

TENACIOUS

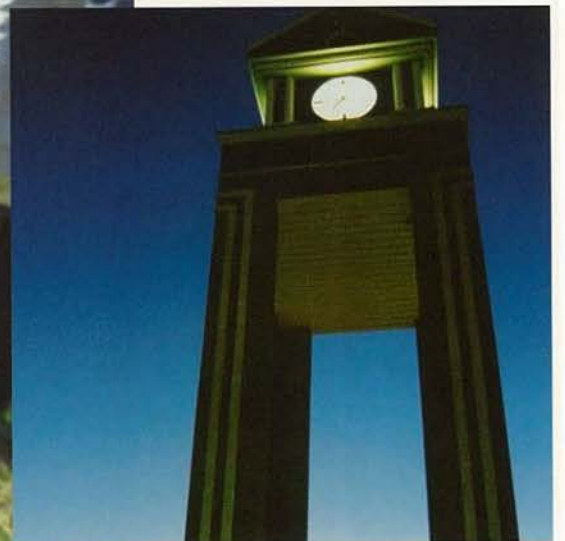
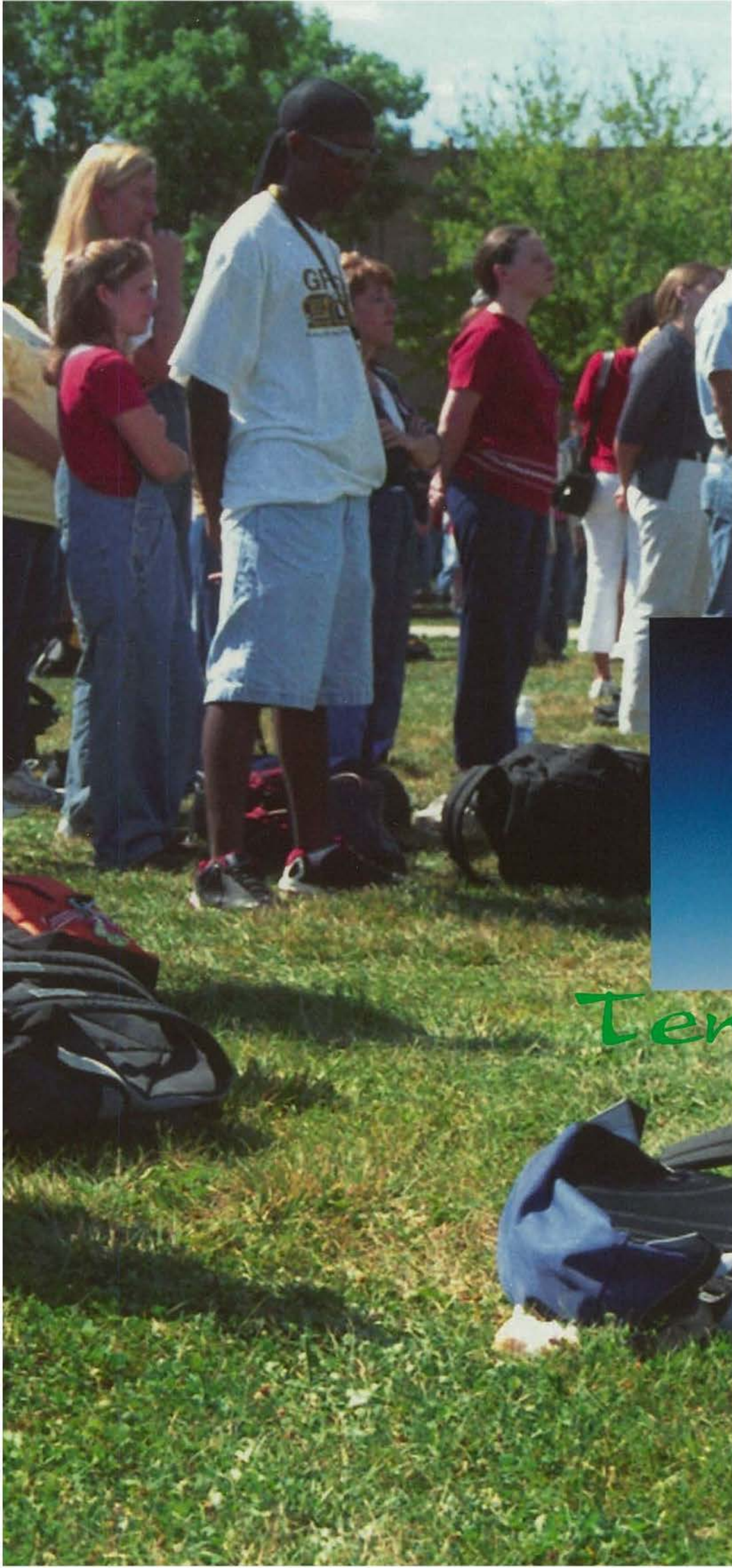


MISSOURI WESTERN STATE COLLEGE
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Tenacious





Tenacious

Student

You're alive.

Do something.

*The directive in life,
the moral imperative
was so uncomplicated.*

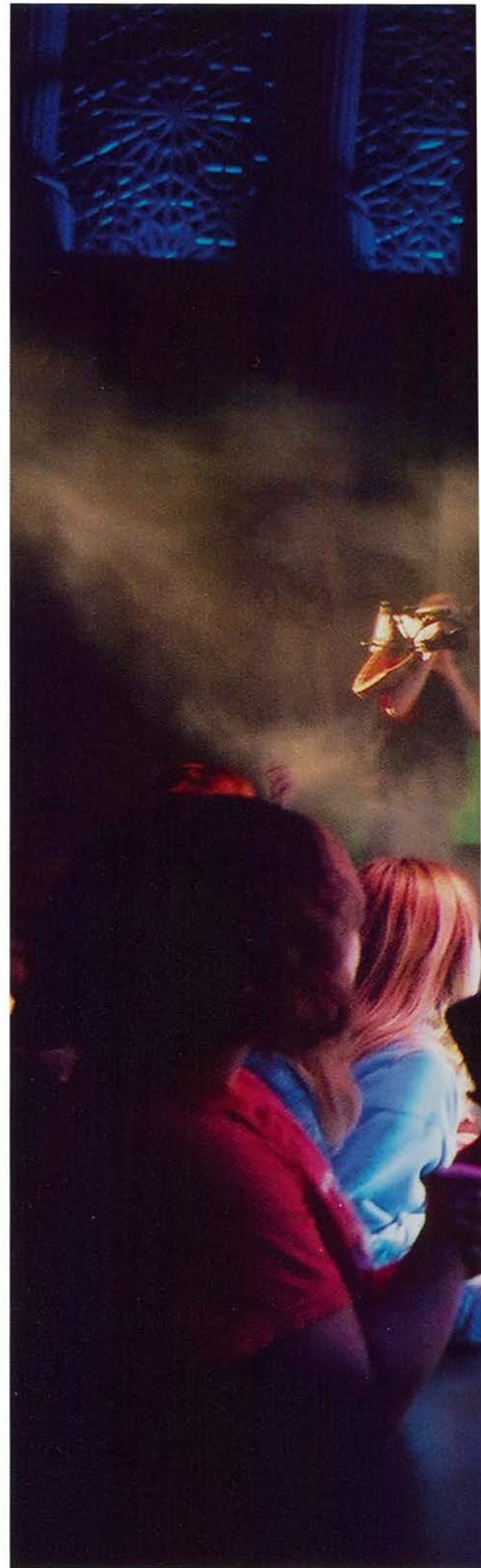
*It could be expressed
in single words, not
complete sentences.*

It sounded like this:

Look. Listen.

Choose. Act.

~ Barbara Hall







story by sara bell, photos by deliese brewster and clint gerdes

fun & games

western students have more than just floats and razz-dazz to worry about during homecoming week

Homecoming – the word itself stirs up many different images in people. It brings to mind football games and a cheering crowd, the crowning of a king and queen and parades full of floats. However, these things are just the icing on the cake. Sororities, fraternities and other campus organizations also have many other activities to keep them busy during the week.

Window painting contests were one of the more popular activities during Homecoming week. Western’s Homecoming theme this year had to do with various types of games, and the organizations picked a sub theme based on the overall theme. Alpha Gamma Delta’s theme was the Olympics, Phi Mu’s was Candy Land and Phi Sigma’s was a variety of popular games, such as Life and Battleship. Floats, windows and everything were then based on these themes.

Kat Guyer, a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, said “Homecoming is fun, but I really love the windows. They’re fun to do and fairly easy. [They] give organizations the chance to really let their creativity flow.”

Amanda Jones, a new member of Phi Mu, agreed.

“Working on the float and window was a lot of fun,” Jones said. “It really gave me the opportunity to get to know my new sisters pretty well.”

Signs were also popular during Homecoming week. The signs were placed throughout campus and had a message for the football team on it, based on an organization’s individual theme. Many feel that the signs added school spirit to the campus and also gave people the chance to enjoy themselves and be

creative.

“Even though I am not a member of any sororities, I really do enjoy seeing the signs all over campus,” Sophomore Maria Combs said. “Everyone did such a great job, and they really add to the atmosphere of the school.”

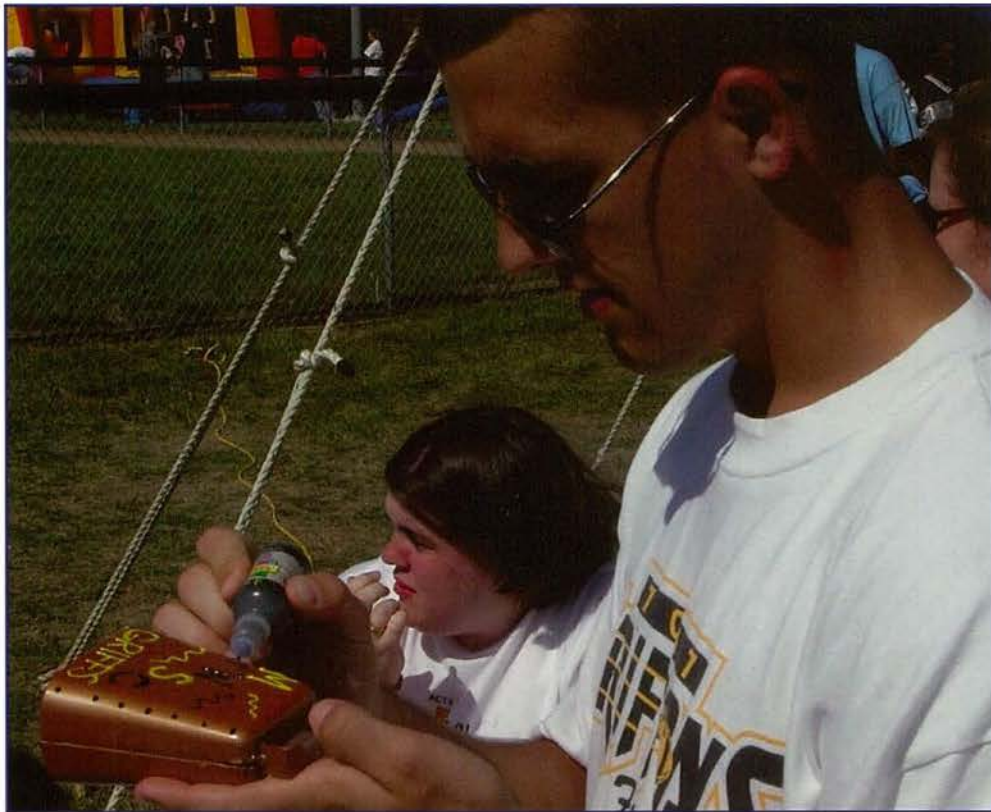
There were also decorated trucks and cars in the parade. Everyone knew about the floats, but, while a lot of people were working on those, there were also people working on the trucks and cars. They were also decorated to go along with a theme and were in the parade behind the main attraction – the float. However, they were also judged.

“I really enjoy seeing all the decorated signs and windows around campus,” Lamont Theus, a member of the football team, said. “It boosts school spirit, and, as a football player, I like to know everyone is backing me.”

It seemed as if everyone went through a lot of trouble to make signs, create floats and decorate windows. While a part of it was school spirit, it was also a competition. All the organizations registered to participate in the activities. They strived to get points based on best window, sign, float, truck, car and neatest clean-up. The judges were members of Western faculty and people from the St. Joseph community. The overall winner was announced 3 to 5 days after Homecoming events were over, and everyone cleaned up and started plans for next year.



Opposite page: A tradition of Homecoming every year is to have a bonfire by the football field. Many students and organizational members participated in the activities. Top left: Alpha Omega gathers in the truck at the start of the parade. Participants of the parade had to line up for the parade at 6:45 a.m. Top right: Students practice safety before fun. Through all of the confusion, events went off without a hitch. Bottom left: Sigma Sigma Sigma's sign was one of the many displayed throughout the campus during Homecoming week. The sign played on their theme, "Sigmonopoly", which was derived from the Western's overall theme, "Let the Games Begin." Bottom right: Riding through the crowd of eager onlookers, the Baptist Student Union truck shows school support. The BSU was one of the many organizations represented in the parade.



story by kellie feuerbacher, photos by deliese brewster

family day

students, parents and organizations gathered for a day of fun, togetherness and charity

Each year, Family Day provides students and their families a special time set aside to enjoy being together, learn more about the college and just have fun.

Many organizations set up booths in an area near Spratt Memorial Stadium. They sold things like raffle tickets, buttons, T-shirts and food. The Baptist Student Union sold cowbells for people to use as noisemakers for the game that night, and the Beta Beta Beta National Biology Honor Society sold snapshots with a snake. Some of the money organizations raised went directly to the organizations to help defray costs throughout the year, and some of the groups gave their profits to charities.

One of the charity fundraisers was the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. They sold raffle tickets for a chance to win a basket filled with Western paraphernalia, gift certificates and books and gave the profits to the American Cancer Society.

Besides selling things, some booths also had carnival-type children's games for the younger family members. The Non-Traditional Student Organization had a duck and frog pond, milk bottle toss and bean bag toss. "It's a more family-oriented type of thing since most of us have kids," Pam Klaus, the organization's president, said.

College officials also designated a specific time for the students' parents to learn about and be reminded several aspects about the school. The parents listened to various speakers during this time, including security offic-

ers; Joyce Courter, Director of Health Services; John Comerford, Don Willis, James Scanlon. In addition, Duane Bruce and three Western students taught the parents the fight song.

Besides being entertained and informed by the various activities, students and their families also spent time just enjoying each other's company.

Freshman Nicole Ward spent Family Day with her grandmother, grandfather and two sisters. She felt that the time she and her family got to spend together was priceless. "I get to see my friends all the time, but today my family's here," Ward said.

Ward's grandmother, Delma Monroe, enjoyed spending the day at Western with her granddaughter. "I came to meet and see some of the different people she associates with and to see some of the different people she associates with and to see the campus as a whole," she said.

Freshman Jenny Callaway's mother, Jana Lou Callaway, also came to Western for Family Day. "I came for the opportunity to come and spend time with my child, meet her friends and see what activities she's involved in," Jana Lou said.

At the end of the day, Aramark sponsored a buffet for students and family members, which cost \$7 for an adult and \$3.50 for a child. This gave families a chance to stay on campus to dine, allowing some additional time together.



Opposite page: Two students participate in one of the many activities at Family Day. These Western students box each other in the inflatable boxing ring brought by Kramer. Top Left: Renee Butler paints the hand of a student. The Sigma's sponsored the hand/face painting booth at Family Day. Top Right: Philp Hultquist pies a fellow Phi Delt at the pie throwing booth. The Phi Delt's usually sponsor this event every year at Family Day. Bottom Left: Curtese Howard, Shay Martin and Jehanna Wilkens spend time as a Delta family while going down the big slide. Many sororities and fraternities participated in the events at Family Day. Bottom Right: Sumo-Wrestling was one of the more popular events during the fun-filled day. Family Day offered many activities for family and friends to enjoy.



story by jenny olson

homecoming court

narrowed down from many, these five contestants were the chosen few to represent western during homecoming 2002

Homecoming week was a busy time of the year, especially for the Homecoming court. What does it take to be part of the Homecoming court? Some say one must be involved, friendly, outgoing, enthusiastic and respected by their peers. If this is what it takes, then the candidates of the 2002 Homecoming court qualify.

The candidates were nominated by many organizations on campus. But in the end it was the students who decided who would have the honors of being crowned king and queen. Students were able to vote online for their Homecoming royalty during the first week of October. The preliminary election narrowed the field down to five finalists each for Homecoming queen and king. Students then voted in the final election during the following week to determine the 2002 Homecoming queen, king and court.

The Homecoming court was Amber Wood, Melissa Figg, Jill Spencer, Brandy Bray, Kevin Callaway, Matt Silvius, Steve Allee and Joe Lane. Royalty was announced on Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the dance, but the whole court had many responsibilities to do throughout the week.

"Certain responsibilities as part of the court are to show up to all the events during Homecoming week to represent Missouri Western," Wood said.

Some of the festivities at which the court was recognized were the dance, the volleyball game, the spirit rally and bonfire, the parade through downtown St. Joseph and the football game.

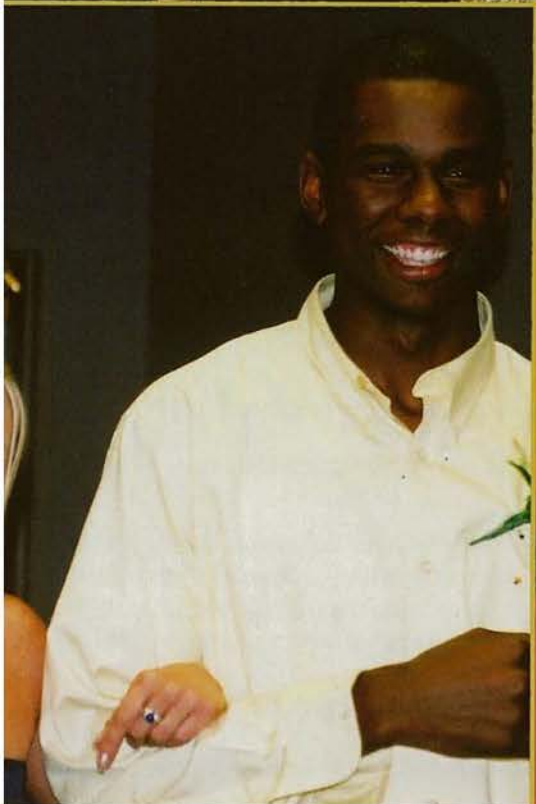
Wood was nominated by Tau Kappa Epsilon. "I was really excited and honored that they nominated me," Wood said. Wood was involved in many organizations such as the Student Honors Organization. She was also the vice-president of the sorority Alpha Sigma Alpha, a Griffon Edge leader, a Western VIP and the public relations chair of the Inter-Greek Council.

Allee felt very privileged to be nominated by the Phi Mu sorority. He was the vice-president of the Student Government Association and a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He was also in the Spanish Club and the Aspirations Program. Allee enjoyed watching the football game the most out of all the Homecoming activities. "What would Homecoming be without a football game?" Allee said.

The Student Honors Organization nominated Bray. "I was pretty excited that I was nominated by an organization that I am involved in," Bray said. Bray was also a writing tutor, a Western VIP, a Griffon Edge Leader and a member of Alpha Chi, Psi Chi and the Psychology Club.

Figg was a physical therapy assistant major and was nominated by her sorority, Phi Mu. "I felt very honored to be nominated by my sorority and very happy to represent my sorority in Homecoming," Figg said.

Figg was the corresponding secretary of Phi Mu, PTA Club president and a volunteer at the Helen Davis State School for the handicapped.



Opposite page: Melissa Figg and Steve Allee wait in anticipation for the announcement of king and queen. The crowning was held on a Monday night at the Homecoming dance. Photo by Sarah Fisher. Top left: The girls of the court pose with Homecoming queen Monica Lee at the Homecoming parade. Each of the court members rode down the parade route as the crowd cheered them on. Photo submitted by Amber Wood. Top right: Brandy Bray and Joe Lane share a dance at the Homecoming festivities. Bray was nominated by the Student Honors Organization, and Lane was nominated by Phi Epsilon Kappa. Photo by Stephanie Radel. Bottom left: Riding together in the Homecoming parade, Matt Silvius and Amber Wood show their smiling faces to the Western fans. Silvius and Wood, along with the other candidates were chosen by their peers to represent Western. Photo submitted by Amber Wood. Bottom right: Kevin Callaway stands with Homecoming Queen Monica Lee at the coronation. Callaway was nominated by Sigma Sigma Sigma. Photo by Sarah Fisher.



story by amanda hake, photos by deliese brewster

western on parade

st joseph community, school organizations and high school bands all come together to celebrate western's homecoming

It was a brisk Saturday morning. People lined the streets of downtown St. Joseph like the stitching of a pocket. Small children waited in anticipation for the parade and bits of candy to be thrown. Students, organizations and local high school bands gathered to celebrate Western's Homecoming.

The festivities of the parade included a competition of 28 high school marching bands. There was also a competition for the best float presentation.

"We've spent about three weeks on our float and have been up a lot of late nights," Alyssa Holyfield of Alpha Gamma Delta said. Most organizations spent about a month in preparation for the event. Along with the cost of sleep and time was the physical cost of putting the actual floats together. For example, ending up with three large floats in all, Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity spent about \$5000.

The parade started a little later than usual because of a few conflicts. Tau Kappa Epsilon was disqualified from the float competition due to earlier attempts to sabotage another organization's float. They were, however, still allowed to be in the parade. Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity was disqualified and asked to leave the parade because alcohol was found on one of its floats. As well as disqualification conflicts, there were several organizations having trouble keeping their floats assembled.

"It took us about a month to build it and about a mile to destroy it," Josie Spelling of Alpha Sigma Alpha said while fixing a piece of her organization's float.

The theme of "Let the Games Begin" was portrayed in many ways, such as Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority's Games of Chance, featuring casino games, and Sigma Sigma Sigma's Sigmanopoly, featuring the game Monopoly. These two organizations tied for first place in the float competition.

Although some organizations' goals were to win the competition, others were in it just for the fun.

"We weren't in this to win," Kelly Sanders, president of the Psychology Club, said. "We haven't been in the parade in a long time. We thought it would be fun, so we opted to be in it this time." The Psychology Club theme was "Bowl Them Over," represented with large bowling pins and a bowling ball.

As well as floats designed and created by students, there were also many businesses and political candidates who were in the parade. Candidates felt that it was a good way to get their name out to the community.

"It is a fun way to support the college and get our name out to the voting community," Lance Davis, who was running for state representative, said.

Even with a few glitches, the 2002 Homecoming parade brought students and the community together.

"Everyone gets to come out and bond with each other and other organizations," Holyfield said.



Opposite page: Enjoying their reign, King Sylvester Brandon and Queen Monica Lee, ride through the streets of St. Joseph. They were crowned earlier that week at the Homcoming dance. Top left: The gentlemen of Phi Delta Theta show off the theme by staging a wrestling match. They had a total of three large floats in the parade. Top right: Scrabble was the word of the day for the Students Honors Organization. They were one of the many organizations to showcase a boardgame. Bottom left: The ladies of Sigma Sigma Sigma do not get to pass go in their version of monopoly. They also placed in many other Homecoming festivities. Bottom left: The Golden Griffon Marching Band marches proudly in their black and gold. A few local high school bands also participated in the parade.



story by tanisha washington, photos by sarah fisher

2002 royalty

sylvester brandon and monica lee had a busy, yet exciting, homecoming week.

During the Homecoming dance on Tuesday, Oct. 15, junior Sylvester Brandon and senior Monica Lee were crowned the new 2002 Homecoming king and queen. Brandon was nominated by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Lee was nominated by Sigma Sigma Sigma. "I was happy to be nominated," Brandon said.

After being nominated, the sororities that sponsored both Brandon and Lee did a little publicity to encourage students to vote.

"We made posters for publicity," Lee said. "My favorite slogan was 'Monica Lee, she's full of glee.'"

"AKA helped with the publicity for me," Brandon said. "We took a couple of nights to make some posters. My favorite slogan was 'Vote for Sly, the No. 1 nice guy.'"

When the publicity for these and other candidates was displayed across campus, students began voting in the semi-finals. Brandon and Lee were both chosen to move on to finals. "I was happy just to be in the top five," Brandon said.

The only tasks the nominees had to do was show up at the dance, where the king and queen were to be crowned. "When I won, I was shocked, and I couldn't stop laughing," Lee said.

Brandon felt the same way when he was crowned king. "It was fun and surprising all at the same time, and I was having a bad day," Brandon said. "I didn't think I was going to win. I was pleased with the response from the crowd, and, when I was introduced, the people clapped and cheered."

Following their win, Brandon and Lee joined in on a week's worth of activities. On Wednesday, Oct. 16, Brandon and Lee attended the volleyball game against Emporia State. On Thursday they had the privilege to be judges at the talent show. On Friday they attended the spirit rally and bonfire, and on Saturday they attended the Homecoming parade and football game. The king and queen both had particular events they enjoyed the best. "My favorite activity was the spirit rally because we got to see the crazy fans come out in costume and get the crowd wild," Brandon said.

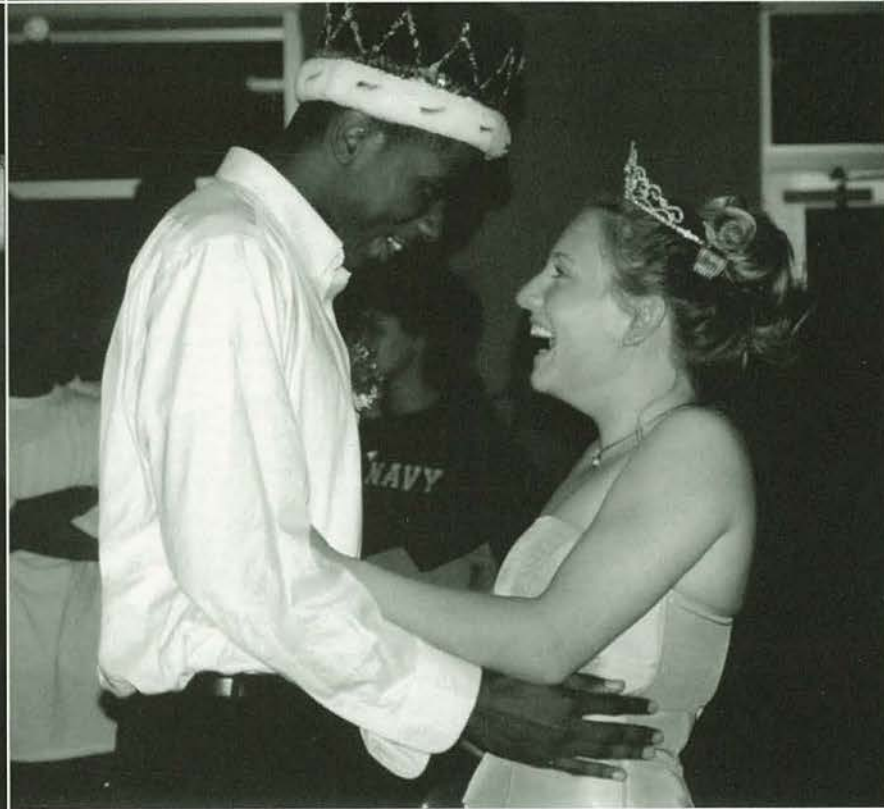
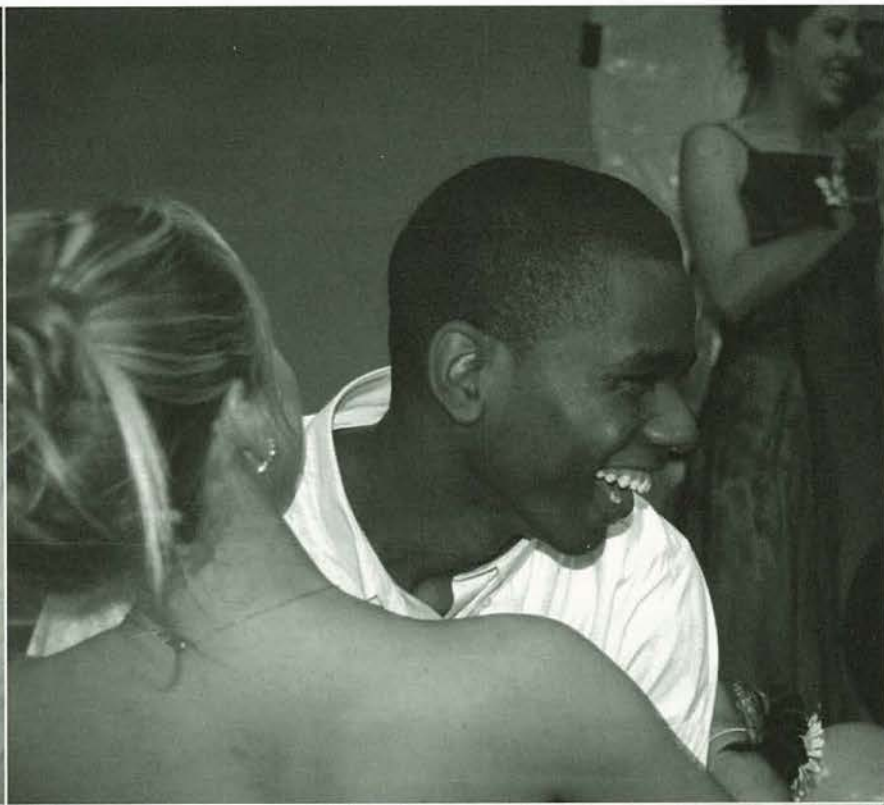
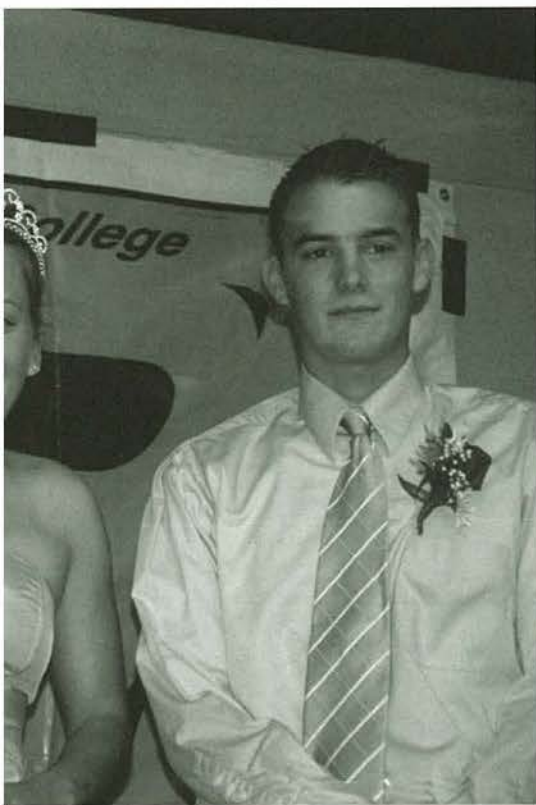
"My favorite activity was the parade," Lee said. "It was exciting to wave at the people and throw candy. We got to ride in a 2003 Corvette convertible."

The students felt both Brandon and Lee deserved the position as Homecoming king and queen.

"Sly is very original, and he doesn't fake himself," freshman Elizabeth Tarr said. "A lot of guys want to make an impression to have a certain appearance, but Sly was original by being himself."

"Monica is a really nice person," sophomore Malcolm Malone said. "She is always wearing a smile on her face and is willing to lend a helping hand."

Even though Brandon and Lee have no more obligations to carry out this year, they both felt it was important to be a role model to the students daily. They did not want the students that voted for them to regret their decision to make them royalty. "It was an awesome experience," Lee said.



Opposite Page : Sophomore Sylvester Brandon and senior Monica Lee happily accept their reign as Homecoming king and queen. They won by students casting their votes online for the new king and queen.

Top Left: Lee gleams with joy after accepting her crown and bouquet of flowers. She was nominated by Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Top Right: Brandon is suprised as his name is announced. He was nominated by Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Bottom Left: 2001 Homecoming King Stan Pearson gladly passes down his reign to the new homecoming king. Lee watched as her king was crowned.

Bottom Right: Lee and Brandon enjoy their first dance together as King and Queen. Fellow students joined in the celebration at the Homecoming dance.



story by stephanie radel & tanisha washington

mobile masterpieces

a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into the creation of a homecoming float.

"I hate pumping," James Smith, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, said. "It makes my fingers sore."

This expression of frustration was shared by many students while they worked diligently on individual masterpieces during Homecoming week. Different organizations and clubs worked on floats or truck in preparation for the annual Homecoming parade held on Oct. 19.

The theme for Homecoming was "Let the Games Begin." Organizations and clubs thought of an individual game that they could make into a movable machine.

Alpha Sigma Alpha, an on-campus sorority, came up with the theme, "Las Vegas: It's never a gamble for the Griffs."

"Each organization has a theme in order to have a different variety of floats and trucks," Kim Buretta, member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, said. "It differentiates between different organizations and adds variety to the parade."

It took a lot of hard work and dedication and unity with fellow workers when building or decorating a float and truck. A large amount of time, planning and pumping went into making it a success.

"I've put five weeks into this year's float, for pre-planning and pre-construction," Smith said.

"I know we spend eight hours a week, the weeks prior to Homecoming," Buretta said. "The Friday before Homecoming we spend all night there and then get up Saturday morning at 4 a.m., go to the parade, line up and sit there for hours until they start. It takes a lot of time."

Even though they spent time working on the float was a large

task, many managed to still have fun bonding with others helping around them. "My favorite part of working on a float is spending time with all my sisters until the end of the final project," Abby Russell, member of Alpha Gamma Delta, said.

"My favorite part of the float is the construction of the objects themselves," Smith said.

Regardless of how many people were in favor of making floats for the parade, some had other concerns in mind.

"The floats look really nice, but everybody spends a lot of time working really hard on them," sophomore Shelly Fritz said. "It is just one day out of the year."

"The bad thing about this whole project is that you work so hard, so many hours, and you have a good time. But you're only in the parade for one hour," Russell said.

Equally important, students had misconceptions of what float building was all about. "A general misconception of building a float is they are easy and that they are just thrown together," Buretta said.

People didn't think floats were important or too time consuming; however, after asking those who spent their time working on these projects, it was easier to see floats in a whole new light.

"I really admire everybody that put so much time and effort into the floats because they always turn out really awesome," senior Brandie Bray said. "I know everyone that comes to the parade likes to see the floats, see how much hard work everybody has put into them and see how great they look. Floats pretty much make the parade."



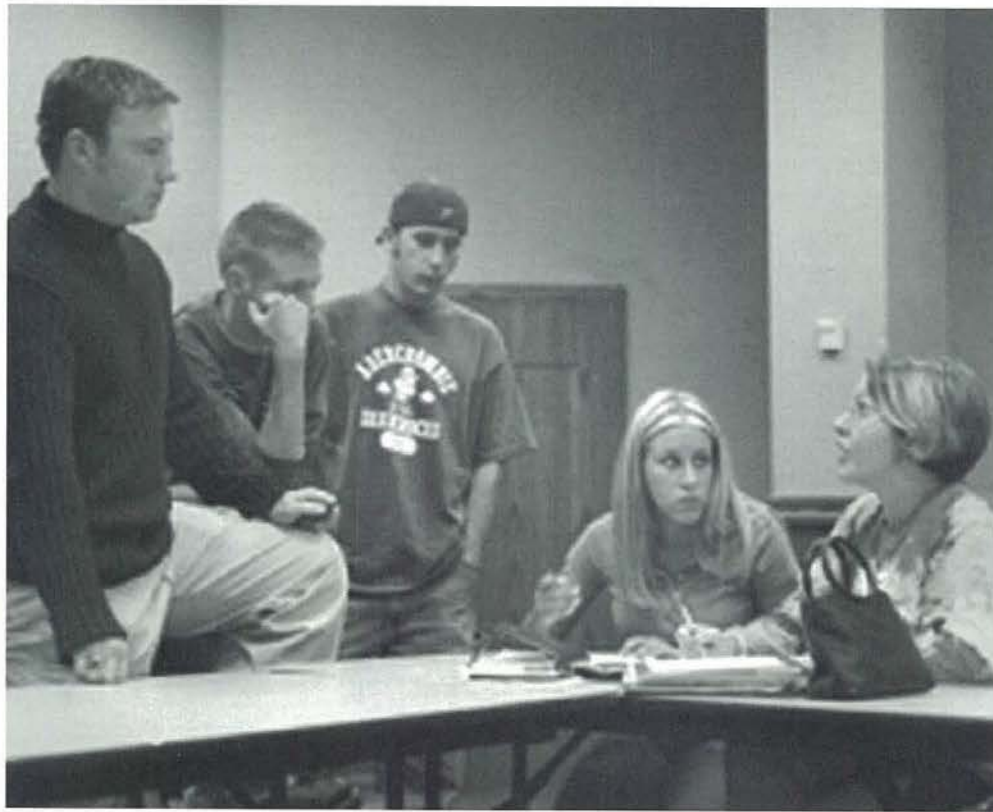
Opposite Page: Freshman Josie Snelling paints the Alpha Sigma Alpha spirit sign. Alpha Sigma Alpha tied for 1st place with Sigma Sigma Sigma. Photo by Stephanie Radel

Top left: Organization utilize area warehouses for use of building their floats. Members found these places to be tight and cramped for room at times.

Bottom Right: Members of Alpha Gamma Delta pump napkins for the skirt of their float. Many organizations used papertowels, napkins or pomps for items on their float. Photo by Stephanie Radel

Top Right: Todd Bullock, Dave Frazier and Marc Summers, members of Phi Sigma Kappa, prepare the battleship cannon for the float competition. The fraternity's theme was "Battleship" for their float, "Hungry Hungry Hippos" for their car and chess for their truck. Photo by Jeremy Weikel

Bottom Left: Todd Bullock and Marc Sommers pump a portion of their Battleship. Members of the fraternity used troughs of paper towels to speed along their pumping press. Photo by Jeremy Weikel



story by lanisha bosby and rashad givhan, photos by ashley reynolds

making magic

behind the scenes: what it takes to plan a successful homecoming from the minds of the committee members

Behind all of the excitement and magic that is Homecoming were months and months of hard work and thought. Though many students simply looked at the finished product, much of the reason why Homecoming was so successful was due in part to a great deal of behind-the-scenes action.

The process started in February of the previous year when the Homecoming committee chose a theme. The theme for the 2002-2003 school year was "Let the Games Begin." The Homecoming committee's goal was to provide the campus and local community with near-perfect festivities that displayed school spirit.

Quinton Howard, chairman of the Campus Activities Board, gathered nominees and even asked for volunteers to form the Homecoming Committee. After they organized a committee and set a theme, they had to plan events and sign the advertisements. CAB advisor Sandra Rogers, who was also the coordinator for the Office of Unity Services, felt that CAB played an intricate part in the development of Homecoming. "CAB is over the Homecoming committee, and the CAB officers run the meetings and pay the bills," Rogers said.

There were seven different sub-committees that formed the Homecoming committee, and they each had their own set of goals and responsibilities. Each committee had its own job and deadlines to meet. Jason Buss, a member of Phi Delta Theta, was on both the halftime and pre-game committees. According to Buss, the halftime and pre-game committees set up the flag and coordinated the events that were going on at the game with Drew Bourne, assistant athletic director.

"This year the Homecoming committee was expecting each organi-

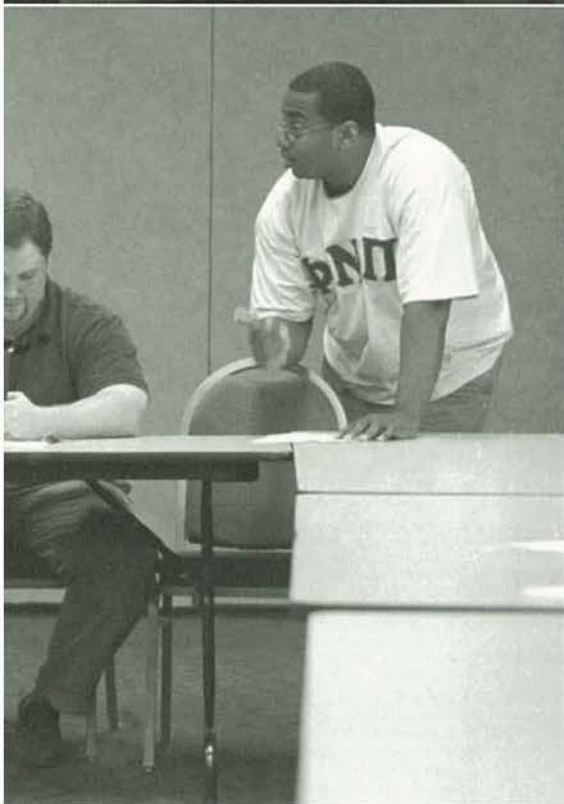
zation to try and get things done early - more than in a week of Homecoming," Buss said. "The whole point behind Homecoming is to support our school."

It was apparent that each committee had to pull its own weight. The king and queen committee coordinated the crowning ceremony, and the activities committee sponsored the window painting and any other scheduled activities. The pep rally and bonfire committees gave out money for the most spirited fan at the volleyball game. The parade committee took care of all aspects of the parade, including the handling of necessary city permits. The judges committee decided which floats were best, and the publicity committee promoted all of the Homecoming events campus-wide.

Ernie Stufflebean, associate dean of Student Affairs, was the advisor for the Homecoming committee. His role was to coordinate Homecoming and work closely with the chairman, Quinton Howard, to get all the departments involved. Collectively, they worked with the city, the police and the firemen to make sure their permits were acceptable for the parade.

"It is a great opportunity for our current students, faculty and staff to show school spirit," Stufflebean said. "The Homecoming parade is more of the visual for Homecoming with the public coming out to see a college function."

Overall, it seemed that students only paid attention to the Homecoming festivities, ignoring all of the work that went on behind the scenes. But it was the hard work of several individuals that comprised the Homecoming committee that made Homecoming at Western such a magical part of the school year.



Opposite page: The judges committee discusses the processes for the parade judging. This committee was responsible for applying judges to all applicable events. Top left: Members of the pep rally committee, Alyssa Holyfield, Vanessa Vulliet and Jason Buss discuss the speaker for the Bonfire. The Homecoming committee had many decisions to make for the big event. Top right: The Homecoming Committee meets to discuss final plans. These meetings were always held privately. Bottom left: The executive board of the Homecoming committee looks over a proposal from a sub-committee. The Homecoming committee was comprised of 6-8 sub-committees which planned all events for the Homecoming season. Bottom right: Members of Phi Sigma Kappa participate in a discussion about the parade route. Many organizations served on the Homecoming committee.

making History

story by Sara Bell, photos by Clint Gerdes

REMEMBERING THE PAST, WESTERN REFLECTS UPON MILESTONES IN ITS HISTORY

Missouri Western State College is a college rich in history. But how many people really know this? Contrary to popular belief, Western is not a fairly new school. In 1915, an institute of learning was established in downtown St. Joseph, known as St. Joseph Junior College.

Jim Estes, a professor at Western, attended this junior college.

"The junior college was unlike any other," Estes said. "It was an institute that had high expectations, a great school to attend. It was not an easy, mess-around type of school."

In 1969, St. Joseph Junior College became Missouri Western State College, a four-year institution of higher learning. Most of the buildings on campus were named after a person who supported for the school or who was a prominent figure in the St. Joseph community. The Science and Math Building was named after Evan R. Agerstein, who served as a chairperson on several committees and was head of the math department. Downs Drive was named after John Downs, a local legislator.

One of the most important monuments on campus was the clock tower, built in 1997.

"The clock tower completes the college scene," Estes said. "It is a beacon to the community that a college is here, and it chimes just like every other bell or clock tower on campuses nation wide."

As important as this school's history was, some students didn't know very much about it. Suzi Nagel, a returning sophomore, had an answer to this problem.

"The history of the school should somehow be incorporated into the Griffon Edge program. There could be a class on it, and hundreds of students would go through the class each year."

The future of the school was just as important as the history. Where would Western go in the next few years?

"I hope to see us become a graduate school," Estes said. "We have all the qualifications, and that would greatly benefit the students."

Many people felt the same way. If Western became a graduate school it would save people the time and money of transferring to a new school to continue their education. According to some sources, Western had a good chance of becoming a university. Only time would tell where the school would go, but many opportunities were there.



Above: The Science and Math Building was named after Evan R. Agerstein. Agerstein was a very active member in the community and college and headed the department for several years. Right: Positioned on the south side of the school, the Missouri Western State College sign, in the shape of Missouri, heralds Western faculty and students. The sign was erected in the fall of 2001.





An icon for Missouri Western State College, the clock tower, is frequently used as a gathering point for campus activities and special events. Constructed in 1997, the clock tower was dedicated to Glenn A. Marion.

A creed of Values

story by Tanisha Washington, photos by Tiranee' Givhan

ADHERING TO A LONGSTANDING TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE,
WESTERN'S SIX VALUES REMAIN IMPORTANT TO FACULTY
AND STUDENTS.

It all began with the strategic plan. The Student Affairs Office, campus and community came together in 2002 with two things in mind, helping people understand the mission and developing a creed for Western students. Out of that creed came the Western Values.

The six Western Values mentioned in the creed were service, quality, enthusiasm, freedom, respect and courage.

"They were introduced to the success of Western," Karl Bell, associate director and minority achievement coordinator, said. "It helps make the identity of Western success for students and gives the students the ability to understand their role to become citizen scholars."

"They are great and revolve around building a community of scholars and the Western theory educationally," Duane Bruce, communications and orientation coordinator, said.

Individuals had their own opinions about the importance of the six values; however, it was evident that all of the values worked together towards one goal.

"I think it is important that the values be viewed in total," Bell said. "Some of us will naturally gravitate toward some values more than others, but we need to understand how they affect our lives as members of staff, students, administration and the community."

Freshman Alison Krieg also felt the same about the importance of the six values.

"They are great qualities for our college," Krieg said. "They provide a strong foundation for Western."

In addition to having personal opinions, staff also had their values.

"My favorite value is courage," Bell said. "It is sorely lacking, not only in the academic community, but in society."

"My favorite value is enthusiasm," Bruce said. "Being enthusiastic about learning makes us confident that we can make a difference in the lives of students."

However, Krieg felt more values were needed.

"I would add responsibility and independence," Krieg said. "The school always wants us to be an adult and an independent individual throughout our college life."

The institution did encourage students to keep these values, but some felt that more students needed to be made aware of the values and be encouraged to develop an appreciation for each value.

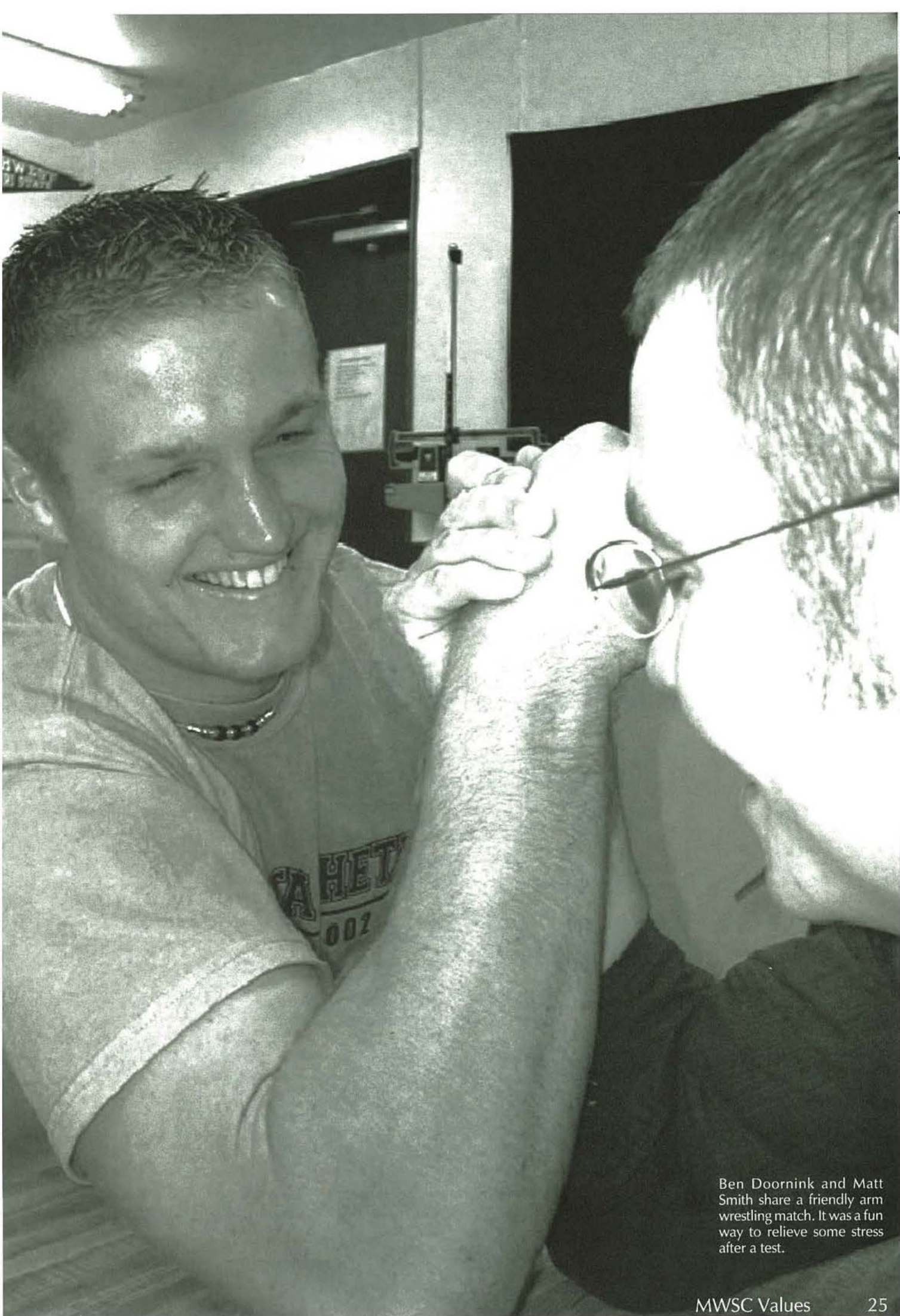
"The six values is something new, and future programming will evolve around it," Bruce said. "It has not really become a part of Western yet, but as it does, it will begin to take shape."



Above: William Foster, Jeff Meinders and ROTC cadets overlook the battlefield of Little Big Horn. The battlefield was a viable link to the past.

Right: LTC Gary Moore explains what their role would have been on the battlefield. Three hundred years ago the students scholars of today were society's warrior class.





Ben Doornink and Matt Smith share a friendly arm wrestling match. It was a fun way to relieve some stress after a test.



story by andie schmidt, photos by tiffanie boessen

a family tradition

richard and deanna whitford both graduated from missouri western state college. their two daughters, brook and beth are following in the same footsteps as their parents.

"We are immensely proud to see our girls following in our footsteps, as any parent would be," Deanna Whitford, first-grade teacher at Holt Elementary, said.

Tradition is the theme of the Whitford household. It began in 1969 when Deanna Whitford, then Deanna Bolton, transferred from Northwest Missouri State University to the newly converted four-year program at Missouri Western State College.

Deanna had various reasons for the transfer. "I was in love and didn't want a long-distance relationship," Deanna said.

Another reason was Western's tuition rate and competitive educational benefits. "The cost was more reasonable, and the programs were similar," Deanna said. "Actually, I thought Missouri Western was way ahead of its time, as far as the education department was concerned. It made sense for me to transfer both professionally and personally."

Once on campus, Deanna quickly became involved with a number of different activities, including cheerleading and Phi Mu Sorority.

Richard Whitford was Deanna's sweetheart. He was already in St. Joseph as a Western student during the transition from a two-year to a four-year college. He was a basketball player for the Griffons and one of the first Western students to letter in athletics. In 1970, he witnessed his longtime

girlfriend, Deanna Bolton, being crowned the first Missouri Western Homecoming Queen.

The pair married shortly thereafter and eventually had three children. Two of those children have followed their parents' lead and made Western their collegiate home away from home.

The first to make the matriculation was their daughter Brooke. She came for what she referred to as the "stellar education program." Like her mother before her, Brooke wanted to be a teacher. Also like her mother, Brooke saw the obvious reasons to choose Western—"the outstanding curriculum for those who want to teach elementary education and the reasonable tuition." Brooke graduated from Western in the spring of 2001 and began teaching elementary school in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Beth was the next Whitford to grace the Western halls. She also pursued a degree that would allow her to teach. However, unlike her mother and sister, Beth preferred to teach high school students. "I just don't think I could handle 8-year-olds all day," Beth said.

As far as tradition goes, Beth admits that it played into her decision. "On some level, it did seem implied like this was where I was supposed to go, but the choice was mine. More so than tradition, Missouri Western felt like a logical choice backed by common sense," Beth said.



The beginning of a legacy started with Richard Whitford and Deanna Whitford (Bolton) in 1969. The Whitford family tradition continued when daughters Brook and Beth followed their parents alma mater. The family reminisced about the past, present, and future of the Whitford family at Missouri Western.

Year

After Year

story by Jenny Olson, photos by Shaun Berry

FACULTY MEMBERS PROVE THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT THROUGH YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN

Every school year brought new faces to the campus, ranging from students to the faculty. But some professors were here for over 30 years. What made this college so great? Why did teachers stay here for so long? There must have been a reason, and three professors explained why they had been here for as long as they were and what made them stay.

English professor Jane Frick began teaching at Western in the fall of 1972.

"I believed I was hired because the person who was hiring thought I was cute," Frick said. "He wrote the word 'cute' on his notes."

One reason Frick stayed in Saint Joseph for 30 years was her family commitment. She moved to Saint Joseph with her husband and was hired while she was pregnant. She and her husband spent the next several years raising two children.

The reason Frick became a professor was that she liked the academic life and getting to know the students. She also enjoyed working with the Prairie Lands Writing Project, which she supervised. "Teaching is in my blood because my father was a professor, and my mother was a school teacher," Frick said.

Matthew Gilmour, music department Chairman, started teaching at the junior college in 1968. He was hired for a full-time position in the summer of 1969 when the college was just starting to change over to a four-year college.

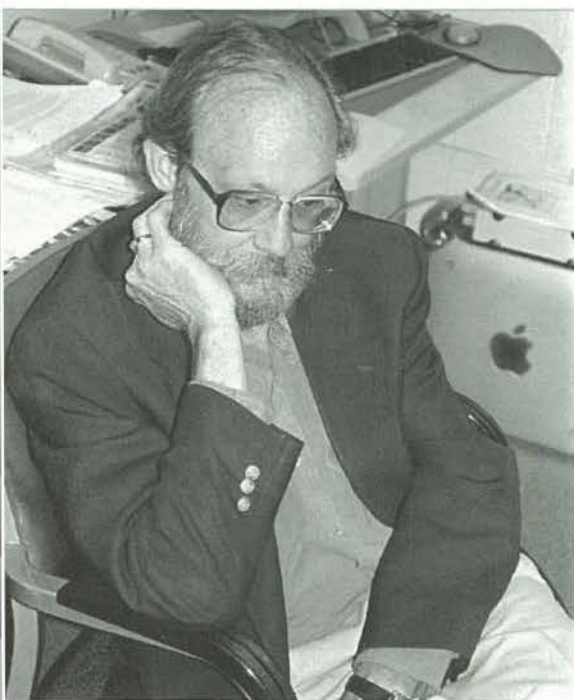
Missouri Western had never had a four-year music program, so Gilmour's job was to develop the music program. That's one reason why he had stayed here for as long as he had. Gilmour also stayed here because he believed it was a friendly school with faculty interaction, and he liked the size of it. In addition,

he had an interest in the education field.

"During my junior year of high school, I became interested in music and wanted to be a composer," Gilmour said. However, at college he liked the way his professors taught and decided that's what he wanted to do. Gilmour loved teaching and developing things for the classroom.

Robert Shell, an associate professor of Spanish, was hired in the fall of 1970. When his roommate applied for a job with Western, Shell decided he would too. "I applied for a position at three different universities, but this was the first one that called me back, and I liked it so much I never even went to my two other interviews," Shell said.

Shell enjoyed working with students and especially getting to know them. He also loved the study abroad program in Mexico that he had been doing since 1981. Shell decided to stay in Saint Joseph after he got married. "I lived in Chicago before, so coming to Saint Joseph was like coming to the end of the world," Shell said. "I didn't think I would stay here that long, but after awhile you see that Saint Joseph is a nice place to come home to and a great place to raise a family."



Above: As the music department chairman, Matthew Gilmour often juggles many diverse tasks. Gilmour began at Western in 1968 and helped develop Western's music program.

Right: Jane Frick works diligently preparing for her next class. Frick was an English professor and director of the Prairie Lands Writing Project.





Robert Shell, Spanish professor, reviews material for his Spanish courses. Shell had been a professor at Western since 1970.



story by star gann photos by sarah fisher

sea of red

*western prepared a day full of red, when members of the
kansas city chiefs visited campus*

Kansas City Chiefs fans made their way through cheerleaders, Mystics dancers, balloons and pom-poms. Brightly-colored balloons hovered above excited students who warmed their cold hands with hot chocolate as they waited outside the Nelle Blum Student Union Building for the big arrival. Finally, after talking with college officials and taking a look at the campus, two Chiefs executives rode by on Downs Drive, escorted by police cars.

This celebration and Chiefs visit was spurred by the possibility of the Chiefs deciding to make the Western campus their training camp in the year 2004. In addition to Western, other possible training camp host sites included Central Missouri State University and Pittsburg State University.

During the Chiefs representatives' visit to Western, President James Scanlon gave them MWSC neckties, and the mayor of St. Joseph, David Jones, presented them with Stetson hats and a key to the city.

Many people were excited and hopeful about moving the team's training ground to Western, but they also realized that doing so would require a few changes, such as major renovations to the stadium, the addition of another practice field and improved weightlifting equipment. The players would use the Western residence halls as their living quarters during the training camp.

One enthusiastic fan was Don Willis, dean of Student Affairs. With microphone in hand, Willis promoted "Chiefs" support that inspired yells and cheers from the crowd.

"I remember the first game I ever saw," Willis said. "I was young, and I have been a fan ever since. I can't see any reasons why the Chiefs won't make their training camp here. We have put a really nice package together. We have some great facilities, and they seem satisfied with much of what they have seen."

Although many found the idea to be a positive one, to say every one was overjoyed at the prospect of hosting Kansas City's professional football team would be misleading. Junior Brent Homerding wasn't hesitant to voice his opinion.

"I'm not sure what the financial arrangement is," Homerding said. "I don't support putting out a lot of money on improvements for someone else if it's not going to be returned."

Throughout the rest of the day, St. Joseph was a sea of red and yellow. In support, fans and businesses waved flags, hung signs and wore jerseys, and another rally was held later at the East Hills Shopping Center for members of the community to show their enthusiasm.



Opposite page: A Western official shows Spratt Stadium to the Chiefs representatives. Many renovations would have to be made in order to adapt to the needs of the players during their training camp.

Top left: Western students display a sign they made to make the Chiefs feel welcome on the Western campus. Chiefs jerseys and hot chocolate were also common sights seen at the event.

