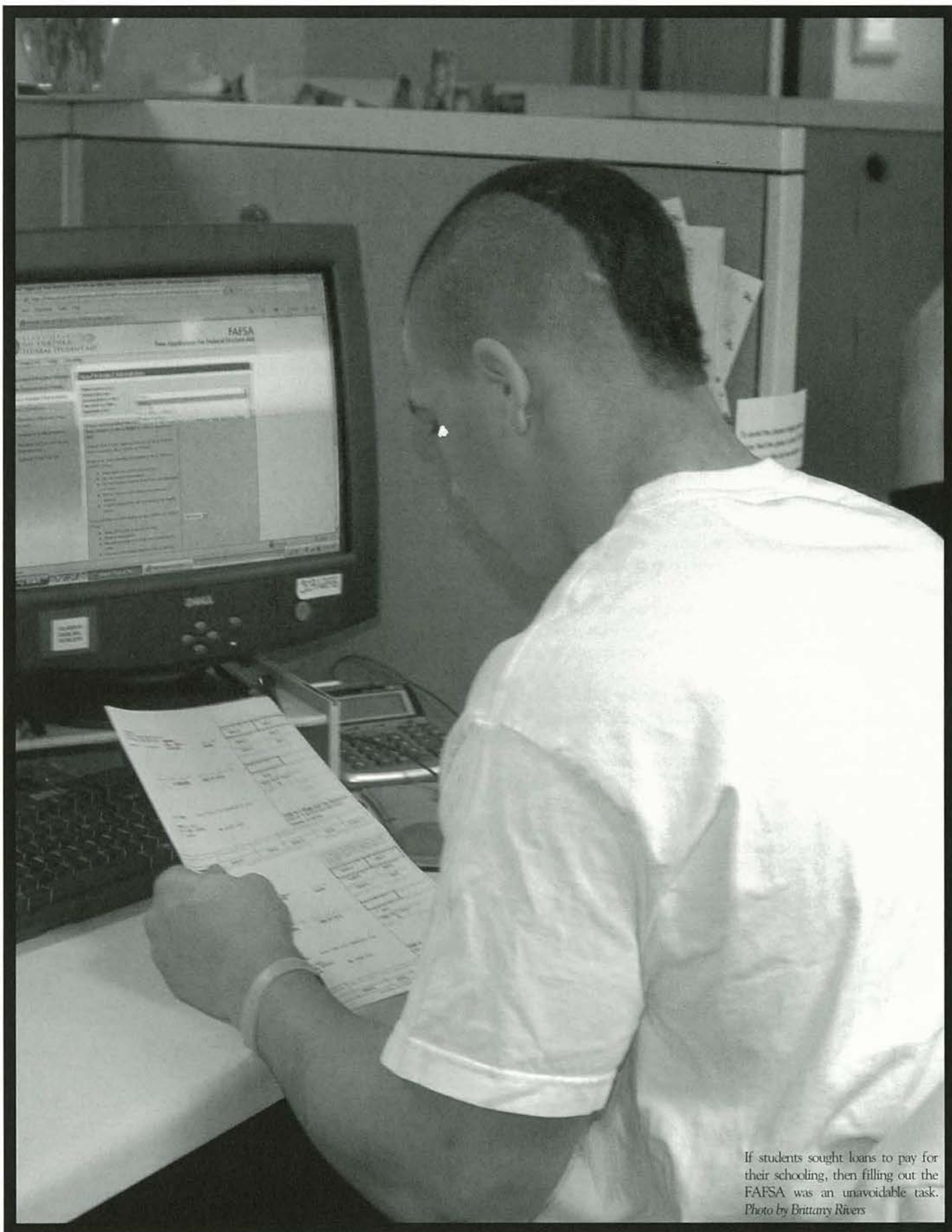
"The questions are difficult to understand," Robinson said. "I wish they were easier to comprehend."

Nontraditional student Charles Hanson said that filling out the FAFSA was nothing new to him. He had four kids in school. This was his third time filling out the FAFSA for his own benefit, but he had helped his children with their applications as well.

"Even though filling out the FAFSA is not fun, it really does help," Hanson said. "All of my kids received Pell Grants, so it really helped out with expenses."

Third-year student Ryan Scroggins said that he did not have any problems with filling out the FAFSA. It was not difficult, especially with the Financial Aid coordinators and the live help button that was available on the website.

"I have filled out the FAFSA several times, and I know I have to do it every year, so I guess that is why I hate doing it," Scroggins said. "Just knowing that it has to be done makes me not want to do it."



If students sought loans to pay for their schooling, then filling out the FAFSA was an unavoidable task.
Photo by Brittany Rivers

Road Trip for Justice

by EmmaLee Jones

The decision to take someone's life is an irreversible choice. It affects many more than just the killer him or herself. The three speakers at Missouri Road Trip for Justice knew this concept only so well. Road Trip for Justice focused on the inevitableness of human error, the need to research the death penalty more and the impossibility of perfection for the death penalty system.

Attending students were interested to learn more about the death penalty. "There's a lot of controversy over the death penalty, so it will be interesting to hear a different perspective," communications major Jesse West said.

Criminal Justice major Ryan Wallace was particularly interested in the first speaker Dennis Fritz. "I wanted to see what it is like to be convicted of something you didn't do and be lucky enough to get off," Wallace said.

Fritz was convicted of first-degree murder and rape and was sentenced to life in prison in Oklahoma. However, his co-defendant Ron Williamson was sentenced to death row. In 1999, DNA evidence exonerated both men. Fritz expressed his gratitude for being free.

"It is an honor to stand here today as a free man," Fritz said. "I couldn't say that several years back."

In a passionate stance, Fritz explained his presence at the assembly. "Mr. Williamson rode a rollercoaster ride out of hell for the death

penalty," Fritz said. "I'm here today, because I don't believe in the death penalty."

Linda Taylor, the second speaker, viewed the death penalty from a mother's standpoint. Her son, Michael, was sentenced to death in 1991. Taylor's words bordered on heartbreakingly poetic when she described her feelings after learning that her son was sentenced to death row.

"It felt like I fell beneath the earth, like I fell into hell," Taylor said.

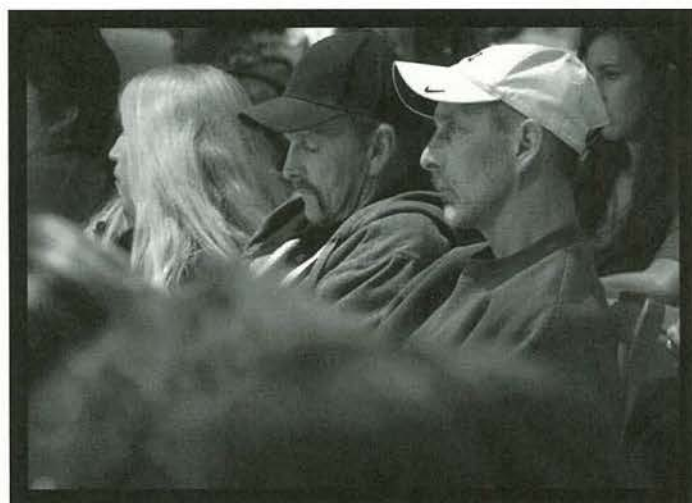
Bess Klassen-Landis, the third speaker, was 13-years-old when she came home from school to find her mother lying in a pool of her own blood. She forgave her mother's killer and worked to promote love and mercy for murderers for the sake of the murder victim's families.

"We have a deep hole inside us," Klassen-Landis said. "The state suggests we fill it with vengeance, but only when I could see my mother's murderer as a person, not a monster, could I begin to let go of the hate inside of me. If I can reach out in love, then I have not been destroyed."

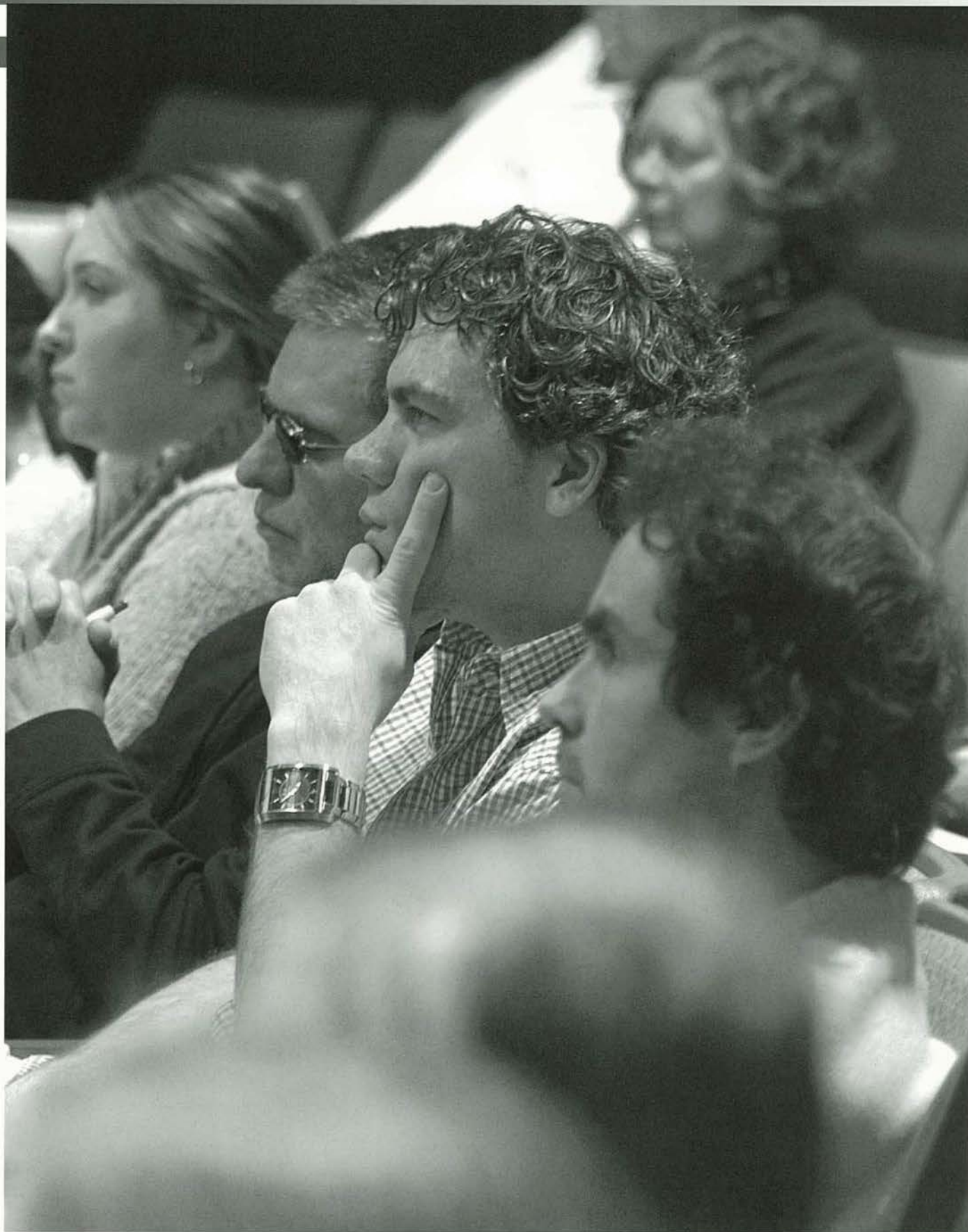
All three speakers discouraged the death penalty system because of its many faults and their own personal experiences. This event was the inaugural presentation for Road Trip for Justice, which afterwards continued onto other locations.



The first speaker, Dennis Fritz spent nearly 10 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of raping and murdering Debra Sue Carter, a waitress at the Coach Light Club in Ada, Okla. Photo by Linda Shireman



Road Trip for Justice encouraged students to consider the worth of human life and how the death penalty affected everyone. Photo by Linda Shireman



The audience listens as the third speaker, Bess Klassen-Landis states that she met and forgave her mother's killer. Photo by Linda Shireman



Western Military Division and ROTC participants Justin Mills and his date Mandie Nocita enjoy a night of festivities. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Military Celebration

by Olin Kinsey

Dining in is a formal military ceremony for members of a company or other unit, which includes a dinner, drinking and other events to foster camaraderie and esprit de corps. This has become an annual tradition for those who are in Western Military Division and ROTC.

This year, the keynote speaker featured Col. Christopher Hughes, author of "War on Two Fronts: An Infantry Commander's War in Iraq and the Pentagon." Hughes, a battalion commander, received worldwide attention for defusing a tense situation in the city of Najaf in the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As students, faculty and staff of the Western Military Division welcomed Hughes, who offered this piece of advice in hopes that others would follow.

"The things that I hold most dear in terms of being a leader are confidence, intelligence, common sense and the ability to set the example," Hughes said. "The ability to be bold, innovative and unafraid of risk."

Hughes spent a few moments talking specifically to students who were in various military training at Western. While sharing his past experience, Hughes asked that the soldiers in the room not forget the training they have learned from inside the classroom and outside on the fields. "When you leave this program, I want you to remember the enthusiasm, the integrity of these officers and this office."

Lolita Murphy, a Center for Student Engagement intern, attended the celebration. She found Hughes' speech to be somewhat informative for herself and her own struggles and life issues.

"What I liked most about what Col. Hughes emphasized was to 'learn from history, so that you yourself won't make the same mistakes,'" Murphy said. "I feel that's a concept that most people fail to remember."

Among a traditional speaker attending the ball, many traditions followed the evening's nightcap. Of great food, over two hours of dancing and a host of friends, the "grog bowl" may have been one of the night's biggest highlights. From the outside looking in, the grog bowl tradition may come off as a bit odd. After all, it's prepared from an actual boot of a soldier's uniform. While the Murphy explained that disgusting the audience was one of the main goals of the grog bowl traditions.

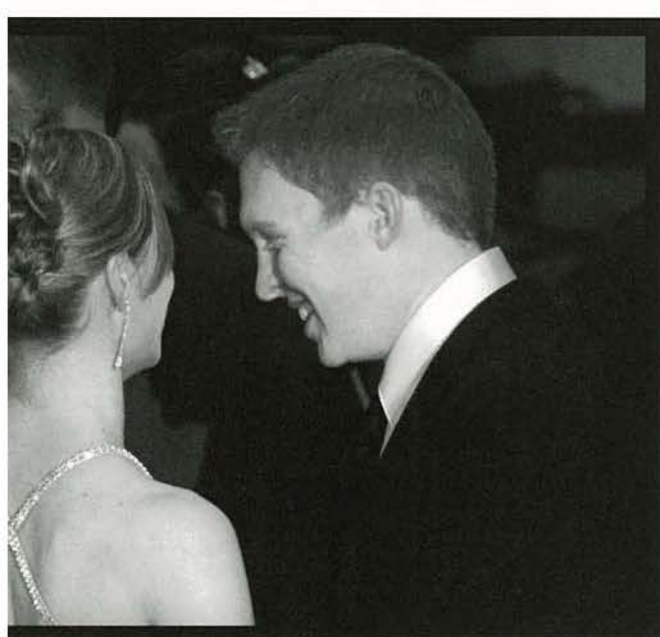
"The purpose of the grog bowl is to disgust, and amuse those, present," Murphy said. "Usually, having to drink from the grog bowl is a form of punishment and in reality, it's just the military's way of loosening up...it's a drinking game!"

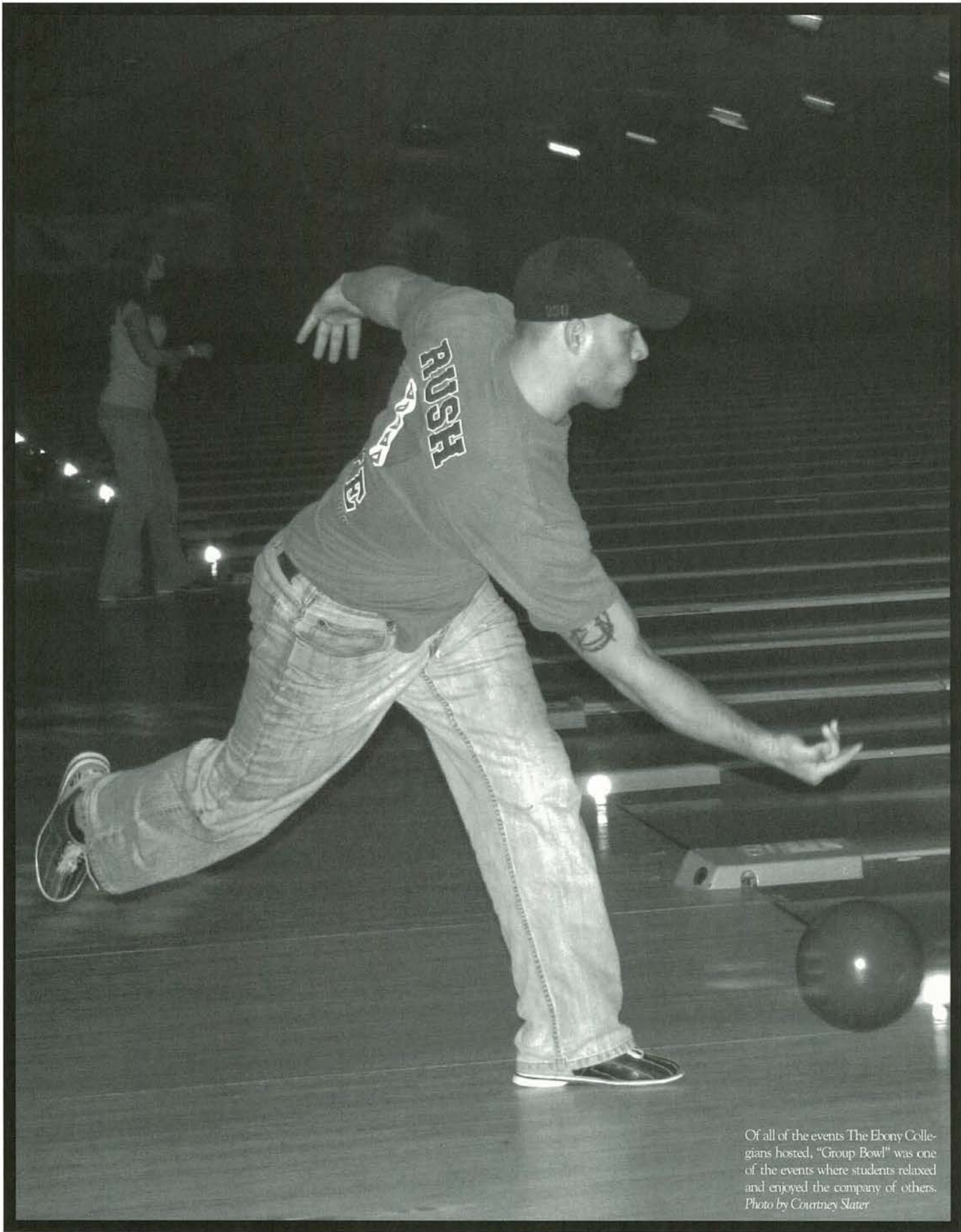
Of those in attendance who drank from the grog bowl was LTC Marcus Majure. Majure was professor of military science for the ROTC Pony Express Battalion Headquarter at Western.

Top: Col. Christopher Hughes book records the actions that were taken in Najaf, Iraq during a difficult mission early in the war. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Middle: Troy Kull, Morgan Eckles, Melissa Bledsoe and Andrew Moffett get into the right formation during the Military Ball. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Bottom: Northwest Missouri students also attended the Military Ball, uniting two universities for an evening. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*





Of all of the events The Ebony Collegians hosted, "Group Bowl" was one of the events where students relaxed and enjoyed the company of others.
Photo by Courtney Slater

Week of History

by Olin Kinsey

The Ebony Collegians started the week off with the ever-so spiritual and uplifting "Gospel Extravaganza" on the Sabbath day. This was one of the events that TEC has maintained a tradition since before the '90s. Every year, the organization invited several churches and religious organizations within the St. Joseph community to perform and spread an uplifting message through song and praise.

Students really took a shine to the "Night in the Looney" event held in the small gym of the Looney Complex. TEC hosted several games such as double-dutch contest, cards games and barbeque for those with an appetite. All of the proceeds were made to the organization to better future programs the organization planned on. Students found themselves reminiscing old memories of their childhood schoolyard.

"This week gave me an opportunity to relieve some stress and have a lot of fun," junior Precious Jones said after attending the "Night in the Looney" event. "It reminded me of recess when I was in elementary school. Most of the girls were playing double-dutch and the guys were shooting hoops; it was a lot of fun!"

The ideas for the different events scheduled didn't come at a spur of the moment. TEC treasurer Ashanti Hazley said that TEC discussed the events for weeks.

"When coming up with daily events, TEC had open



Carmen Smith, an Ebony Collegians member, challenges students on African-American history. Photo by Heather Kietzman

discussion during our meetings which is a time for anyone who has idea to present it to the general body and we go from there," Hazley said. "There have been a few occasions where we have called people into our meetings to poll them on different ideas we have come up with it."

TEC set out seven scheduled events for the week. Aside from the two most popular events of the week, TEC also put on the "Black History Challenge" in honor of Black History Month. This was a test to challenge each student's knowledge and memory about past events within African American history. TEC organized a series of questions describing certain events and moments in history that required students to think back to their history lessons.

Alongside the Black History Challenge, the Black & White Social, the Rap Battle, a day dedicated to community service and "Group Bowl" at Belt Bowl. TEC even offered free shuttle rides over to the bowling alley.

"I was glad I didn't have to drive tonight," junior Randel Logan said. "I was so amped about going bowling since it's been a while, but when I found out they had free rides, that just gave me an even better excuse to go."

For over 15 years, TEC has been one of the longest running minority organizations at Western. TEC continued the tradition of their annual "TEC Week" with a line-up of educational and interactional programs to the Western student body.



The first annual Hot Wheels Derby brought the St. Joseph community and campus together. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Hot Wheels Derby

by EmmaLee Jones

The Center for Multicultural Education hosted a unique intramural activity on April 11 in the Looney Complex Arena. This was the First Annual Intramural Hot Wheels Derby. What made the Hot Wheels Derby so unique was the fact that it was not Western students participating in it, but local elementary children and their parents even racing their hot wheels. The first 120 participants received a free hot dog, chips and drink and participants were encouraged to bring their own car. Although, there were also cars provided for those who needed them.

Faith and Dearien Courtney participated in the Hot Wheels Derby with their two boys as a family event. "My boys are taking a home school physical education class with a Western professor who told us about the derby," Faith said. "We both thought it was a great idea."

Marceil Flatt, who had five grandsons, competed in the Hot Wheels Derby, felt there were many benefits to it. "Hot Wheels help develop motor skills and all boys like cars," Flatt said.

Flatt could not help, but smile as she talked about her grandsons playing with hot wheels. "One of their favorite cars is Spider-

man's car," Flatt said. "I try to buy them whenever I find them, because everybody wants the same one."

Dearien admitted that he had about as much fun as his sons playing with the cars. "Guys like cars and this is especially fun because it is a family deal," Dearien said.

Faith also enjoyed it. "I just like racing," Faith said.

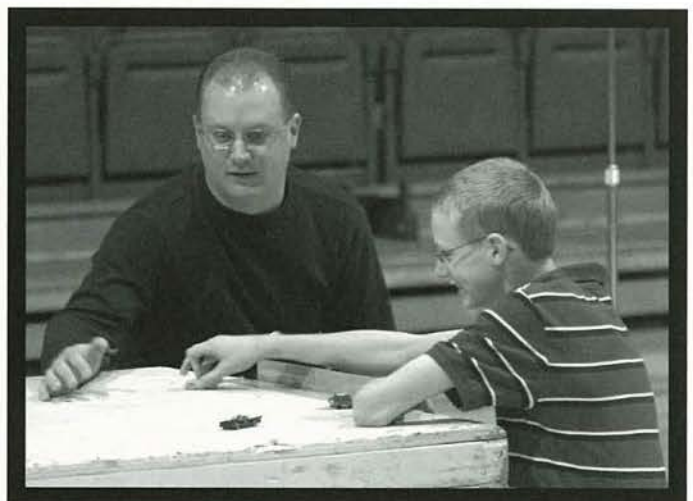
Dearien and Faith felt that playing with Hot Wheels toys fostered imagination for their two boys.

"I give applause to the person who thought of this," Dearien said.

According to www.wikipedia.org, Hot Wheels was introduced by Mattel in 1968 and was the main competitor of Johnny Lightning and Matchbox cars until Mattel introduced Matchbox in 1996. Mattel has licenses with General Motors, Ford Motor Company, Chrysler Motors, Ferrari, Mazda and Toyota to produce 1:64 or 1:43 scale cars. Mattel also produced accessories such as tracks for their Hot Wheels line, as well as the "Sizzlers," rechargeable electric cars, "Hot Line" trains, "R-R-Ramblers" motorcycles, "Hot Birds" airplanes and the half-human, half-machine "Farbs." There were almost 10,000 models of Hot Wheels cars.



Hot Wheels were popular among many ages. Photo by Linda Shireman



Hot Wheels came in many shapes and sizes one of which was the Spiderman car. Photo by Linda Shireman

Affordable Care

by Jourdan Huffman

The stability of health insurance was something that students may have easily overlooked in the process of getting settled into life as an individual, but it was actually one of the most important things to consider. While some family health insurance plans will continue to cover college students, those plans can be canceled at anytime. Students will ultimately be faced with some tough choices at some point.

"College students really don't realize how important it is to have good health insurance," Heartland Regional Medical Center Nurse Jeana Haggard said. "It's not only a beneficial aid, but it is very necessary, because you never know what life is going to throw at you, and you need to be prepared financially for an unexpected injury."

A recent study found that 30 percent of college students did not have any type of health insurance. Furthermore, more than four million students across the country paid for any health care needed out-of-pocket.

