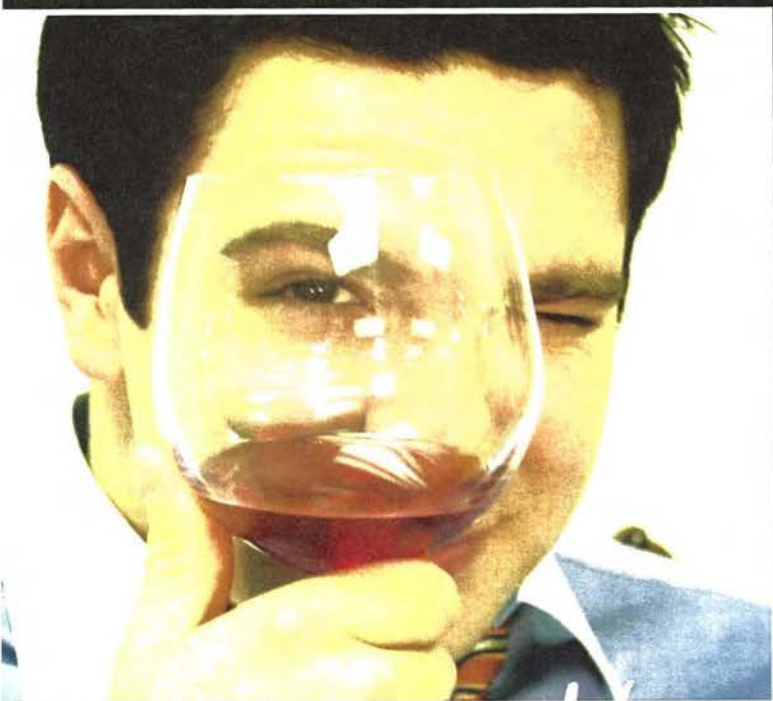
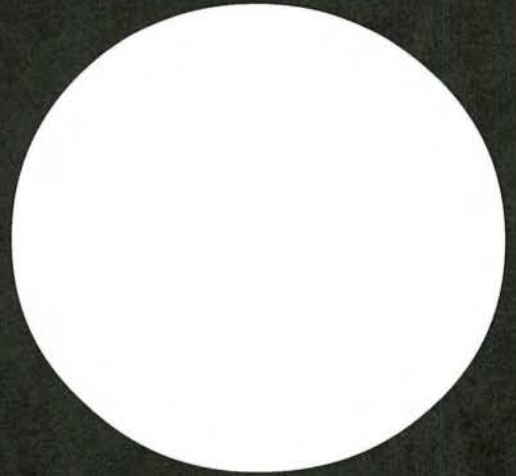
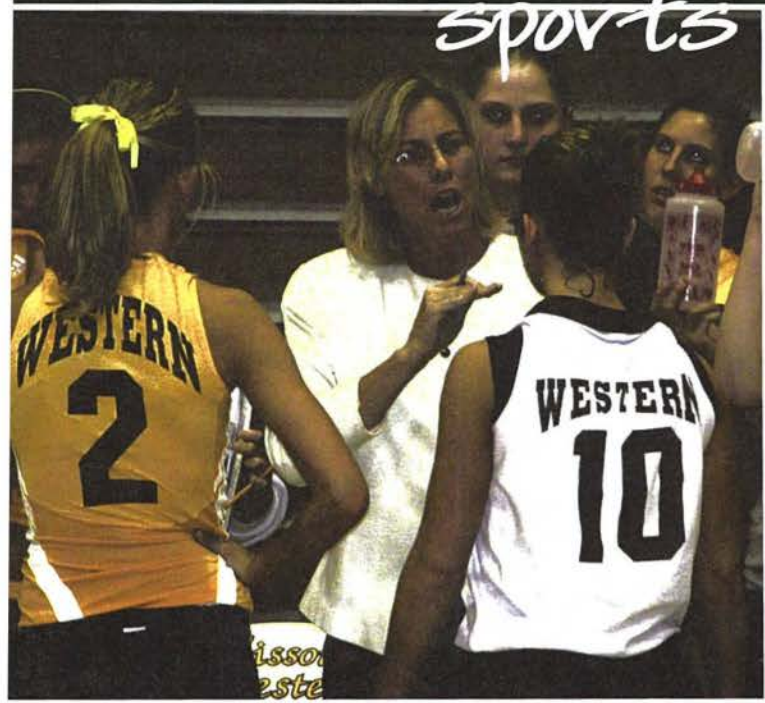
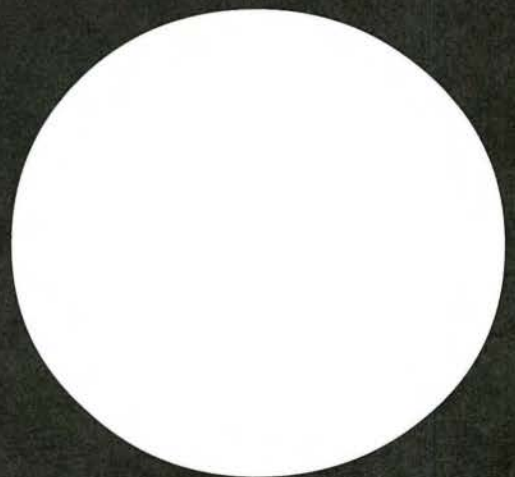


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# all about: YOU



Left: The Griffons prepare their next play on offense. The football team ended the regular season with a 5-6 record. Above: Missouri Western's mascot shows his support by participating in the Homecoming parade. The Griffon regularly appeared at several Western sporting events.

"Most people have an idea about their background; I do not have the luxury of knowing that information. My great grandfather was brought to Missouri from New York on the Orphan Train. Even though I sometimes hate that I don't know my family heritage, it is cool to know that my great grandfather was a part of history."

-Aimee Pike

"I enjoy my college life to the fullest. I'm involved in clubs and organizations because I really enjoy them, not because it's just the thing to do. It's (college) all about finding what you like; for me that's videogames and giving back to the community."

-Warren Webb



# It's all about you



"I'm friends with everyone. I know that sounds original, but it is true. I always have my shoulder ready for anyone to cry on, my ear for anyone to talk off and my arm open for anyone who needs embracing. I can befriend a person in about five minutes because I know what a lot of people have been through, and I know that everyone needs someone. My friends say that I'm cool of a kind cause I can make anyone laugh."

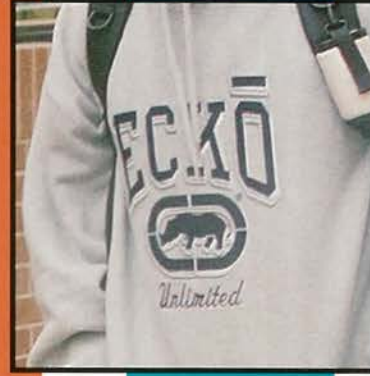
-Gretchen Kunkle

"Growing up, I was homeschooled the entire way through grade school so my first opportunity in a classroom was when I came to college. Missouri Western helped make the transition easy providing an outlet for my personal abilities that led me from shy, homeschool graduate to student body president in just a few years."

-Elijah Haahr

*student life*

*"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans" -John Lennon*



Story by: Jenny Olson & Alison Kr  
Photos by: Johnntell Young & Jenn Hug

# Complete Style Ambush: 2005

Fashion is a basic trend that changes throughout time, and 2004 was no exception. The Show-Me state may be one of the last states to change with the new trends, but when trends hit Western, multitudes of students take advantage.

The hottest trends in 2004 according to *www.jorbins.com* were stilettos, tweed jackets, large purses, chandelier earrings, lingerie tank tops, Ugg boots, blazers, trucker hats and polo shirts.

"In my opinion the hottest thing for girls is the tweed jackets, chandelier earrings and the fur and suede boots and for guys throwbacks are the hot thing, actually any kind of sports jersey, senior

Angie  
Smith said.  
Other

fashionable key items included hip-hugging, dress-up-or-down pants, Louis Vuitton purses and anything vintage cowboy.

"For girls the shawls are very in right now along with the '80s style, and camisoles and cardigans are very trendy this year," student Brandi Lane said. "As for the guys, the layered polo and sweater or button up shirt is in. The whole casual yet dressy look is very in this season for guys and girls."

The 2004 fashion trend brought some fashions back from earlier years. "The torn jeans and ponchos for the girls and polos and sports coats for the guys are

styles that used to be hot and are now coming back to our present fashion," student Grant Whitstruck said.

To stay with the current trends, one had to shop as often as possible to get the latest fashions first.

"I am embarrassed to say, but I probably go shopping two to three times a week; I initially go out to go window shopping, but I like to buy different odds and ends to go with the things that I already own," Smith said. "My all time favorite store to go shopping at is Learner and Company and sometimes Dillard's."

Others took shopping to the extreme; for some it became an addiction.

"I go shopping about once a week, if I am going to go out I usually get a new outfit for the night, so I will look my best, Whitstruck said. "My favorite stores to shop at are The Buckle, Banana Republic and J Crew."

Other popular clothing stores for students of Western were American Eagle Outfitters, Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, Pac Sun, the Gap, Delias, Old Navy and Gadzooks.

With so many college expenses, shopping for clothes was a last priority for some students. The average student shopped where the best bargains and sales went on.

"When you are a college student your shopping funds are little to rare so whenever and wherever I can find a bargain I go for it," Lane said. "I usually shop at Old Navy and Dillard's but really just wherever I can find a bargain."

Whatever the current trend was, Western students were sure to follow it, with their own unique style.



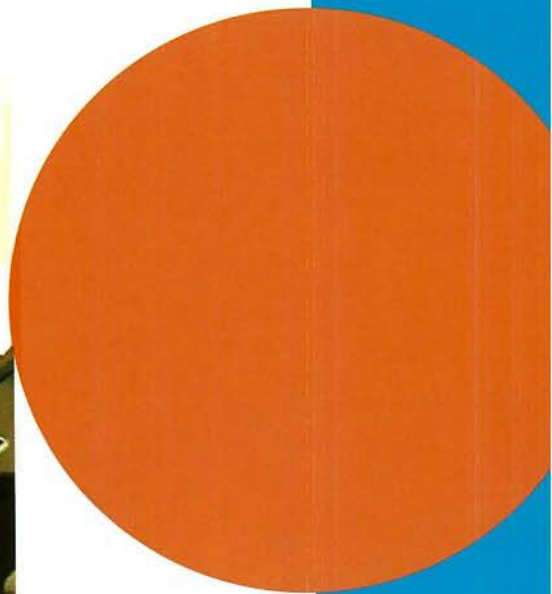
# DEBORAH COATES



Photos by: Jeremy Weikel  
Designer: Diamikia White

## NATURAL BEAUTY

# sophisticated gentleman



:Matt Lillie

# 'Vote or Shut Up'

Voter Rally informs students about the  
importance of voting

Story by: Darren Moten  
Photos by: Jennifer Clark



Becky Moring, along with other members of Center for Multicultural Education, decorate the site for the "Vote Or Shut Up" rally. The day turned out to be a huge success, and several students went on to vote for the first time.

In what seemed to be the year of the ultimatum, three candidates ran for control of the free world. Russell Simmons told millions of potential voters, "You can vote, or have someone make the choice for you." P. Diddy, also known as Puff Daddy or Sean Combs, told the hip-hop community that they had two choices, to either "Vote or Die." So Western wasn't complete without its own ultimatum for the presidential election of 2004 entitled "Vote or Shut Up."

On Thursday, Sept. 30, the Center for Multicultural Education hosted its own inaugural "Vote or Shut Up" campaign. "As a national atmosphere of mobilizing voters began, we had to jump on the bandwagon," Erin Harris, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and vice president of the Campus Activities Board, said.

Complete with a disc jockey, socially conscious music and speeches from student regent Bob Hughs, Stan Sweeny, student activities director; and Elijah Haahr, president of Student Government Association. "If you think your vote doesn't count, you should know that it was said that in 2000, if one more person in every precinct would have voted it would have changed the course of this nation," Haahr said.

Jamel Bell, alumnus of Western and a recent graduate of the University of Kansas also had advice to give students who were wavering about rather or not to vote. "If you don't make a decision, a decision will be made for you," Bell said.

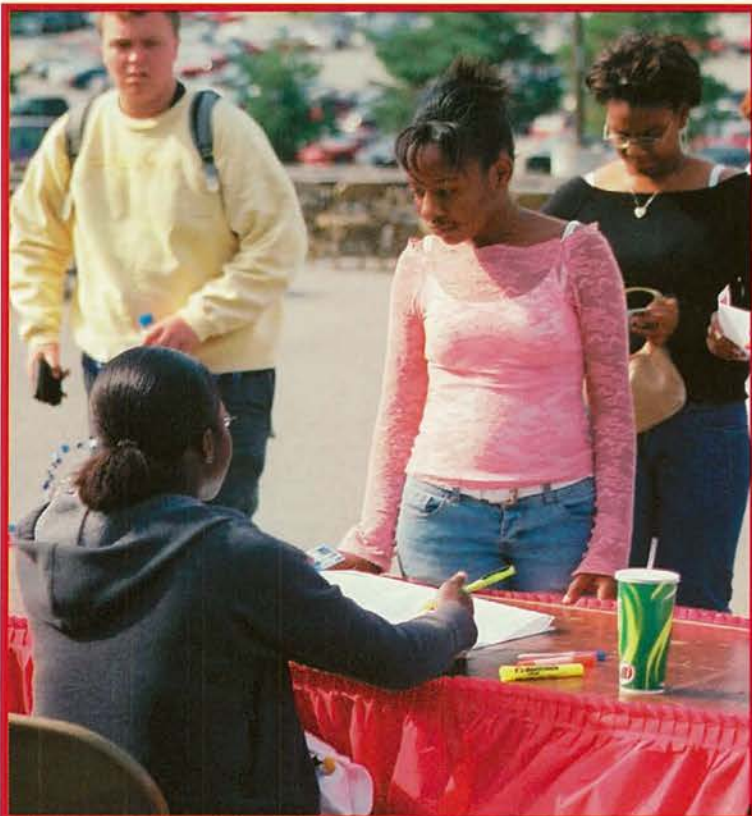
To various students, Bell's advice seemed to be the focal point for most of the evening. "I think it was a non-partisan rally to activate the people who weren't going to

vote and convince them that it's the cool and responsible thing to do," sophomore Tyson Malone said.

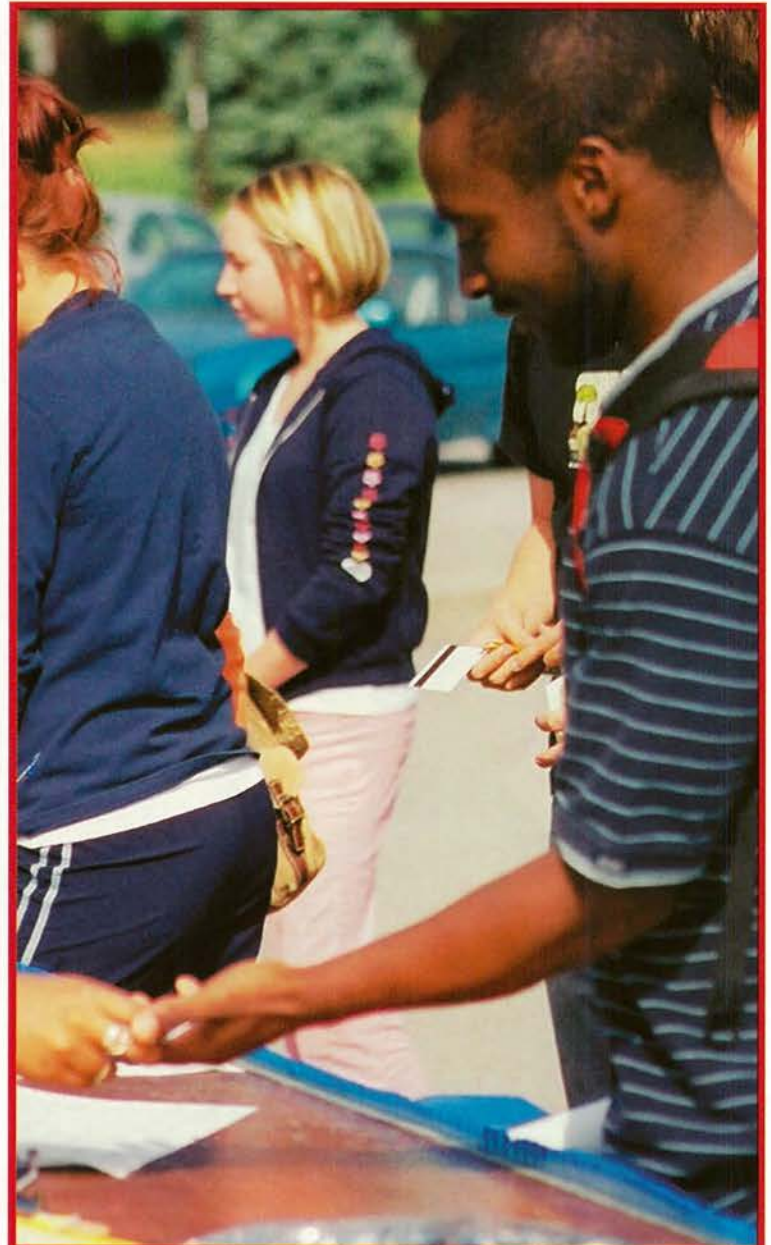
Senior Malcolm Malone, a residential assistant, echoed those sentiments with his excitement about convincing one of his residents to vote and become informed about whatever decision they made.