Top right: A representative from the Kansas City Chiefs meets with Western athletic officials to discuss the possibility of bringing the training camp to Western beginning in 2004. The athletic department worked directly with the representatives to ensure a positive visit.

Bottom: Western students gather outside the Nelle Blum Student Union Building with balloons and signs to show the Chiefs how excited they are to have them there. The Chiefs later drove by the building, escorted by police cars and cheered on by the fans.

a tour of Western

story by Sara Barbosa, photos by Erin Hulin

AN ELITE GROUP OF WESTERN STUDENTS ACT AS TOUR GUIDES WHILE SELLING THE WESTERN ADVANTAGE.

"Basically, when you give a tour, you tell them about all the good things, like the residence halls, the computer labs, college communities and ways to get involved," Western VIP Hollie Swank said.

Psychology major Tabby Larson, also a VIP, highlighted different features when she toured Western with prospective students and their parents.

"I tell them what got me to come here, and the nice thing about it is that people wanted me to come here," Larson said. "So I found that personal experience is a good technique to use in tours."

VIPs acted as tour guides as they informed students about various elements of the campus, including smart classrooms, small classes and flexible professors.

Although tours seemed beneficial in orienting prospective students to the Western campus, as with all jobs, there were some down times. For example, some VIPs found that their worst tours were when guests did not speak, ask questions and give feedback about the school.

However, other VIPs, like Swank, felt the job has its fair share of fun times.

"The best tour I have ever had was when a guy and his father were touring the school with me," Swank said. "It was rainy and cold out, and his father teased me about giving me a bad evaluation — I had lots of fun. The following Friday, much to my amazement, they were back with the mother of this guy, and again we were walking around in the rain. We joked that St. Joseph has really nice weather — it was a good time."

VIPs received a feeling of gratification from the duties they performed.

"It feels good to be of assistance," Swank said. "I feel like I can answer almost any question and get, in return, a really awesome tour evaluation. It especially feels good to meet so many new people."

Ryan Sevcik also enjoyed his work as a VIP.

"I have never had a terrible tour," Sevcik said. "I believe it is a very awesome opportunity to get to work with all kinds of people. As for the VIPs, we all get to know each other really well and become a really close-knit group."

Overall, the Western VIPs hoped to offer advice and assistance to newcomers. Meanwhile, the position of VIP has given involved students the chance to become more acquainted with the campus and community.



Above: The tour of the campus gives prospective students a feel of Western. The tours influenced many to choose Western. Right: The VIPs are happy to answer any questions potential students and parents have. In order to become a VIP, students maintained a 2.5 grade point average and applied for the position every semester.





Andy Davis tours a group of parents and high school students interested in attending MWSC. The job of a VIP was to give tours to prospective students.



story by sara bell, photos by megan campbell

readership program

missouri western students enjoyed free newspapers on campus, thanks to the student government association

USA Today, The Kansas City Star and the St. Joseph News-Press were available throughout the month of February, thanks to the Collegiate Readership Program that came to the Western campus. The Collegiate Readership Program began in 1997 at Penn State. The program provided convenient access for students to national, regional, and local papers, such as the ones mentioned above. Western participated in a test program, provided by the Student Government Association and the involved newspapers.

The newspapers were conveniently placed in five different locations: the first floor of the Janet Gorman Murphy Building, the second floor of the Frank Popplewell Classroom and Administration Building, in the Housing and Residence Life Office, and in the lobbies of both the Vaselakos and Leaverton residence halls.

"I feel it is a very beneficial program and have noticed many students taking advantage of it," sophomore Brian Prater said. "I think they should keep it around."

"It's a good opportunity to keep up with what's happening in the world," freshman Ben Hultquist said. "But after February will students have

to start paying for the papers."

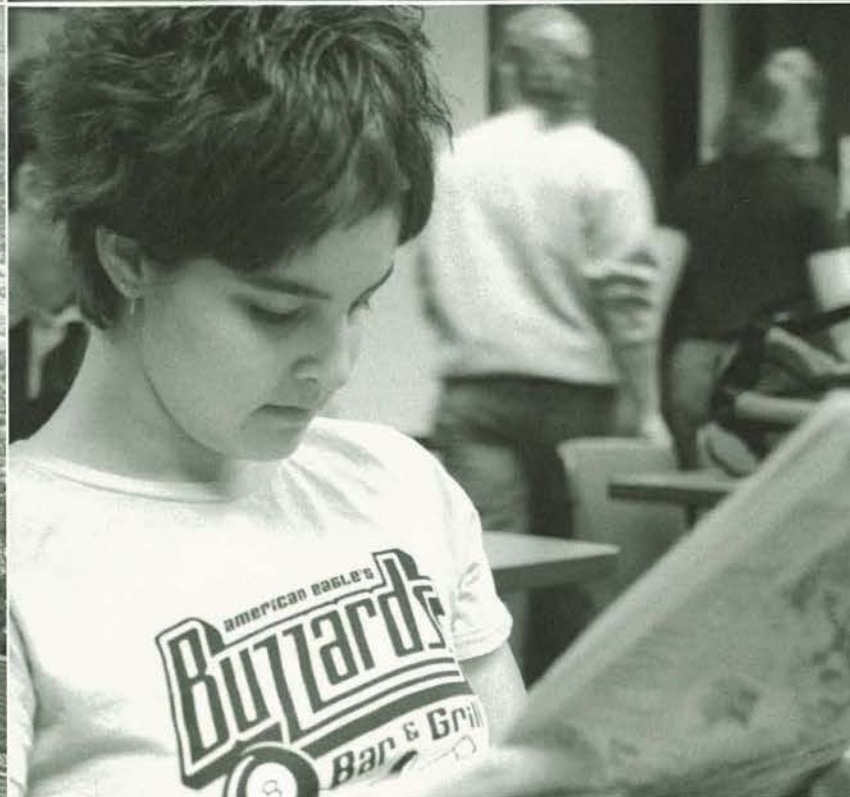
After February, a minimal fee was added on to every student's bill. However, it was up to the Student Government Association, the college officials and the student body to decide whether or not to keep the program.

"This program gives students the chance to broaden their horizons," Lucas Gorham, the SGA Student Affairs chair, said. "The Student Government thought it would be a very good idea."

Many students did take advantage of the program, as there were many empty newspaper bins across campus. Students enjoyed being able to grab a newspaper whenever they felt like it. All throughout campus, students and faculty alike were seen reading copies of USA Today, The Kansas City Star and the St. Joseph News-Press.

Many people had hopes of seeing the program continued.

"We had a very strong first week," SGA senator Abra Lippert said. "I think this is a strong program, and it has a very good chance of continuing on in the future."



Opposite Page: The St. Joseph News Press, Kansas City Star and USA Today are available to students during a trial period. They were located in five buildings on campus. Top middle: Nikki Grom takes the opportunity to catch up on current news issues as she utilized time between classes. SGA also looked into providing additional newspapers to meet the student's needs. Top right: Cory Rhunke reads USA Today while taking a break at work. He enjoyed the free paper supplied by the SGA. Bottom left: Western students read about current world issues. Newspapers also gave students a "heads up" on political events. Bottom right: A student finds time to glance at a newspaper between classes. The Readership Program hoped to encourage students to read newspapers.

going against the flow

story and photos by Tanisha Washington

FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN RESPOND TO DIFFERENT TYPES OF CAMPUS PEER PRESSURE

Peer pressure was an issue all students faced while attending college whether it was academically or socially. A large amount of peer pressure was experienced mainly by incoming freshmen.

"As freshmen, we experience peer pressure more because we get away from home, and being on our own makes us feel like we can do whatever we want," freshman Ashley Hammond, a nursing major, said. "There is no one there to tell us no."

Other freshmen felt the same about why peer pressure was a large part of their life. "Peer pressure is a big issue because we want to fit in, and since we don't know a lot of people, doing what they want us to do helps us fit in," freshman Nikky Mosley, a history major, said.

Academic peer pressure did not seem to be a struggle with most freshmen. One student indicated that academic peer pressure did not only influence him to make good grades, but it also made him want to make his parents proud.

"My parents would be very disappointed if I was not at college," Thomas Nance, a physical education major, said. "I am a first generation college student, and I don't want to let them down."

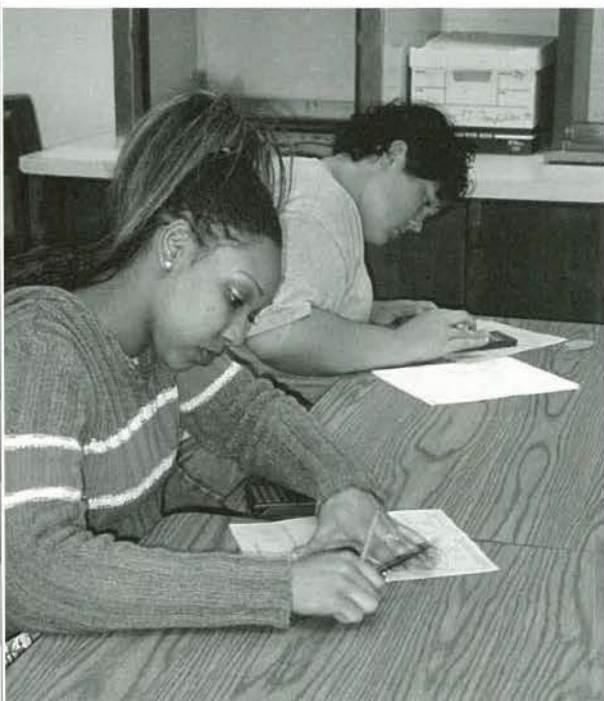
In contrast, freshman David Young felt plagiarism was the No. 1 academic peer pressure freshmen faced constantly. "Students plagiarize their papers because they want to turn them in on time and get good grades," Young, a computer technology major, said.

Nevertheless, another student felt differently about the No. 1 peer pressure in the area of academics. "Cheating on a test is a pressure because students want to do good in class and make the teacher proud of our work," Nance said.

Socially, all freshmen agreed peer pressure normally involved partying, drinking and sexual relations. "Partying is a peer pressure, socially, because everyone does it, and if you don't do it you are not considered part of the in crowd," Mosley said.

Other students had similar views about social pressures. "Drinking is a peer pressure for me because almost everyone I associate with drinks, and it is harder for me to reject it," Nance said.

All in all, the students viewed peer pressure the same way. It was something that everyone went through; however, no one had to give in to the persuasions of others. Some students felt that college life was not just a party – it was full of opportunities. "College life is full of temptations, and as students, we have to make the right decisions or suffer the consequences," Michael Lykins, a physical education major, said.



Above: Despite pressure, some students stay on track with school and homework. The pressure to make good grades proved to be a difficult task. Right: Drinking is just one of the many pressures students face. Many students were unable to balance school, work and partying.





Students are confronted with many adult choices like sex. The ramifications of engaging in risky behaviors led to detrimental consequences for many students.

a fee increase for Changes

story by Shawn Kiehl, photos by Tirralee Givhan

THE SGA FEE INCREASE WILL ALLOW WESTERN TO SEE
MANY CHANGES IN COLLEGE LIFE

Imagine how much has changed at Western since 1982. A lot of things have changed over the years, but one thing that remained the same was the \$15 fee per semester for the Student Government Association funds.

During the spring semester, the SGA proposed to raise the fee from \$15 to \$35 per semester. Posters were displayed all over the campus, describing what changes could be made if students voted in favor of the fee increase. In addition, meetings were held to discuss several aspects of the fee increase.

In the past, the SGA had proposed increasing fees a few times, with no success. The SGA had been using roughly the same amount of funds, depending upon the number of students enrolled, for 21 years. It was difficult to make changes with such a small budget.

"You can't buy the same things with the same amount of money that you could then," Ryan Sevcik, SGA president, said. "It's been long overdue." While the posters indicated that the SGA would need this increase to make changes to the campus, some students wondered just what would be changed.

Students would see these changes in any one of the programs funded by SGA. The programs on multicultural relations were put on by the Unity Services office, which received its funding from SGA. In addition, the extra fees would allow an increase in funds for clubs and organizations.

SGA also funded many other activities, as well as some scholarships, the Residence Council and any entertainment act that came to the campus. Changes the SGA hoped for were to increase the budgets for Unity Services and the Residence Council, to give the Non-traditional Student Orga-

nization a budget and to become involved in the Student Association of Missouri.

For about a month in the spring semester, students had trial newspapers available to them. The papers, which included the St. Joseph News-press, the Kansas City Star and USA Today, were funded by the SGA. The increase would secure the availability of the papers in the future.

Student government officials felt that students needed to realize that changes to Western had to be funded and paid for. "We can't do it from top to bottom; we have to start at the bottom then work to the top," Sylvester Brandon, Campus Activities Board chairman, said. Many students supported the idea for change on campus.

"I think it's a good idea. It's time for change," Darren Motten, interdisciplinary studies major, said. However, there were also some students on the other end of the spectrum.

"I think the fee increase is ridiculous. I would have voted for a \$5 increase for the newspapers, but not \$35 a semester," Dane Ault, commercial art major, said.

During the voting period, a majority of students voted in favor of the fee increase, giving the SGA the money to improve upon its many jobs on campus. Some were disappointed while others were happy to see what changes would come about at Western.



Above: Junior Joan Beck reads a copy of USA Today. Newspapers such as this were one addition to campus that would be added with the increased SGA fee. Right: Student Government Association members meet. The students met weekly to discuss several topics, including the fee increase.





Western students used terminals in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts Building to vote whether or not to accept the proposed SGA fee increase. The student body overall accepted the increase.

winning by Default

story by Shawn Kiehl, photos by Tirralee Givhan

BRANDON AND FABBITS TEAM UP TO LEAD THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION INTO THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

The two of them didn't need to have an election campaign—they were almost guaranteed to win. But that didn't stop them from getting out there and getting the job done. They could have run against each other, but decided to bring their collective perspectives together.

Juniors Sylvester Brandon and John Fabsits decided to become running mates for the Student Government Association election because they had so much in common.

"We're both communications majors, and it's great because we both have classes together," Fabsits said. "We are both interns in the Dean of Student Affairs Office, and both of us are very visible on campus."

However, the two of them could have gone their separate ways.

"I could have had my own ticket with my own vice president, and he could have had another ticket with his own vice president, but why not work together?" Fabsits said. "Do it that way and just have a really killer president and vice president combo."

They decided to join forces and use their teamwork as the initiative to win.

"I think they're a natural team because they seem to click so well with each other. If you put together their energy levels, it's almost scary, but in a good way, obviously," Don Willis, dean of student affairs, said.

Their first decision was to decide who would run for which seat. They decided that Fabsits would run for the vice president seat. "I had a little more experience with the senate and how that ran, and the vice president is always the speaker of the senate, which was one of the primary reasons," Fabsits said.

In turn, Brandon ran for the presidential seat. "John is a hard worker, and he is better at that than I am," Brandon said. "I'm more of a speaker. I can speak to anybody, and I can relay the message that we're trying to get across to the student body."

The main message that they wanted to get across to the students was that their goal was to give the students what they wanted.

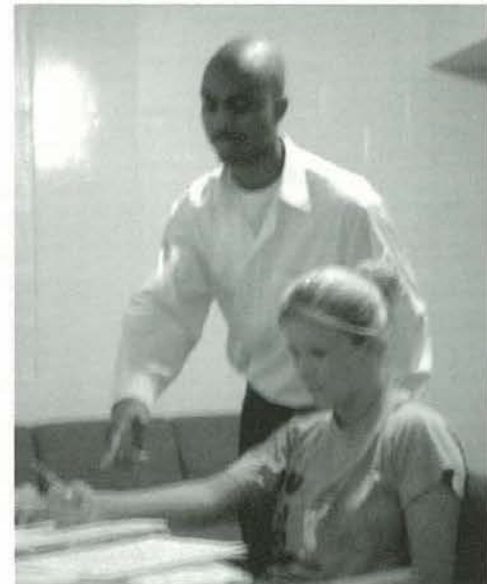
"We are really compassionate about the students," Brandon said. "Our main focus is the students."

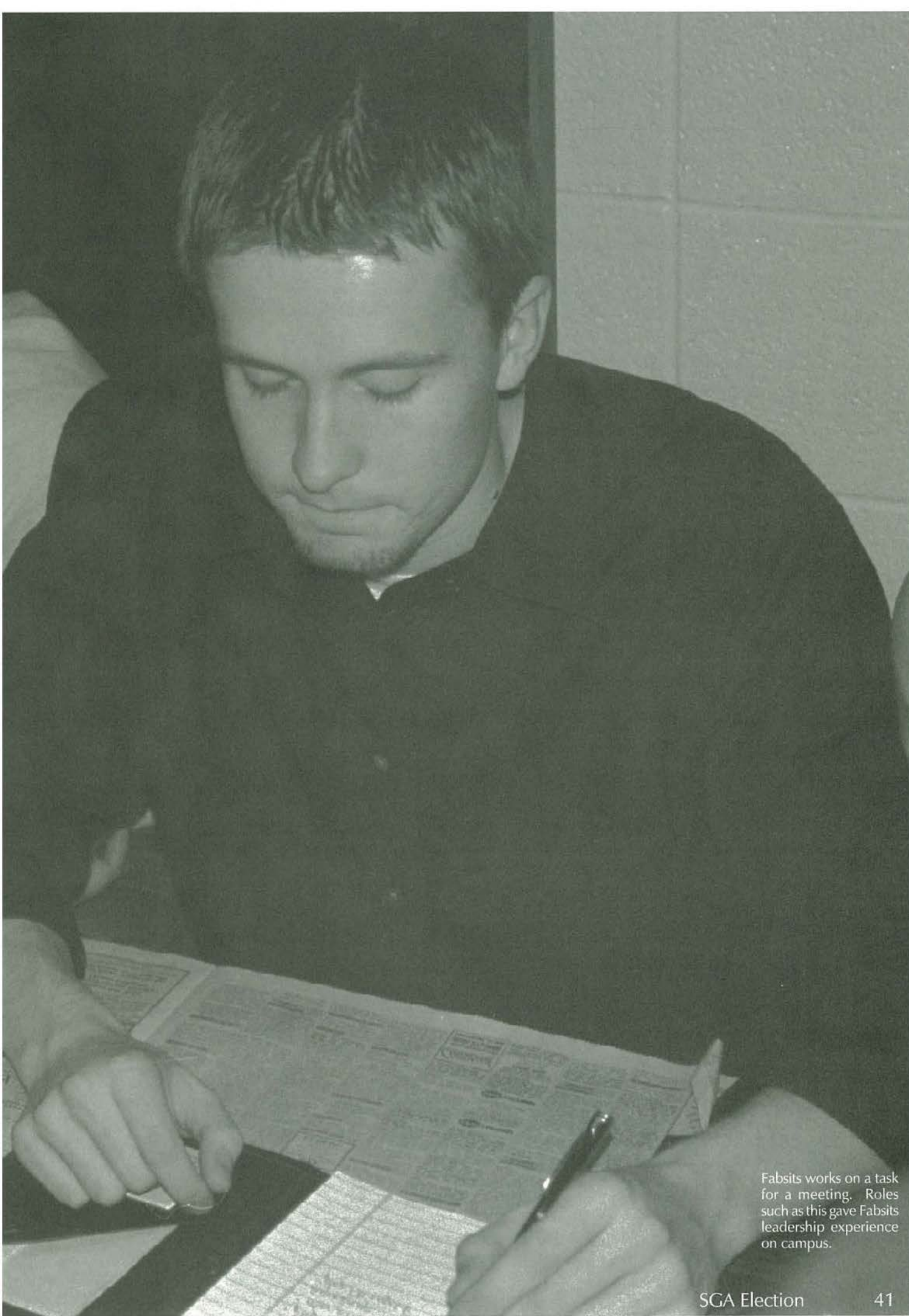
The goals they had in mind included many changes on campus, which mainly had to do with the social aspect of Western. They believed that giving students more things to do on campus would keep some students from transferring to another college, as well as provide a stress reliever to make students happier. "We thought of things that we wanted when we were freshmen and sophomores," Brandon said.

Altogether, the Brandon and Fabsits team worked together on their decisions and goals. They worked hard to get their messages across to the students, even if they were the only candidates in the election. "It's a good team, and maybe some people were scared because of that," Fabsits said.



Above: Sylvester Brandon talks with fellow student, Tearsa Hairston. Brandon was elected for the 2003-2004 SGA President. Right: Student Government Association members got to know Brandon and Fabsits on a close basis.





Fabsits works on a task for a meeting. Roles such as this gave Fabsits leadership experience on campus.

greek week

Vegas Style

story by Tanisha Washington

SORORITIES AND FRATERNITIES SET ASIDE THEIR INDIVIDUAL LETTERS AND PURPOSES TO COME TOGETHER FOR A WEEK OF FUN ACTIVITIES

April 6-12 was declared Greek Week. Each organization was divided into separate teams consisting of people from different organizations.

"Greek Week is great," Edwin Rivera, a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon, said. "It is a great way to get the Greeks at Missouri Western united."

On Sunday, the week began with an opening ceremony in the Nelle Blum Student Union. The Goofy Greek contest and an auction with a male and female from each organization was held. The money earned was given to the Second Harvest Food Bank. "It was a great time for interaction between Greek organizations," Chris Kehr, a member of Phi Mu Sinfonia, said.

On the following day, a knowledge bowl was held. The committee in charge of Greek Week asked departments around campus to submit questions that college students should be able to answer.

Casino Night was the activity for Tuesday. "We played games such as black jack and poker, and the person that won the game gained a point for their team," Jill Spencer, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, said.

On Wednesday, April 9, a scavenger hunt was held beginning in the SU. The teams had to run around campus taking pictures in various places. "The hardest thing was running across campus without dying and trying to keep the team together," Charles Bruscato, a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, said.

A talent show was held on Thursday. The sororities and fraternities put together talents and skits for the audience. Students brought either \$2 or two canned goods that were also donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Intramural Night was held on Friday in the courtyard. The teams competed against each other in different athletic events.

Finally, on Saturday the Greek Olympics and a barbeque were held behind Vaselakos Hall.

The closing ceremony was held Saturday afternoon in the Multipurpose Classroom at 4 p.m. Greek Man and Woman of the Year was Amber Wood of Alpha Sigma Alpha and John Fabsits of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Scholarship awards, based on grade point averages, were given to Alpha Gamma Delta and Phi Delta Theta.

Other awards were given based on more than just grades. The Philanthropy Award, based on the number of events completed by each organization, was presented to Alpha Sigma Alpha and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

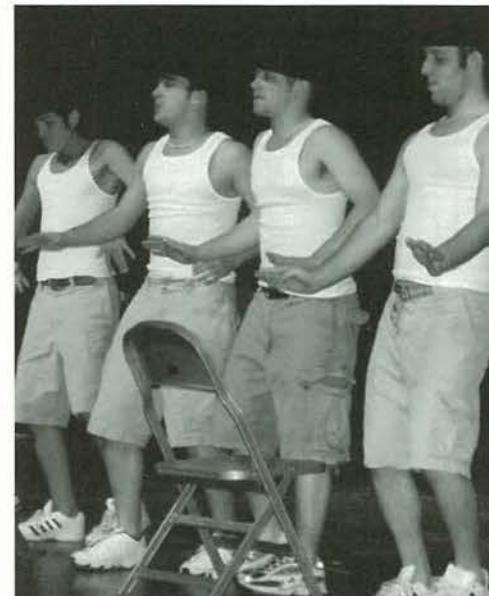
Overall, the Sorority and Fraternity of the Year Awards were granted to Alpha Gamma Delta and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

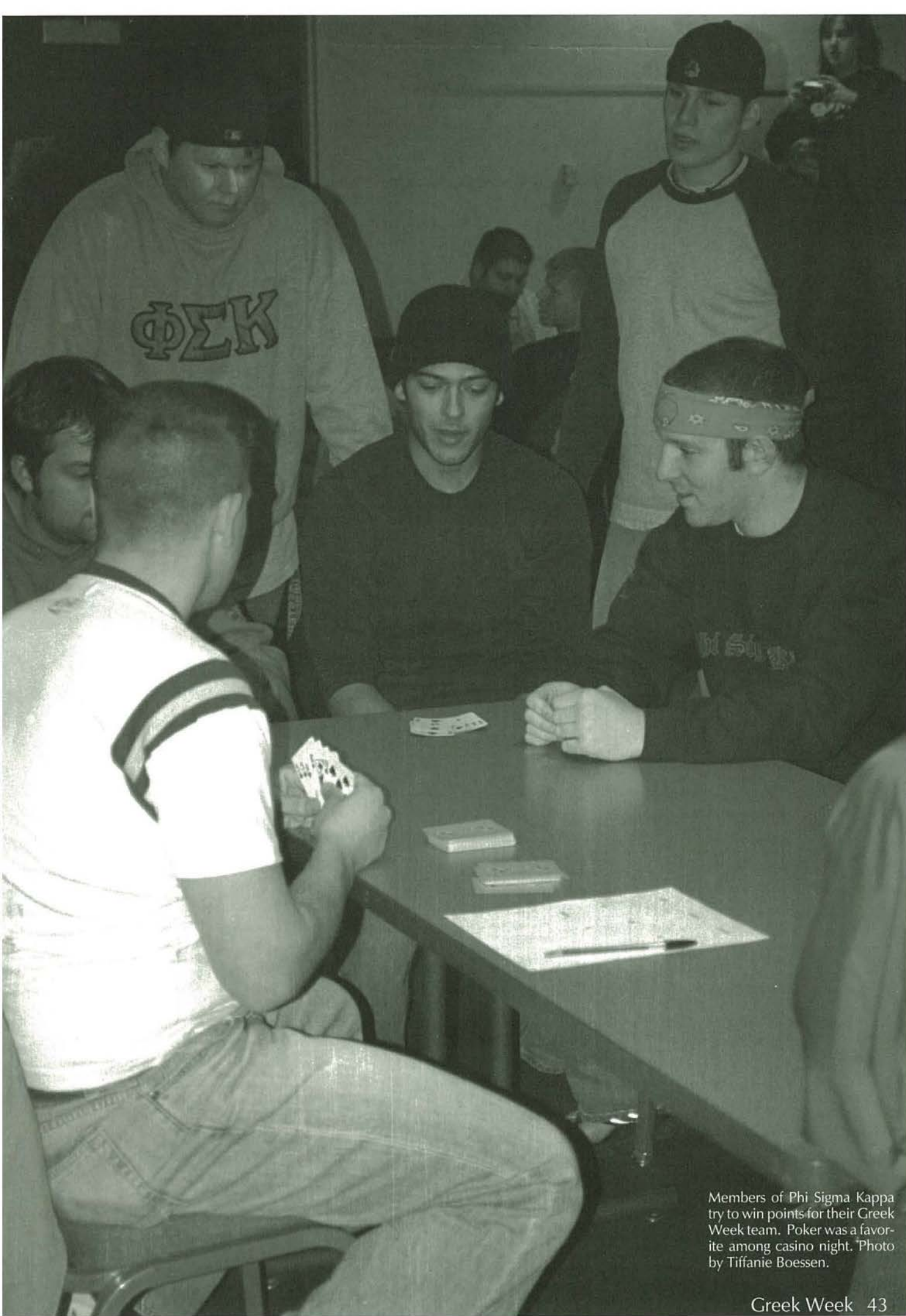
Many Greeks were pleased with the turnout of Greek Week. "I like Greek Week because it's one of the few times sororities and fraternities work together for fun instead of just for awards," Roy King III, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., said.

Other students felt the same about the Greek Week turnout. "I am really happy with the way it turned out, and I am pleased to see everyone having a great time," Mike Kellam, a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, said.



Above: The Greek girls use their muscles to show their strength. Greek Week was a chance for all of the organizations to come together. Photo by Megan Campbell. Right: Charles Bruscato, Nate Smith, Dwight Hangartner and Nick Orlando perform during the talent show. These four were members of Phi Sigma Kappa.





Members of Phi Sigma Kappa try to win points for their Greek Week team. Poker was a favorite among casino night. Photo by Tiffanie Boessen.



story by sara bell, photos by megan campbell

married with ... homework

some students walk down the aisle before walking across the stage

What colors should the bridesmaids wear? How many guests should be invited? Where should the reception take place? For the majority of Western students, these decisions were far away in the future. But for some, they became a reality, whether the planning took place in between English and math homework, or even before beginning their college careers.

Some of these students felt that making the marriage transition as a student was fairly easy with help from their spouses.

"You need to make sure your spouse is supportive of your college career," JoAnna Carter said. "Life is much easier when you have someone standing behind and supporting you."

In addition to having homework, jobs and each other to deal with, some college students have children on top of that.

"I love my son to death," sophomore Nicole Scheiffer said, "but I married my husband because I loved him."

Carter agreed that if a couple, whether in college or not, is in love, taking the relationship to the next level is worth it.

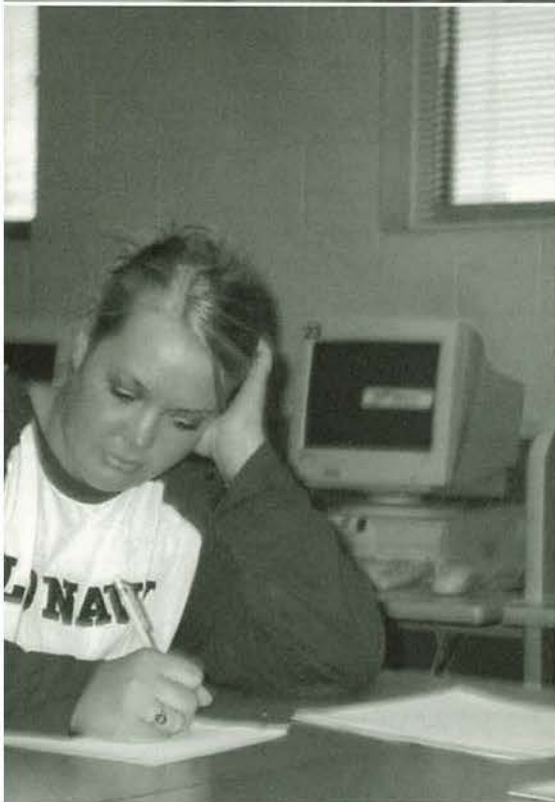
"If you love someone, that is reason enough," Carter said. "You need a sturdy relationship, with trust, equal responsibility, and supportiveness, but all that equals up to a loving, healthy relationship. If you have that, you should be able to survive college together."

Sally Crumb also believed it was a good choice for some.

"Just make sure it's the right one," Sally Crumb said. "If you marry the right one, everything can go great. I love always having someone there for me, from helping with homework to everything else!"

After getting married, students found that their daily lives went from busy to busier.

"It's pretty hectic," Carter said. "I get up and get the kids and myself ready. Then I go to school Twenty-two points, plus triple-word-score, plus fifty points for using all my letters. Game's over. I'm outta here, while my husband stays with the kids. After school, I either go home so my husband can go to work, or I go to work myself. It's pretty crazy, but I love it."



Opposite page: Husband and wife, Nick and Kristen Wampler, spend time together on the farm. Kristen was a full time student and wife. Photo by Megan Campbell. Top left: Kendal and JR West take a look at Kendal's artwork. The couple decided to get married while still in school. Photo by Megan Campbell. Top right: Nikki Burdick studies in peace. Burdick was one of many students who chose delayed marriage. Photo by Sara Bell. Bottom right: Mr. and Mrs. Clark spend some time together at his Senior Show. Brian was an art major at Western. Photo by Deliese Brewster. Bottom left: Nicole Scheiffer studies hard in a computer lab on campus. In addition to Scheiffer's work as a full-time student, she was also a wife and mother. Photo by Sara Bell.

thirst

Quenching

story by Andie Schmidt, photos by Sarah Fisher

THE NEW PEPSI VENDING MACHINES ARE APPEALING TO MANY STUDENTS, ALLOWING THEM TO TASTE THE 21ST CENTURY.

Many students wonder what a man did before the cell phone, before the world of communication was limitless. Just wait, because it gets even better than that. Western students are now also able to use it to purchase their mid-morning sugar rushes—no cash required.

On Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 students hanging around the Nelle Blum Student Union were given an opportunity to get their hands on the very thing that all co-eds craved—caffeine and sugar.

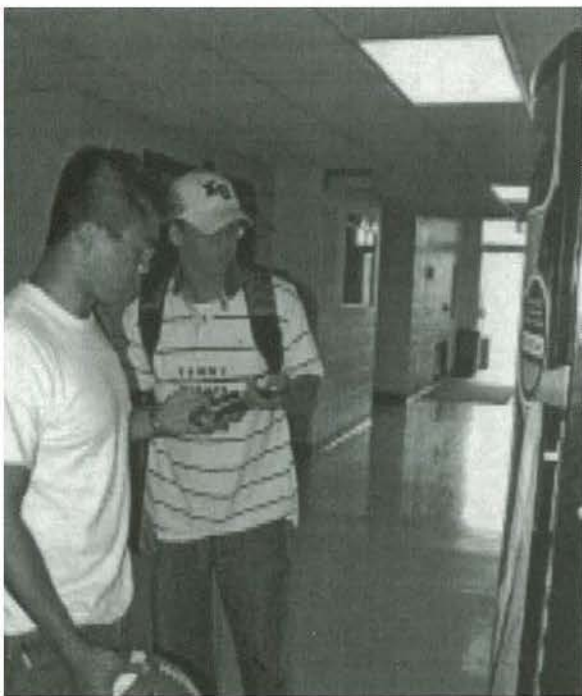
That's right. Project PocketChange came to Western to introduce students to a wireless revolution that would allow them to have a carbonated beverage/caffeine fix anytime, day or night, even without the very thing the project was named after—pocket change. Each of the students in attendance on these dates were given the first two sodas free of charge. Beyond that, all students were encouraged to visit the PocketChange link on the Western Web site to register an account with the company. Once the account was established, students could utilize their cell phones at the vending machines instead of coins.

Among the students present for the trial run of PocketChange was freshman Tierha Jones. Jones knew this program would be the one she would utilize often.

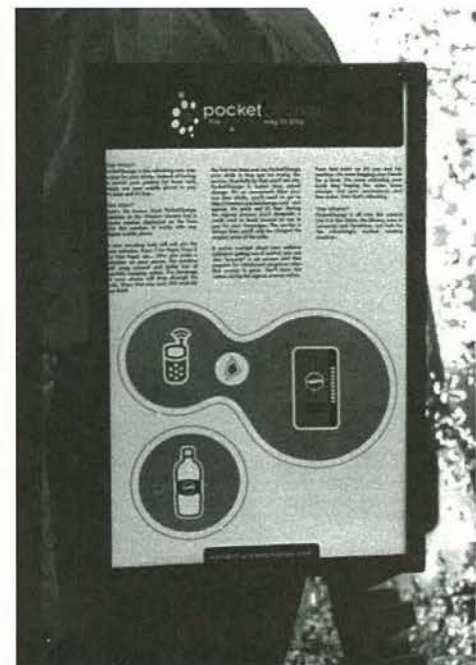
"I might forget a handful of quarters when I leave in the morning, but I never forget my cell phone," Jones said. "I think this was a great idea."

Ron Olinger, vice president for Financial Planning and Administration, echoed Jones' theme of convenience. He had no problem seeing the positives of this program. In a press release concerning this project, Olinger said, "This program will give Western students a more convenient way to obtain these products."

Western was among the first schools in the area to see PocketChange come to their campus, which made it a testing ground for this program. The staff of Western didn't mind setting the precedent. "Western is proud to be a representative institution for the testing of leading-edge technologies," Olinger said.



Above: A fellow student demonstrates the new pepsi technology to Jason Chen. Western was the first college nation wide to have received these pepsi machines. Right: For students to receive their soda, they must first follow the directions. Pepsi delivered the new cell phone-friendly vending machines to buildings throughout our campus.





First Time User
 1. Call the vending machine.
 2. Make selection using your phone keypad.
 3. Your first order is free from their's contribution!
 4. Experience the advantages of our vending machine to buy for others. Suddenly, you see the world differently.
 5. Go to www.pocketchange.com and sign-up. It's free.

Second Time User
 How to use the machine to get the best deal:
 1. Call the vending machine.
 2. Choose a beverage (order/total number 0-9)
 3. Make selection using your phone keypad.
 4. Another free order. Your order is free.
 5. Go to www.pocketchange.com and sign-up. It's free.

Regular User
 How to use the machine to get the best deal:
 1. Call the vending machine.
 2. Enter your PIN.
 3. Make selection using your phone keypad.
 4. Bring your selection to the machine and wait for the order and waiting for the service.
 5. Other orders can be determined as the previous order.

pocketchange
 The way to buy

Handing business design products printing for profit or non-profit. Contact us for more info. 913-905-2419

Cash... I remember. Cash... it stayed busy.

INSERT BILL
FACE UP

INSERT COIN WITH IT
 1.00
 RECEIVED

AQUAFINA 2

Sunny Delight 3

4

Rita Zimmerman calls from her cell phone to order a Pepsi. Students received two free sodas when ordering from their cell phones.



story by star gann, photos by deliese brewster

tight space

students experienced life as a big slumber party while learning to live together and get along in tight quarters

What is a college slumber party really like ... when it lasts for 136 nights? With anywhere between nine and 11 students per suite, Judah Hall is said to be the most crowded of the dorms at Missouri Western. If you ever had all of your friends over for a sleep over and wished it would never end, college dorm life might be the next best thing.

Freshmen Stacy Ethridge and Joy Daniel enjoyed living three to a room.

"Nine of us live in the suite, but anywhere between 15 and 18 are here through the weekend," Ethridge said. "It's a lot of fun."

Walking into Judah Hall was similar to walking in on a small party. Laughter within small groups could be heard over the music. A foosball table had a crowd around it, and, of course, there was food everywhere. A mysterious shopping cart was mounted on the wall, serving as an excellent conversation piece that no party was complete without. Junior Jenni Rope decided to give us a glimpse at what "slumber party" life was like behind closed doors.

"Living three to a room is crowded and stressful," Rope said. "Studying and getting homework done is difficult."

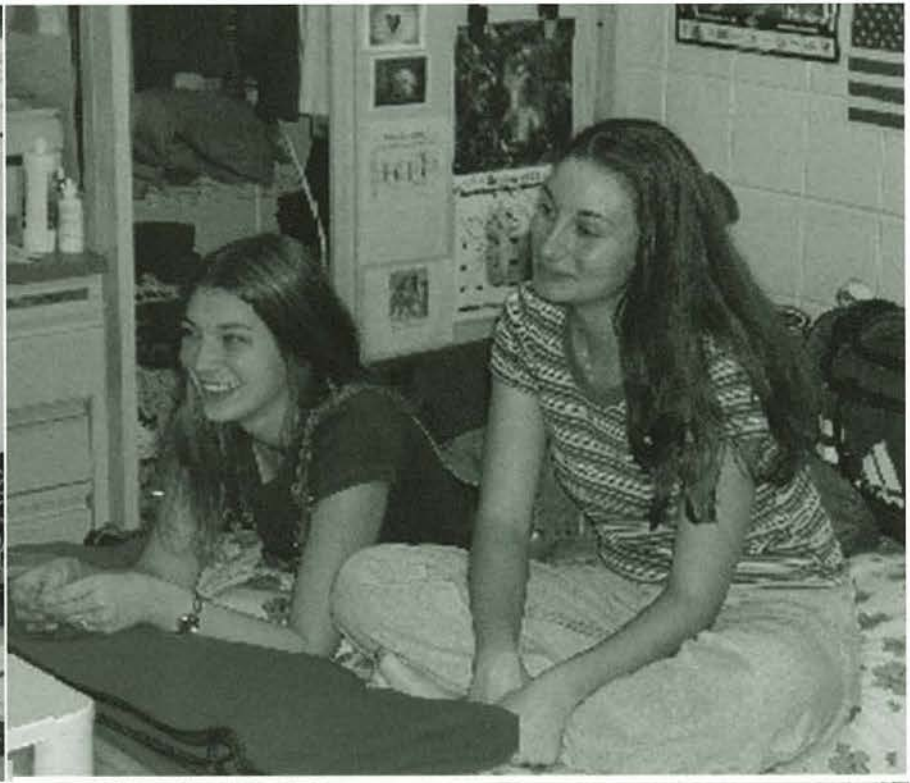
Rope's 9-by-14 space was comprised of a twisting, black jungle of extension cords. There were cords reaching out of the walls into cell phone

chargers, curling irons, TVs, VCRs, clocks, computers, hair dryers and an air conditioner. There was a total of 18 cords. The small space was neat, and every inch was utilized with hidden closets, a study area, a bathroom area and beds. "If each of us has a guest, that is six people in one little room, and I really hate having to be in a bunk bed at the age of 20," Rope said.

Not all spaces remained crowded. Many students who didn't like being elbow to elbow moved out on their own, leaving a few more square feet for the remaining roommates. With off-campus living came monthly utilities, but to some students, the added expense was worth the privacy and freedom that college dorms did not provide.

There was no doubt that it was crowded. However, opinions on dorm life varied. Some individuals didn't mind being a little crowded. The freshmen were just pretty happy to be on their own.

Whether or not students decided to live on campus or off, complete privacy could not realistically be achieved. The expense of living alone after adding utilities, rent, food and other expenses, such as toothpaste and toilet paper, added up significantly for one person. For \$1,000 a semester, Western offered a room complete with roommates, furniture and easy access to the campus.



Opposite Page: Triple suite roommates share cramped space. Emergency triples were used for those on a waiting list.

Top left: Appliances are stacked to the ceiling. Many girls shared to save space by the mirror.

Top right: Roommates laugh as they enjoy their Friday afternoon talkshows. With so many roommates, there was always someone to watch television with.

Bottom left: An on-campus student takes curlers out of her hair. She was one of the many girls this year living in a triple suite.

Bottom right: Triple rooms surge with energy. Along with an extra person was the need for extra power.

sorority Life

story by Stephanie Radel, photos by Jennifer Moran

SORORITY LIFE ISN'T JUST A SHOW ON MTV, BUT IT IS A WAY OF LIFE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES ACROSS THE NATION

"Survivor," "Big Brother," "Fear Factor" and "The Real World." Every time someone turned on the television, he or she could not help but be bombarded with "reality television." It seemed America could not get enough. Hoping to capitalize on this trend, MTV added another show to the ever-growing list of reality-based shows — "Sorority Life."

Many anxious viewers tuned in when the show first aired. Sorority members across the country, including those here at Western, hoped for the type of show MTV had promised. Most were sorely disappointed. Instead of groundbreaking television, many sorority members felt that the show failed to accurately portray the sorority experience. Instead, it succeeded in reinforcing typical stereotypes of drinking, partying and fighting.

"I think that the show focused too much on the stereotypes of what people think sororities are all about," Elizabeth Aderton, a junior and member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, said. "I think, though, that is what MTV was going for because they wanted to please their viewer population. They need to realize though that we do a lot more good than bad. We do not just drink and party and fight with each other all of the time. We do have our fun like everyone else, but we also volunteer, we raise money for various organizations, we try to improve on our campus. We all have a sisterhood with all of the other sisters. I did not see very much of that on the show."

Kim Buretta, a senior communications major with an emphasis in video production performance and also a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, agreed.

"I think that the show gives people the wrong impression of what Greek life and sororities are about in general," Buretta said. "Being a video production major, I can see how they've casted for the show, and I know some of the video tricks they used. They know what people want to see, so they just show the drama, not the reality of the sorority."

"Look at the girls they picked for the show," Sheila Munyon, senior Spanish major and member of Alpha Gamma Delta, said. "They are all good looking — not at all like normal people you see everyday."

"What bothered me was that MTV paid for everything," Mary Bronson, a junior psychology major and member of Alpha Gamma Delta said. "They paid for their pledge house, their clothes and they paid them to rush this particular sorority. Nothing like that happens here or anywhere else I know of. So I think that shows everything about the show is fake."

Although the show failed to meet the expectations of many by inaccurately portraying sorority life, some Western sorority members agreed on its entertainment value.

"I think the show's great if you like drama," Mystery Hensley, sophomore communications major and member of Alpha Sigma Alpha, said. "But, only girls in a sorority are going to realize what it's all about."

"From what I've seen, it isn't a bad show," Julia Biegle, a sophomore commercial art major and member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, said. "Its facts are messed up, but it's good entertainment."



Above: Jessica White and Codi Kerr share ideas for the next Alpha Sigma Alpha event. Planning events for a sorority took a combined effort from the members. Right: Mandy Freeland, Sally Ridder and Anna Askren talk before their weekly meeting. These three were members of Sigma Sigma Sigma.





A group of Alpha Gamma Delta members are having a get-together. Being in a sorority took up a lot of time, but they made a lot of friends during that time.



story by Jenny Olson, photos by Jennifer Moran

war hits home

western students felt the impact of war when friends and loved ones were deployed overseas to fight for their country

The effects of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, still linger and have even led to a war. The war with Iraq was known to many as the Second Gulf War. As it looms on and the United States attacks Iraq, Missouri Western students go on with their daily lives but with more unity, patriotism and fear. Some students have already been deployed, and others sit in wonder if they will be next. Other students wait in fear and hope while their friends and family fight against Iraq, patiently waiting for their return.

Junior Raychel Meadows, a criminal justice major, joined the Missouri National Guard and trained at Fort Jackson Basic Training in Columbia, S.C. and Fort Gordon, Ga. She was not deployed yet but patiently waited for the inevitable. Having to drop classes was one thing that the students that could possibly be deployed worried about.

"It will be disappointing to have to delay classes, but that's the risk I am taking since I enlisted," Meadows said. "If I were deployed I would have to drop my classes, but withdrawing is not held against us, and it doesn't cost any money."

Meadows was ready for war. "It's about time that Saddam faces the consequences of his actions, and we are in further danger if we continued doing nothing," Meadows said.

Many Western students had friends and family that enlisted in the Army Reserves and the U. S. Marines.

Sophomore Barry Korthanke was proud of his brother, Owen, for joining the Army Reserves.

"I get fearful since he was shipped off to Kuwait, but I know he will be alright," Korthanke said. "Nobody wants to go to war, but it is for a good

cause, and I think we are doing a good thing."

Owen went through basic training and was shipped to Fort Riley once he was activated. He was a cook in the reserves but dealt with first aid and shooting guns while he was at Fort Riley.

When Barry got the chance to talk to Owen they chose not to talk about the war and the things Owen had to do. "Owen only gets one phone call a week, and when he does call he doesn't really want to talk about the war," Korthanke said.

Another Western student, freshman Katie Dunn, found out that three of her friends from her high school were shipped off to defend our country. Leith Taylor was enlisted in the Marines and was shipped off to Kuwait a couple weeks before the war officially started. His brother, Adam, was in the U. S. Army and was shipped to Afghanistan. Dunn's other friend Jennifer Brewster was in the Army and was shipped to the East Coast.

"I am sad that some of my friends have been shipped off, and I might not ever see them again," Dunn said. "I especially feel sad for Leith and Adam's mom because she found out that both her sons were going to be leaving within a week of each other."

All three of Dunn's friends found out a week before they were shipped off that they would have to leave the country. Dunn was shocked when she heard the news of not one, but three of her friends were leaving to defend our country.

"I have so much respect for them," Dunn said. "They have so much courage, and I respect their loyalty to the United States."



Top left: This aircraft is used to drop food and supplies to deployed troops. The plane was named St. Joseph. Top middle: Carl Cook, Western junior, works full-time at Rosecrans Memorial Airport. Cook had been in the National Guard for two years. Top right: An American flag flies to remind the soldiers of the great country they are fighting for. Some Western students were deployed to fight for the freedom of their country. Bottom left: One Western senior almost faces deployment. Another soldier took his place because his wife was pregnant. Bottom right: A National Guard member checks I.D.s at the airport gate. He was deployed to Pakistan one year ago.

a visit from the Governor

story by Tanisha Washington, photos by Ashley Reynolds

GOVERNOR HOLDEN VISITS WESTERN TO INFORM STUDENTS OF TOBACCO SECURITIZATION.

It was mentioned that Missouri Western State College was closing down. The truth was it was not; however, it began to face drastic changes due to a change in its financial status.

On Feb. 5, Governor Holden visited Western and explained his plan of handling the budget cuts that affected higher education.

"The cuts could be avoided if the General Assembly authorizes tobacco securitization by Feb. 15," Holden said. "We can make huge cuts in education that will set this state back for the foreseeable future, or we can take steps like implementing tobacco securitization that will keep us moving forward. Improving education is the most important step we can take to provide better opportunities for the students here today and the students that will be here for generations to come."

Holden's tobacco securitization plan was made to prevent cuts of \$91 million to universities and colleges across the state, including nearly two million to Western.

"A \$2 million dollar cut would mean we could not hire replacement faculty," President Scanlon said. "We could not buy more equipment because of the lack of campus funds. This is true with any campus."

The thought of budget cuts not only concerned Holden and Scanlon, but it was also a major concern of Western students themselves.

"The budget cut will affect me personally as a student because it will raise tuition and cost more for me to go to school," freshman Cathe Poisal said. "It will make it harder for me to finish school because of the tuition raise."

Freshman Colby Roup felt the same as Poisal about the budget cuts. "With budget cuts, we won't have enough money for accessories and goods we use while we are at college," Roup said.

Besides their views on the loss of money, Holden's plan was another topic of discussion among students.

"I believe part of the money will go to education, but the other money will go to other organizations," Poisal said. "Either way we won't get the fullest amount of money we deserve."

Holden emphasized that the Fair Share Budget Plan he presented to lawmakers did not propose any budget cuts to higher education for next year. Holden also shared the importance of authorizing tobacco securitization to help ensure that funds were not kept from higher education during the current school year.

During all of those important decisions, Scanlon had a word of advice to share with students and their families about future budget cuts at Western.

"I think Missouri Western has one of the most reasonable cost for students," he said. "We are working very hard to maintain our budget planning here on campus. Holden is committed, and I think many of the legislature are committed to finding a way to balance the budget and not have it cut further in higher education. If the governor's plan or something similar to his plan is put into law, Missouri Western will not suffer anymore severe budget cuts."



Students, faculty, and staff listen as the governor educates them about the financial situation. He commented on college concerns.





Governor Holden explains the benefits securitization will provide. Holden's plan was geared toward higher education.

Western Legends

story by Micheal Neece, photos by Tiffanie Boessen

URBAN LEGENDS ARE ALIVE AMONGST WESTERN STUDENTS
AS THEY ARE SPREAD FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY.

From the TV shows to the Hollywood movies, urban legends have been passed down to every generation. It turned out Missouri Western acquired some of its own urban legends.

One legend held that if a car struck a student on campus, his/her tuition was paid for. "I think the urban legend is true," freshman Jason Nogar said. "The accident is happening on the school property, and if they cannot secure a maintained speed limit, then it's their problem."

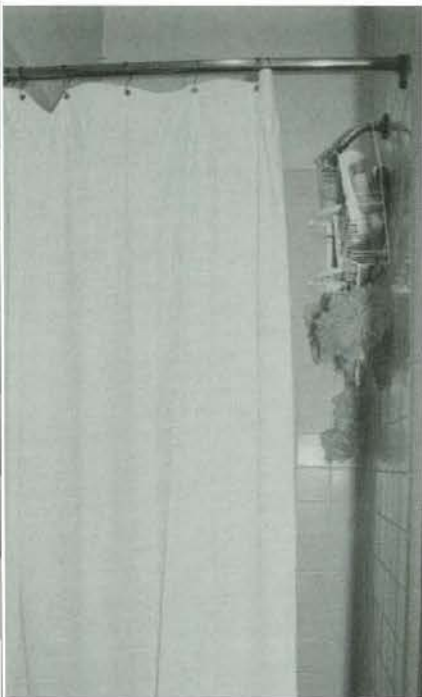
Freshman Christopher McDonald also believed this urban legend to be true. "I think it is true," McDonald said. "Due to the fact that if they didn't pay for the victim's schooling, they could be dealing with a large lawsuit."

Another popular legend was that if a student's roommate died, that student would receive all A's for that semester. This legend seemed appealing to some Western students. "No," freshman Tyler Davis said. "If it is true, I'm killing my roommate."

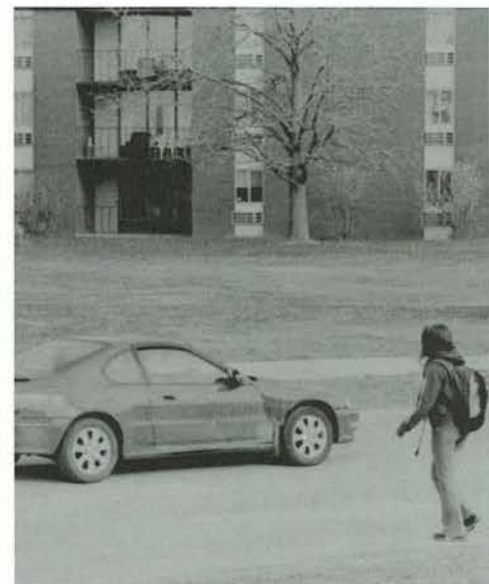
There was another legend on campus that had to do with death. It was said that a girl had killed herself in the shower during finals week. The supposed suicide was committed in Juda Hall, room 416, in the late '60s or '70s. Sophomore Tiffany Embry was told of the old legend when she was a freshman.

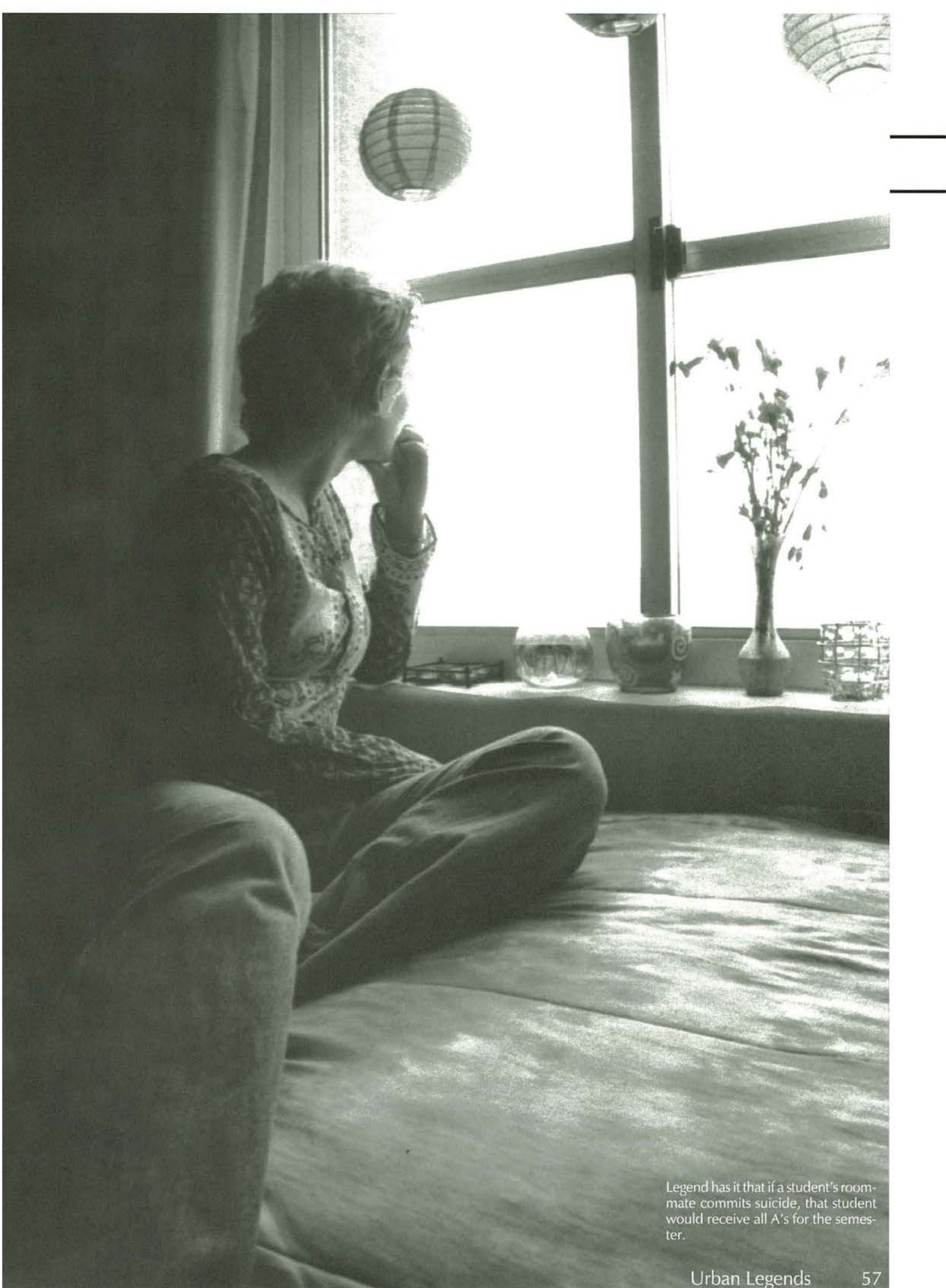
"It was a girl that during finals week hung herself in the shower," Embry said. "At night, in the suite, if you turn the lights off you can see her name made out by holes in the ceiling, it's really weird. I was really scared when I was told about it. Just coming in as a freshman I was already a little scared, but hearing this scared me to death."

These stories were the three popular urban legends at Western. Any truth behind these legends might never fully be uncovered, but that was what made the legends so fun and mysterious. One could only wonder how many more urban legends and myths were buried deep within Western's history, and there were probably many more yet to come.



Suite 416 lives on as an urban legend. This was the shower where the suicide supposedly occurred! Left: Students brave the crosswalks everyday. The legend said that if a student got hit his/her tuition would be waived.





Legend has it that if a student's roommate commits suicide, that student would receive all A's for the semester.

mr.
MWSC

story by Sara Bell, photos by Sara Bell and Jennifer Moran

MEN COMPETE TO WIN THE TITLE OF MR. MWSC THROUGH
A SERIES OF CONTESTS.

One of Alpha Gamma Delta's annual philanthropy events was to put on and host the Mr. MWSC competition. Every spring, the sorority held the Mr. MWSC contest to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, which was the organization's nationwide philanthropy.

Not only did they charge admission for the show, but each contestant was responsible for raising money. The men competed with each other to get donations, but on stage the competition went much further. The men competed in a series of contests, such as swimwear, talent, favorite costume and question and answer. They could earn up to ten points in each category. There was an individual winner for each slot, and then points were tallied for an overall winner.

"This year's Mr. MWSC was a huge success. I think it has been the best ever," Abbey Russell, philanthropy chair, said. "It was a pleasure getting to work with different organizations in order to raise money for a common cause."

"I think that Abbey and her committee did an excellent job," Kristen Hank, Alpha Gamma Delta president, said. "They organized a fun, successful event that will benefit the juvenile diabetes research in a big way."