The study also discovered that those students without health insurance were far less likely to make it through the four or five years necessary to graduate from college than those who were covered by a health insurance policy of some kind. Students without a health insurance plan were often forced to drop out of school to work to pay off their medical bills.

A simple illness such as the cold or flu could have quickly and easily been treated with antibiotics or other prescription drugs. However, if you were an uninsured college student, living on a very limited budget, you may have had to miss several days of classes, because of untreated illness. Furthermore, you could fall behind on class work, because you could not afford to see a doctor or pay for a necessary prescription.

"I'd like to be able to take a break from school if I need to, and not have to worry that I won't be able to go to the doctor if I break my arm, or that I won't be able to get the correct treatment I need," sophomore Lexi Moore said.

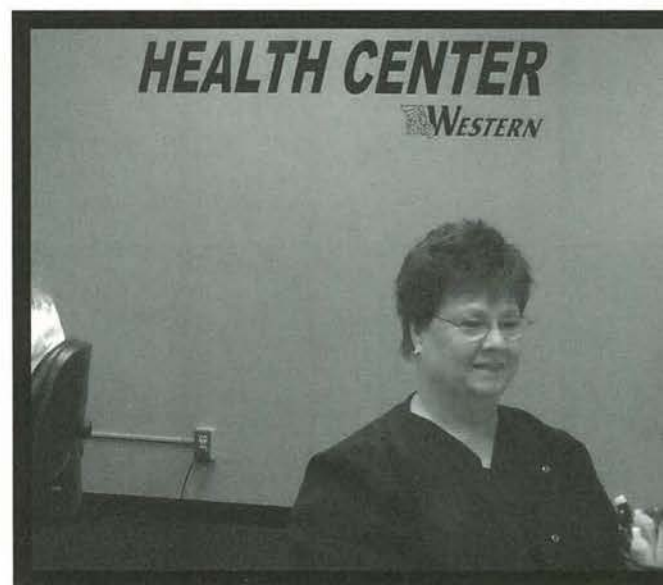
For students who did not have health care coverage, there were options. A student could contact the nearest hospital and ask about income-based clinics in the area. Since student incomes were generally not on the hefty side, students usually paid nothing or only a minimum required amount. Some of these facilities even provided yearly check-ups, birth control and prescriptions as a bonus.

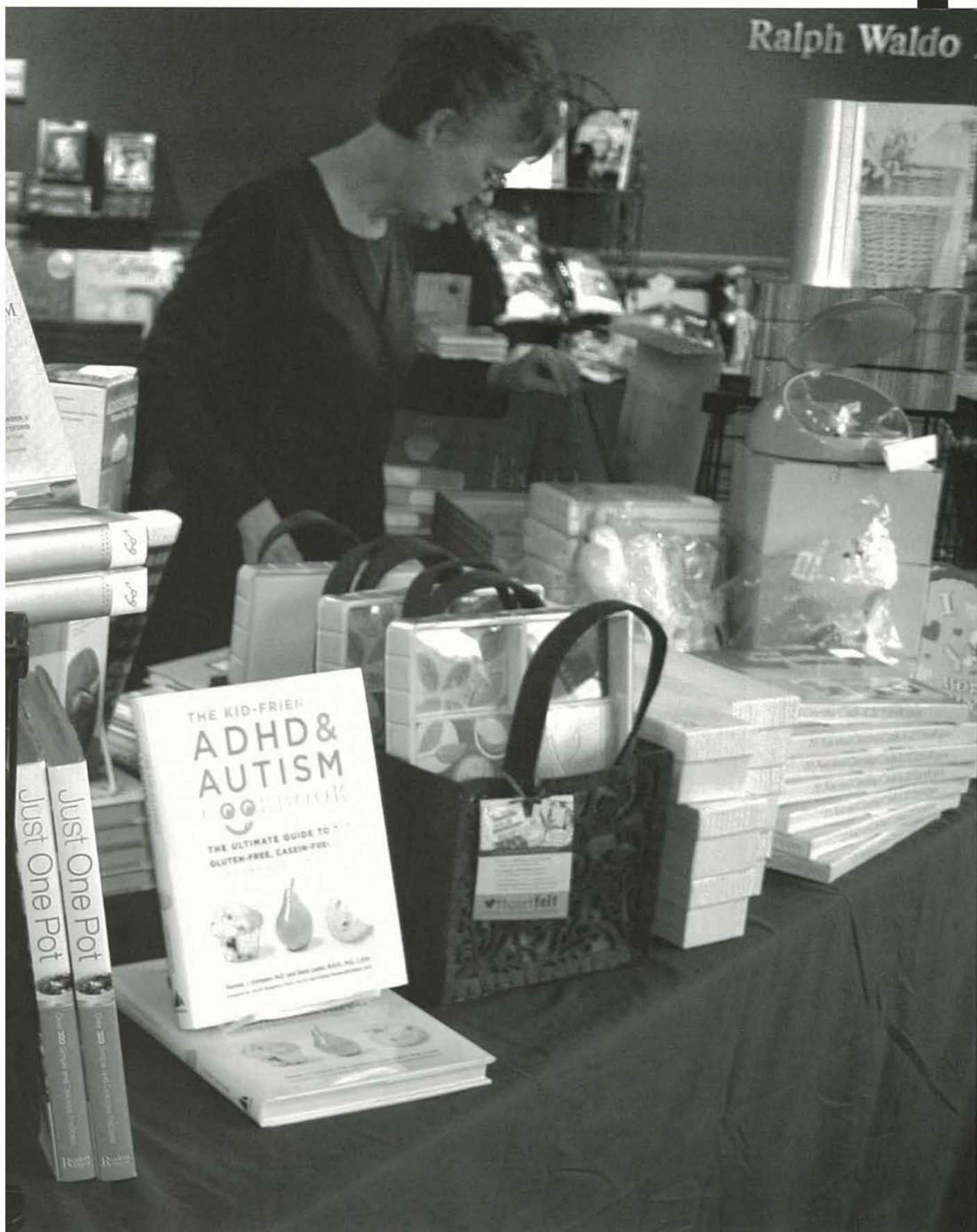
"Health care is just something you can't avoid," sophomore Emily Unzicker said. "You never know when you are going to need it, and in my opinion, it's better to be safe than sorry."

Top: The Esry Health Center offered services such as allergy injections, contraceptive treatment and pregnancy testing. *Photo by Kelsey Wear*

Middle: A Health Forum was held during the spring semester to educate students on basic health information. *Photo by Heather Kietzman*

Bottom: Students do not pay a health fee at the time of registration; however, other charges do apply in terms of medication and services. *Photo by Kelsey Wear*





Toward the end of the spring semester, the Esry Health Center offered a book fair to help educate students about health issues. Photo by Heather Kietzman



Jeannie Harmon-Miller loved watching her students mature personally and as artists. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Capturing Minds

by EmmaLee Jones

Art is problem-solving," Associate Professor of Art Jeannie Harmon-Miller said. "It is also very very personal and ongoing. You can keep working on the same problem over and over again. That is why so many artists work in series." These were only a few of the attributes that Harmon-Miller confessed to love about art, attributes that she would continue to love even after retiring in the Spring of 2009.

Harmon-Miller arrived at Western in 1975 shortly after finishing her graduate studies at the University of Kansas. When asked why she chose to take this job Harmon-Miller described the story almost as though it were fate for her to come to Western.

"There was a job opening looking for someone with not only photography experience, but also design," Harmon-Miller said. "I majored in photo and design theory. There was no photo or graphic design program at Western before I came along. I also started an internship program within the photo and graphic design program."

Harmon-Miller had also taught for a short time at the University of Kansas after graduating from graduate school and before coming to Western.

Harmon-Miller could not help but show her mixed feel-



Unlike her sisters who were book-smart, she liked to make things with her hands and draw. Photo by Kailey Alexander

ings as she talked about leaving Western. "I'm mostly excited, not to leave, but to have a lot of time," Harmon-Miller said. "I want to make art and travel with my husband. However, I will definitely miss the majority of students."

Harmon-Miller's love of working with young people was what inspired her to be such a great instructor and what made her unique. "I love helping students create and grow in confidence and understanding of the art world and of photography," Harmon-Miller said. "I love watching them absorb and produce and get excited about what they just created. I call it the 'aha moment' when all of the sudden it just all clicks."

Harmon-Miller grew up with a love of art instilled in her from an early age on. "I've always loved art and was good at it," Harmon-Miller said. "I had three sisters who were all book-smart and excelled in that. I didn't, but I

loved to draw and make things. I navigated to one because I wasn't good at the other."

Harmon-Miller admitted that it was nearly impossible to separate her job from the rest of her life and that it would be a big change after leaving Western. She did plan to continue mentoring art students on campus as a way to stay connected with the student body and further her enjoyment of the art world.

The End or Just the Beginning?

by Jourdan Huffman

You've spent the last four years attempting find the fastest route to take to your classes when you were running late, studying for countless exams, regurgitating a hefty amount of material, suffering from at least a million hand cramps after writing all those papers and of course, dealing with the rest of your life outside of the walls of Western. But here it is, Graduation Day.

"After five years and four different majors, I am ready to graduate," speech communications major Jordan Martinosky said. "But it's weird to think that this journey is coming to an end and another adventure is about to start."

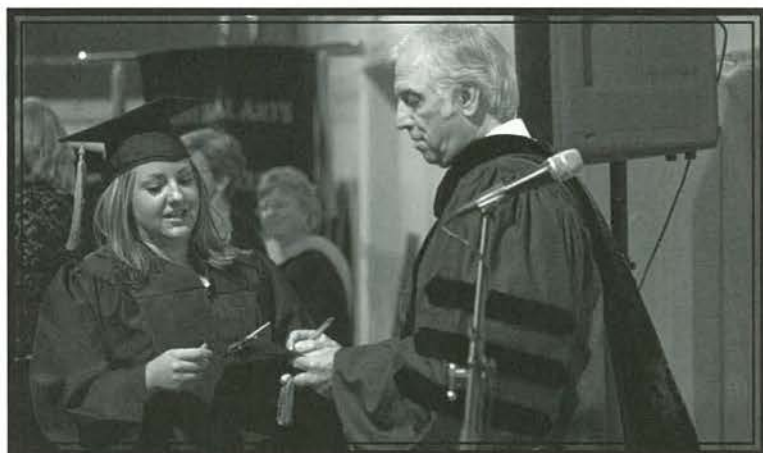
The prospect of graduation seemed to be bittersweet for a lot of the graduates. In so many respects, it was incredibly exciting. After all that hard work, it was finally over. The rest of your life can now begin. On the other hand, the comfort zone that Western had become for so many students would now be stolen away. The real world was calling, and you had no choice but to answer.

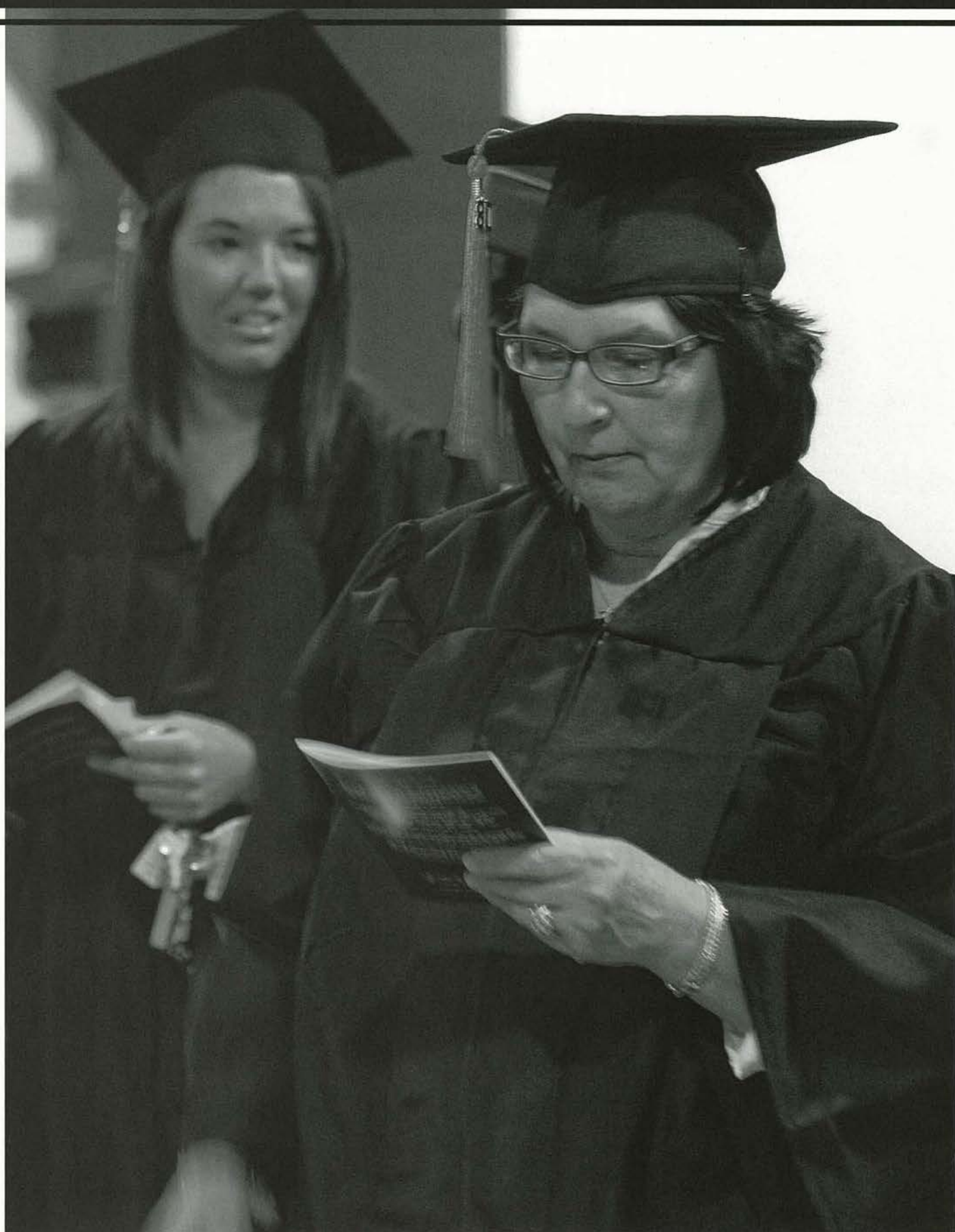
"I'm not sure if I'm ready," organizational communications major Spencer Moss said. "Regardless, it's happening, and I guess I just have to go with it."

continued on page 139

Top: Professors also joined in the commencement activities. Photo by Linda Shireman

Bottom: Depending on the degree at hand, some students graduated in the early afternoon and others later in the afternoon. Photo by Linda Shireman

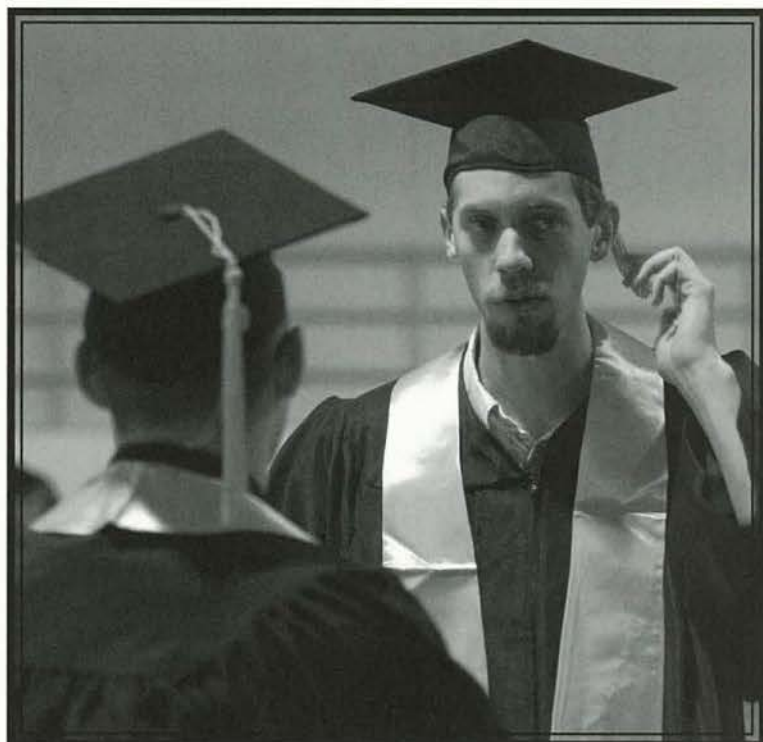




Whitney Smith, in the background, looks on for family and friends. Photo by Linda Shireman



It was a rocky start to a new life as graduates prepared themselves to enter into a looming recession. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



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There was so much to think about when it came to graduation, like the ceremony itself, the career planning and the graduation party. But what about Western? What about the people that every graduate this year was leaving behind? "I will miss the professors," Moss said.

After all the time spent at Western, there were so many lessons learned along the way. These graduates walked away with so much more than a college degree. "I have learned that life is about so much more than your GPA," nursing student Emily Jones said.

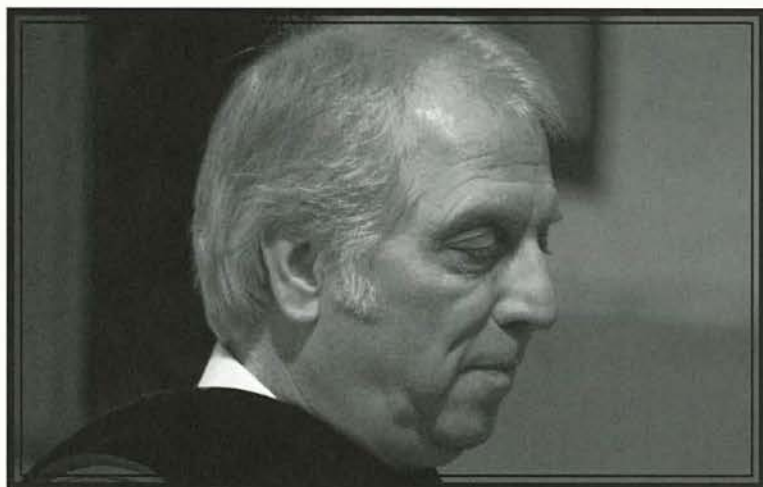
The economy and its blunders have put a bit of a damper on the job market availability. But for many graduating students, this will not hinder their hopes at being successful. "I am nervous, because in this economy, it is really hard to find a job, but I am hopeful and I am going to remain positive," Martinosky said. "I just have to think that there are a lot of opportunities out there for me and it's my job to find them."

Regardless of the risk that will come with heading out into the career force, the graduates who left Western should be proud of what they have accomplished. But what if the journey doesn't end here? What if Western was just a stepping-stone on the way to every graduate's destiny? What if the lessons learned in these halls were just the beginning? "I do feel like a graduate," Jones said. "But the learning will never stop."

Top: Depending on the degree one received also depended on job availability in this looming recession. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

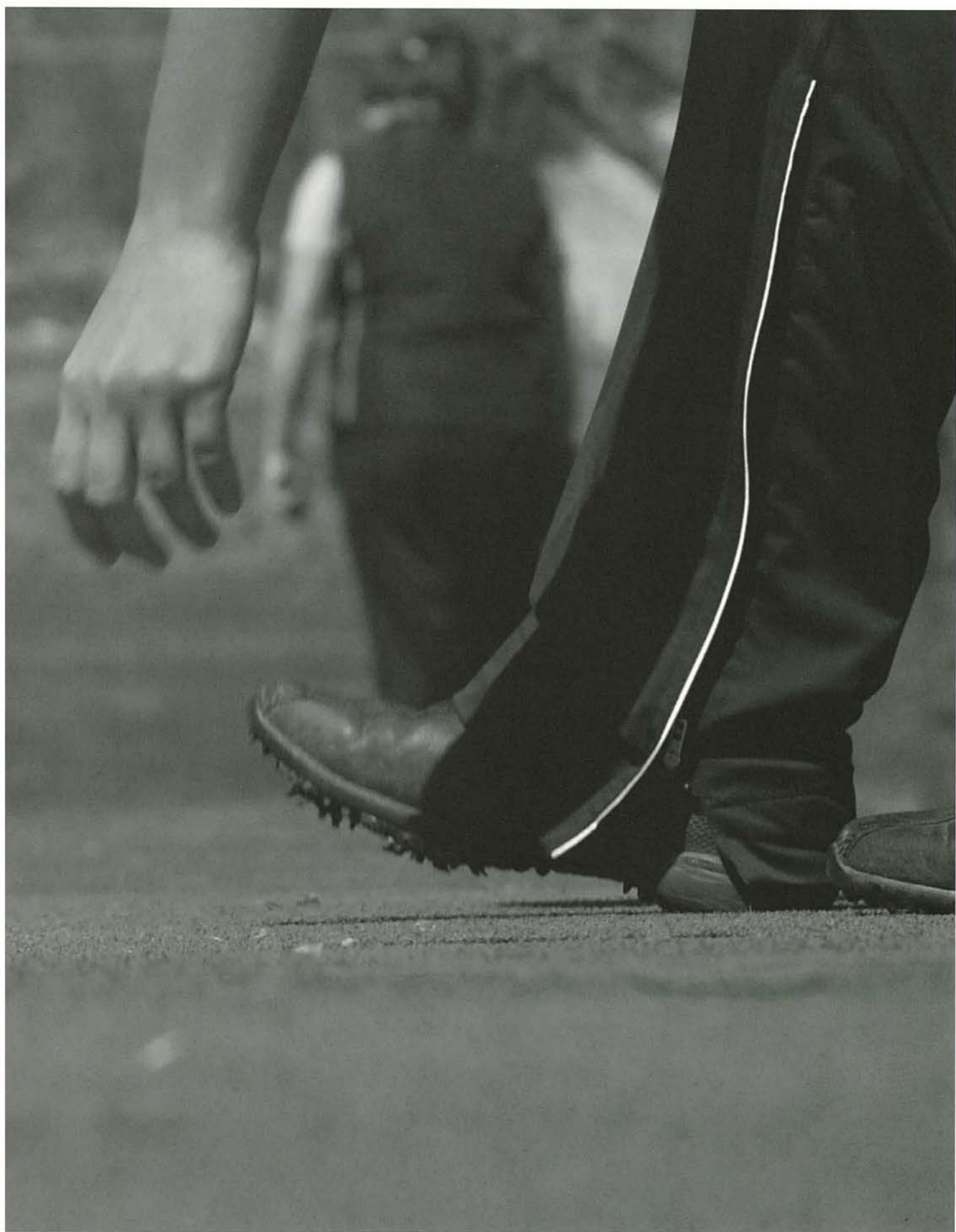
Middle: During the spring graduation, the first recipients of master's degrees made their way across the stage to receive their diplomas. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

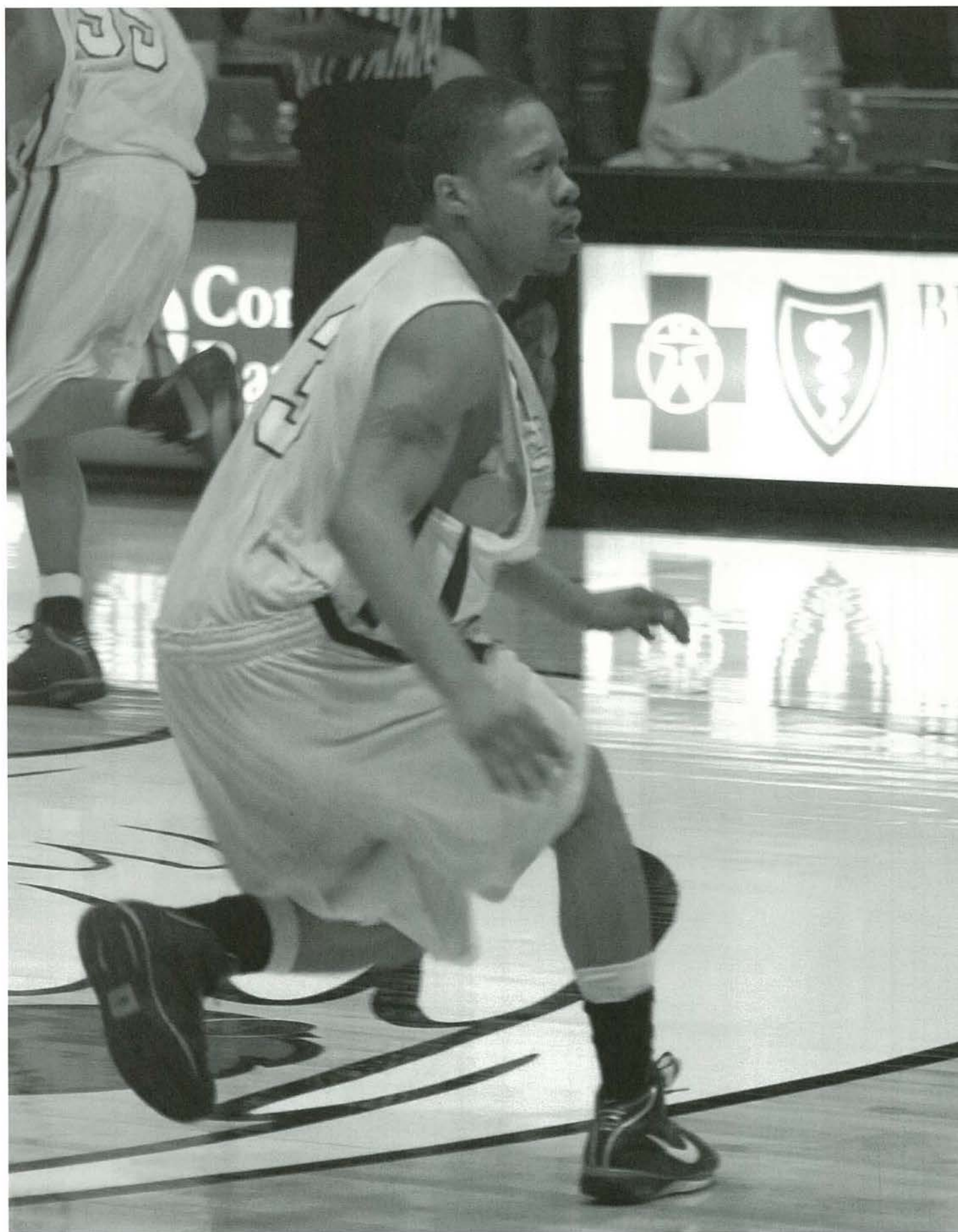
Bottom: Family and friends of graduates gather in support of their graduates. *Photo by Linda Shireman*