"To actually see the interest in their eyes after we spoke at the rally was hot," Malone said. "At first I thought the rally was a fiscal irresponsibility because the students really didn't care; however, I feel like it accomplished a goal because if I don't know anything else I know that the rally reached its goal for at least one person and to me that is success."

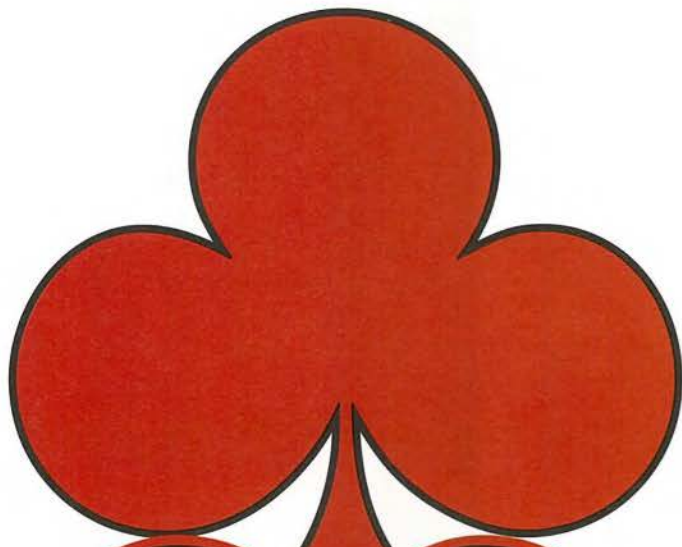
So whether these campaigns were a success for either Kerry, Bush or Nader, Western did its part to address those key issues in politics to its student body and helped ensure that the youth's voice is one that was taken seriously for generations to come. In this rather imperfect system we called an American democracy, CME and this institution as a whole jumped the bandwagon and challenged the status quo by refusing to remain silent.



Essence Hightower hands out T-shirts at the rally. Students decided not to remain mute about their political affiliations.



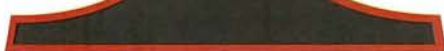
Terry Staniel participated in the rally by receiving his t-shirt. Students with valid identification received shirts to support the event.

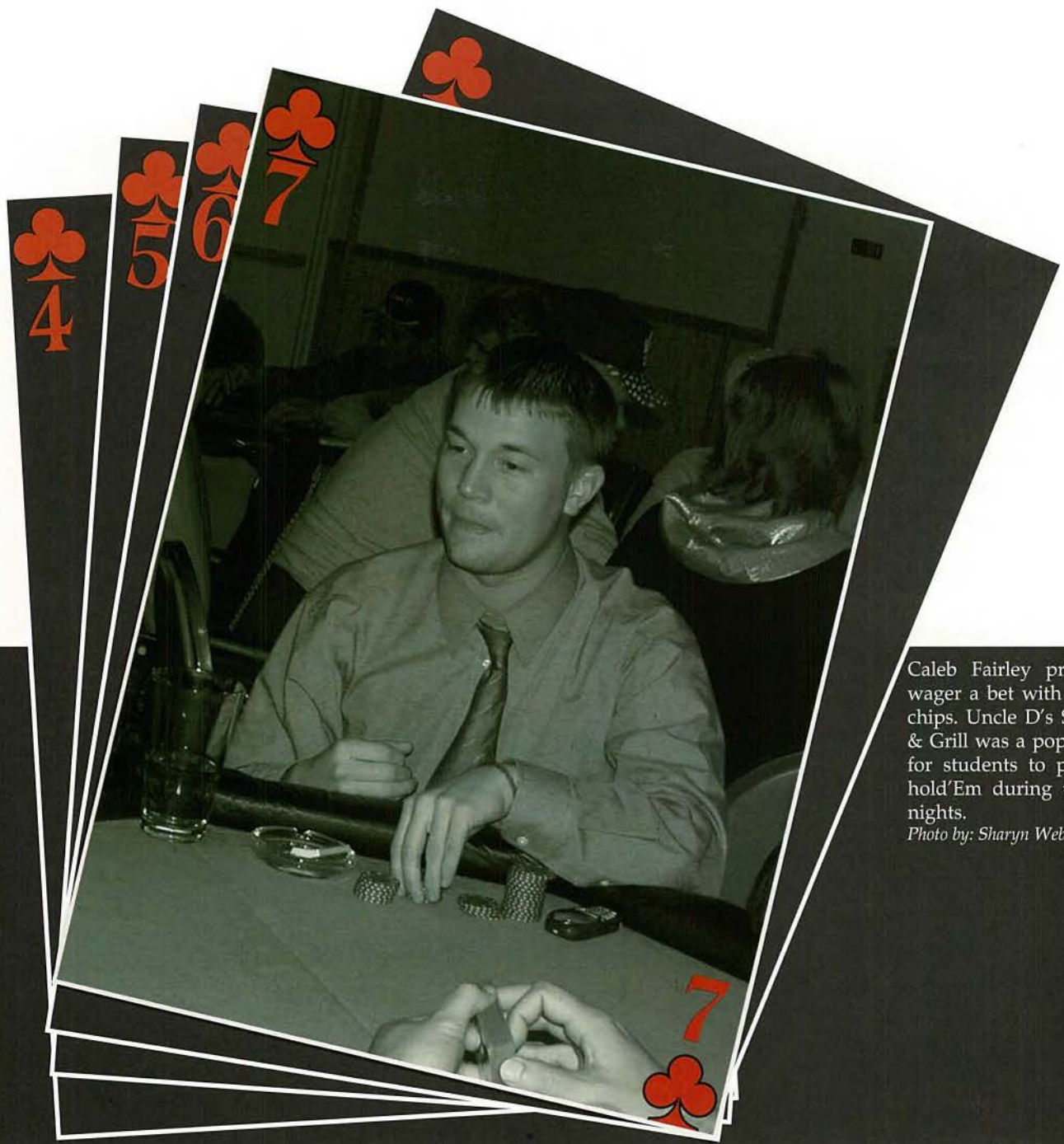


I just made an ace-high flush off the flop, and I have to keep my mouth shut. If I even blink, my opponent will know that I have pocked hearts. I bet small, hoping to slow-roll them into playing. The next two cards are turned, and I'm in trouble. There are two pairs sitting on the board—threes and kings. Here's what I know: my ace-high flush will beat a lot of hands. But, what I don't know is the guy across from me has the other king, making a full house, which is one of the hands that my flush won't beat. I decide to go all in; he follows. Moments later I'm whining and crying like a whipped little schoolboy.



Story by: Jared Herrin  
Photos by: Sharyn Webb & Jeremy Weikel





Caleb Fairley prepares to wager a bet with his poker chips. Uncle D's Sports Bar & Grill was a popular place for students to play Texas hold'Em during the week-nights.

*Photo by: Sharyn Webb*

The game that ruined my night was a variation of regular poker called Texas Hold 'em, and it had started taking over poker tables across the country. The rules for Hold 'em are fairly simple and can be learned quickly, which adds to the appeal for novices and experienced players as well. To start the game, players are dealt two cards face down, which is followed by a round of betting. After betting, five cards are dealt face up, first a group of three, called the flop, then one more, called the turn and finally the last card is turned, called the river. These five cards are community cards that all the players will use to make the best five-card hand. Between the flop, turn and river, players bet or fold. After all betting is completed, the two pocket cards are revealed and the

player with the best hand wins-simple as that.

There are variations on the game, most of which deal with how players can bet. For instance, some people set a maximum amount that can be bet per round, while others have maximum amount per round. This second type, called no limit Hold 'em, is the kind that is played in the increasingly popular World Series of Poker, an annual poker tournament that professionals and amateurs alike view as the ultimate prize in Texas Hold 'em. The World Series itself reflects the increase in popularity of the sport, as it started off with only 52 players in 1982 and has grown to 7,595 in 2002. Last year's winner, Greg "Fossilman" Raymer, took home a pot of \$5 million, the largest pot in the history of the WSOP. Not a bad paycheck for a silly game of cards.

# texas Hold'em

# :hold'Em 101 plays its hand

The buy in for the WSOP is \$10,000, but if you're like me, you can't scrape up that kind of dough through plasma donations alone. But not to worry, there is an easy way into the tournament right here in St. Joseph. Area bars had started hosting free Hold 'em tournaments on almost every night of the week. One group of tournaments takes place every Monday through Thursday at Uncle D's Sports Bar & Grill, Bottoms Up and Rear View. The tournaments, which are sponsored by BarPoker.com, are also hosted in cities around Missouri and culminate in a statewide tournament comprised of the top 240 players. The winner of the state tournament gets free buy in at the WSOP. The 240 players are ranked using a system that awards points based on placement in each round. While the tournaments are free to enter, players must be 21 to enter.

Jeremy Leer, manager of Uncle D's, located at the corner of Messanie and 36<sup>th</sup> street, didn't mind having hordes of wannabe poker players in his midst.

"People usually don't come out after the weekend," Leer said. "The tournaments help bring people in on Monday nights."

While the tournaments are free and legal, not everyone who wants to try their hand at the game is old enough to enter. So what do these youngsters do? Break the law and host their own tournament. That's right, gambling in your own home is not only illegal it's also fun. An abundant amount of college students were involved in or been present at a small stakes poker game someone has hosted in his or her home or dorm, and every one of these people were lawbreakers, according to Sgt. Dave Miller, a member of the Missouri Gaming Commission. But don't worry; you probably won't go to jail.

"Technically, it's illegal," said Miller, who has also been a member of the Missouri Highway Patrol for the last 28 years. "But it's like someone running two miles over the speed limit; it's illegal, but it doesn't hurt anyone."

While he isn't advocating that people start hosting a "Mega-Millions" poker tournament in their basement, he believes that you probably won't get in trouble for having a small tournament.

"It happens all the time," Miller said. "But [the highway patrol] has more important things to worry about, and if we don't, we need to start getting out more."

Miller feels that people won't get in trouble for gambling in their homes, as long as they use "restraint and self-control," which means don't go betting your college tuition or your girlfriend because you think your deuces will hold up--that's what Bingo night is for.

But does this leniency towards do-it-yourself casino-ing extend as far as the residence halls on campus? Not according to the Western Student Handbook, which states, "Gambling is also prohibited on college property or at any college supervised function."

"As long as you're not playing for money, you're going to be OK," said Residence Council President Noah Haahr.

So there you go. No money equals no punishment, but it also vicariously equals no hard earned trip to get Arby's low carbies if you win--life just isn't fair.



A big tip for playing Texas Hold'em never bid the seven duce off suits. Showers just won a huge hand and collected all the chips on the table.

Photo by: Jeremy Weikel



The main goal of Texas Hold'em is to make your best hand using the two cards you originally dealt at the beginning of the game plus the five community cards in the middle of the table. This particular community hand could have went either way and been good or poor, depending on the two cards that you had.

Photo by: Jeremy Weikel

## hold'em Tips for beginners



Every Hold'em game starts with the dealer dealing every player in the game two cards face down followed by everyone playing their bets. Stacie Bachelar got lucky and was dealt pocket aces eventually leading to her winning the game.

*Photo by: Jeremy Weikel*



One of the hardest parts about card games is maintaining your facial expressions and not letting anyone know how good or bad your hand may be. Big-time card players usually wore sunglasses or hats to help disguise themselves.

*Photo by: Jeremy Weikel*

### General Hold'em Strategy:

Hold'em is basically HIGH card game. The players holding two good high cards have the best chance at the best hand or a draw to the best hand after the flop. Only play strong hands, that will stand a raise or multiple raises, from early betting positions. Play medium strength and other playable hands from the later positions if you have a good chance of seeing the flop at a reasonable price. Play strong high hands MOST of the time, and play them very aggressively. Take all the raises you can get. If you don't thin out the competition, you reduce your chances of winning. Plus, your aggressive play before the flop can add credibility to any strong play you might want to use on the next round if a garbage flop falls and you want to try a steal. Be ready to fold your high pair if you get a lot of action with a threatening flop.

### Definitions:

- High cards - A thru 10 (Aces, Faces and Tens)
- Medium cards - 9 thru 7
- Low cards - 6 thru 2
- Suited player hand - Both cards of the same suit
- Set - Three of a kind with two of the three in your hand. (One in your hand and two on the board is "trips".)
- Nut hand - An unbeatable hand
- Fast play - Bet, raise and re-raise to get as many other players out as possible.
- Slow play - Just check or call along to keep other players in the game to increase the pot odds.
- Check-fold - Check when you can and fold if you are bet into. Gladly accept all free cards offered.



# goodbye to Lil' Griff

western starts the school year replacing Lil' Griff  
with a new, more realistic Griffon mascot

In an arsenal of the complete college you would undoubtedly find a good football and basketball team, a great band, devoted fans, good academic achievements, cheerleaders and of course the symbol of good school spirit--a mascot.

In recent years, Missouri Western had the Little Griff as its mascot. With a stumpy, little body and a bobble-like head this mascot pranced around at home and away games with little support from its home Missouri Western. Lil' Griff wasn't even supposed to be the mascot, just an ambassador for the college.

At a home basketball game, former Student Body President Sylvester Brandon had a spark of genius. "Western needs a new mascot," he said.

Thus began the humble beginnings of a project to save school spirit. What began as an idea to revamp a dying school spirit became a Campus Activities Board secret project. Brandon and a few close friends, mainly Robbie Mitchell and a few students from the student body, drew out plans for a real Griffon.

"The mascot just didn't seem to fit the theme," Mitchell said. "No disrespect to the Little Griffon or his designer, but when you sing our fight song or the Alma-mater you just envision a griffon," Mitchell said.

So with the need for a new image, inspiration from the former Student Government Association president and the

CAB special projects budget, the nearly foot griffon was created.

Brandon decided to be the mascot himself even though he thought some people would be skeptical.

"A lot of people laughed because the former president of the student body became the staple of school spirit," said Brandon. "But, a new mascot was needed desperately."

However, many believed it truly showed Brandon's commitment to Western.

"I think it resembles his commitment to Western," Senior and incumbent CA chair LaSilvia Franklin said. "He frequently has to get into this really hot suit and perform a worthwhile performance that the students enjoy."

Brandon enjoyed being the mascot for Western. "I enjoy the job; I get to go away with acting a little crazy every now and then," he said. "It's the perfect medium to show my pride in Western, and for the most part I entertain a lot of people that were otherwise board at games last year."

With future collaborations with the pep team SWARM, more involvement with Griffon sports and possible appearances at other school events, the Griffon should have a pretty busy schedule. "The future looks bright for the Griffon; all it needs is a name," Mitchell said.

Story by: Darren Mot  
Photos by: Jenn Hugh

Western's new mascot marches in the 2004 Homecoming parade. Sylvester Brandon helped to create the new mascot and then portrayed the Griffon.



Missouri Western's offensive line prepares to charge against the Truman State Bulldogs. The O-Line led the way to a 27-16 win.



# Western's 'Gold Rush'

Story by: Jared Herrin    Photos by: Sharyn Webb

## to Victory

Griffons dominate the Truman State Bulldogs with a score of 27-16

**T**he day might have been bright and sunny, but the Homecoming game between the Griffons and the Truman State Bulldogs was anything but bright for the Bulldogs.

While Truman State's offense seemed to be driving on all cylinders, moral victories were the special of the day for the winless Bulldogs as they continuously blew opportunities to score touchdowns and instead, settled for field goals. Missouri Western however, put up 422 yards of total offense for a continual red zone presence that had the Bulldogs on their heels all day, and gave the Griffons a 27-16 victory.

Quarterback Kyle Westerberg put up impressive numbers in his 15 for 23 showing that marked his second straight start as replacement for senior Michael Cooper. Westerberg connected for 269 yards on the day, all coming without a single interception, and even made like Mike Vick and rolled one 15-yard touchdown in.

Senior running back Nick Richardson led the ground attack with 61 yards on 10 carries, getting two touchdowns in the process while Jamison Burns gathered 48 yards on 18 carries. Western's passing game came on with variety as four different receivers netted 50 or more yards apiece. Senior John Schoonover totaled 82 yards; tight end Gijon Robinson received 67 yards and the Griffon's first touchdown of the game.