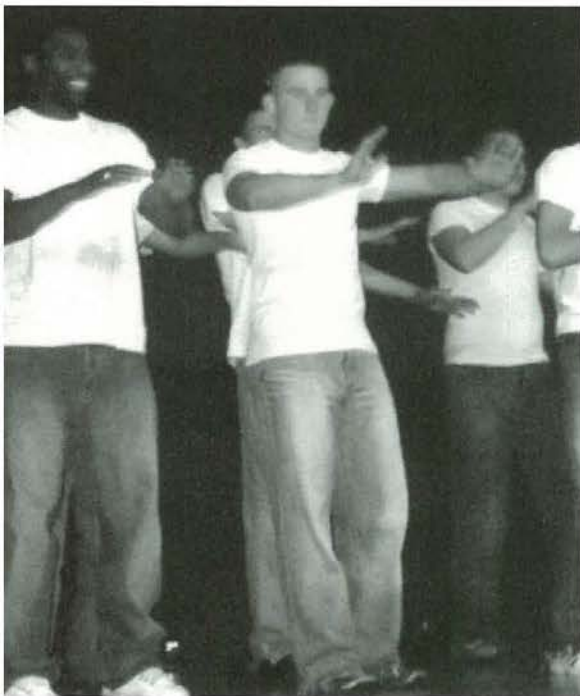
While contestants were a big part of the show, other students who were very involved in the success of the event were the emcees. Emcees for the night were Brandi Athea and Student Government Association president Steve Allee. They introduced each contestant and kept the show running smoothly. The audience enjoyed the show, too.

"I thought it was really awesome," Janelle Delana, Phi Mu member, said. "Everyone involved really pulled it off. I think it is an awesome way to raise money, and whoever came up with the idea was brilliant."

While it was difficult for the judges to pick winners, the task had to be done. After intermission, there was a formal wear competition, when girls from Alpha Gamma Delta escorted each contestant onto the stage. In the end the winners were as follows: Tywin Hanson in the category of raising the most money, Andy Davis in the talent competition, Tyson Shank in the best costume contest, Nathan Schmoie in the swimwear competition and Tim Lawrence in the question and answer segment. However, the overall champ and new Mr. MWSC was Tyson Schank.

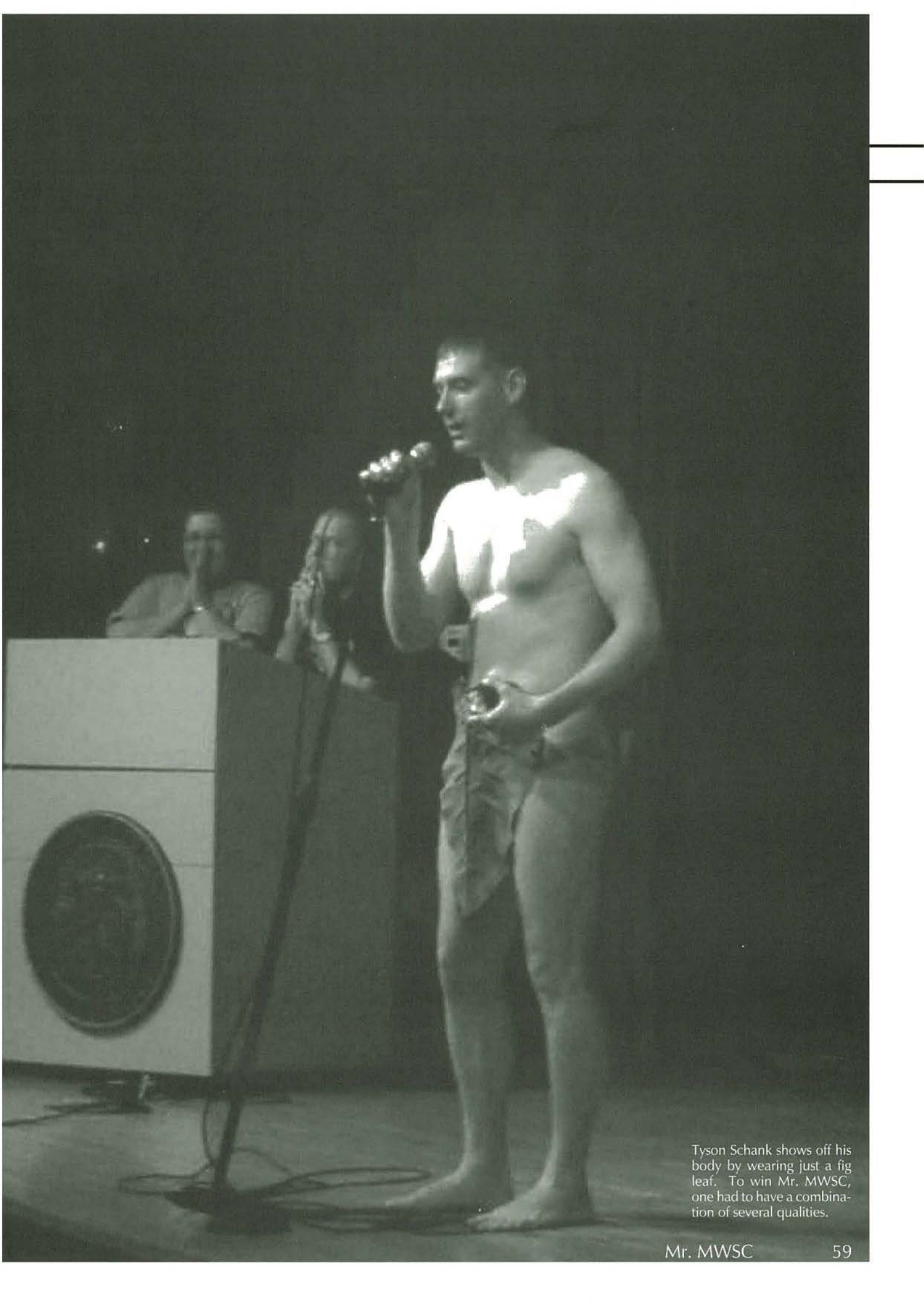
The Alpha Gamma Delta members enjoyed the event for several reasons.

"This is my favorite philanthropy project to do," Russell said. "It is fun to meet new people and work with other organizations, while raising money for a good cause at the same time. All the contestants were great, as were the emcee's, my girls, and the audience."



Above: The contestants show off their dancing ability by doing a coreographed dance. Many hard hours of preparation went in to this competition. Right: Steve Allee and Brandi Athea were the hosts for the Mr. MWSC show. They made sure the show went smoothly.





Tyson Schank shows off his body by wearing just a fig leaf. To win Mr. MWSC, one had to have a combination of several qualities.

Leisure Reading

story and photos by Shawn M. Kiehl

STUDENTS CHOOSE TO READ THEIR OWN BOOKS OUTSIDE OF CLASS.

Between homework, tests, research papers and studying, it was almost difficult to believe that some students could find the time to read anything for themselves. However, many students did, despite the fact that it meant skipping the daily chore of doing homework or studying.

It was often a conflict to read for leisure time and get assignments completed. "When I was taking a lot of literature classes, I had all kinds of stuff assigned in there to read, plus I would want to read my own stuff, so a lot of times I kind of skipped reading what I was supposed to read for school," Laura Defenbaugh, English major, said.

Not only could reading be a stress reliever, but some students also found their books to be more interesting than their textbooks. "You think that homework is supposed to come first, but on occasion the book is a lot more fun to be reading," Jennifer Lamp, biology major, said.

When students had to attend classes and go to work, a lot of them found it easier to read their books at a spare moment or just before bedtime. "I read a lot before I go to bed because in the later evening my mind just kind of shuts down and I can't concentrate on homework, so I might as well just jump into a book," Lamp said.

Mikel Neidinger, art education major, also found it easier to read in the evening, though it did conflict with his homework. "I always read at night before I go to bed, or when I'm supposed to be doing my homework."

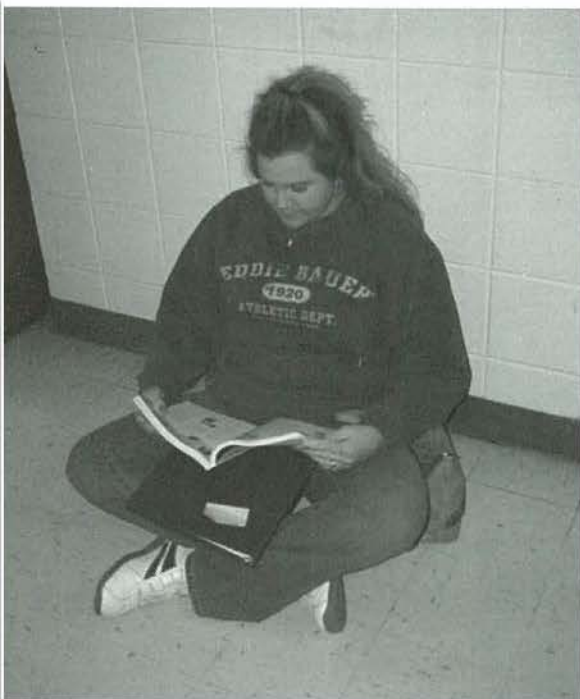
No matter what time of day, it was safe to say that the most popular location to read was at home. Defenbaugh, Lamp and Neidinger all usually chose to read at home. However, Defenbaugh and Lamp also found time to read books in between tutoring students in the Center for Academic Support. "I read in bed or anywhere you can relax. I spend a lot of time reading at work," Defenbaugh said.

The amount of time the three students each spent reading books varied from about 12 hours a week to about three hours per week. "I spend about four times more the amount of time reading than I do on homework," Neidinger said.

What authors could be so interesting to keep students from studying?

"Generally, I read Stephen King or Dean Koontz, anything of the horror genre," Lamp said. Defenbaugh also enjoyed reading Stephen King, as well as Ayn Rand, while Neidinger said his favorite author was Robert Jordan. "Jordan has great character development throughout his series," Neidinger said.

All in all, these students usually chose reading as a way to pass the time rather than anything else. "I just really enjoy other people's thoughts. Reading is a way that you can kind of get thoughts and feelings from people that you would never get to meet, or situations that you would never be involved in," Defenbaugh said.



Above: Freshman Maranda Miller reads in a hallway in the Frank Popplewell Classroom and Administration building. Reading at any spare moment was a popular pastime among some students.

Right: Freshman Jennifer Roach selects a book to read. Many students took advantage of the resources available in the Western library.





Taking a well-deserved break from her studies, senior Erin Vehlin indulges herself in a good book. Finding time to read for leisure was a hard task at times for students.

What types of books do you like to read?



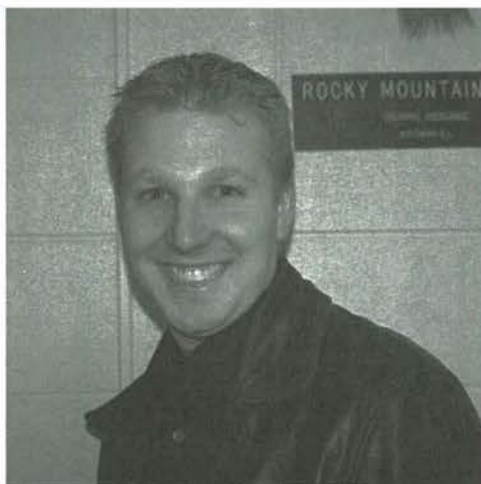
"Science fiction. I also like to read some classical types of literature, poetry and fantasy." - Timothy Ottison, sophomore, computer science major.



"I read mainly fantasy books like Anne McCaffery and Terry Brooks."
- Kisha Stegall, sophomore, English major.



"I like to read about political and current events."
- Chris Main, senior, economics major.



"I like a lot of novels that have to do with drama and books that movies come from." - James Eickelheimer, sophomore, psychology and biology major.

Why



"I think TV is evil. If you really think about many of the bad things that go on today in society, most of them are facilitated by the media." - Elizabeth Blank, sophomore, English major.



"I do it because I think it helps me expand my reading comprehension outside of class because it's something I can use the rest of my life."
- Nathan Whitmer, freshman, undecided.

Who are your favorite authors?

"I like Ann Rice because she's incredibly creative and she uses all kinds of adjectives. She just totally describes every single thing that she's talking about."

- Rachel Smith, sophomore, undecided.



"I like to read mysteries, so I like to read a lot of Stephen King. I like something with an edge."

- Angie Calloway, sophomore, nursing major.



"As of right now, Laurell K. Hamilton, Herman Melville and Stan Lee are my favorites." - Dane Ault, junior, commercial art major.



"Dennis Danvers and ... no, just Dennis Danvers." - Dustin Enfield, sophomore, music performance major.

Read?



"I read to increase my knowledge beyond school. I realize we only learn so much here, and if you want to learn more, you have to go out and learn more yourself." - Jermaine Coleman, senior, human resources management major.



"I like to read because it lets me be in a world of my own and gets me away from the outside world and into a different one." - Rea Wesley, junior, commercial art major.



story by Kellie Feuerbacher , photos by tiffanie boessen

interesting jobs

for some, the college experience meant more than just schoolwork. devoting time to a full-time or part-time job was also important

Studying and partying are the activities that often come to mind when thinking about college. But for many students, working a job would also be on the list.

A large percentage of Western students could be found spending their hours outside of school in local grocery stores, restaurants, retail stores and many other locations as employees, earning the much-needed cash to pay for a variety of needs and wants.

Some of the most common expenses for which students worked to pay included tuition, auto payments, auto insurance and extra spending money. Others also had extra bills, such as cellular phone payments and rent for living off-campus.

"I pay for my own tuition, so I have to make some money," junior accounting major Wendy Hill said. Hill worked as a cashier at Sutton's Supermarket in Gower, Mo.

Senior art major Heather Sandstede worked as a guest service associate at the local Drury Inn. "It paid for art supplies, bills and extra spending money," she said.

Although holding a job helped alleviate the financial crunch, it sometimes created additional problems. Sandstede knew how difficult it could be for a college student to hold a job while keeping up with his or her other responsibilities.

"It's hard to find time to work and go to school and to devote 100 percent to both," Sandstede said.

One way to make up for this extra strain put on a student by taking on a job is to find a job that suits him or her well and isn't too stressful or time-consuming. Chemistry major Lauren Agnew worked as a sales associate at Dillard's department store.

"It's kind of a relaxing job, so I don't stress about it in addition to school," Agnew said.

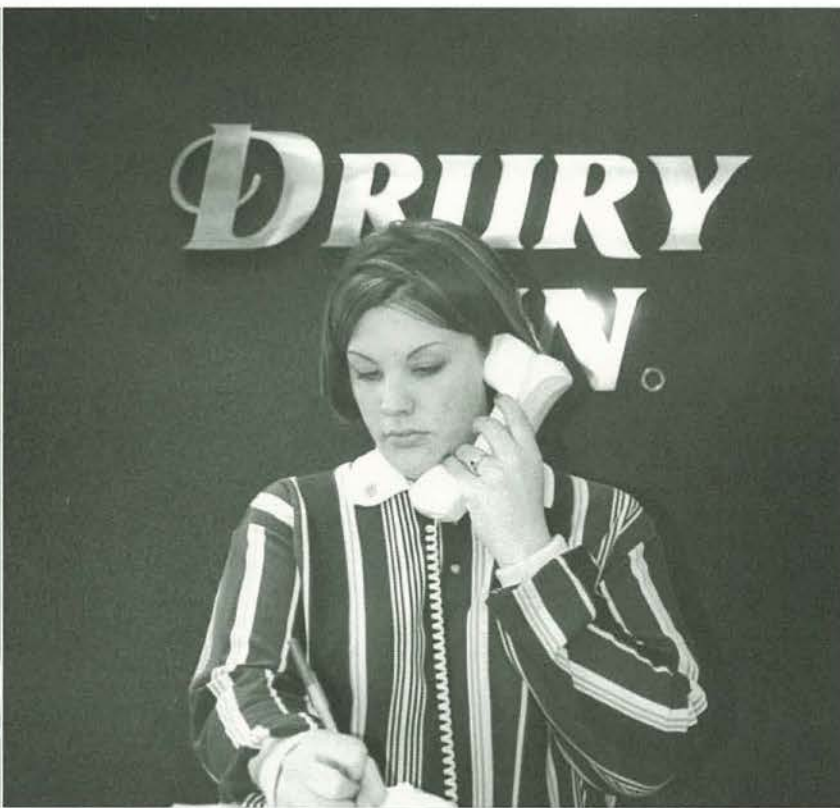
Although Agnew's job didn't cause additional stress, she did feel pressure in the area of time management.

"It actually hurts me in a way because after I work I don't usually feel like studying," she said. "I think I'd be more likely to study more if I didn't work, but it does give me the opportunity to meet new people."

Meeting new people was just one of the benefits students found in addition to the money earned. Some students felt that they also gained experience in various areas.

"I've learned a lot of communication skills," Hill said. "When I first started, I was kind of shy, but when you work with the public, you have to speak and communicate with them."

Holding a job while attending college can bring both advantages and disadvantages. According to Western students, the key to balancing school work and other activities lies in finding a job that is relaxing and provides opportunity for gaining skills for the future. In doing so, holding a job while in school could prove to be well worth the extra effort.

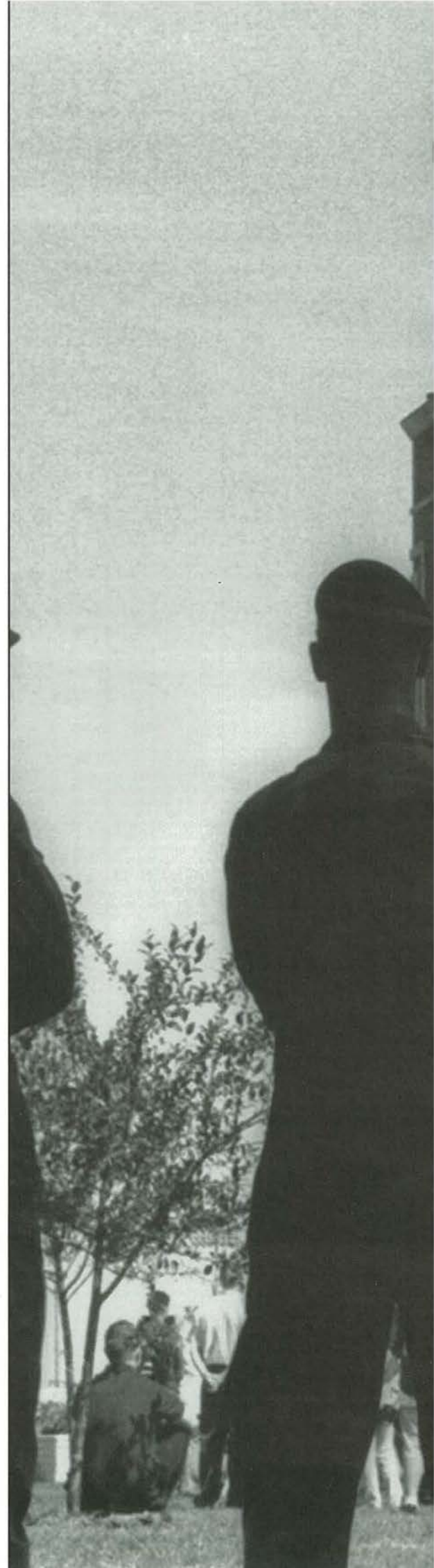
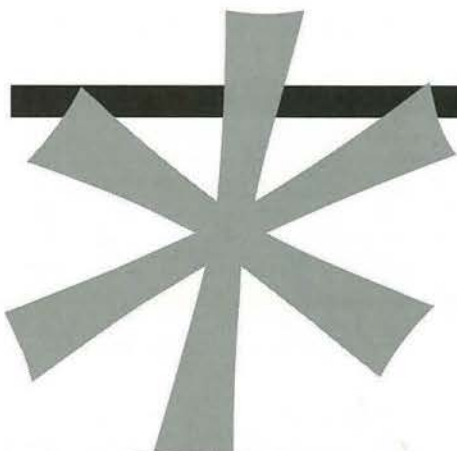


Top left: Chelsae Houlett listens intently as an order is being placed. Tips were a good way to earn extra money. Middle top: Web Designer Tim Campbell is a freelance artist. He earned extra cash through this creative outlet. Top right: Heather Sandstede takes her job seriously. She was very dedicated and had worked at Drury Inn through most of her college career. Bottom left: Wendy Hill works at a local grocery market. This job helped her make her way through college. Bottom right: Lauren Agnu enjoys spritzing cologne at Dillard's. She used her marketing skills to satisfy the customers' wants and needs.

Witness

Live your life each day as you would climb a mountain. Climb slowly, steadily, enjoying each passing moment; and the view from the summit will serve as a fitting climax for the journey.

~ Harold V Melchert







The Golden Griffon Marching Band performs during a parade. The marching band put in long hours to perfect their routine. Photo by Deliese Brewster.





Students get pumped up for one of the football games. These students handed out spirit sticks sponsored by CAB. Photo by Shawn Berry.

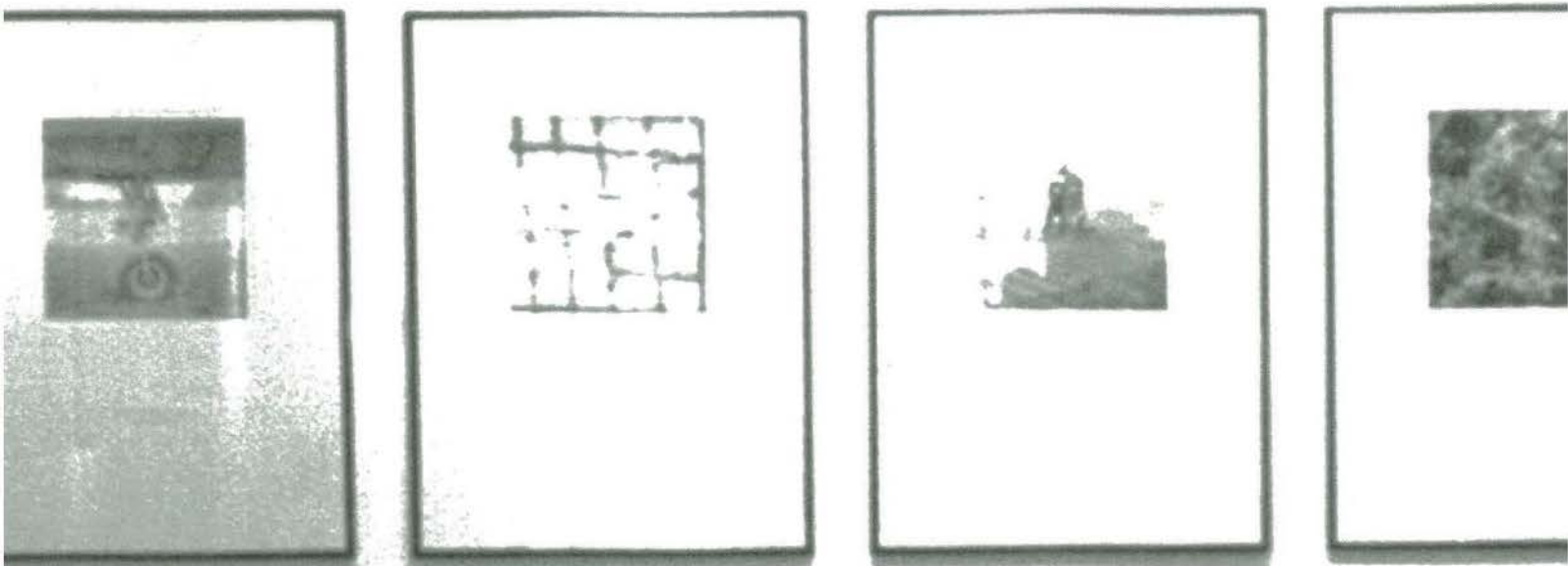


WESTERN



Western students participate in many activities including performing arts. The students performed well throughout the year. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.



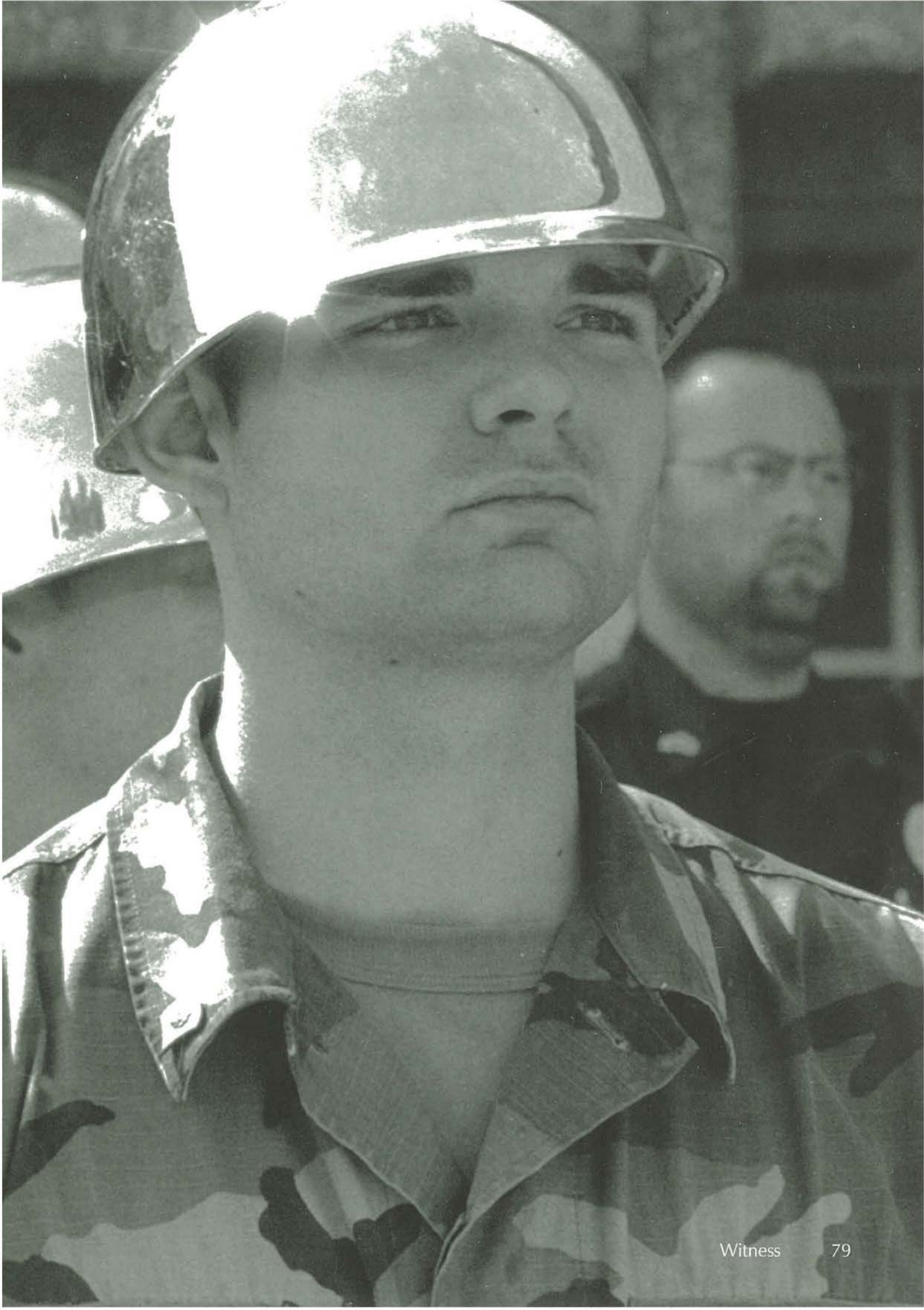


Sandy Scott admires work in the FA Gallery. Many students took time to look at the art in the gallery. Photo by Tiffanie Boessen.





The ROTC prepares for the Pledge of Allegiance. The ROTC was very involved in this tradition. Photo by Sarah Fisher.





The artistic ability of Western students is something to be proud of. The Art department strived to teach their students through self expression.

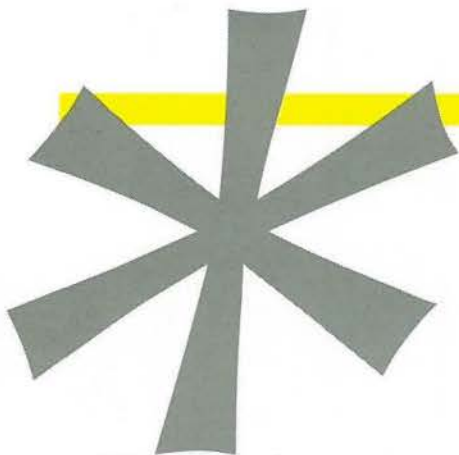


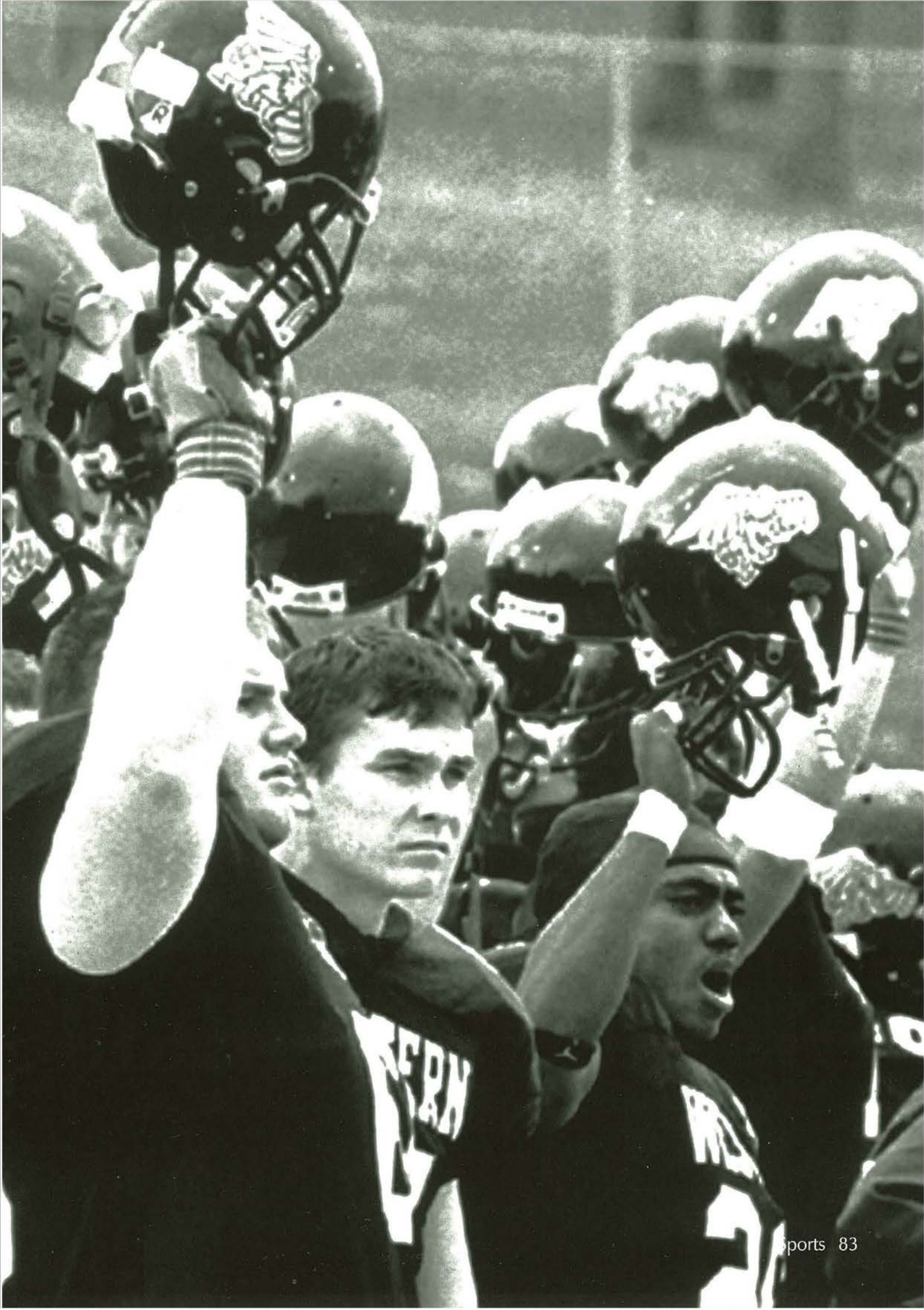
Sports

The toughest thing about success is that you've got to keep on being a success.

Talent is only a starting point in this business. You've got to keep on working that talent.

~ Irving Berlin







Western Football

The Griffon football team tackled an overall rough season, yet remained as one for future seasons.

Story By Stephanie Radel Photographed by Deliese Brewster

Running for the touch down, Derrick Pitt dodges an opponent. The Griffons were defeated by Empori State.



Top left: Trainers are an essential part to athletic safety. Walking to the field, Western's players are ready to play. The Griffons make a tackle to receive possession of the ball. Left and above: It's game day at Spratt Stadium. The players looked to the field as the Griffons took on Emporia State. Below: Reflecting on their previous game, Western football players focus on the game tapes. The players found that watching the game was very beneficial when looking to improve their skills.



The Missouri Western State College football team went into the 2002 football season with high hopes and great expectations. The team hoped to get back into the top of the MIAA conference after a third-place finish last year, get over the eight-win plateau and capture their ninth win, a feat which had eluded them each of the last two seasons.

"We had a goal at the beginning of the season," senior linebacker and 2001 first team All-Midwest Region selection Eric "Ebo" Walker said. Of course our goal is to win every game. Especially in the games where it really counts," he said.

Despite the high expectations of the players and the coaches, that ninth win remained ever out of reach. The team ended up with an overall record of 6-5. In MIAA play, they ended at 4-5.

The first game of the year was an exciting 31-30 overtime win against Winona State Uni-

versity, one of three teams the Griffons faced this year that had made the NCAA Division II playoffs in the last four years. After that, Western claimed a victory at South Dakota.

They kicked off MIAA conference play against Central Missouri State University on Family Day. The mules handed the Griffons its first loss and put them at 0-1 in conference play. The Griffons would never really recover for the rest of the season.

"The Central Missouri game was a tough loss," Walker said. "It was a conference game. Games like that set the tone for the rest of the season."

The rest of the season included eight straight games against MIAA rivals. After the CMSU loss, the Griffons lost two close games against Pittsburgh State and Emporia State in the Hall of Fame Game.

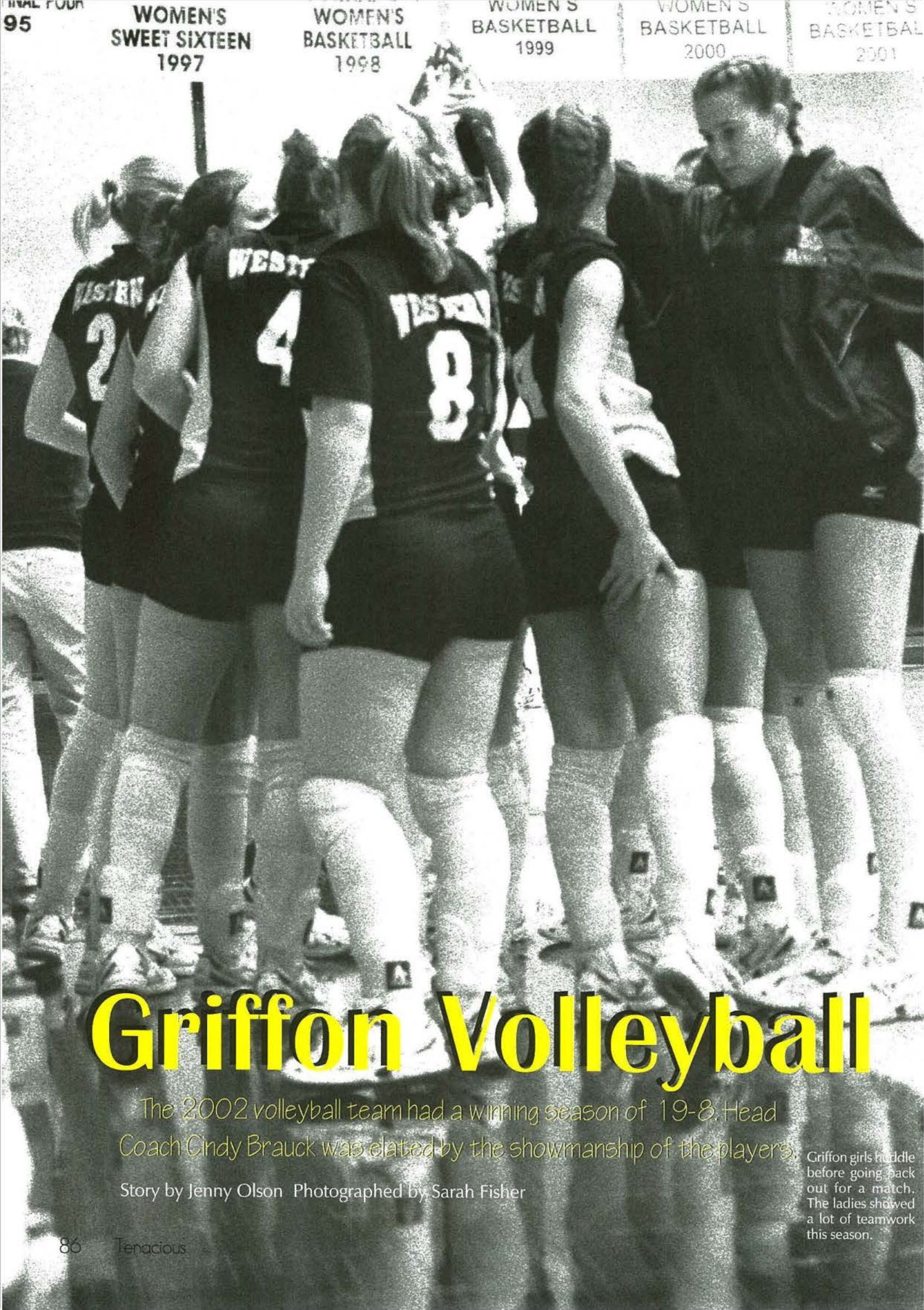
They bounced back against Missouri-

Rolla. This victory set in motion a four-game winning streak that included a Homecoming romp of Southwest Baptist University and a two-overtime thriller versus Washburn University.

The team headed back into the end of the season, hoping to repeat last year's victory over the Northwest Missouri State Bearcats. That was not to be this year. The Griffons played well but dropped a close game 13-10. They ended the season on a down note with a loss to Truman State University.

"The season did not go as well as I know the team hoped," sophomore Andy Davis said. "They did a good job, though."

"Overall, I think we were disappointed with the way we all did this year," Walker said. "We definitely have the ability and the potential to be a better team than we showed on the field. Hopefully, they will do better next year."

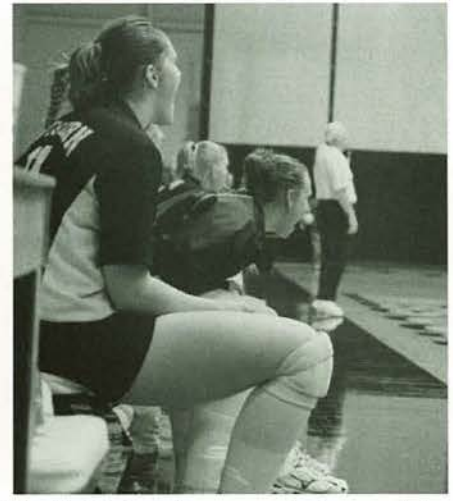
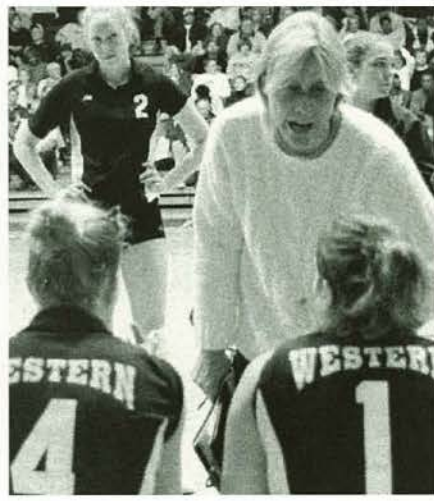


Griffon Volleyball

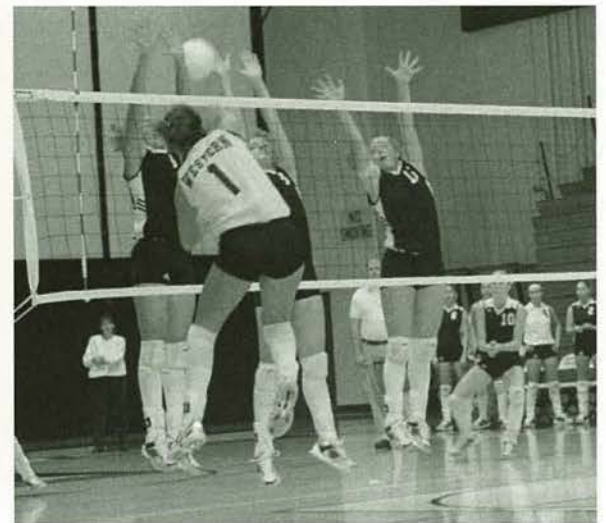
The 2002 volleyball team had a winning season of 19-8. Head Coach Cindy Brauck was elated by the showmanship of the players.

Story by Jenny Olson Photographed by Sarah Fisher

Griffon girls huddle before going back out for a match. The ladies showed a lot of teamwork this season.



Top left: Blair Lehr makes an acrobatic save during season play. Lehr and her teammate Shelly Chiles work together for a victory for the Lady Griffis. Top middle: Coach Brauck gives a pep talk to Katie Ham and Mary Pickert. Lindsay Fuller looks over the coaches shoulder with concern. Top right: Lindsay Palaia and her teammates encourage fellow players. The Lady Griffis supported each other throughout the season. Left: Shelley Chiles digs deep to make a worthy play for her team. Her teammates look on with hopefulness. Below: Mary Pickert reads the defense as she makes an attack. Defenders attempt to make a block but to no avail against the mighty Pickert.



The future looked bright for the Griffon volleyball team as the beginning of the season took place. Things started to change, however, when they lost their first game.

"After going 8-0 in preseason play, it was very hard to get past our first loss against Emporia State," senior Katie Ham said. "After that loss we had to re-evaluate our game plan and try to get back into the winning mind set."

It didn't help that the new season brought about some new challenges. Freshman Therese Hand was a new setter, half of the starting lineup graduated and five new faces arrived on the court.

"We lost a lot of seniors but gained people to fill those positions, and the new seniors took on the roles really well," senior Mary Pickert said. "Our goals at the beginning of the season were to play as a team and to take games day by day, and I believe we accomplished those goals."

Another goal of the team was to appear threatening to opposing teams. "We had a huge

amount of talent and desire, and we really set out to show some other teams what we had," Ham said.

Things started coming together towards the end of the season. One of the biggest highlights of the season was the win over Truman State University.

"In my career here we have never beaten Truman," Ham said. "It was a great accomplishment because I have had a lot of respect for their program, and they are always nationally ranked."

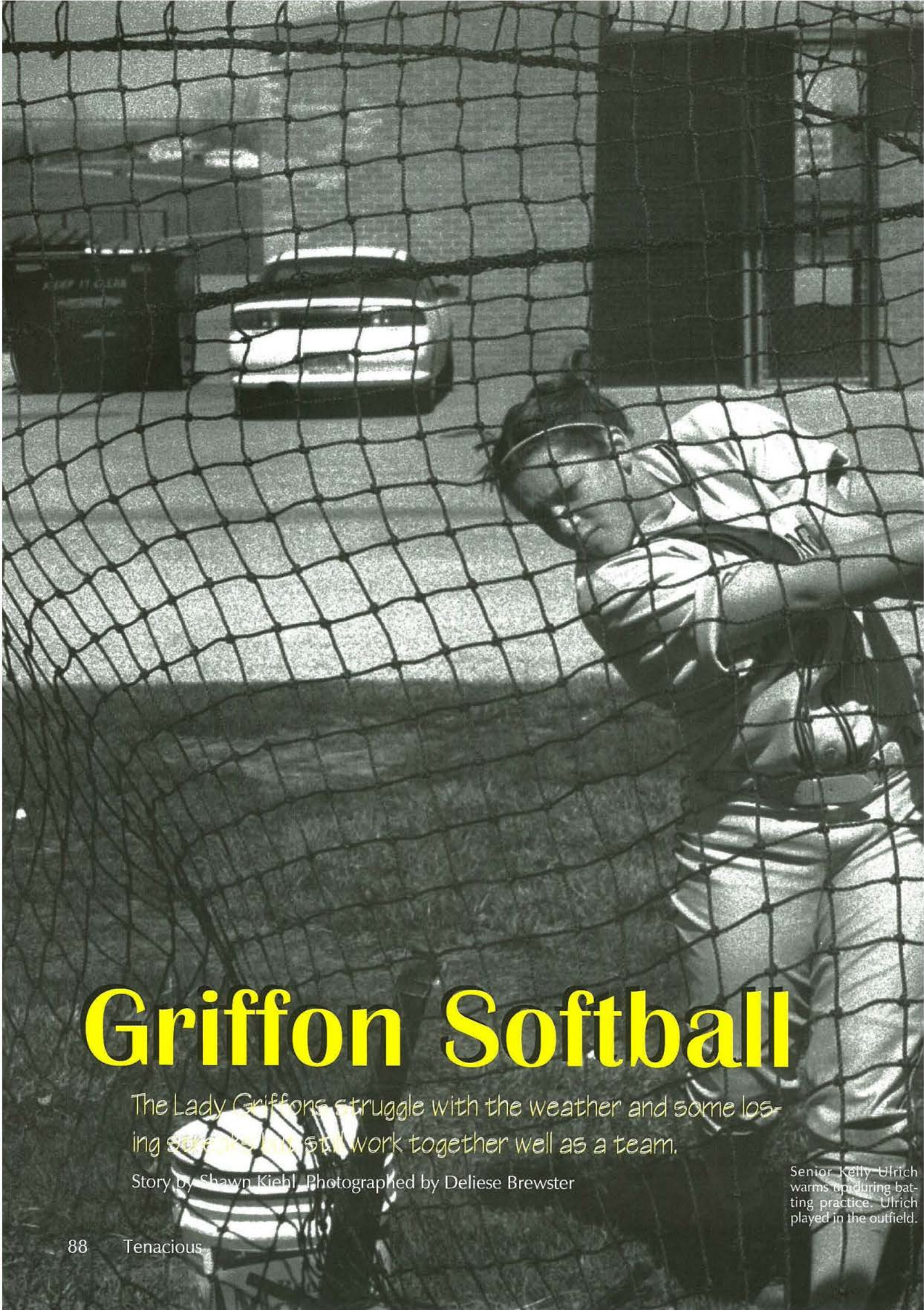
"Playing Truman was a thriller, and the fact that we defeated a nationally ranked team and then turned around and did the same thing to Rockhurst University, which was also nationally ranked, in the same week was the biggest highlight for me," Head Coach Cindy Brauck said.

As a team, they accomplished many things such as having a winning record and finishing fourth in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, but many players accomplished things individually, as well. Senior Lindsay Palaia, who dominated the net with 379 kills, was nominated Most Valuable

Player of the MIAA Conference. Honorable Mention Performer of the conference went to Pickert, who led the team in digs with 374. Pickert was also one of the four to be on the MIAA Commissioner's Honor Roll. The other three girls on the honor roll were Lindsay Fuller, Becky Brosnahan and Shelly Jackson.

The Lady Griffons consisted of two freshmen, two sophomores, five juniors and three seniors, including four returning starters from last year. The final win-loss record was 19-8 overall and 8-8 in conference action.

"We ended up being fourth in the conference, which was disappointing because we didn't qualify for regionals, but the entire conference was a lot tougher, and we played some of the top teams in the nation," Brauck said. "The girls this year stuck with it and had team chemistry, a willingness to win and they believed in themselves."



Griffon Softball

The Lady Griffons struggle with the weather and some losing streaks, but still work together well as a team.

Story by Shawn Kiehl, Photographed by Deliese Brewster

Senior Kelly Ulrich warms up during batting practice. Ulrich played in the outfield.



Top left: Just hitting the ball, a player prepares to run. Although individual performance was key, team dynamic was equally important. Top middle: Senior Annie Lindgren positions herself for the next ball. Lindgren, a catcher, played an intricate role on the team. Top right: Trina Denison, assistant coach and Amy Beverly discuss game plans. Strategic planning helped the team have an advantage. Left: Lady Griffon softball players give each other high fives. Teamwork and cooperation were essential tools for a strong team. Below: Freshman Lindsey McDaniel takes a practice swing. McDaniel was designated hitter and also played second base.



The Lady Griffons stayed optimistic throughout the season despite both winning and losing streaks. The final score came out to be 18 games won and 32 games lost. The weather for the 2003 season caused a lot of difficulty for the team, with games often being postponed or cancelled.

The season started on March 3 against Bellevue University with Western winning both games. From there, the Lady Griffons took on a six-game winning streak until March 12, when they lost to Angelo State. The team won the next game against Oakland City 8-2, then went on to a six-game losing streak.

The Griffons won two more games against North Dakota, until March 23 when a 12-game losing streak came their way.

"The season was up and down," Patty Hartenbower, assistant coach, said. "We won some big games, and then we would lose some games

that we should have won."

"We started off the season really well; then we ran into a slump," Whitney Brownfield, right fielder, said.

Some of the other players agreed. "We got off to a really good start, but then, half-way through we were kind of drifting off and not doing as well with our defense being a little shaky," Lindsay McDaniel, designated hitter and second baseman, said.

One reason the women felt was the cause of the "slump" was that they were allowing their problems to dampen their spirits. "When we played and someone would have an error, we would get down," McDaniel said. The coaches then felt that it was time for a meeting with the team.

"We had a meeting, and we talked through it," McDaniel said. "Our team is really close, so we decided that we had to get over it and play like we know how."

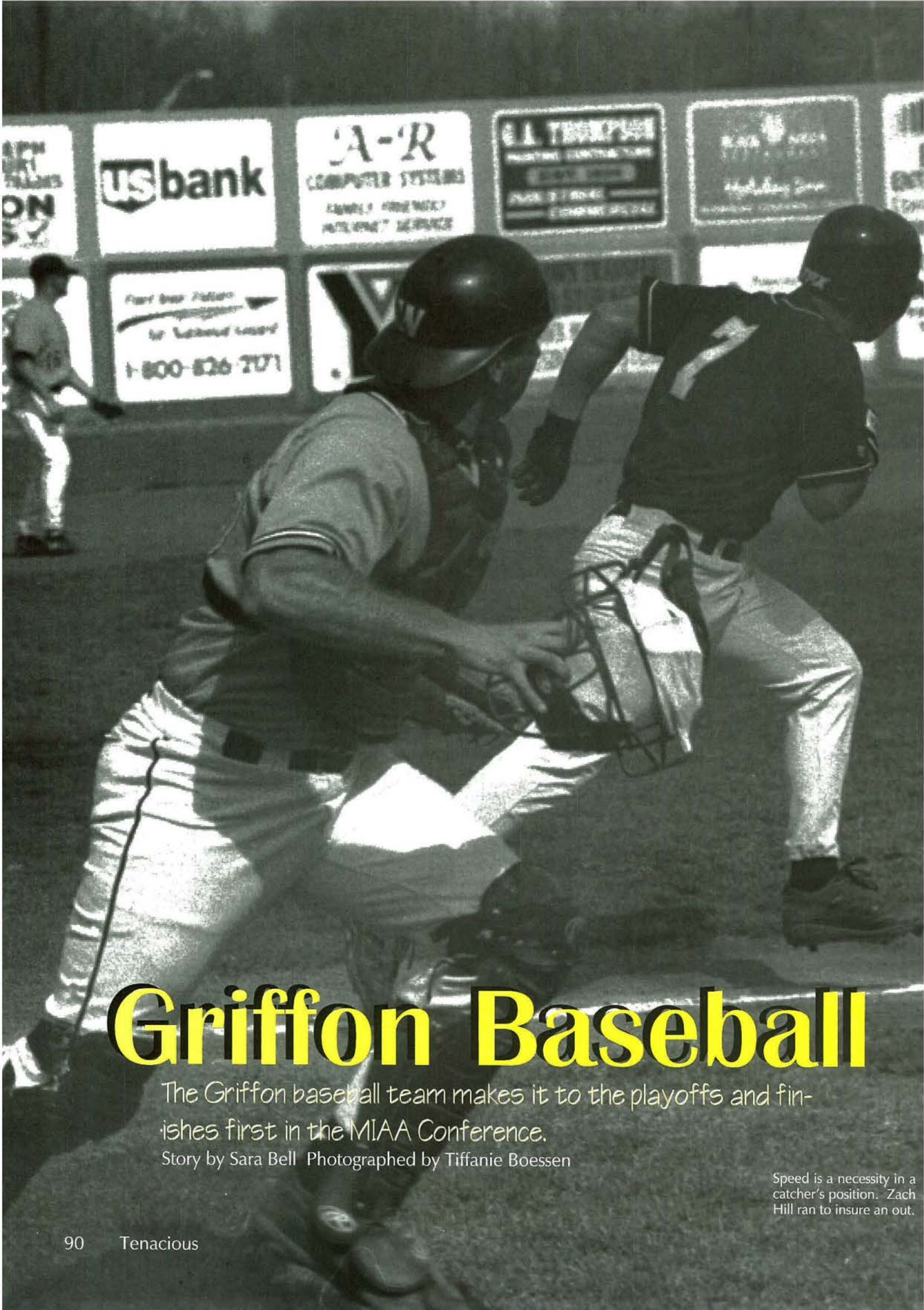
The players were then optimistic

throughout the rest of the season. They tried to stay positive in their minds even when they would lose a game.

Another problem during the season was the weather. More than a handful of games were either postponed or cancelled due to the ever-changing Midwestern weather.

"The weather around here was a problem," Hartenbower said. "We weren't able to get out and practice when we needed to because it was too cold or because it would snow one day. Things like that are hard; I mean you can't get outside all of the times when you need to."

Throughout the season, the team had some problems, which they worked very hard to overcome. They knew what their problems were and knew what they had to do to get through them. They worked as a team on the field and off the field. Teamwork was their answer no matter what came their way.



Griffon Baseball

The Griffon baseball team makes it to the playoffs and finishes first in the MIAA Conference.

Story by Sara Bell Photographed by Tiffanie Boessen

Speed is a necessity in a catcher's position. Zach Hill ran to insure an out.



Top left: Danny Ray Ivie discusses strategies with his teammates Lee Ring and Tyler Morris. This pep talk helped to improve their game. Top middle: The Griffons defend their record with a win against Lincoln University. First baseman Joe Fehlker anxiously awaited a hit. Top right: Freshman Matt Payne is the only teammate from St. Joseph, Mo. His left handed pitching made him a valuable asset to the team. Left: John Dano swings for a home run. The team practiced to prepare for games. Below: Between innings Coach Buzz Verduzco motivates the team to wake up their bats. Griffons had their best hitting since Buzz Verduzco took over as head coach.



“‘Get to work,’ was a phrase our coach always told us whether we were practicing or actually playing a game,” junior John Dano, a second baseman, said.

Coached by Buzz Verduzco for the fourth year, the Griffon baseball team ended the season with 29 wins and 20 losses. “In the off season, we prepared ourselves by keeping in shape and continuing to play baseball even when it was not in season,” freshman Clint Gilliland said.

Other players agreed with Gilliland on preparing themselves for the upcoming season.

“As a team, we went in to the season knowing we would have to work hard to be a competitive team in our conference through hard work and dedication,” Dano said. “We practiced extra hours on and off the field. That played a big part.

Some players worked on their individual strategy in their spare time. “Personally, I lifted weights a lot and spent time in the batting cage,”

junior Brandon Freeborn, an outfielder and pitcher, said.

The season began with a win against Arkansas Tech University on Feb. 17. With many wins to follow, some players remembered the game that meant the most to them. “My most memorable moment was hitting my first home run at the game against St. Mary’s College,” Dano said.

For the team as a whole, their most memorable moment was finding out they had advanced to the playoffs. Getting to the playoffs was not an easy job. The team encountered teams that were very competitive and games that lasted for hours.

“The hardest game was when we competed against Missouri Southern,” Freeborn said. “We played 13 innings, and it was only supposed to last seven. We continued to tie the whole game, and it ended up lasting us approximately four hours.”

Even though that game was a difficult game from start to finish, it was not their most competitive game played during the season.

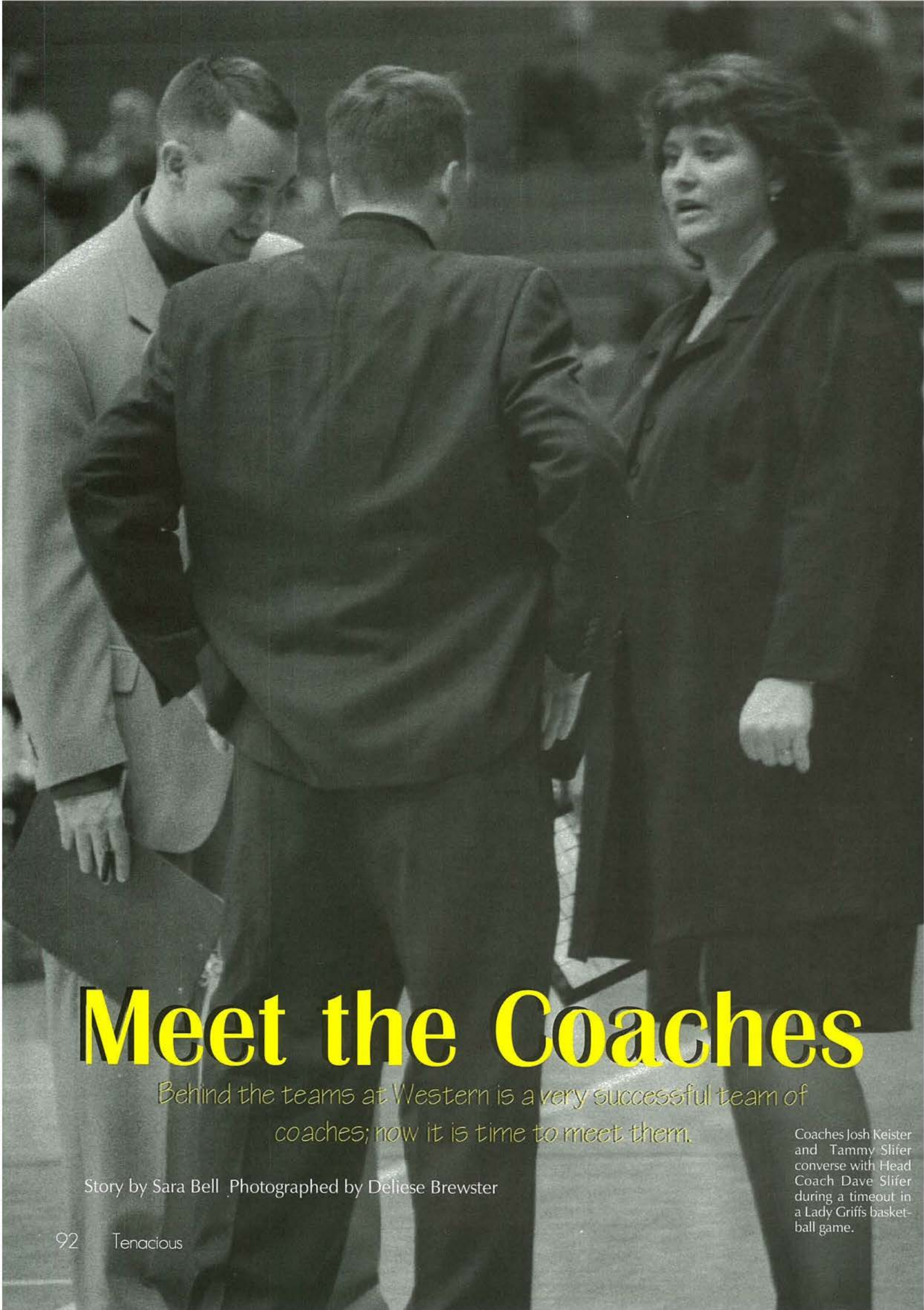
“Our last game against Central Missouri State, in the first round of the playoffs, was a battle up to the very last out,” Dano said. “The last game showed this program is up and coming, and we are able to compete with No. 1 teams.”