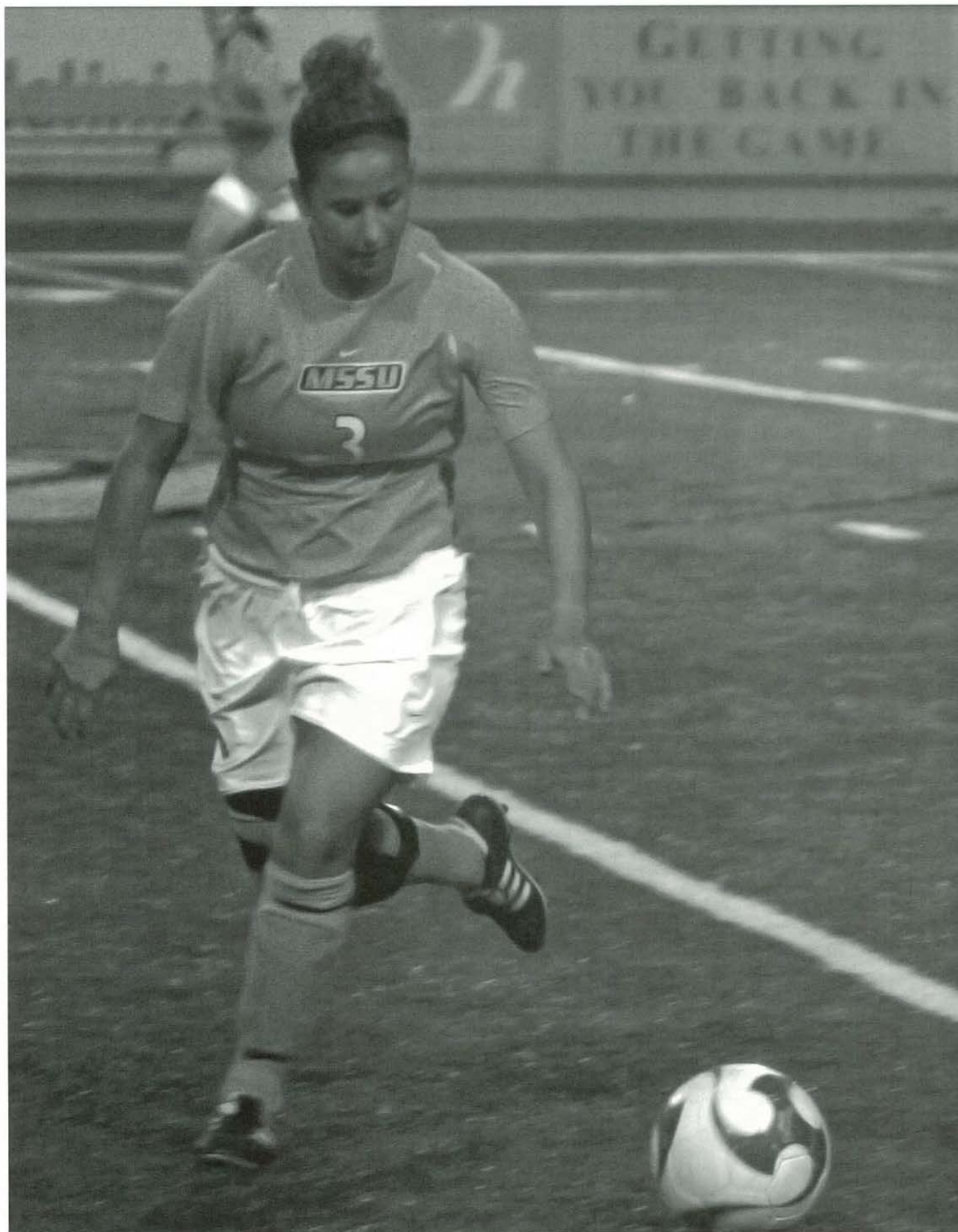
The Women's Golf team competed in the fall and spring semester. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*





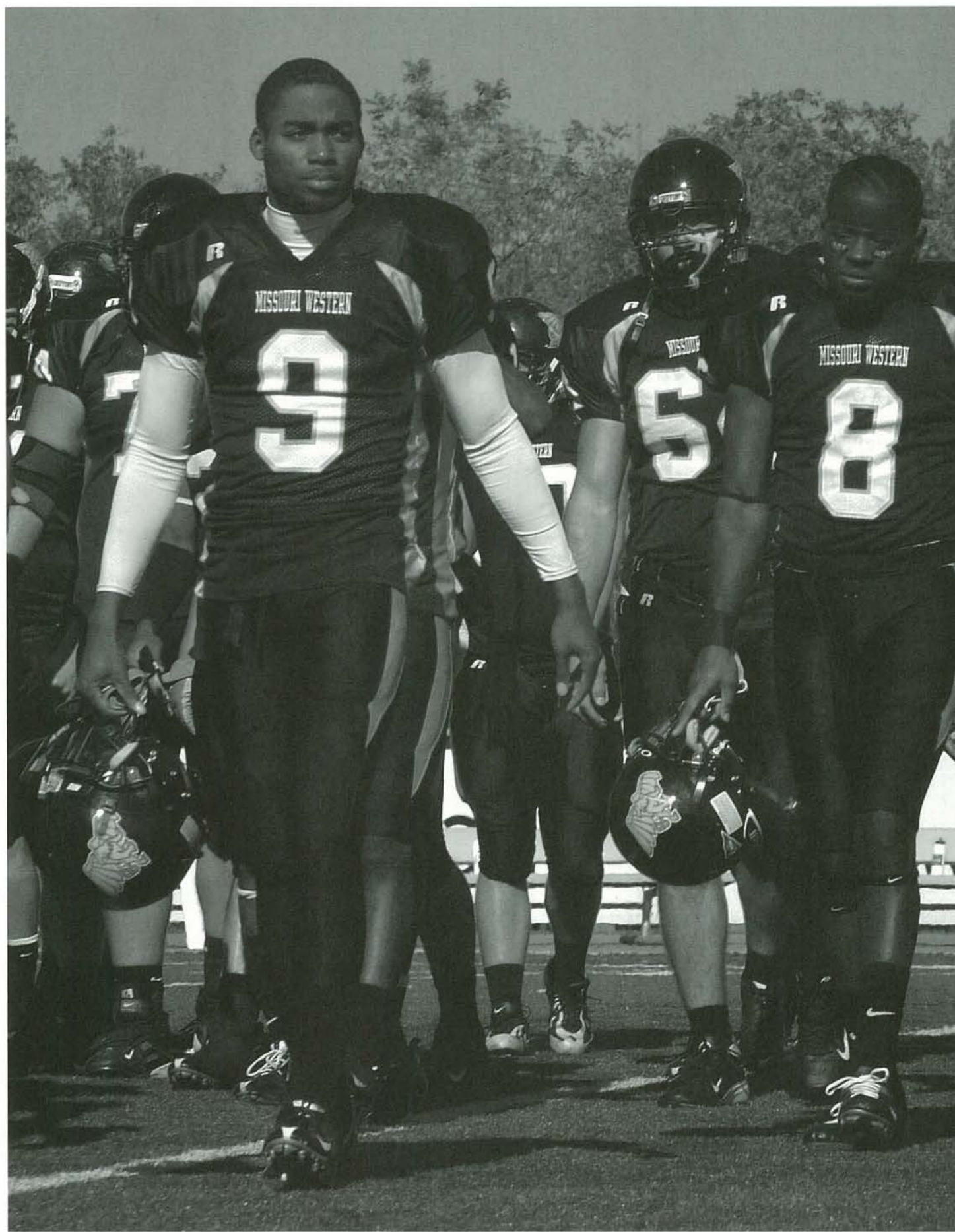
A Missouri Western player goes in for the ball. *Photo by Linda Shireman*





The Women's Soccer team was the newest addition to athletics. *Photo by Marty Ayers*





The Men's Football team face the battlefield. Photo by Harvey Jackson





ATHLETICS

**“But you do it because
you believe in your team,
yourself and Missouri
Western.”**

• “Understated Heroes” page 153

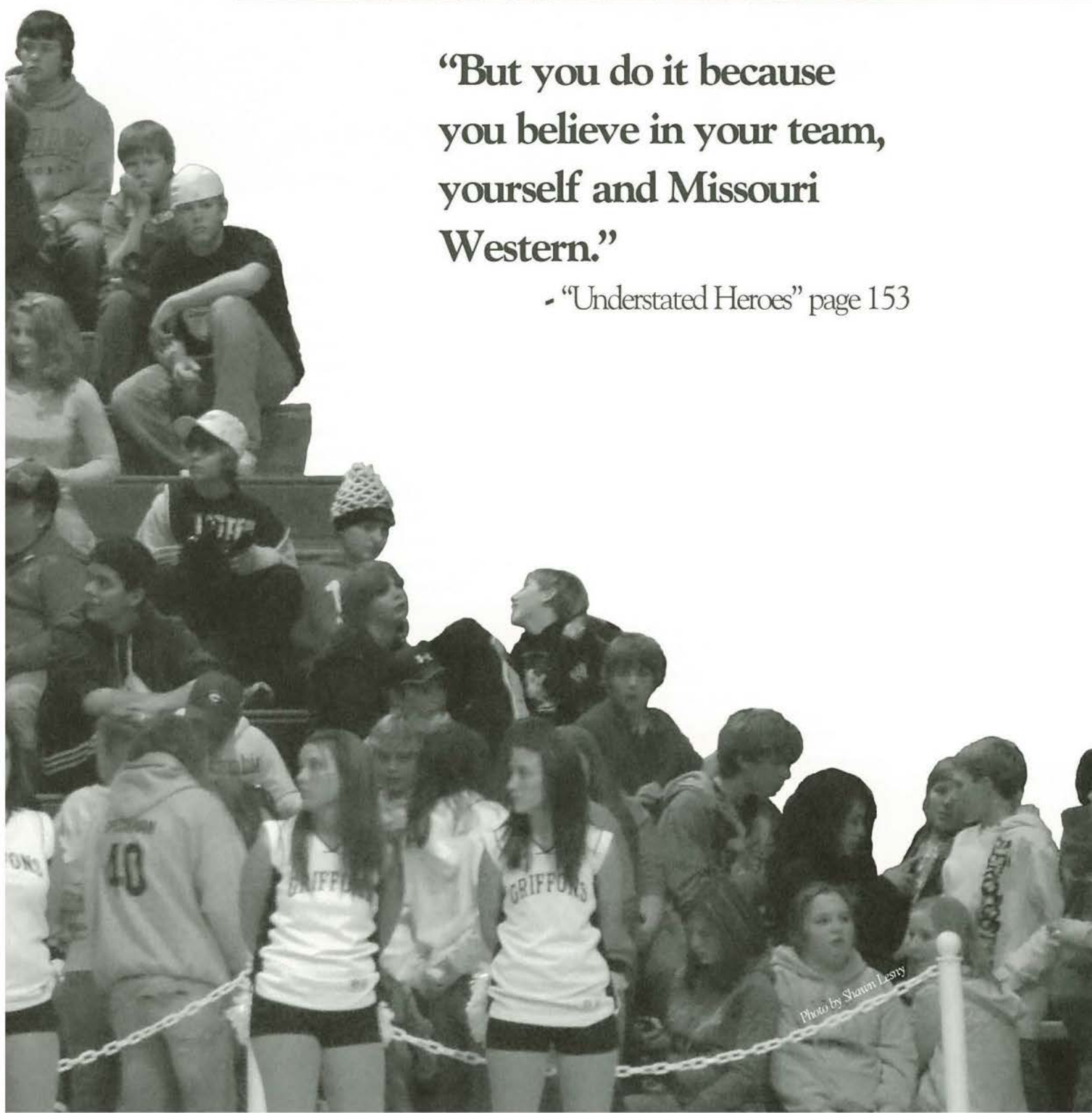
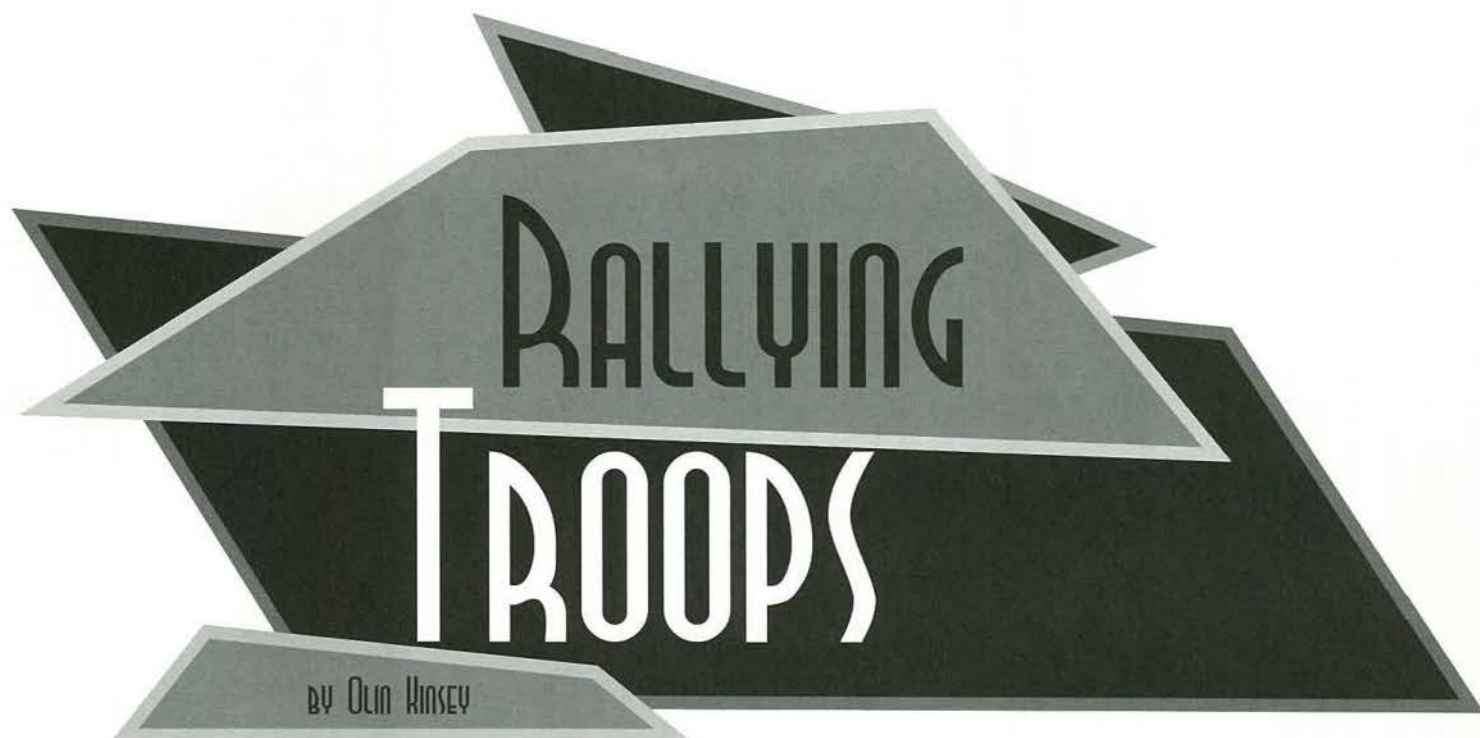


Photo by Shawn Lesby



RALLYING TROOPS

by Olin Kinsey

This season, the Griffon Football team overcame many challenges and obstacles that have given them no reason to throw in the towel. The men finished the season with a 6-5 overall record. Once again, the Griffons advanced to the 43rd Annual Mineral Water Bowl, leading fans to see how the hard work that they have put into the season has paid off. In 2007, the Griffons brought home the championship trophy after winning the 42nd Annual Mineral Water Bowl; now they plan on doing it again. Furthermore, the Griffon fans are riled up and ready for the outcome of the game.

"This season has been off and on with the team, but I know they will win the Water Bowl," Griffon fan Kristen McKinney said. "Everything they have worked for boils down to this very game."

Greatness may be achieved at the Mineral Water Bowl, especially since the Griffon Football team won four of the last five games they have played. Coach Jerry Partridge was certainly pumped up and ready for the bowl.

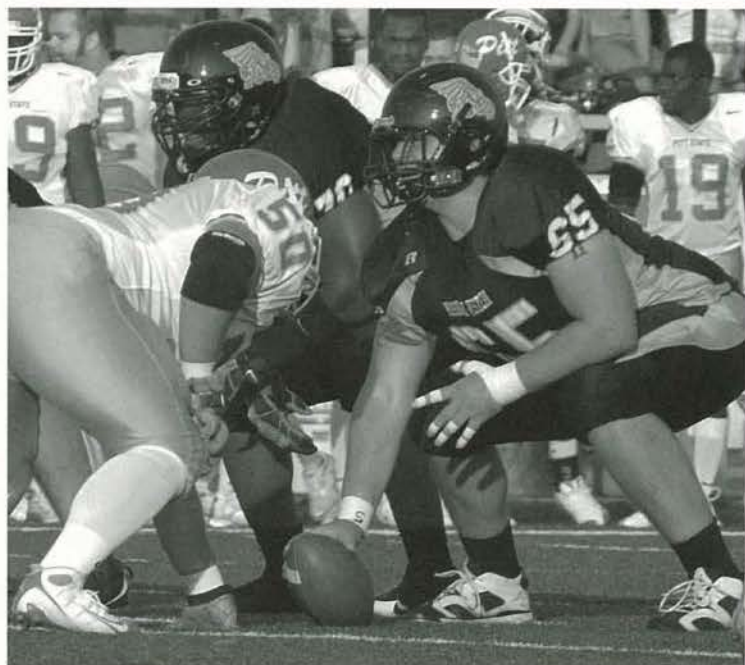
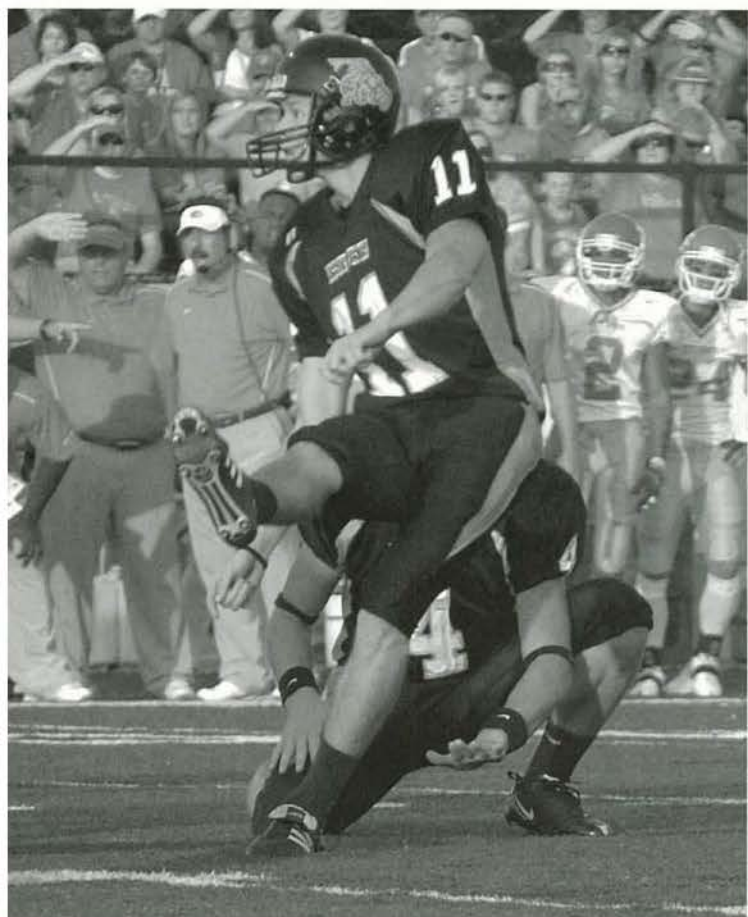
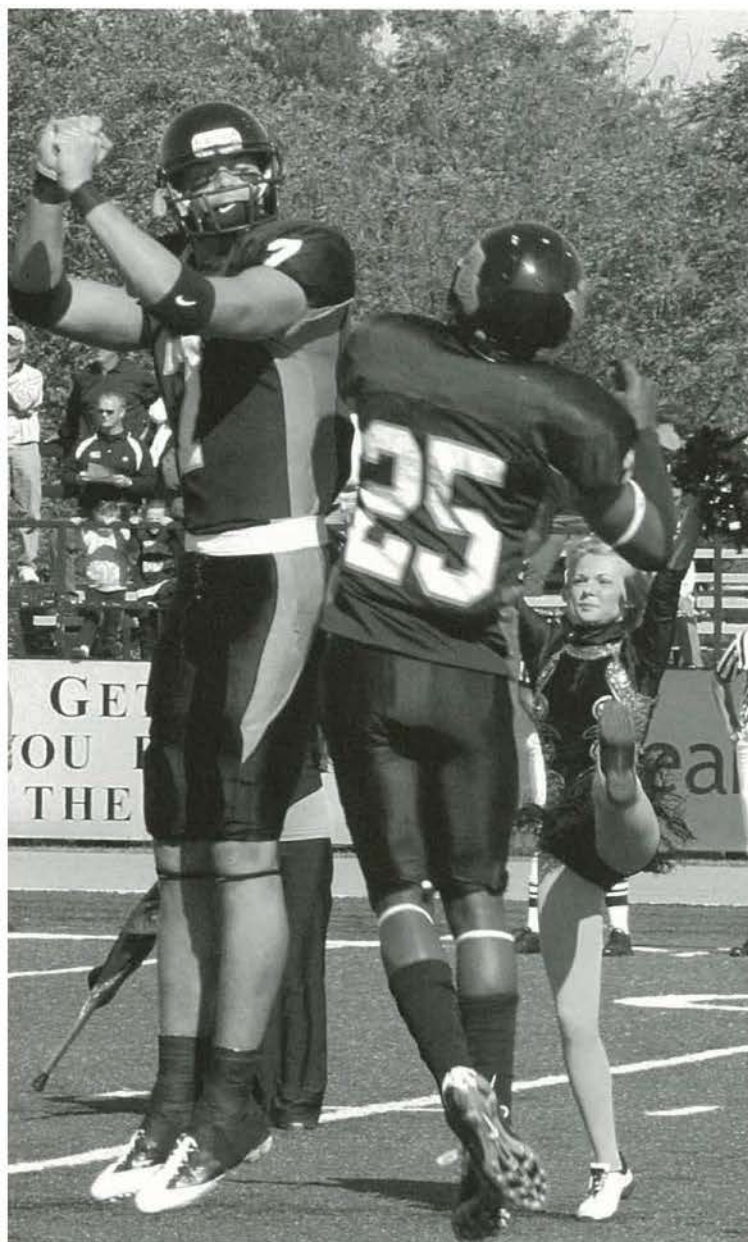
"2008 was an up and down season with some heart-breaking losses," Coach Partridge said. "The last two were done in dramatic fashion with last second field goals. It was very satisfying to rally and salvage our season."

But the season ended and now, and the Griffons had even bigger fish to fry for the upcoming Mineral Water Bowl, which Partridge was already aware of. "We will be facing a very good Augustana squad with two excellent running backs. It will be a great challenge, but we are capable of winning our 34th game in the last four years."

Pittsburg State and Minnesota-Duluth were two schools that gave the Griffons a run for their money. Perhaps the biggest upset this year was falling to our rival school NWMSU, in what would have been a great victory for the Griffons. The Griffons had a trailing lead over NWMSU, until the Bearcats pulled a touchdown on the final play of the fourth quarter.

Quarterback Barron Bradshaw felt that the team faced challenges on the field that may have been the best one for the team or the worst. Whether good or bad, the Griffons kept one another motivated in order to step out on the field.

"There are always major challenges you face as a football player," Bradshaw said. "Some decisions had to be made during games that affected the outcome of that particular game. As a player, we have to motivate ourselves. Our coaches can't actually do the job for us. As long as we trust each other, we can push each other to get better and the motivation will come."