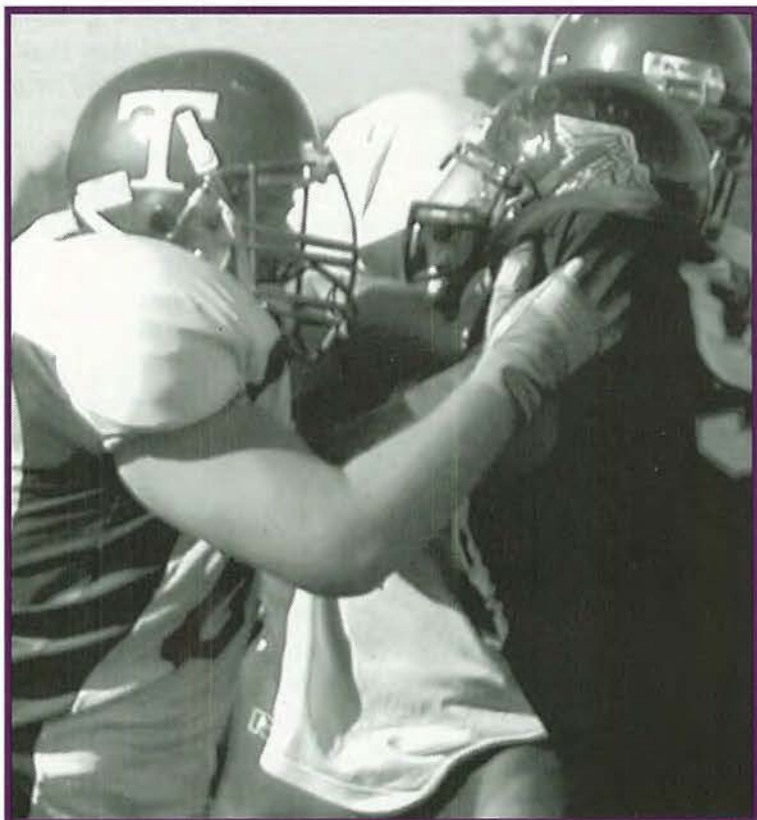
But Western's performance wasn't completely flawless, as their defense was constantly invaded by an offensive onslaught that was only stemmed by key defensive stands. Truman State's three field goals came

within or close to the red zone, and their touchdown of the game came from the 13-yard line. Western also enjoyed eight penalties for a total 65 yards. "We had a roughing the punter (penalty)--that hurts," Western head coach Jerry Partridge said.

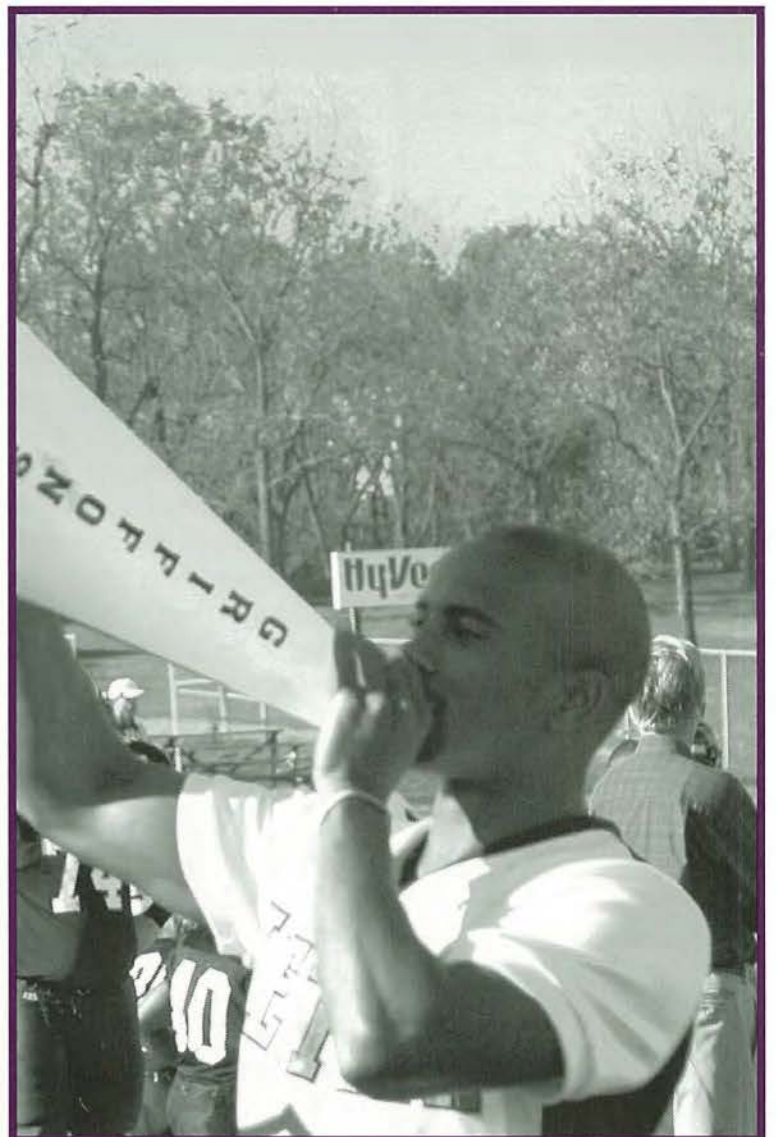
The game wouldn't be Homecoming if it didn't have a special event before opening kick off. Westerberg's high-flying performance wasn't the only act of the game that had fans looking up to the sky. The game ball was parachuted in to Spratt Stadium by four members of the Falcon Skydiving team before the coin toss, which had members of the audience standing at attention. "The parachute guys were really cool," sophomore Lavon Shaffner said.

From the various Homecoming oriented shirts to the skydivers, Western fans supported the team to triumph. "The victory was wonderful, and we had a lot of fan support," sophomore Liz Holthaus said.

The Griffon's victory over Truman state gave them a 4-3 record and sent them into their next game with rival Northwest Missouri State in high spirits.



A Griffon lineman faces off against his opponent during a key play. Truman State's defense proved to be powerless against Western as they fell to an 11 point deficit.



Griffon yell leader Will McGuire pumps up the crowd during the Homecoming game. The cheerleaders and yell leaders provided a valuable source of Western spirit.



Members of the court anxiously await the decision of the student body. The student body voted for the candidates on the internet.

## facts:

- : The whole student body votes on the king and queen.
- : There were five king candidates.
- : There were five queen candidates.
- : The king and queen had many responsibilities.
- : Haahr and Weeks represented Western well throughout the week.

Filled with festivities and anticipation Western's Homecoming week was usually the largest event of the fall semester. Days before the big week, students and faculty saw candidates hanging up poster boards, with the Gold Rush '04 theme, throughout campus.

But what did it take to be in the Homecoming court? Was it enthusiasm, the right friends, great publicity or getting people to vote by shouting a public service announcement in the computer lab? Some would say that it took a little bit of everything to be a candidate in the 2004 Homecoming court.

"It's a hard job; not many people know that as a candidate you are supposed to attend all of the Homecoming week events, have a certain grade point average and publicize yourself," junior Marcus Shobe said. "Most of all, it's a grueling campaign until the bitter or sweet end."

Although there were standards other than looking beautiful in front of the camera, commitment didn't make too many candidates shy away.

"I think it was a blessing and an honor to be elected for the Homecoming court, so why wouldn't I participate in the events that are going on?" DeWanda Weeks said. "It's always good to be versa-

tile in what you are involved in because it introduces you to many different circles."

Several of the candidates felt lucky that the organizations would even consider them for nomination. "A diverse group of people were in my corner, and that makes me feel good even though I didn't win," LaSilvia Franklin said.

Students voted over the internet for the top five candidates, who they wanted to represent them in the final competition. After a lack of response for petitioned votes the deadline was extended to provide students with one more opportunity to elect their favorite choices for candidacy.

The top five king candidates were Josh Baker, Andy Davis, Noah Haahr, Dustin Holcumbrink and Christos Papadopoulos. Queen candidates were Brook Atha, LaSilvia Franklin, Amanda Grube, DeWanda Weeks and Jessica White.

Sponsored by the Student Honor Organization, Haahr was crowned king and Weeks was crowned queen during the pep rally and bonfire. Weeks was sponsored by Alpha Omega.

Win, lose or draw, it was an honor to be in the spotlight during this week of festivities. All of the candidates were thankful and honored that for a week, Western made them feel like gold.

Homecoming king and queen Noah Haahr and DeWanda Weeks ride in the parade. The king and queen participated in many events throughout the week.



Last year's king, Adrian Gray, crowns the new king, Noah Haahr, at the bonfire. This was the first time the king and queen were crowned at the bonfire.

# Court is in Session

The Homecoming king and queen along with the court shine throughout the week

Story by: Darren Moten Photos by: Jeremy Weikel



Top: Phi Delta Theta members ride in the Homecoming parade on their boat, Athena. They worked over two and a half weeks to build the 15-foot boat.

Bottom: The Alchemists Club put a spell on the judges to try and win the title of Best Float. Alpha Sigma Alpha took home the honor of first place float.



## facts:

- : Homecoming queen and king were Dewanda Weeks and Noah Haahr
- : Fans from the community and surrounding schools attended the game.
- : Usually Greek and non-Greek organizations wait and put the finishing touches on their floats late Friday night
- : Western alumni are honored and welcomed at the game
- : Most organizations paint a building window on campus
- : Alpha Sigma Alpha's float, "Austin Powers in Goldmember," won first place.
- : Western Griffons won the Homecoming football game against Truman State 27-16
- : Parade line up starts at 7 a.m.

Students showed their own unique styles of "Gold Rush" in an assortment of ways. The Homecoming parade included different floats created by sorority fraternities and a variety of other organizations. There were also car and truck entries in the parade. Political candidates involved themselves in the parade as well as trying to make their faces familiar with the community.

"Because it was our Missouri Western Homecoming parade, I think that the political candidates could have been left out," Shaliese Samuels, member of Phi Epsilon Kappa fraternity said. "They have their own time to campaign all year and this is a time for us as students not to worry about politics and school this is our time to have fun."

Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority definitely had fun winning first place with their float; they chose to represent the "Gold Rush '04" theme with an all-time favorite, "Austin Powers in Goldmember."

"We spent lots of time and hard work on our float and it paid off," Cheerleader West said. "We had lots of fun putting the float together. It gave us a chance to hang out with the new girls and we got something good out of the whole deal."

Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority took second place with their "Golden '70s" idea and, finally the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity came in third with the creative idea "Gold Mining."

"The building of our float was a hard, time-consuming and grueling task but, when we made it through the parade and actually placed, it made it worthwhile," Robbie Mitchell said. "I would have to say out of the two weeks given probably spent at least 48 hours working on our float."

Hard work, time and dedication were put into all the floats.

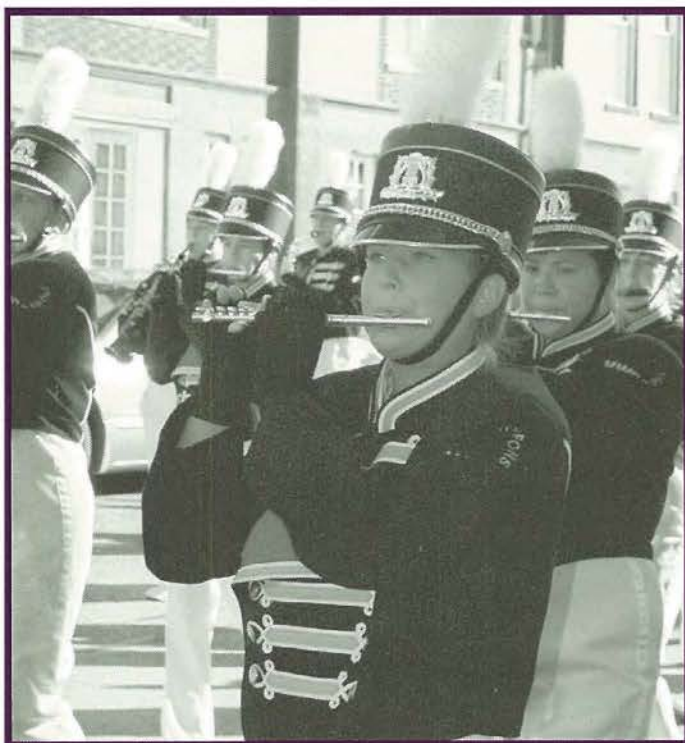
"The parade did not start until 9:30 a.m., but we had to be there by 6:00 a.m. to get in our spots and make sure all our things were in the right place, and trust me it is so cold at 6:00 in the morning," Samuels said.

The theme may not have been as appealing as the years in the past, but everyone seemed to make due with it.

"I thought the theme this year was alright, even though we shared the theme with Mizzou," Mitchell said.



Peace, love and war brings Tri-Sigma to the '70s while they show their Western spirit. Many of the participants used blankets to keep warm in the early hours of the morning during the parade line up.



The woodwind section of the Golden Griffon Marching Band performs in downtown St. Joseph. Bands from all over Missouri marched in the parade.

# Western's Gold Rush

The parade was golden as the community gathered to support Missouri Western

Story by: Alison Kreig

Photos by: Jenn Hughes  
and Kristin Wampler





Above: Band members prepare the sound equipment before their performance at the Talent Show. Fifteen different acts entered to win the Talent Show. Below: Members of "KC Thizzetts" perform their act at the Talent Show. They were allowed to dance twice because of technical difficulties.

Photos by: Jeremy Matthews



## facts:

- : MC/Comedian Steve Byrne hosted the Talent Show.
- : "Versatile" won the dance competition at the Talent Show.
- : The first place winner in the singing competition was Holly Brown.
- : The Homecoming king and queen were crowned at the bonfire.

MC/Comedian Steve Byrne kicked off the annual Talent Show that was held on Oct. 7 during Homecoming week.

The Campus Activities Board sponsored the Talent Show, and it consisted of acts that ranged from singing, rapping, dancing and playing the drums. "It's always good for everyone who comes because of all the different acts involved," senior Adam Scheidegger said.

Scheidegger said that he thought that the Talent Show was interesting and entertaining with the variety of acts. Sophomore Keith Langabee enjoyed all the acts and thought that they got the crowd involved. He thought the Talent Show was a success. "The MC was hilarious and the music was awesome; it was good overall," Langabee said.

The only downfall to the night was the technical difficulties with the sound equipment. The microphones kept cutting in and out, and the music would stop in the middle of a few performances. Despite the technical glitches, the show

went on, and one act, "KC Thizzetts," got to perform their dance routine over again.

The malfunctions didn't stop most of the audience and performers from enjoying the show. Langabee thought the most enjoyable parts of the show were the two acts that had to deal with drums since he played in Western's drumline.

There were two different categories that the acts were classified under: dance and singing. The winner of the dance competition was "Versatile" with the variety of dances. Second place went to Chris Bates with his drum solo and Jason Baskin received third place with his version of the Super Mario Brothers theme song.

Scheidegger expected Bates to win with his dynamic drum solo. Langabee, on the other hand, expected Baskin to win because of his decision to play the Super Mario Brothers theme song.

"Versatile" was made up of six women and three men. "We practiced for about a month and did the best we could," Tamra Wright said. "We entered the show because we love to dance, and I think we were off the meter."

Holly Brown received first place in the singing competition with her interpretation of "The Trouble With Love" by Kelly Clarkson. Second place went to Nnamdi and Dawson and third place went to Ryda Musik. Nnamdi and Dawson serenaded the crowd with "Girl if You Were Mine," and Ryda Musik rapped "Hood Anthem."