Overall, the team accomplished a lot more than teams in the past.

Going to the playoffs and finishing fourth in the MIAA conference was a huge success for the team. “I thought it went very well,” Freeborn said.

To keep this successful trend going for future seasons, many players played each game to the fullest. “You have to make a strong commitment to the program and always compete at the highest level,” Freeborn said.

Dano agreed with Freeborn on advice to incoming baseball players. “No matter what you do, you have to work hard and take pride in your personal game,” Dano said. “You have to know that you have to win.”



Meet the Coaches

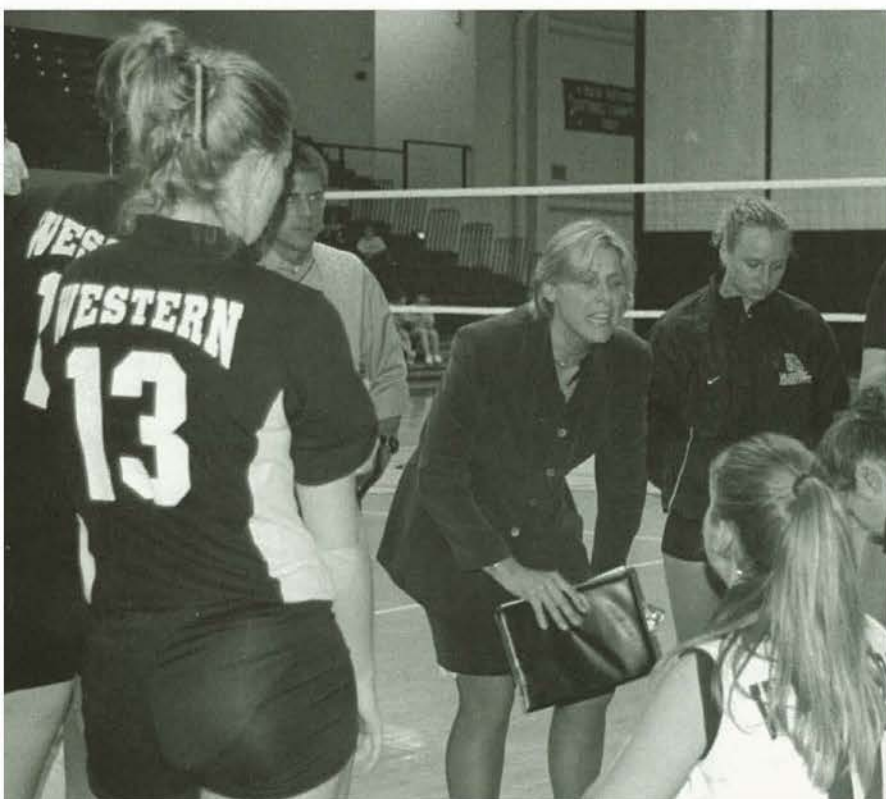
Behind the teams at Western is a very successful team of coaches; now it is time to meet them.

Story by Sara Bell Photographed by Deliese Brewster

Coaches Josh Keister and Tammy Slifer converse with Head Coach Dave Slifer during a timeout in a Lady Griffs basketball game.



Top left: Coach Tom Smith talks heatedly with his players during the Northwest rivalry game. The Griffs pulled off a win thanks to a lot of teamwork. Top middle: Slifer encourages the Lady Griffs to press on during a challenging game. Lady Griffs had a record of 24-7. Top right: Head coach Jerry Partridge talks with the defense coach during a timeout. The coaches collaborated for a winning strategy. Left: Coach Cindy Brauck pumps up the players between the matches. Many coaches found these time-outs to be beneficial for a win. Below: Jay Bubak, Defensive Coordinator, speaks with the D-line about their strategies. Coaches encouraged their players to do their best on the gridiron.



Everyone knows all about the hard work and effort the players put into their game, but what about the coaches? The coaches are the people who put just as much work into training and motivating as they do coaching.

Head Football Coach Jerry Partridge had held the head coaching position at Western for five seasons. He led his 2001 football team to its second straight 8-win season. While this year did not go quite as far, Coach Partridge was still happy with the outcome.

"I feel we have had a successful year," Partridge said. "I do wish it had been better, but we do have many strengths. I plan on continuing to build on our positives and feel as long as everyone does their best, it will all turn out.

Partridge felt very optimistic about next year.

"Next year we will be more experienced as a team, which will work for us. However, there are several seniors, such as Eric Walker, that will be

difficult to replace."

Football player Lamont Theus, who had played for three years, felt that Partridge was an understanding coach, and he appreciated his coaching style.

"I really appreciate Coach Partridge," Theus said. "He is a good coach because he is supportive of his players and knows what he is talking about."

Western was Partridge's alma mater. After completion of college, he had several other coaching jobs before coming here. Therefore, the school had a special meaning for him.

"I went to school here, and it's near my family," Partridge said. "When I heard the spot was open, I grabbed it."

Volleyball was also a major fall sport at Western. Cindy Brauck is in her sixth season as head volleyball coach. She had the head coaching position at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for five years.

As a player, before she ever became a coach, she was an all-region player at Southwest Missouri

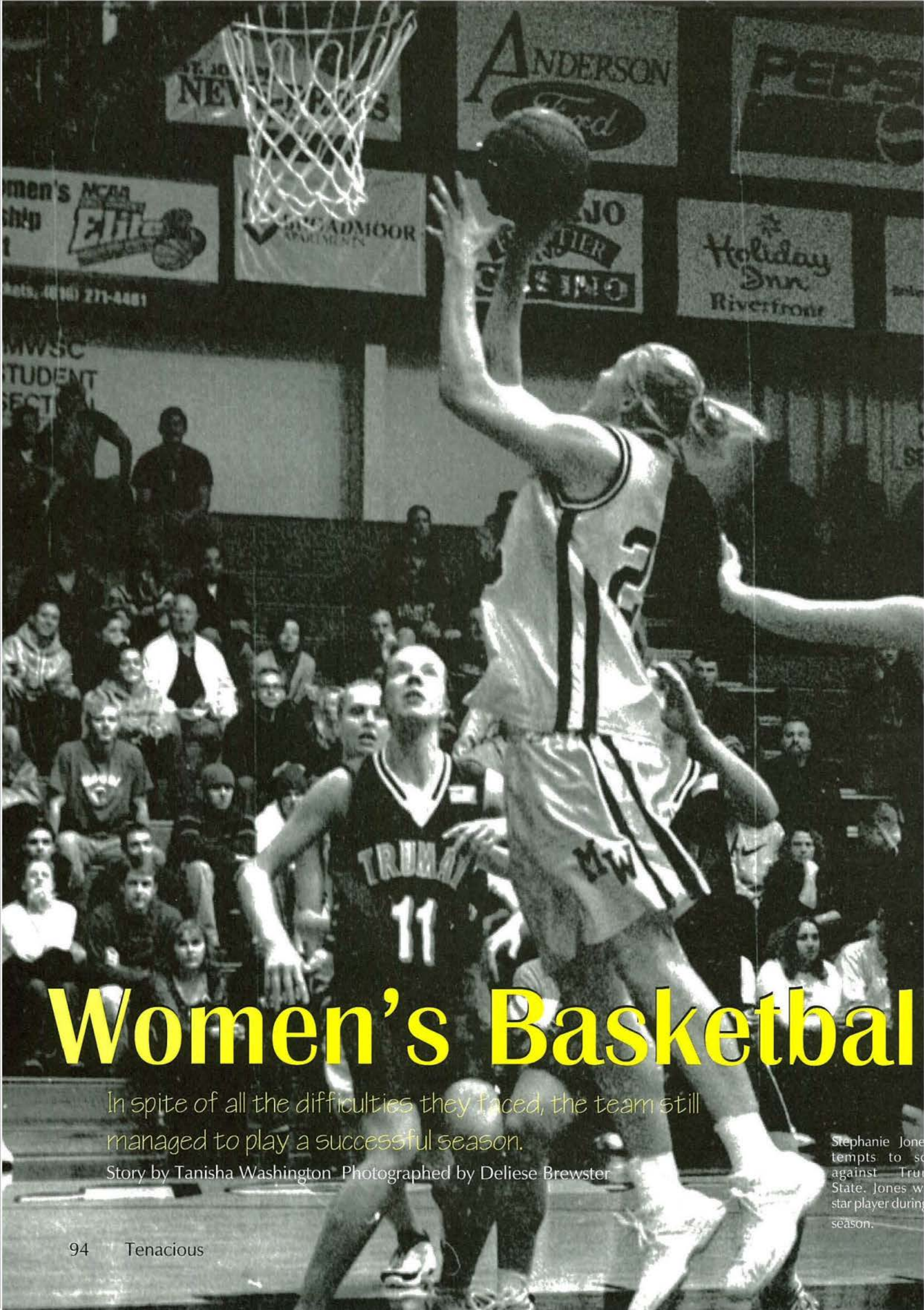
State University, graduating with a degree in psychology. Brauck has also worked at many volleyball camps and clinics throughout the Midwest.

"Coach Brauck is a very fair, extremely together coach," Therese Hand, volleyball player, said. "During practice she is very organized and focused on the team. She helps us improve our playing and team skills in a very positive way."

Another long-standing coach was Coach Tom Smith, who began his 13th year at Western as the men's basketball coach. Smith had 429 career wins, and he held a bachelor's degree in physical education, graduating from Valparaiso in 1967.

All the coaches at Western put a lot of time and effort into their teams' success, as a team and as individual players.

As you can see, the coaches are what keep the teams and players going as a whole, and individually," Theus said.



Women's Basketball

In spite of all the difficulties they faced, the team still managed to play a successful season.

Story by Tanisha Washington Photographed by Deliese Brewster

Stephanie Jones attempts to score against Truman State. Jones was a star player during the season.



Top left: Coach Slifer talks to his team about strategies during a timeout. The women thought teamwork was very important when playing their opponents. Top middle: Michelle Parlett makes her move and goes for the shot. In order to be successful in games, the team was careful planning which plays to run. Top right: Senior Nicole Lindsey shoots during the homegame against Washburn. The women won the game 60-56. Left: The Lady Griffons slap hands to congratulate one another. Times like these were not uncommon during the spirited games. Below: Coach Slifer conducts an interview about one of the Lady Griffon's games. The coaches and the crowd's support played a major part in Western victories.



"I love coaching basketball because I like the interaction with the players," David Slifer, head women's basketball coach, said. "Getting a group of young ladies together and ready for contest is dedicated work. It is a very rewarding four years, but extremely tough. Basketball isn't for everyone."

The women's basketball team had a regular fall workout schedule to prepare for the season. Even though they put in many hours of practice, the team still faced many obstacles that kept them from the unity they needed to be successful.

"There was a lot of adversity, and we struggled on the team, but overall it was a good year," senior Nicole Lindsey said. "We could have went further, but we had some problems we had to deal with."

Other teammates believed if they worked on their game individually, it would help improve the team as a whole.

"I could have improved," junior Tamikki

Williams said. "Overall, I felt like I did good because I was not out there only for myself. I was out there for the team."

Sophomore Kim Burns agreed with Williams about how she felt about her personal performance during the season.

"I broke my foot over Christmas break," Burns said. "That hurt my performance a little, but towards the end, it was good, but not the best. As a team, we had better chemistry. Some nights were mine and some weren't."

The toughest loss as a team was losing the last game against Emporia State University during regionals. "We knew our season was over and felt bad for Michele Parlett who tore her ACL in the last three minutes of the game," Slifer said.

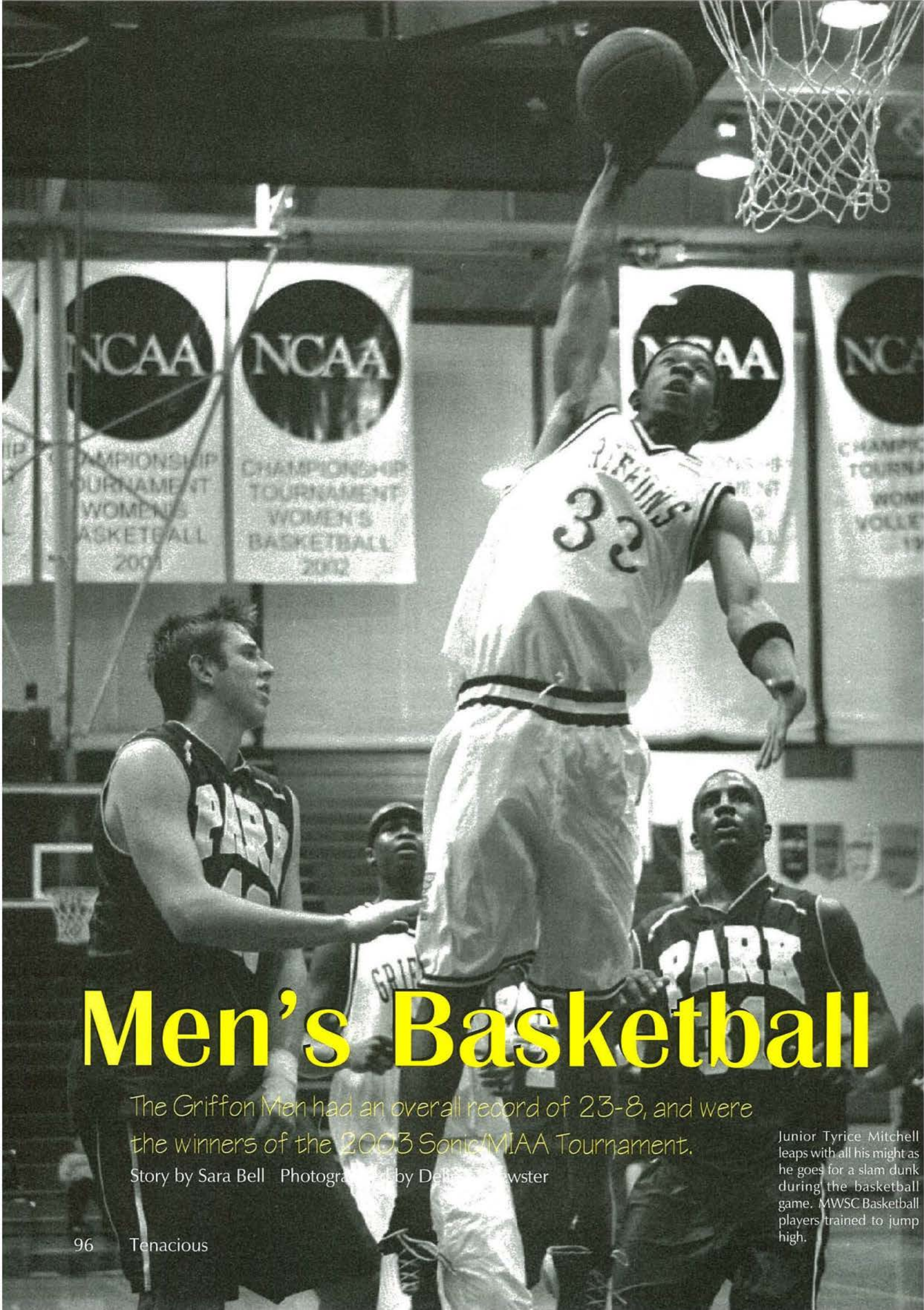
Regardless of their most difficult game, the team's most memorable moment was beating other teams such as Washburn, Central Missouri State and Emporia.

"Washburn is a very tough team to play," Burns said. "A lot of people can't beat them and we did. It felt great because we played as a team."

It took loyalty, pride and commitment to play as a team to win games. "You have to go out there and work hard and play every game as if it is your last game," Williams said.

In brief, the team ended the season with a 23-8 record.

"The biggest problem was, I think, we set too high of expectations for ourselves," Slifer said. "We probably weren't realistic because we only had one starter back from last year. We will be losing some pretty good players and will rely on recruitment and the young players next year. I am proud of the accomplishments of the team. We went through adversity and learned to trust each other to make it to the NCAA tournament for the seventh straight year."



Men's Basketball

The Griffon Men had an overall record of 23-8, and were the winners of the 2003 Sonic/MIAA Tournament.

Story by Sara Bell Photographed by Debbie Newster

Junior Tyrice Mitchell leaps with all his might as he goes for a slam dunk during the basketball game. MWSC Basketball players trained to jump high.



Top Left: Players hit nothing but net in the Northwest Game. The rivalry between Northwest and Western continued with one loss and one win for each of the schools. Top Center: Damon Bailey goes in for a two point score, and is backed up by Mario Davis. Top Right: Mario Davis slam dunks the ball for two points. Davis was the leading scorer returning from last year and number two in rebounds. Left: Lou Chapman shows determination as he prepares to drives for the goal. Chapman was positioned as point guard, he came to Missouri Western from UNC Wilmington. Below: Senior Tee Mason is recognized at Senior Night for his accomplishments on Western's basketball team. Senior night was held to recognize the contributions of senior basketball players to the team.



Basketball is one of America's favorite past times, and the students at Western were no different in their love for the game. Many students enjoyed spending their winter evenings at the Griffon basketball games.

"I enjoyed going to a couple of the games," Christina Stiedel said. "I was impressed by how fast-paced the games were and thought the players did a wonderful job."

The Griffons had a fairly successful season with an overall record of 23-8.

"I think the basketball team had a

pretty successful season," Lamont Theis, a football player who had many close friends who played basketball, said. "I was pleased with their season. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but that goes for anything, whether it's basketball, football, or something else."

The team had several outstanding accomplishments throughout the season.

"Winning the conference tournament in Kansas City was a highlight of this season," assistant basketball coach Mike Nicholson said.

Fans also noticed the accomplishments

of the team against the rival school. "The game that stands out in my mind most was the one against Northwest," said Stiedel. "The crowd was so energetic and into the game, and I loved it. Then when we won, that just made everyone's night!"

Coach Nicholson expected to see another great season in 2003-2004. "We would like to be at the top of the conference next season," he said.



Men's Golf

Griffons get into the swing of things for another season

By Jenny Olson Photographed by Jennifer Moran

Brice Garnett tees off with teammate, Ryan Butler, as Garnett looks on. Garnett was named to the All-MIAA Golf team.



Top left: Senior John Perry sets up the ball on the tee. Perry is the son of the head coach. Top middle: Sophomore Jason Cross lines up his putt. The team had a fulfilling and overall successful season. Top right: Scott Crose prepares to swing a long drive onto the green. Crose was a member of the Griffon golf team for three years. Left: John Perry makes a putt attempt as teammates Brice Garnett, Jason Cross, and Ryan Butler look on. The team practiced during the Fall and Spring seasons. Below: Some of the golfers from the Griffon team make their way across the green to the next hole. The team consisted of 10 players, but only five played at tournaments.



After a productive fall season the men's golf team, under the direction of Head Coach Jim Perry, had high expectations for the spring season. The team placed in the top half of each tournament played during the fall. However, that wasn't the case when spring came around.

Although the Griffons didn't win any tournaments during the spring, the team did finish second out of eight conference teams. "We had a slow start, but things picked up, and we played better towards the end of the spring season," sophomore Jason Cross said.

Since the golf team had matches in the fall and spring, they practiced year-round. "There are so many days we can practice in the fall, but we mostly focus on the spring season because that is the championship season," Perry said.

Perry had been head coach of the team for two years, and he helped the team out in any way he could. He scouted many high school players since he knew most of the coaches in the state. Several players made the team by scholarships while others tried out. Only five mem-

bers and two red shirts could play per tournament, and there were 10 golfers on the team. "As long as you play well, you will play in the top group," coach Perry said.

Before the spring season even started, the team's main goal was to win the regional tournament so they could go on to the national tournament. They also wanted to win the conference. Even though those goals weren't quite met, the team had many accomplishments.

The men's golf team managed to finish fourth in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Championships, which rounded out the regular season. That fourth-place finish qualified them for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Golf Championship. The Griffons ended the season with a fifth place finish in the Central/Great Lakes Super Regional Golf Tournament.

Western shot its best team round of the season, getting a 304 mark during the third round, at the Central/Great Lakes Super Regional Golf Tournament.

Junior Scott Crose was on the golf team for

three years and believed the key to being a successful golf team was team leadership. "I feel that there have been a couple of guys that played really well and two or three that haven't played up to their potential, but I believe they will in the very near future," Crose said.

Many of the players had high expectations and strived to reach their goals. The biggest highlight for Crose was when he finished eighth at the first tournament, which was the Pittsburg State Invitational. Crose also took 15th place in the individual standing at the Central/Great Lakes Super Regional Golf Tournament. Freshman Brice Garnett held the number one position for Western, and he finished second with a 221 at the MIAA Championships. That second-place finish automatically named him All-MIAA player of the year. Even though the spring season started off rocky, the men's Griffon golf team didn't give up and finished on a high note.



Women's Golf

Golf isn't just a man's game anymore, Western women have proved their place on the green.

Story by Sara Bell Photographs courtesy of Griffon News

Sophomore Amy Silcott sizes up the green. Her skill helped the team win first place at the Missouri Western Invitational in April.



Top left: Freshman Morgan Hansen carefully taps the ball into the hole. Hansen was one of two freshmen on the team. Top middle: Silcott assumes the standards golfing position. Silcott played on the boys' golf team while in high school. Top right: Sophomore Jodi Sproat and freshman Whitney Vessar talk about their winning strategies. The women played golf in Maysville, MO. Left: Team members junior Taira Roth and sophomore Amy Silcott focus on their next moves. The women's golf team placed first in the MWSC Invitational. Below: Junior Taira Roth and Coach Randy McGohan set up for a put. Women' golf was added as Western's ninth varsity sport in the Spring of 2002.



Missouri Western State College added a new department to athletics in — women's golf. The women on the team were very excited about the new season and couldn't wait to give it their all.

"It was our first year here, and I think it went pretty well," Jodi Sproat said. "I'm happy with how this year has turned out."

"I think it went okay, too," Tara Roth said. "We improved all throughout the season. Overall scores weren't great, but we did improve. I think we did good for a first-year team."

The girls' golf team traveled all over the Midwestern and Southern United States. They played tournaments in places such as Phoenix, Ariz., and in Nebraska. With all the traveling they did, they had to remember to keep their grades and their game on

track. "It was a challenge to keep school as a No. 1 priority when I was gone for golf all the time," Sproat said. "But I had to remember academics were the No. 1 reason why I was here, and all the girls on the team helped keep each other on the right track."

Much of the team was interested in golf in high school and played on their high school teams.

"I played all through high school and was really excited at the prospect at playing for Missouri Western," Morgan Hansen said. "Playing the game and meeting and making new friends was a great experience, and I'm looking forward to next year."

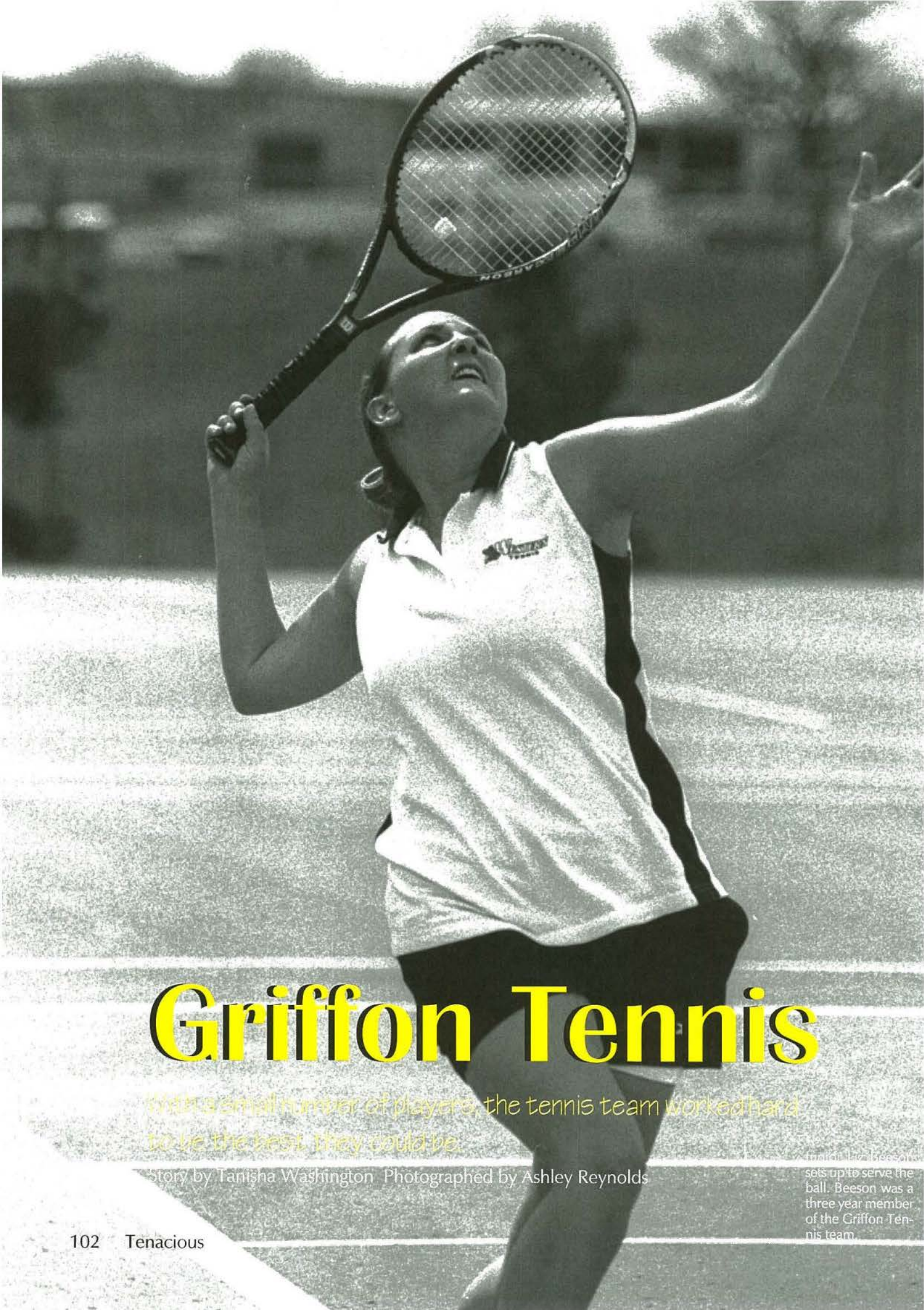
The women's golf team worked hard throughout the year and while scores might not have been as high as some would have liked, they were

sufficient. Whenever a team was new and working on getting off the ground, they had to work on player relationships, as well as the game. However, the team managed both very efficiently, and the players were pleased with the results.

"Golf is open for anyone who would like to participate," Hansen said. "A great addition to the team would be anyone who is hard-working with a positive attitude and a love for the game."

"We're getting a couple new girls next year," Roth said. "They will be a great asset to the team. Personally, I would like to see us make it to regionals next year."

Women's golf had seemed to have a promising start, and many students looked forward to its upcoming season.

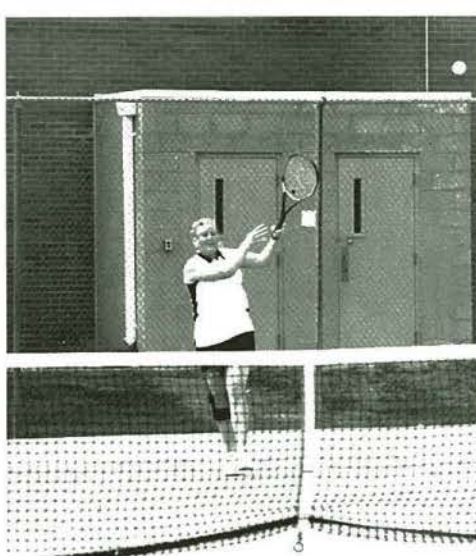


Griffon Tennis

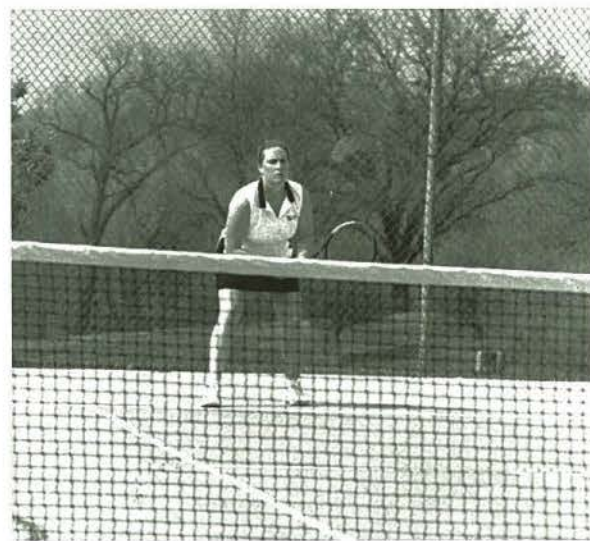
With a small number of players, the tennis team worked hard to be the best they could be.

Story by Tanisha Washington Photographed by Ashley Reynolds

Junior Liz Beeson sets up to serve the ball. Beeson was a three year member of the Griffon Tennis team.



Top left: Senior Kim Redmond executes a powerful forehand. Redmond and the other girls worked hard all season. Top middle: Freshman Mindy Buschbom backhands the ball to her opponent. Diligence and perseverance were important qualities for the girls throughout the season. Top right: Redmond sets up for a lob. The ladies worked extra hard to make up for the lack of players. Left: Buschbom serves the ball to a waiting opponent. This was her first year on the team. Below: Anticipating her opponent's move, Redmond prepares for her next hit. Strategies such as this were a must on the court.



The warmth of the sun shined down as the player was attentive to her opponent. With the racquet in her hand, she thought carefully about what her next move would be and how long it took to get into the perfect position to hit the ball. It all had to be done in good timing. She was playing the game that kept you on edge as a player and an onlooker, a game called tennis.

"This is my first year as head coach for the tennis team," Tracy Jones said.

"The main strategy of playing tennis is to win; however, we are going to have a losing season," Jones said. "It will be hard just to compete against teams bigger than us."

The tennis team, which was made up of five players in the spring semester, was required to play at least twelve games during their season and they practiced every day besides game days.

"The opponents that will give us the

toughest matches are Northwest, Washburn and Truman State," Jones said.

To prepare for the season, the players set game plans that improved their playing techniques.

"I play with people who are willing to play with me," freshman Mindy Buschbom, a computer science major said. "I also play with people from other teams in the summer."

Another player on the team expressed how she prepared for her next season. "I lift weights and do cardio-workouts to improve my game," senior Ashley Collins, a recreation major, said.

The players worked hard to win games, but a few players also told how they individually focused on their own strategy.

"I try to focus on the player I am playing and not the whole team," junior Liz Beeson, public relations major, said. "I focus on how I can win and

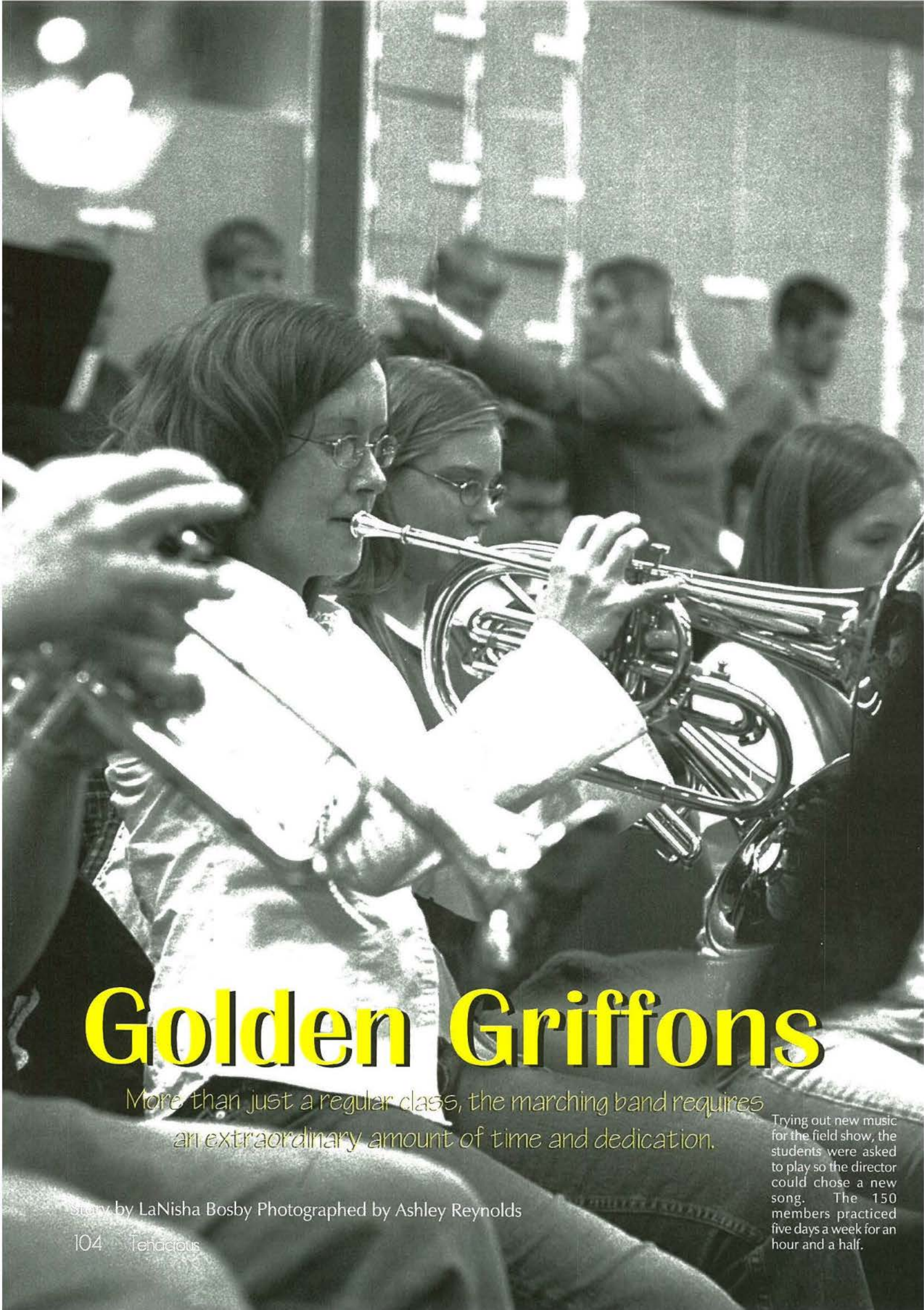
how I play my own game. I try to change my technique depending on the person I am playing."

Despite all of the trials the team went through being outnumbered by other teams, the players did not quit playing the game they loved the most. "This is my first year playing tennis," freshman Amber Clutter, a forensic science major, said. "What I love the most about tennis is the strategy and it is more of a mind game."

Other players had a simple explanation on their thoughts of tennis. "I have been playing for four years and I just love the game," senior Kim Redmon, a sport management major, said.

All in all, the team strived for a successful season regardless of the size of their team.

"My plan for the season is to finish and get it over with since we only have a few players," Jones said. "Hopefully next year will be a better year. We have a lot of recruiting to do."



Golden Griffons

More than just a regular class, the marching band requires an extraordinary amount of time and dedication.

Trying out new music for the field show, the students were asked to play so the director could choose a new song. The 150 members practiced five days a week for an hour and a half.

Story by LaNisha Bosby Photographed by Ashley Reynolds



Top left: Trombone player Adam Benson plays through the music during an indoor practice. Top right: Jeremy Schneider touches up on problem spots along with the rest of the band. Bottom left: Band members practice their songs for the field show. Bottom right: Sax players show off their skills.



"What I like most about band is that it takes so much concentration from so many people to come together for one specific purpose, one big sound, one big formation. It's a lot of fun," senior band member Aaron Williams said.

Band members, like Williams, found that band was a lot of hard work, but the hard work paid off in the satisfaction of being an instrumental part of a successful band that represented Missouri Western State College at games and performances.

Band rehearsal began even before school started. A week before school began, the band practiced six hours a day, averaging out to be 30 hours a week. The drum line attended a three-day camp in July.

Once classes started, the band practiced Monday through Friday, one hour and 20 minutes each day, starting at 2 p.m. If they had any problems, they would practice longer.

"On the drum line we practice 10 to 12 hours a week, in addition to the band practices," Williams said. "If you are on the drum line, you do an extra show. We put in more time and more work, but it really pays off in the end because we are proud of the progress that we have made."

Williams also said that there are several

weeks when they have multiple performances and put in extra work.

"It's a lot of fun," Williams said. "But it is also stressful."

Senior Hannah Bogle said it could be hard to balance with other aspects of being a student. "It's hard to find time to do schoolwork and learn parts and perform."

"The expectations for our band are really high," senior Jeanette Berger said. "Everything has to be memorized."

Band members could not eat or smoke during performances. They could not wear jewelry, and female students with long hair had to wear it pinned up.

"We also have certain ways we have to dress and behave," Berger said. "We have to look dignified."

The uniforms helped the band look good. "I like the way we look when everyone looks the same," Bogle said. "We look very professional."

Overall, band members felt the hard work was worth it.

"The reason I decided to join band was because of the love of music, the love to perform music

in front of the crowd," Berger said. "It's rewarding along with the hard work."

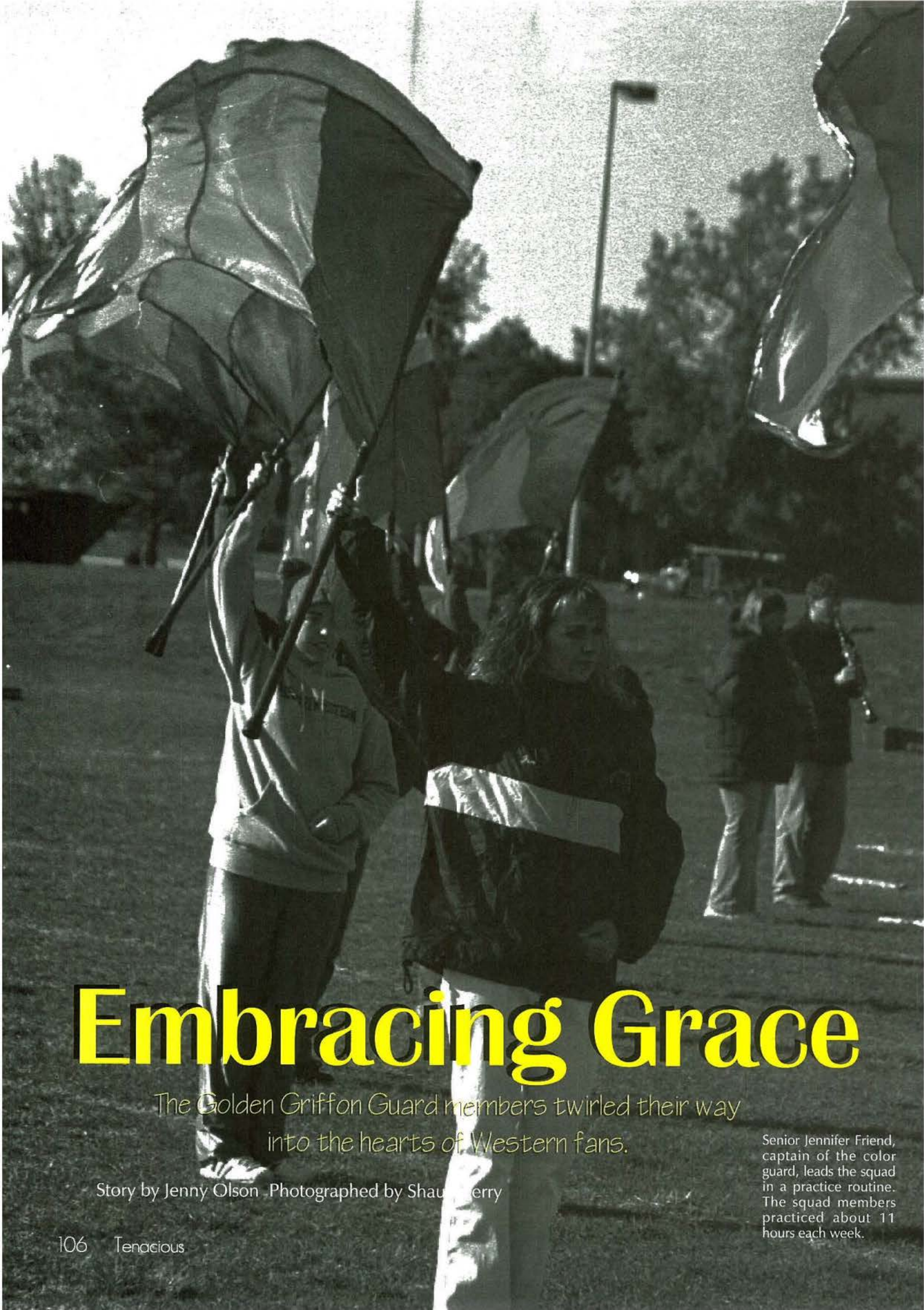
"When I got here in the fall of 1995, we had 85 students," Jeff Hinton, director of bands, said. "Now we have 130 to 150 students. The numbers have increased, but so has the performance of the incoming students."

This was Hinton's eighth year working with the band.

"I had 12 years of teaching experience before coming here," Hinton said. "This position opened up and gave me an opportunity to come back to the Midwest where I am from. I saw that this program had lots and lots of potential."

He felt that Western's band had something to offer him. He also felt he could come here and make this band one of the best, and the sound of them playing proved it. Hinton said that college bands don't compete like high school bands. They did go to exhibition performances for high schools, but that didn't mean they couldn't come out on top.

"We're considered to be one of the top two marching bands," Hinton said. "We have a great sound, one of the best drumming lines in the nation."



Embracing Grace

The Golden Griffon Guard members twirled their way into the hearts of Western fans.

Story by Jenny Olson Photographed by Shaun Perry

Senior Jennifer Friend, captain of the color guard, leads the squad in a practice routine. The squad members practiced about 11 hours each week.



Top left: The color guard members stand at attention, ready to perform. They performed at halftime of the game against the Northwest Bearcats. Top center: Practicing on an October afternoon, the flag members perfect their moves. The girls often used this spot behind Vaselakos dorm building as a practice area. Top right: With their flags lifted high in unison, the color guard squad puts on a show. The ladies performed a routine at each home football game. Bottom left: With their flags in-sync, the color guard members go over their moves. The squad practiced regularly to be able to perform quality shows. Bottom right: The squad poses with one of the gifts they gave to each other at every performance. The 12 members included, from left to right, the following: Front: Bridgett Leslie and Jessica McHolland. Middle: Katie Dunn, Beth Chase, Kristen Lutz, Jennifer Friend and Annette Hunthrop. Back: Dawni Collins, Jana Shirley, Tara Stull, Alisha Montgomery and Rachael Friend.



For most students school started on Aug. 19, but some students arrived on campus a week before classes even started. They practiced every day until every movement was perfect. Tryouts consisted of learning the fight song and seeing how fast they could pick up on the routines and how well they carried themselves. Who are they? No, they are not the band or the Mystics, they are the members of the Golden Griffon Guard.

The twelve members practiced every school day with the band for an hour and a half. Throughout the season, they also practiced by themselves from 9:30 to 11 p.m. three days a week. "Being a color guard member takes up so much time, but it's worth it because it gets you involved and you meet people that you have something in common with," sophomore Bridgett Leslie said.

So how do they manage their time? Leslie treated band just like any other class and was just added to the schedule. Senior Jennifer Friend managed her time by going to work in between classes, and then she went straight to practice after work.

The color guard may not have been competitive, but that didn't stop them from making sure every move was sharp and no flag was dropped. They did other things besides perform during halftime of the football games. They also performed in the Homecoming parade, pep rally and at Valley Fest in Des Moines, Iowa. "Performing in front of 7,000 people at Valley Fest was one of the best memories this year," Friend said. The group also went together to see Sticks of Thunder, a local band consisting of a few Western percussion performers. They also made gifts for each other to motivate them before each performance and to bring them closer as well.

Friend had been captain of the Golden Griffon Guard for five years. Her responsibilities consisted of teaching and making up the choreography, arranging the girls in the parade block, scheduling practices, deciding how they looked for performances and taking care of discipline problems.

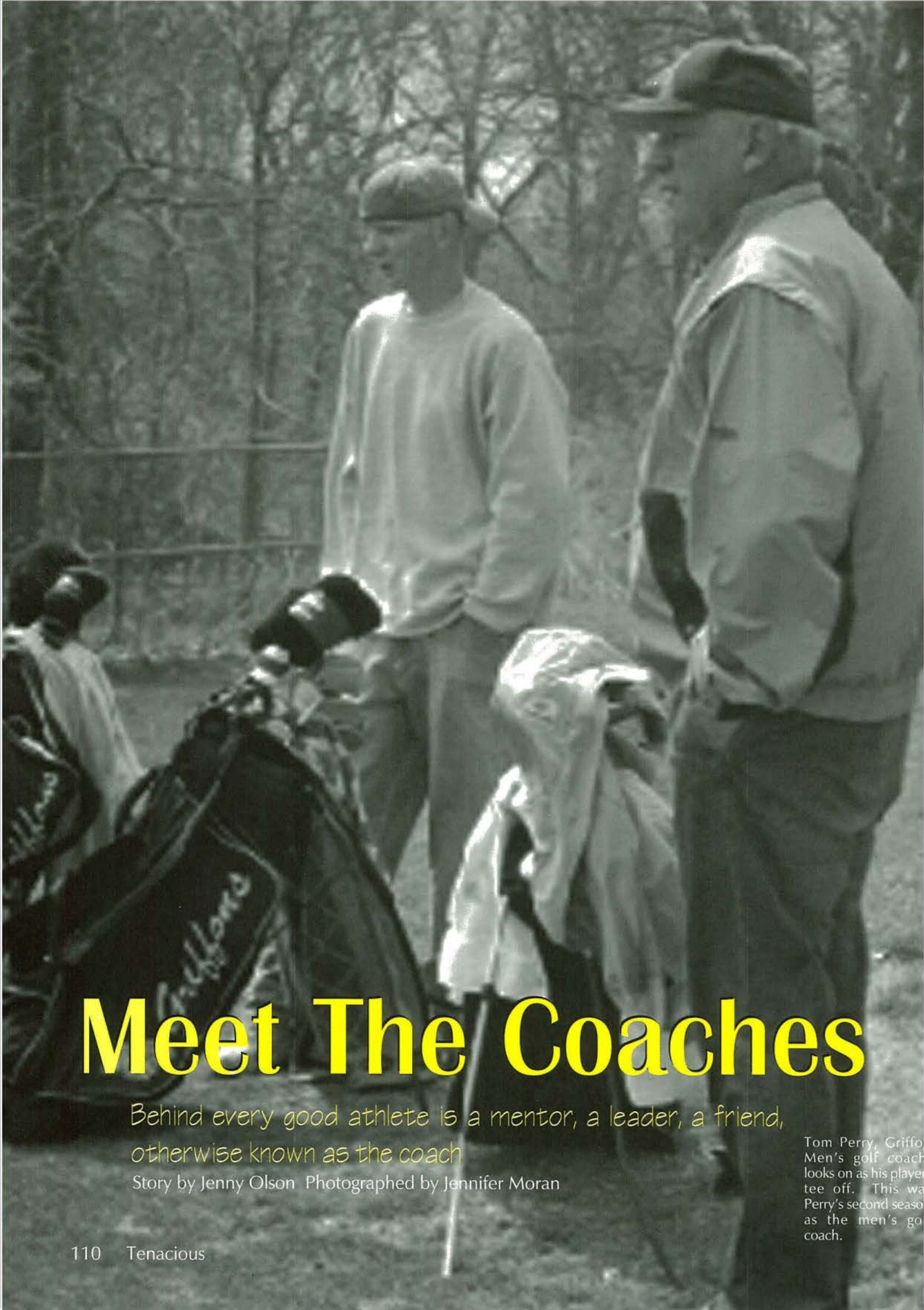
"I don't like having to take care of discipline problems like when the girls don't listen, but I wouldn't give it up because I gain so many friend-

ships," Friend said. "I watch out for them like they're my sisters."

Leslie became a color guard member during her freshman year. "I joined the squad because I lived in Savannah and always watched them when I was little," Leslie said. She was also a color guard member in high school. "The only bad thing about the color guard is the fact that it's only one credit hour and we have class everyday," she said.

Freshman Jessica McHolland was also on her high school color guard squad. "A big difference between high school and college is the fact that we competed with other bands in high school, and in college we are an exhibition band," McHolland said.

McHolland chose to tryout for the squad because she wanted to meet new people since she didn't know anyone. "I am so glad I joined the squad because I met a great group of girls that have become excellent friends," McHolland said.



Meet The Coaches

Behind every good athlete is a mentor, a leader, a friend, otherwise known as the coach

Story by Jenny Olson Photographed by Jennifer Moran

Tom Perry, Griffon Men's golf coach looks on as his player tee off. This was Perry's second season as the men's golf coach.



Top left: Jim Perry is the coach of the Griffon Men's golf team. The men's golf team was fourth in the MIAA this year. Top middle: Head Coach Jennifer Bagley and Patty Hartenbouer, volunteer assistant, discuss pre-game strategies. Bagley once played for the Minnesota State University softball team. Top right: Coach Buzz Verduzco watches his team play during one of their many action-packed games. Verduzco had coached the team for four seasons. Left: Head Coach Randy McGohan prepares the green for a putt. McGohan coached Western's first women's golf team. Below: Verduzco discusses aspects of the season with Brian Vernon. Verduzco was the baseball camp director and coordinator of alumni relations for the National Collegiate Athletic Division I program.



What would a team be without a coach? Who is there to lead the team to a victory? Without a coach the players wouldn't know how to win. Coaches are there to motivate, to teach and to be there when their players need them. The spring coaches this season worked around the rain and hoped for sunshine.

Head Softball Coach Jennifer Bagley began her second season here after assisting at Humboldt State University. She decided she wanted to coach softball when she realized that she would rather be out on the field than in an office.

"I was a paralegal for four years and an assistant coach on the side," Bagley said. "I realized I wanted to be a coach when I couldn't wait to get out of the office to go to softball practice."

Bagley brought experience to the Griffon Softball team since she played for the Minnesota State University softball team. As a pitcher, she held the school record of 590 strikeouts. She decided to coach at Western because she liked the challenge and Pete Chapman was a big motivating factor.

"This was a program that wasn't doing so hot but had a lot of potential," Bagley said. "I knew it would be a challenge for me, but that's what made it exciting."

Baseball was another popular spring sport. Buzz Verduzco had coached the baseball team for four seasons. He made a vast improvement on the team since they were above the .500 mark last season for the first time since 1994. He worked with the Washington State baseball program for the previous 10 years and was the baseball camp director and coordinator of alumni relations for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I program.

Starting her first season as the head tennis coach, Tracy Jones enjoyed watching the girls play tennis. "There are only seven girls on the team so we are like a tight knit family," Jones said.

Jones played for Western during the 1998 and 1999 seasons so she decided to continue with the sport after she graduated.

"I love tennis and have been playing for the

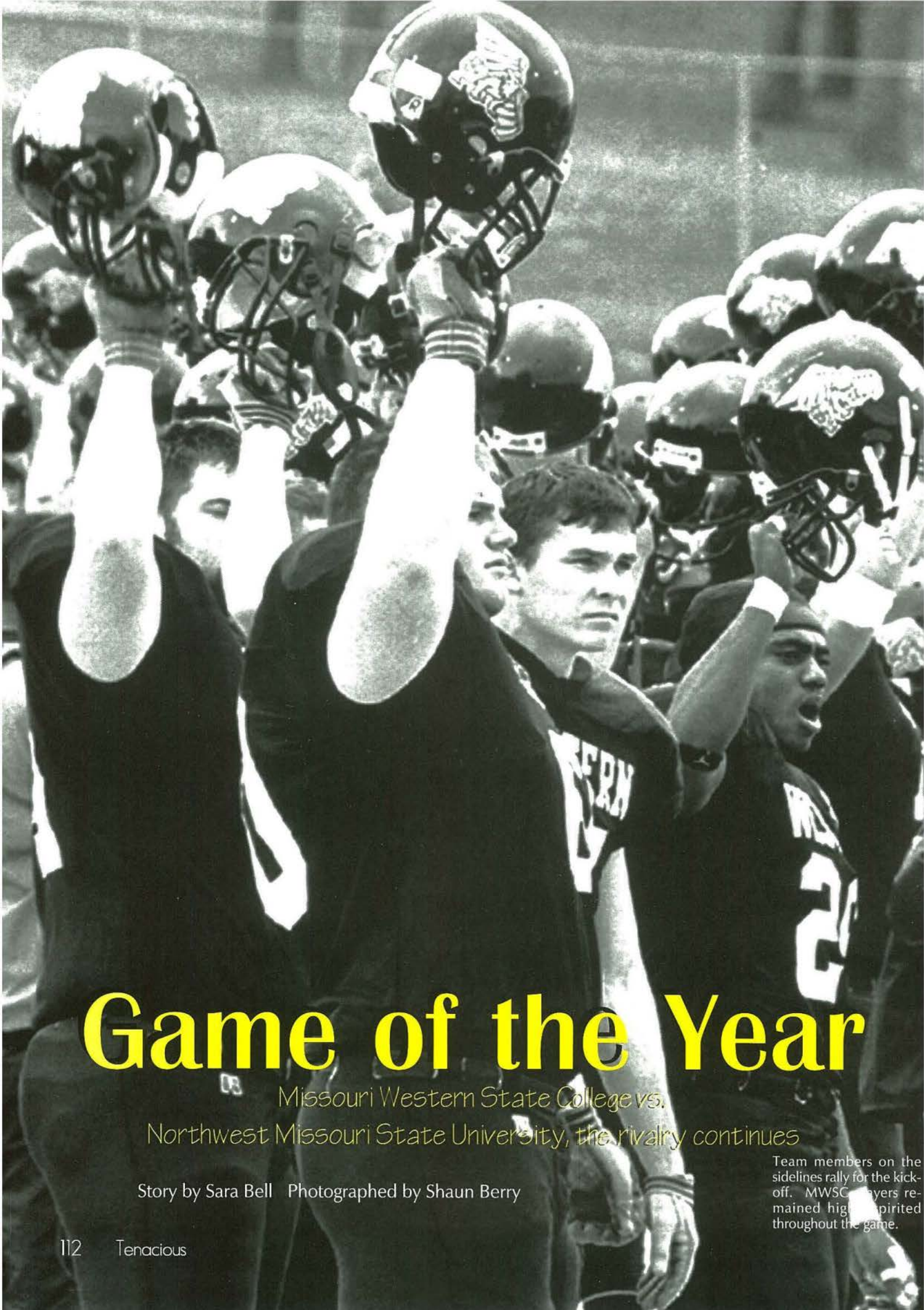
past 23 years," Jones said. "Western needed a coach so I took it as a part time job."

Jim Perry began his second season as the Head Coach of the Griffon men's golf program. Perry led the Griffons to its third appearance in the NCAA Division II Golf Tournament last season. They even advanced to the 2002 NCAA Division II Super Regional.

For the first time in Western history, women's golf was introduced. Randy McGohan wanted to be a part of the new experience.

"For 16 years I have made golf my career by either playing or teaching the game," McGohan said. "I had a very positive college golf experience and thought that by being a coach I could have an impact on other's college experiences."

To McGohan, the key to being a successful coach wasn't something that was immediately seen. His job was to help teach the girls to succeed at golf.

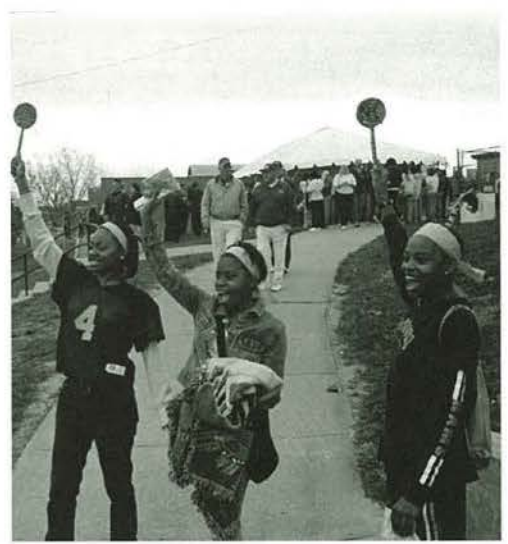


Game of the Year

Missouri Western State College vs.
Northwest Missouri State University, the rivalry continues

Story by Sara Bell Photographed by Shaun Berry

Team members on the sidelines rally for the kick-off. MWSC players remained highly spirited throughout the game.



Top left: Campus Activities Board passed out noisemakers at the gates to the game. The stadium was filled with noise supporting the Griff. Center: A Western student shows off her school spirit as she serves herself at the Tailgate Party. Fans gathered at the party before the big game to support Western. Top right: Fans anxiously await the Northwest game. Many students came early to claim their place in the stands and show MWSC support. Left: Students show their spirit as they raise their arms with enthusiasm. Below: The Griffons run onto the field before the game as the cheerleaders cheer them on.



It had been a long-standing rivalry: Northwest Missouri State University vs. Missouri Western State College. One could compare it to the Hatfields and the McCoys. And the biggest part of this rivalry is football.

The last home game of the year was Northwest against Western, and students showed up in herds. Everyone was anxious to watch what they felt was the biggest game of the year.

Fans looked forward to Nov. 9, 2002, the day Northwest and Western squared off once again. In the first quarter, Western was ahead by four points. However, by halftime, Northwest had caught up.

At the game, fans turned out in black and gold to cheer on the Griffons. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and the exciting atmosphere.

"I was really excited about the game," junior Abra Lippert said. "The crowd is always excited and pumped up, and it brings everyone together to cheer against the enemy."

People also had different ways of viewing the game. The average student viewed the game as the biggest game of the year. Coach Partridge, however, did not.

"We don't consider it the biggest game of the year," Partridge said. "We prepare and work hard for this game, just like we do for every one."

Football players were ready for the game. They prepared hard for every game and had some of the same views as Partridge — it was just another game.

"I approach every game the same way — it's just another game," football player Derrick Pitts said. "I don't get caught up in the hype because that can hurt the team."

Another player felt the same way.

"I'm not nervous about the game," Mike Cobbins said. "We have worked hard, just like for any game."