Left: The football team's overall record was 6-5. Photo by Kailey Alexander

Below: Kicker Dusty Strickler prays at each goal post before the start of every game. Photo by Harvey Jackson

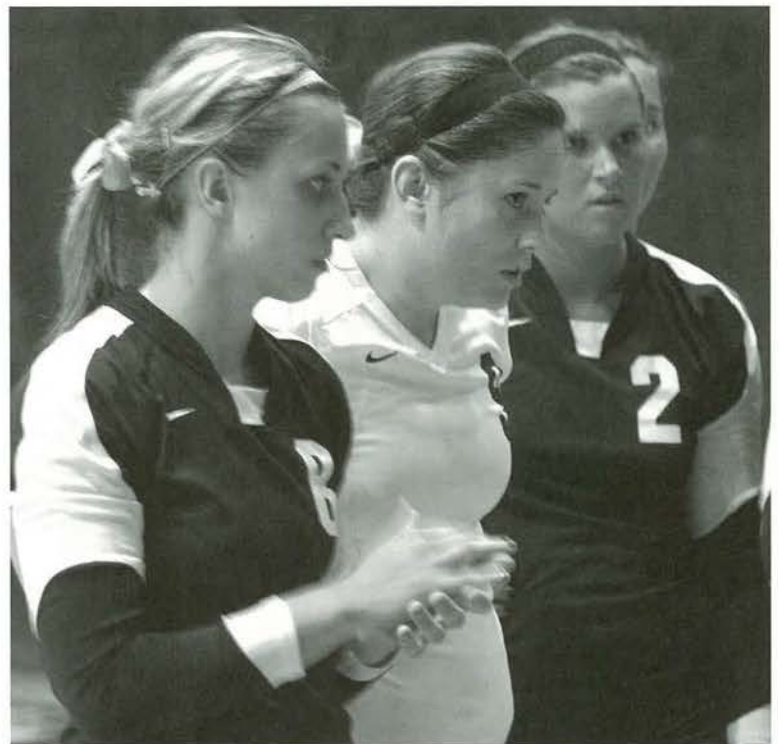
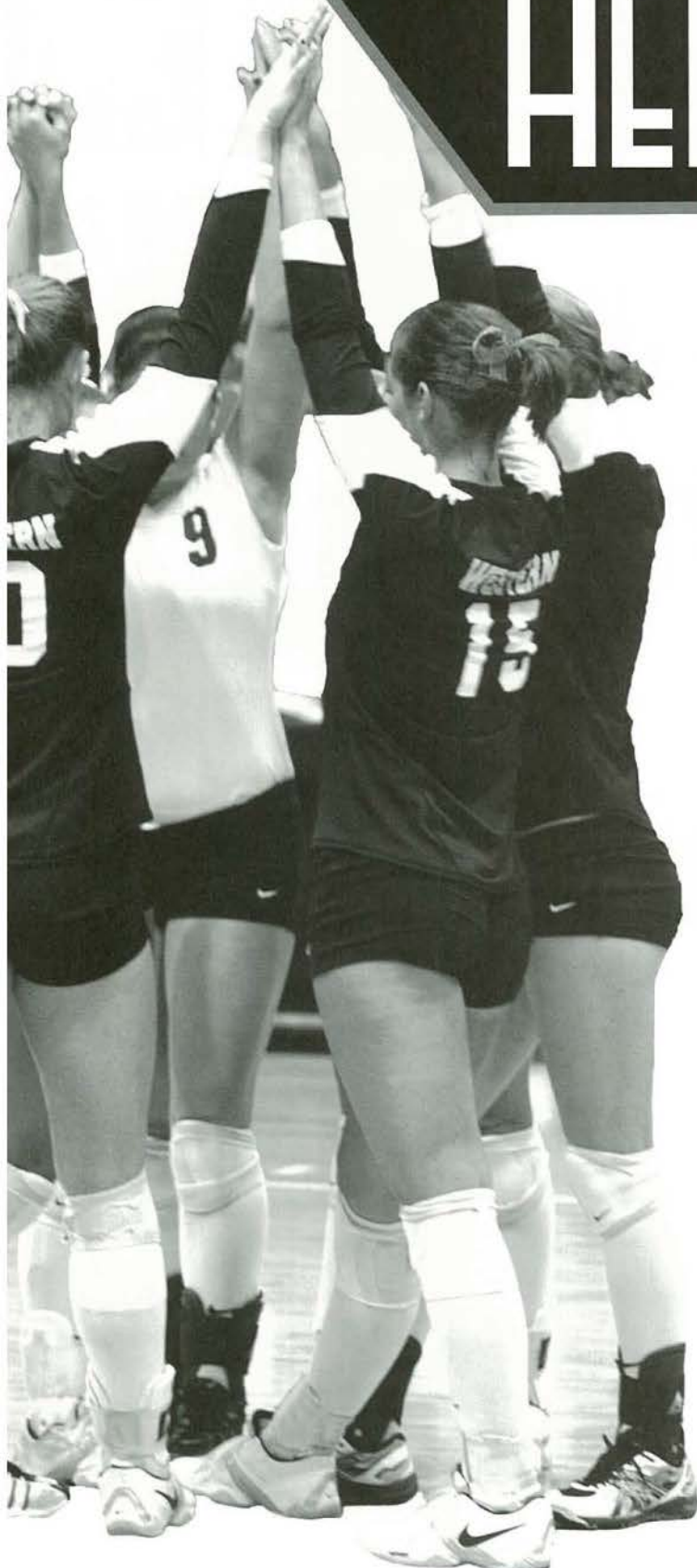
Top: Receiver Ferrell McGhee ran solid routes throughout the fall season. Photo by Harvey Jackson

Middle: The Griffons fell to Augustana College in the Mineral Water Bowl, 37-16. Photo by Emma Piehl

Bottom: Offensive Lineman Lance Neal played in all 12 games with one assisted tackle during 2007 season. Photo by Harvey Jackson

UNDERSTATED HEROES

BY JOURDAN HUFFMAN

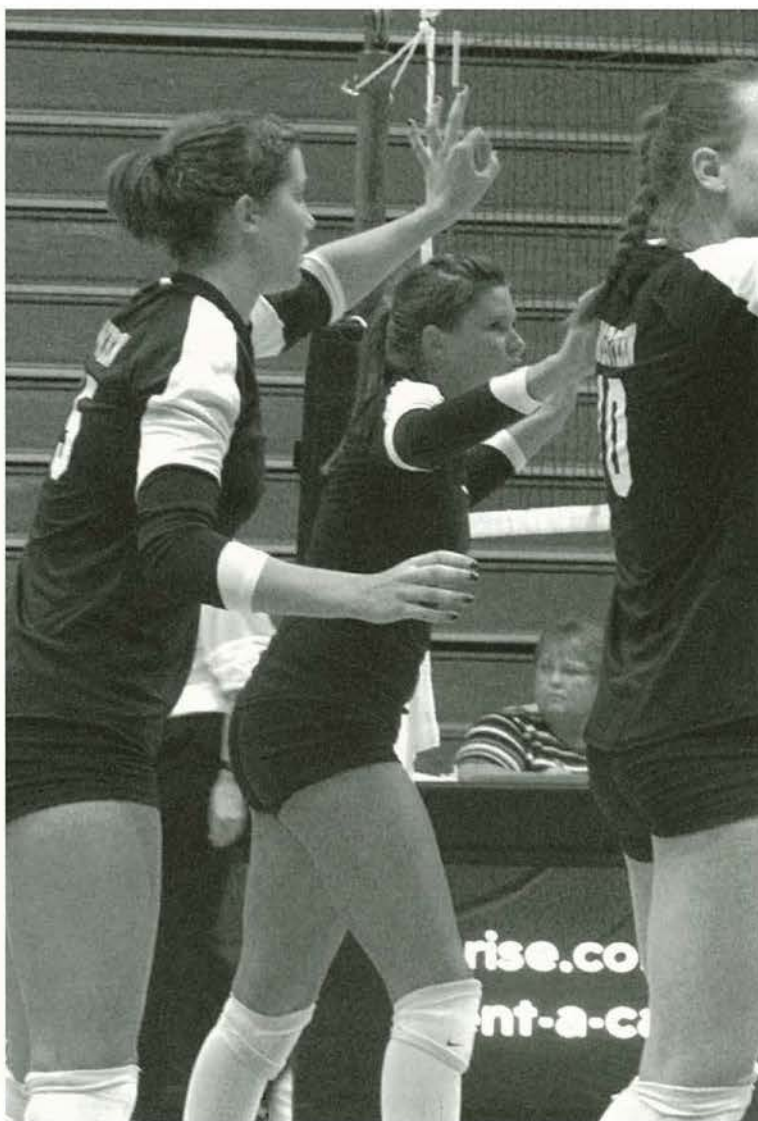
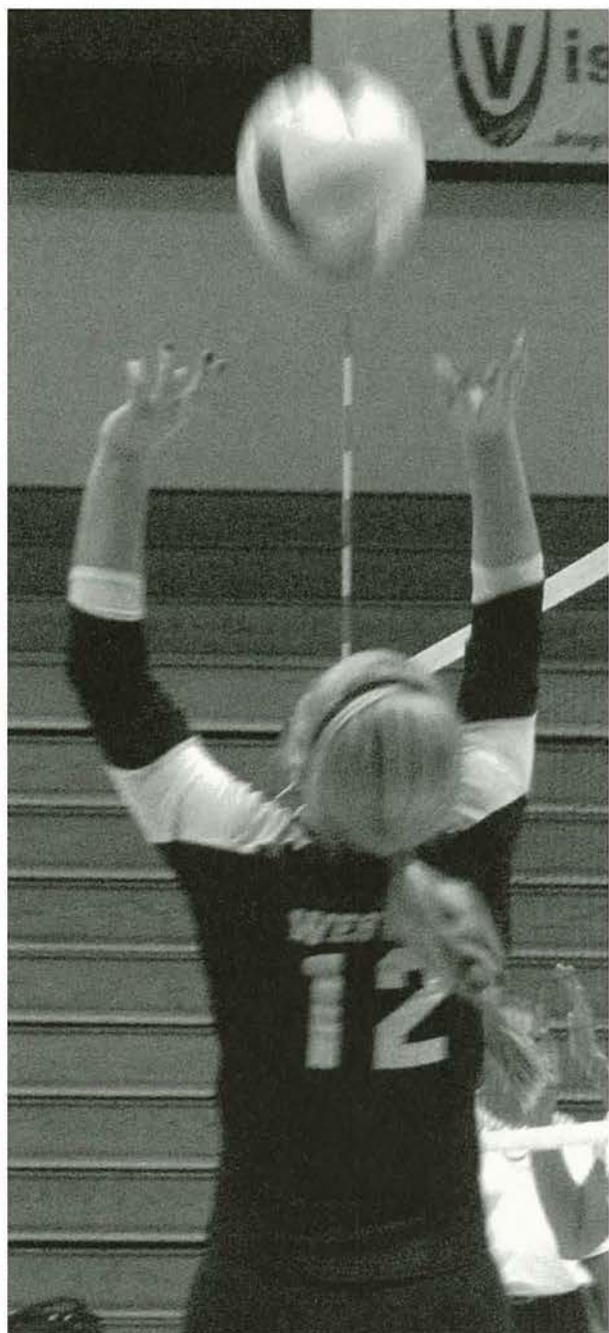


There is sweat running down your face. The ponytail holder in your hair is nearly falling out. The scoreboard just doesn't seem to be doing your team's performance justice. The women are all looking at you, and the volleyball is trembling between your fingers. What would you do in a situation like this?

According to the Griffon Volleyball team, it's being in the midst of nerve-wracking situations just like these that only made the team dynamic stronger.

"Overall, I did enjoy our season," Eboni Lacey, positioned as right side, said. "We bonded together through the good and the bad and we were still there for each other no matter what."

Despite the difficult season, the team formed a strong bond. The friendships were what made this year so special. Despite losing 32 matches, the connections that were made between the team outweighed every one. Their union



Far Left: The volleyball team's overall record for the season was 4-32 and 1-19 in the MLAA standings. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Far Right: Meghan Voelz, Shari Tompkins and Kelli Siner are among three of six outside hitters for the Griffons. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Left: Number 12, Lauren Burbach led the Lady Griffons offensively. *Photo by Courtney Puett*

Above: Amanda Bates, an outside hitter for the Griffons, gets in position to spike. *Photo by Courtney Puett*

was what mattered, and that was something to admire.

"I play my hardest each and every game, no matter what, for my teammates," sophomore Lindsay Rosenhagen, positioned as right side, said. "It's a team sport, and I play for them."

The team found the real key to success: cheering each other on. They knew the joy that came along with playing volleyball had little to do with the ugly numbers on the scoreboard. It was the companionship of this group of young women that ruled over it all.

"I motivate myself for my teammates," Outside Hitter Emily Tuisl said. "I know that if I'm not giving it 100 percent to win, then there's no chance we can. Every person on the team needs to give it their all. Every time we go into a game, we have to approach it like the score is zero to zero. Our record cannot affect our drive to play."

The season statistics did not match up with the strength of the

women that played it. "The scoreboard isn't intimidating," Rosenhagen said. "Anybody can win on any given night, and giving up just isn't an option."

When it came down to it, the team were understated heroes, an example of teamwork at its finest. The fact that they walked into every game with the same motivation and drive as the one before was inspiring to all of us.

"Once you have a weak season, you have to work twice as hard to pull yourself toward greatness," Lacey said. "It's hard and frustrating to work twice as hard to achieve something you feel you deserve. But you do it because you believe in your team, yourself and Missouri Western Volleyball. This is what makes us continue to push for wins and success."



SUCCESS IN THE MAKING

BY FRANK NEMETH

Building for the future is most often a grueling and trying process. It takes professional expansion teams years to produce a product that can compete on a game-to-game basis. Coach Jeff Hansen and the Women's Soccer team have been building since the team was created, just four years ago. Each year, the team improves and gains experience for future success. This season tested the will of the team, and they performed with toughness, honor and resolve.

The team finished with a record of 2-15-3 and showed much improvement from the previous season. "We played with pride and being a Griffon, we played teams tough and didn't allow anyone to walk-over us," said Taylor Arehart, a second-year defender.

Spirits stayed high through the entire season despite just two wins. "Teammates always cheered and kept each other motivated, which helped," said Heather Schmiemeier, a third-year forward.

Schmiemeier added that her ultimate goal was to, "improve each year and make it to a national tournament." Only four seniors

graduated from this season including: forward Michelle Polk and midfielders – Michelle Canovi, Christina Watson and Lindsay Wiese. The team was very excited to know most everyone was coming back for another season.

The highlight of the year was beating Southwest Baptist University 1-0 on Oct. 9. "Getting the win over SBU was my favorite moment of the season; getting points on the road leads to good things to come," said Jeff Hansen, coach of the Western Soccer team.

Coach Hansen added that his goal for the future of the program "First and foremost was to graduate the athletes and recruit to make it to the national tournament."

"Most Division Two athletes aren't able to play professionally, so getting a degree while in college is very important," Coach Hansen said.

Western had two players honored by MIAA. Sophomore keeper Jenna Weis and freshman mid-fielder Audrey Henderson were rewarded for their excellence on the field by being named to the honorable mention All-MIAA team.



Top Left: In high school, Midfield Jessica Martin was the 1st-Team All-Conference selection in Fulton, Mo. *Photo by Marty Ayers*
Middle: Midfield Audrey Henderson, a left footed player, led her high school team to state sectionals in 2006, 2007 and 2008. *Photo by Missy Clinton*

Bottom: Of one of 377 soccer teams, Western's Soccer team was awarded the NSCAA College Team Academic Award for 2008. *Photo by Missy Clinton*
Right: Forward Michelle Polk, the first four-year player, was the program's all-time leading scorer. *Photo by Marty Ayers*



Top Left: Cheer Squad members Taylor McCray and Nikki Cross bring some added spice to the football game as Jimmy Davis, a yell leader, hollers to the crowd. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Top Right: Mystic Dance Team member Katy Hammontree dances to the beat of the MWSU Marching

Band. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Right: Color Guard member De'raan Washington twirls her flag for all to see. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*

Above: Mystic Dance Team members Ambra Garton and Deborah Basken mix up some dance moves during a halftime performance. *Photo by Kailey Alexander*



WESTERN Ambassadors

By FRANK NEMETH

At the center of most collegiate sporting events around the country lives a spirit that often goes unappreciated. At Western that spirit is the Cheer Squad, Mystics Dance Team and Color Guard that perform countless routines and put in tireless hours of hard work each year. Their jobs are very important to the success of the Western athletic teams. They represent their University and themselves with class and flair. Performing at sporting events is just the beginning of all they do and offer.

The Color Guard was a close knit group of 12 individuals who came from all over. They spent hours perfecting numerous routines and performed at half time shows, parades and other public events. "Even though I see the guard members everyday for months I still look forward to practices and performances because it is so much fun being around all of them," said Mariah Churchill, captain of the Colorguard.

The Cheer Squad worked diligently all year, and being a cheerleader at Western took a lot of dedication and time, from the routines to the crowd control to the representation of their University. Cheerleading in itself was a sport and competition.

"One of my main goals for the future of the cheerleading program is that in the near future I would like to take them to compete at the national level," Cheerleading Coach Bryan Allen said. "We thought about trying to compete this year, but with some budget problems and since this is my first year coaching, we will not compete this year. I will try to get them to compete next year either at UCA Nationals or at NCA Nationals in Daytona. These are both very prestigious competitions and all the good cheerleading schools in the United States compete at one or the other."

The Mystics Dance Team, like the Cheer Squad and Color Guard, served as ambassadors for Western. They performed at events all around campus and worked extremely hard to perfect their routines. The Mystics had a very successful year because of their sense of togetherness:

"They picked up everything really quickly, even more than years past, and they bonded together so closely," Mystics Dance Coach Crystal Scott said.

All of the hard work and teamwork insured a successful and enjoyable year for the Cheer Squad, Mystics Dance Team and Color Guard.

Max, Our Griffon

By Frank Nemeth



Mascots serve a very important role in our society. Many times mascots act as a goodwill ambassador to a community or organization. The term, mascot, refers to anything that brings luck to a given group. Mascots are most commonly used for sports teams, military units and schools. For the Western community, Max the Griffon is who represents our university. He serves as a symbol of strength, determination and excellence.

Graphic Arts Coordinator Scott Johns introduced the Griffon. The name Max was derived from a popular Gold Coat Club member – Max Grooms. “The Griffon is a unique mascot that we can call our own,” said Joe Snyder, a second-year physical education major.

In the fall, Max was a talented freshman from Hickman Mills, Mo.



Far Left: Max the Griffon revs up the crowd at a basketball game during halftime. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Far Right: During halftime of the football game, Max the Griffon accompanied with a Western student let the crowd choose songs, so that Max could sing for them. *Photo by*

Amy Chastain

Left: Those who acted as Max the Griffon were almost always anonymous to the campus. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Above: Max the Griffon was present at almost all athletic events. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

The gentleman from Kansas City, Mo., chose Western because he wanted to be close to home. He has plenty of experience in the field of being a mascot. In junior high school, he was a bit of a class clown, so one day his teacher took him to the hall and made him the school mascot. He played football in high school, but returned to the suit after a short layoff. He was fortunate enough to work with KC Slugger and KC Wolf.

After high school he enrolled at Western, where he became Max. As the Griffon he worked sporting events and rallies to pump up the crowds. Furthermore, Max gave motivational speeches at local schools in the community. Max received a book voucher for all of his hard work, and made extra cash by working for the Western cafete-

ria. "I think Max gives people a positive view of the university," said Emily Gummelt, third-year journalism major.

Max loves music and was assigned to a record label. When he wasn't working at the cafeteria or working as the Griffon, he was found working on music outside of school. Max is really laidback, but once the suit goes on he goes crazy. "I use the suit to bring out the funny side, but really I'm pretty laid-back," Max said.

He led by example and laid a strong foundation for future mascots. His dedication, humor and energy made Max the Griffon the strong, courageous symbol he was meant to be.



DEFINING SEASON

BY EMMALEE JONES

The Griffon men had a rollercoaster season ending in a fantastic drop-off at the MIAA championship game. Although they did not win the game, the team came away knowing that they had played their hardest and had given it their all. Western made history as the first eighth seed to make it to the championship. It was predicted that their chances look good for next year.

"My feelings on returning to the MIAA championship is that it will be done," Guard Lonnel Johnson said. "We have all, but three people coming back next year, so I would say our chances are looking good."

Not only did the Griffons prove themselves at the end of the season, but also they proved throughout the season that they could grow in unity and learn to work as a team.

"This winter, we got snowed in in Minnesota," Point Guard Leonard Parker said. "The team came together as a family and we beat two ranked teams afterwards."

Parker and Johnson admitted that their trip to Las Vegas was a high spot for them.

"A highlight was us going down to Vegas and winning two tough road games," Johnson said. "Pretty much every road game we won was a big win for us, because we didn't win any away games last year."

Southwest Baptist University was one of the most important games for the Griffons.

"There were no yellows in the crowd," Parker said. "It was all purple, but we ended up beating them. No one thought we would beat SBU."

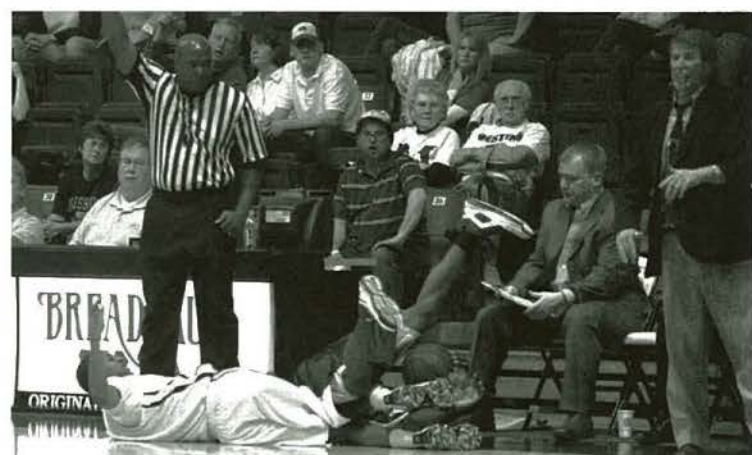
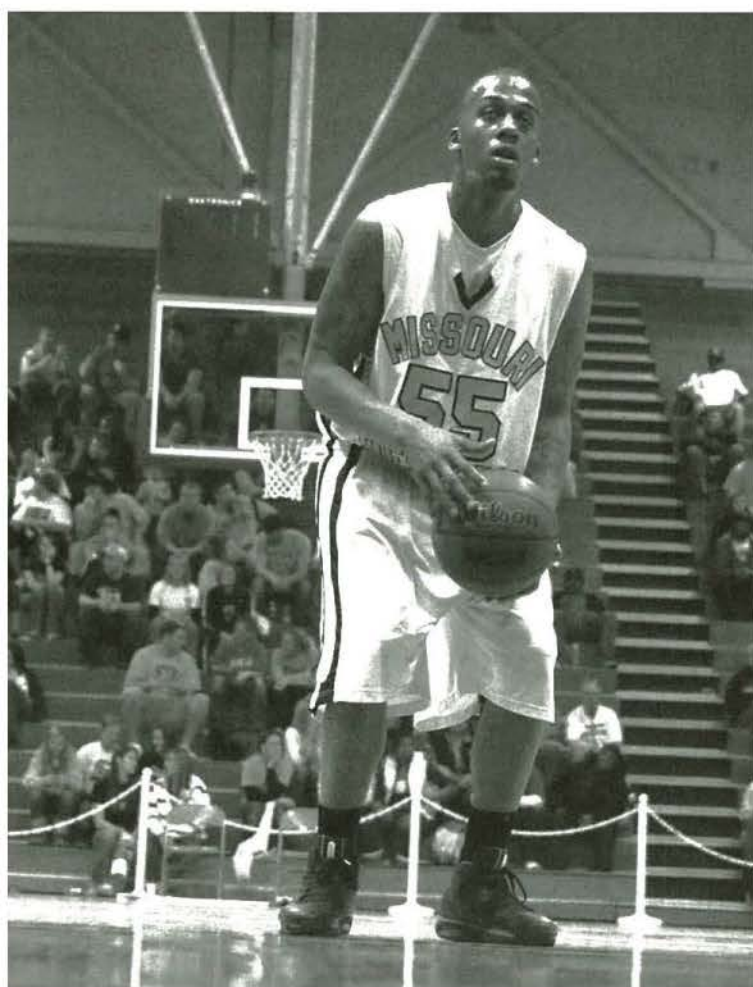
Johnson agreed. "SBU is a hell of a school and for us to send them home was the greatest accomplishment, I think, in Western history," Johnson said.

Parker's personal history came into play when Western went up against Fort Hays. "My best friend goes to Fort Hays," Parker said. "We got to see each other play. I felt kind of bad when we beat them, but he said if he was going lose to somebody, he'd rather it be me."

This was both Parker and Johnson's last year to play and they both expressed how much the experience had meant to them.

"This has been one of the most defining seasons of my career," Johnson said. "I got along with all my teammates and coaching staff who believed in me like I believed in them. Coming from a season where we didn't win 10 games to being in the conference tournament as the eighth seed making it to the championship game was incredible. I have no regrets and as far as I'm concerned we had to get this organization back to its national standings by any means necessary."

Griffon men ended with a 14-16 overall record and finished second in the MIAA conference tournament for the third time in Western history.



Left: Forward James Bush, who played for Independence Community College, competed in the Jayhawk East Conference. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: Forward Andrew Mead, an East Buchanan graduate, was a good defender and quick on his feet. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Below: Guard Marcus Rhodes, who also played for Southeast Missouri State, made 45 percent of his shots during his time there for the 2007-2008 season. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Top: Forward Dominique Thuston was a powerful force as an outside shooter

and as offensive and defensive end. *Photo by Linda Shireman*

Middle: Forward Andrew Mead, an East Buchanan graduate, was a good defender and quick on his feet. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Bottom: The Men's Basketball team's overall record was 14-16 and came in second in the MIAA Conference Tournament. *Photo by Linda Shireman*



Left: Forward Jessica Koch was injured in the 2007-2008 season because of a knee injury. Photo by Shawn Lesny

Top: During the 2007-2008 season, Guard Lauren Nolke made a career eight rebounds against Truman State. Photo by Linda Shireman

Middle: Koch was named as MIAA Fresh-

man of the Year and 2009 Women's Division II Bulletin All-Freshman Team. Photo by Courtney Slater

Bottom: Koch, a St. Pius X High School graduate, was named First Team All-District and All-Conference selection in high school. Photo by Shawn Lesny





ADRENALINE JUNKIES

BY JOURDAN HUFFMAN

It is a known fact that every team that steps out onto a court, a field or a rink wants to win. The adrenaline starts pumping. The points start racking up, sometimes in your favor, and sometimes against it. But the beauty of a good team isn't necessarily in the amount of points earned, or in the case of the Women's Basketball team, the amount of baskets made. The real heart of a team is in its players, and the strengths that they play off of with each other. "When we were down, we found ways to pick each other up," Forward Tierra Ford said.