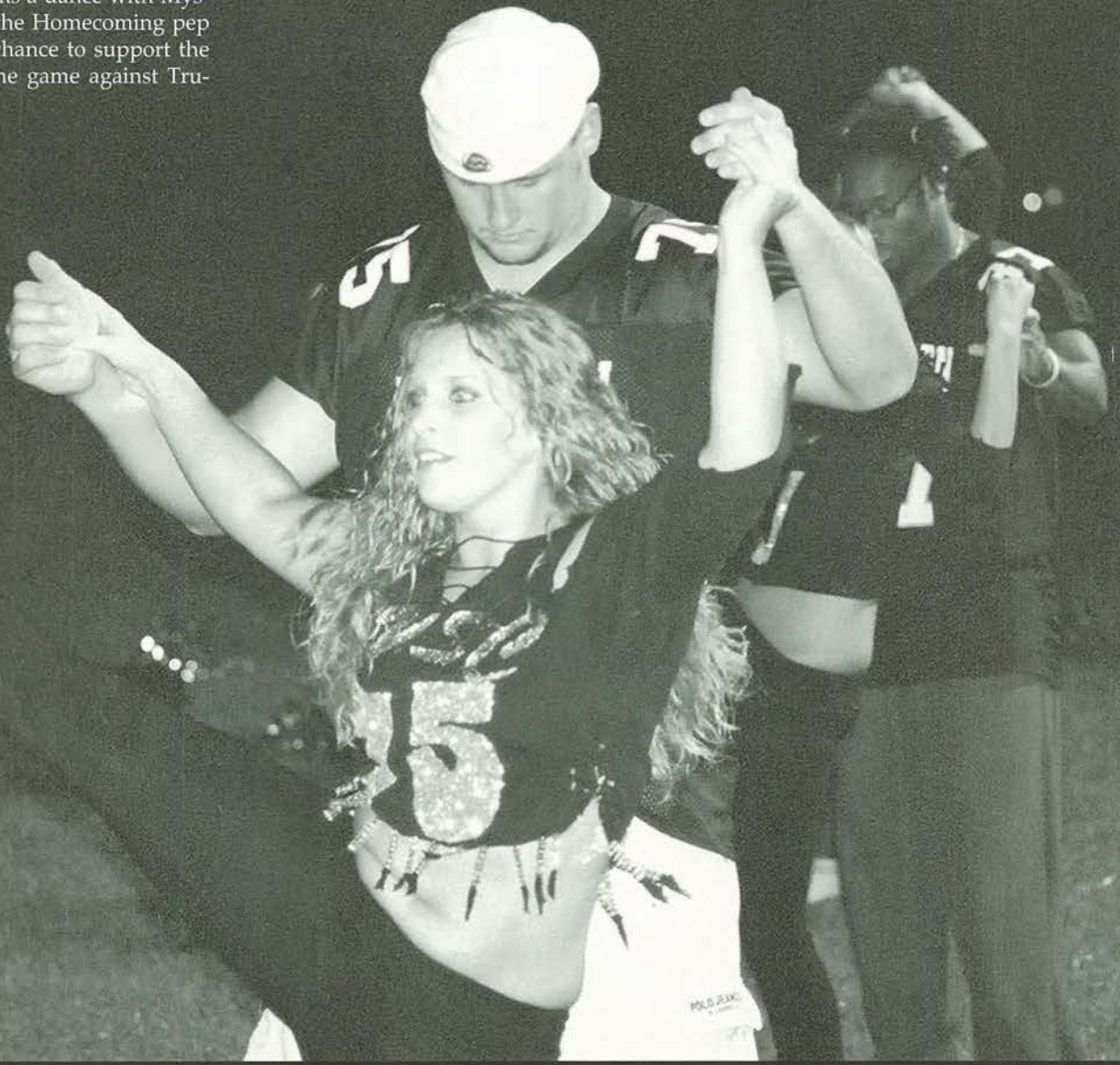
Another event that took place during Homecoming week was the pep rally/bonfire that was held on Oct. 8. Noah Haahr and Dewanda Weeks were crowned Homecoming king and queen at the pep rally. Haahr enjoyed the pep rally and was honored to be crowned king.

"I give all the credit to my fraternity and the Student Honors Organization," he said. "I want to thank the people who voted for me."

Sophomore Victor Patterson said he enjoyed the pep rally because he got to hang out with his friends. "I liked how everyone was cheering during the pep rally, and I had a lot of fun with all the activities," he said.

Brett Pettigrew performs a dance with Mystic Cara McDowell at the Homecoming pep rally. Students had a chance to support the football team before the game against Truman State.

*Photo by: Jeremy Weikel*



# Adrenaline Rush

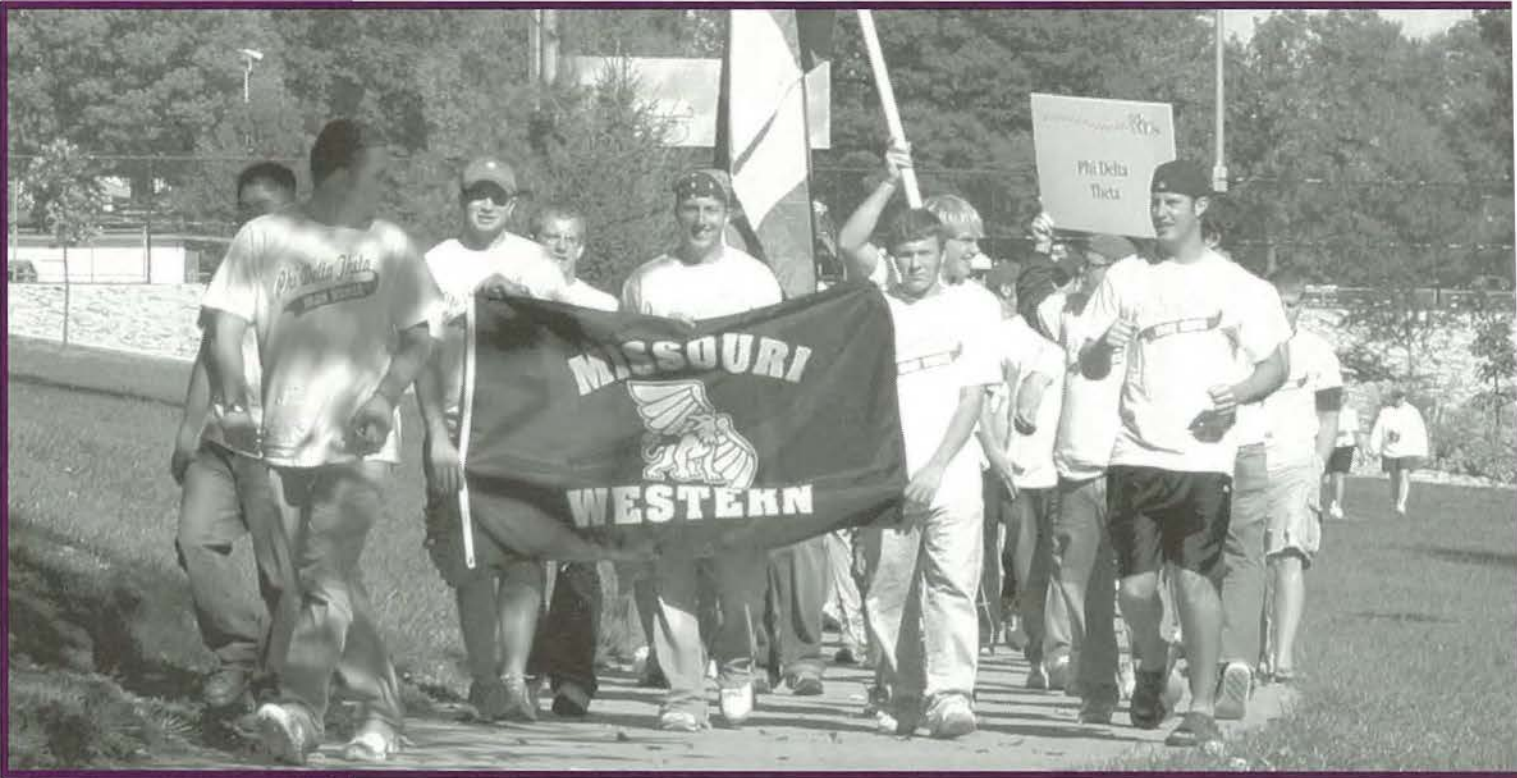
Western's spirit shines through  
during a week full of  
Homecoming events

Story by: Traci Haug



Keeping the tradition alive, students gather around the bonfire to watch the crowning of the Homecoming king and queen. The bonfire was a tradition for many years.

*Photo by: Jeremy Weikel*



Western Phi Delta Theta members take a walk at Bartlett Park on Oct. 9 as part of the Walk-A-Thon. The Phi Deltas felt that helping out the community was a large part of being in a community.

## facts:

- : ALS is a disease that attacks the motor neurons.
- : There are 15 new cases of ALS diagnosed every day.
- : Every 90 minutes a person loses his or her battle with this disease.
- : ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Lou Gehrig was a famous Phi Delta Theta alum.

The Phi Delta Theta fraternity participated in the second annual Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Walk-A-Thon on Oct. 9. The ALS Walk-A-Thon benefited the Keith R. Worthington Foundation, which researches ALS.

ALS is also known as the Lou Gehrig's disease. The disease is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease that attacks the motor neurons. Even the simplest moves such as walking, speaking and gesturing are nearly impossible.

Phi Delta Theta member Timothy Lawrence researched the ALS Walk-A-Thon, and thought that it would be a good idea to get the fraternity involved, especially since Henry Louis Gehrig was a brother of the fraternity. Gehrig was a baseball player for the New York Yankees before ALS forced a premature retirement.

"We wanted to get involved in this event because of Lou Gehrig," Phi Delt Lutfie Atieh said. "The affair is for a great cause and the money we raise stays in the Midwest to help find a cure for the disease."

Western Phi Deltas were not the only ones who contributed in the event. The brothers from Maryville and Western's Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority also walked the three-mile trail that took place at Bartlett

Park. "It's a great feeling to be contributing to a good cause that so many people are involved in," Atieh said.

The Missouri Eta chapter raised around \$2,500 for the foundation by going door-to-door and getting donations, but the amount of money was not what was significant to the brothers.

"We didn't raise as much money as last year, but that's not what is important," Phi Delta Theta Brandon Rodriguez said. "Any way we can help out the community is what matters and knowing that we contributed our time to such a good cause in hopes that one day a cure is found for ALS."

The brothers agreed that helping out the community was the important thing about participating in the walk.

"The walk is a great way to help out the community," Phi Delt Jason Chen said. "Events like this make me realize not to take things for granted."

The chapter not only participated in the ALS Walk-A-Thon as part of their philanthropy. They took an active role in helping out the community by helping out organizations such as United Way, the Adopt-A-Highway program, the third annual Easter Egg Hunt and the Multiple Sclerosis Walk-A-Thon.



The men of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity carry the Missouri Western flag as they participate in the ALS walk. They wanted to take part in the event to honor Lou Gehrig, a famous brother of the fraternity.



Phi Delt members Seth Brackman and Ryan Groves participate in the ALS walk. The ALS Walk-A-Thon was just one of the many events the fraternity involved themselves in as part of their philanthropy.

# Going the Distance

Fraternities are not all about fun and games as Phi Delta Theta members proved by participating in the ALS walk

Story by: Jenny Olson Photos by: Ashley Bacon

# Construction Pains

Residents on campus tolerate the hassles of construction of new additions

Story by: Traci Haug  
Photos by: Matt Reid



Construction signs are a common site among Western's campus during the 2004-05 school year. Western improved its campus by construction additions to current buildings and creating new ones.



Construction on campus took place throughout the semester. Some students were grateful for the improvements, but still were annoyed by the pains the construction brought.

"The loud noise is annoying due to the construction outside of Logan Hall," freshman Stephanie Roberts said. "The grounds outside of Logan Hall smell like a barn because of the hay they had been putting down which I don't even understand why they do that--I guess just to cover up the dirt."

During the day Roberts found it hard to study because she thought the noise was distracting. Through all the agony, she was excited to see the new Commons Building almost complete. "This will be a nice recreational area, and I can't wait for it to open," Roberts said.

Some students didn't find the noise to be distracting and weren't really concerned with it. "I never hear that much noise, but what bothers me about the construction is that it makes it difficult to drive on campus," freshman Kelli Hovey said.

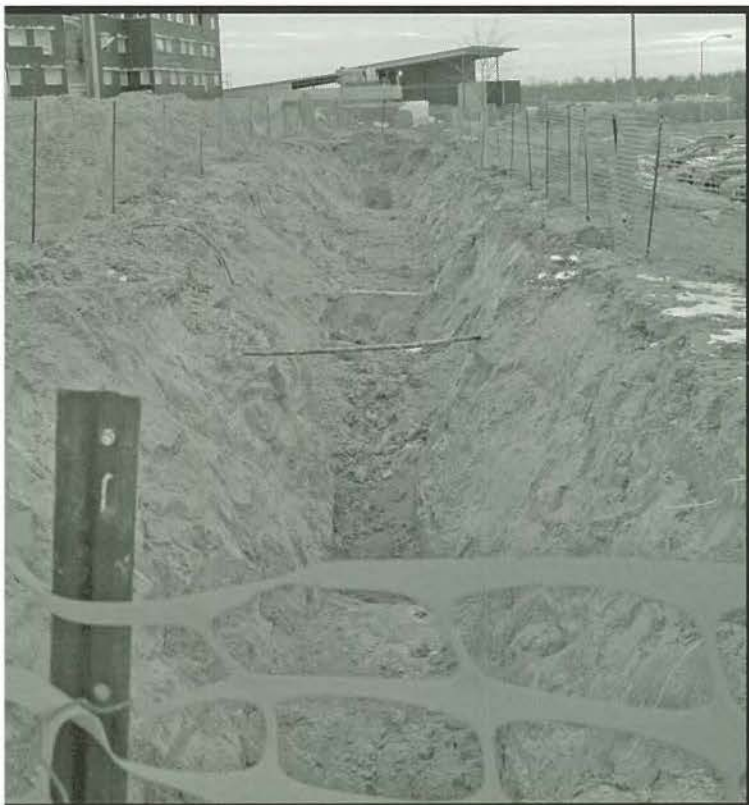
Hovey commuted every day from Savannah for school and work. She had trouble finding where she was allowed to drive and park due to the roads being blocked off. "I don't like the fact that the 30-minute parking by Leaverton is blocked off because of the construction," Hovey said.

Despite the hassles of the construction, students were excited for the new Commons Building and new apartment buildings. "Even though the waiting of the new buildings to be built is a pain, I can't wait for next year to

move into the new hall," Roberts said.

Hovey was ready for the Commons Building to open so she could socialize with other students. "Now our campus is going to have it all," she said.

At times it seemed that the new buildings were never going to be complete, as students had waited in anticipation since the fall of 2003. Irritation wore on several students who were sick of looking at the incomplete buildings and just wanted the construction to be done. "I think once the construction is finished, the students will be extremely happy," Residence Council President Noah Haahr said.



The completion of the new apartments, next to the current apartment buildings, is a work in progress. Construction began on the Commons Building and Residential Halls in October 2003.



Construction machines are a constant reminder to students that construction is almost finished. Students waited in anticipation for the finishing touches of the new residence halls.

# on the runway

Pride Alliance and the Center for Multicultural Education

co-host the first annual "Brown Bag Drag Show"

On Oct. 11, Pride Alliance and the Center for Multicultural Education hosted the first annual "Brown Bag Drag Show," featuring professional drag queens or gender illusionists, for National Coming Out Day as part of Pride Week.

The show consisted of various acts of singing and dancing. The drag queens wore multiple costumes and imitated singers such as Cher and Shania Twain.

Several students who attended the show enjoyed it and found it amusing. "I thought the show was very entertaining," freshman Megan Bourque said.

Bourque went to the show because she thought it would be a unique experience. "I hope that they do it again next year," she said. "Everyone seemed to be having a good time."

Sophomore Victor Patterson thought that the show was fun. "It was a very well-put together program. "It had a lot of diversity; being straight or homosexual didn't matter that day," Patterson said. "We all came together to have fun."

Patterson went to the show to show his support to Pride Alliance and CME. He was surprised of the turnout because the show was held during the day when

classes were going on, but glad that many students showed up.

"The drag show seemed to bring a lot of people together," he said. "I had a blast at the show and I think everyone else did too; it was tight."

So who were the performers? Rob Binks was a theater major at the University of Kansas and liked the attention she gained while she acted on stage. She was proud to be a drag queen, but it wasn't her way of life.

"This is entertainment only for me," she said. "I do not live by this at all."

Sasha DeNiro became a drag queen because she liked the stage performance aspect of it all. DeNiro also liked to dance and have a good time. She enjoyed performing in front of an audience. "Live every day as if it is your last because you never know when your last day is so you should have some fun-this is my fun," DeNiro said.

As part of Pride Week, Pride Alliance also held an information awareness campaign day, a debate on homosexuality and a raffle that benefited the AIDS Emergency Assistance Fund.

Story by: Traci L

Photos by: Jeremy Matt

A drag queen performs during the show that was held on October 11, outside the Student Union. "The Brown Bag Drag Show" was sponsored by Pride Alliance and The Center for Multicultural Education.