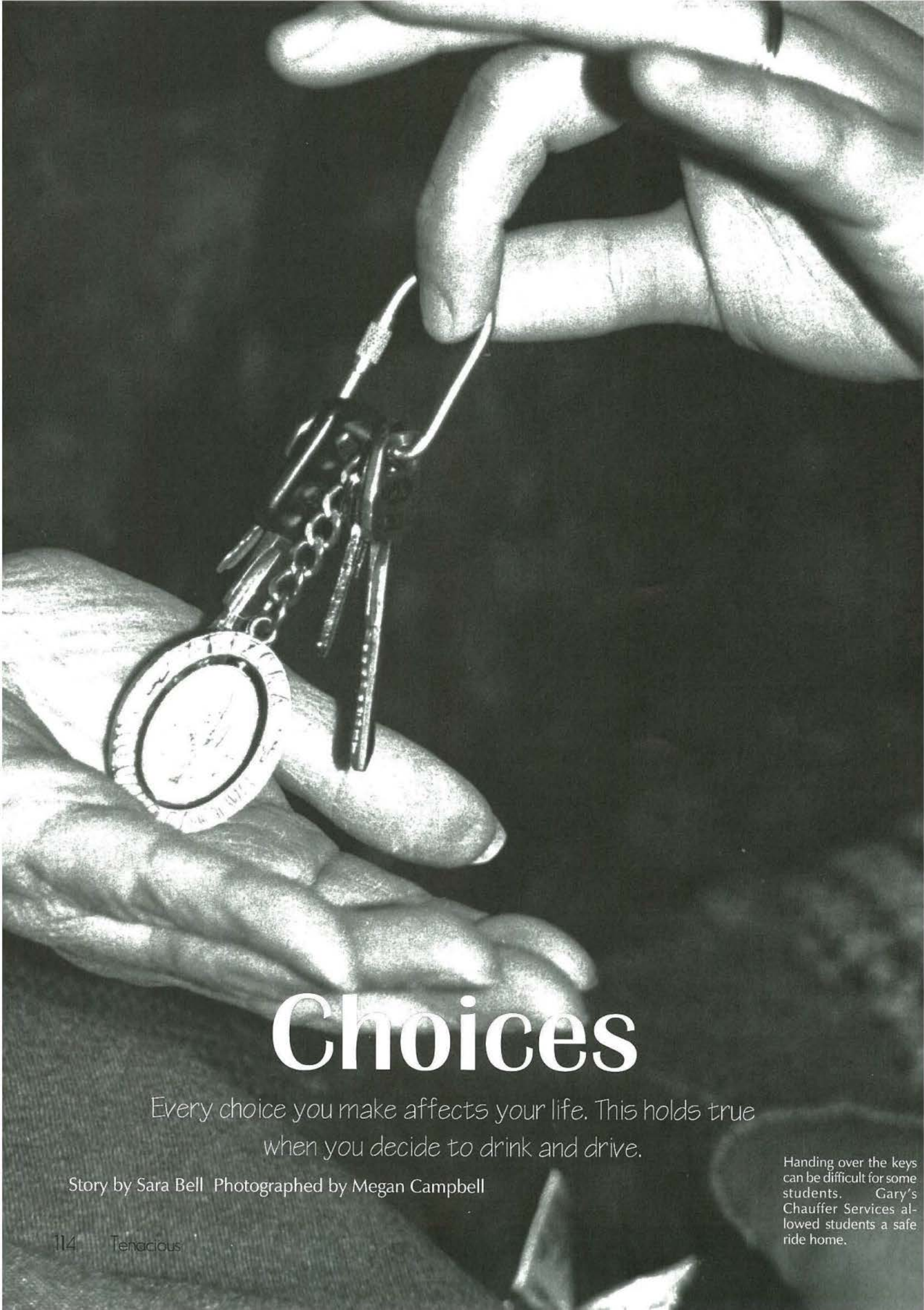
The student body was excited about the game, and the football coaches and players felt that they were ready. But what about the sidelines?

Another big part of any game were the cheerleaders, who were there to pump up the crowd and support their team.

"I'm excited about this event," freshman cheerleader Adriane Voss said. "We are going to perform part of our Homecoming routine, and we have learned a new cheer. Our goal is to get the crowd involved as much as possible."

It seemed that everyone was prepared for the "big game." The football players, coaches, students and cheerleaders had prepared in every way possible and were ready for whatever Northwest could bring. Throughout the entire game, the score went back and forth between Northwest and Western. However, in the end, Northwest came out on top, with a 13-10 win.

Western may have lost on the scoreboard, but on the field they played hard and gave it their all. In a sense, it was as if they won, and many players felt they would work just as hard next year.



Choices

*Every choice you make affects your life. This holds true
when you decide to drink and drive.*

Story by Sara Bell Photographed by Megan Campbell

Handing over the keys can be difficult for some students. Gary's Chauffer Services allowed students a safe ride home.



Top left: At the touch of a button, students are able to have a ride home. The service was a part of the Choices committee through the Athletic Department. Top right: Two students re-enact a common reality in college. Often friends prevented others from driving after consuming alcohol. Left: Drunk-driving has not claimed any Missouri Western lives recently. Choices assisted in preventing students from driving under the influence. Below: One of the best ways to prevent a friend from driving drunk is taking away their keys. Knowing your friends limit could save a life.



You're at a party, maybe having a few drinks, when your friends say it's time to leave. You have all been drinking and need to decide what to do. You have two options: drive, even though you have all been drinking that night or just stay the night where you are — that is until a program named Choices came to Missouri Western.

Choices was a program that would have enabled students at Western a third option. The original idea was that a local taxi service, with aid from a \$30,000 grant, be available to pick students up wherever they were in St. Joseph and take them either back to campus or home, not from bar to bar. However, the grant fell through and left people looking for a new way to keep Choices alive.

The Athletic Department contributed \$500 of their own money, and a limousine ser-

vice also donated \$500. However, without the proper backing, Choices faced some problems. The program was not able to contribute to Western like originally hoped.

Nonetheless, the Choices committee in charge of the program remained, and they kept trying for the grant. Marc Linder, Ernie Stufflebean and Paul Bauer were the heads of the Choices committee.

"We went after the grant last year," Linder said. "After the grant was denied, we decided to keep the committee, since it was already established and we knew what we wanted to do. We plan on applying for the grant next year, and we are ready to go with it".

Nevertheless, some felt there was an alternative solution to Choices.

"Choices is a good program," James Smith

said. "But if people could just drink in their rooms, it would be much easier."

Smith's idea appealed to many, but, most likely, it wouldn't be approved by school officials. So, since that was out of the question, many felt a program like Choices was the best option.

Choices may have not worked out exactly as planned, but many still had high hopes for the future. Not only were students hopeful, but parents were, as well.

"I like knowing if I'm not available to pick my kids up, they still have a safe way home," Western alumnus Jane Travis, a mother of two Western students, said. "Prevention is the best way, but things happen. I just like knowing there is a safe way out of a potentially fatal problem."

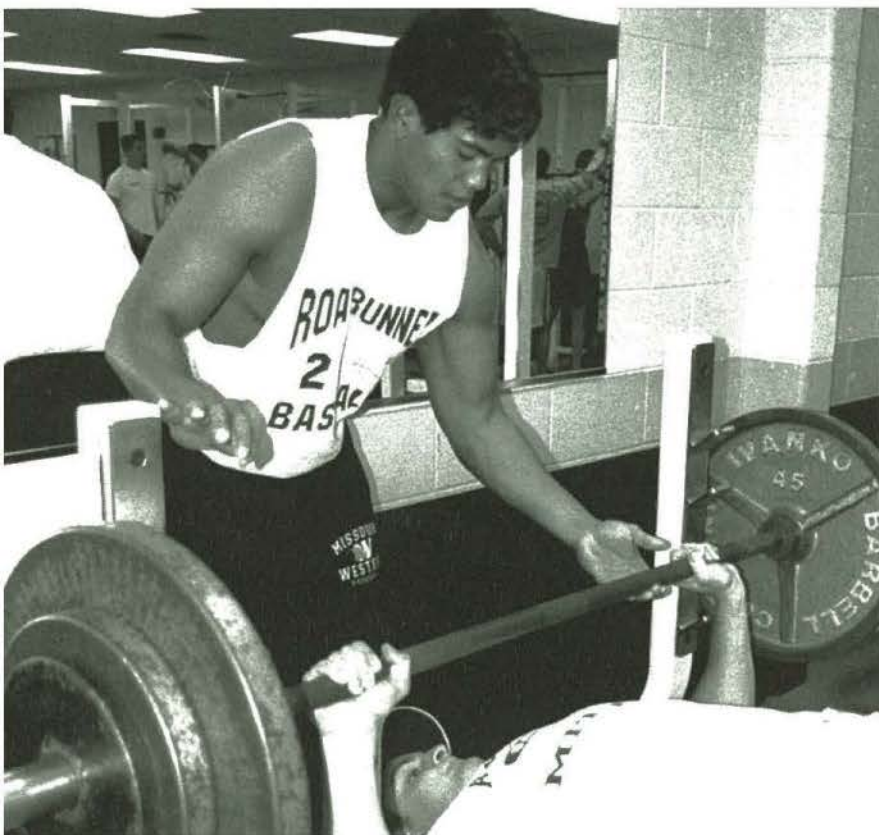
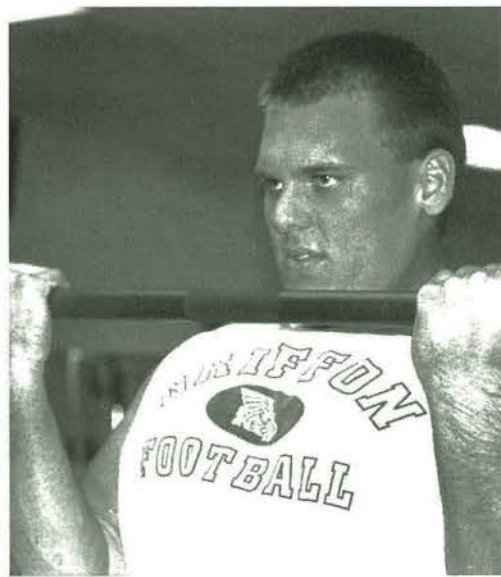
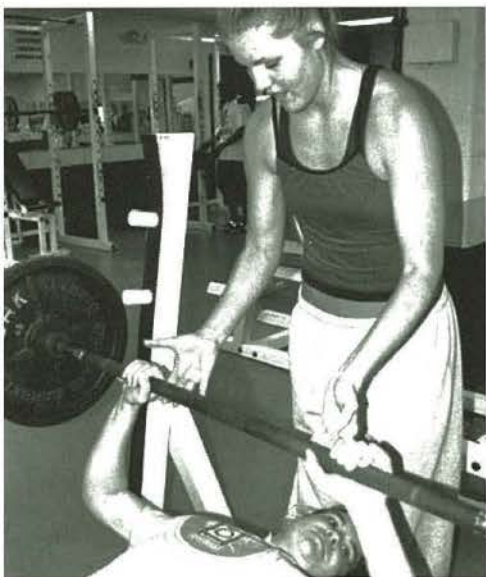


The Off Season

*Being involved in sports is a year-round activity --
whether in or out of season.*

Story by Tanisha Washington Photographs by Sarah Fisher

Freshman Nicole Garner continues working out year-round. Garner trained hard during her time off to prepare for the basketball season.



Top Left: Aubrey Euler spots Nicole Lindsey as she lifts weights. The women's basketball team trained several times a week at the fitness center. Top Middle: Sophomore Earl Jack follows in the footsteps of his older brother James. Earl increased his strength by putting in long hours working out. Top Right: Football player James Jack knows the benefits of working out when not in season. James worked on his upper body strength to improve for next season. Bottom Left: John Dano and Chas Verduzco feel it is important to stay in shape in the off season. They worked out to improve their game. Bottom Right: Freshman John Ware strives to reach his maximum fitness goal before going back out on the field. Weight training remained a main focus for the football team.



"Before games or practices, our coach says the first thing in beating an opponent is to outthit them," senior Wilson Curtis, outside linebacker for the Griffon football team, said.

Athletes had a major responsibility as team players. Whether they were playing football, basketball or golf, they were all expected to play their best and work their hardest to have successful seasons. "The hardest thing about playing basketball in season are the long hours," senior Marliss Holland, point guard for the women's basketball team, said.

Other students felt the same way about practice and playing during the season. "The hardest thing about practice and games during season are trying to keep your eyes off the clock and making the periods counts as opposed to counting the periods," junior Darwin Pitts, receiver for the Griffon football team, said.

Even after playing a long season, athletes still desired to stay in shape in the off season, preparing for the season to come.

"I practice whenever I get the chance," Jason Cross, Griffon golfer, said. "There are professionals at the golf course who are willing to help me better my game."

Mario Davis, forward for the men's basketball team, also desired to continue working out during the off season. "I keep working out every day to stay in shape for basketball," he said.

Some athletes chose to attend camps to keep up on their skills along with working out.

"I play in summer leagues in Phoenix, Ariz., at an old college of mine," Holland said. "I also lift weights six days a week during the summer and run."

Lifting weights and running was something almost all athletes had in common as something they were involved with on a regular basis during the off season. "With the weight program you can't help but to have a good weight mentality for next season," Pitts said.

"I lift weights, run mile after mile, do summer workout and play spring ball during the

off season," Curtis said. "Spring ball is a practice that football players engage in for fun, but it helps us prepare for the next season by competing for positions."

When all the weight lifting, running and practicing had ceased, athletes chose to do other fun activities that didn't involve their sport. "I like playing basketball and listening to slow music when I am not playing football," Pitts said.

"I like to party and spend time with my girlfriend," Cross said.

Similar to the other athletes, Holland also had her own activities she liked to do in the off season outside of playing basketball. "I like to go shopping and to the movies," she said.

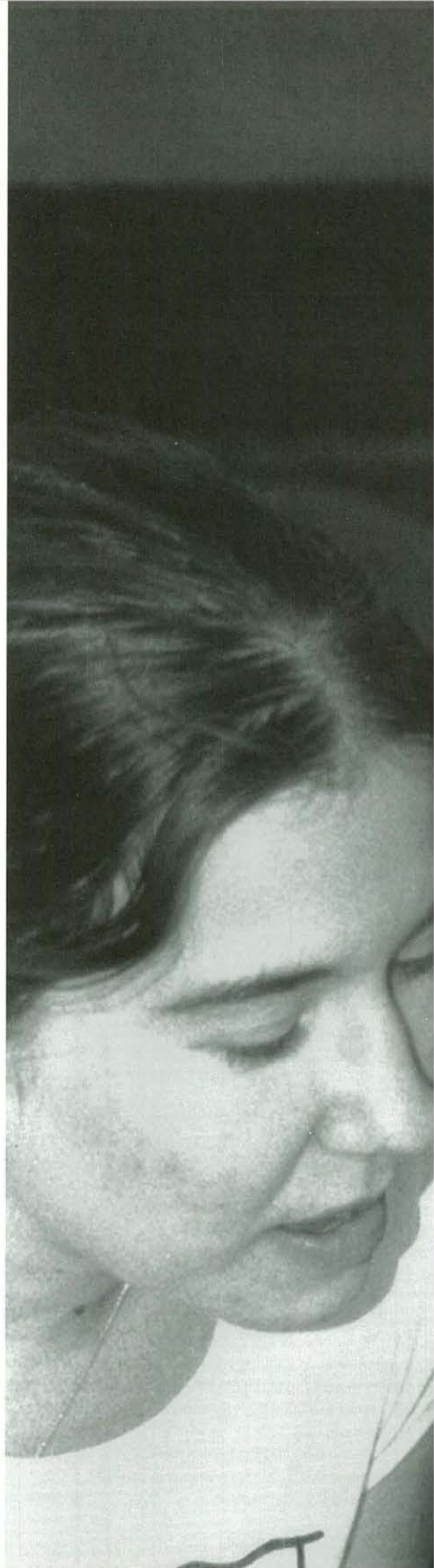
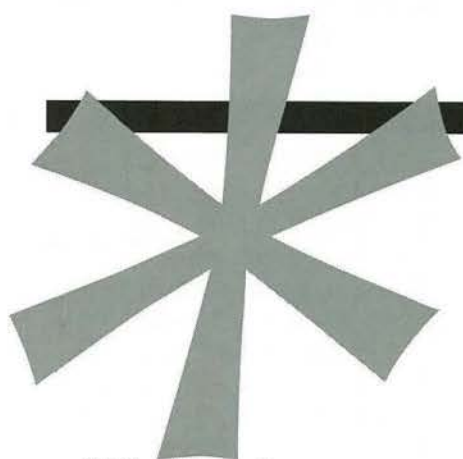
Overall, most athletes had this in common: they desired to stay in shape during their off season as well as while they were in season.

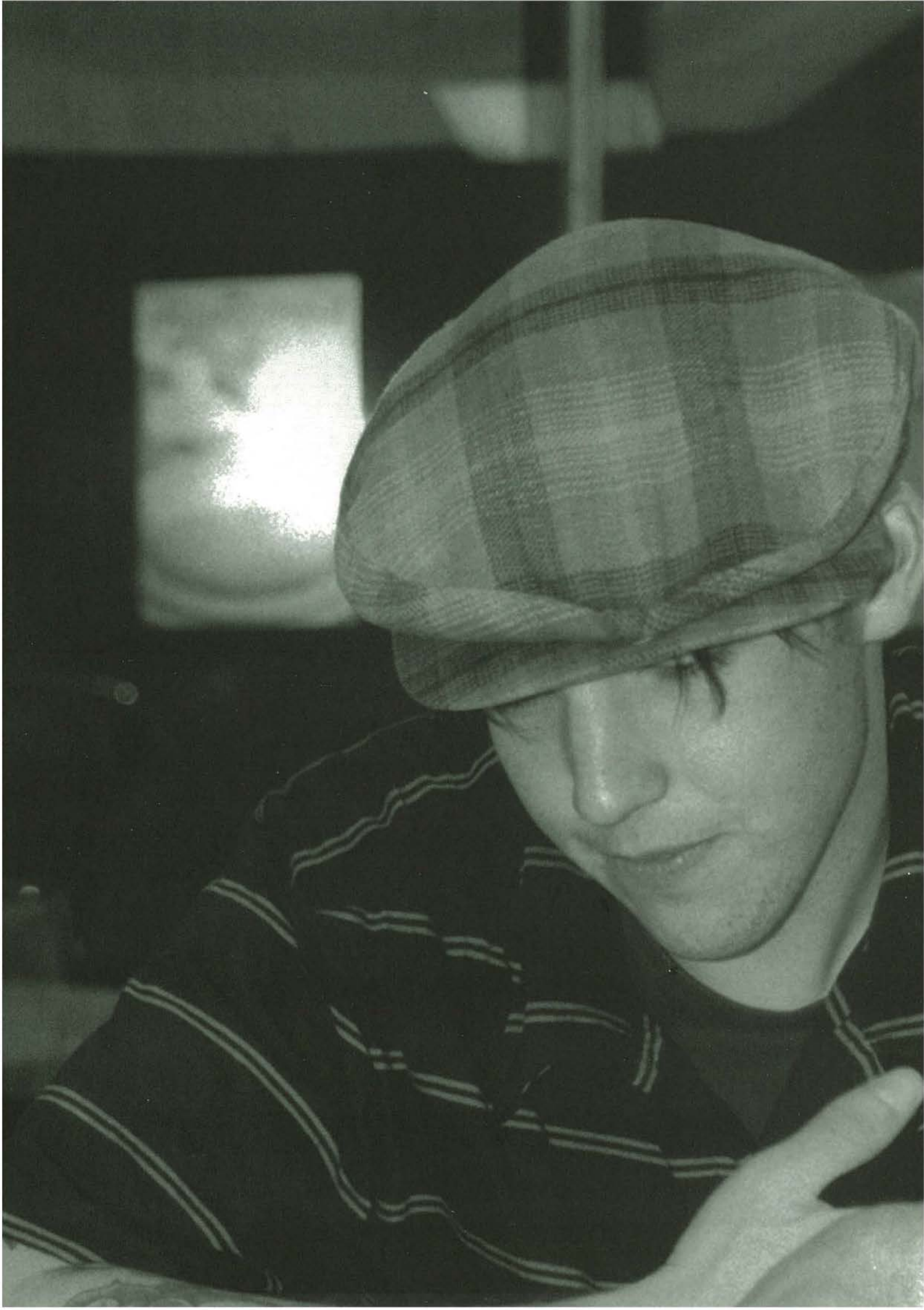
"When I don't have to be at practice every day, no, I don't miss it," Pitts said. "However, I am anxious to get back into the season."

Academics

*When you know a
thing, to hold that
you know it; and
when you do not
know a thing, to
allow that you do not
know it
- this is knowledge.*

~ Confucius



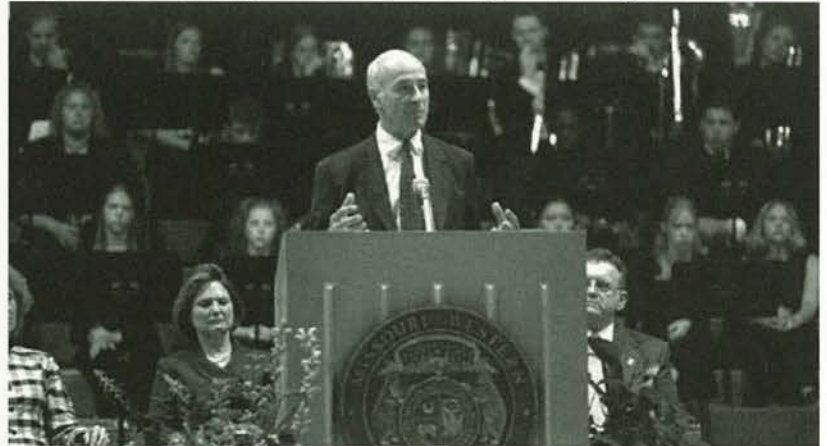
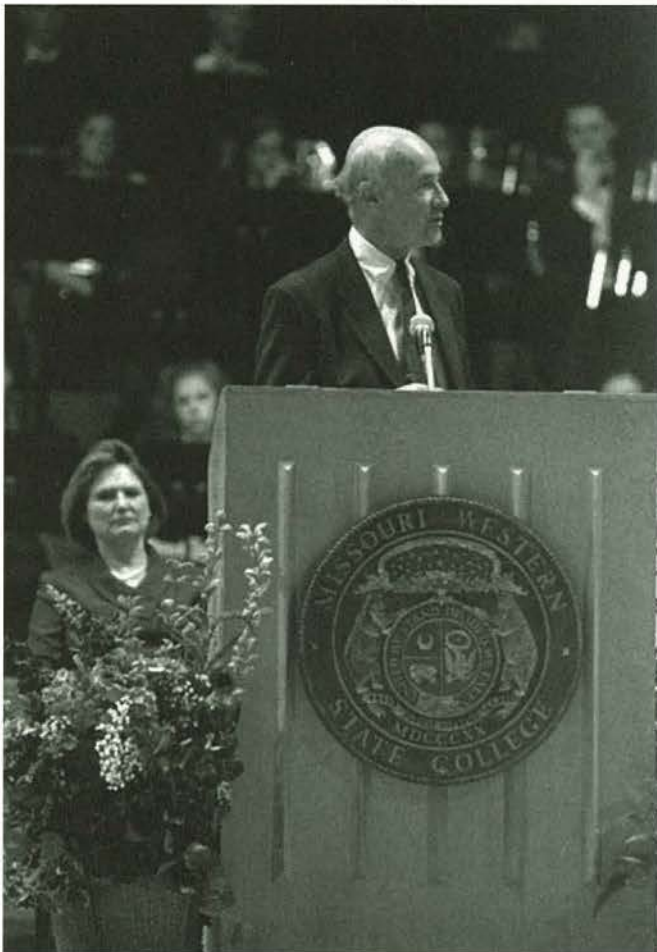




President Scanlon looks on as Nye speaks on critical issues. This was the second convocation during Scanlon's presidency.

Joseph Nye the Politics Guy

Students gather at the ninth annual convocation to receive valuable insight on critical issues facing our country today



Convocation could not have come at a better time. Since the tragic events that occurred on Sept. 11, many questions were raised in the minds of the American people about where the United States stood. Joseph Nye, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, was called upon to bring valuable insight to the student body and answer some of their lingering questions about just how safe the United States was.

Nye's speech was based on his book, "The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go It Alone." He made several points during his speech that suggested that the American people had developed too much of a complacent attitude toward other countries.

"The feeling that the United States is invincible and invulnerable, combined with a certain complacency about the rest of the world, set us up for the series of shocks that occurred on Sept. 11," Nye said. "The United States is by far the most powerful country in the world, and, yet, we're not able to protect ourselves acting alone."

Nye believed that complacent attitudes among the American people could have been largely credited to the events of Sept. 11. He compared terrorism to the spreading of diseases like H.I.V. and the West Nile Virus. Terrorism needed to be

viewed as a plague that affected the entire world.

"No one country can solve these issues by itself," Nye said. "Close civilian networking is the only way to win the war on terrorism."

The audience seemed to agree with Nye's perspective on the current issues involving our country, our government and our war against terrorism. Sophomore Sarah Olinger was one of the many students who attended Nye's speech. Like others, Olinger found the speech edifying and worthwhile.

"I thought that Joseph Nye offered a very intelligent and interesting perspective on the struggle of America to cooperate with other countries in order to win the war against terrorism," Olinger said. "He did a nice job of defining different things that we need to better understand as Americans."

Another student who found Nye's information on current issues to be important was junior Tracy Johnson.

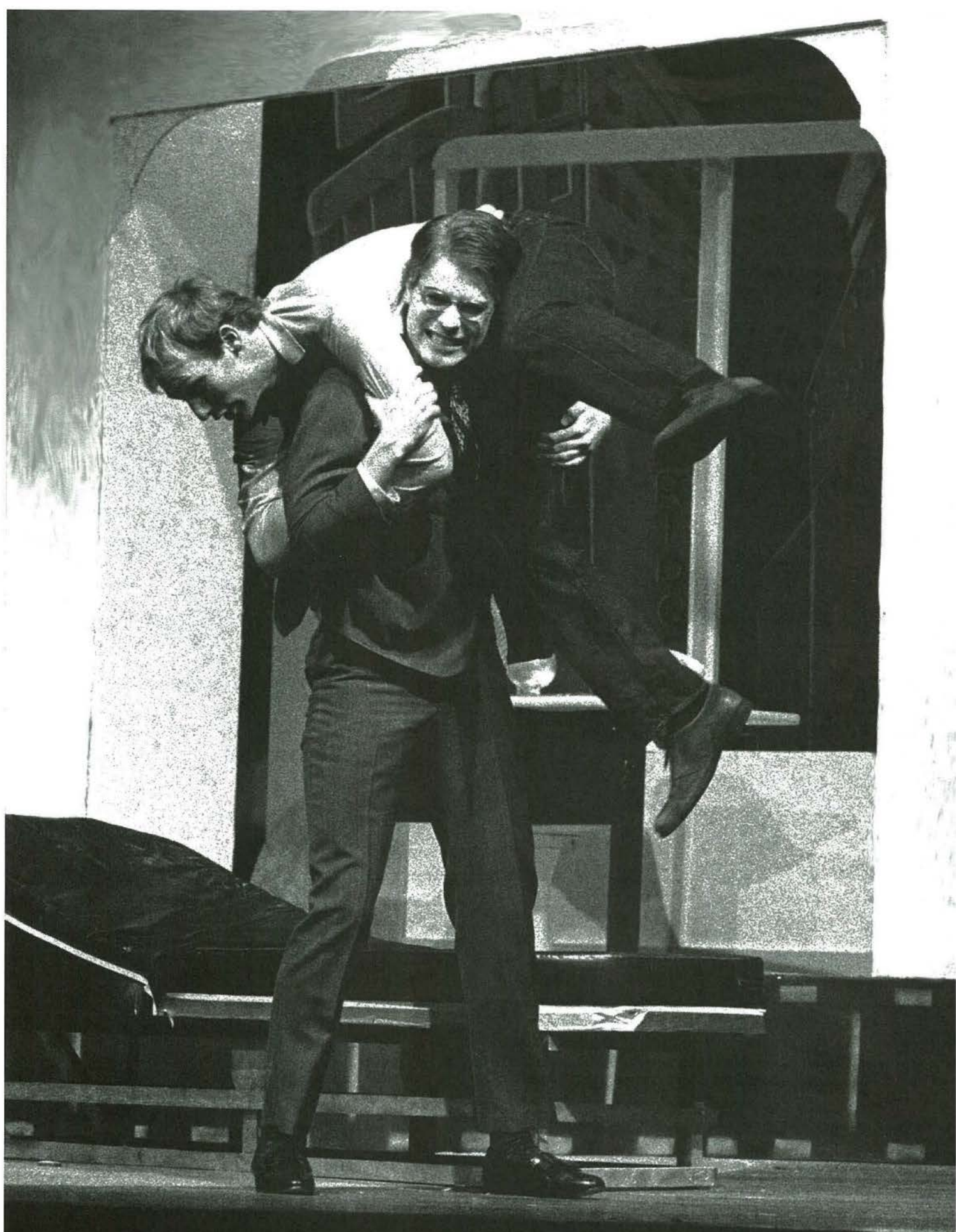
"I think he just did a great job of keeping our interest and making sure that it was issues that we were all interested in," Johnson said. "I just really enjoyed hearing him speak."

Nye won several awards for his work in different government positions. His background made him a credible vessel of information and allowed many individuals in attendance to gain valuable knowledge on issues facing our country.

Left: Looking to the crowd, Nye addresses several issues facing our country. He spoke on many different issues pertaining to America.

Bottom: Students are intrigued with Nye's speech. All of the classes were dismissed at 9:30 so students could attend.

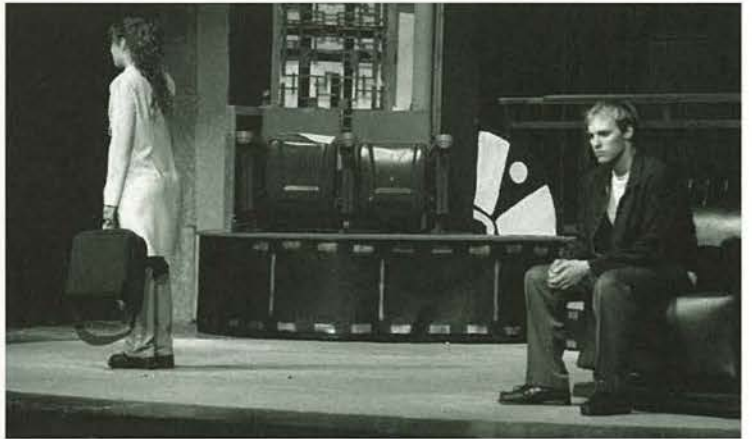
Top: The band sits silently behind Nye. Members of the choir and band were required to perform at convocation.



Jack and Dr. Suez wrestle with Jack's issues and with each other. Jack began meeting with Dr. Suez in order to diagnose the source of his discontent.

Romantic Comedy Takes the Stage

Western plays the Movie Game



Audience members who attended the campus' first theatrical performance of the semester had no problem letting the actors know what they thought of their performances. The crowd members responded throughout the play's duration with outrageous bursts of laughter and thunderous cheers.

The theatre department began the semester with its production of "Movie Game," a new romantic comedy written by an up-and-coming playwright, Adam Hummel. Audience members showed their delight in the performance through generous applause upon the entrance of characters. Nathan Michael Schmoë played the lead character, Jack. He said he had to keep his focus throughout the performance despite the crowd's responses.

"You really have to pay attention to the crowd and your fellow cast members," Schmoë said. "It can get distracting, but you just have to keep your focus and know what your objectives are."

Alongside Schmoë was fellow co-star Stephanie Schlessman, who played Sam, Jack's longtime companion. The two characters spent several years watching old movies in a local run-down theatre while they dreamed of living a life like the ones they saw on the silver screen. Schlessman said that watching older movies like the ones in the play helped her prepare for her role as Sam.

"We just got together and watched a bunch of the old movies that the play refers to," Schlessman said. "We just tried to put it all together on stage."

Schmoë and Schlessler were accompanied by an ensemble of animated characters. One of the play's most charismatic roles was portrayed by Shawn Bohall. Bohall played a drug-addicted therapist who tried to discover the truth behind Jack's dissatisfaction. Bohall revealed that it wasn't too difficult for him to connect with his character.

"I've played these types of characters before, so it really wasn't too difficult to play this part," Bohall said. "I think a lot of my personality naturally comes through in my character."

Like Schmoë, Bohall said that playing off of the crowd could have made a big difference in the outcome of the performance.

"I just tried to think how I could make things entertaining for the crowd," Bohall said. "I try to play into the reaction of the crowd, but you just have to try it, and if it doesn't work then it doesn't work."

Cast members and production crew put forth many hours into their rehearsals. The result of their hard work was a successful production to start off the year.

Left: Blake shares a moment with Jack's mom. Blake was hired by Jack's therapist to make a movie of his life.

Top: Jack gathers his thoughts as Sam prepares to leave. Thinking that Jack didn't love her, Sam was ready to take a job in Washington.

Bottom: An unusual dining experience is in the making. Blake tried to film the events that were unfolding.

story by Jared Hoffmann, photos by Ashley Reynolds



Elwood P. Dowd, played by Robert Schulze, smirks at Veta, played by Anita Meehan, and Myrtle Mae as the girls are trying to keep Harvey a secret. Harvey was shown in the Potter Fine Arts Theatre from Feb. 27 through March 2, 2003.

Quirky Classic at Western

An invisible friend and eccentric characters make "Harvey" a play to see.



Have you ever had a best friend that was a mischievous spirit otherwise known as a pooka? Mary Chase's 1944 play "Harvey" tells the story of Elwood P. Dowd and his best friend who is a pooka, or an invisible 6-foot white rabbit.

Beginning in January, night after night the cast and crew of the comedic play, "Harvey" worked diligently to ensure a flawless performance every night they performed. They practiced for three hours a day from Monday through Saturday until the opening night on Feb. 27.

Before the opening night, the actors and actresses made sure they had a grasp on their characters' personalities and were sure to have their lines memorized. Senior Morgan Perry played Betty Chumley, who was the wife of Dr. William Chumley. William owned Chumley's Rest, a mental institution where Elwood was taken.

"I prepared for the role of Betty by reading the script several times, and I just thought about why my character does what she does," Perry said.

Freshman Tyler Ingram, who played Judge Omar Gaffney, also prepared for his role, but in a different way. "I stepped outside my normal life because my character is very different from me because he is very flamboyant and I am not," Ingram said.

While the cast practiced, the production crew took care of the props, lighting, costumes and design. Donald Lillie, scenic and lighting designer, designed the set by himself while students created it. It took about six weeks to complete set-up and creation of the props. One of the most difficult things about production, according to Denny Staggs, was the set.

"The hardest thing was the fact that there were two completely different sets, and we would have to go back and forth to each set during the play," Staggs said. "We designed the set to be on wheels so things go quicker and the audience doesn't get bored between scenes."

Staggs, a Theater professor, described the play as one of the great American comedies and hoped the audience drew comfort from this classic tale. As the production began, the story unfolded.

Elwood P. Dowd, played by Robert Schulze, brought Harvey with him everywhere he went. Dowd only saw the good in people because of Harvey. His sister Veta Louise and his niece Myrtle Mae, played by Stephanie Schlessman, were embarrassed by the fact that Dowd told everyone about Harvey so they decided to take him to Chumley's Rest. As it turned out, Simmons, played by Anita Meehan, was diagnosed as the crazy one, and that's where the confusion began.

Dr. Sanderson, played by Kellen Perry, released Dowd and then Dowd talked to Chumley's wife about Harvey. Dr. Chumley, who was played by Joshua Hall, and Dr. Sanderson then realized that they made a huge mistake and committed the wrong person.

Dr. Chumley eventually saw Harvey and talked Veta into giving Dowd an injection to get rid of Harvey. Veta thought about the consequences and decided not to make Dowd get rid of Harvey. As the play ended everyone accepted the fact that Dowd had a special friend.

Top left: Duane Wilson, played by Nathan Schmoie, flirts with Myrtle Mae Simmons, played by Stephanie Schlessman. Harvey was a play about a man whose best friend is a six-foot rabbit. Top right: A final scene includes all of the cast members. The play contained over 10 roles. Bottom right: Dowd keeps the attention of Mrs. Ethel Chavenet, played by Tara Stull. Harvey broke the traditional mold and helped the audition process.



Stephanie Schlessmen studies for other classes during some of her down time. Schlessmen was one of the cupids that helped change sets in between scenes.

Behind the Scenes

Western students spend months on the plays before the public even begins to think about them



"Working in the theatre has given me a new sense of appreciation for what goes on backstage," Nikki Burdick said. "I've spent a lot of time building, painting and cleaning. As a member of the audience, you don't really appreciate all the work that goes on behind scenes until you've had to work it."

Missouri Western State College's production of "Much Ado About Nothing" was produced by the students of Alpha Psi Omega and was held in Western's Black Box Theatre.

The night of the play, the audience was amazed by the story and the acting, but most didn't think too much about the set or all the work behind the scenes. But people behind the scenes worked just as hard, if not harder, as the ones on the stage.

"We just want to make sure everything gets done," Morgan Perry. "There is so much to do and so little time. If the actors didn't help get ready backstage also, the play might never get off the ground."

Along with actors and actresses working hard backstage, students in theatre classes were required to put in 20 hours per semester working on some kind of theatre project. The most popular project was working in the theatre. The students that chose this project were the ones that were backstage for a couple of hours a week preparing for opening night, right alongside the people on stage.

"I can't say I enjoyed working in the theatre," Burdick said. "But I did learn a lot, and I was impressed by all the work. I also learned some skills that I can keep for life, just basic handy-man skills."

"Working backstage was definitely an experience," Ashley Talley said. "I enjoyed getting to see what goes on behind the scenes. I will appreciate theatre a lot more now."

Backstage sets were built from scratch or remnants of other sets; they were painted and designed. Costumes were made planned and made, and lines were learned. Everything was planned to the hilt, but it didn't always go off without a hitch.

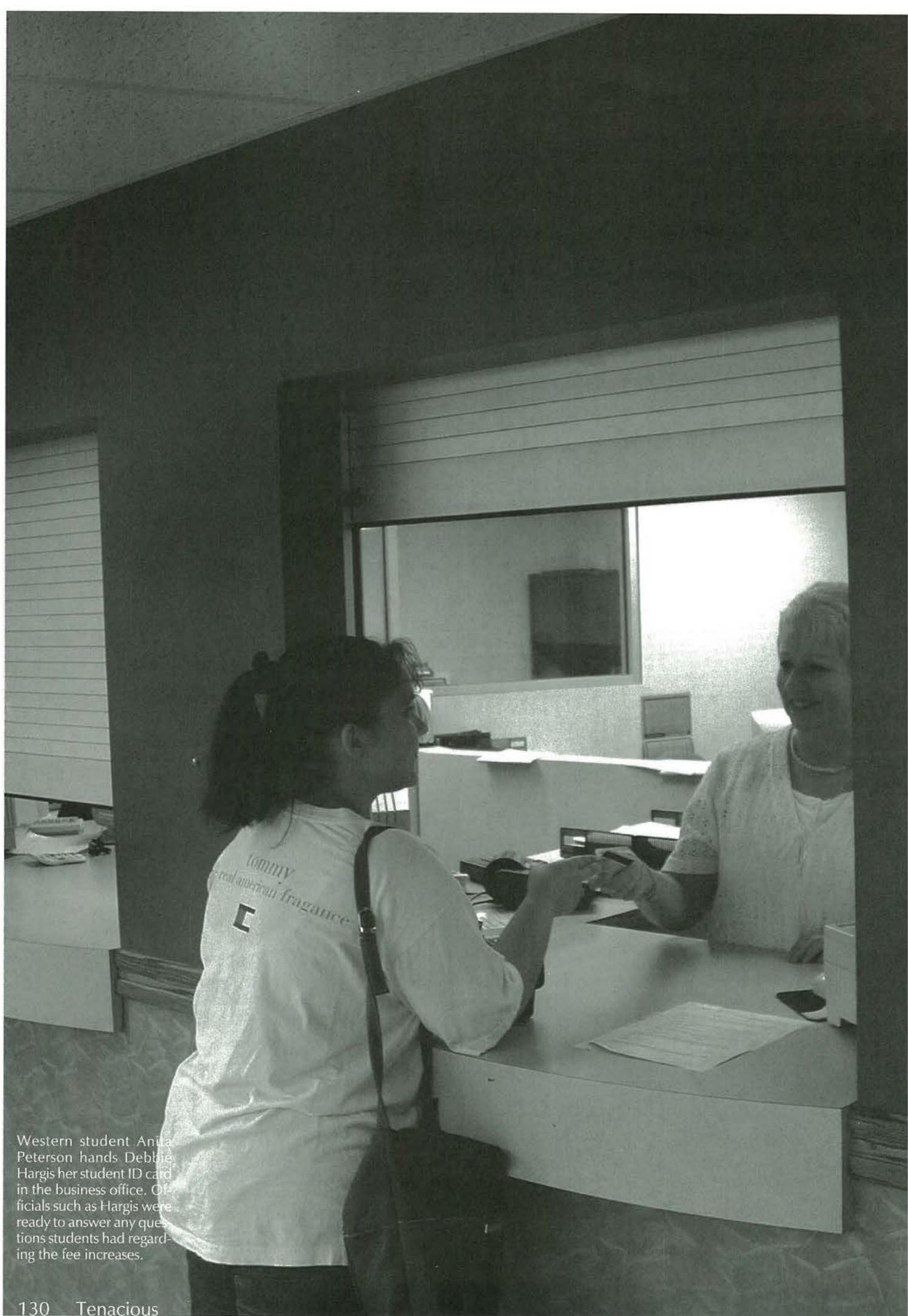
"You have to be prepared for a few mess-ups," Perry said. "Sometimes things go fine. Other times they are a little off. As long as you have allowed for mistakes in your planning, though, everything can easily be put back on track."

Working backstage was a way for students to learn about the theatre in a very hands-on way. While many would not continue to work in the theatre, skills were still learned that can follow them for life, along with a renewed appreciation for the fine arts, theatre in particular.

"I am glad I took the class," Talley said. "I learned a lot, and while I don't plan to continue in the theatre department, I did learn some useful things."

Left: Tessa May works hard keeping the costumes organized backstage. Sometimes things got a little messy backstage and people like May kept it organized. Top right: The cupids enjoy their "15 minutes of fame" by moving props around on stage. It took man power to keep things rolling backstage and onstage. Bottom right: Annette Meinheit is made ready for the stage by Rebekah Needhem and Suzi Nagel. Preparing the actor and actresses for the stage took plenty of work and extra hands.

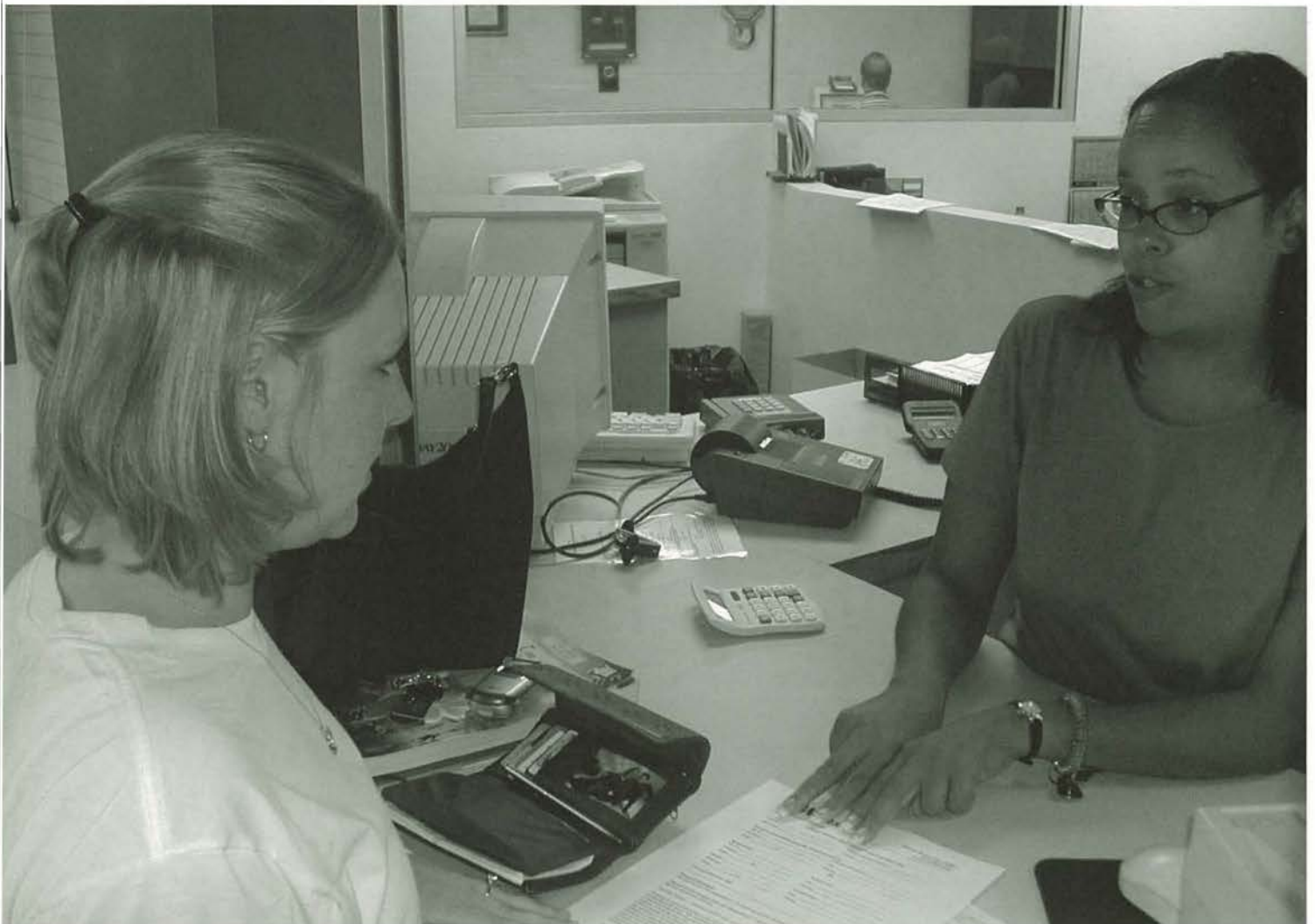
story by Sara Bell, photos by Jennifer Moran



Western student Anila Peterson hands Debbie Hargis her student ID card in the business office. Officials such as Hargis were ready to answer any questions students had regarding the fee increases.

The cost of college

Students find the bill for attending college is rising more each and every year



story by LaNisha Bosby, photos by Deliese Brewster

"As the State of Missouri continues to decrease support for higher education, colleges and universities must protect their quality and financial stability. Consequently, Western's Board of Regents has found it necessary to adjust its original budget. At its June meeting, the Board approved an additional tuition increase of \$15 per credit hour. You should be aware that even with this increase, Western's tuition remains one of the lowest in the State," Dan Eckhoff, Western bursar, wrote in a letter to all students on July 1, 2002.

Many students didn't understand why tuition went up. Angela Beam, interim director of financial aid, said, "It was the budget...with the State's, MWSC had to raise tuition and budget cut for expenses." Beam also said that Western was concerned about the situation of its students.

Eckhoff said, "I think that if the state continues to experience shortfalls, then that will lead to an increase."

In addition to the increase in fees per credit hour, students also noticed another fee addition on their bills. Beginning in August, if a student added or dropped classes once the first day of classes began, there was a \$50 charge automatically added to his/her student bill.

Eckhoff explained the reason for the fee addition. "Our previous policy, which you can find in last year's college catalog, did not provide students who made a schedule change but remained in school with fewer hours, a refund at all," he said. "They paid for the classes they were enrolled in as of the first day of classes. The new policy now refunds the cost of classes dropped and only assesses the student a one-time per semester charge of \$50 for the schedule change."

Deatra Tyler from the business office speaks with Western student Nicole Brown. Many students had questions about their increased student bills.



International student Liara Porter takes a break in the hallway of the Evan R. Agonstein Science and Math Building. Porter grew up in Ukraine and moved to Missouri in 1998.

Far from home

At Western, international students find comfort away from home.



College brings an enormous amount of new experiences, although for some international students, the transition was even more significant.

Senior Elizabeth Gonçalves, a computer science major, arrived on campus three and a half years ago. Originally from Ecuador, Gonçalves decided to move to the United States when her mom got a job here.

"Ecuador and the United States are very different," Gonçalves said. "The food is different, and the way of living is very different, too."

Other adjustments Gonçalves had to make included being away from the people she loved the most.

"Anytime I get homesick, I look at pictures, talk to friends on the Internet and just keep myself busy, especially with the Multicultural/International Students Club," Gonçalves said. "I miss the beach the most and, of course, my family and friends that are in Ecuador."

Gonçalves decided that after graduation she would stay in the United States with her family. "There are more opportunities here in the United States, and I am used to living here now," Gonçalves said.

Besides personal opportunities, international students also benefited others.

Junior Melissa Jackson was Gonçalves' roommate. "One advantage I have by living with an international student is to learn about a different culture," Jackson said. "Also, I get to learn about their customs, and I can see how we are alike and how we are different."

International student Jania Amador, a sophomore commercial arts major, was originally from Mexico. She was chosen

by a family from Kansas City, Mo. "I came to the United States four years ago because I wanted to learn English and study," Amador said.

Amador learned how to speak English from her friends and just by talking to people.

Amador planned on going back to Mexico after high school but changed her mind, deciding to stay in Missouri.

"One of my best friends told me about this college," Amador said. "I liked it, so I decided to stay, but it was a last-minute decision."

A big difference between the United States and Mexico for Amador was that she had to live on her own.

"My family is in Mexico, and I really miss my mom's cooking," Amador said. "Also, the places, the people and the culture are all different, but when I am here or with my host family, it feels like home."

Another international student, senior Liana Porter, was from Ukraine. She moved to Missouri in 1998 to be an exchange student in high school. Porter knew some English before moving to the states and learned more by communicating with people in her everyday life. She found people themselves to be different. "People are more easy going here," she said.

Overall, the international students were pleased with the life and the education at Western.

"Missouri Western offers a lot to international students," Amador said. "It's also a great place to go to school, and I think there should be more international students."

Right: Sophomore Jania Amador takes a break to read the Griffon News. A native of Mexico, she learned to speak English from reading and talking to friends.

Left: Elizabeth Gonçalves works diligently in the science and math office. Gonçalves moved to the United States from Ecuador.



Volunteers work to put siding on a Habitat home. They felt a great sense of accomplishment as they gave back to the community.

Working For A Cause

Students volunteer while the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity takes off.



They donate their time and energy. They put others before themselves. They make dreams a reality. They are the volunteers of the Missouri Western State College chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

It was a long process to get the Habitat for Humanity campus chapter started. Gina Elkins, executive director of St. Joseph's Habitat for Humanity, had been on a quest for five years to start a campus chapter at Missouri Western. In the spring of 2002, Crystal Ficken, communications major, received an assignment to do a service learning project for her small group communication course. Ficken's group decided to work with Habitat for Humanity.

The first time Ficken visited St. Joseph's branch, she wanted to volunteer and see what she could do to help. It was Elkins who suggested that Ficken and her group could help by starting a campus chapter. When the decision was made, the application process started. After months of waiting, the organization received the news in December of 2002 that the campus chapter had become official.

During the months of waiting, Habitat for Humanity went on with building events and work days. At these events, students and other volunteers learned how to work on houses that the volunteers build with families in need of affordable housing. The families that were selected worked side by side with the volunteers to build their own affordable housing.

"I think that in St. Joseph a lot of people underestimate the amount of poverty housing there is, and so by starting on campus where we all are young and kind of unaware of problems that might be out there, that this is an easy way to open our eyes to it and get people involved in it early on in their life," Ficken said.

For the students who volunteered, it was a chance to make a difference, meet others, have some fun and learn basic carpentry skills. "It's an opportunity to serve the Lord, have fun and also learn how to build houses, because being a girl, I really don't know anything about building a house, so I like the hands-on project and working with other Christians, doing God's work and helping people out at the same time," junior Tiffany Lee, an elementary education major, said.

Students worked hard through the events and work days with Habitat for Humanity. In addition to the building process, students also volunteered for fundraising, planning and finding ways to gather materials. "Students are a powerful presence in Habitat, and we need young, energetic people to make these houses happen," Elkins said.

It took a lot of time and hard work from the students to accomplish the building of the houses, much as it did to get the campus chapter off of the ground. "One of the great things about this chapter is that it was all students from the very beginning who wanted to see it happen, and they worked hard to do it," Elkins said.

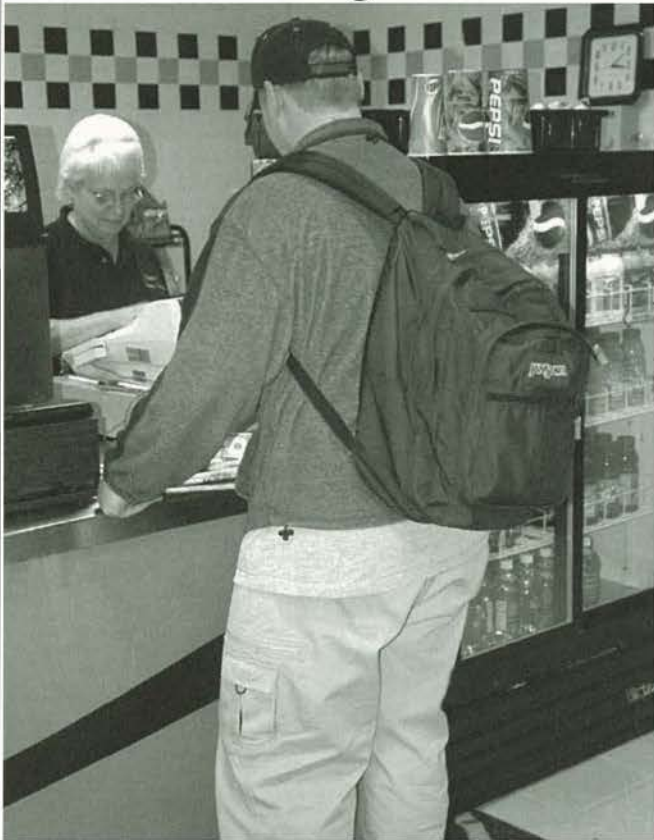
Left: Carrying the needed supplies, two volunteers work to get started on building a home. The MWSC chapter of Habitat for Humanity had been up and running since December of 2002. Top: Putting on the finishing touches, volunteers make sure the Habitat home meets all building requirements. Many families worked with the volunteers to build their own home. Bottom: With the assistance of fellow volunteers, sophomore Danielle Shoemaker uses an electric saw. Some saw this experience as a chance to learn many skills.



A sign and caution tape prevent students from using the main staircase in the A-building. This was just one of the many inconveniences the construction caused Western students.

Hungry...Why Wait?

Recent renovations to the Administration Building give Western students more food choices on campus.



What is the No. 1 necessity college students spend the most on? Most say it is food. On campus, there are places designated for students, faculty and staff to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. These places include the Nelle Blum Student Union cafeteria and Food Court, a cart in the Science and Mathematics Building and the deli located in the Administration Building.

"The A Building deli was a cubby hole under the stairs," Jane Frick, professor of English, Foreign Languages and Journalism, said. "It was little."

The A Building underwent renovations of the deli. It was moved from the main floor to the lower floor due to limited space and poor variety of options.

"This project has actually been on the board for four or five years," Don Willis, dean of student affairs, said. "The quality of food will increase and so will the selections."

The renovation was needed due to demand for food services located in the A Building's area of the campus. It was also needed to present the students, faculty and staff with a variety of more items. These items included casseroles, dips, soups of the day, large pretzels and yogurt.

"We have never had yogurt in any of the buildings," Mary Shoemaker, food services director, said. "This is a new experience for us."

"It will also allow students, faculty and staff to have access to food services without having to go to the SU or off campus to eat lunch," Willis said.

Seating was another positive addition to the renovation process. "Everything is high tech, including the hot dog machine which is being built as part of the counter," Shoemaker said.

maker said.

All of these different changes were a major factor in future student, faculty and staff surveys.

In addition, several students felt the renovation was a priority; however, there were some who felt neutral about the reconstruction. Tara Sippely was among those students who were indifferent about the renovation.

"The deli was OK before, but I am not opposed to the renovation," Sippely said. "Why couldn't it have been done this summer?"

Sippely had two classes in the A Building this year. Many concerns arose about distractions and the interference of the students' education.

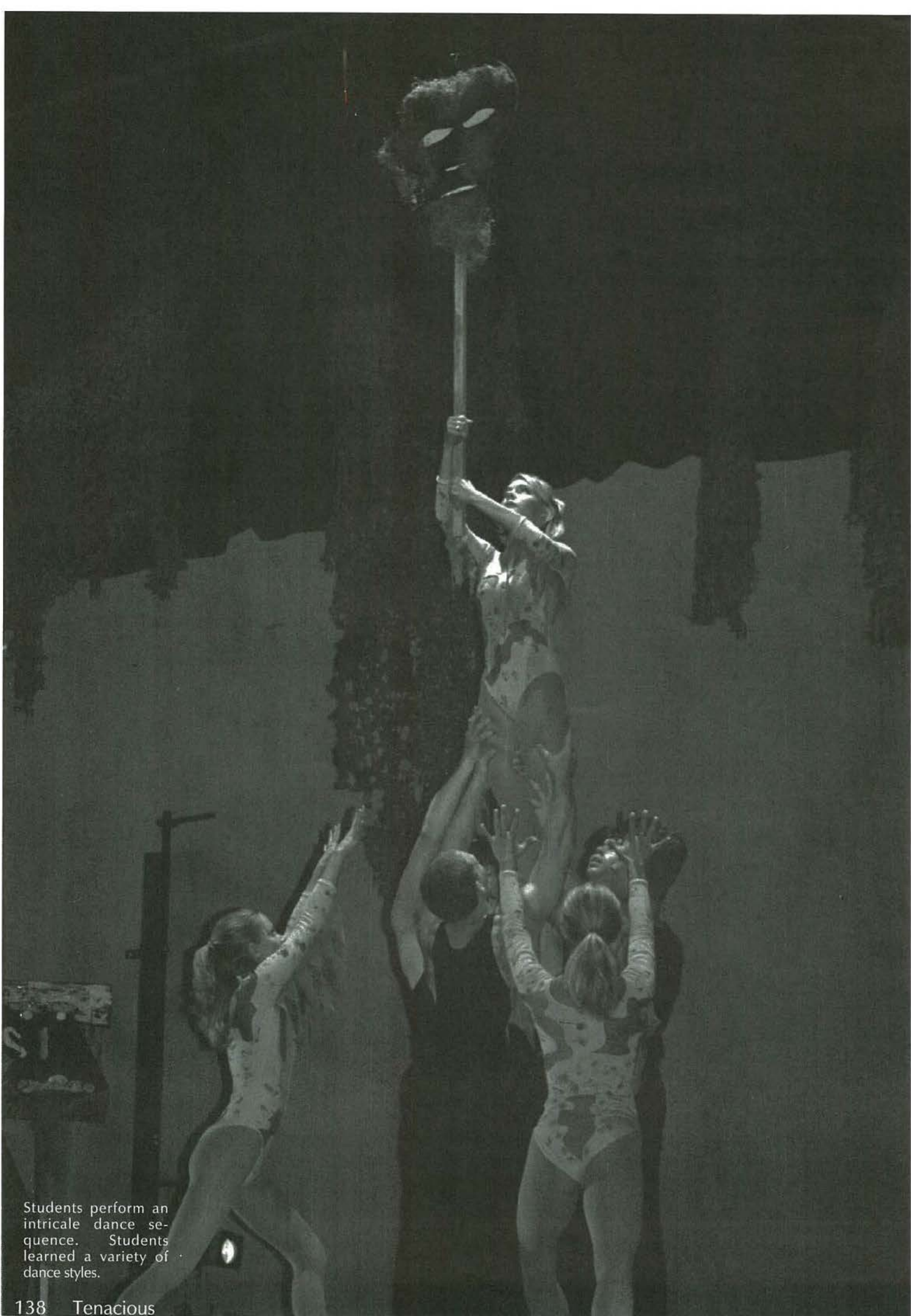
"My classes are on the second and third floor so it does not bother me at all," Sippely said. "I have heard others complain about the construction noise and radio."