But, even the team dynamic went through some rough spots this season. "For the most part, we didn't have any team chemistry and that led to many of our losses," Forward Colleen Schneider said. "We fought through problems we had as a team and we eventually progressed and made some positive strides."

The Western women gave every game their all, but sometimes they just couldn't get back the lead at the time when it was most necessary. Even though, they won six games and lost 21, the spirit of the team really grew, and that much wasn't lacking in the least bit.

Giving up simply wasn't an option for them. Maybe it was this attitude that made them team so strong, even when the scoreboard wasn't showing it all

the time.

"I just tell myself to stay positive and if I make a mistake, I try to forget about it and try to work harder to make positive things happen," Schneider said.

For Western fans, the games were enjoyable regardless of whether or not the Western women ended up winning in the end. After all, winning wasn't everything, right?

"It doesn't matter who wins or loses necessarily," Western fan Darren Haggard said. "You have to look at it at a play by play basis. It's about the plays, how they are broken down and executed, not the overall score. That's what fascinates me about the game of basketball, as well as the Western Women's team this season."

With every team, there are going to be issues that can potentially hurt your team's momentum and drive. For the Western women this season, adversity was a constant struggle. Nonetheless, the girls did everything they could to put their heads together, pull out all the stops necessary and claw their way to some victories, Griffon style. "No matter what we went through and how hard times got throughout the season, we stuck together and didn't let any of it bring us down," Ford said.



WORKING FOR THE ADVANTAGE

BY JOURDAN HUFFMAN

You might think of tennis as an individual sport, based solely on one person's skill and agility. But the truth is that tennis is very much team-oriented, because it takes every team member's hard work to equate to match successes. Every match presents one with a new opponent, a new challenge and a new chance to make your teammates proud. The odds were always different, but the team support was constant.

"The fact that my team is relying on me for a win is motivation enough for me to play at my best," senior captain Laura Rutten said.

The pressure may have been tough to deal with, but the Women's Tennis team never gave up, no matter how strong the adversity was against them. For some players, it was the gumption that they played with that outweighed the necessity of the win itself. Playing with a positive attitude was far more crucial than coming away with a win. "As I get older, I begin to realize that attitude while playing and how well you play for you is the most important," junior Michelle Ritter said.

Other players couldn't help, but agree. "Winning is definitely not everything," Rutten

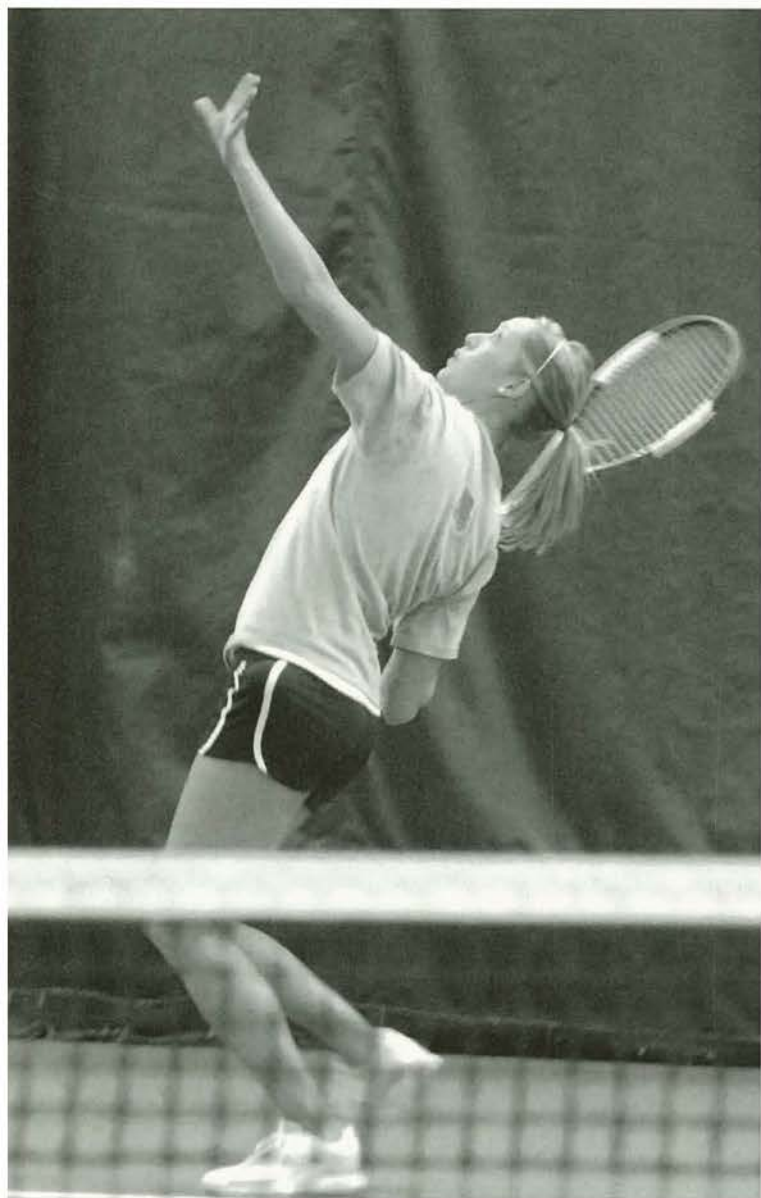
said. "It is what you take away from the game that really counts. Understanding how to improve your game and being able to correct your mistakes is what makes a good player."

Though the Women's Tennis team only walked away with five total wins at the end of the season, they gained so much more than any win could ever show such as strong friendships, an increased work ethic and most importantly, intensely positive attitudes.

"Optimism is sometimes a tough one for me," junior Amber Adams said. "Tennis is such a strategy game that it can get frustrating and sometimes, I get a little temper. However, I always believe I have a chance on court. The match isn't lost until the scores says it's over."

Every match was a whole new start. Every match was just another chance for you to let everyone know why you wanted to be on that tennis court instead of anywhere else in the world.

"There are never going to be perfect games," Rutten said. "We just have to know that we can only get better from this point forward. We cannot rely on our previous matches to determine how we will play tomorrow. It's always a new game."

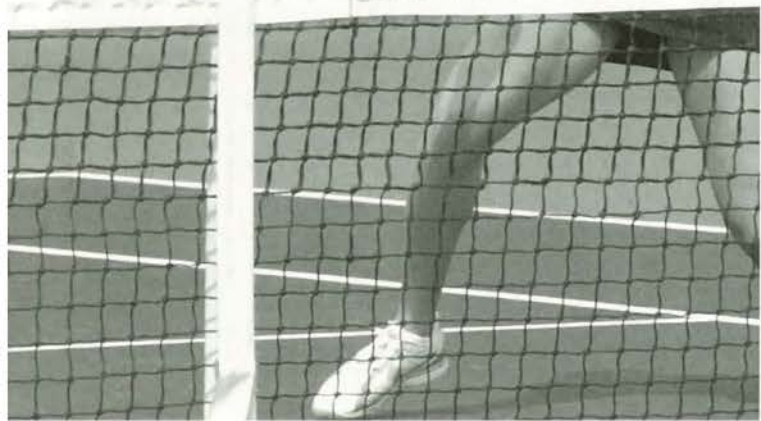


Top Left: The Women's Tennis team signed two new players for the upcoming season, Nicole Kerr and Kayla Daughtry. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*

Top Right: The Women's Tennis season began with a boom as they won four straight matches; however, they lost the remaining matches. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*

Above: Alecia Jenkins, a Hillcrest High School graduate, was a conference champion and a state qualifier in high school. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*

Left: The season ended to Missouri Southern, 0-6. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*



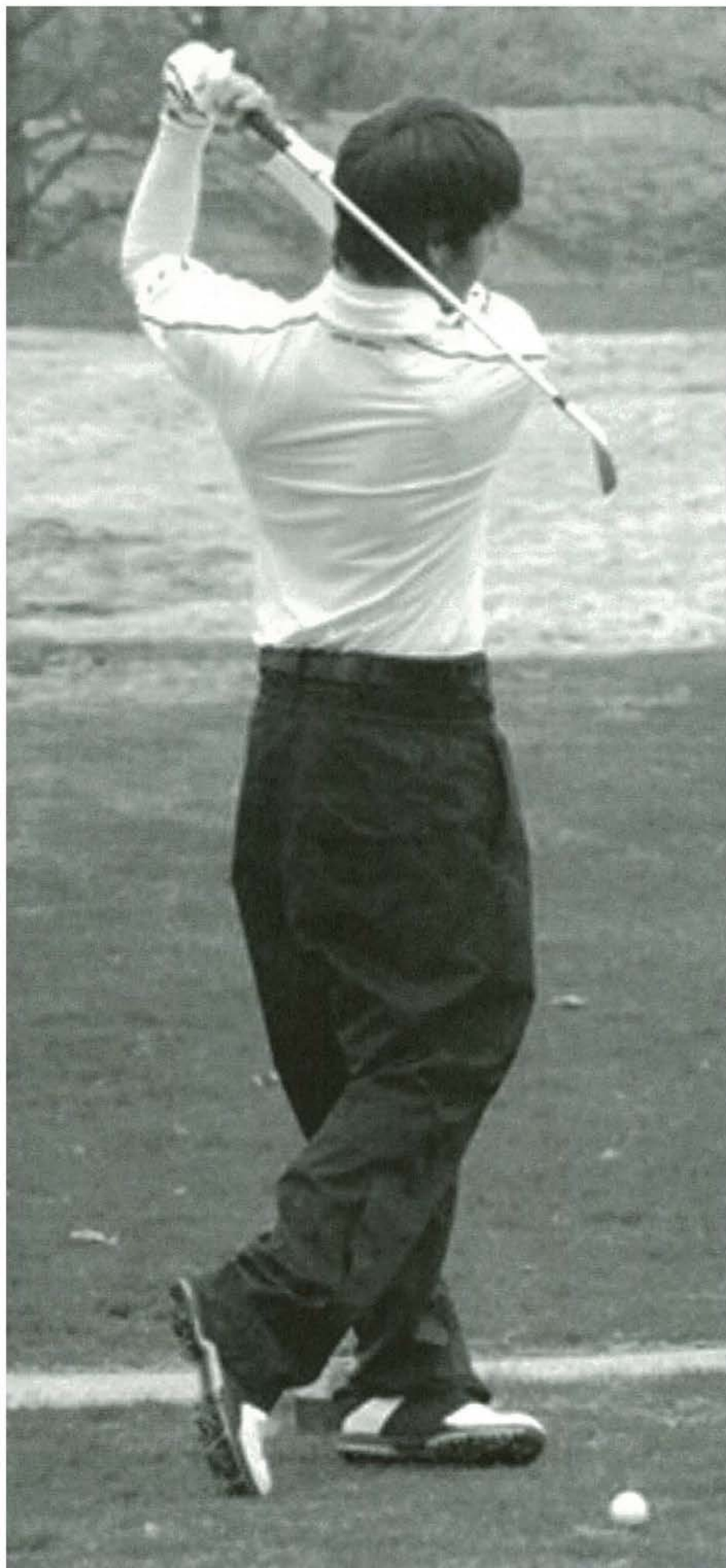
Below: The Men's Golf team placed first at the Drury Invitational and the Bemidji State Duel. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*

Top: The Men's Golf season ended at the MIAA Conference Tournament at sixth place. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*

Middle: Derek Thorne's, a Trenton High School

graduate, best finish of the 2007-2008 season was at the MW/SU Invitational where he tied for fifth place. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*

Bottom: Coach Jim Perry welcomed one recruit for the upcoming season, Tim Wagaman, an Ozark High School graduate. *Photo by Sports Information Desk*





FIGHTING FOR A BIRDIE

By Amy Chastain

The Men's Golf team's season was brought to a close as they placed sixth at the MIAA Conference Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. Caleb Carter, a criminal justice major with an emphasis in administration, placed the highest on the team in the MIAA Conference Tournament at seventh with an overall score of 224.

"I feel like I played very well in the spring and a lot of the guys played well in the fall, but it seems that we could not all get together and have a good round," Carter said. "We have a young team and have the potential of being good in the future."

The Men's Golf team was inconsistent throughout the fall and spring semester. There were highs and lows. They began the fall season at the Missouri Collegiate in the Lake of the Ozarks as they placed ninth. However, they placed first at the Drury Invitational in Springfield, Mo.

"The first round at the Drury Invitational came as quite a surprise," Accounting major Shane Feist said. "We shot seven under as a team. It is not very often that a person shoots even par and is the fourth best score on the team."

The Men's Golf team began their spring season at the Pasta House Drury Invitational where they

placed sixth. However, they placed first at the Bemidji State Duel in St. Joseph.

Weather played a large indicator as to whether the golf team would compete. "The weather made it really difficult to lose the rest of our tournaments and gain trust and confidence," Feist said. "It is not something that we want to use as an excuse, but it takes quite a bit of time to get back into the groove in this sport. I don't think we ever had a week where we could play or practice."

Golf was unlike many sports at Missouri Western. Although the team competes as a team, it was also an individual sport. "Most of the players in the conference have to ability to play well, but it is how we handle our thoughts during the round that makes it possible to play well," Feist said. "Having confidence is a very necessary component in this sport. With the weather conditions we played in this year, you have to be able to fight through it and execute what needs to be done."

Even though the season ended early in the MIAA Conference Tournament, they continued to play throughout the summer. "I play all summer long," Feist said. "I am usually at the golf course doing something everyday. It is the only way to get better."

HOLE IN ONE

BY EMMALEE JONES



Women's Golf had a great season with many highlights. Of special note were taking first at the Avila University tournament in October and the only sophomore on the team, Lexi Webb's, hole-in-one at the Truman State Invitational as well as a first-ever hole-in-one by Brooke Conard.

Freshman Kristen Cooley agreed that the Avila University tournament win was really important. "However, we have moments at every tournament that stick out," Cooley said. "Some are good; some are bad."

Coach Cathy Habermehl admitted how much she loved coaching golf. "My favorite part is the expressions on the girls' faces when we received the first place award at Avila," Coach Habermehl said.

Cooley was in agreement about her enjoyment of golf. "I love seeing the team having a good time after a good tournament," Cooley

said.

There were also unfavorable moments at the tournaments. "My least favorite moment was at our first tournament in the fall," freshman Britni Nikes said. "I hit a drive and it bounced off the cart path and hit a lady in the face. She had to be taken to the hospital for stitches."

Cooley said it was not all fun and games. "I hate adding up the score at the end of a bad round and practicing in the rain and cold," Cooley said. "Ugh, not too fun."

Coach Habermehl's hard times came because of her close connection with her golfers. "My least favorite moment is when one of my players is frustrated and upset," she said.

Golf was an integral part of Coach Habermehl's life even before becoming a coach. "I am married to a PGA professional, Mike Haber-



Far Left: Britni Nikes, a Central High School graduate, was a four-year varsity player and All-Conference selection. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Middle: Lexi Webb, an Eau Claire High School graduate, completed the season in tenth individually at the MIAA Women's Golf Championship and third as a team. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Left: Kristen Cooley was an Individual State Qualifier during her junior and senior year at Nixa High School. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

Below: Sarah Campbell, a Central High School graduate, placed eighth at Districts, which qualified her for state. *Photo by Shawn Lesny*

mehl, who is a golf instructor," she said. "I enjoy playing golf with my friends and husband, both competitively and socially."

Cooley's golf story started much more simply. "I watched my neighbor down the road hit some golf balls and just picked it up," Cooley said.

However, Nikes's golf roots went even deeper than most. "I got involved with golf when I was four," Nikes said. "My grandpa and dad got me started playing at Fairview Golf Course here in St. Joseph and I haven't quit since. I like playing golf because it reminds me of my grandpa. He died five years ago and it's my way to remember him."

The team finished in first, third and fourth at various tournaments throughout the season. They also had three players finish in the top 10 at several events.

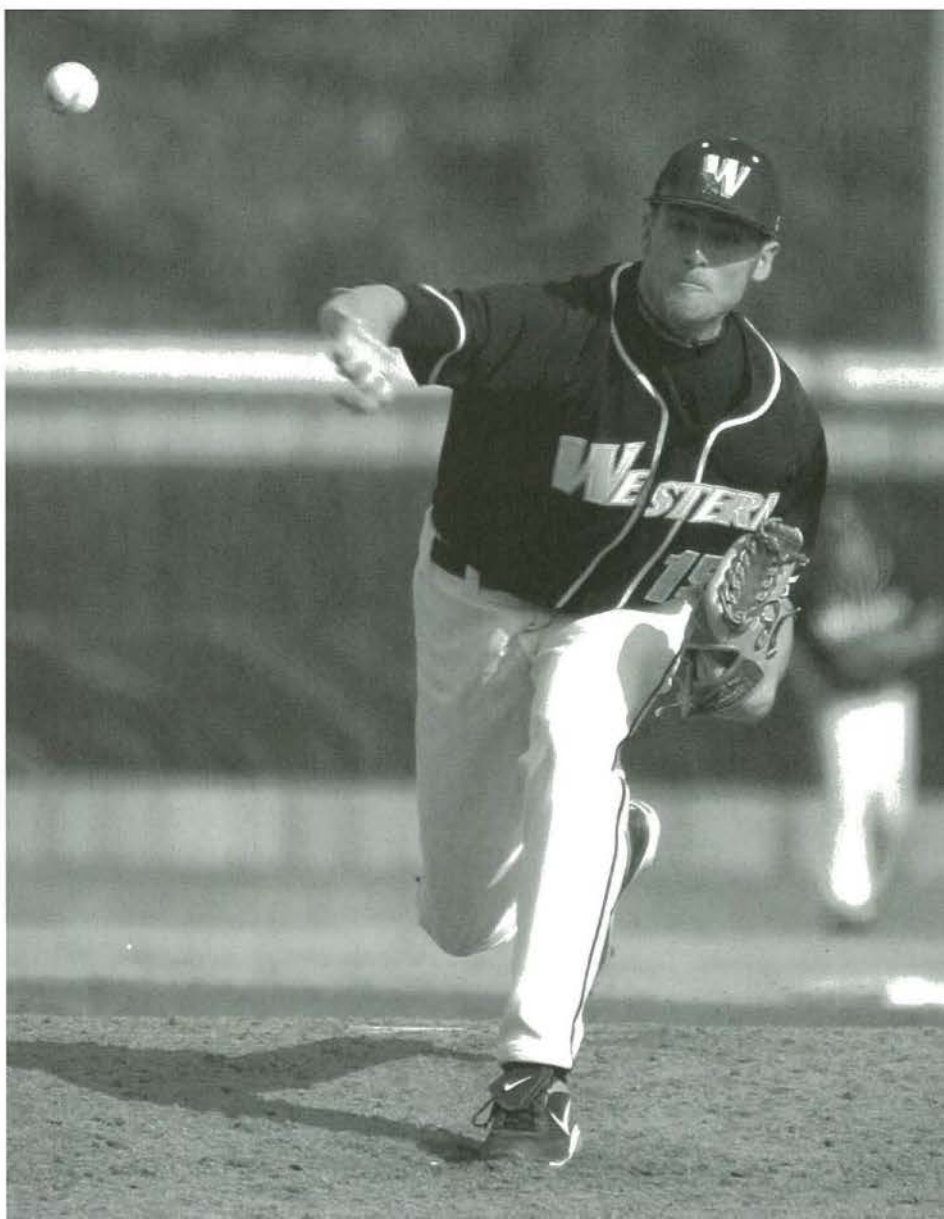




Top: Pitcher AJ Huttonlocker and Outfielder Troy Landi were named to the ABCA/Rawlings All-South Central Region Second Team. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

Above: The Men's Baseball season ended with a win against Truman State, 9-5. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

Right: Ryan Carbah, a Belton High School graduate, was a right handed impact pitcher for the Griffons. *Photo by Marty Ayers*





STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE

BY LAUREN DILLON

Baseball. America's favorite pastime. It is the sign of the coming of spring, when everything is new and the weather is warm, which makes for the perfect surroundings for playing baseball. Matt Jansen, junior and first baseman for Western, agreed.

"My favorite part about baseball is the smells, the sounds, the feelings towards the game," Jansen said. "Also, being around my good friends while I play a game and experience things."

Pitcher Blake Thomas loved baseball for a different reason. "I love the fact that there is always something going on during the game," Thomas said. "You can always play out the outcome of each situation that you are in during the game."

Infielder Clint Jeffers said that his favorite part of baseball was how detailed the game was. He loved how he had to pay attention in order to be successful and how intricate baseball was.

According to Coach Buzz Verduzco, this was Western's eighth consecutive winning season dating back to 2002. The Men's Baseball team had a great season and there were many highlights that came from it. Verduzco's favorite game was Senior Day against Southwest Baptist. All of the seniors competed and won 15-0. He was really glad that they all were able to

play in the Phil Welch Stadium together for the last time.

Catcher Brady Ellis remembered the game versus Upper Iowa and how Western came back to beat them in the bottom of the last inning and named that as his favorite game of the season.

Jansen said that the highlight of the season for him were the games against Northwest Missouri State. "Beating them three out of four games with the potential of sweeping them was awesome," Jansen said.

Among Jeffers, Thomas, Ellis and Jansen, they all raved about how they chose Western because of its great baseball program. In fact, the assistant coach convinced Thomas to play for Western.

"The Assistant Coach Brandon Freeborn, who recruited me, had a pretty convincing speech and he seemed like he knew quite a bit about the game," Thomas said. "I figured I could learn a lot from him and it would be fun to play under him."

The Men's Baseball team completed their season with a four game sweep against Truman State Bulldogs. The conclusion brought an end to the team's winning eight straight games. Their overall record was 34-22 and 22-16 in the MIAA. The team's 34 victories were the most wins in an entire season under Verduzco.



THE TEAM TO BEAT!

By Olin Kinsey

“I think our team chemistry is amazing,” infielder Samantha Buchanan said. “I have never been on a team that gets a long and as well as we do.”

If you ever sat down and watched a woman’s softball game by these young women, you would agree with Buchanan. Chemistry was the one thing this team offered both on and off the field with each other and to their fans. Despite last year’s unlucky season, this season for the Woman’s Softball team was everything, but unlucky. The season ended with a 5-1 loss to Southeastern Oklahoma State Savage Storm in the NCAA Division II South Central Regional. They won two games in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history.

The motto that the softball team developed over the season was: Be the team to beat! Some of the other MIAA teams were unsuccessful with beating the Lady Griffons as they succeeded with a 32-game winning streak.

The team kicked-off the season with a win over the University of Texas-Permian Basin, but followed with two losses to the University of Incarnate Word and Angelo State University. The season followed

with a successful number of wins with very few losses. Buchanan said that beating themselves was the team’s biggest struggle, not the opposing teams.

The Woman’s Softball team triumphed over many teams this season including rivals Northwest Missouri State with a 4-0 successful lead.

“The games we have lost haven’t been because the team we were facing isn’t unbeatable, they have been because we have beaten ourselves,” Buchanan said.

It seemed like beating themselves was the team’s overall struggle for the season. Pitcher Carla Anderson shared a similar feeling with Buchanan about the losses the team lost this season.

“I think our biggest obstacle was being ourselves every game,” Anderson said. “Our team meshed well and the chemistry between everyone was amazing which helped us on the field. We were on the same page and that helped us to succeed.”

With the MIAA tournament around the corner and the team was anxious and ready to face the music.

“A MIAA record breaking season with 32 wins was a good for us,” outfielder Becky Diehl said.