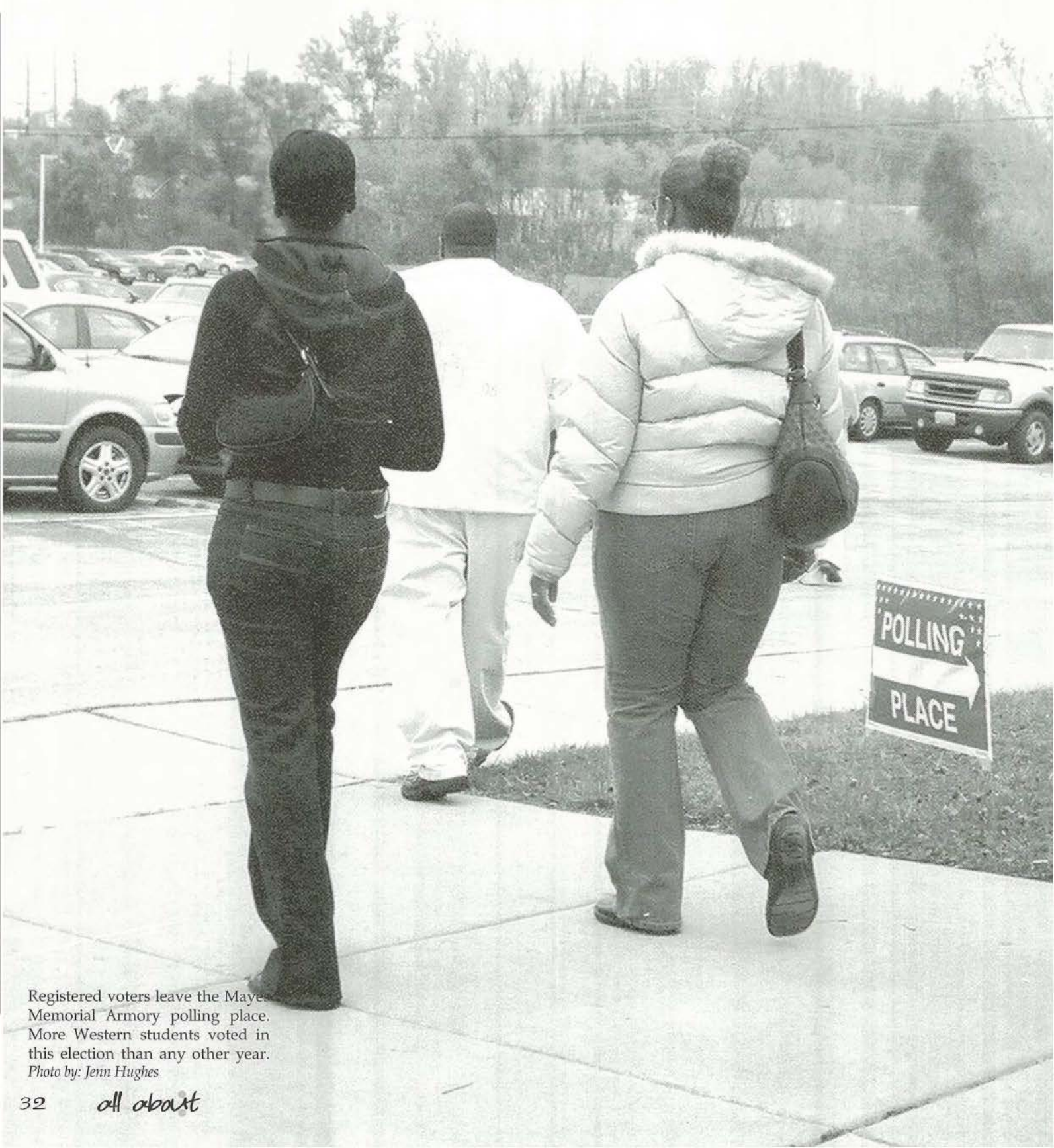




# Election 2004

Students show America that they care  
by taking their place in the voting lines

Story by: Alison Krieg



Registered voters leave the Mayer Memorial Armory polling place. More Western students voted in this election than any other year.

Photo by: Jenn Hughes

*"I am really satisfied with the election outcome because I really admire Bush's leadership skills."*

*-David Gay*

Kerry or Bush? That was the question of the day on Nov. 2, 2004 otherwise known as Election Day.

Western made an attempt to show the importance of voting with several events such as "Vote or Shut up" and "Rock the Vote." Sponsored by the Student Government Association, "Rock the Vote" featured Rachel Robinson from MTV's "Road Rules: Campus Crawl" and Syrus from "Real World Boston."

They focused on getting students to vote and interacted with the audience by having a question and answer section. Robinson and Syrus discussed Presidential candidates, Bush and Kerry, and their views on topics such as the war in Iraq, abortion, education and gay marriage.

"Rock the Vote" was just one event where students gained the knowledge of the candidates' views so they would know who they wanted to vote for. Robinson and Syrus expressed how voting was a way for students to get their voices heard.

"I think it is very important for us as college students to vote. This is how we can voice our personal opinion about who is running our country," David Gay said. "I actually drove home on Election Day so I could vote."

Numerous college students believed that voting was the best way to let their voices be heard.

"I feel that it is incredibly important for college students to vote," Mignon Wilkins said. "We are the voice of our nation's future. It is my constitutional right to vote; men and women died for my right to vote."

The outcome of the election was a disappointment to some.

"I was fairly disappointed because now that Bush is back in office he does not have to worry about being re-elected so now he has free reign to do as he pleases," Cassandra Fuller said. "I feel he went into Iraq because his dad did not get the job done."

While some were upset with the outcome others were pleased with the result.

"I am really satisfied with the election outcome because I really admire Bush's leadership skills," Gay said.

Students who weren't sure about the issues just didn't vote.

"We have to bring the more important issues to college students who are not sure about voting; the more people that tell us the issues and how they might effect us will let college students know that our opinion really does matter," Fuller said.



Students were seen around campus with their "I Voted" stickers. Even with all of the publicity towards younger voters, the turnout was the same as the last election.


*Photo by: Kristin Wampler*

*"I feel that it is incredibly important for college students to vote."*

*-Mignon Wilkins*

# reach for the stars

planetarium shows provide ways to explore  
the concepts of astronomy and learn about telescopes



In 1967, the Science and Math Building was rebuilt to add a Planetarium. Jerry Wilkerson decided that it would be a good idea to add in a Planetarium. It can accommodate 40 people and is two stories high. Shows were offered in the evening during the spring and fall semesters. There had been shows given to the public, grade schools, junior highs and high schools.

Wilkerson put on two planetarium shows throughout the year, "Hubble Vision" and "More Than Meets the Eye." "Hubble Vision" was a program about the history of the Hubble telescope and how it was used by astronomers. "More Than Meets the Eye," was a program that was about general astronomy. The program covered the moon, visible planets, some constellations and other topics found in astronomy. Both of these programs were suitable for people as young as nine.

Wilkerson believed students taking the astronomy classes enjoyed the shows. "The programs help students to understand astronomy a lot better," Wilkerson said.

Students felt the shows were beneficial to people in attendance.

"Every student should attend a planetarium show at least once in their college experience," senior Amy Ramsey said.

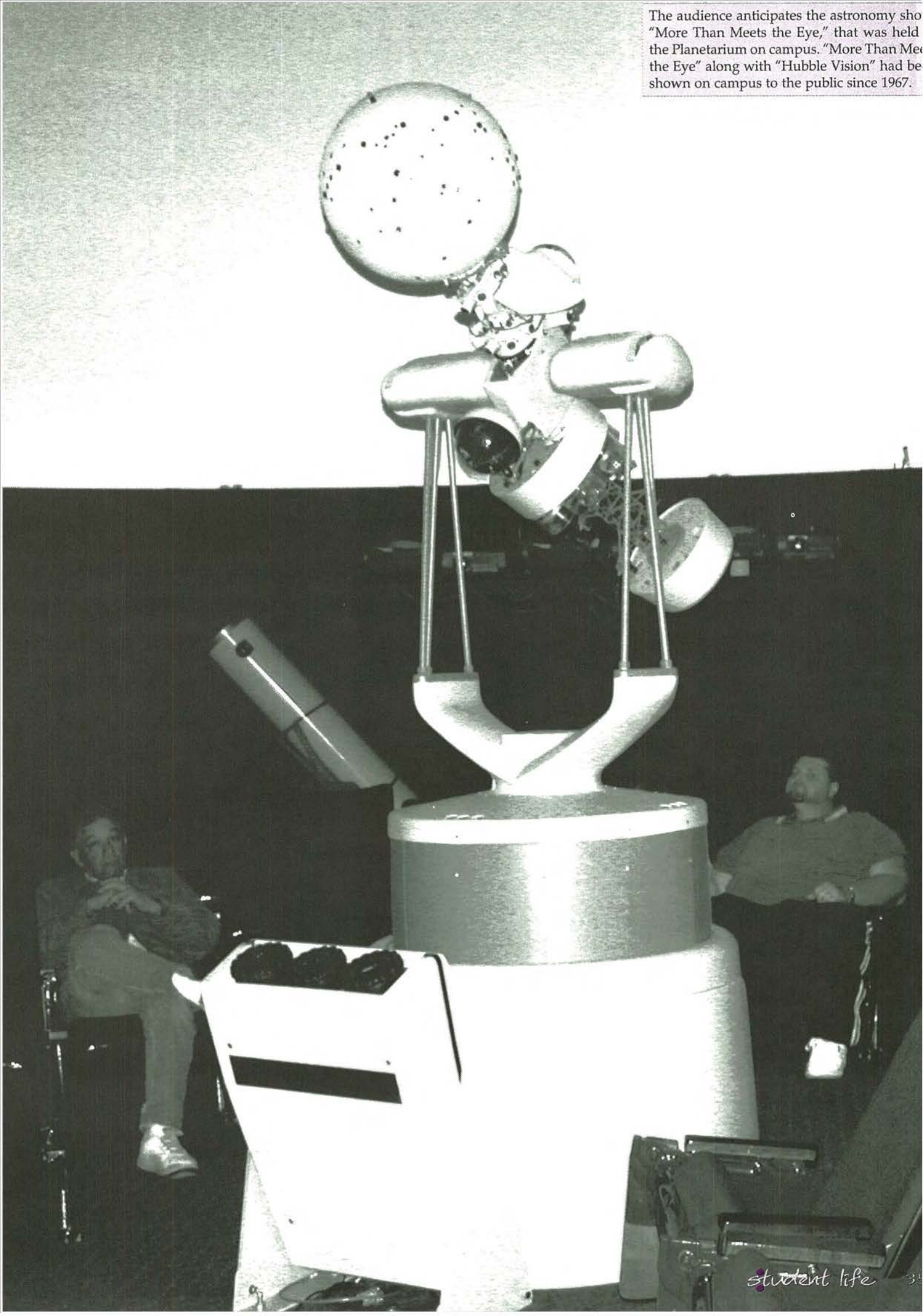
Senior Nicole Reynolds attended "More Than Meets the Eye." "The show was a very unique experience and a great opportunity to learn about astronomy," Reynolds said. "I enjoyed the show immensely. Everyone has a bit of a stargazer in them and visiting the Planetarium allows you to bring the stars into focus."

Students found that the most interesting part was learning about the constellations and how to locate them in the sky. "Constellations were something I had never been very good at, and the show was a very, good educational tool to use to get over that," Reynolds said.

"More Than Meets the Eye" was a great experience for anyone that liked to occasionally sit back and look at the stars. The Planetarium was a great educational tool, but don't let the word "educational" scare you away. It was also entertainment.

The Planetarium was a worthwhile experience for anyone on campus. It was a nice way to spend the evening and the shows were reasonably priced. "I think the Planetarium was more than just a place you go to for class, and it is too bad that other students don't always realize this," Ramsey said.

The audience anticipates the astronomy show "More Than Meets the Eye," that was held at the Planetarium on campus. "More Than Meets the Eye" along with "Hubble Vision" had been shown on campus to the public since 1967.





Leaverton Hall is one of five residence halls named after prominent people of Western. Students occupied these buildings during the school year.

## facts:

: The Truman E. Wilson Professional Studies Building was built in 1970

: The PE building was named after Marvin Looney

: The founder of Leaverton Hall is Ralph Roosevelt Leaverton

: The Frank Popplewell Bbuilding opened for classes in 1969

**W**hat is the importance of a name? The names of the buildings on campus are rich in history. Each building is named after a significant member to Western or the St. Joseph community.

Students walked to and from classes daily to enter these buildings; however, most students didn't know the story behind the names.

The PE Building, or the M.O. Looney Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building was named after Marvin O. Looney. Looney served as president of Western from 1967 to 1983. He looked over Missouri Western as it went through its change from St. Joseph Junior College to St. Joseph College.

The Science and Math Building, built in 1970, was named after Professor Evan R. Agenstein. Agenstein was an instructor when the college was a junior college and then as a four-year institution. Agenstein was a department chairman and retired in 1971. Following his retirement he became president of the Board of Regents.

The Administrative Building was named after writer Frank Popplewell, author of "Teacher in Missouri." The build-

ing was opened for classes in 1969. Popplewell gave much of his life to Western and just as Agenstein, he was also an instructor. Popplewell retired after the junior college was renamed.

The resident halls also had important backgrounds. Leaverton Hall was named after the founder of Leaverton Auto, Ralph Leaverton, in the 1920s. Leaverton's legacy was left with his children and grandchildren. His family had a strong educational commitment and a concern for the less fortunate. They had a strong interest in education, the college, its students and the pass of the Power Adult Literacy Program.

Logan Hall was named after the John Sublett Logan family for their assistance to numerous Western students. The John Sublett Logan Business Fellowship Program helped students attain graduate degrees in business, law, accounting and economics.

Most upperclassmen found out about the significance of the names after attending school for a year. Freshmen were often unsure about why the buildings were named after specific people.

"I didn't know the buildings were named after people," freshman Lacy Pearl said. "The names didn't help me out at all because I just look at the appearance of the buildings to get to class or wherever else I need to be."

Other freshmen felt the same about their knowledge on the building names. It was easier to name the buildings by using their initials.

"I always hear people using the initials instead of the name," freshman Ana Galvez said. "I didn't know they actually had names."

Even though there was some confusion on the actual names of the building, everyone wondered what it took to have a building named after a person.

"A recommendation from the administration from naming of a building is made to the Board of Regents," President Scanlon said. "The recommendation must be approved by them."

Western was continually adding buildings to the campus such as the Commons Building or adding on to existing buildings to help further the education of students.

The Student Services Classroom Building is the first building students see when they arrive to Western at the main entrance. The Janet Gorman Murphy Academic Center was added in 2000.

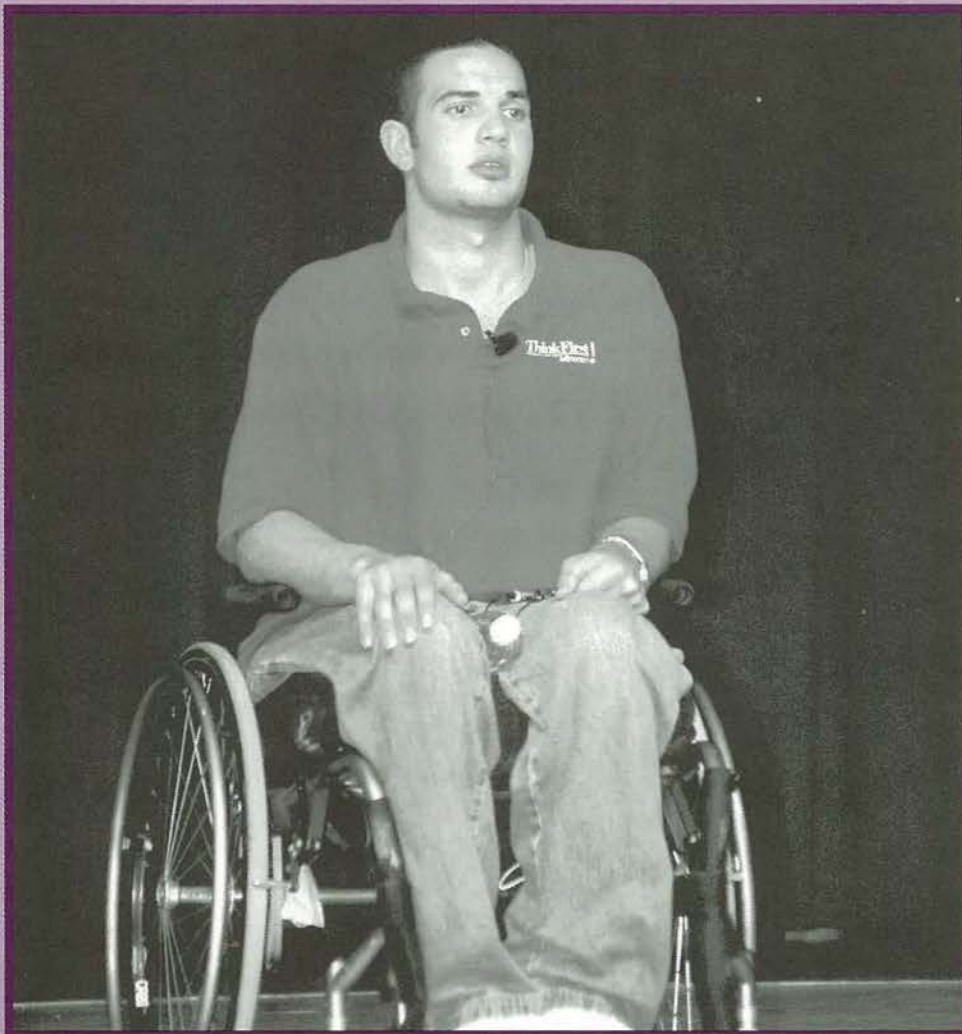


Students stroll to the Nelle Blum Student Union. Meetings, dining and hanging out were a few of the activities students engaged in.