In the same way, the faculty and staff had similar thoughts to Sippely's.

"I think it affected the students in the beginning, but now it is easier to get around it," Shoemaker said. "There was noise pollution at the beginning of the semester, but there is not as much now as there was then."

The updated facility provided convenience, satisfying the needs of people who had class in that area of the campus. "I think the new and improved deli will be nice," Sippely said.

After the construction of the deli in fall 2002, the snack bar was open for business for spring semester students. Minor damage occurred to the snack bar at the beginning of the semester and caused it to close for a short time.



Students perform an intricate dance sequence. Students learned a variety of dance styles.

Put on your dancin' shoes

Students united to take a break from the normal class while learning dance techniques



In addition to academic classes, Western also offered leisure classes, such as dance, taught by Western dance instructor Paul Chambers. Through these classes, students learned a variety of dance styles, and then at the end of each semester they came together with other students for a final production.

Chambers taught seven classes, which included the social dance class, the modern dance class, the MWSC Dance Company and an adult dance exhibition class.

In the social dance class, the students learned such dances as swing, cha-cha and foxtrot. The dances Chambers taught in social dance were focused on methods and techniques for basic ballroom dancing. The techniques Chambers taught in his modern dance class came from a former instructor named Hanya Holm.

"My whole life has been built around the training I received from her," Chambers said. The training he learned was carried over to his students in the modern dance classes. Chambers believed that this training would lead them to be better dancers.

"In that training, you train the body through the positioning of the body, the weight placement, the balance,

every part of the body exactly where it's supposed to be. There's a lot of stretching and physical activity involved in just the warm-up and learning the technique, then we move and they use all of the technique that they've learned. They carry it over to their dancing, which makes them much better dancers," Chambers said.

Each of the seven classes Chambers instructed were represented in his dance production. The students who were involved spent many hours in preparation for the two-hour production. They helped Chambers set up the stage and the lighting, as well as practicing outside of class.

"I spend at least an hour a day practicing, if not more, and if I miss a day I'll do two hours the next day," Nathan Schmoie, theatre/video production major, said.

On the other hand, some students were only able to practice during class time. "I have a partner, so it's kind of hard to work on anything by myself because it's a bunch of lifts and stuff," dance student Rachel Hoffman said.

Through the various dance classes offered at Western, students were able to get college credit for an experience that enriched their lives and allowed them to enjoy themselves at the same time.

Left: Students perform their graceful routine. Paul Chambers, dance instructor, hoped to teach his students key dance principles. Top: One student stretches in preparation for the next routine. A great deal of stretching was required to learn the dances effectively. Bottom: Sharing his expertise in the field of dance, Chambers speaks with one of his students. Chambers taught dances like the foxtrot and the cha-cha.



Each summer, students participate in a study abroad program for the culture and to improve their spanish. Students enjoyed the local attractions found in Spain.

Study Abroad

Students learned about other cultures firsthand through the Study Abroad experience.



"Study abroad is a wonderful program," Spanish major Lauren Stehle said. "I went in summer of 2001, and I'm going again this summer, too!"

Many students participated in the summer Study Abroad program, year after year. Students had the opportunity to go to different countries and learn, like Spain, Mexico, England, France and Germany.

Activities on the trips were a mix of studying and fun. The students went to school for a few hours during the day, and then they went on group educational trips together with other students. They also had free time to spend however they wanted, whether with their host families or simply out sightseeing.

During the trip to Spain, students visited Southern Spain, including one of Spain's oldest cities, Toledo.

"It's amazing," Stehle said. "The architecture is amazing, and the countryside is beautiful."

Students on the French trip went to Angers, where they took French classes. All of the trips offered something unique and different from the others. A different professor led each trip, and while costs varied, they were fairly in the same ballpark. For example, the Mexico trip, led by Robert Shell,

cost a little over \$2,000.

Guys and girls alike were interested in Study Abroad. Sophomore Dereck Dew planned to participate in the 2003 Spain trip.

"I am so excited about the trip," Dew said. "My girlfriend went before and said it was awesome. I decided to go because I feel Spanish is an incredibly important language to learn, and I hope to become more fluent in it."

"I can't wait to go," Seth Brackmen said. "Study Abroad will be an experience I take with me throughout life."

Many people felt the same way Brackmen did. Each trip had something unique and memorable to offer the students, whether it was beautiful, old buildings, an amazing, English countryside, or quaint, little villages. Students got to experience a new way of living outside of their everyday life. Whether learning and using a second language, eating new or exotic food or just experiencing life in a different way, students and sponsors alike walked away from the trip with lifelong memories to keep.

"I will never forget these trips," Stehle said. "They have been a great part of my college career, and I think everyone should get to go on at least one."

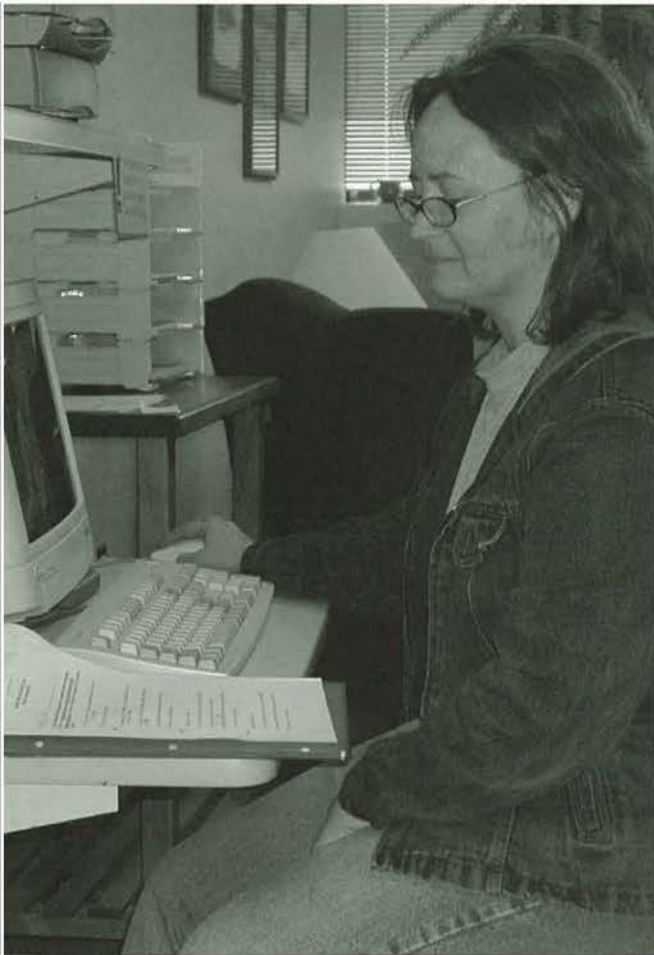
Left: The Spanish cuisine is an accurate taste that some grew to enjoy while others did not. A restaurant in Morocco provided culture in food and atmosphere. Top right: Students travel by subway in order to visit surrounding areas. It took them a while to adjust to this type of transportation. Bottom right: Grenada is one of the many cities visited by students. The scenery is beautiful and very different from the United States.



Ronda Williams reads a magazine in the non-traditional student lounge. It was not uncommon for the lounge to see many students throughout the day.

The Non-Traditional Side of Life

Attending college as a non-traditional student can be an intimidating experience but Western strives to make it a welcoming one.



story by Stephanie Radel, photos by Deliese Brestwer and Megan Campbell

Everyone knows how it goes. You did your time in high school, graduated and then went on to the parent-free, party life that was the sweet promised land of college. For most students, that is how it went. However, for others, that ever-present little thing we like to call life sometimes got in the way.

Everyone ultimately had to choose his or her own path. For some people that meant, for whatever reason or reasons, putting their college career on hold for a little while until their life permitted them to finally attend college and get their degrees. Rita Zimmerman, a senior commercial art major, was one of those people.

Zimmerman started working right out of high school. She worked for 20 years in the administrative field before deciding to quit her job and become a full-time college student.

"I had never gone to college," Zimmerman said. "I just decided that it was now or never. I just had to go and get my degree. I wanted to spend the last part of my working career doing something that I enjoyed. Going to college was the only way to do that."

For a lot of non-traditional students, starting families and the obligations that go along with them were the main

reasons they put their college degrees on the back burner.

"I originally quit school back in '89," Carrie Campbell, sophomore commercial art major, said. "I left because I had a two-week-old child at home when the fall semester began in '89. At that time in my life, my child and my family were more important to me."

Kelly Worthen, senior commercial art major, had a similar story.

"I came to Missouri Western right out of high school," Worthen said. "I left school when I had children because I wanted to start my family."

What then drew them back? For some it was money and others the hope of a better working situation. Ultimately, the main reason for coming back to school and becoming a non-traditional student was the promise of a better life for themselves and their families.

"I came back because I needed something better," Campbell said. "I was tired of working bad jobs because I did not have my education."

"I decided to come back to college because of my children," Worthen said. "I wanted to give them a better future. By going to school and getting my education, I can do that."

Left: Focusing on her monitor, Mari Wheeler takes time to complete her homework. Students felt the atmosphere of the lounge was conducive to proper studying. Top right: Non-traditional student LaTonya Williams studies at one of the desks in the lounge. She graduated in May of 2003. Bottom right: Several students gather together to discuss issues common to non-traditional students. Students found that having others to share thoughts and experiences with made returning to college easier.



A student gets help with his homework. Students who had taken similar classes were usually the best teachers.

Help Here, There & Everywhere

Students utilize their resources and receive help from many outlets on campus



College life often became stressful, especially when it was a student entering as a freshman or transfer student. However, finding help with personal problems was easier because help on campus was everywhere. The Center for Academic Support was the main building students could go to for help with homework.

"We are for everybody," Jan Norton, director of the CAS, said. "For anyone who wants to be a good student, this is the place to come for help."

The CAS provided help for all classes, including writing job resumes and scholarship letters. They also offered services such as tutoring, note cards and handouts. During the course of one semester, approximately about 800 individuals went in to receive help with their studies.

On Oct. 6, 7 and 8, midterms brought Midnight Madness to campus. This event was coordinated by seniors Nic Sikora and Morgan Perry. The purpose of the event was to give incoming freshmen and students who did not have proper study techniques options. Tutors were provided mainly for English, mathematics, Spanish and study techniques.

Even though Sikora and Perry had a fun time running Midnight Madness, they had higher expectations of student involvement.

"It was rather sad," Perry said. "We had a very low turnout. The students we helped were very appreciative, but we felt we could reach many more."

Although some of their expectations were not met, they still felt the service would be beneficial in the future. "We are considering doing it again for finals," Sikora said.

Students who received help were grateful because they felt their hard work had paid off. "If there were no help on campus, I

would not be able to understand or work out my problems in math," Freshman Jared Rasmussen said.

"Receiving help for homework benefits me because if I don't understand something in class I can go to the CAS and learn how to do it," Freshman Jennifer Randall said.

Help with the social aspect of college life was equally important. Fraternities and sororities took time out to help students with both academic and personal problems in their lives.

Tiffani Manley, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., participated as a mentor in the Delta Confidante Program.

"The purpose of the program is to help orientate new students to college life," Manley said. "It's extremely helpful to have someone to count on and be there for you."

"We assist incoming freshmen with academic endeavors and also help them become productive members of the college community," Olu Aregbe, member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., said.

The Achieving Collegiate Excellence Program is one of the many programs that Alpha Phi Alpha tried to present to college students.

"It gives freshmen a mentor to help them academically in courses the mentor took in the past," Aregbe said. "We also provide adequate advice and information to students with hopes of continuing the program to give back to the campus community."

Help on campus was very important to the student community. It allowed students to express concerns they faced academically and socially. "The help is there, you just have to leave your common area and ask for it," Perry said.

Left: Looking at his textbook, a student seeks understanding. Students found that there was wealth of information in the CAS.

Top Right: The CAS offers tutoring, note cards and handouts. About 800 individuals visited the center per semester.

Bottom Right: A student tutor oversees the work of a student. CAS also helped students with resumes and scholarship letters.

story by Tanisna Washington, photos by Saran Fisher



Joyce Moore listens to students' presentations during a critique at the Jane Aris Learning Center. Joyce was praised by her students for her attention.

Special Professors

Going above and beyond the call of duty, these Western teachers are just a few who give everything and more to their roles as leaders.



"The job of an educator is to create his own obsolescent to create the next new generation," Don Lillie said.

Professors influenced their students inside and outside the classroom. Teachers played an important role in the lives of their students; however, some teachers dedicated themselves to go above and beyond, to be more than just the average teacher.

Lillie, professor of Design and Technical Direction in the Theater department, had been teaching at Western for 25 years.

"I like the students and the discussion," Lillie said. "When we interact, it is a discovery and a road to knowledge."

Interacting with the students was what other teachers had in common also.

"I enjoy helping young people discover their creative abilities and processes," Joyce Moore, assistant professor of art, said. "It is a really neat experience when you see the light bulb go off and the student understands what you have been teaching him or her. I like being around young people who have interesting ideas."

The students were the reason teachers went the extra mile to help them succeed.

"I give extra individual attention helping kids with their music," Frank Thomas, director of choral activities, said. "I'll help a student as long as the student is trying to help him/herself. If they have spent time practicing and are trying, I'll never give up. When they are absent often and don't come to practice, that is when their grace period is up."

Nancy Reese-Dillon, an adjunct professor of English, felt

the same about helping her students.

"I give out my home phone number to my students if they need my help outside of class time," Reese-Dillon said. "As long as I feel like a student is putting in an honest effort and wants to improve themselves I will assist them in any way I can. One time I went so far as to go to the dorms to pick up a student's paper."

Moore frequently sacrificed personal time for her students.

"A student was finishing an interactive compact disc for the museum, and we stayed up until 5:30 a.m. so I could help him finish it," Moore said. "One time a student wanted to participate in a job interview, and I stayed up until 4 a.m. to help them finish their project so they could go to the interview that day. I don't mind helping the students because I love my job."

To be a successful teacher, they had to love what they did in that particular subject they taught. Also, they had to be flexible and willing to try new things. "When a student I taught succeeds and advances in his or her own life because of my teaching, I am incredibly proud of them and very happy," Thomas said.

In other words, teaching was not just a job; it was a responsibility to be taken seriously. Attending school would last for only a moment, but the knowledge obtained from a quality education would last for a lifetime.

Left: Nancy Reese-Dillon gives helpful advice to students. Dillion was attentive when answering students' questions. Top right: Professor Don Lillie, assists a student in painting a set for one of the theatre productions. Lillie was the director of many student plays. Top Bottom right: Frank Thomas and student joyfully conduct students in music class. Thomas was encouraging to his students in every setting.



Senior Monica Lee contemplates the answer to a question in her Spanish class. Lee audited her Spanish class because she planned on going back to Mexico.

Class Auditors

Auditing was found by some to be the most beneficial way to enrich collegiate learning experience.



Facts about auditing

- Less than .5 percent or less is the average of classes audited at Western each semester.
- Audited classes cost students the same amount of a regular class.
- Students who audit classes do not receive a grade.

When students enrolled for classes, most of them took classes for credit. However, some students audited classes, deciding to take a class only to learn—not for credit or a grade. “The main benefit of auditing a class is student self-enrichment without the pressure regarding grades, test taking and homework,” Spanish professor Alicia De Gregorio said.

The reasons for deciding to audit classes varied. A few students enjoyed the courses of their major or minor and decided to continue with upper-level courses, even if they had completed the required classes. Several students even audited courses outside their major or minor. “As students explore different disciplines, they will definitely become intellectually enriched by their experiences,” De Gregorio said.

Dorothea Gaebler moved here from Germany in 2001.

“I decided to audit an English class to improve my English and to learn more,” Gaebler said. “I get more information in a classroom than I would if I stayed at home.”

Senior Monica Lee decided to audit a Spanish class. “I am already done with my Spanish minor, but I wanted to get better at speaking the language because I plan on going back to Mexico,” Lee said.

She believed auditing a class was very beneficial. “I don’t have to do any homework or take any tests, and I basically choose what I want to do when it comes to class work,” Lee said.

However, there were some drawbacks to auditing a class. “Not getting credit for a class that you have to pay for is definitely a downside, but in my case it is worth it,” Lee said.

De Gregorio believed that one disadvantage was when students did not apply their learning experience to the fullest. “Some students will not work as hard as if they were earning credit for the class,” De Gregorio said. “They give priority to other courses that they get grades for.”

Lee felt like she didn’t learn the same amount as students who took the class for credit.

“I would set my Spanish aside, since I don’t get a grade, when I had other things to do in classes that I got grades in,” Lee said. “They were more important since I was receiving grades for those classes.”

Auditors were treated the same way as regular students. “Auditors are not required to do the same things as students who enroll in a class for credit, but if they do homework, papers, research projects or take tests, I will evaluate them and provide feedback without giving a grade,” De Gregorio said.

If students were just interested in learning a new subject or expanding their potential, then auditing a class was the way to go. “I would encourage many people of all ages to audit classes because it is a great learning experience,” Gaebler said.

Left: Listening intently to her professor, Joyce Lafery audits a Spanish class. Auditing classes was beneficial to students who wanted to freshen up their foreign languages without receiving a grade.

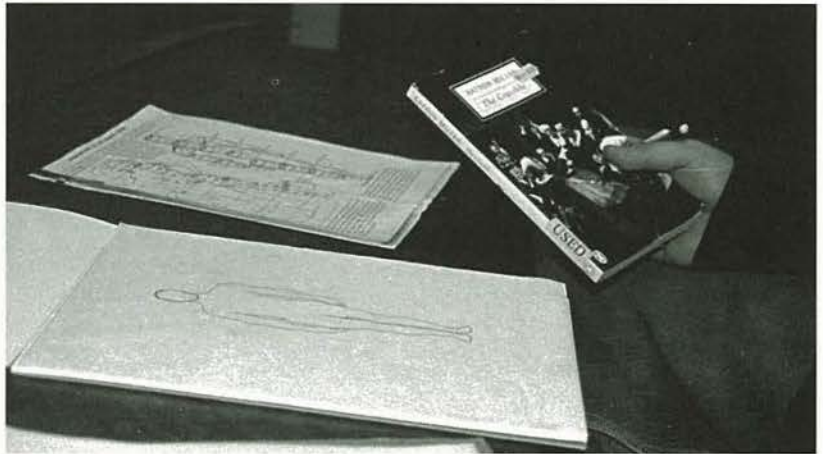
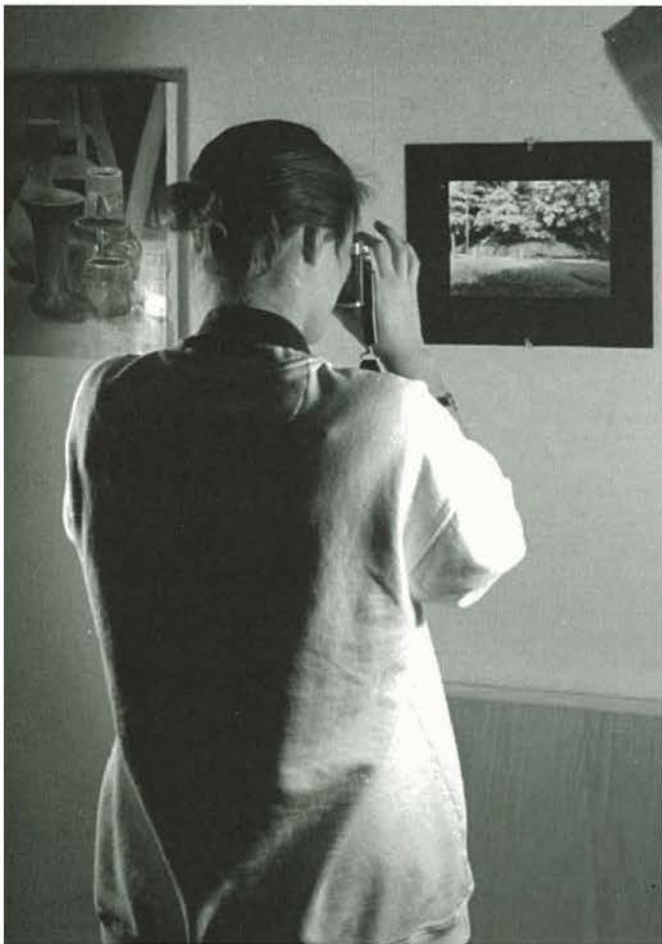
Right: Studying her textbook, Dorothea Gaebler pays close attention in her English class. Auditors and regular students were treated the same.



Freshman Jeff Powell focuses a scope light. Powell majored in technical theatre.

Popular Majors

What do you want to do when you grow up?



story by Stephanie Radel, photos by Jeremy Weikel

College was full of very important decisions—where to live, with whom to live, with whom to be friends and, of course, what to do on Friday night. Of all of these, someone might have lost sight of the most important college decision of all—what exactly do you plan to study? The answer to this important question lay in choosing a major.

Why did a particular student pick a particular major? There were many possible reasons. A student might have chosen his or her field of study based on future pay stability, difficulty or ease of study or even for the pure love of what they do. So, for all of these reasons there had to be certain majors that were more popular than others. What then were they?

"The most popular majors at Missouri Western are criminal justice, education, nursing and the majors that encompass the business field," Judy Fields, institutional research analyst, said. "Of course, the numbers rise and fall hourly with the students enrolling, dropping or changing. Overall, though, the numbers have stayed pretty consistent over the past several years."

Some students who were enrolled in the more popular majors had their own opinions as to why their majors were so popular.

"The nursing program is a very good program to get into right now," Vanessa Vulliet, senior nursing major, said. "People are coming to see that there are many opportunities in the nursing field. There are a lot of different options that you

can do in nursing once you get your degree. The shortage is going to occur soon, so there will be a lot of positions open in the field. The program is very challenging and time consuming, but it is very much worth it all in the end."

Senior Sheila Munyon had her own reasons for choosing her major.

"I chose my business major because I wanted to teach adults English as a second language," Munyon said. "But the school did not offer that, so human resources was the next best thing. There is a high demand, and business is very general. You can do so much with a business degree. Your knowledge can be applied in so many different fields."

When asked what they thought was the most popular major at Western, many students shared the same opinion.

"I think education has to be the most popular of all the majors," sophomore Kim Bax said. "Every time I ask someone what their major is they always seem to say education."

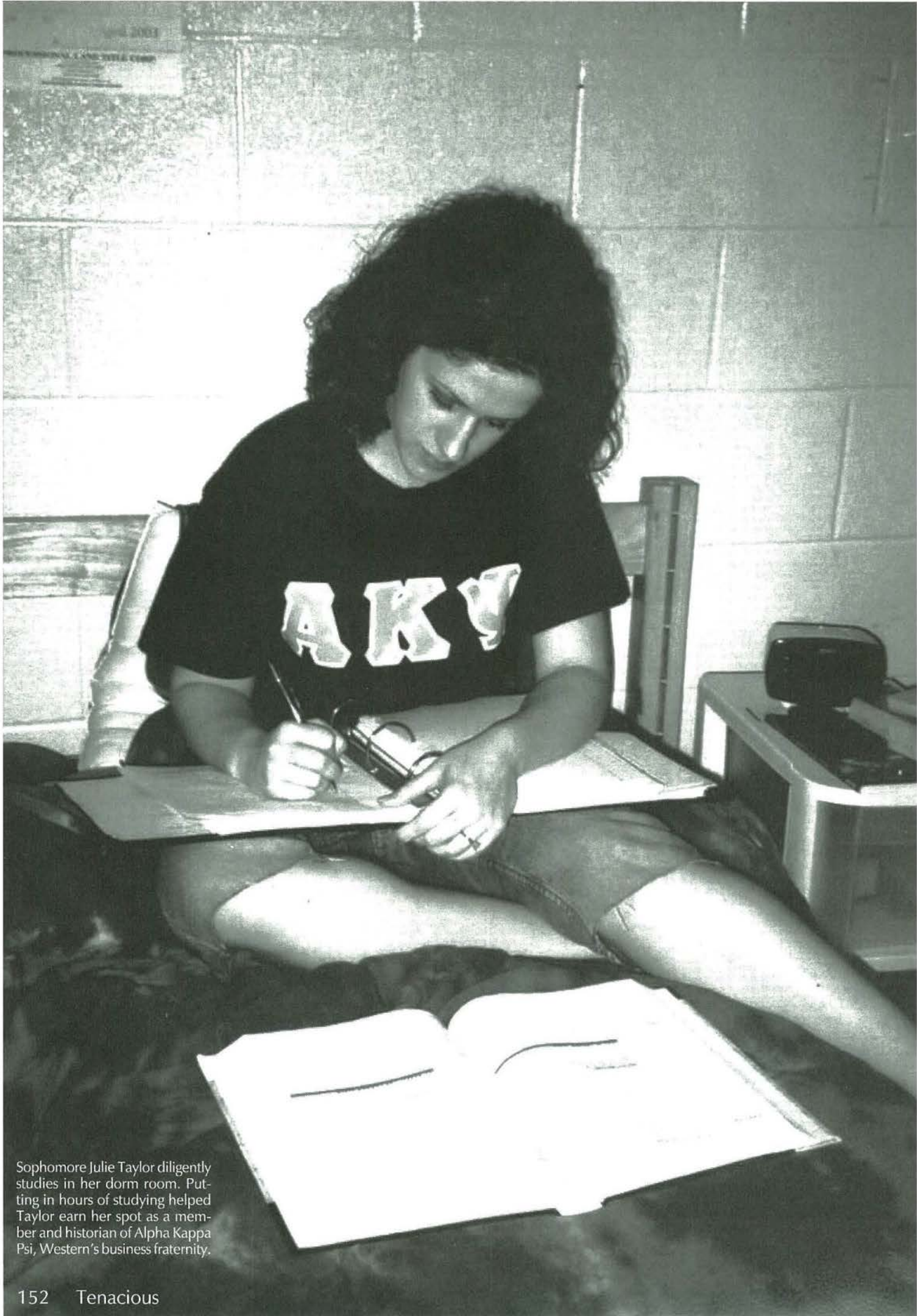
"I think education is so popular because of all of the non-traditional students enrolled in the program," Brandy Bray, senior Education major, said. "They have had previous job experience and have come to realize that they really want to teach. Also, there is so much variety and opportunity in the education field right now."

Despite the overall popularity of certain majors, every student was different. They picked what was right for them.

Top Right: Brandon Carver works on his assignment for costume design. Carver designed many costumes for the college plays.

Bottom Right: Senior Aaron Williams composes a song for his senior concert. Williams, like others in his major, performed a senior concert for graduation credit.

Left: Senior Erin Dunn takes pictures from her senior art gallery. Senior art majors put together portfolios for their exhibit.



Sophomore Julie Taylor diligently studies in her dorm room. Putting in hours of studying helped Taylor earn her spot as a member and historian of Alpha Kappa Psi, Western's business fraternity.

"Hon A Roll"

Excelling academically, some students find their niche in various honors organizations at Western.



Making new friends and increasing one's skills and knowledge in selected areas of study were just a couple benefits students gained from membership in Western's academic honor organizations. Some examples of these honors programs included the following: Alpha Chi, Alpha Kappa Psi, Alpha Mu Gamma, Beta Beta Beta, Kappa Delta Pi, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Omicron Psi, Psi Chi, Sigma Tau Delta and Student Honors Organization. These academic honors organizations only accepted students with certain grade point averages and who completed other specific requirements, which varied from one organization to another.

The main purpose of the academic honors organizations was to recognize deserving students for their excellent academic accomplishments and to encourage growth in the students' chosen areas of study and academic careers.

Each organization participated in varying activities, depending on the subject area on which the organization was based. For example, Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society, offered group activities, such as an outing to Kansas City that included food and music. The group attended the annual jazz festival sponsored by the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music. While enjoying an evening together getting to know each other, the students also learned about jazz, the language of music and about the lives of American immigrants.

Activities like these enabled students to get to know others who share the same interests and spend time learning and growing together.

Senior Brandy Bray found that one of the most beneficial aspects of being an honors organization member was the relationships formed with other students. "If you do activities

together, it helps you socially to get to know other people," she said.

Bray was a member of four honors organizations: Alpha Chi, Student Honors Organization (SHO), Psi Chi and Kappa Delta Pi. She had been president of both Alpha Chi and SHO and held other leadership positions in the organizations. She felt that being a member of SHO provided several advantages for students.

"The Student Honors Organization is like having your own community here on campus," Bray said. "We do a lot of things as a group, and you really get to know each other. It also gave me a chance to be involved as a leader."

Senior Sheila Munyon was another SHO member. Besides SHO, Munyon was also a member of Alpha Chi and the president of Alpha Mu Gamma, and she also held other leadership positions in these organizations. Munyon found several reasons to accept the prestigious invitation to join these groups.

"They provide a great opportunity for socializing with students who have similar interests. In fact, I met my wonderful roommates through my involvement in SHO," she said. "They also look great on a resumé and offer opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills."

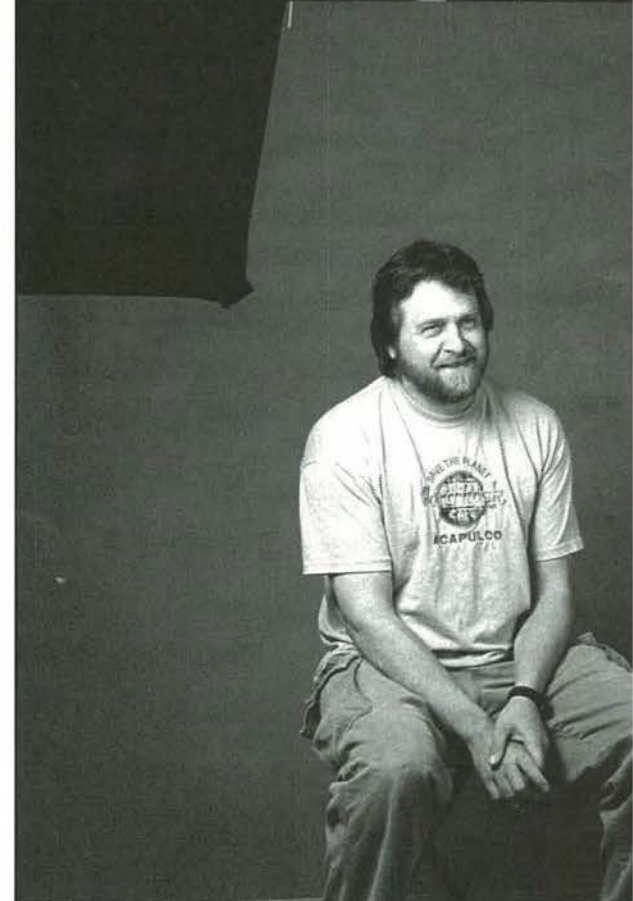
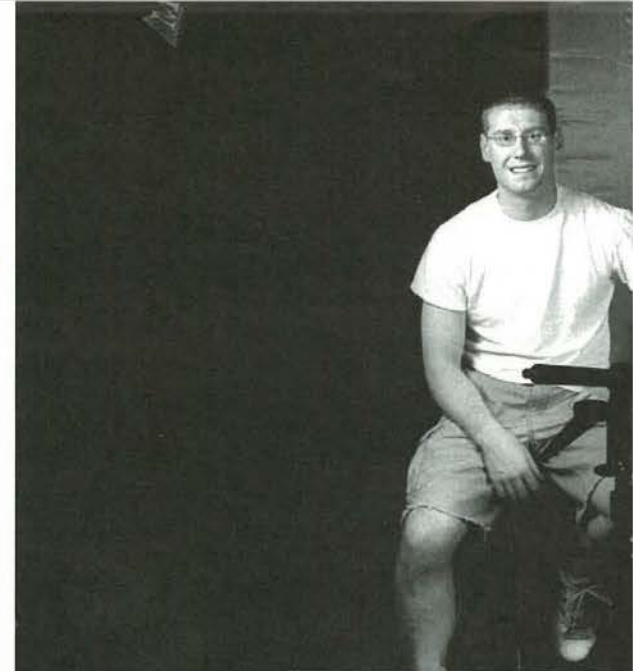
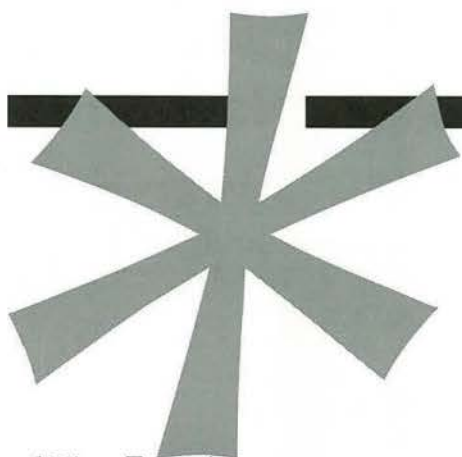
Another honors organization member was sophomore Julie Taylor, historian of Alpha Kappa Psi, Western business fraternity. Taylor found that being a member of Alpha Kappa Psi helped her improve her personal skills. "It helps you with your organizational skills, leadership skills and to have confidence in your ideas," she said. "It also helps with making connections into the business world for a future job."

Left: Elizabeth Evans discuss Sigma Tau Delta business with Lucas Chisam. Evans was this year's president and Chisam will be next year's vice-president. Photo by Ashley Reynolds. Top right: Working as a Griffon Edge Intern, senior Brandy Bray balances her time between work, school, and other commitments. Bray was a member of four academic honor organizations. Bottom right: Senior Sheila Munyon studies in her dorm. Dedication to her schoolwork was one contributing factor to Munyon's high grade point average.

Personalities

I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I have just lived the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well.

~ Diane Ackerman





Friday's Dream

Amos and Greseth stand by their ideas. Christian music was the way that they chose to reach people.





Friday's Dream

story by Tanisha Washington

Aside from being full-time students, Justin Amos and Chris Gresetth also found time to pursue their dream of playing in a band

photographed by Ashley Reynolds

Friday's Dream



Right: Loud guitar riffs hit the crowd along with the band's message. They worked hard to please the crowd with their performances. Bottom Right: A long-standing friendship keeps Amos and Greseth together. However, individuality set them apart at times. Bottom: Amos woos the crowd with his impressive drumming. Being in a band was hard work, but they maintained their scholastic standings.



Performing all the time for hundreds of screaming fans is what freshmen Chris Greseth and Justin Amos said they love most about being in a band.

On Dec. 16, 2000, the group Friday's Dream was formed in a local coffee shop by Greseth and Amos. The third member, bass guitarist Adam Thornton, later joined them.

"We wanted to begin a rock band because, being rock fans, we have attended many concerts ourselves and have seen the impact that bands have on people's lives," Greseth said. "We decided that we want to be the people on the stage in front of thousands giving them an experience of a lifetime and leaving them breathless after each show."

This student band set forth to record the album without an average producer. The band already knew how they wanted to shape their album as well as how they wanted it to sound.

Producing their own record required hard work and practice from the group as a whole. "We practice at least three times a week for two and a half hours," lead guitarist and vocalist Greseth said.

Even though they put a large amount of time into their band, they still faced problems that in the future could eventually be solved.

"The hardest part about being in a band is not being signed to a major label," Amos, the band's drummer, said. "However, we are currently in contact with booking agents and record labels to help us take our career to the world

and make the dream a reality for everyone."

Being in a student band, other students were glad that Greseth and Amos made the accomplishments they hoped for while also attending college.

"Chris has been able to push through a degree yet continue to follow his dreams through his music," freshman Megan Johnston said.

Johnston's twin sister, who went with her to a majority of Friday's Dream performances, felt the same about Amos.

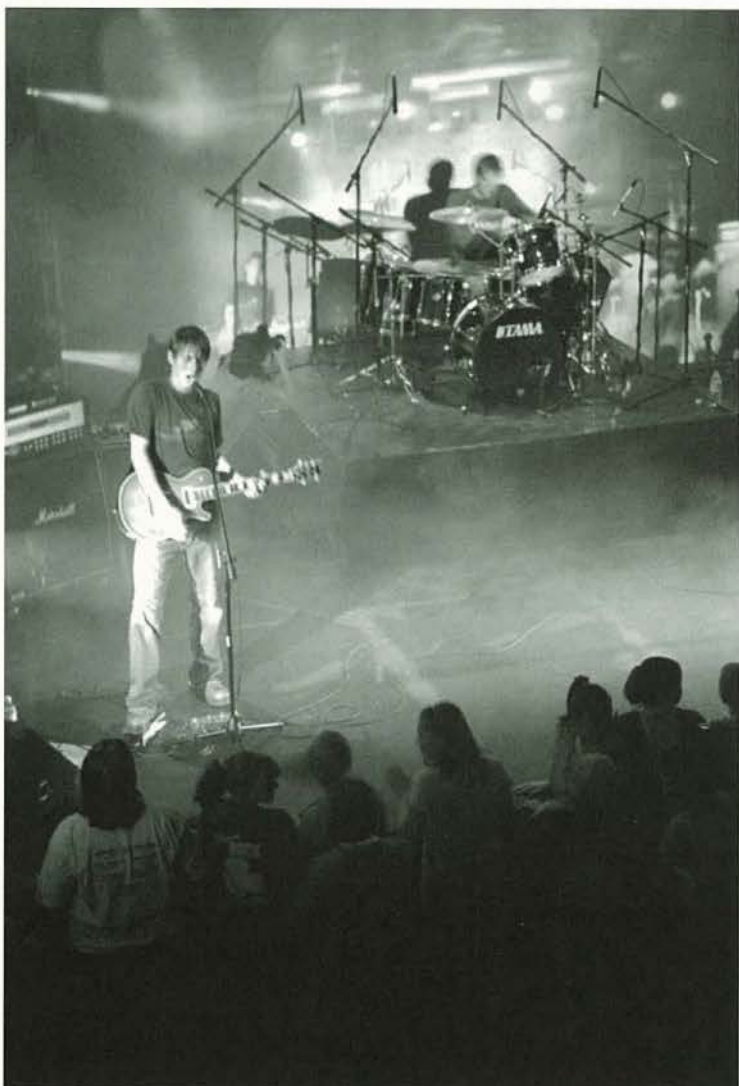
"Justin obviously does a great job in balancing his education while maintaining his goal of playing with Friday's Dream," freshman Ashley Johnston said. "In my mind, he takes on his talents very well. He understands the importance of education, yet he finds the time not only to perform on the weekends, but also to practice and continue to write songs. Justin is a great role model and has a unique opportunity to touch people's lives."

The band worked hard to distribute its album and couldn't have been more excited for the future of the band and its fans.

"The most important thing everyone should know about being in a band is there are two types of bands, those who want to take it to the world and those who want to stay local," Greseth said. "People need to know that it takes a great amount of work ethic and perseverance to succeed in a band. Another great thing people should know is that it's not about the band; it's about the fans and the people they play to."



Left: Greseth, a lover of rock music, strives to give the crowd an experience to last a lifetime. The band was formed in a coffee shop. Bottom Left: The band strives to produce their own album. They embarked on a tough journey, because they wanted full creative control of their sound and style. Bottom: Amos strums his guitar for the crowd. The band was formed on Dec. 16, 2000.



Leon Davis

Having gone through tough times as a child, Davis decided to give St. Joseph children a chance at a better life. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.





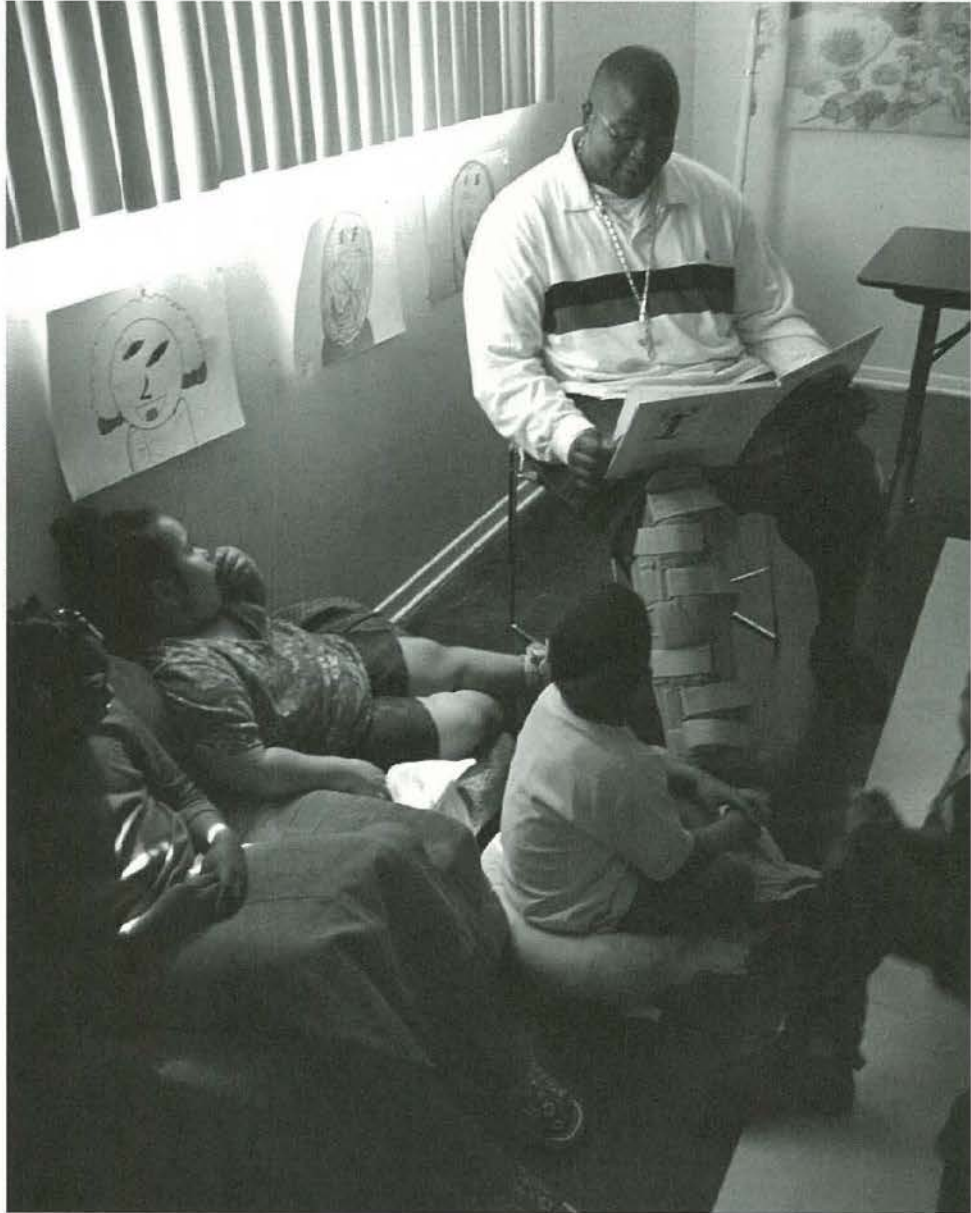
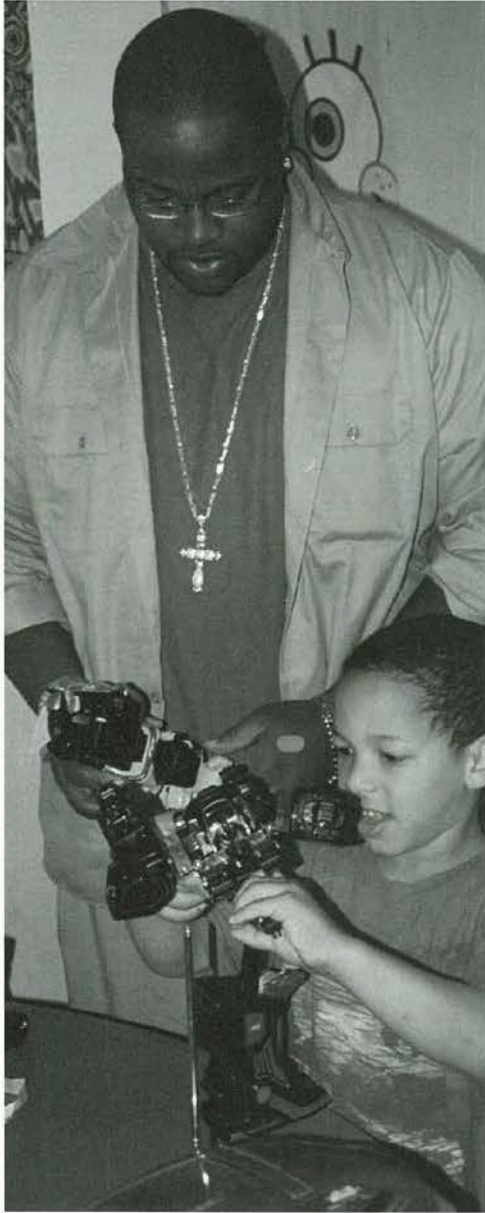
Tough Love

story by Angela Smith

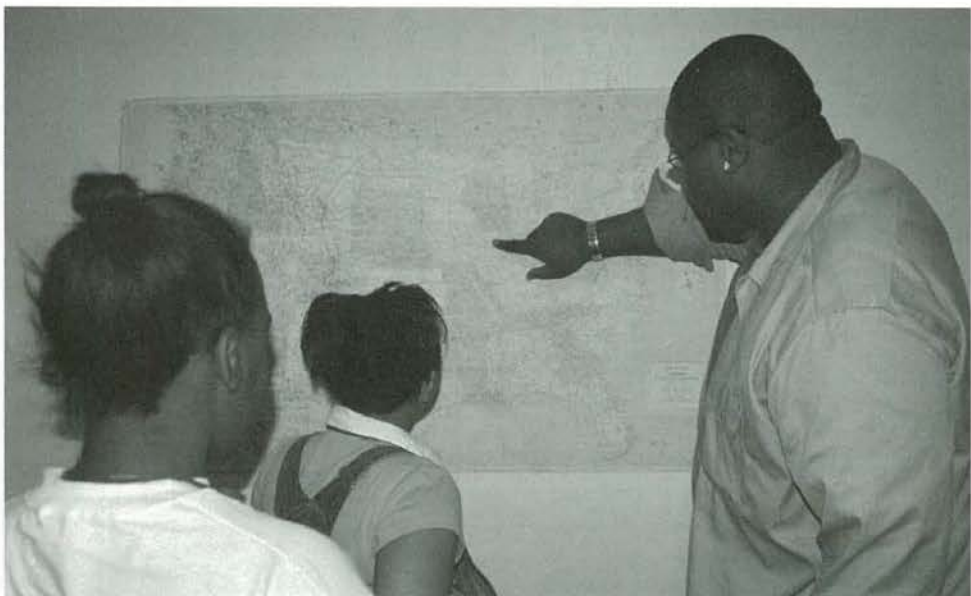
Using hard life lessons as fuel, this student strives to encourage and educate children, giving them hope

photographed by Tiffanie Boessen

Leon Davis



Below: Davis watches one of the children play with a toy. The child showed Davis how the toy could transform. Top left: Story time is a favorite among the children. Davis often read a classic children's book. Bottom left: Davis shows the children where they live on the map. The kids enjoyed showing where they had traveled.



There he is, 6 feet 3 inches in stature and roughly 280 pounds. His name is Leon Quinton "Heaven" Davis. African-American, Caucasian and Hispanic kids surround him. They range in age from 5 to 12 years old. The kids all look guilty; they have sneaky smirks plastered on their faces. "As you are all aware, I have put up posters in hopes of the return of my Pickachu and Angel," Davis said.

A few of the little boys snickered with both of their hands criss-crossed over their mouths.

"It's not funny," Davis said. "Who ever can give me a tip that leads to the return of my hamsters will receive a \$50 reward."

The face of one of the little boys lit up as if he just had an ingenious thought. It was obvious that he either stole the hamsters or he knew who had the hamsters. He had a mischievous Dennis-the-Menace look about him.

"They've been stealing my hamsters at least once a week for the last month," Davis said. "I love those hamsters, and the kids know it."

Davis, 24, was from St. Louis, Mo. He was raised in an extremely low-income, single-parent home.

"My mom would go to the churches around the neighborhood," Davis said. "The churches would give out vouchers to needy families in the neighborhood for groceries and things like that. Even though we were poor, we always had enough because we had each other. In the end, that's all you really need. Working here at the 'Y' allows me to help kids not be the way I was when I was younger. I want them to be able to avoid the ups and downs that I experienced when I was younger."

That day, Leon took the kids on a field trip to a local museum.

"You've got one chance to act a fool, and I'm going to turn this bus right back around," Davis said. "And that will be the end of this field trip, apeshe?"

"Capeshe," the kids said in unison.

The bus was ready to leave.

"What song do you all want to listen to?" Davis asked.

The kids yelled out everything from Snoop Dogg's latest hit to Brandy's old hit, "Full Moon."

"How about Nas?" Davis asked.

"Yeah," the kids said.

"You all know I helped Nas write this song, don't you all?" Davis said.

"Yeah right," the kids said.

The kids laughed and continued to call Davis, or Big-L as his friends called him, a liar. Davis popped in the Nas tape, and the bus turned into a live rap contest.

Davis, so into the song, pulled the bus over and danced in the middle aisle.

"As much as these kids can get on my nerves, they sure do bring out the kid in me," Davis said. "They love it when I dance."

The bus pulled up in front of the Pony Express Museum.

"You all ready to go learn something?" Davis asked.

"No," said the same group of boys who were snickering in the classroom about the missing hamsters.

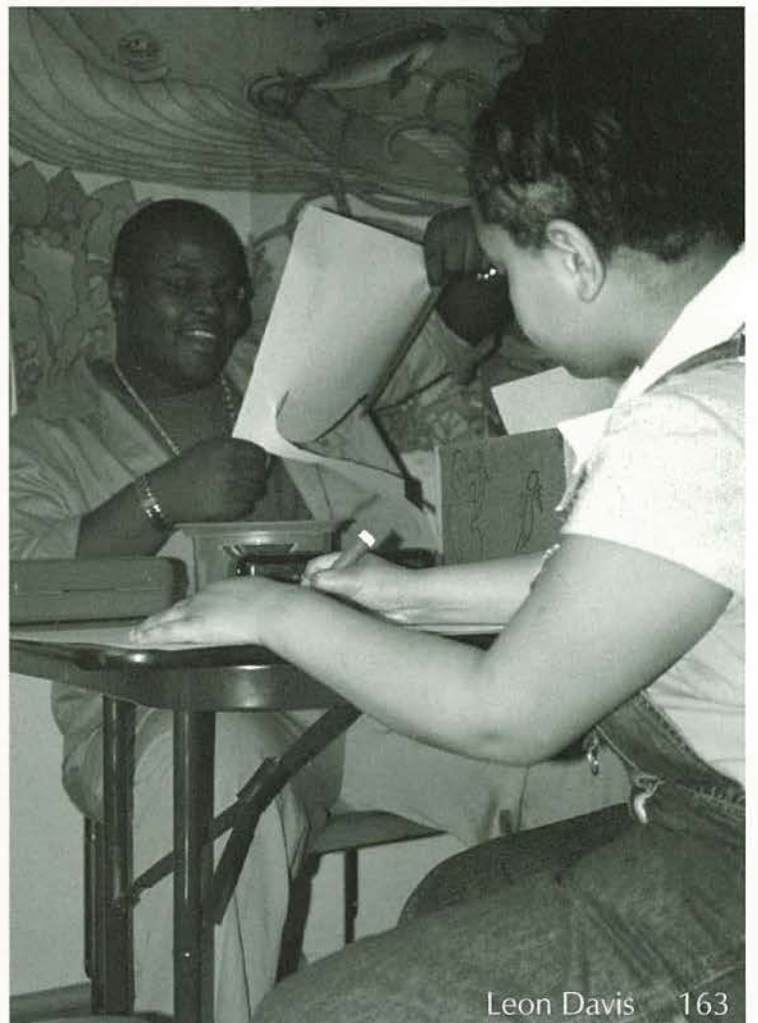
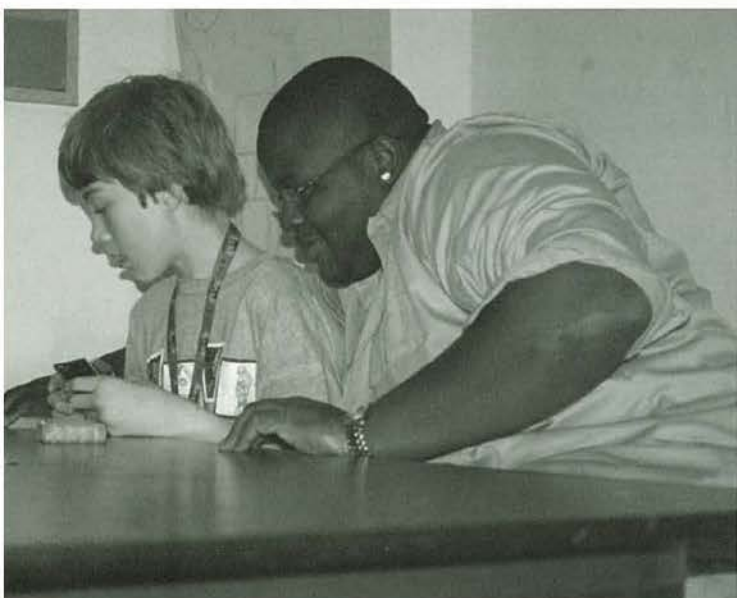
"The day you wake up and realize that there is nothing else to learn, you should be afraid, so don't ever say you're not ready to learn anything," Davis said.

The kids all paid attention and nodded their heads in agreement with Davis' philosophy. Soon after, they all unloaded the bus and headed into the museum.

"When I was growing up my mom always showed me tough love," Davis said. "I try to do the same thing with the kids. I ride them hard, but it's all in love. Hopefully, they understand that."

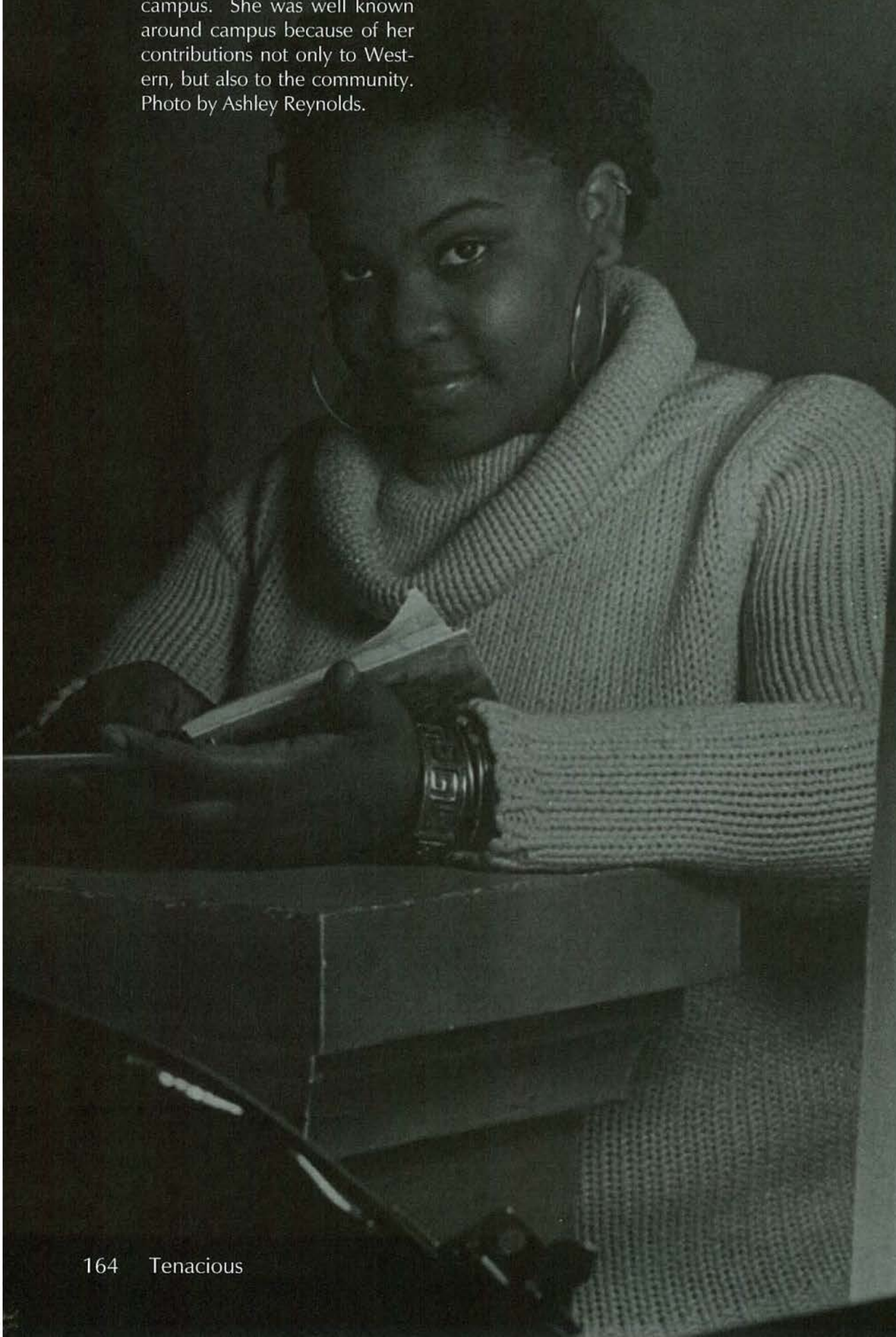


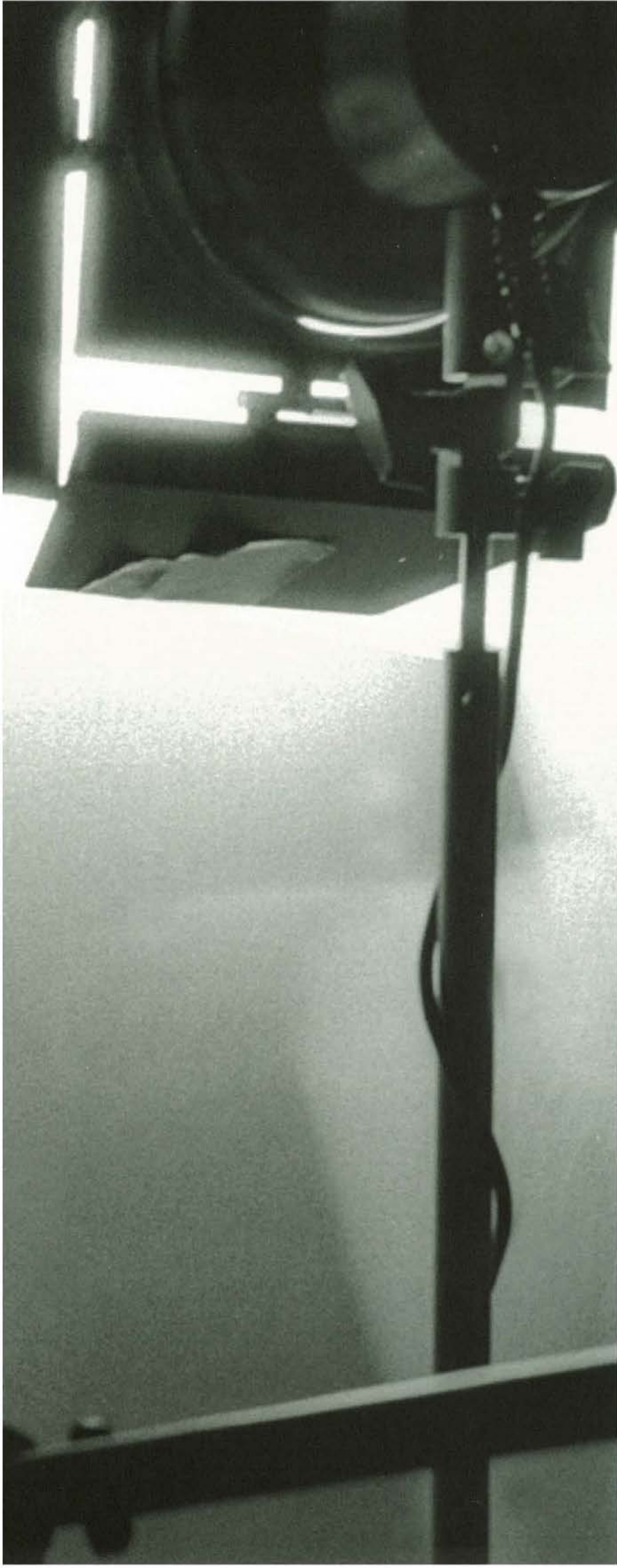
Top right: Davis plays parachute with the kids at the YMCA. He utilized the nice weather and took the kids outside. Bottom right: Davis assists a child in an educational game. Davis enjoyed every aspect of his job. Below: Leon enjoys making crafts with the kids. They cut circles and hearts out of paper to help them learn their shapes.