Top: Pitcher Allison Jones and Outfielder Brittany Douglas was named to the Louisville Slugger/NFCA DII All-Region Second Team. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

Top Right: Catcher Leah Steele was a First Team All-Conference performer in the Suburban Big Six conference. *Photo by Heather Kietzman*

Middle: The Women's Softball season ended with a loss to Southeastern Oklahoma, 1-5, at the South Central Regional. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

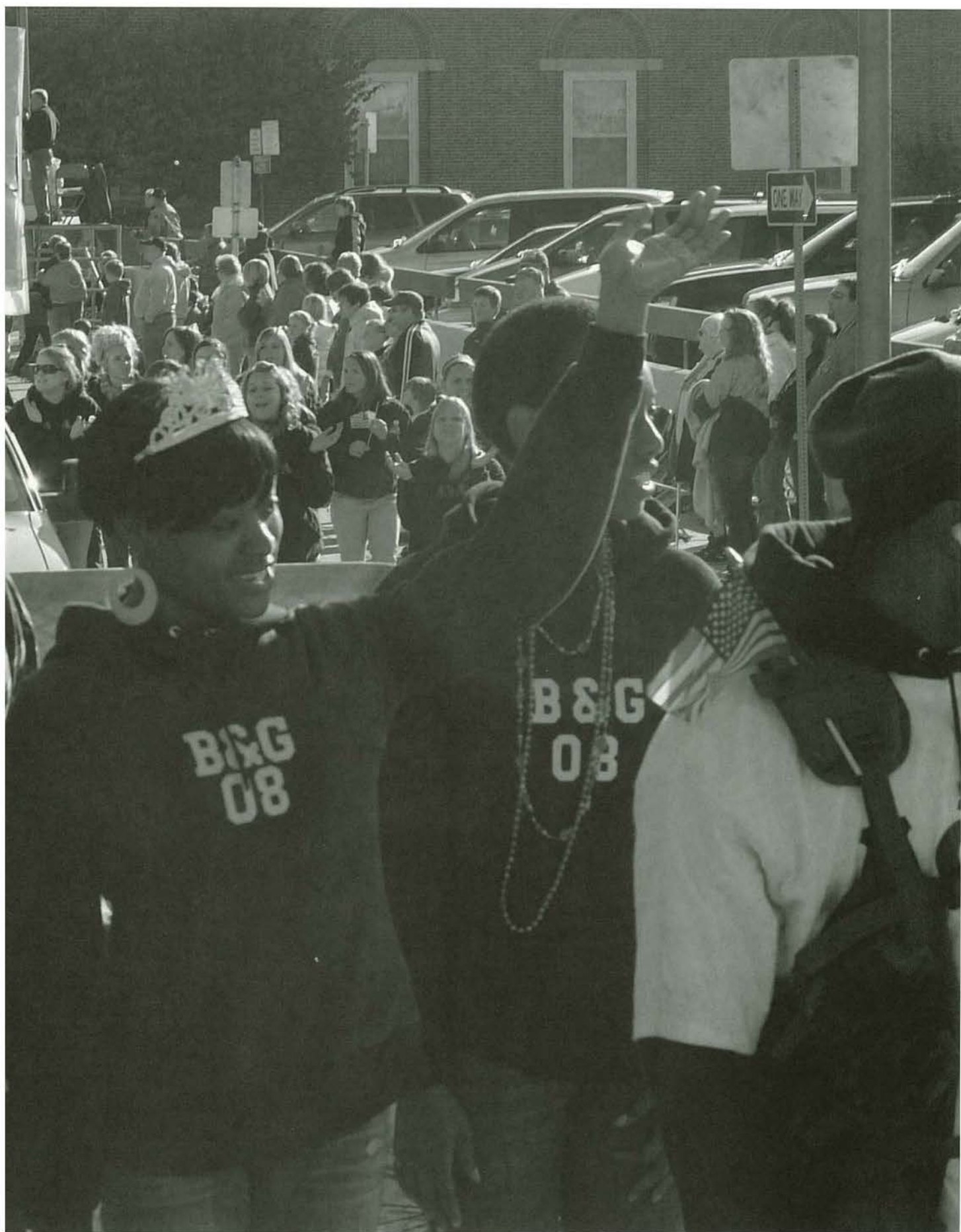
Right: The Women's Softball team made university history when they won two games at the NCAA Tournament. *Photo by Marty Ayers*

Above: Coach Jen Bogley presented pitching and hitting clinics, which ran for the month of June. *Photo by Heather Kietzman*



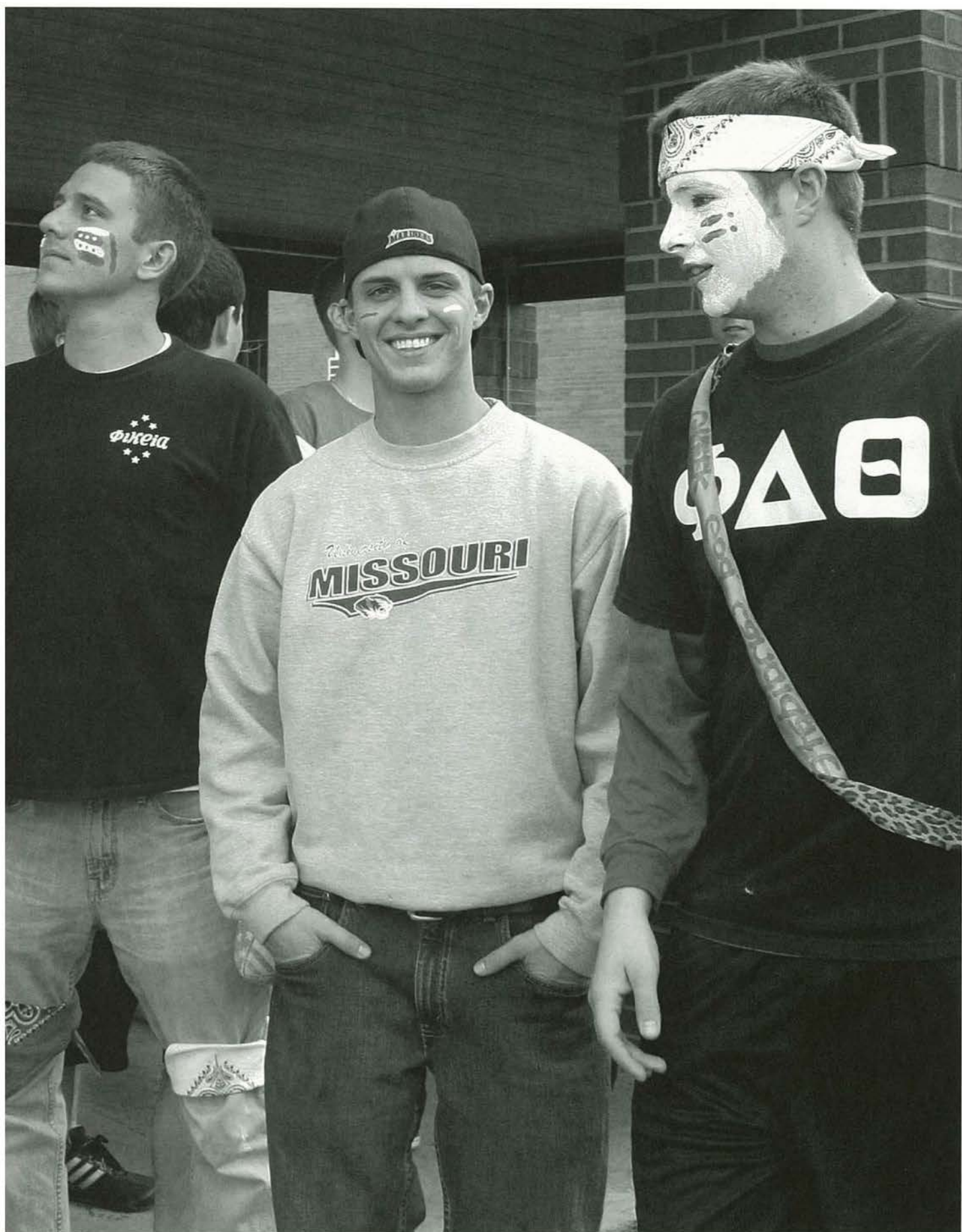


Students shared the enthusiasm in enjoying the parade. Photo by Harvey Jackson





Phi Delta Theta brothers chill out during Greek Week. Photo by Courtney Slater





Freshmen enjoy the advantages of Griffon Edge. Photo by Amanda Flake



PERSONALITIES

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.”

“Jacely Alcantara” page 186





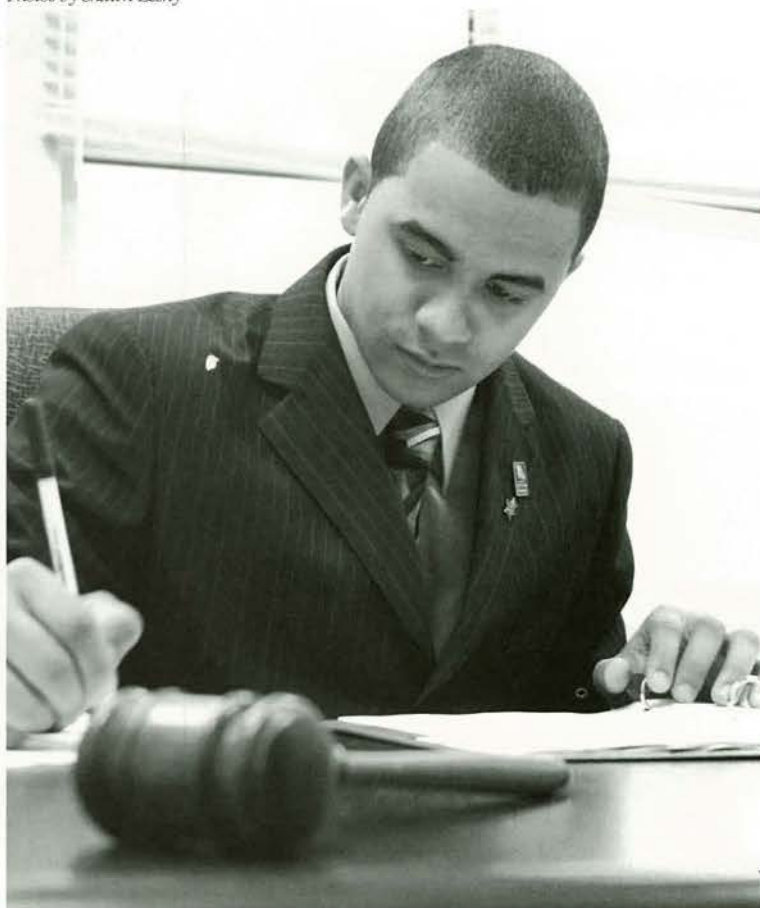
Photo by Shawn Lesny

"I'm a
student of
life at times
.... corny,
right?!"





Photos by Shawn Lesny



Ernest Chamblee

by Olin Kinsey

"I believe one of the most important skills I possess is my willingness to learn and stay open minded," sophomore Ernest Chamblee said.

It was just one year ago when most students recall him making smoothies and preparing pizzas in the C-Store inside the Commons Building. Now Chamblee is tackling new ways to endure his responsibilities as a student leader and as vice president of the Student Government Association. Winning the VP seat for SGA has been the "drive" he has wanted to become better involved.

"I have been involved in student government since high school," Chamblee said. "I want to try to make a difference or at least make school a little more enjoyable for students in the places I can."

Chamblee expresses how he was interested in a future position as SGA president. "Being president of SGA is one of my aspirations; so being in the VP position will give the best experience for the president position."

Chamblee found time to participate in an active student life outside of SGA. As a member of the Western Activities Council, VIP, ROTC and a neophyte of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc., kept him very busy. Chamblee acknowledged that all of the student organizations have given him an opportunity to expand educationally.

"Not to sound corny, but I feel like I'm always learning. So in a

way, I'm a student of life at all times...corny, right?!"

If you were to ever look at Chamblee's work area in his room, you'd see how many times he spent accomplishing his daily task. Around his desktop PC, you found tons of empty energy drink cans... tons! Chamblee admitted that he often had to find time to schedule in a nap.

"Honestly if I am not in class, studying or doing something for an organization, I usually try to sneak in a nap."

But don't worry; Chamblee has to have some free time on the weekends, right? Wrong! Being a "frat boy" brought new doors of opportunities for Chamblee...even on the weekend.

"Being Greek hasn't influenced my outlook too much, but it has reminded me that I can do anything I put my mind to. On a social level, it has opened me up to an entire new group of people and connections on a professional level. I would say since I have become an Alpha my weeks are a little busier and my weekends are a lot more exciting."

In the meantime, Chamblee found himself looking for the downtown we all eventually want. But as Henry David Thoreau, an American author and abolitionist, said, "Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it."

Photos by Kailey Alexander



≡ Jacely Alcantara

by Lauren Dillon

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has," said Margaret Mead, an American cultural anthropologist.

This quote was the motto of the Legal Studies Association and also the personal mantra of Jacely Alcantara, a criminal justice major with an emphasis in legal studies. She was very busy, involved in many organizations. Alcantara was an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta, president of the Legal Studies Association, member of the Association of Latin American Students, and interim president of the Spanish Club.

Alcantara was involved with many clubs and organizations in high school, but when she came to college, she quickly became bored from her lack of activities.

"I decided that I had to get involved with something," Alcantara said. "So the next semester, I joined many clubs, until my plate was full."

In almost all of the organizations Alcantara was involved in, she filled a leadership role. She wanted to lead, not follow.

Alcantara loved just about everything to do with her major. "Because I am currently working in my department, I interact with my professors and mentors everyday," Alcantara said. "Everyone is laidback,

but also caring. They will help you with anything, and they actually care about your grades. And the best thing is that all of the professors are currently attorneys or have previously, so they have real life experience with what they are teaching."

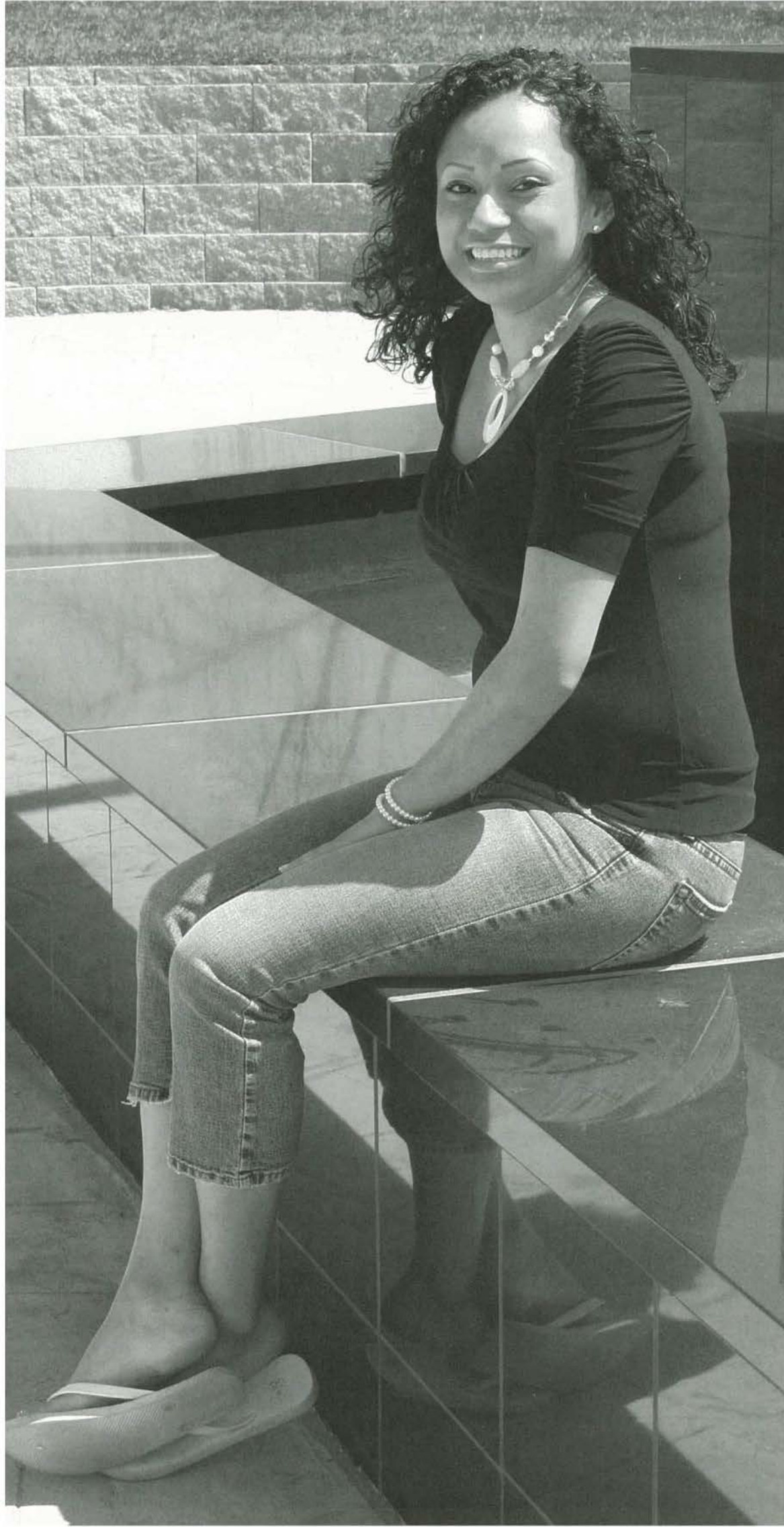
It was not a hard decision for Alcantara to choose her major. Once she was exposed to the legal studies part of the world, she knew it was for her.

"When I was in high school, some of our organizations were sponsored by Kansas City law offices," Alcantara said. "One day, our sponsors took us out for lunch and listening to the lawyers talk about how much they love their jobs. It clicked that this is what I wanted to do with my life."

As for who Alcantara credited her abundance of success to, there was no hesitation in her answer.

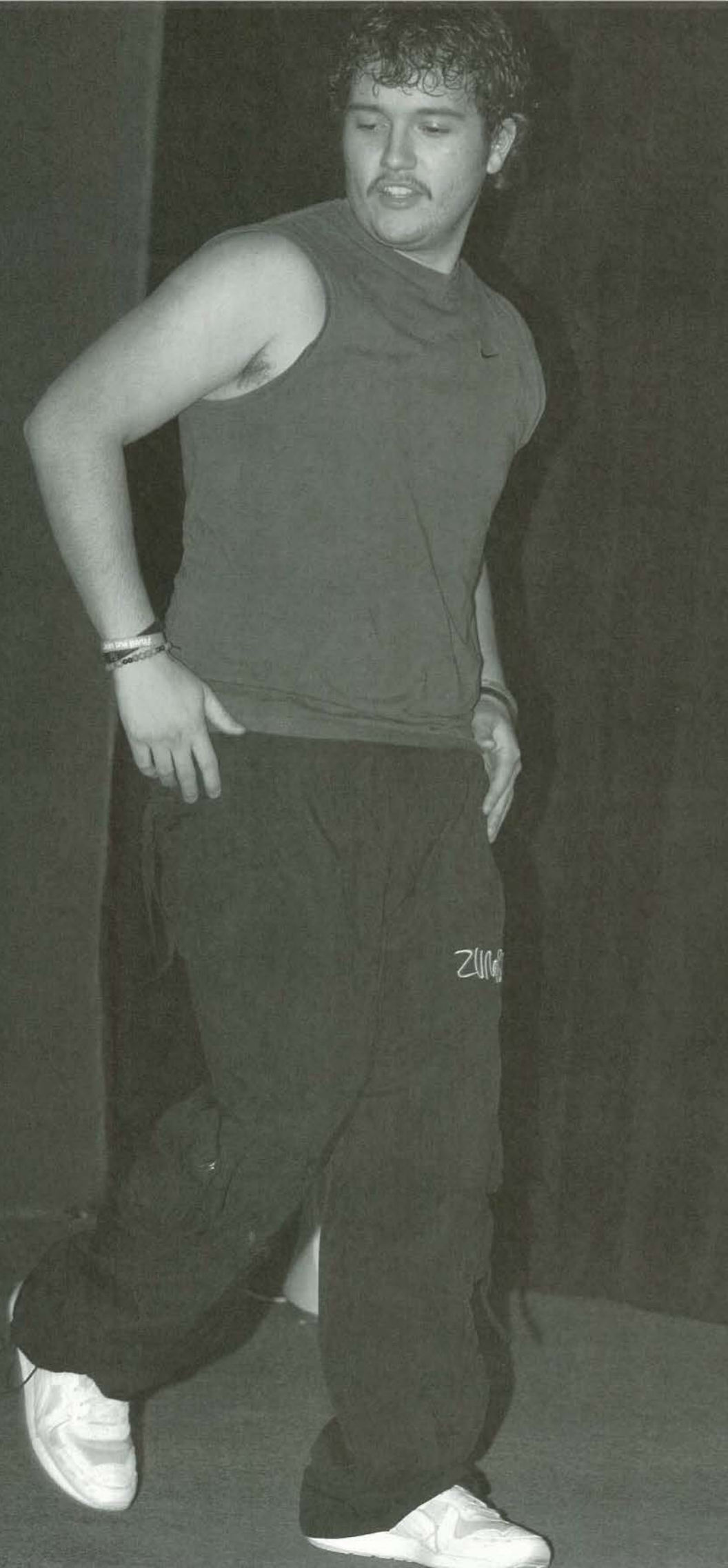
"It would definitely be my mom," Alcantara said. "She has such an influence on me, because, well, she's my mom. But also, she has always been an incredibly humble and hard-working woman. She has given up everything for me to go to school."

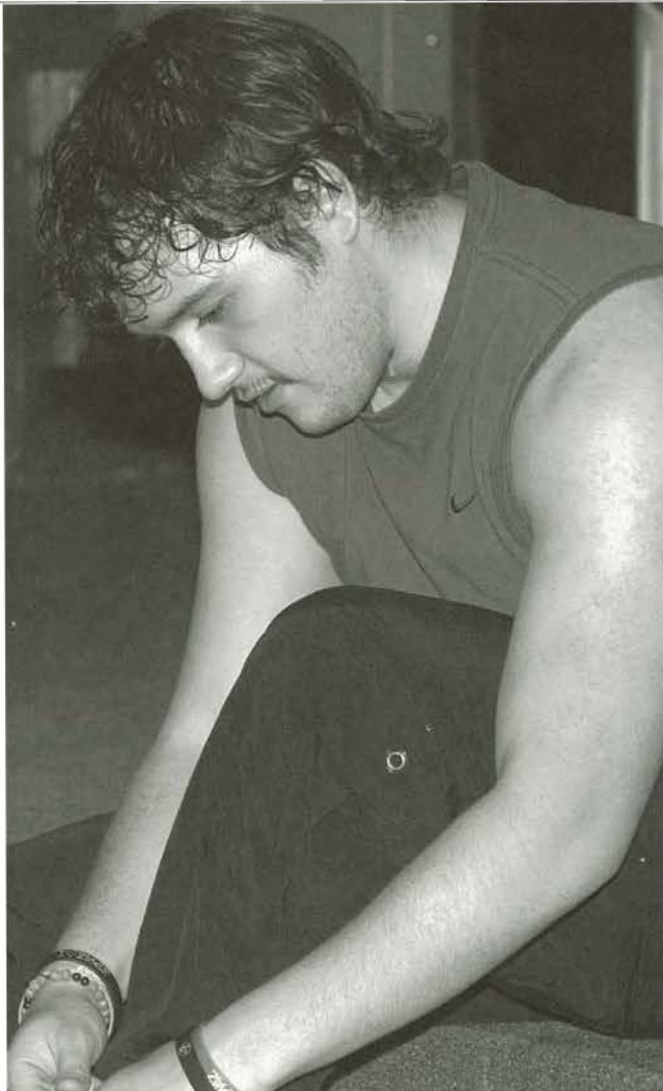
Alcantara was a shining example for all students who wanted success. Even with all of her organizations, she found time for work, school and those individuals who she cared about.



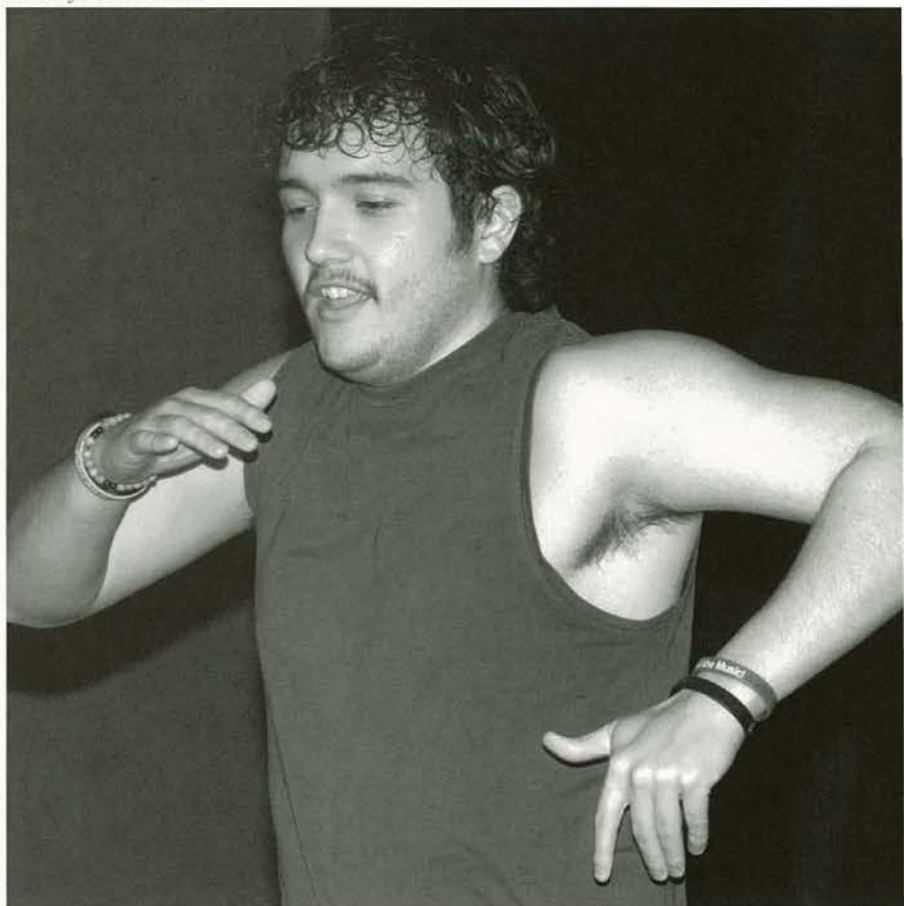
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."

"It transformed my life and I love being able to spread that happiness and joy to others."





Photos by Linda Shireman



≡ Mark Gomez

by Lauren Dillon

Zumba was the hot, up-and-coming new dancercise that combined the components of hip hop, salsa, meringue, Bollywood and other international styles of dance. Not only was this a style of dance that whiped you in shape, but it also was a lot of fun.

"It's a party," said Mark Gomez, graphic design major and instructor of Zumba. "That is the first thing I tell people about Zumba. You don't feel like you are working out, because you are having so much fun just dancing to the steps. But a more technical definition would be a fusion of Latin and international music and dance. It is a super-fun and dynamic fitness class."

Zumba was a relatively new fitness craze. Beto Perez, the creator of Zumba, brought it to the United States from Colombia in 2000, and has grown in popularity ever since. Beto, short for Alberto, was an aerobics teacher and one day, he forgot his music for class. So, he grabbed all of his personal CDs from his car and improved the whole class. Now, it has spread to almost every country in the world, with thousands of certified instructors.