# Building History

What's in a name? The names of Western's buildings have meaning behind them.

Story by: Lindsay Moyer    Photos by: Cherish Nigh



Troy Gorham speaks to students on how drunken driving can dramatically affect lives. Gorham was in an accident that paralyzed him for life.

## facts:

- : A "beer belly" is caused by eating too much food. No beer or other alcohol beverage is necessary
- : Only time can sober up a person... not black coffee, cold showers, exercise, or any other common "cures."
- : The United States isn't among the top ten alcohol consuming countries.
- : There is no worm in tequila. It's in mescal, a spirit beverage distilled from a different plant
- : Women become more intoxicated than men on the same amount of alcohol, even when they weigh the same
- : Communities and neighborhoods that have more bars and liquor stores per capita experience more assaults.
- : The detrimental effects of alcohol on the liver are more severe for women than for men
- : As many as 70 percent of college students admit to having engaged in sexual activity primarily as a result of being under the influence of alcohol

Students constantly faced pressure throughout their experience with factors such as alcohol. Western formed a workshop for students to learn about the disadvantages of alcohol with the development of Alcohol Awareness Week throughout the week of Oct. 18-22.

Activities such as Stop the Knockbe informed students about the effects of drinking and driving. Sergeant Lyon of the Missouri State Highway Patrol presented an activity.

Other events were held to educate students about alcoholism.

The State of Missouri vs. Bra was an event where a defendant was put on trial for killing two passengers and injuring a third while driving drunk.

Drunk Driving at the Union was an event where students experience the effects of alcohol while driving with beer goggles and golf clubs. The last event was Testimonies presented by Troy Gorham along with a candlelight vigil at the clock tower.

Many students had their favorite activities of the week.

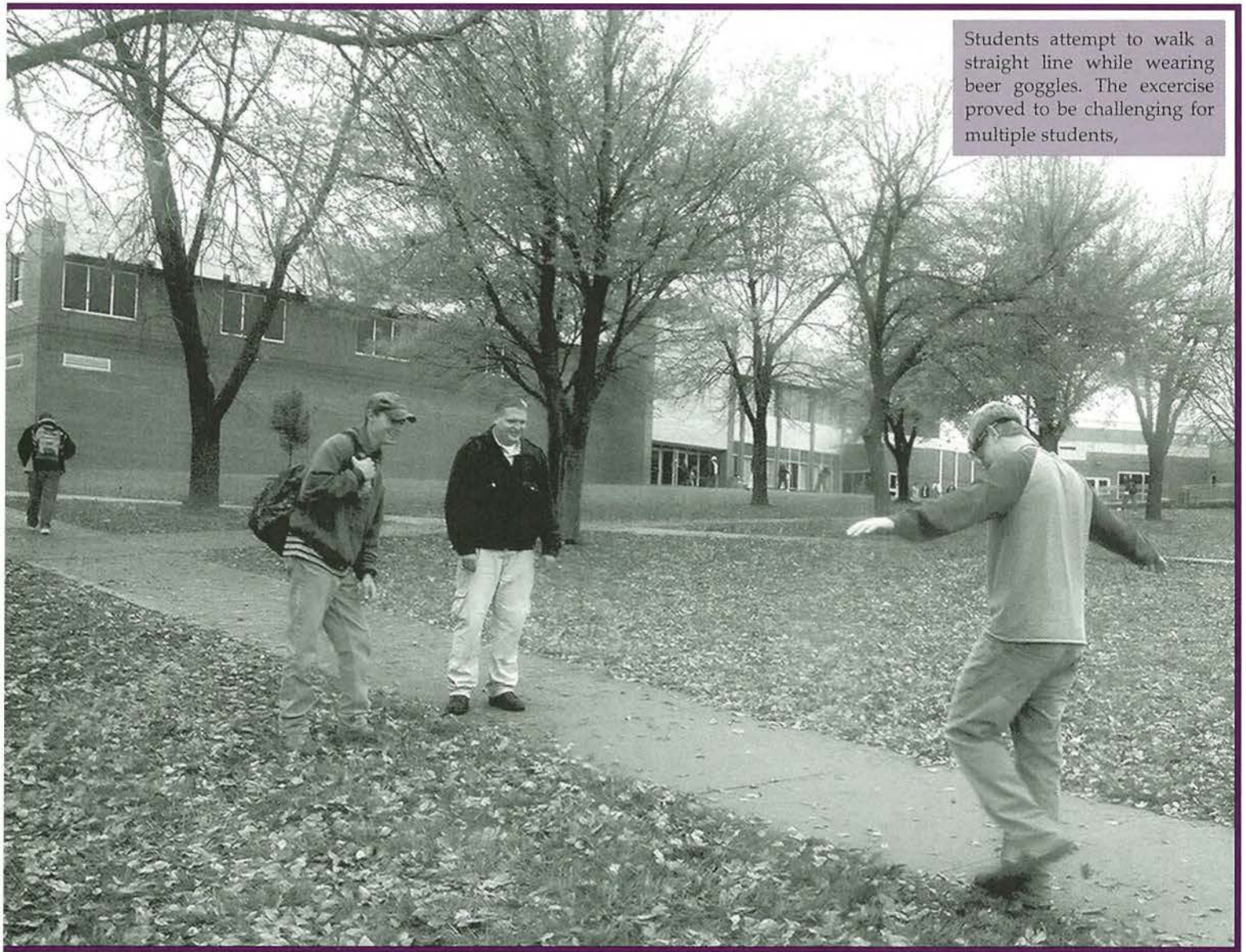
"I chose to go to Stop the Knockbe because one can never get too much information about drinking and driving and the safety of the road," Kelli Hovey said. "I had previously attended this event my senior year of high school and I was happy to see that they included some information from the most recent accidents that have occurred since then."

Students were encouraged throughout the week to attend at least one of the four events. Free t-shirts were handed out at each event for students who attended the event. The outcome for each event was affected due to the weather. "The rain held off many students from attending some of the events, however, the rain did not stop me," V Patterson said.

Overall the message was clearly stated to the students who attended the events was drinking and driving. Many students agreed the program was very effective and full of vital information.

"I learned a lot by attending the program," Megan McManus said. "I learned by making one little mistake such as taking your eyes off the road can cost your life. Two, I learned some important statistics and facts that I had never known before. Most importantly, I learned drinking is serious business, and you should not drink it lightly."

Students attempt to walk a straight line while wearing beer goggles. The exercise proved to be challenging for multiple students,



# Desired: Intoxication

A week of events informs students about the many dangers and consequences of drinking too much alcohol.

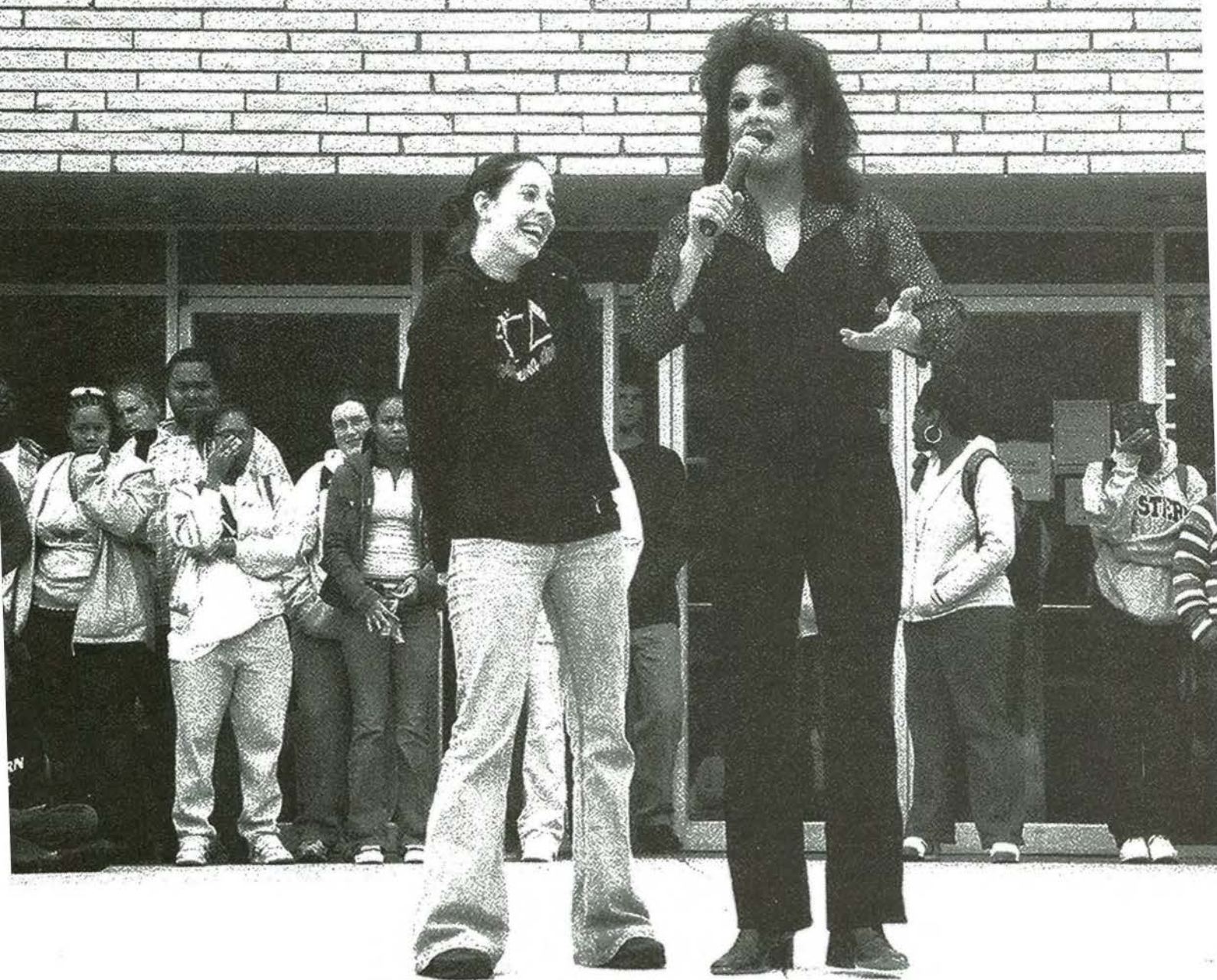
Students experience life through the eyes of an intoxicated person during the driving portion of the week. The event had the largest turnout despite the bad weather.

Story by: Lindsay Moyer    Photos by: Cherish Nigh



A drag queen interacts with a member of the audience at a drag show sponsored by Pride Alliance. Many thought the Baptist Student Union opposed this event.

Photo by: Jeremy Matthews



# BSU vs. Pride Alliance

Story by: Darren Moten

Two student groups have conflicts of interest

**T**wo years ago Western's students felt the need to create an organization that served as a safe haven for homosexuals, lesbians, heterosexually tolerant and people of transgender sexuality

through the Center for Multicultural Education. They entitled it the Pride Alliance and began meeting regularly to address their issues and difficulty being accepted by the mass public. The Pride Alliance was not the first gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies group to exist at Western. Sigma Lambda, an organization with a similar purpose, which dissipated in years previous, preceded the alliance. Through creating a fresh start, the Pride Alliance intends to uphold the values intended by the predecessors along with new and innovative challenges.

Despite the alleged backlash and outrage by the Christian community, which consisted of the Baptist Student Union, Campus Crusade, Living Eternally Victorious and other various groups, administrators encouraged the groups regular meetings and dubbed it "a new era of tolerance" for the institution. Aside from religious disdain, Western was proud to say that hate crimes were rare on its campus and most disputes between different cultures were limited to heated debates. "In the fall of 2004, the Pride Alliance decided to dedicate a week to educating the campus about its beliefs, hold an intellectual debate about differences of beliefs and have fun, 'the pride way,'" senior Emily Kempf said.

Opposition began to heat up as the Pride Alliance kicked off its week. Street chalking by the Pride Alliance were rinsed off by anonymous students and new murals reading "Jesus loves you" replaced them. Mumbles and mummings echoed throughout the Student Union during the drag show and heated debates created a line between

Christian activists and the Pride Alliance during the panel discussion.

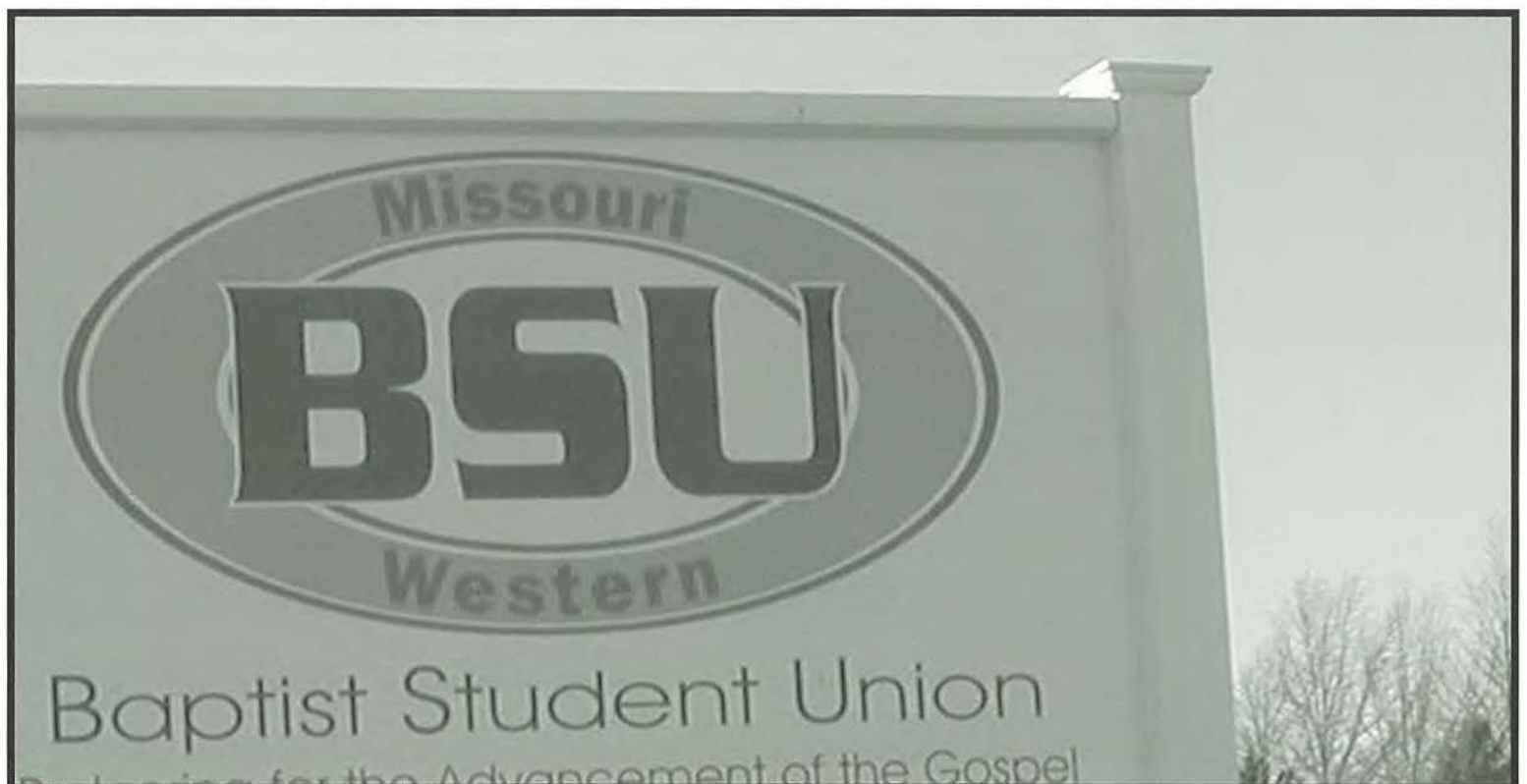
The Griffon News even followed up with a front-page column in the proceeding week's issue. Students asked about the existing tension wondered if it was a sort of self-segregation between the two. Members of Christian organizations felt the need to display a different attitude towards the alliance by relaying an overall message of love.