Jenny Jones

Jones is one of Western's elite, a student very active on and off of campus. She was well known around campus because of her contributions not only to Western, but also to the community. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.





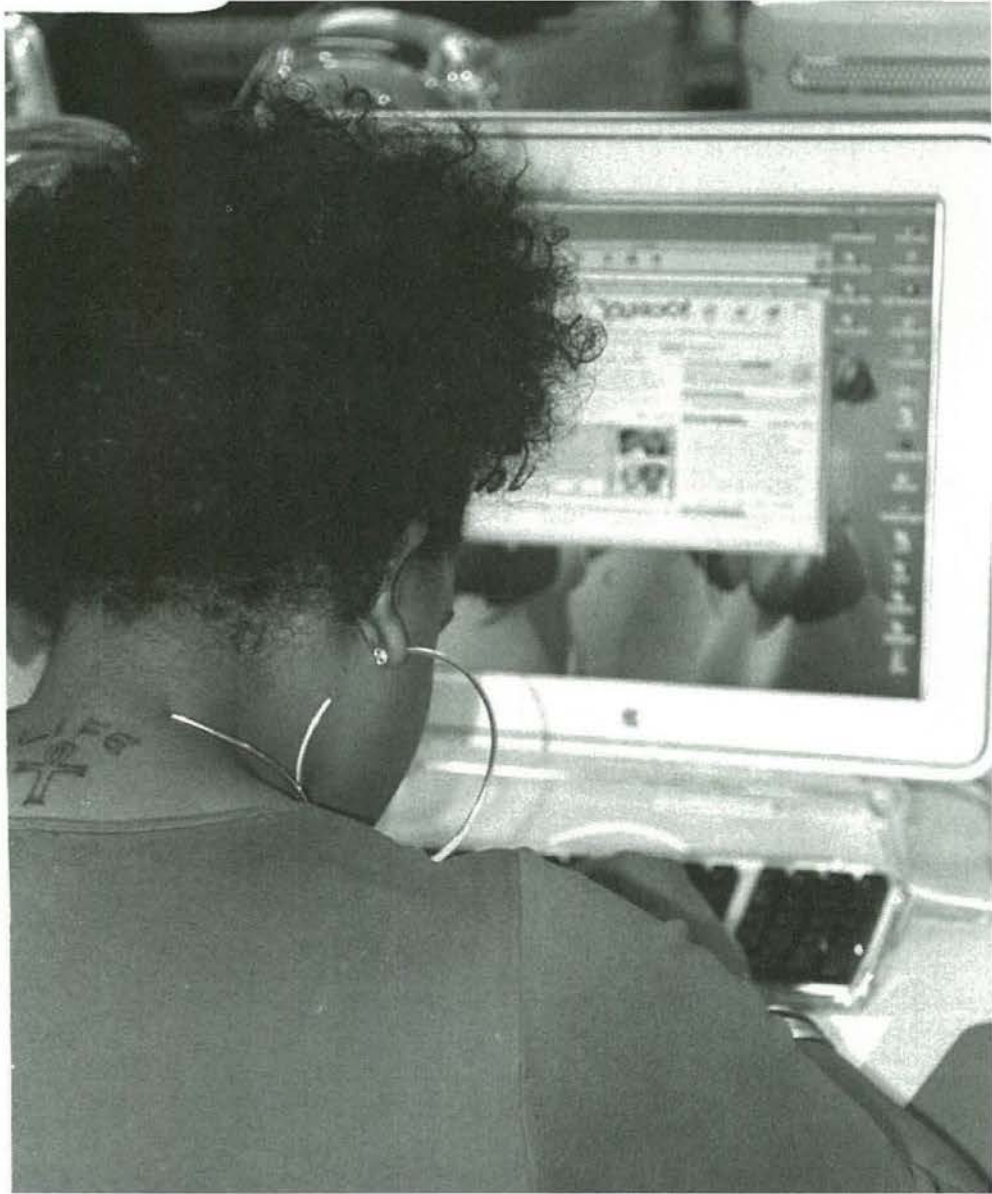
Through & Through

story by Rashad Givhan

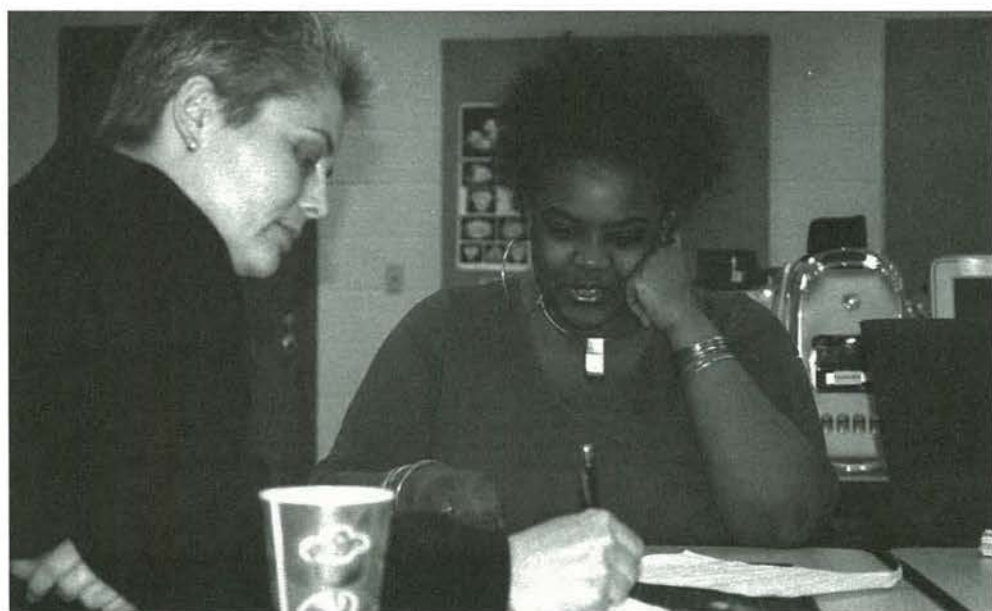
*a dedicated student
within her school and
the community*

photographed by Tiffanie Boessen

Jenny Jones



Top Right: Jones explores the computers in the Thompson E. Potter Fine Arts building. She found lots of useful information that helped her accomplish her task. Bottom Right: Jones receives a helping hand from art professor Joyce Moore. Graphic arts was a major part of Jones' life. Below: Jones directs Rashaunda Walker in the auditions for "The Colored Museum." Jones felt this play was important because it highlighted her ethnic background.



The daughter of a former clown and a graphic artist, Jennifer "Jenny" Jones, 19, had a life much different than most. Jones chose to combine her unique life lessons to make a sorted masterpiece that was all her own, unleashing her eclectic flair on Western's campus.

Jones, a sophomore, came to Western in the fall of 2001, and she felt at she made the right decision. "It was affordable, and they offered my major," she said.

A graphic design major, Jones felt she inherited her artistic talent.

"My father inspired me because he was a commercial artist," she said. "Everybody in my family can draw. I guess it's in the genes."

She enjoyed art, as it helped transport her to another dimension and express other facets of her character.

"I step out of myself," she said. "When I draw, it's my world - it's freedom."

Her father, creator of the first Black Pages layout in Kansas City, Mo., and former co-owner of a T-shirt design shop, was not the only one who passed along his artistic genes. Jones also admired her mother's creative wit.

"Acting comes from my mother," she said. "She was in an acting troupe in Kansas City, and she also started her own production company, Over the Moon Productions."

It was no surprise that Jones felt her home was unlike most, as it was filled with laughter and a great deal of interaction. She recalled one of her many capers with her mother, Lollipop the Clown.

"My mother couldn't find a babysitter for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, so she had to put me in the parade with her," she said. "She dressed me as Lollipop."

Things were also serious for Jones. Highly involved in campus orga-

nizations, such as the Black History Month Committee, Campus Activities Board, Food Services Committee, NAACP and Residence Council, Jones felt time management was important.

"I have so many to-do lists," she said. "If you want things done, you have to be on top of them."

Junior Angela Smith, a business management major, was an intern in the Office of Unity Services and worked with Jones on several occasions.

"She was a constant volunteer in the office," Smith said. "She is very interesting, very charismatic. She lights up a room."

However, Jones recalled a time in her life when things weren't so bright.

"There was a dark cloud in my teenage years in which I had struggles with my family, primarily my mother," she said. "During these struggles is when I found my sturdy foundation in Christ."

The cliché, "every cloud has a silver lining," held true for Jones.

"We had our ups and downs," she said. "Now we're closer than before."

But her life lessons did not stop there. Jones also faced issues with her health.

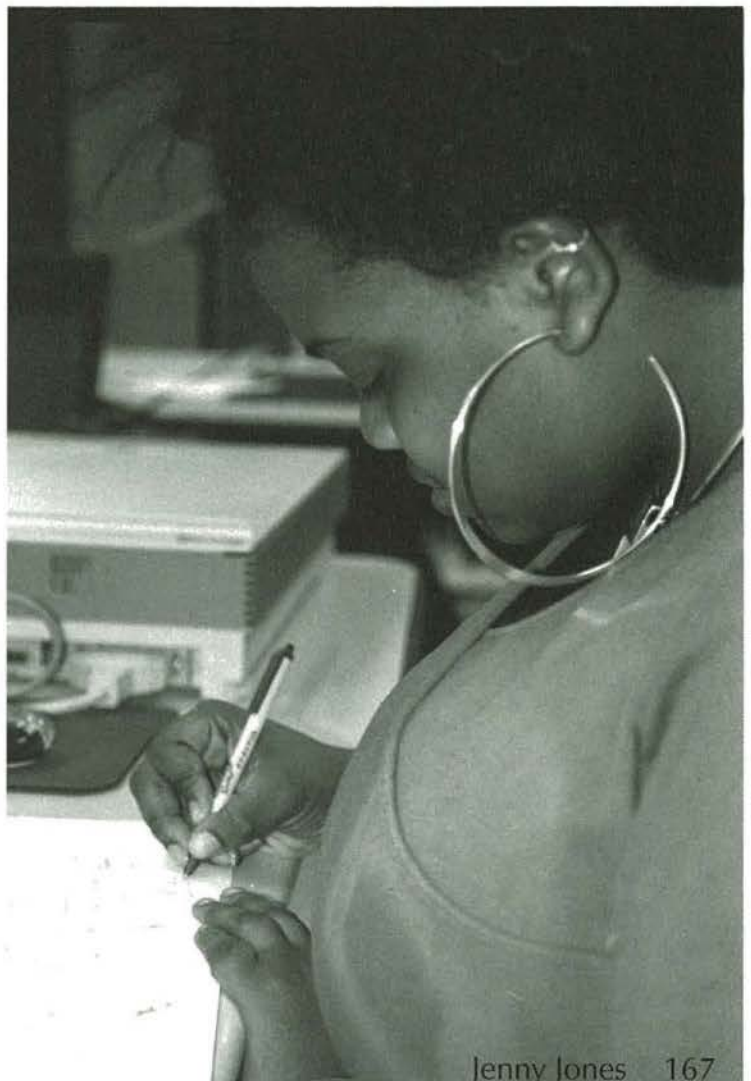
"Health problems made me more appreciative of the things I had in my life," she said. "Life is short. Things can happen, and we can be taken away."

Reflecting on past struggles, Jones looked at life from a newfound perspective.

"One thing that keeps me going is that I truly believe everything happens for a reason and in its season," she said. "When people would ask me how I was doing, I'd say, 'I'm breathing and blinking - I'm doing great.' For me, especially now, I genuinely mean that."

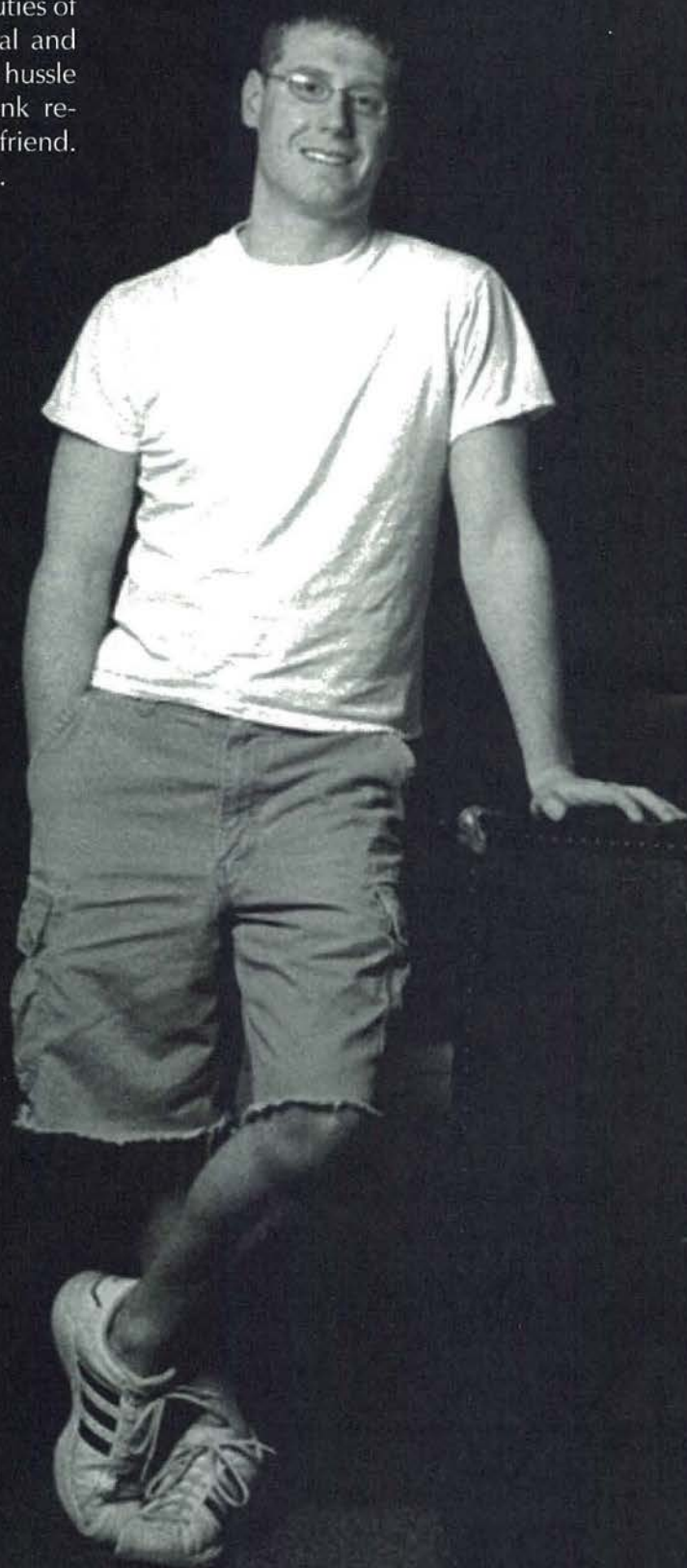


Top Left: Jones is honored to be a judge for the Black History Month Play. She enjoyed all the competition she saw. Bottom Left: Jones spends time hanging out with friends. For a stress reliever she enjoyed taking time out for herself. Below: Working diligently, Jones finishes her project. Jones was confident in herself and ready to tackle any challenge.



Tyson Shank

Highly involved on campus, he manages to balance the duties of his academic, professional and social life. Adding to the hustle and bussle of his life, Schank recently proposed to his girlfriend. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.





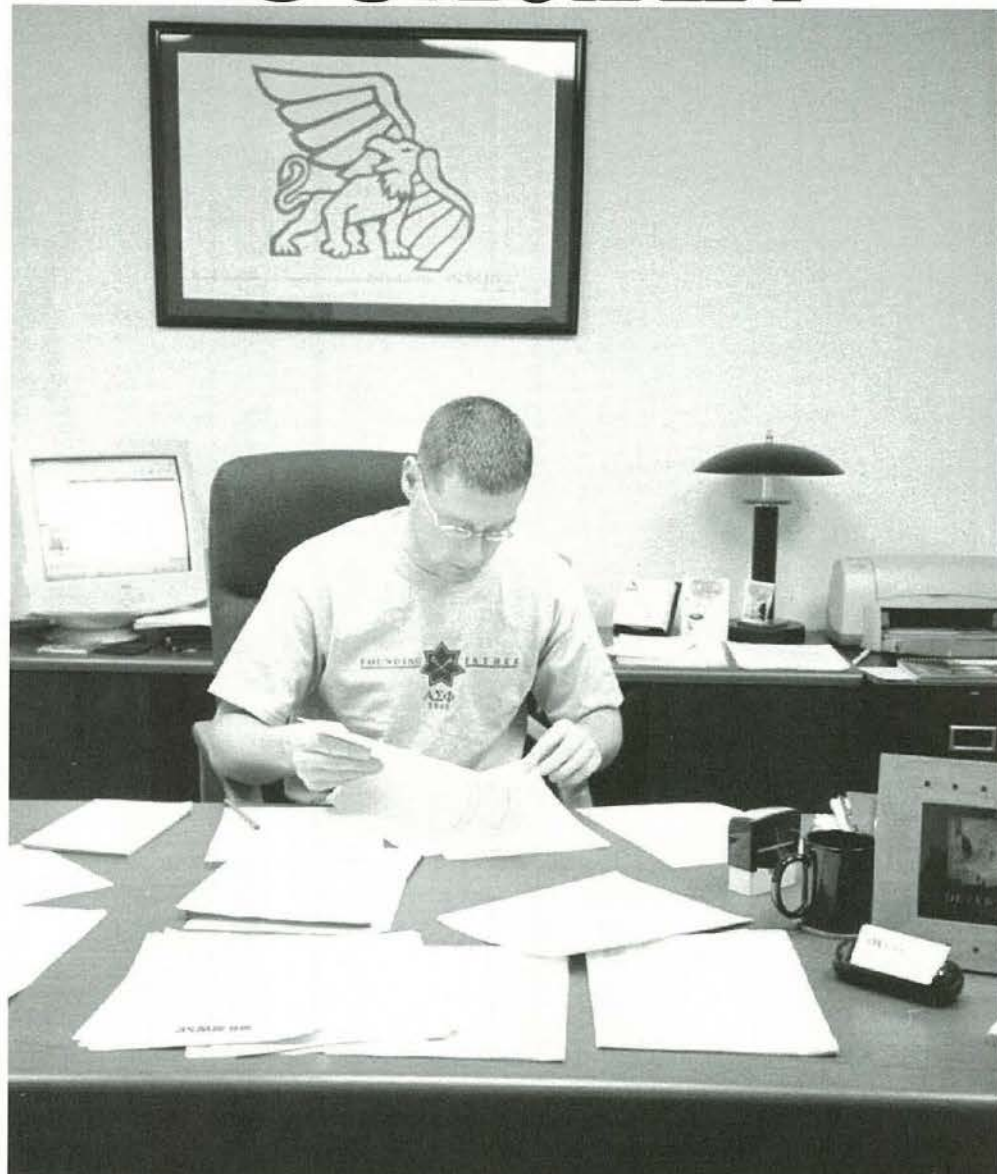
Balancing Act

story by Sara Barbosa

Although time was scarce, Tyson Schank learned to prioritize the important things

photographed by
Tiffanie Boessen and
Erin Hulin

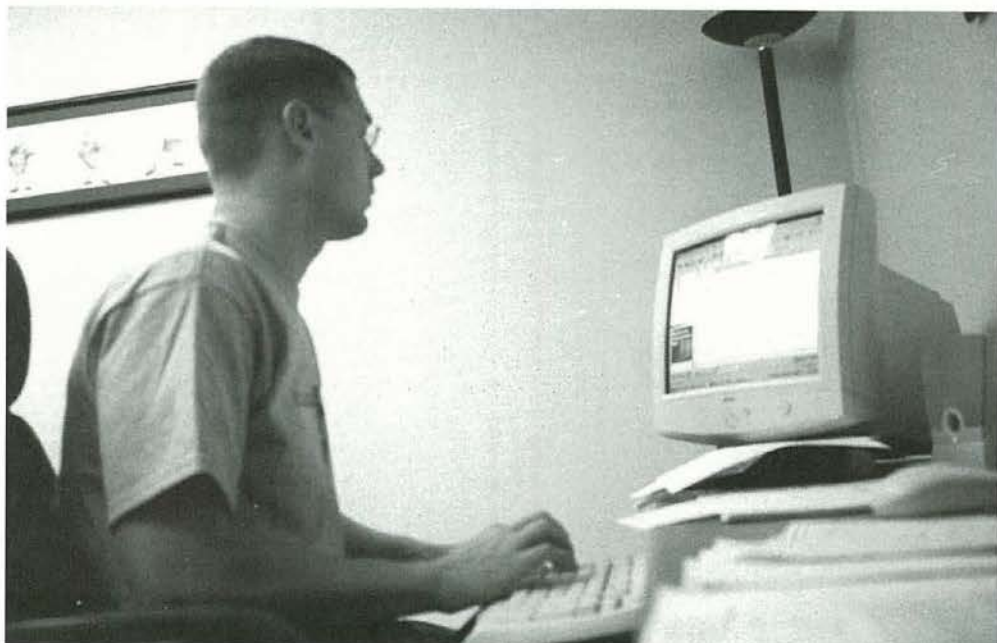
Tyson Schank



Top Right: Sitting at a desk covered with forms and other paperwork, Tyson Schank prepares for his next project. Schank's involvement in several organizations kept him busy.

Bottom Right: Concentrating on his daily routine as an admissions representative, Schank strives to complete every task before him. Schank's goal was to make good use of his time.

Below: Schank visits with fellow VIPs before a routine visit day. It was not uncommon for VIPs to brief each other on the day's schedule.



Time management was of utmost importance to senior business major Tyson Schank. He was involved in many areas of Western, and he served the campus in several capacities. For example, he was the president of Alpha Kappa Psi, an Admissions Representative, a Western VIP intern and a Student Government Association senator. Schank, when he was not busy with campus activities, admitted to being a "karaoke maniac" and could stand behind a microphone to sing whatever.

"What people see at different meetings is so totally not what I'm like when I'm with my friends," Schank said. "I'm a laid-back guy. I go with the flow and take things as they come."

Schank, in his Admissions Representative position, shared his excitement for the incoming freshmen and their choice to come into the college environment each new semester with Tara Klocke, another admissions representative.

Schank's active involvement with the Student Government Association included the academic committee, which represented and led the student body on issues of great importance. Some of those issues were leadership, a pilot book rental program to replace the expenses that college students must pay each new semester and an increased SGA fee to cover the cost of other similar programs.

"As part of the academic committee we make sure advisors are doing their job to provide the benefits and convenience that the college students will need to get through each semester," Schank said. "I'd have to say I love what I do."

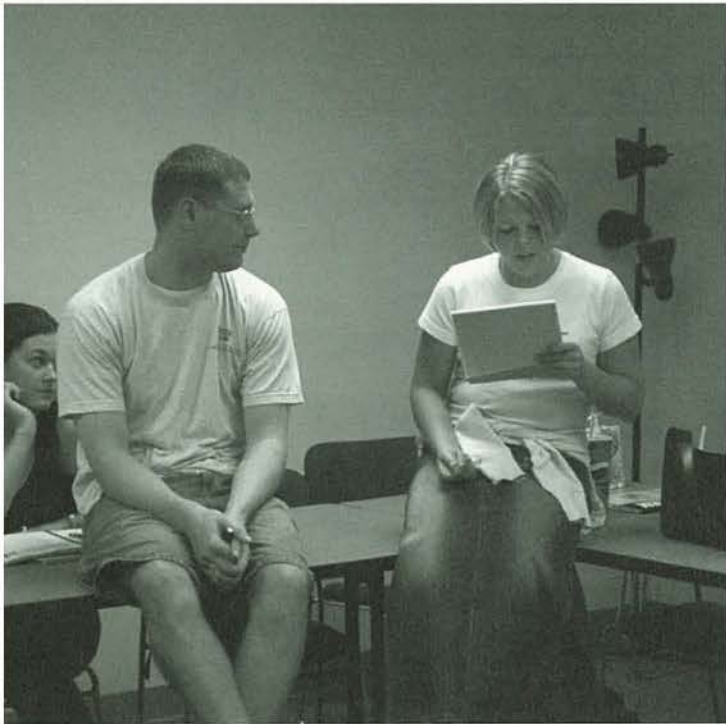
Schank majored in General Business and planned to continue in school to work toward a master's of business administration.

In order to complete his degree and accomplish his goals, Schank developed a pattern of prioritizing and managing his valuable time. Doing so enabled him to maintain success in the classroom and in his peer relations.

"As far as personal management tools I use, I write everything down in a planner," Schank said. "If it's not in the planner, it doesn't happen, and I check things off as completed and record the things that need to be done on the next day's agenda. But I don't look too far into the future."

The extracurricular activities sometimes blocked the amount of time he had for family and friends, but he made them just as important and took all the time he could to see them.

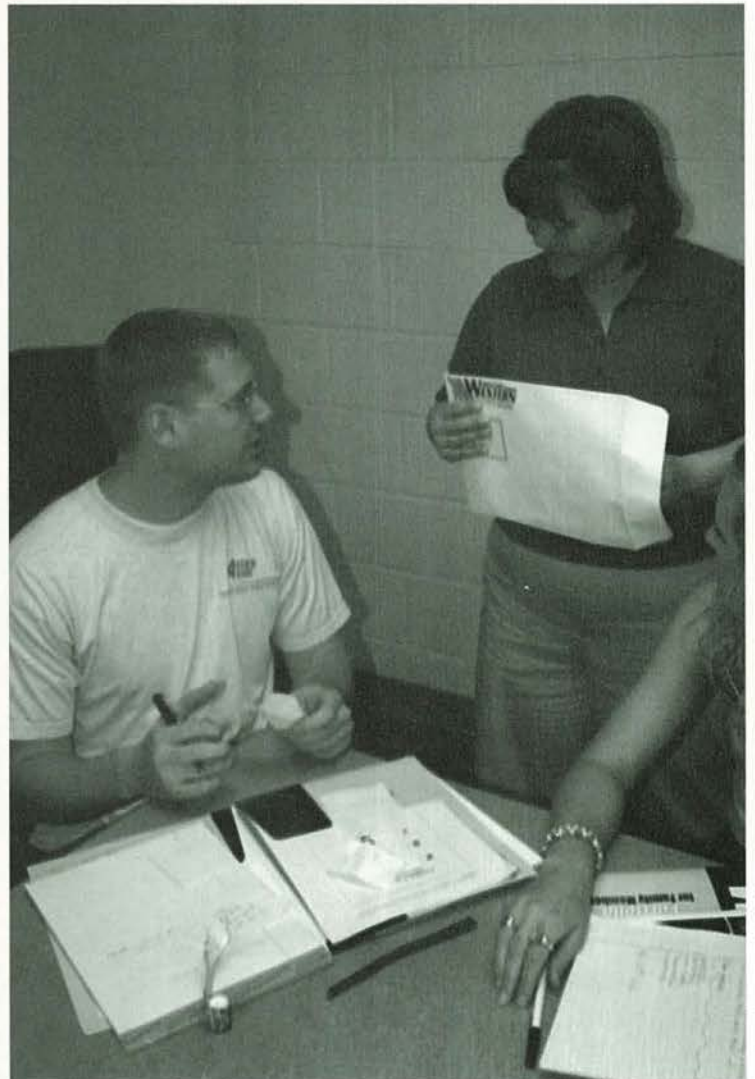
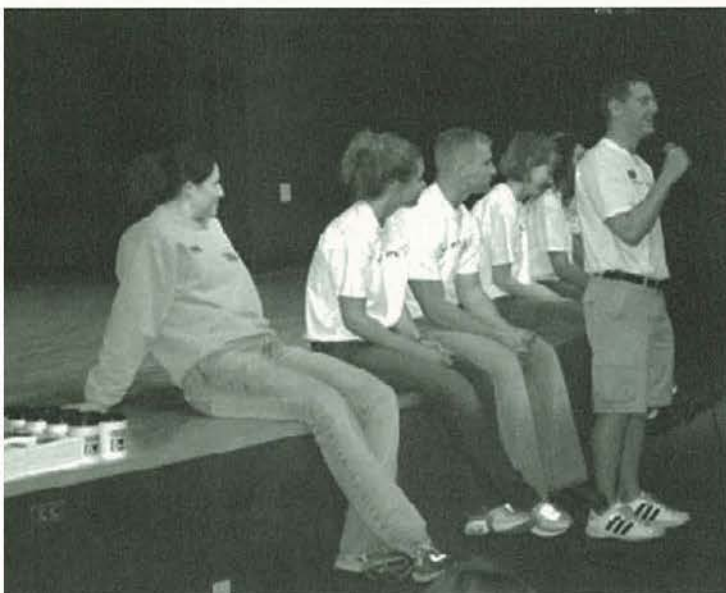
"I get a lot of my values from my mom," Schank said. "I look at her caring characteristic and try my very best to help others through community service, and I don't like to place myself above anybody."



Left: Schank consults with his staff for new techniques on orienting students. Mary Leslie worked in the Admissions Office and corresponded with Schank on a daily basis.

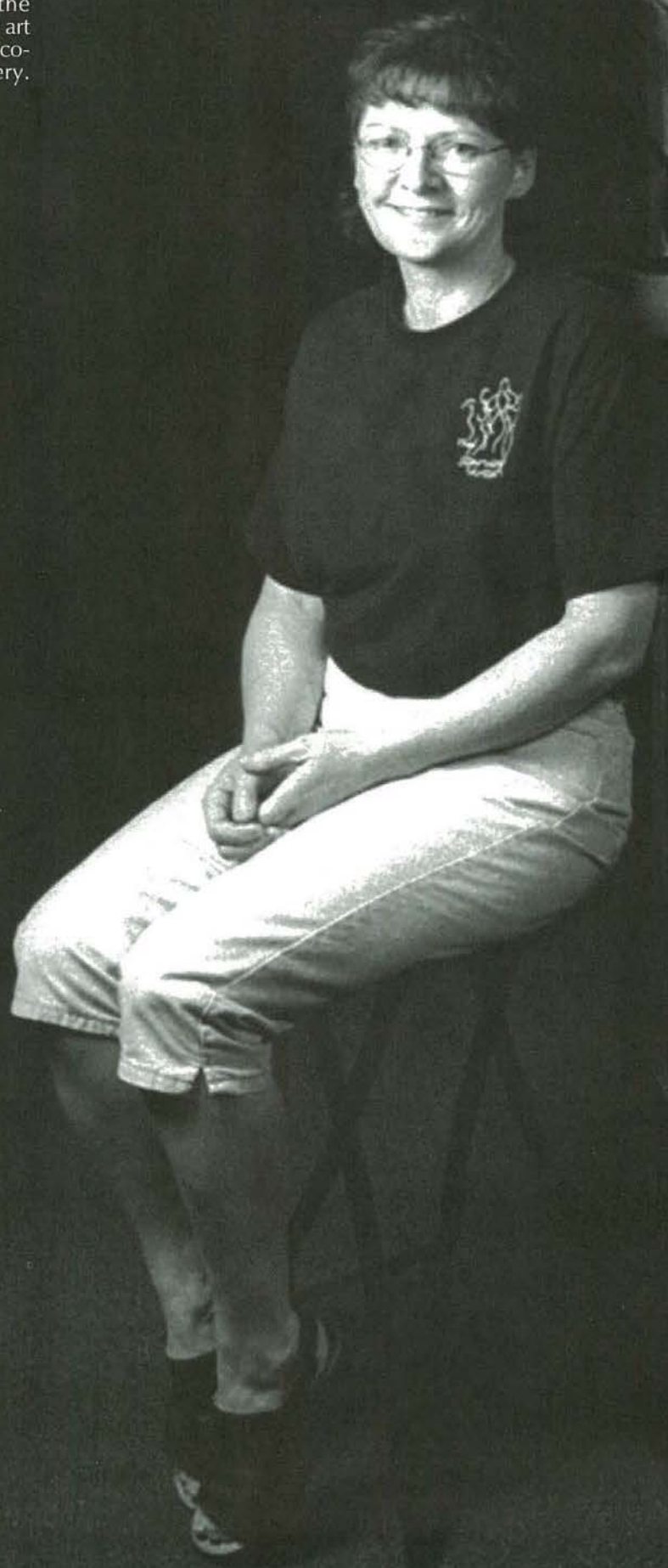
Bottom Left: Schank welcomes prospective students. Schank felt it was important to make the tours as comfortable and welcoming as possible.

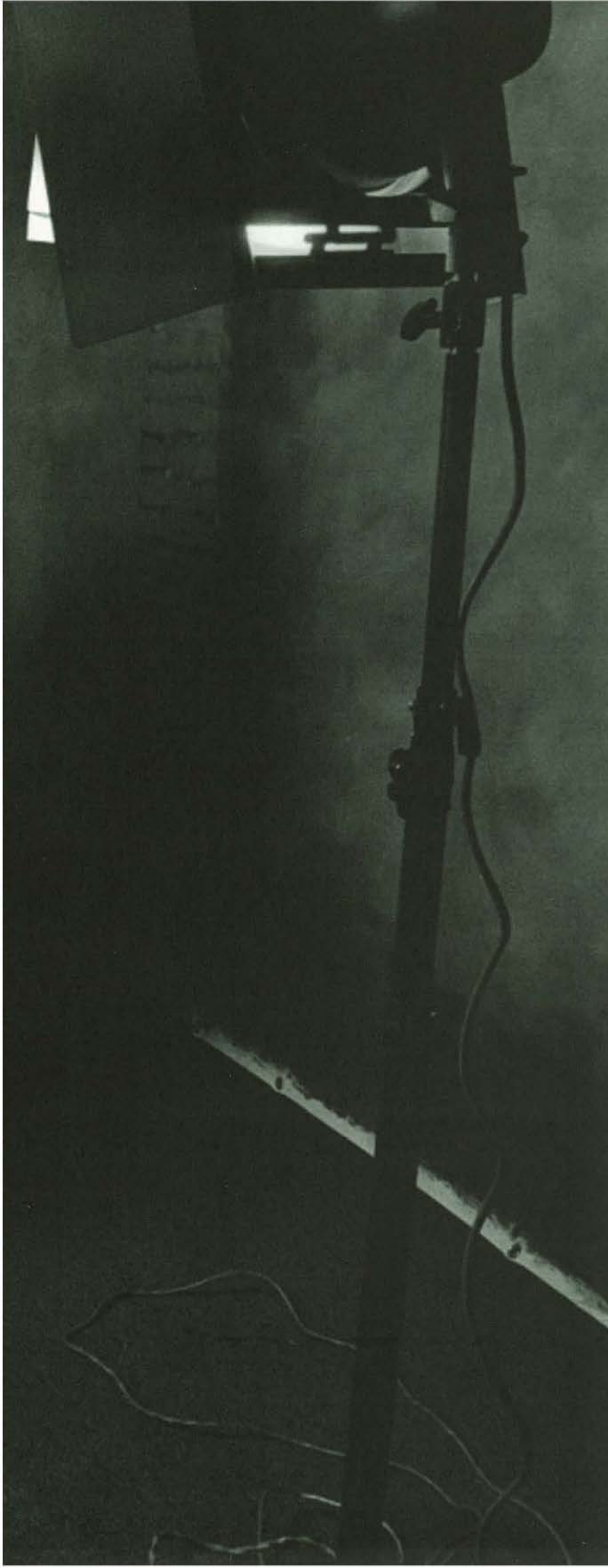
Below: Schank and assistant Laurel Homedale speak about Western policies. Schank had been an orientations assistant for two years.



Jane Travis

Returning to college, Travis pursues her dreams and even accomplishes some along the way. Travis not only studied art at Western but was also a co-owner of a local art gallery. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.





Role Model

story by Shawn Kiehl

Jane Travis is one of the many non-traditional students that others can look up to

photographed by
Deliese Brewster and Starr Gann

Jane Travis



Above: Molding a piece of pottery, Travis works on an assignment for class. Travis was an art major and focused mostly on ceramics. Top right: Travis focuses on a piece of pottery in progress. Ceramics was one of Travis' most enjoyable passions. Photos by Deliese Brewster. Right: Travis stands with the other two co-founders of The Starving Artist art Gallery in downtown St. Joseph. The three women were all non-traditional students at Western. Photo by Starr Gann.



"I think that if you want to do quality work, you have to spend the extra time," junior Jane Travis said.

Jane Travis did spend the extra time, over and over again. Since the fall semester of 2000, Travis spent many hours on her artwork, her family, work study and co-founding an art gallery in downtown St. Joseph. However, it was not her first time in a college atmosphere.

Travis attended college right out of high school for two years. She majored in physical education until she withdrew to get married. The marriage didn't last because of her young age, but Travis remarried and had two girls and a boy.

Travis worked a number of jobs dealing with crafts and sewing until she received a job at Quaker Oats in St. Joseph. It was through Quaker Oats that Travis received the opportunity to attend Western. She worked forty hours a week while attending Western full time during her first semester.

"When I look back now I don't know how I did it, but the professors were really supportive," Travis said. She was lucky enough to have an encouraging family as well. "They've all been really supportive and helpful in me going back to school," Travis said.

Travis had to work hard to overcome the problems she endured with her minimal amount of available time. "Jane is very efficient in the way

she uses her time," Jim Estes, art professor, said. "She has a discipline about dealing with the difficult things that we all have to do."

The art field took the majority of Travis' time. "I probably spend the majority of my time in the art department," Travis said. "It causes a little strain on my family, but like I said before, they are all really supportive and want me to succeed."

The focus of Travis' art was in ceramics. She spent many hours in the studio producing artwork, as well as doing tasks for work study and making excellent grades.

In addition, Travis also kept busy as a businesswoman. During the art department's summer trip to Italy in 2002, Travis became friends with Rock Stracener and Star Gann, who were also non-traditional students with families of their own. The three of them had an idea to start up an art gallery/studio in St. Joseph. The Starving Artist gallery opened in January of 2003 with the hard work of the three devoted students.

"There are a lot of people who look up to Jane," Rock Stracener, fellow art student, friend and business partner, said. "She sets an example for non-traditional students because everything she does is perfect."

Despite the views of others, Travis didn't necessarily see herself as a role model. "I'm not trying to be a role model," Travis said. "I'm just trying to do my best at something I really enjoy."



Left: Travis carefully shapes a piece of pottery. Through support from professors and family, Travis was able to return to college. Photo by Deliese Brewster. Bottom left: Posing in The Starving Artist Gallery, Travis proudly displays her works of art. Ceramics was Travis' favorite form of art. Photo by Starr Gann. Below: Liela Hicks, a fellow non-traditional student shares a laugh with Travis. The students often worked together in the art department completing their assignments. Photo by Deliese Brewster.



Crystal Ficken

She's a Unity Services intern, a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma, a graduating senior and a bride-to-be. Somehow, this communications major used her organizational skills to make her life seem easy. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.





Success DRIVEN

story by Shawn Kiehl

"People make fun of me because I'm such an organized freak."

photographed by Tiranee Givhan

Crystal Ficken



Right: Ficken picks up debris in a Habitat for Humanity house. She was a co-founder and president of the chapter on the Western campus. Below: Looking at herself in a mirror, Ficken tries on a veil in a bridal shop. She kept busy making plans for her upcoming wedding. Bottom Right: During discussion at the Brown Bag Lunch, Ficken shares her thoughts on diversity. The meetings were held monthly and were sponsored by Unity Services.



Much more than an “organized freak,” senior Crystal Ficken, communications major, made daily lists for the activities that she was involved in. Ficken was the president and co-founder of the campus’ Habitat for Humanity chapter, a special events intern in the Office of Unity Services and a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma.

“I’m an avid list maker,” Ficken said. “I make lists for everything, even for just a day. I set goals for myself.”

Ficken was originally from Chillicothe, Mo. She transferred to West-tn in January of 2002. She had a difficult time fitting in when she first started but kept her goals in mind. “I had to work really hard to form friendships with people I would only see for an hour a day when I had class with them,” Ficken said.

Her next goal was to get involved on campus. Ficken signed up for a small group communication course. During the course, Ficken got an assignment to do a service learning project. Ficken’s group decided to take on the goal of starting a Habitat for Humanity chapter.

“Crystal has been fantastic,” Gina Elkins, executive director of St. Joseph’s Habitat for Humanity chapter, said. “She has been the heart and soul of the new campus chapter. She can really sell the Habitat for Humanity dream to other people and let them understand, in real ways, how they’re

making a difference.”

In addition to her goals with Habitat for Humanity, Ficken was also taking on 20 credit hours, planning a wedding and maintaining a job in the Office of Unity Services. As an intern she had to make many plans for the events that took place through the office.

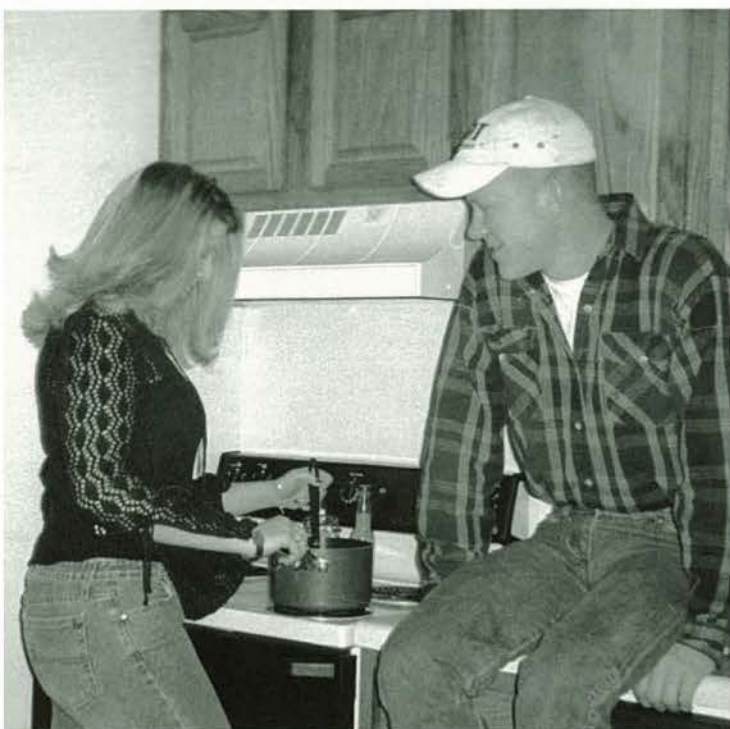
“She has a lot of goals that she is actually achieving,” Angie Smith, business management major, said. “She’s pretty goal driven. Every program that she’s planned stuff for has been run the way it’s supposed to be.”

Ficken felt that her experiences with planning would help prepare her for what she really wanted to do. “I really want to be an event/wedding planner,” Ficken said.

She could also see herself going in many other directions, including the travel and tourism industry and being a communications professor.

The large list of goals Ficken made ran from the mundane, like laundry, to the most important, such as family and marriage. “I try to keep myself grounded and set my sights on things I know I can achieve,” Ficken said.

Ficken left a word of advice to fellow list-makers everywhere. “I think sometimes if you set your standards high, you might not reach them, but at least you’ll be higher than what you expected yourself to be.”

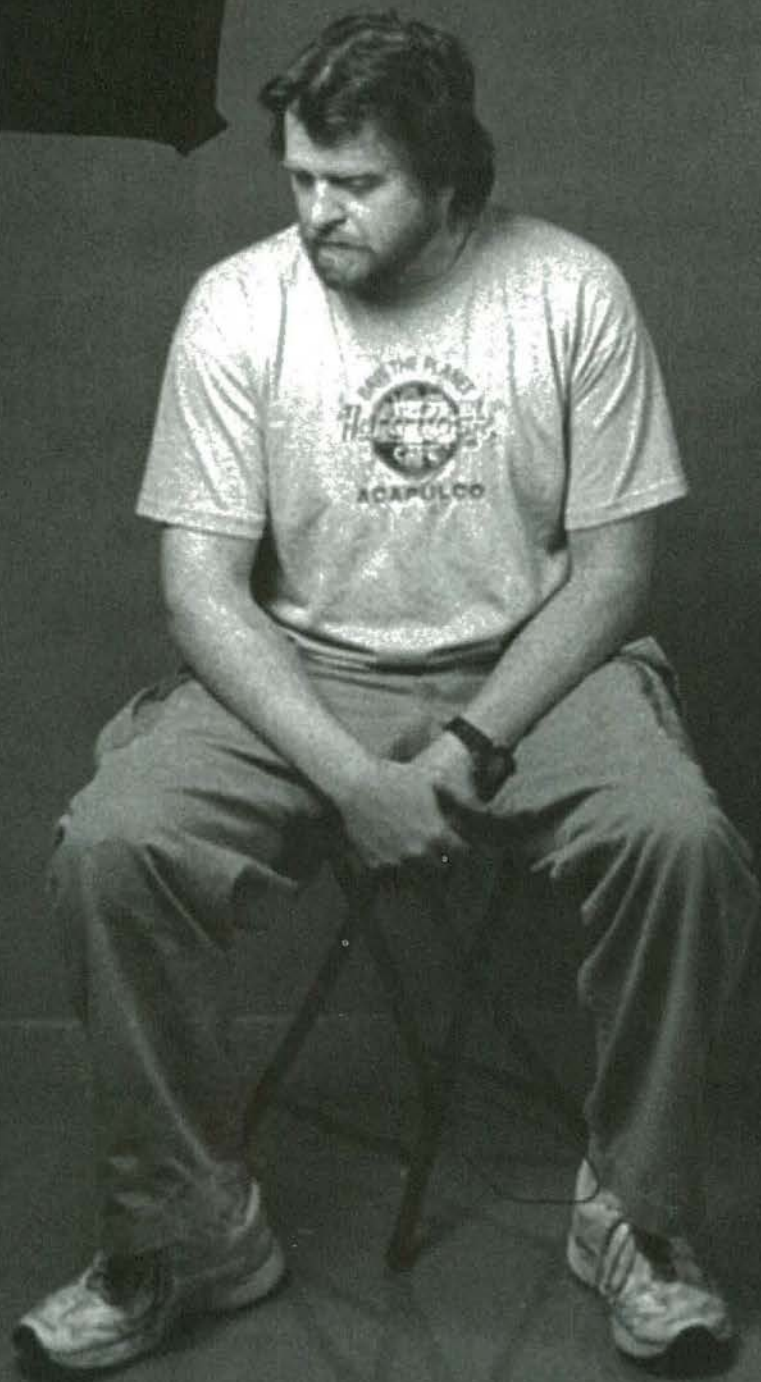


Left: Preparing dinner, Ficken and her fiancé, Travis, spend time together. Their weekend time together was valuable to them due to their busy schedules. Below: Ficken introduces one of the speakers at an HIV awareness informational meeting sponsored by Unity Services. The event was just one of the many activities Ficken was involved in on campus. Bottom Left: Chatting with her sorority sisters from Sigma Sigma Sigma, Ficken takes a break from her busy schedule. Ficken served as the community service chair for her sorority.



Jerry Wagers

Wagers, a non-traditional student, is an inspiration to goal-oriented individuals. He conquered many obstacles throughout his life to get where he was. Photo by Ashley Reynolds.



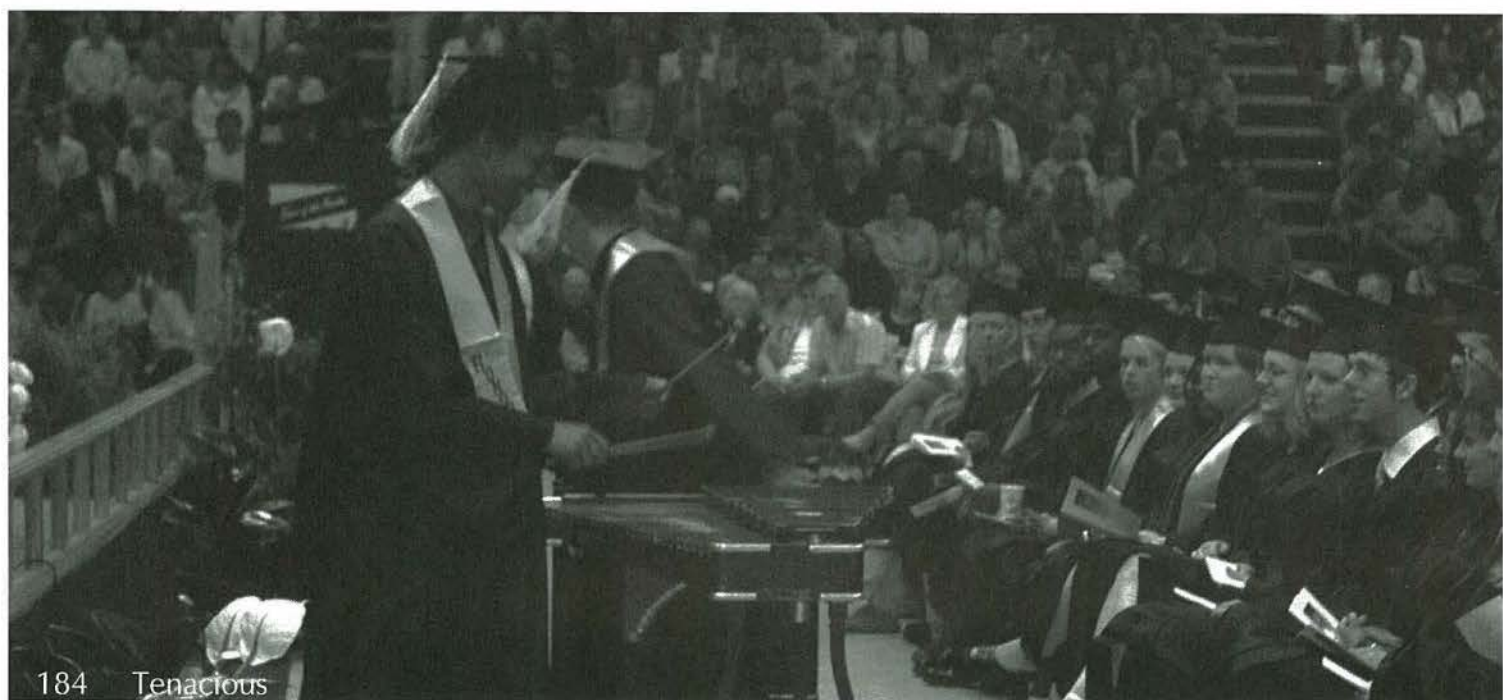


Beating THE ODDS

story by Jenny Olson

*A man of versatility —
embracing a variety
of skills*

photographed by Jennifer Moran



WINTER AND SPRING GRADUATION

Graduates say farewell to Western while making the transition to a new segment of life

Story by Kellie Feuerbacher

It was that time of year again — time for the Western graduates to say goodbye to college life and say hello to the next step in their lives. Whether that next step was graduate school or the work force, the winter graduates of 2002 and the spring graduates of 2003 put years into preparation for whatever would lie ahead.

Before receiving their diplomas, the winter graduates listened as the commencement speaker, Western President James Scanlon, congratulated the students and gave them advice for the future. U.S. Representative Sam Graves delivered the commencement address, and then Scanlon presented Graves with an honorary Doctor of Science degree. During the spring graduation, music professor Dennis Rogers shared words of entertainment and guidance with the graduates.

Then came the moment they had all been waiting for. The graduates walked across the stage one-by-one to receive the diplomas for which they had worked so hard.

Although the graduates were excited about being finished with their years as undergraduate students, they also had several other issues on their minds.

One such student was criminal justice major Scott Leifker. During the winter graduation ceremony, Lt. Col. Gary Moore commissioned him as a Second Lieutenant of the United States Army. Leifker was preparing to spend the following three years in the service in Germany as a member of the military

police force, and he also planned to pursue a career as a police officer.

"I think the biggest thing I think about is where the next several months is going to put me and what type of a leader I'm going to become," Leifker said. "I want to do it effectively and safely for the soldiers I'm in charge of."

The graduates knew that the education received at Western would always be a part of them and have an effect on their future careers. "My education at Western has heavily influenced my writing style and my career direction," English major Michael Milbourn said.

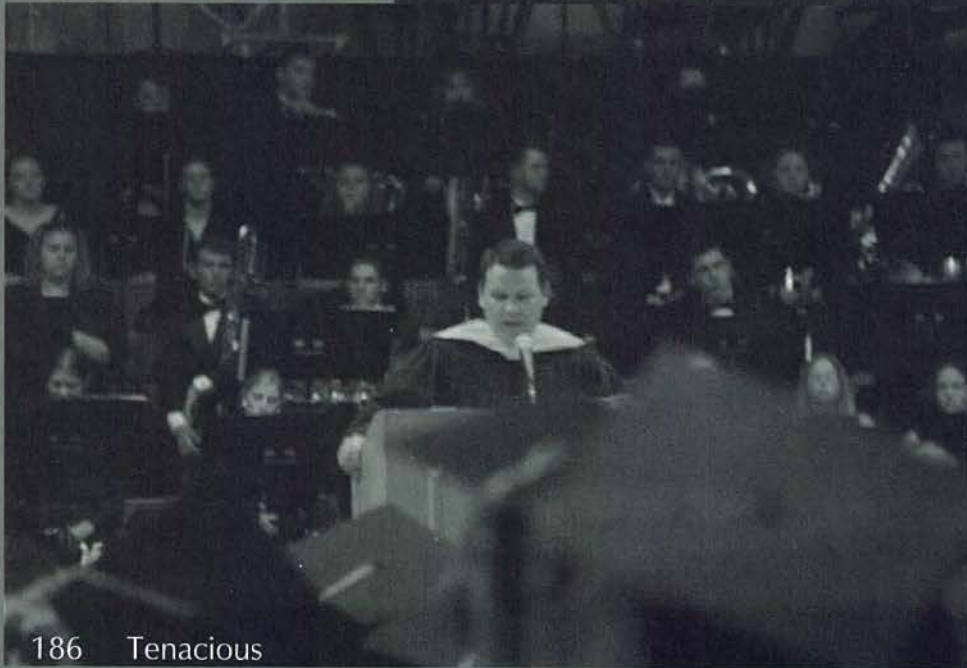
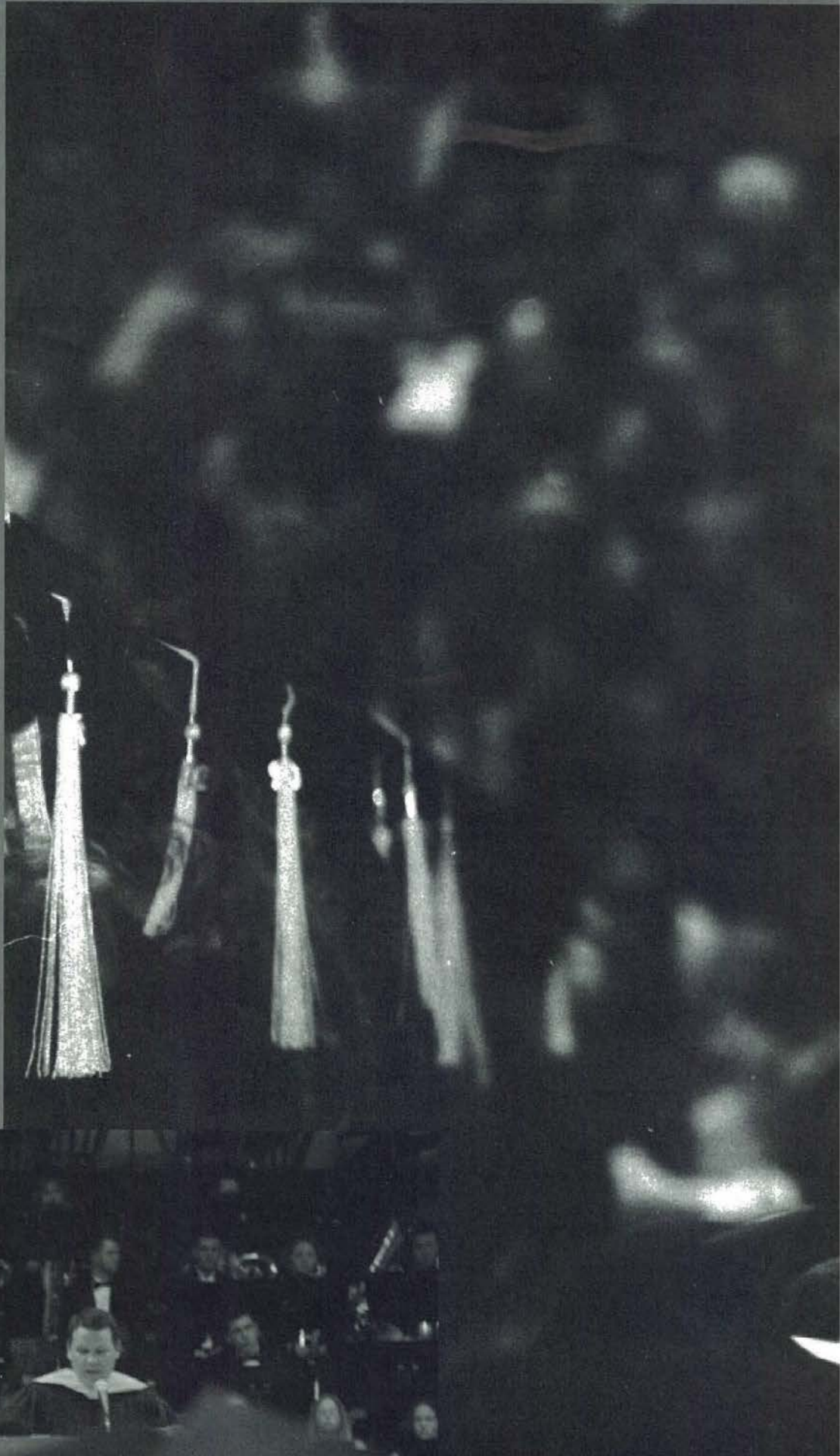
Another aspect in which their Western education benefited the graduates was the availability of leadership positions on campus in which they could develop strong leadership skills that they will need in the work force. "I think I gained a lot of leadership skills at Missouri Western with the different organizations I got to be in," Brandi Pinkston, elementary education major, said.