Gomez got hooked on Zumba after attending a class in 2007 with some friends. He loved it so much that he decided to become an

instructor and took a workshop in Kansas City, Mo., to get certified.

During the fall semester, Gomez's classes have met at the Buffalo Bar in downtown St. Joseph.

"It's such a perfect setup with the big dance floor, great sound system and a stage that makes it easier for my class to follow me," Gomez said. "I couldn't ask for more."

Gomez enjoyed teaching. He was very animated and dynamic, which kept his class involved. "I love teaching, because it changes people's lives," Gomez said. "It transformed my life, and I love being able to spread that happiness and joy to others."

In high school, Gomez was very shy and easygoing. In fact, people were surprised to discover that he actually danced. He didn't have any rhythm, but after attending the Zumba classes, it just clicked.

"Zumba brings out a whole different person in me," Gomez said.

Gomez's advice and key to success in Zumba was simple. "I tell my students this at the beginning of every class," Gomez said. "There is no wrong way to Zumba. All you have to do is keep moving and have fun."

Photos by Kailey Alexander



≡ Kayla Vice by Jourdan Huffman

They say that when you find that one talent that you are truly passionate about, that you should never, ever give up on it. There is something so special about finding that passion, and harnessing it.

Guard Kayla Vice has done nothing but that. Although she was a newcomer to the Women's Basketball team, she was not new to the sport itself by any means. She played basketball competitively since she was in the third grade. She even played on an all boys team through the YMCA as a child. With this strong of an athletic background, Vice was destined to play at Western.

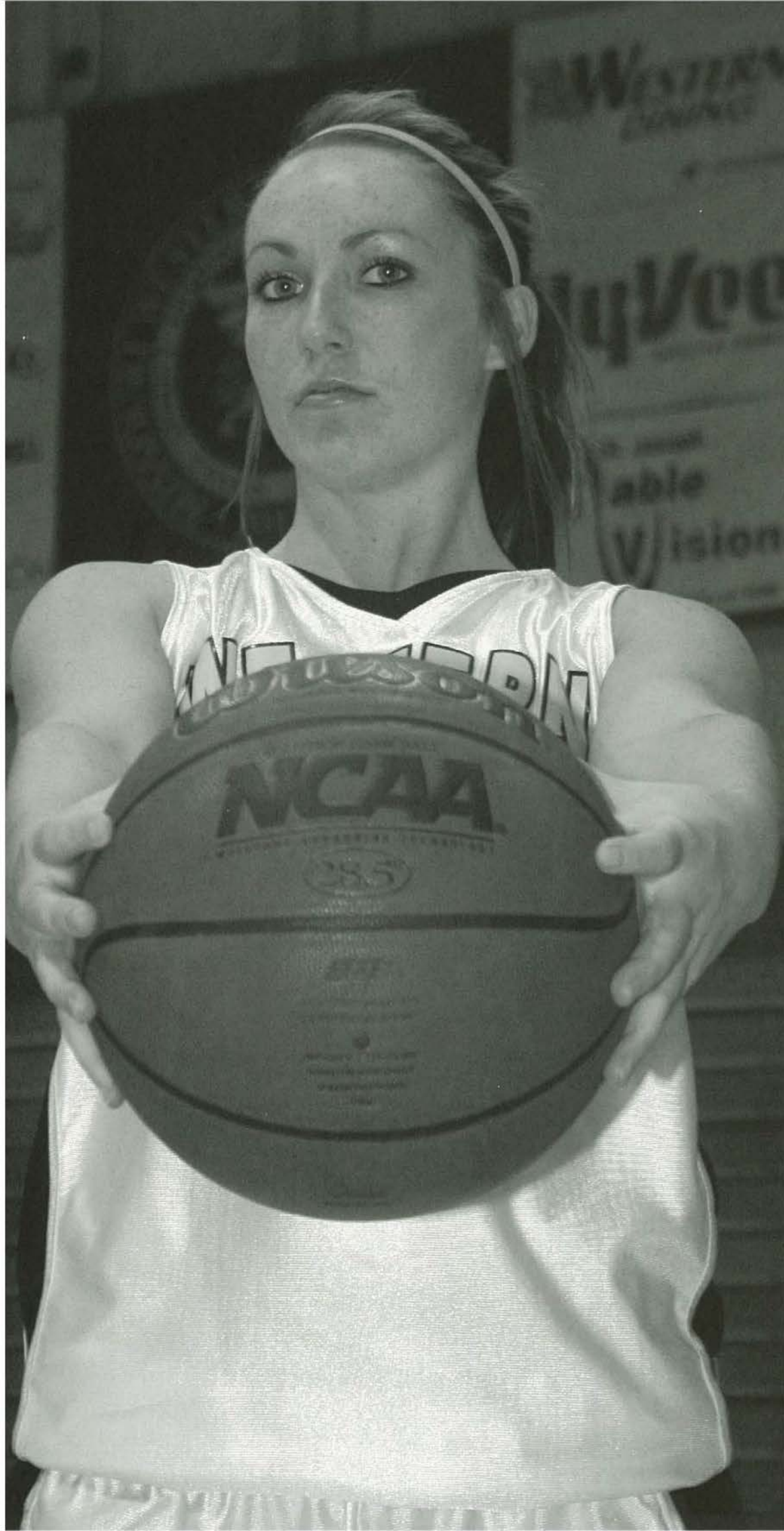
One of the most endearing characteristics about Vice was her confidence, and her willingness to persevere. She had a strong work ethic that made it second nature for her to give every single game her all. "Being determined keeps me headed toward my goals in life and definitely helps me in the game," Vice said. "Just the immense feeling of being out there on the court doing what I love keeps me going in any game."

For as long as she can remember, basketball has been her focus. She had a positive attitude every time she walked onto the court, and

it was evident that she was most comfortable, most herself, when she had a basketball in her hands. For Vice, the game of basketball was not about the end result, but about the hard work that it took to get there. "Basketball was my first love," she said. "It allows me to let all my emotions go and play with my body and my soul."

Basketball was not her only love. The sport that she played only made up one facet of her personality. Off the court, she was a fun-loving girl that hoped to become a veterinarian. She was a pre-veterinary major. She even dreamed of a future working with exotic animals at a wildlife refuge.

Vice described herself as optimistic, dynamic and encouraging. On top of these qualities, it was her level of sportsmanship and maturity that will surely carry her into her dreams for the future. She went into every game and every day with the same positive outlook. "Knowing what it takes to win requires losing from time to time," Vice said. "Winning definitely is important, but I do not believe it is everything. It is necessary to lose at times, because you have to be able to pick yourself back up and continue on."



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yourself up and
continue on."

"They keep me humble, congratulate me when I do well and help me bounce back when I struggle."



Photo by Harvey Jackson

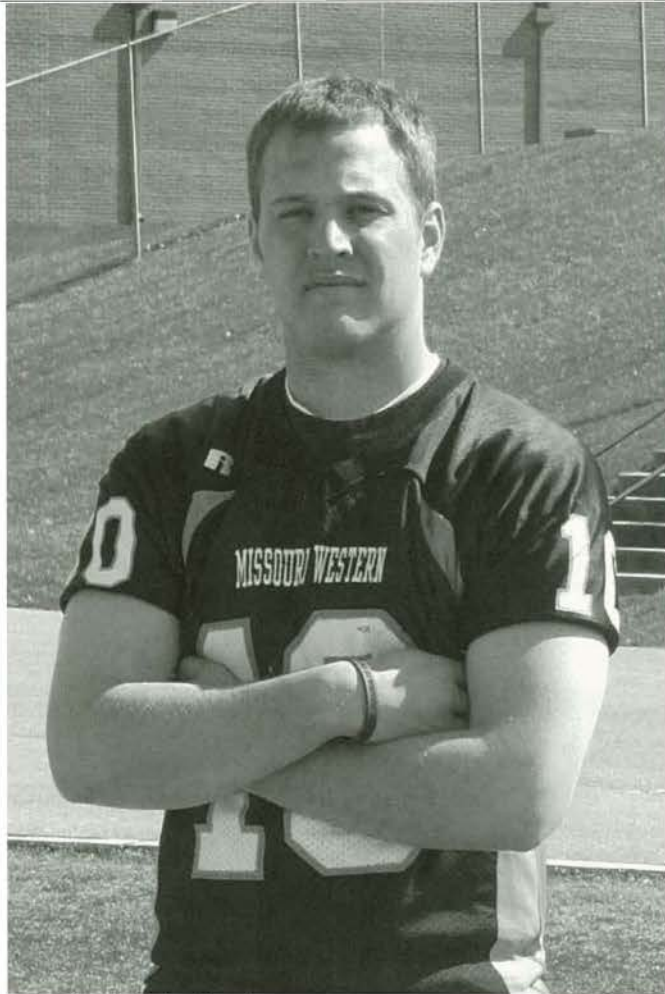
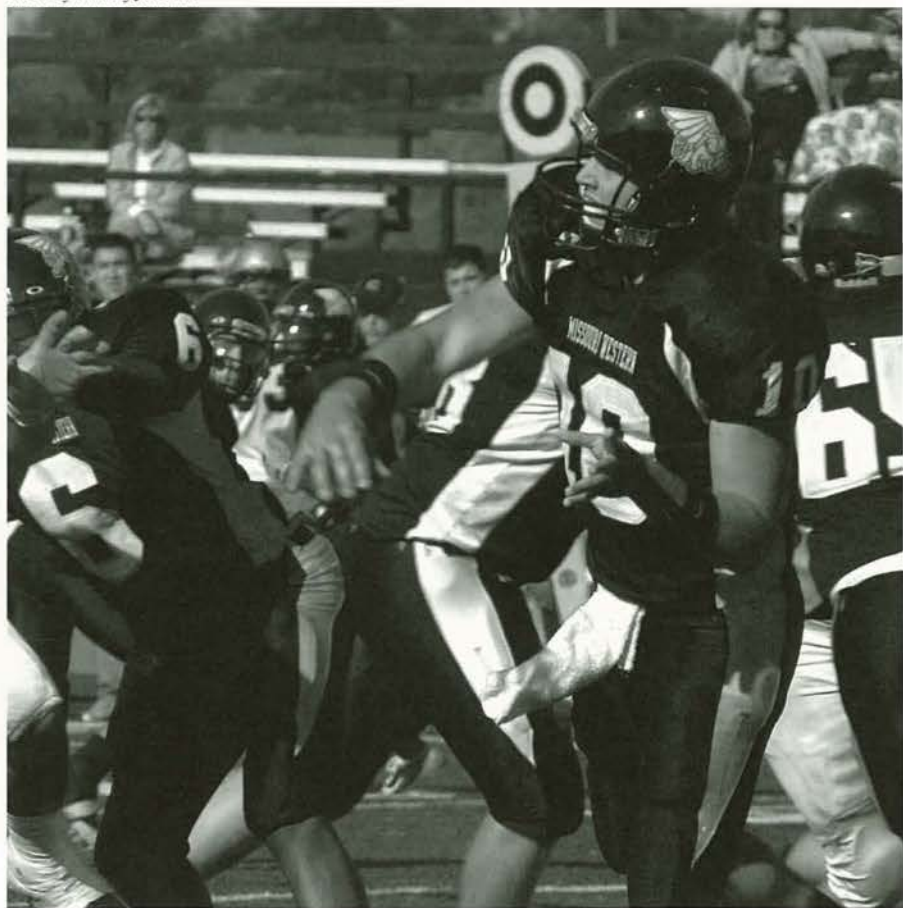


Photo by Kailey Alexander

Photo by Harvey Jackson



≡ Drew Newhart by Lauren Dillon

Drew Newhart is a familiar name to Missouri Western students. What they do not know about is the person behind the name and what made him tick.

Newhart, a physical education major, grew up around football his entire childhood. His father, whose alma mater was Missouri Western, also played football when he was in college. Newhart remembered attending football practices when he was a kid with his dad. He contributed being around the sport so much influenced his decision to play later on in life.

In high school, Newhart played quarterback for football, point guard in basketball and shortstop for baseball in Cameron, Mo. However, his love for football did prevail, which made him decide to continue to play when he attended college.

"My decision to come to Missouri Western really did not have much to do with my dad, because I knew he would support my decision regardless," he said. "But, it is cool that I'm playing college football at the same place he did."

His favorite high school football moment was when his team won the Class-Two State Championship his senior year. They ended the season undefeated, 14-0, which Drew said was an amazing way to end his high school career.

"My favorite college football memory so far was getting to play

in my first college game," he said. "It was an adrenaline rush, and I was just excited to get out there and have an opportunity to play college football. We did win the game, and it was a great experience, and it helped me prepare for the rest of the season. Hopefully, I will continue these memories the rest of the time I am here."

He named his family members as his biggest influences and supporters. His dad, mom and sister, Abbey attend all of the games, no matter the drive and were his No. 1 fans.

"They keep me humble, congratulate me when I do well and help me bounce back when I struggle," he said.

Newhart planned on translating his love for football into his career path. Upon graduation, he will work on his master's degree in athletic administration. He hoped to use that degree to become an athletic director or football coach on the collegiate level.

"The physical education major is very hands-on, and they do a great job of getting you out in the field, so you can actually experience what you're going to be doing after graduation," Newhart said. "That would have to be my favorite part, just getting out in the classrooms and seeing the teachers and getting to experience it first-hand. My least favorite part would have to be the dance classes; I'm definitely not the world's best dancer. I didn't even attend my senior prom."



≡Tara Dugger

by Olin Kinsey

The adjective “distinguished,” can often be recognized with excellence or a mark of eminence. Perhaps that’s the reason that Tara Dugger represents herself as a distinguished black woman. Already completing her third year at Western, Dugger has already established exactly how she walks with excellence. Majoring in biology and health science, she’s witnessed what the fuss is about when it comes down to challenging major. Her goal is to one day become an outstanding gynecologist. Dugger often finds herself being just as busy outside of the classroom as in.

“I wanted to become involved in organizations that would help me to better myself and make a college career successful, but joyful at the same time,” Dugger said.

Dugger resides as president of The Society of Distinguished Black Woman, and was a candidate for a senator seat for the Student Government Association. As a member of DBW, she found herself ‘becoming’ a leader at Western for many young women.

“DBW has allowed me to uplift myself and others that face similar obstacles that African-American woman face. Most importantly, it has made me appreciate my culture more than ever.”

Appreciating herself and her peers has been the one life lesson Dugger strove to accomplish. She said the biggest obstacle she faced as

a college student was adjusting to a new life away from home and her family.

“It has caused me to be more independent and a stronger woman because of the problems I face from depending on other friends.”

Like so many us, we carry our own image of our heroes in our day-to-day walk. Dugger agreed that a personal hero has been most effective on her lifestyle and walk of faith. She gave most of her credit and success as a student to her mother.

“She taught me all the values and knowledge needed in becoming a successful woman. She’s my backbone and the one person I know I can always count on.”

From cutting her hair to an all-natural style, to trying different types of food, Dugger remained open minded. And even though she kept herself busy, she always took time to enjoy life with her friends and colleagues. For her, friendship meant everything.

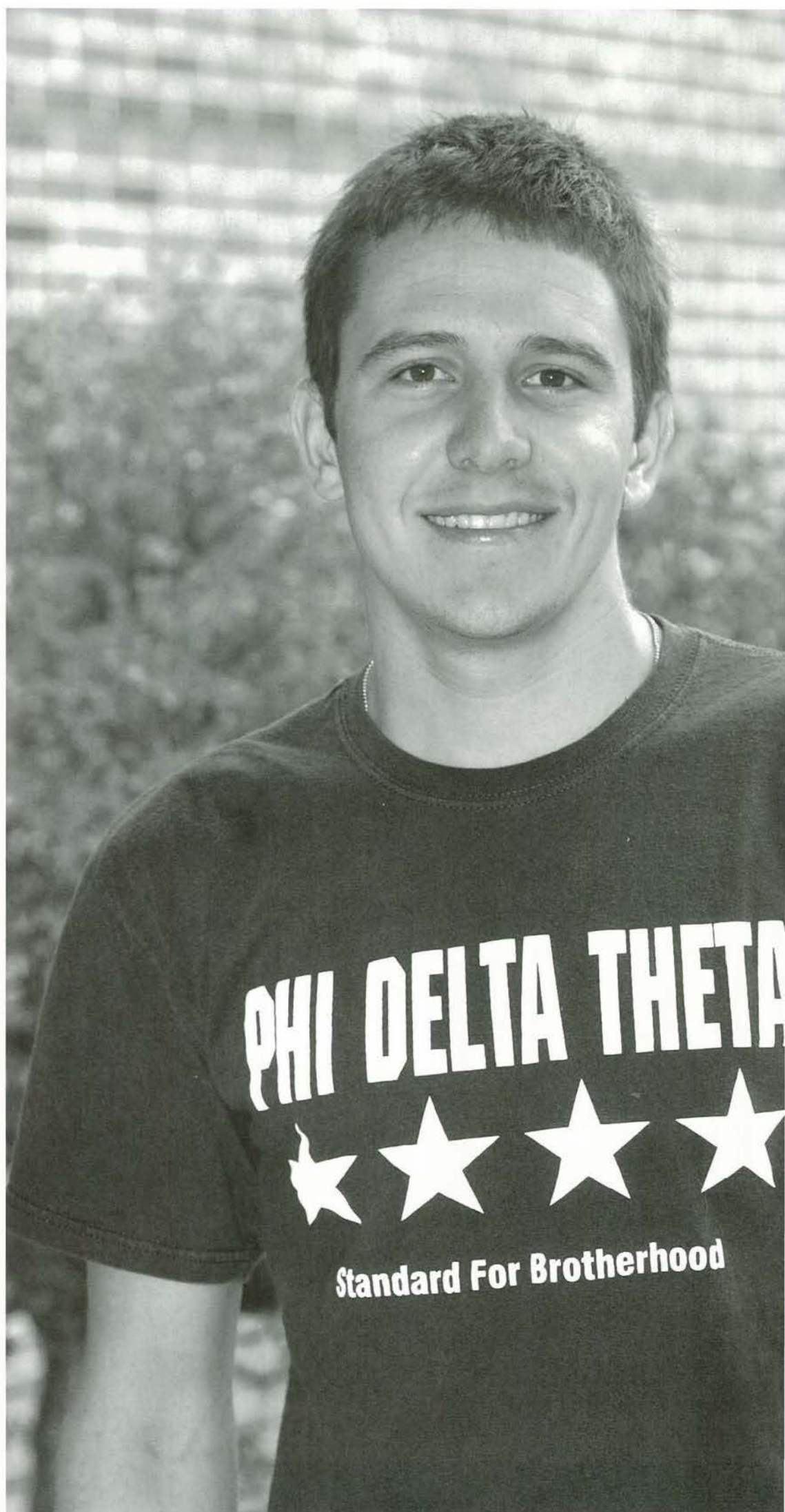
“People always see me around the same group of women. We have a strong bond that we share because we have very similar values and goals for life.”

Western students identified her just by her smile that never faded from her face.

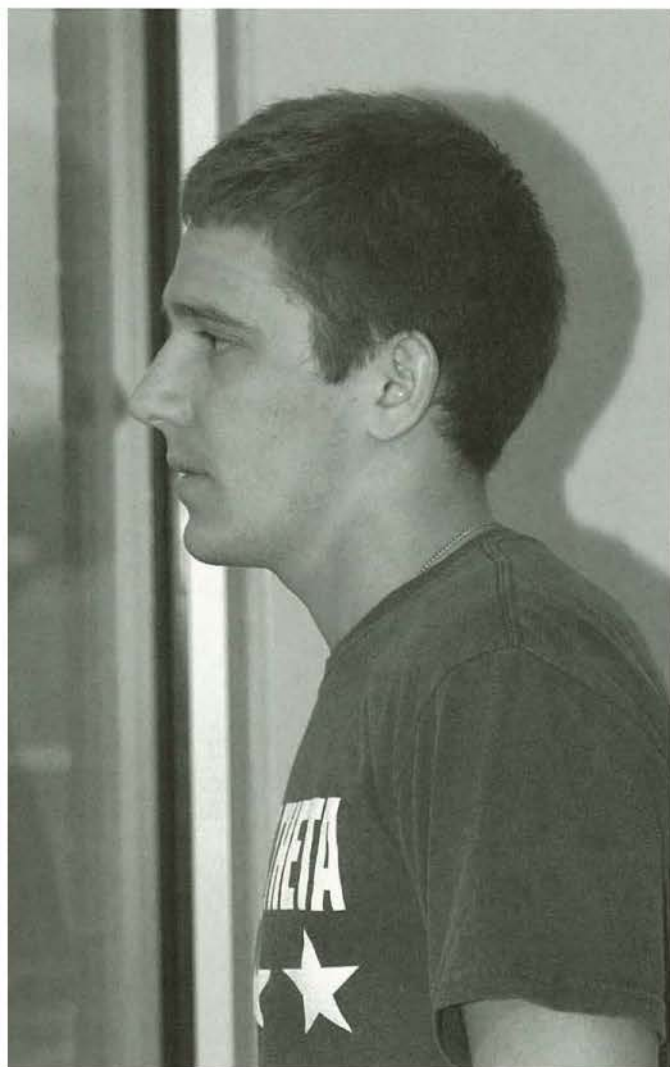


"She taught me all the values and knowledge needed in becoming a successful woman."

"You'll
never find
someone
who gives
as much
into what
they're
doing like
he does."



Photos by Linda Shireman



≡ David Wyble by Olin Kinsey

"I believe the most important characteristic a leader can have is passion," David Wyble said. "If they are not passionate about what they do, then there is no way they could ever motivate others to follow them."

Wyble has been an influence to the Greek community at Western for over four years. As president of Phi Delta Theta, and a student in the Communication Studies and Theatre department, Wyble overcame many adversaries and became one of the many driving forces of the Greek community. His fraternity was the largest active Greek organization at Western. When it boiled down to leading students in the right direction, he believed that the main goal was to motivate other people and not just yourself.

"A long time ago, someone told me a quote that I try to live by everyday and help guide my decisions," Wyble said. "A good leader gets people to do something because they want to, not because they have to."

Like many freshmen who enter college, he was one of those students who chose Greek membership to gain friendship and meet new, diverse individuals. He strongly believed that becoming a member of his Greek affiliation was possibly 'the best decision' in his life.

"I think now about all of the friends I've made, the conferences I have been able to attend, the skills I have gained and the unforgettable

times I have spent with my brothers."

Ask any member of his fraternity about him and you will realize why his brothers flocked to him on a regular basis.

"He's very determined, but also an enjoyable person to be around," fraternity brother Tyler Rhoad said. "David has always been willing to lend his hand or offer an opinion whenever you need it. You'll never find someone who gives as much into what they're doing like he does."

Going Greek wasn't for everyone, but Wyble believed that it was like anything else; you only get out what you put into it. As a freshman, he described himself as 'timid and quiet.' Now, he was passionate, outgoing, involved and very studious...except on the weekends. One of his most favorite passions beyond Western was fishing and snowboarding. During the school year, he also served food at his family's restaurant, Boudreaux's Louisiana Seafood. Perhaps that was why he knew how to cook well.

"I don't want to brag, but I do make a pretty good crawfish etouffee. Because my family is Cajun and from Southern Louisiana, I like to keep my food spicy and flavorful."

Wyble planned to graduate and depart from Western in the fall of 2009. Until then, he maintained his focus and drive to motivate him and his fraternity brothers until he walked across the stage.

Photos by Linda Shireman



≡ Daisy Buntin

by Jourdan Huffman

Daisy Buntin believed that making a difference matters, and she chose Western's theatre department as her venue. Buntin was involved in a number of productions, both on the stage and behind it. She has acted in a plethora of productions, from "Laundry and Bourbon and Lonestar" in 2006 to "Night of the Living Dead" in 2008. But her theatric abilities don't stop there. She has also directed a number of productions, like "The Blue Room" and "Fool for Love," both in this year.

Buntin's passion for theatre was not something bred only at Western. She started out acting in community theatre productions as a kid, so taking acting classes once she began attending Western just seemed fitting. She dabbled in Acting 1, taught by Professor Jeremy Warner, which turned out to be just the class she needed to push her full force into acting and directing.

"The best process I've ever been a part of was "Agnes of God," when I assistant directed under Warner," Buntin said. "I learned how to be a good director. I put as much of what I learned from that as possible into "Fool for Love," and that was also a very positive process, and one I won't forget, because it was my first full-length show to direct. I

think I'll look back at a newspaper clipping of it when I'm 50-years-old and think, 'I was 22 and thought I was qualified to direct that show.' It's just such a beautiful and poignant script and I'm so very, very lucky to have been able to direct it. The cast and crew were absolutely amazing."

It seems as though for Buntin, the sky's the limit. She found something that she was truly passionate about, and these were the things in life that one must hold onto with all their strength. "My ultimate goal in life is just to be able to do what I love," Buntin said. "I want to tell stories, in a live theatrical setting, because I think there is a danger and immediacy in theatre that isn't present in other media such as film. Those are the qualities that make me want to be a part of theatre."

Buntin's vibrant, visionary attitude was what has made her such a standout at Western. She lived her life according to one of her favorite quotations by Andy Warhol, "They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself." Well, Buntin has done just that.



"...I was 22
and thought I
was qualified
to direct that
show?"