"Though my allegiance is to God first, He so loved the world that He saved me without other people publicly coming out against my sin," junior Jeffery Walker said. "So why should I treat others differently than He treated me?"

This seemed to be the resounding comments by most students who were involved or associated with a religious organization. Sophomore Hanna Coy, who served as an intern in the Pride Alliance's parent office and was a member of J. Cru, doesn't think the tension really exists. "It's just created media hype to make religious groups seem intolerant to anyone who doesn't share their views."

In most religious groups, this was not the case. Many individuals from each group participated in an intellectual conversation about their conflicting beliefs. Though some of them agreed to disagree, tension was far from the case. Some took a radical protest approach to their dissimilarity, but both groups agreed that these individuals in no way constitute the majority of either group.

"We all seek commonality as grounds for building lasting friendships amongst each other and though there are differences in cultures when sexuality is concerned, we are all Griffons and this gives us some common ground," Kempf said.



The Baptist Student Union is just one of many Christian organizations on campus. Several members of the organization denied any rumors of opposing the group Pride Alliance.

Photo by: Jeremy Weikel



Top: This group performs with enthusiasm during their routine. Most of the drill teams spent many hours practicing for this event.

Bottom: A female member leads the group into their choreographed showcase. At the sound of her whistle, the members responded to her command.



Hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

- Chapter president Reginald Martin Jr. thought up the event.

- First of many annual showdowns

- Drill teams perform for competition

- Competed for a trophy, cash prize and bragging rights

Where can you find drum patterns echoing off the gym floor, youth ranging from ages three to 18 moving in synchronized patterns and a crowd cheering them on? If you guessed an event sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, that answer was correct.

On Oct. 30, the Sigma Kappa Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted the inaugural Show-Me, Showdown Showcase. This event was an opportunity for area drill teams to model their talents while competing for a trophy, a cash prize and bragging rights as the best drill team within the tri-state area.

New to the St. Joseph community, the chapter president Reginald Martin Jr. spawned the idea. "I wanted to throw a social event that was new and innovative to the campus while giving children a chance to compete on a college campus," Martin said.

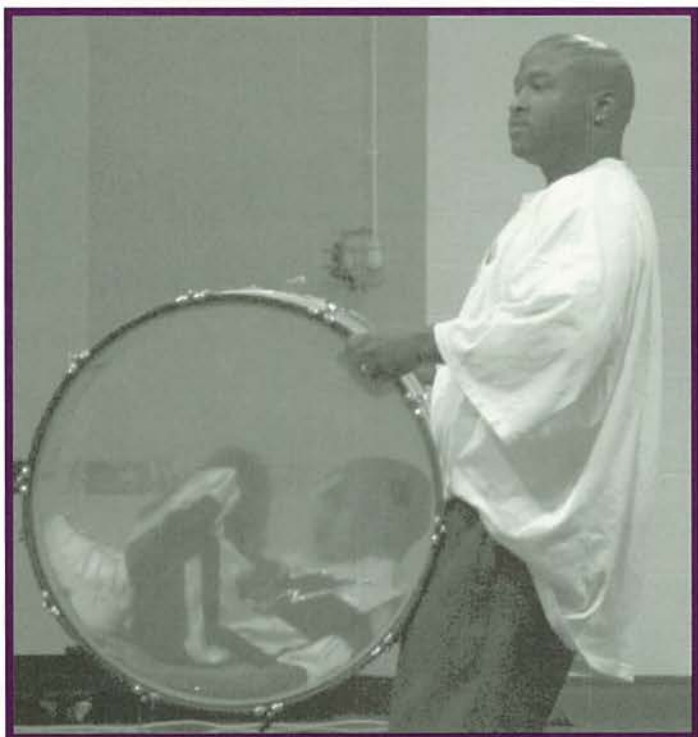
When the drill teams arrived on campus, Martin and other members of the fraternity took some of the children on a small campus tour prior to competing. "Bringing minority students to Western to perform encourages them to picture college as a reality instead of hope and I seen this trip make that reality tangible for some of those children," senior Anthony Dixon said.

After the brief tour, the drill teams were brought back to their respective changing areas. As they began to practice drum rolls and precision steps, the crowd began rolling in as families and Western students packed together in the gym to await the kick-off of the first annual Show-Me Showdown. "The entire show was something new," sophomore Marysia Campbell said.

Bringing the next generation of Western talent to the forefront, junior Walter Townsend hosted the show. Townsend created an atmosphere of excitement in between acts; however, the acts alone were sufficient to keep the crowd mesmerized and attentive. "I loved it when the Falcons had a little kid inside of a drum during the drumline solos," Keyetta Roper said.

It was an event that challenged the status quo concerning events at Western. The men of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc. continued their legacy of new and innovative programs while integrating both the student body and the local community. "Ground breaking, is what we were known for and we will continue to do programming of this magnitude in the future," Martin said.

Members of this drill team march and dance to the beat of the drums. Children and adults of all ages were on this drill team that was from the tri-state area.



A member of the Falcon drumline carries a see-through bass drum with another member inside. The little boy waited his cue to march with his team.

# Alpha Showdown

Area drill teams step it up at the first annual Show-Me Showdown

Story by: Darren Moten    Photos by: Ashley Bacon

# Parking Frenzy

Story by: Lindsay Moyer  
Photos by: Cherish Nigh

Looking for a space creates extreme chaos for Western students



There's not an empty parking spot available for students who are running late for class. Numerous students were tardy for class due to the lack of parking spaces.



very school year brings new faces to the campus, whether the faces are students or faculty. These new faces also brought cars that needed parking spaces. Parking became an issue throughout the year, and the dissatisfaction was experienced by both commuters and residents.

"Western parking is frustrating," freshman Tonya Paige said. "How can I be expected to pay tuition, costs of text books and expensive parking tickets? If there were more available general parking spots, I wouldn't have to park in undesig-nated areas."

Other students felt the same about the parking situation.

"The parking is horrible at Western; I drive around for about 30 minutes before I can find a spot," sophomore Ves Sampsel said. "The parking tends to frustrate me because it has made me late to several of my classes this year."

The average time in which commuters had to leave for school was about an hour before their first class.

"We need more parking spaces so students like myself don't have to leave our house almost an hour early to find a parking space," sophomore Stephanie Wesley said. "The off-campus students should have the same advantage as the on-campus students."

The residents living on campus also had frustrated views of the parking.

"The parking is so limited that I can never find a spot close enough to my residence hall," freshman Tia Strickland said. "Many spaces are filled with cars that have

general parking stickers. Those students park in the residence hall parking because general is already full."

After school had been in session for one month, the safety department had already issued over 800 tickets. The average ticket was for \$25. The most commonly ticketed parking spaces that students were issued tickets were in the reserved and visitor parking spaces.

Members of the safety department felt sympathy for the students they issued tickets to.

"Giving tickets to fellow students is not fun to do at all," Bedow said. "Most of the officers who issue tickets are students themselves. We have the same problem of finding parking spaces just like everyone else."

Overall, the department looked to find ways to help the student parking so that it met a majority of the students needs.

"The department has done many surveys and has monitored the parking lots," Officer Amber Bedow said. "The information from the surveys and from monitoring the lots will be given to the appropriate people who will be able to help expand the parking at Western."



Parking in a restricted area can result in multiple parking tickets. Several students attempted to have their violations appealed.

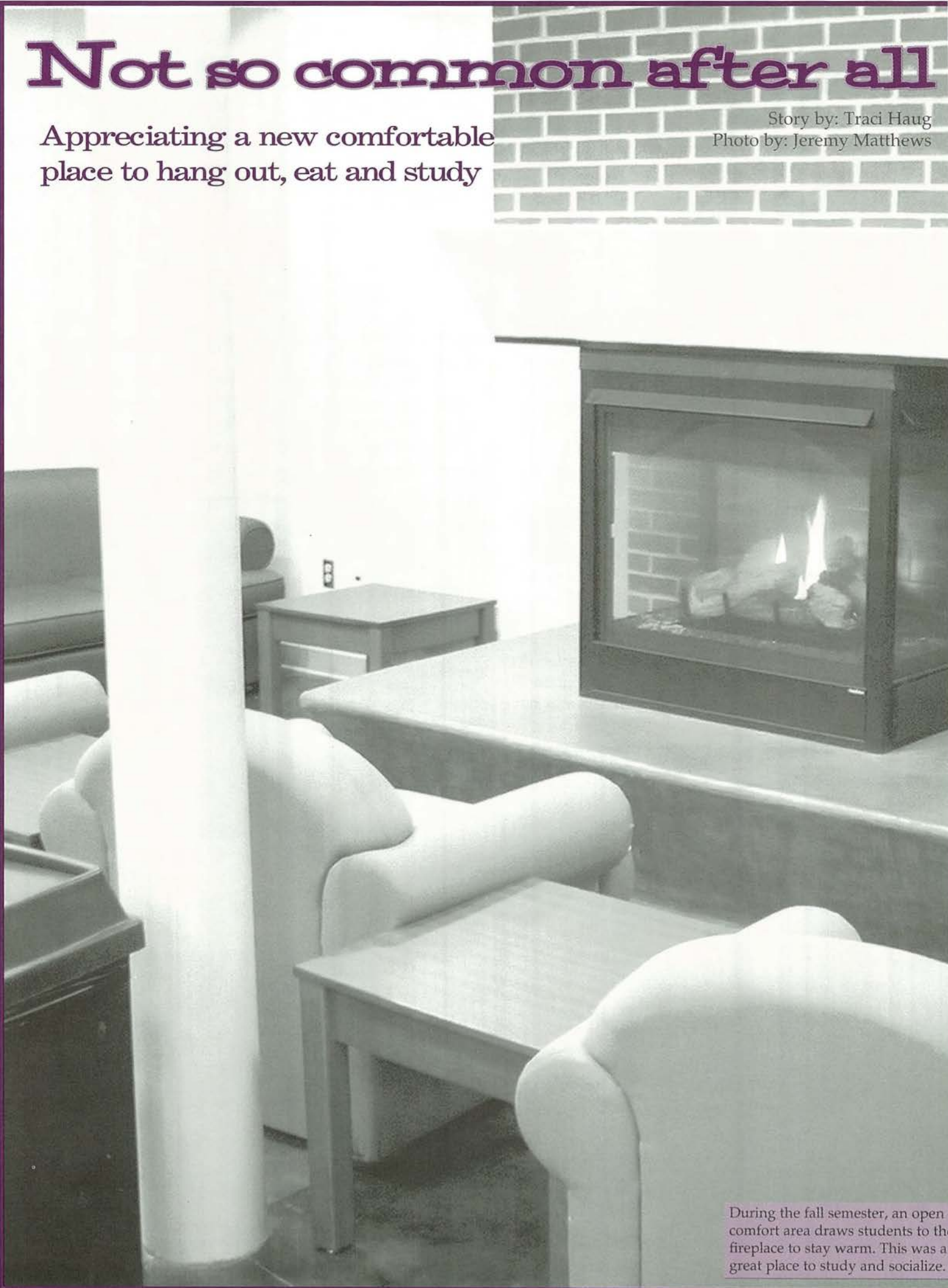


New security carts allow easy access to all parts of campus. The new vehicles pale in comparison to the old patrol cars.

# Not so common after all

Appreciating a new comfortable place to hang out, eat and study

Story by: Traci Haug  
Photo by: Jeremy Matthews



During the fall semester, an open comfort area draws students to the fireplace to stay warm. This was a great place to study and socialize.



On Oct. 11, the new Commons Building opened with the help of the Residence Council organization. RC handed out their new shirts at the opening of the event.

"It gives students a new place to study, somewhere to shop on campus and a place to eat besides the cafeteria or food court," freshman Megan McManus said. "The store inside is very convenient for those who do not have a car."

The new building also helped first time students become more comfortable to the atmosphere of campus.

"I like the new Commons Building, it is an easy way to meet new people," freshman Stephanie Roberts said.

How the building would benefit students on campus was an important issue students faced when they found out about the new building. Some suggestions for changes were made even though the building had just opened.

"It was a great addition for the students living in the Residence Halls," freshman Julia Darrow said. "There should be more than just a convenient store in the Commons Building. They should offer more than just pizza since the food court closes earlier."

Students used cash, check or their flex dollars on their meal plan to purchase the various items in the commons. This included smoothies, coffee, pizza and items out of the convenient store.

"The Commons Building has a kitchen, convenient store and a cash machine," Roberts said. "I can't wait until we get the pool table, televisions and other activities they

said we were going to have in the building."

Even though a few things were missing at the time of the opening, students were satisfied at the initial outcome of the building.

"I wouldn't change anything about the Commons Building because it is a very nice change and the student's appreciate it greatly," McManus said.

Others like the feeling of having somewhere else besides the Student Union to go hang out with their friends, but hours of operation sometimes conflicted with student schedules.

"The best part of the Commons Building is that it provides a good place for the residents to go, but the hours for everything within the Commons Building are not very compatible," said Darrow.

The Commons Building was one of many new buildings on campus. Students as well as administration, faculty and staff hoped that buildings in the future would impact students as much as this building did.



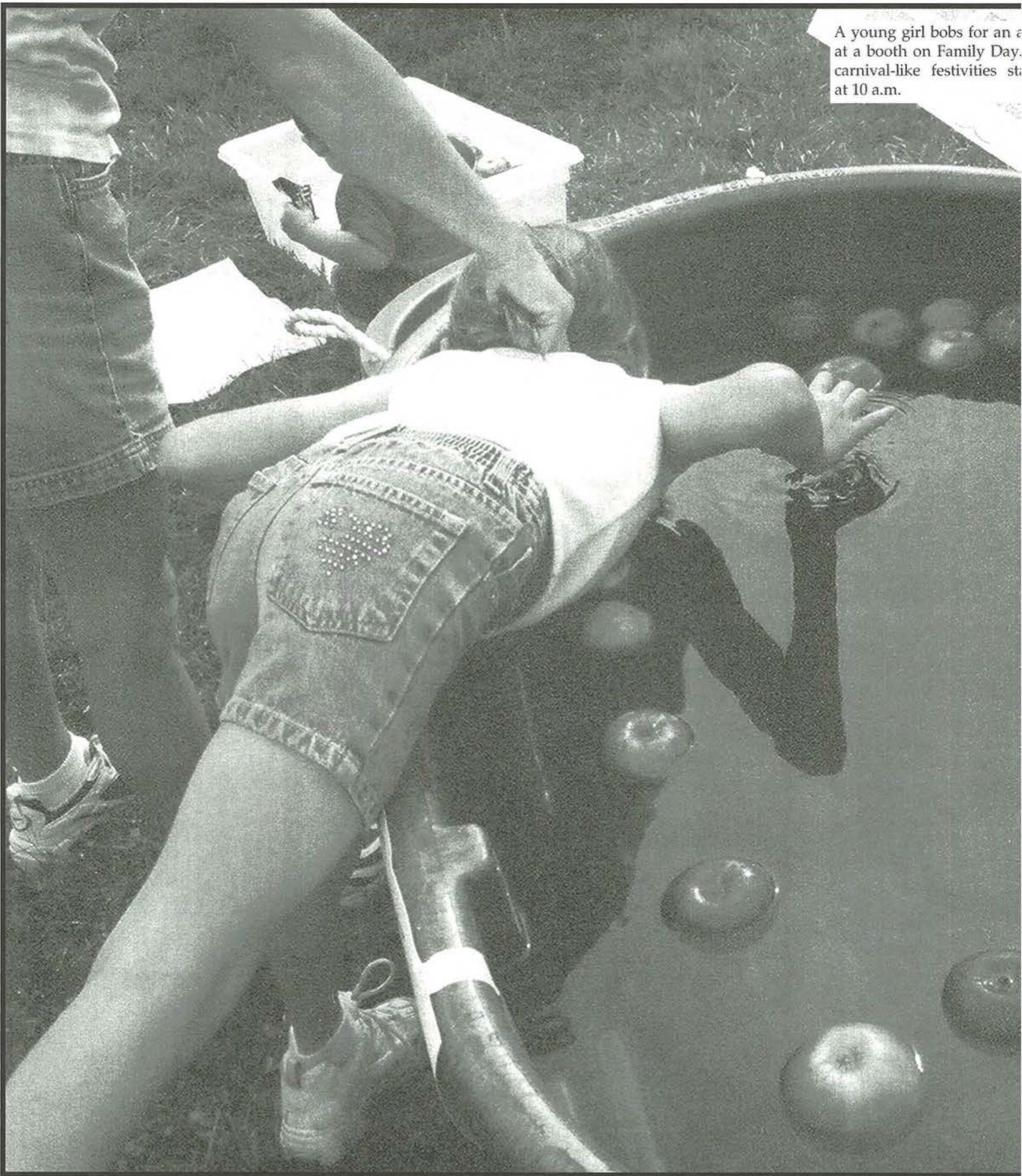
The lounge area is a place for students to eat and study in the new Commons Building. Students that lived on or off campus had a chance to enjoy the benefits of the building.