Pinkston also felt that Western's faculty members played an important role in her college education and would continue to help guide her in the future if she ever needed them to do so.

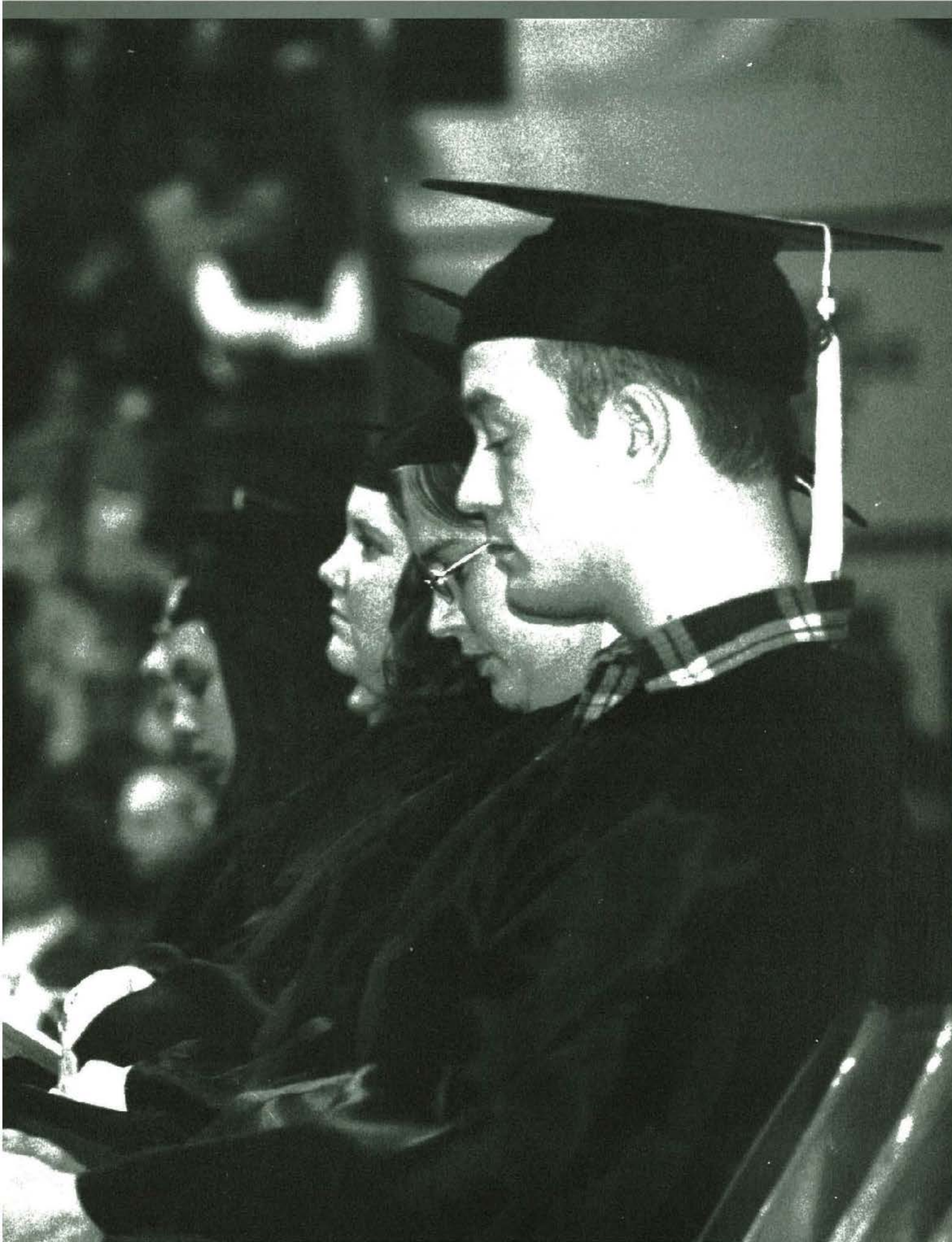
"I feel I have resources to come back to if I have any questions about my field," she said. "I know I can talk to my professors and they would gladly help me."

Opposite page: Western graduates listen to the commencement speech. Speakers took this opportunity each semester to impart last words of wisdom and advice to the graduates. Bottom left: Graduates Jeff Siasoco, Tracy Thomas and Aaron Williams entertain the audience with their percussion routine. All three were students of the commencement speaker, Dennis Rogers. Below: Music professor Dennis Rogers speaks to the spring graduates at the commencement ceremony. Through witty humor and anecdotes, Rogers gave the graduates advice for the future. Below right: Winter graduate Sara Barati poses with her newly-obtained diploma for the photographer for a professional photo. Barati graduated with a degree in commercial art.





WEST

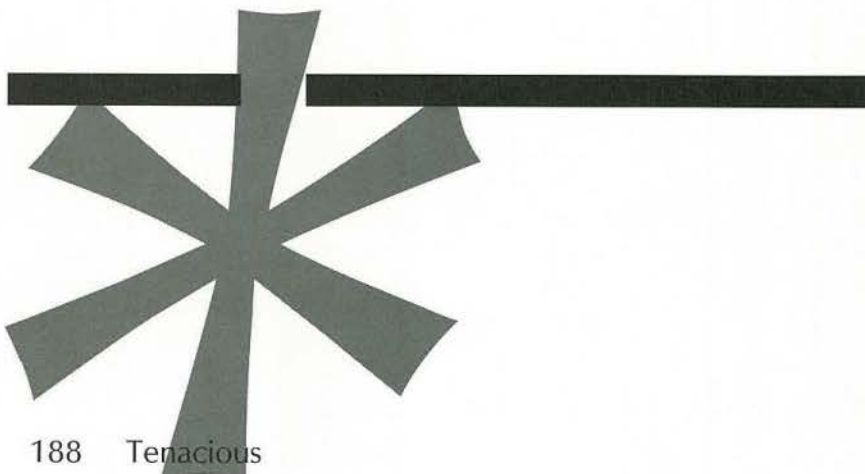


RN GRADUATES

— P e o p l e

*If you make the
unconditional
commitment to reach
your most important
goals, if the strength of
your decision is
sufficient, you will find
the way and the power
to achieve your goals.*

~ Robert Conklin



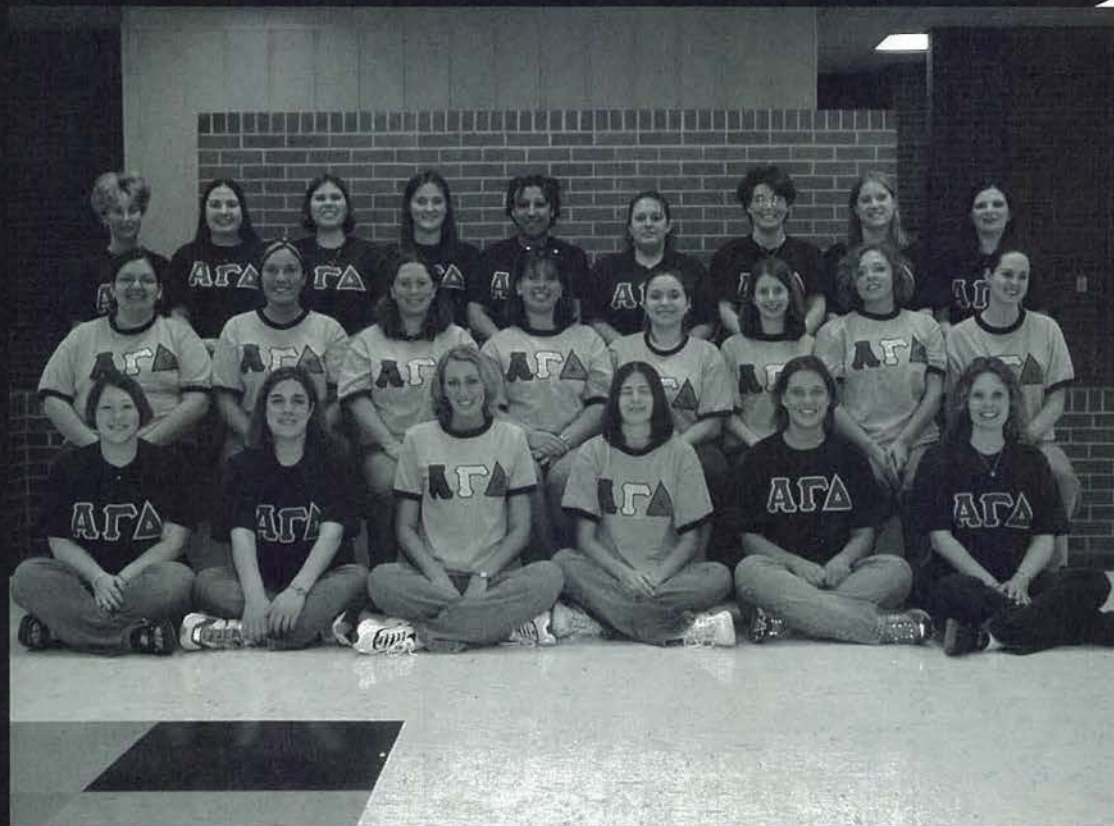


Alchemist Club

Brianne Peterson, Yevgeniy
Kondratenuo



Row 1: Lauren Tsutsumi, Abbey
Russell, Sara Bell, Amber Clutter,
Kristen Hank, Lindsay Lamken
Row 2: Brandi Atha, Alyssa
Holyfield, Denise Johnson, Sarah
Quinlan, Stacy Ethridge, Jenny
Lee, Brooke Kuykendall, Joy
Daniel Row 3: Lydia Dial, Wendy
Allen, Annette Hunthrop, Suzi
Nagel, Candace Collins, Mary
Bronson, Kat Guyer, Abra Lippert



Alpha Gamma Delta

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.



Row 1: NaToyia Gates,
Crystal Bray
Row 2: April Ellison, Kamita
Shelby, Tiffany Williams



Row 1: Amber Bouge, Kim
Redmond, Mackenzie Martin,
Amy Munsterman, Amber
Dowell, Matt Lewis, Pam Downs
Row 2: Tyson Schank, Nick
Allegri, Julie Taylor, Eric
Magness, Hope Fugitt, Eddie
Barnett, Jim McKinley
Row 3: Jennifer McGeorge,
Brandi Lane, Jennifer Magness,
Anthony Clark, Richard Hallman,
Clint Dougherty
Row 4: Lindsey Campbell,
Dewanda Weeks, Amy Halling,
Amber Bowie, Angela Fox,
Aviella Moore, Jenny Brychta

Alpha Kappa Psi

Alpha Omega

Row 1: Ashlea Collins, Rebecca Culver, Kellie Feuerbacher
 Row 2: Jenny Olson, Jessica McHolland, Julie Taylor, Janny Callaway, Ashley Reynolds
 Row 3: Katie Dunn, Carliss Holland, Whitney Cook, Micah Wolf, DeAnne Shuler
 Row 4: Becky Whitwer, Rachel Wedekind, Amber Hayes, Dewonda Weeks, Tracy Johnson, Bridgett Leslie

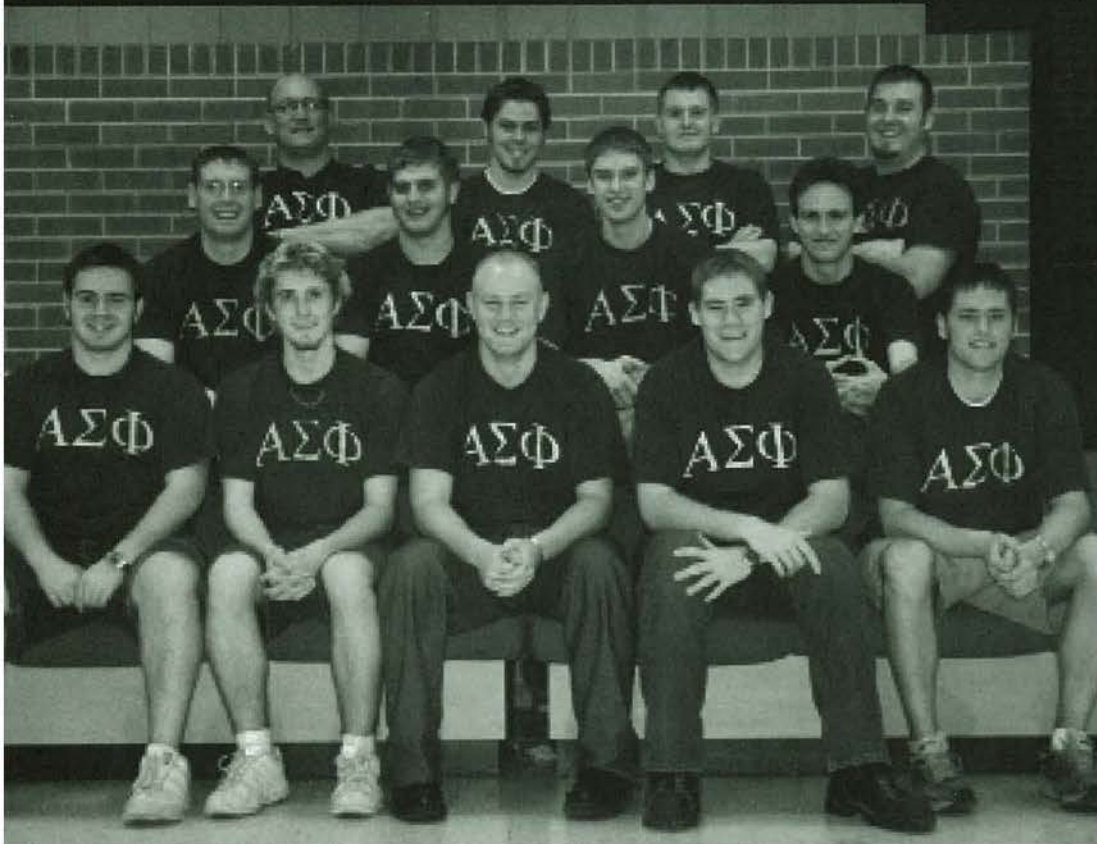


Row 1: Kristi Bissell, Katrina Hickam, Becky Oakley, Jill Spencer, Michelle Young
 Row 2: Nicolle Benjamin, Tabby Larson, Erin Burke, Ashley Chavez, Josie Snelling, Stephanie Searcy
 Row 3: Kelly Isabell, Allison Cooksey, Jenna Dial, Jennifer McKinely, Kristin Heidbrink, Jessica White
 Row 4: Erica Hidritch, Dawn Hart, Saralynn Richey, Natalie Vertin, Kristin Neeley



Alpha Sigma Alpha

Alpha Sigma Phi



Row 1: Lucas Vollmer, Brandon Todd, Noah Haahr, Will Hemeyer, Chris Schmitz
Row 2: Tyson Schank, Nick Thyfault, Ryan Sevcik, Adam Perry
Row 3: Keith Grigsby, Elijah Haahr, Don Lawrence, Jim McKinley



Row 1: Amanda Cassity, Rashawnda Walker, Cassie Werle
Row 2: Adrian Voss, Adrienne Long, Megan Smith, Celia Gann
Row 3: Allison Edwards, Josh Spray, Hakim Smith, Ben Doornink, Nicole Huston

Cheer Squad

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Tiffani Manley, Shay Martin,
Tamisha Coates



Row 1: Pam Klaus, Mackenzie
Martin, Delilah Stallworth,
Tera Thom
Row 2: Mandy Ferbert, Jenny
Brychta, Angela Prashak,
Brandi Miller



Human Resource Management Association

Newman Club



Row 1: Fr. Greg Haskamp, Janessa Hovey, LeeAnn Schuster, Fr. Timothy Armbruster
 Row 2: Dr. Elizabeth Sawin, Abby Houseworth, Theresa Helm, Amanda Gruber, Joy Donelson, Whitney Gates, Willie Clark
 Row 3: Michelle Scherder, Sean Morrison, Michael Evans, J. Brent Cerling, Josh Krautmann, Adam Ritter, Ashley Falter



Row 1: Netasha Trice, Jarrett Dillard, Stanico Church, Henry Causey
 Row 2: Natoyia Gates, Tamisha Coates, Arthur Ballard, Kamita Shelby
 Row 3: Tiffany Williams, Maria Grothaus, Roy A. King, Tiffani Manley

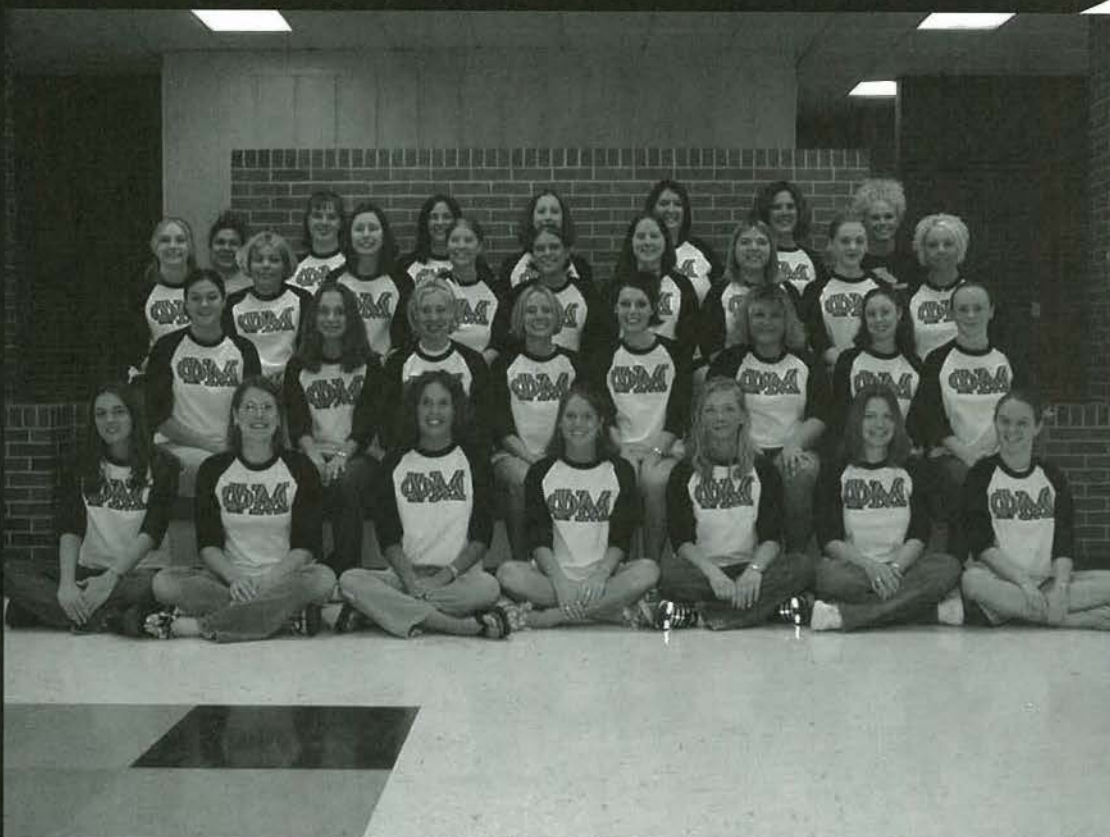
National Pan-Hellenic Council

Phi Delta Theta

Row 1: Adam Twedt, Brian Jaynes, Steve Allee, Nick Hawk, Phil Hultquist, T.J. Morris, Ben Hultquist, Adam Gilliland
Row 2: Brian Prater, Jason Chen, Jason Cross, Brian Casey, Jeff Moreno, Brett Warga, Lutfie Atieh, David Dykes
Row 3: Ryan Groves, Justin Noll, Kellen Hatcher, Timothy Lawrence, Ben Doornink, Aron Gerhart, Aaron Bunker



Row 1: Julie Dudenhoffer, Katie Gilmore, Nicole Wright, Megan Gamet, Janelle Delana, Melissa Waddell, Aimee Pike
Row 2: Kelley Webb, Kim Taylor, Ashley Neely, Melody Grier, Krystal Gabler, Melissa Morris, Kendra Harrison, Kattie Bobbins
Row 3: Crystal Morse, Joy Briant, Abby Houseworth, Tiffany Maddex, Joanne Kenison, Erika Helin, Heather Huff, Devon Thorne, Jennifer Fortune
Row 4: Natalie Maschmeyer, Sarah Rathburn, Maghan Warren, Amy Haslag, Brandi Lane, Amanda Coldwell, Tawney Pickett



Phi Mu

Phi Sigma Kappa



Row 1: Brett Strum, Josh Bernal, Matt Anderson, Rick Wright, Charles Bruscato
Row 2: Dwight Hangartner, Mike Kellam, James Petersen, Jeff Meinders, Brandon Burns, Jason Parker, Nick Orlando, Kevin Callaway
Row 3: Tyler Davis, Justin Bishop, Dave Pinter, Vince Lippincott, Blake Moore, Daniel Allegri, Bill Rooney
Row 4: Jeremy Wilder, Josh Short, Mark Summers, Chad Stracner, Merrill Atwater, greg Erickson
Row 5: Nate Smith, Dallas Tanner, Shane Goodin, Matt Wright, Nick Banko

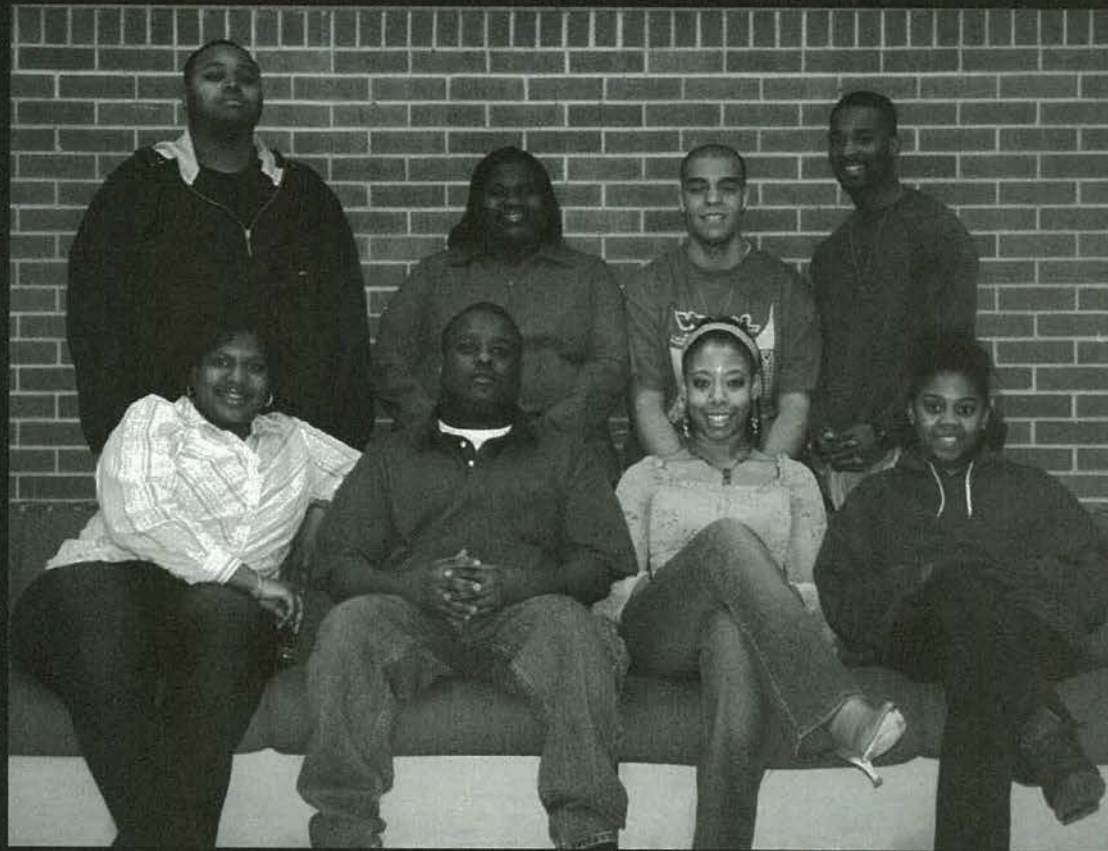


Row 1: Erin Wilson, Kelly Sanders
Row 2: Aron Gerhart, Joan Gillahan

Psi Chi/ Psychology Club

Residence Council

Row 1: Taria Harris, Henry
Causey, Tiffany Williams,
Netasha Trice
Row 2: Anthony Dixon, Pam
Davis, Andy Weeden, Cortez
Randolph



Row 1: Leah Tolbert, MJ
Hulsey, Amber Bowie, Emily
Auxier, Hope Fugitt
Row 2: Amy Dunlap, Laura
Strickland, Tara Stull,
Clarissa Houser



Sigma Alpha Iota

Sigma Sigma Sigma



Row 1: Liz Beeson, Angela Miller, Jessica Snyder, Rachel Siron, Reagan Cunningham, Becky Jackson, Janessa Henderson
Row 2: Stefanie Summa, Cassie Gill, Julia Beigel, Kim Campbell, Cody Dunlap, Lynsey Rader, Danielle Shoemaker, Sally Ridder
Row 3: Christin Hanna, Suzanne McClintic, Valerie Lee, Jamie Giefer, Molly Basinger, Ashley Sheets, Mandy Freeland, Becki Davis
Row 4: Morgan Hansen, Michelle Lakebrink, Kristine Banasik, Anna Askren, Crystal Ficken, Tracie Walker, Katie Ziesel
Row 5: Laurel Homedale, Holly Brown, Amy Tinker, Brandy Snapp, Teresa Turley, Monica Lee, Kelli Brandts



Megan Ashley, Elizabeth Evans, Kellie Feuerbacher, Dr. Elizabeth Sawin

Sigma Tau Delta

Tau Kappa Epsilon

Row 1: Kenneth Stages, Brandon Tiller, Richard Hussey, Bradley Drummond, Vern Wheeler, Brandon Paxton, Matt Silvius
 Row 2: Nick Kennedy, Jeremy Funk, Matt McCubbin, John Fabsits, Josh Wilson, Russell Ketner, Jeffery Sarver
 Row 3: Wade Speelman, Jeremy Jayon, Dan Pummill, James Smith, Trevor Huseman, Jeff Brandhorst, Edwin Rivera



Row 1: Maurice Bush, Jonathan Cullen, LaNisha Bosby, Brandon Jackson
 Row 2: Justin Tone-Pah-Hote, Armand Carr, LaToya Huston, Angela Smith, LaShaundra Randolph, Tywin Handson, Cortez Randolph, Leon Davis
 Row 3: Kelley Jackson, Danielle Smith, Taria Harris, Roshaun Fields, Amber Ramirez, Lacey Merrell
 Row 4: Tiffany Bell, Shayla Mills, Anisha Merrill, Dianna Preyor, Maria Grothaus, Cara Humprey, Kelly Lee, Kamita Shelby, Shannon Finley



The Ebony Collegians

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Row 1: Angie Smith, Diamikia White, Rachel Siron, Kellie Feuerbacher, Deliese Brewster, Ashley Reynolds
Row 2: Sara Barbosa, Rashad Givhan, Mika Snodgrass, Tanisha Washington, Star Gann, Becky Jackson, Mandy Freeland, Ann Thorne
Row 3: Melissa Searce, Jenny Olson, Shannon Paul, Julia Biegel, Megan Campbell, Tiffanie Boessen, Jennifer Moran
Row 4: Jake Grzenda, Josh Stover, Sara Bell, Jeremy Weikel, Shawn Kiehl



Row 1: Bob Bergland, Nichole Sloop, Aimee Pike, Andrea Schmitt, Abigail Walker
Row 2: Paul Hawn, Misty Musselman, Melissa Waddell, Kamita Shelby, Ross Martin
Row 3: John Davis, Edward Weikel, Jared Herrin, Kellen Perry, Ben Garrett

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 Aregbe, Olu



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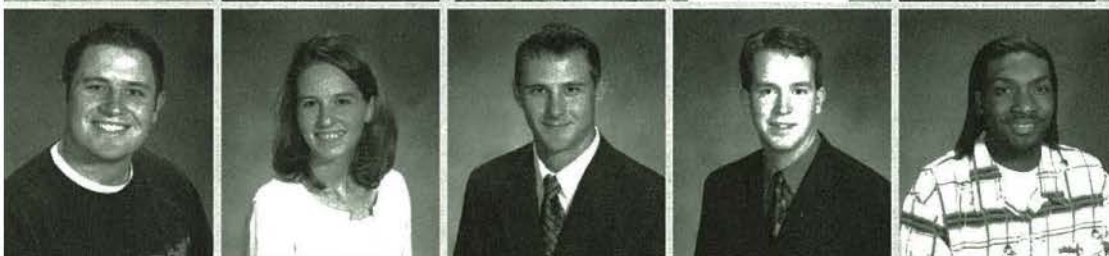


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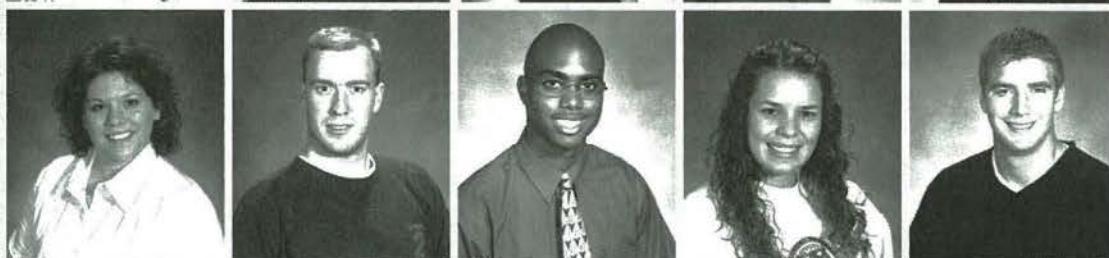
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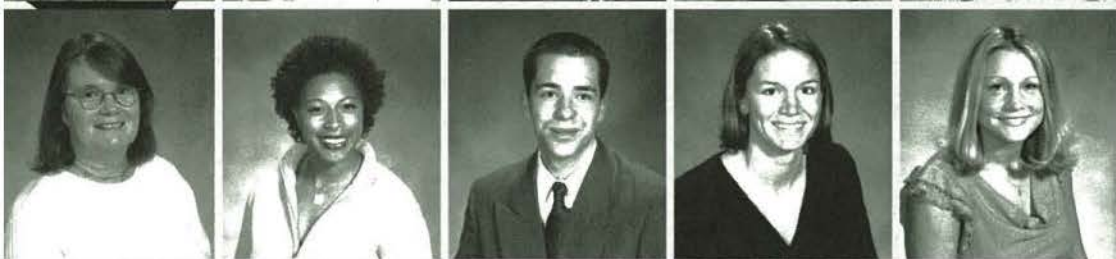
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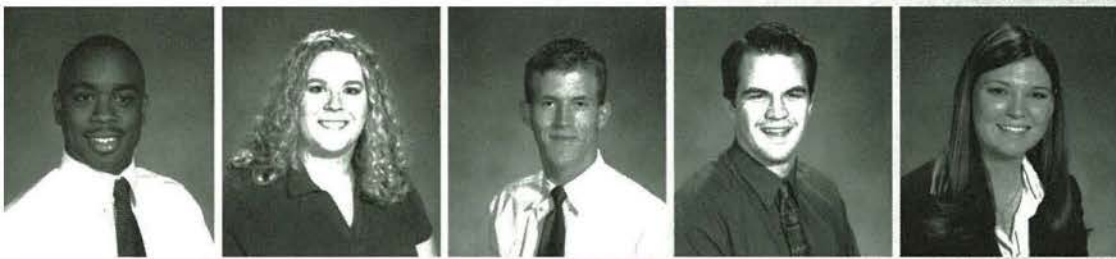


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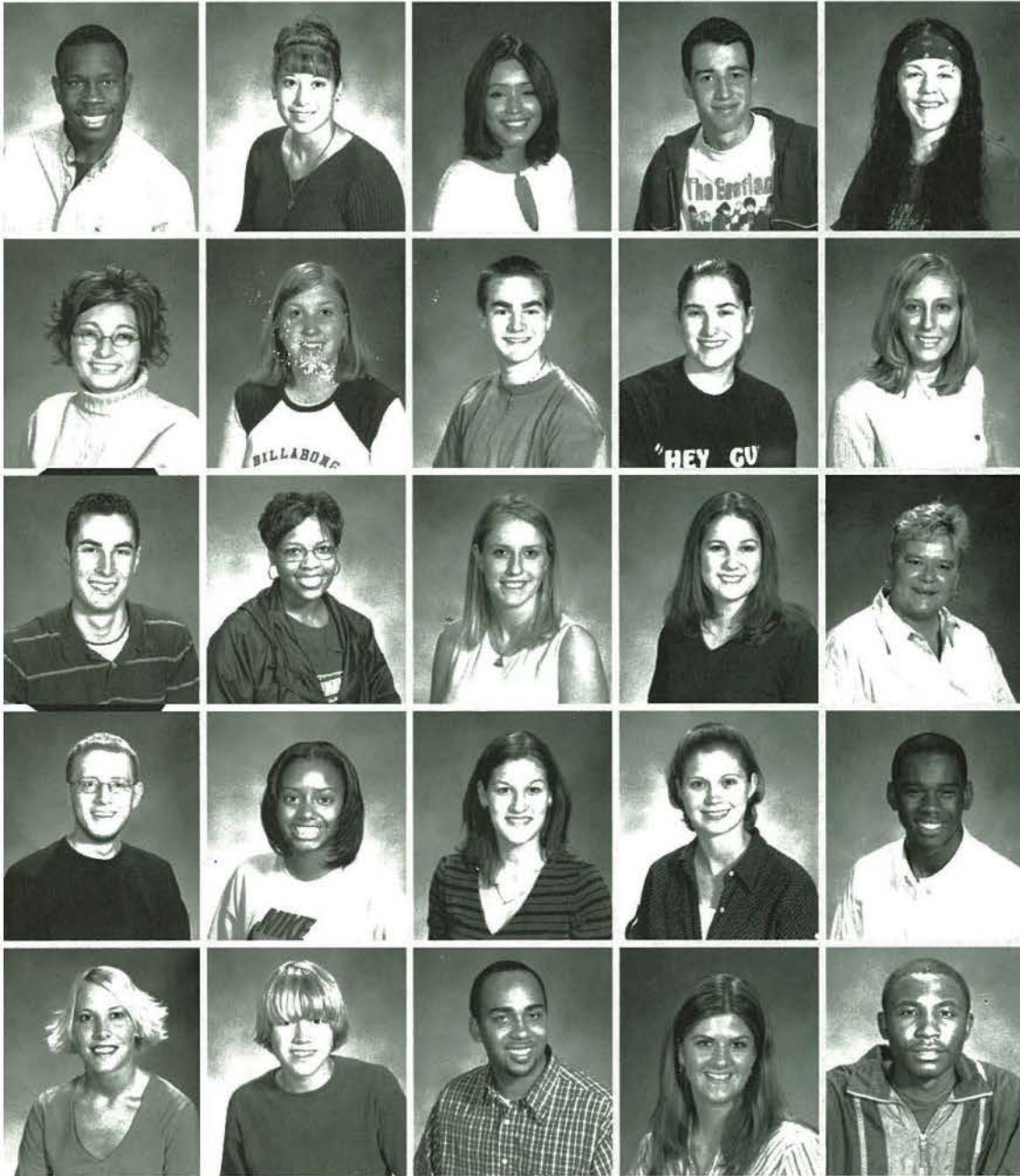
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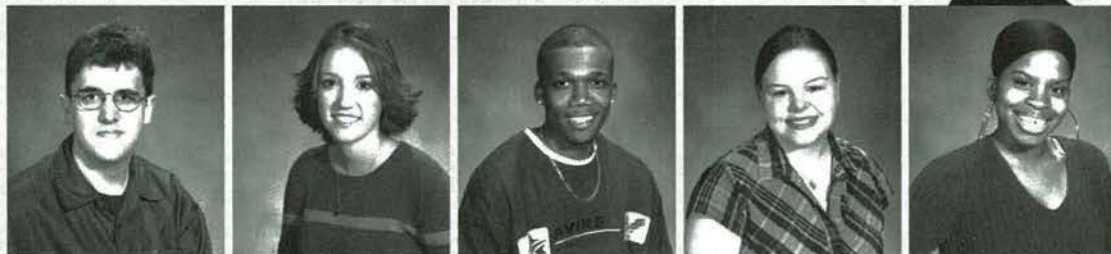
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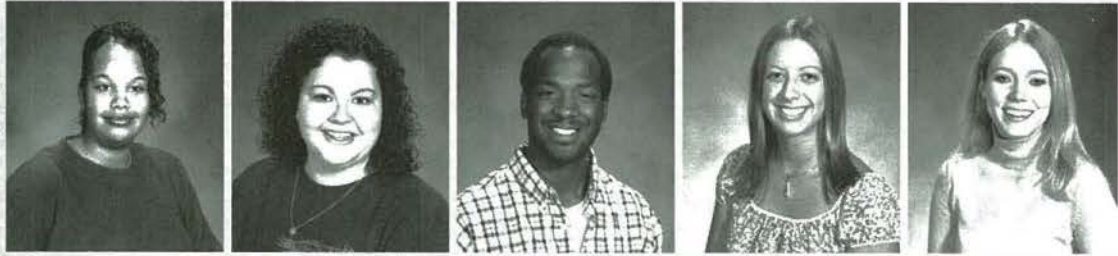
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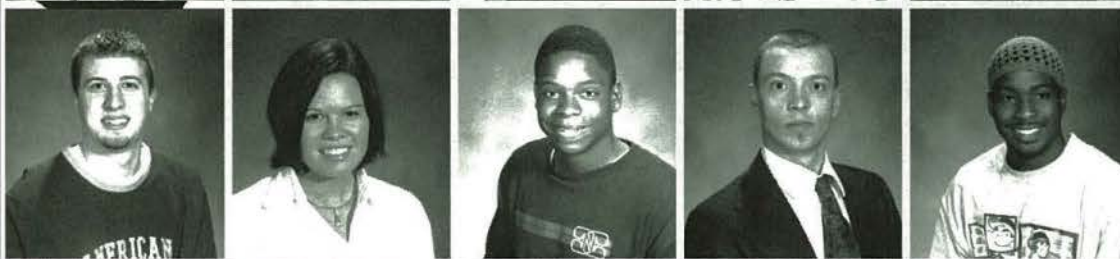
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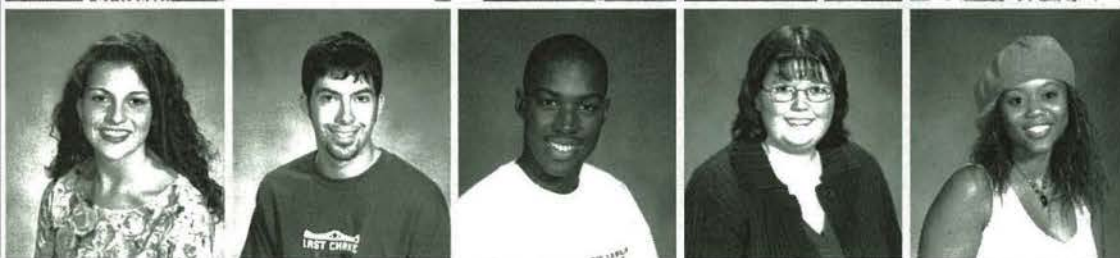
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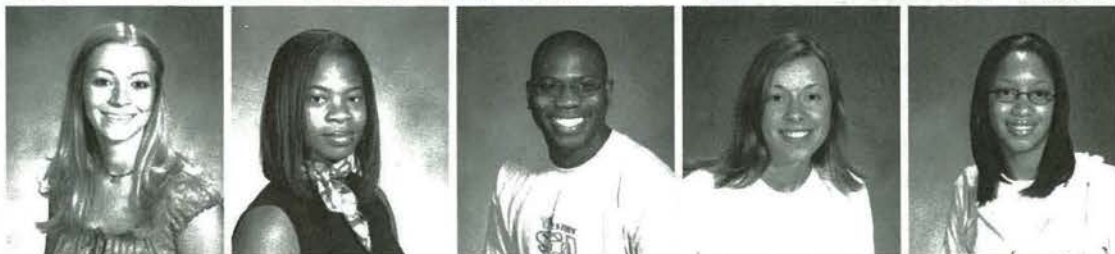
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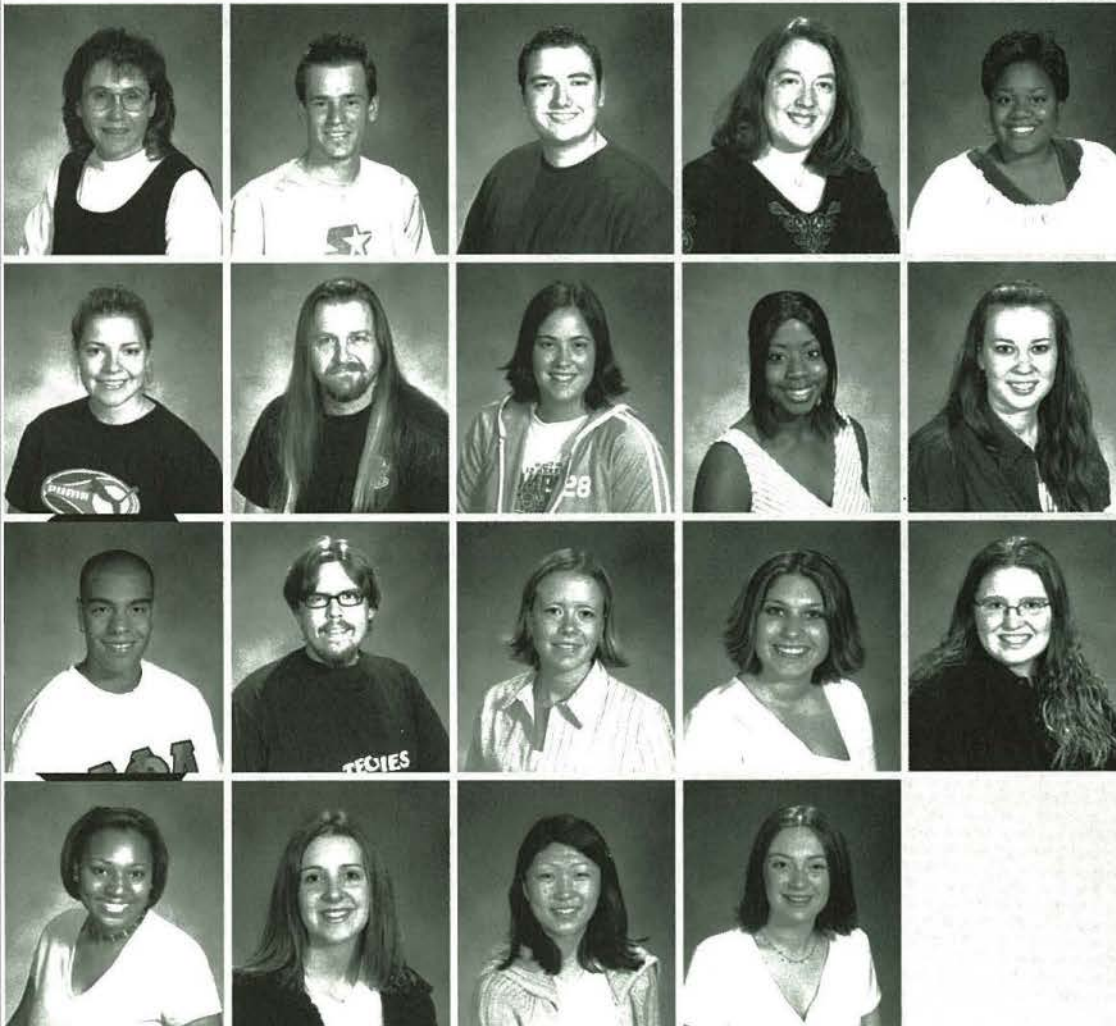


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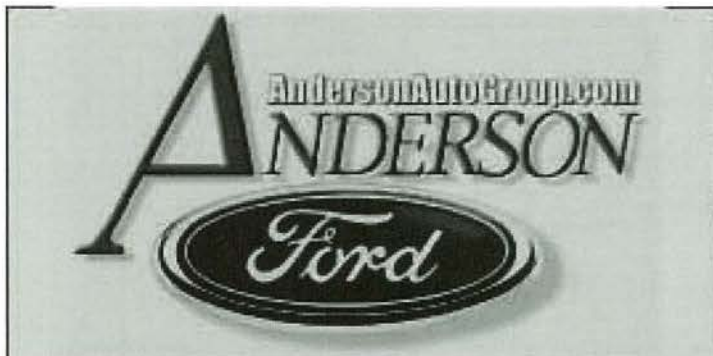
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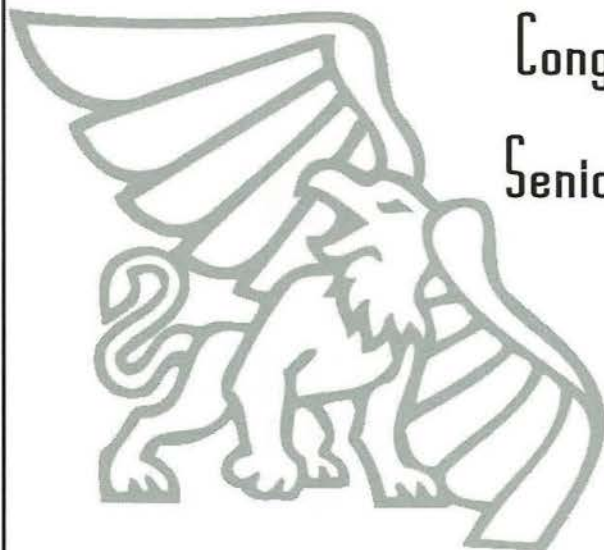
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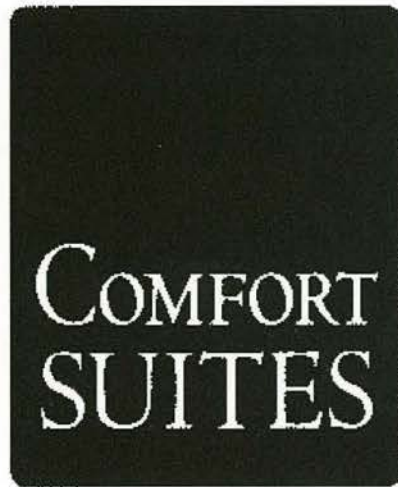
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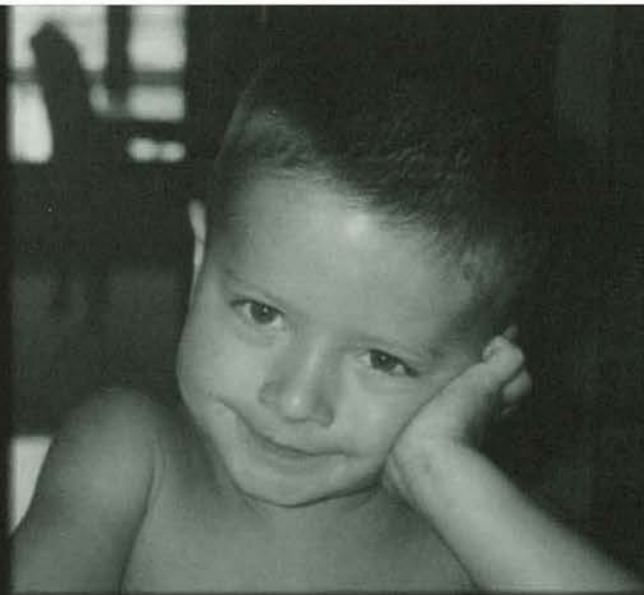
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~Griffon Yearbook~



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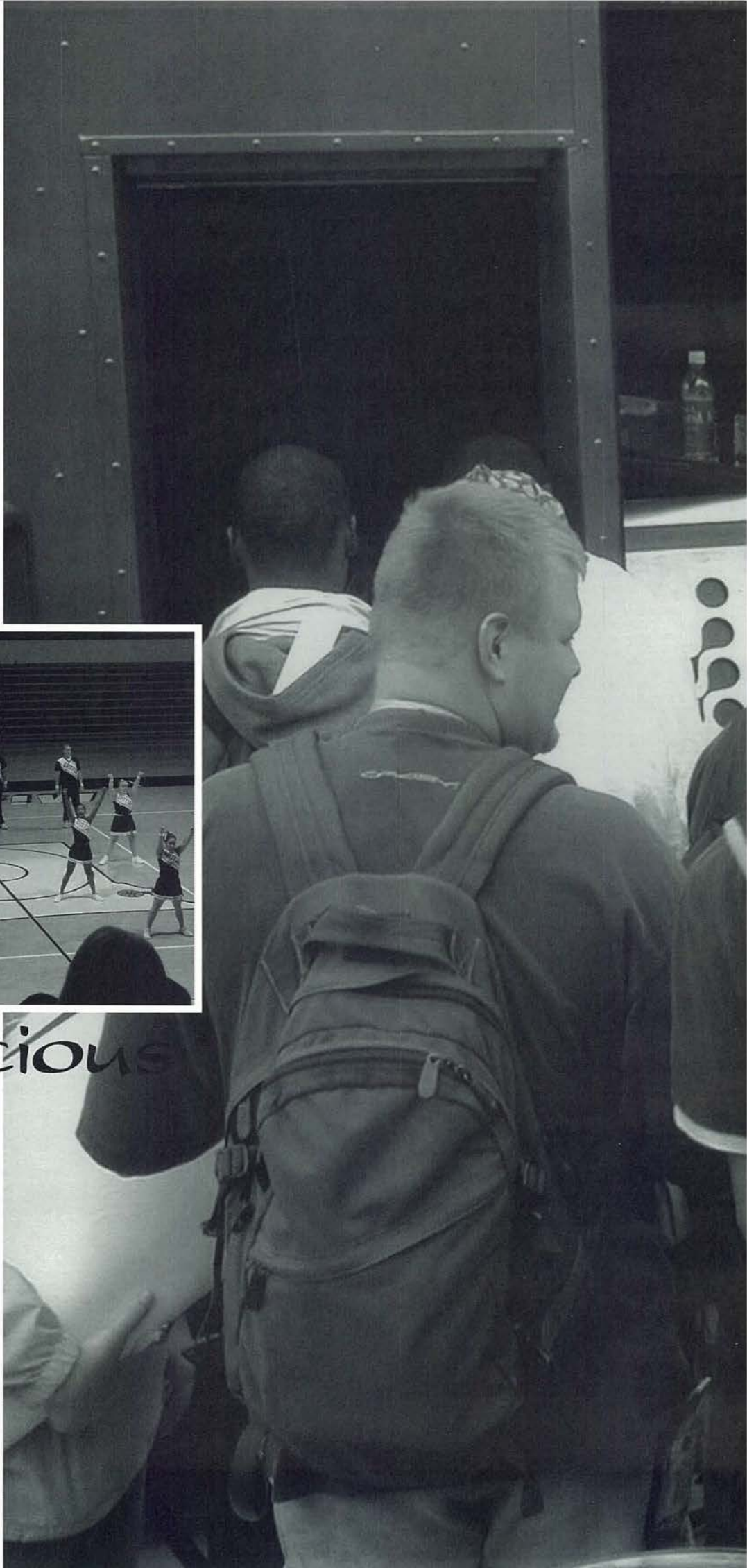
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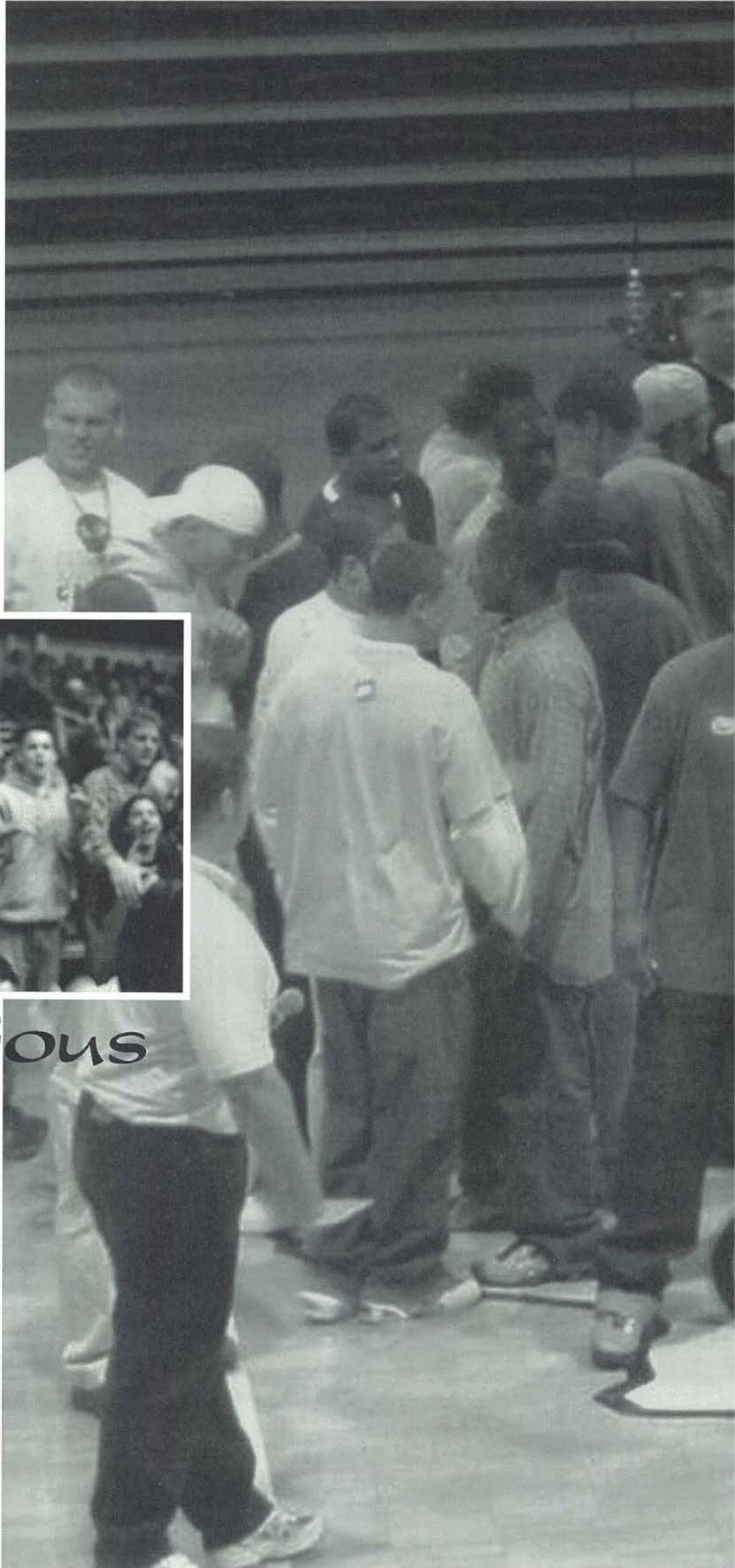




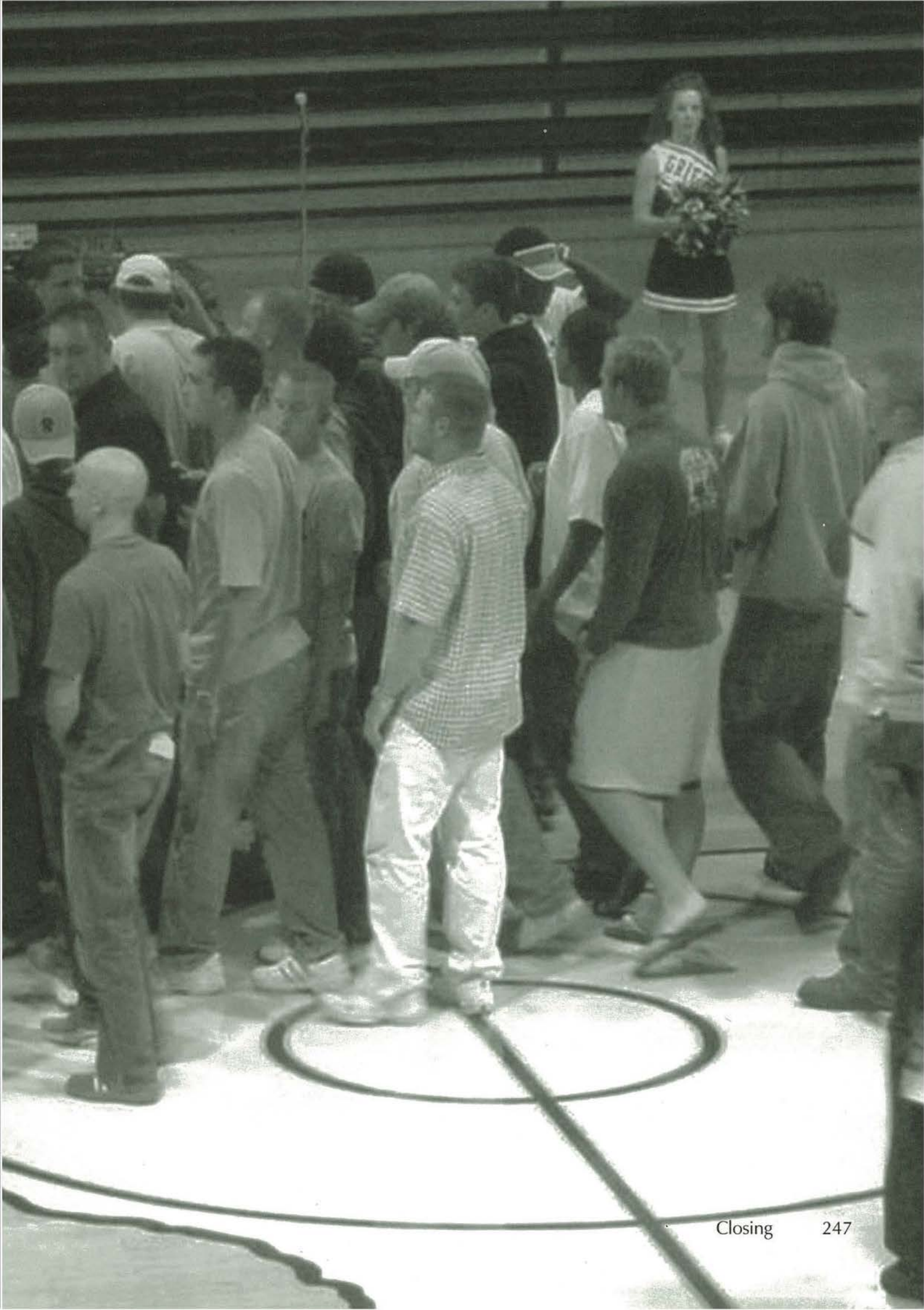
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Tenacious Griffon 2003

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