GRADUATING SENIORS

Tyler Adcock
Kailey Alexander
Julie Allen
Amanda Babcock



Mallory Baker
Ashley Baldwin
Jordan Baumgardner
Amy Bennett



Ashley Beydler
Kelly Billings
Leann Blank
Eric Boner



Rachel Booth
Erica Bottom
Shannon Boyles
Susan Brock





Alison Brown
Connic Brown
Alicia Bryan
Amber Buzzard



Joanna Caracci
Rachel Carroll
Amy Chastain
Philip Austin Cody



Megan Combs
Charles Compton
Rachel Conley
Sarah Cool



Jed Cornelius
Amelia Cox
Zackary Craft
Nathan Curtis

Cathy Dannar
Bryan Davis
Leah Davis
Amanda De Selms



Hallie Delagardelle
Patrick Dickinson
Nancy Diederich
Amanda Dittmore



Leann Dridgen
Erin Evans
Amanda Everett
Allison Faulkner



Stephen Fitzgerald
Kara Foley
Katie Freuck
Teresa Fulk



GRADUATING SENIORS



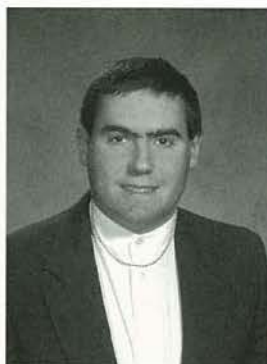
Patricia Gammill
Kelley Gengelbach
Andrew Gillies
Carina Gilmore



Marissa Graves
James Green
Ryan Groues
Ronald Hadley, Jr



Stephanie Hansen
Bryana Harrah
Devin Hart
Stephanie Hartley



Jonathan Hausman
Ashanti Hazley
Carrie Henry
Danny Houston

GRADUATING SENIORS

Lexie Humphrey
Jaclyn Hurkman
Heather Hurst
Brandy Imlay



Kristin Jago
Brian Jaynes
Jacob Johnson
Billy Jones



Keera Jung
Bradley King
Stacie King
Karen Laipple



Josh Lane
Nicholas Lanter
Leonard Lawson
Kelsey Lee





Rebecca Lehman
Jennifer Lindgren
Janet Lines
Magen Mann



Felicia Manus
Jamie Mchenry
Ashley McIntosh
Michael Mears



Meagan Meek
Rona Miller
Victoria Miller
Stanislav Milnovic



Qiana Mixson
Jeremy Monteggia
Chanda Moran
Vanessa Morris

GRADUATING SENIORS

David Schmidt
Ashton Schwader
Keri Seitz
Clifford Selsor



Raya Shafer
Tim Shafer
Jennifer Shaffer
Michael Shaw



Todd Shelton
Nicole Shiflett
Linda Shireman
Joseph Sloan



Natalie Sloop
Alyssa Smith
Carmen Smith
Erin Stauffer





Melissa Steadman
Cristina Stica
Sonja Streeter
Lauren Stuck



Amber Stull
Christopher Sullivan
Raymond Swoboda
Erica Taylor



Jason Taylor
Jonathan Thiele
Michelle Thomas
Leslie Thompson



Autumn Todd
Benjamin Toedebusch
Chelsey Tood
Whitney Trump

Amanda Turner
Michael Voltz
Rachael Waddell
Nicole Wallinger



Adam Ward
Nurechia Washington
Katie Webb
Nathaniel Wehmeyer



Kathryn Weisser
Jodi Whetsell
Brandy White
Monica White



Pauline White
Bethany Whitsell
Jennifer Whyte
Rickey Winder



GRADUATING SENIORS



Joseph Wombwell
John Wyble
Kayla Wymore
Jessica Yesilcimen



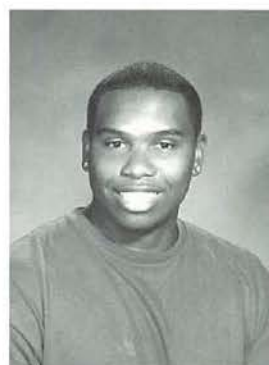
Stephanie York

UNDERCLASSMEN

Divine Adams
Jasmine Allen
Amanda Beaver
Melissa Bledsoe



Christopher Blodgett
Maree Blumer
Darryl Boswell
Breanne Boyer



Kimberly Brown
Jasmine Cannon
Crystal Cassity
Jeanie Claypool

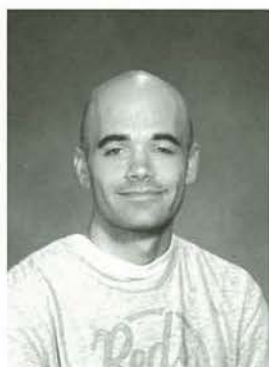


Melissa Clinton
Siero Denson
Mark Diggs
Lauren Dillon





Raphaelle Drew
Tara Rena Dugger
Danielle Eickemeyer
Sara Eskridge



Chloe French
Elizabeth Friedly
Melissa Friger
Joe Golden



Marie Guillaume
Shar'ron Harris
Heather Heater
Arthur Heinrich

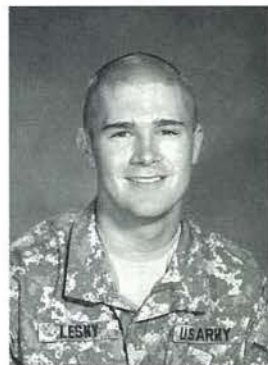


Patricia Hoecker
Tiffany Hoecker
Kirby Hoermann
Megan Johnston

Emmalee Jones
Chiquita Keeble
Heather Kietzman
Olin Kinsey



Taylor Kram
Maryann Leach
Shawn Lesny
Tara Lightle



Mark Linebaugh
Taylor Mceachern
Lisa Montgomery
Josie Moore



Rhonda Parker
Lacy Preston
Marsadie Riley
Teresa Rodewald



UNDERCLASSMEN



Whitney Sanford
Heather Scott
Mickey Sigmon
Veronica Stames



Erica Stevens
Bridget Straughter
Isaac Tawney
Sarah Waters



Areshia Williams

ORGANIZATIONS

816 Films



Front Row: Jesse Frazier, Megan Marie McDonald, Liesl Poet, Carlos Gomez and Holly Bowen.
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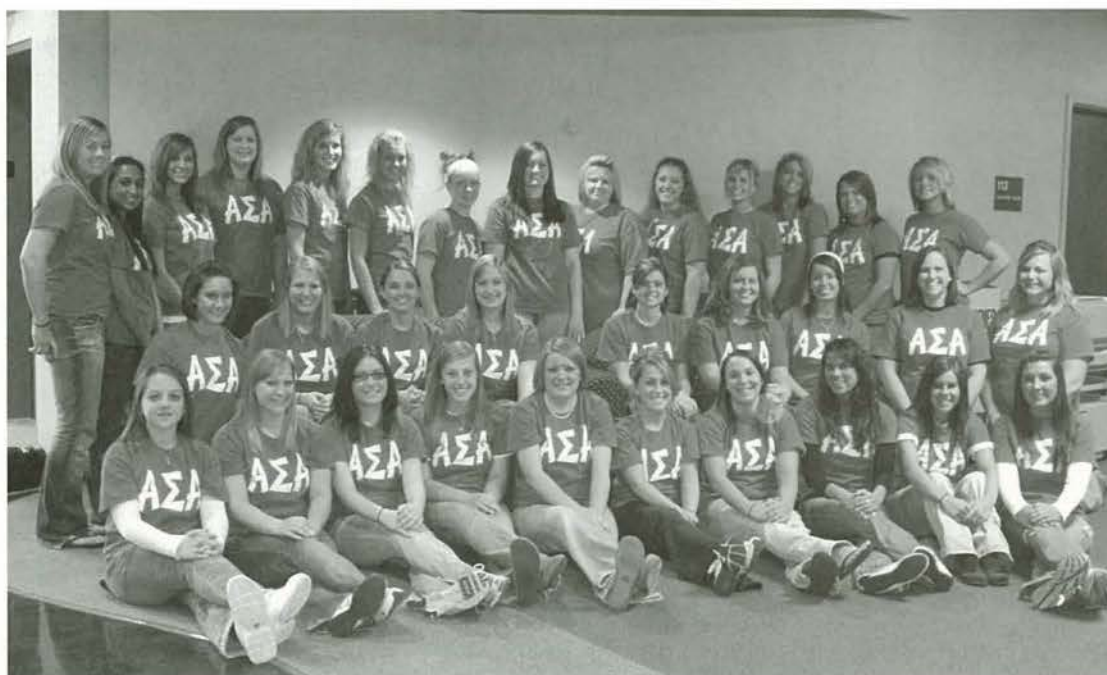
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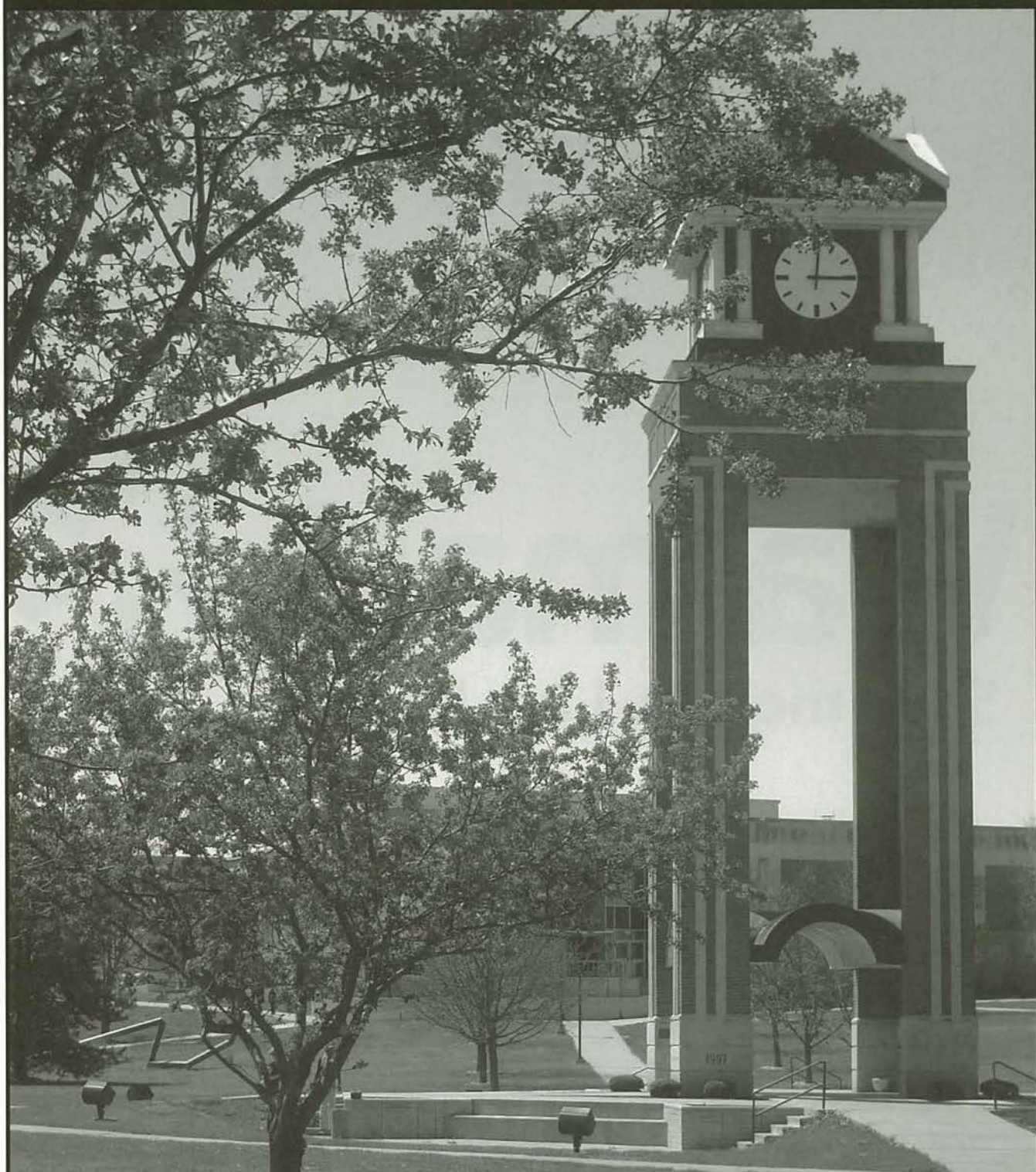
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and to the most special places your heart has ever known."

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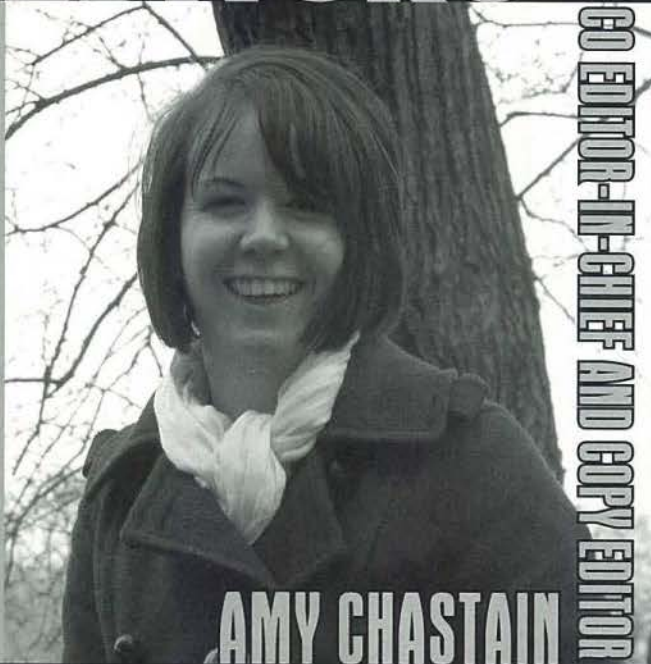


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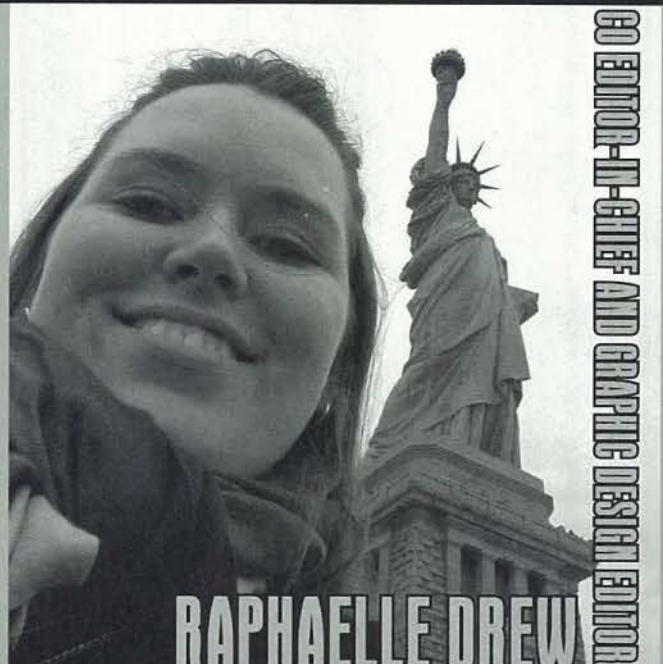
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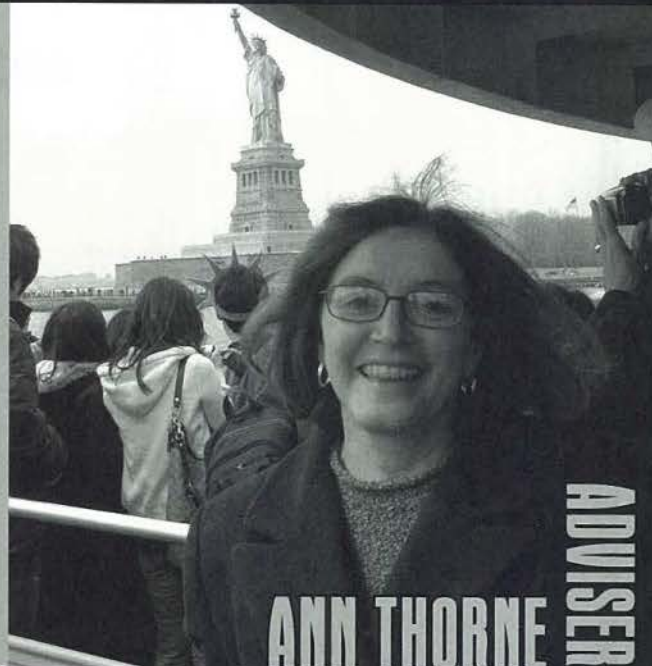
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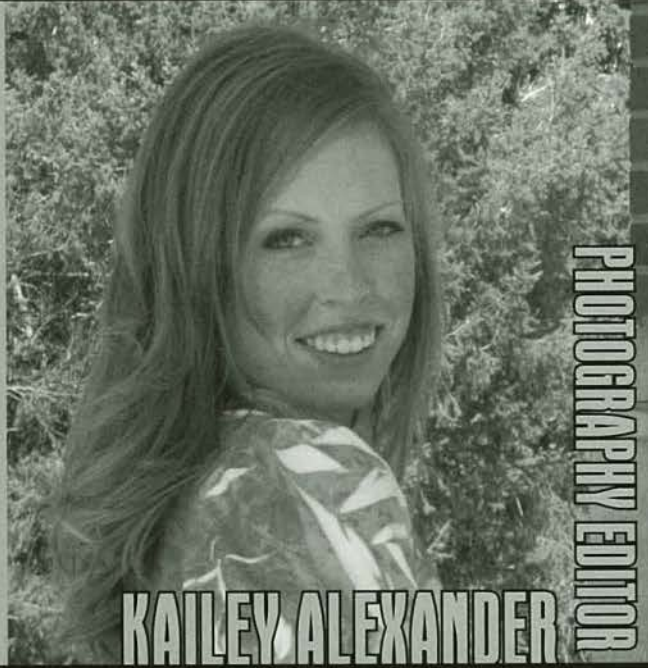
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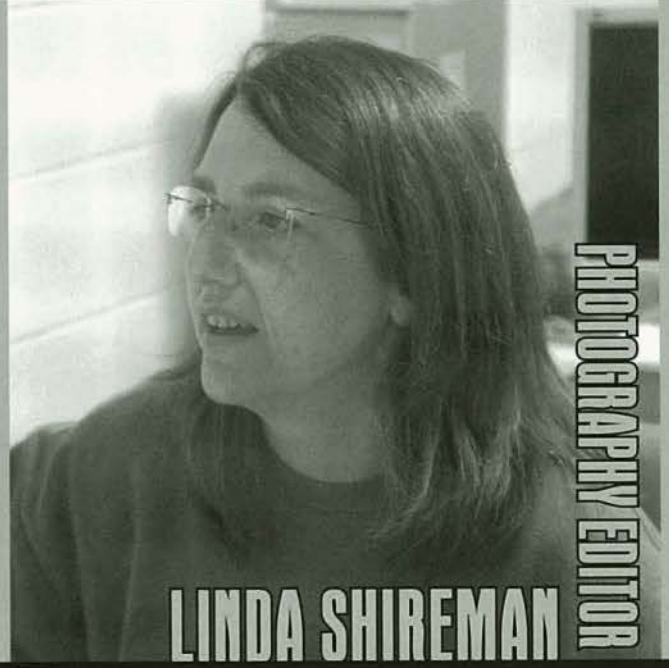
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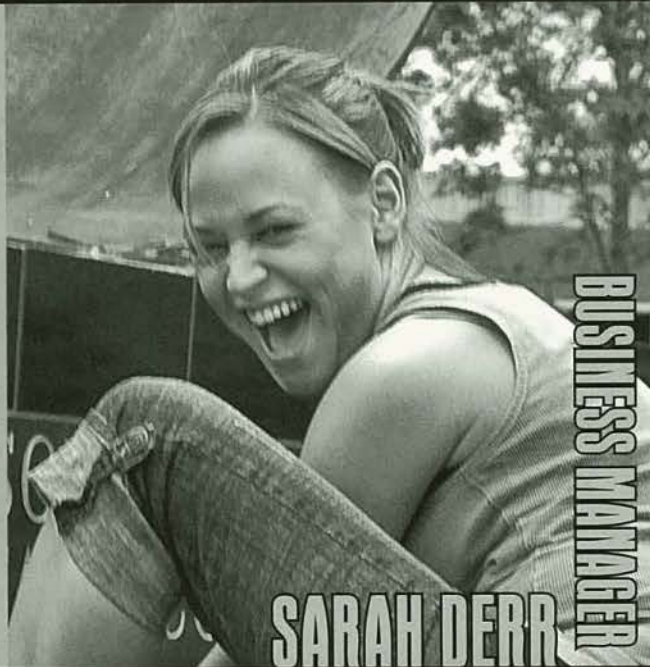
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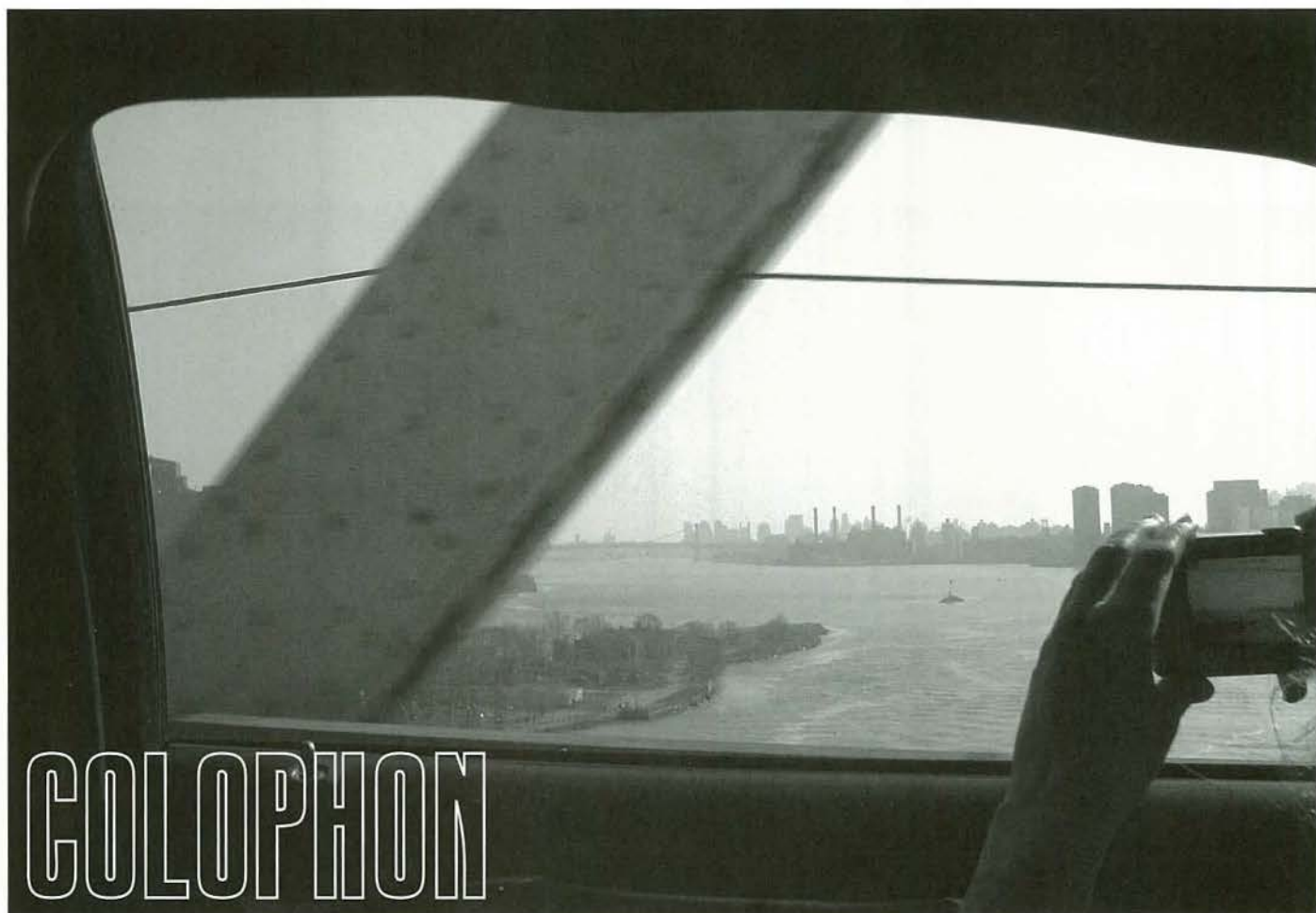
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The cover was designed by Raphaelle Drew, created by Shawn Lesny and Linda Shireman, taken by Harvey Jackson. The typography used throughout the book was AWPC Palatino, in bold, regular and italics. The 2009 Griffon was produced by Macintosh G5s using Adobe InDesign CS and Adobe Photoshop CS3 software. Editorial content does not necessarily reflect the views of the university. Address inquiries to: Griffon Yearbook, Eder Hall, Room 220, 4525 Downs Drive, St. Joseph, Mo., 64507, or call the office at 816.271.4540. Copyright 2009, Griffon staff and Missouri Western State University. All Rights Reserved.

I would just like to thank both the fall and spring staffs for their help in making a book that represents Evident. To my photography editors, Linda and Kailey, your dedication and extra hours of work have made this book's quality where it is at. Ann, your guidance and suggestion I could not live without and I do not know where we would be without them. Amy, thank you for keeping everyone on task in addition to all the time you put into the wonderfully fresh copy. It has been a privilege to share this position with you. In addition, I would like to thank you for helping me prepare for the challenges that face me next year. Thank you to my family and friends for dealing with the long hours of work yearbook requires, and without your support I probably would not have gotten anything done. Also to Michelle Brosemer, George Reinhardt and Stephanie Gladbach, thank you so much for helping us present a book worth looking at.

Evident has been a journey of trying new things and rediscovering new ways to see what is in front of us. It was our goal to show this publication in a way that is new but at the same time is familiar. This book represents the things in college life that we might not appreciate right now, but years from now looking through this book the time, spaces, faces and memories will all come flooding back to us. Hopefully, this book will be that gateway to our glory days. Raphaelle Drew