The Commons Building overlooks Logan Hall. Students had easy access to a dining area, kitchen, lounge area, convenient store, ATM machine and recreational area.



A young girl bobs for an apple at a booth on Family Day. The carnival-like festivities start at 10 a.m.



# Full of Family Fun

Story by: Tanisha Washington  
Photos by: Cherish Nigh

Families from all over the United States come to visit for a day of fun with family and friends

A dark, gloomy and rainy morning gave participants of Family Day, held on Sept. 18, doubts that the day would be full of fun and laughter.

"I thought Family Day would be cancelled since it was still dark outside when it was about to start," junior Terry Staniel said. "I was wondering what the students and their families would do if the rain cancelled the event."

The festivities began at 10 a.m. with games and booths set up that were ran by both Greek and non-Greek organizations. Greek organizations involved themselves in Family Day with their own personal ideas.

Planning fun events was something all organizations had in common.

"Our organization, Delta Phi Upsilon, did the DPU Lock Up," junior Ryan Frick said. "People paid to put other people in mock jail. Most people put a lot of their friends in jail; everyone was laughing and having a good time."

At lunchtime, Western Dining set up lunch at the pavilion for Family Day participants. Following lunch, people filed into Spratt Stadium to watch the Griffons take on the Emporia State University Hornets. The Griffons lost the game 33-30.

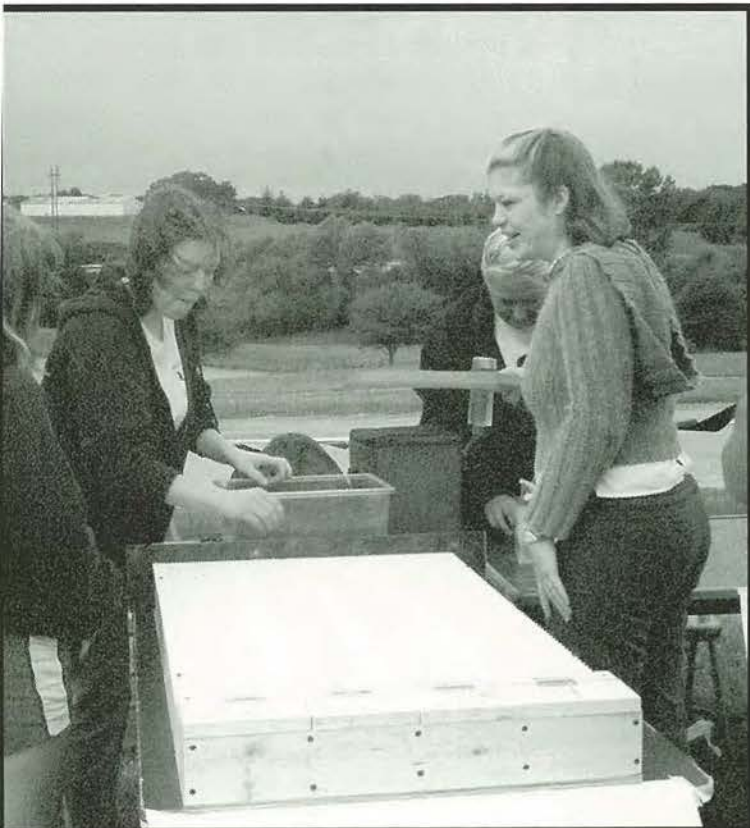
Despite the loss, Family Day was a big success. It was successful considering everyone had his or her worries of what the day would hold.

Students that helped out had the same idea about the turnout of Family Day. "It is better than it has been in the past because there are more families here," Staniel said.

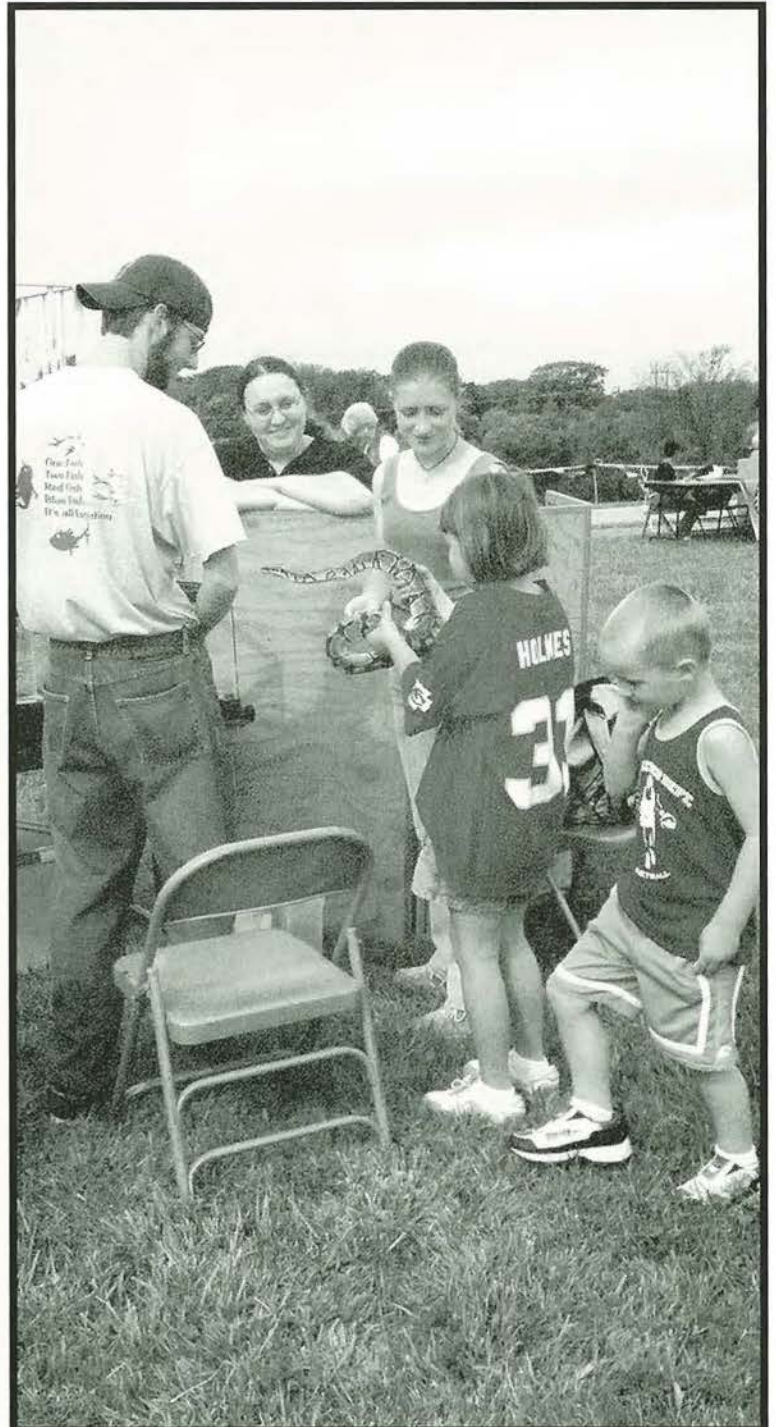
Many students participating for the first time were excited about their Family Day experiences with their families.

"My family was really excited to be here on Family Day," freshman Leslie Davis said. "I didn't know what to expect or what my parents would say when they finally saw all my friends that I had made after being in school for two weeks. I think it made them more comfortable with me attending Western after Family Day was over."

Organizations hoped to participate in Family Day again since it had a great turnout and people showed great interest in the activities provided to them. "We enjoyed the mock jail so much we plan on doing it again next year," Frick said.



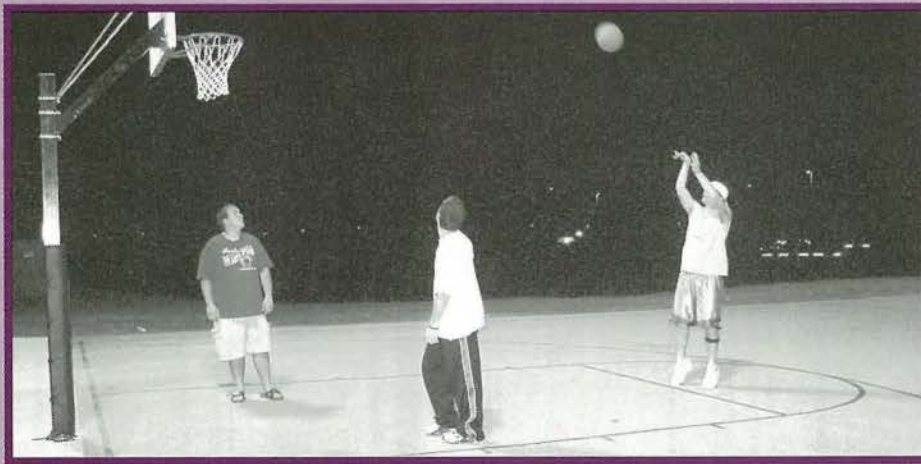
The Psychology Club created a maze for their booth. Even though the weather wasn't as expected, Family Day turned out to be a success.



Family day always has some unique booths. This particular one involved wildlife, including snakes which surprisingly didn't scare any children away.



Top: A Western student orders a Fresh Market smoothie from inside the Commons Building. The building stayed open until 11 p.m. during the week and 2 a.m. on weekends. Bottom: Three students enjoy a game of night basketball. The court was revitalized during the construction of the Commons Building.



## facts:

: Movies cost \$1.50 at the Plaza 8

: Wednesday night is college night at Belt Bowl bowling alley

: Organizations hold activities at night to involve students on campus

: The Munny, Wiley's, Uncle D's, The Hi-Ho and The Bone are a few bars students attend

: It costs \$1.00 to enter Mirrors on Saturday nights

: Students hang out at the local coffee shops such as Starbucks

What did students do when sun set in Saint Joseph? What actually was it that college students did after their school day was complete?

The most obvious thing would be to have a relaxed and stress free evening. Students chose to do that in various ways. Some activities consisted of going to the movies, hanging out with friends at each other's houses and bowling.

"On Wednesday nights, my friend and I get together and go out to the college bowling night at Belt Bowl, Sarah Rathbun said. "We have fun going bowling, and it isn't very expensive either, plus it gives us time to hang out with each other and forget about the school week for a while."

Although some students only hang out once a week, there were others who went out for a pleasurable evening more often.

"Once you turn 21 there are more options for night life plans; it just depends on the night," Vern Wheeler said. "Sometimes we like to go to Uncle D's or other nights we may go to Legends. If we cannot afford to go out to the bars we just go to someone's house and hang out, but no matter what we are doing we make sure we have fun."

Some students may choose not to spend money on their evenings and would have rather stayed in with friends.

"Some friends of mine like to go to a good game of cards going; our favorite game to play now is poker," Chase Stamm said. "It depends on how busy everyone is but we try to play as often as possible; we usually play at least two or three times a week."

When the sun went down in Saint Joseph, college students spent time doing different actions. Socializing outside of class was a great way to make new friends. Students enjoyed each extracurricular activity and each event was a way to get school off of their heads for the evening.

"I think it is important for us to enjoy every aspect of the college life," Wheeler said. "Everyone says college is the best years of your life so we should go out and enjoy them while we can, no matter how you choose to enjoy your night- just make sure to do it."

Mirrors Night Club is one of the clubs in St. Joseph that students 21 and older go to socialize. The club was located downtown.



Located off Mitchell, the Munny Inn is a hot spot for many students to socialize. Wednesday nights were the most popular among Western students.

# Western Nightlife

Students hit the hot spots of St. Joseph to get away from the stresses of everyday life

Story by: Alison Krieg Photos by: Kristen Wampler

An Angel or star is put at the top of a Christmas tree. Students looked forward to Winter Break.



A Christmas tree is a common site in students' dorm rooms around the holidays. The most widely celebrated holiday tradition was putting up a Christmas tree.

# Holiday Traditions

Just because campus closes doesn't mean that Western students shut down

Story by: Lindsay Moyer    Photos by: Jenn Hughes

College took a large amount of students from their hometowns to live in the Saint Joseph area. The students' hometowns often are a long way to travel. This left students with the choice to drive home to visit family or stay in the area.

When the winter holidays came, the campus closed. Some students stayed in Saint Joseph rather than going home to their families because they could continue to work over the holidays. However, many students traveled home for the holidays to get away from their jobs and to see their families.

"For the holidays, I go home to Clarksdale to see my parents," sophomore Wes Sampsel said. "After going to my parents' house, we go to Menard to visit my grandparents and then go to my aunt and uncle's house."

Some students drove hours to get home for the holidays. On the other hand, many students were lucky to have family from the region area. This became beneficial to students who had jobs in the area.

"I grew up in Saint Joseph, so my drive home is less than 15 minutes to visit my family," freshman Ashley Funk said.

Other students were grateful to be from the region area when it came to traveling home for the holiday season.

"My family is from Saint Joseph, which makes things a lot easier for me," Mary Martin said. "Having family from here helps out a lot so I can work over the break."

Students developed many creative traditions to carry throughout the holidays. These new and exciting traditions were carried out with friends and family.

"Every year my friends and I get together and we listen to the Bing Crosby Christmas album while we decorate the Christmas tree," Funk said.

Students had many traditions they participated in every year.

"On Christmas, my family does a white elephant gift exchange," Sampsel said. "The present has to be something we made or something we got for free which can make the gift very interesting."

Some students became a little creative on the holidays when it came to traditions. Others stuck to traditions their families had carried out for many years.

"I go to my family members' houses on the holidays," Martin said. "We all gather around a table together to eat until we are stuffed and then we play games."

The holiday season was a time that students could leave the stresses of their classes and relax spending time with loved ones.



The campus closes for a month during Winter Break. Going home to see the family was the main priority for most students.

## facts:

: Winter break started December 17 and ended January 17

: When caught under the mistletoe you must kiss

: Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah are major holidays celebrated in December

: Don't eat yellow snow

# "Supersize Me"

Fast-food causes America to become one of the most overweight countries in the world

McDonald's french fries are one of the most widely known images in the world. When compared to Burger King, America chose McDonald's as "America's favorite french fries."

Story by: Traci H  
Photos by: Jeremy Matth

**T**he documentary "Supersize Me" was a sleeper hit at the box office that made people think twice about picking up a Big Mac. Directed by Morgan Spurlock, the documentary examined why Americans are so obese. Spurlock traveled around and interviewed people while putting his own body on the line by eating nothing but McDonald's for 30 days.

He had only three rules: no options to eating what was over the counter, no supersizing unless offered and no excuses because he had to eat every item on the menu at least once.

This all added up to an extremely expensive food bill, lots of doctor visits and explained why no one would ever try to live on fast-food. Chowing down at the Golden Arches caused physical and emotional damage to Spurlock.

Since the film had been made, McDonald's discontinued its supersized portions, but large sizes remain on the menu. They even introduced a "health-conscious Happy Meal" that included little booklets on health by a nutritionist.

So how did this documentary affect Western students?

"The documentary made me stop eating fast-food as much as I do," freshman Andrew Cerrone said. "I used to eat fast-food every other day, but now I only eat it once a week because of the film."

Senior Becky Beelman ate fast-food once every two weeks. "I eat anywhere and everywhere that sounds good."

Other students limited their intake of fast-food more than others. "I eat fast-food a couple of times a month," junior Kelsey Reid said.

Students believed the main point of the film was to inform people about the effects of eating fast-food frequently. "Anything that will help today's society should be welcomed and everyone should watch it to see why it's harmful to eat fast-food a lot," freshman Bridget Smith said.

"Supersize Me" may have not affected every student in the same way, but it definitely made an impact.

"We as Americans need to look at the overall affect from fast-food because of the high cholesterol, high fat and carbohydrates," Cerrone said. "Supersize Me' made people realize that more and more Americans are becoming obese. Overall, I think that a documentary like "Supersize Me" has been long overdue, and I am glad someone had the guts to make a film like this."



When the cost of supersizing your extra value mean is only 39 cents it's easy to succumb. Many people see supersizing as saving money since you get more food for your money.



Not only does McDonald's supply fast-food to millions of people all over the world, they also provide many job opportunities. A lot of Western students work or have worked at a fast-food establishment.





Applebee's is a popular restaurant for birthday celebrations in St. Joseph. Freshman James Williams chose to celebrate his birthday by going out to eat with his friends.

## zodiac signs

- Aries** (Fire, Mars)  
Mar. 21 - April 20
- Taurus** (Earth, Venus)  
Apr. 21 - May 21
- Gemini** (Air, Mercury)  
May 22 - June 21
- Cancer** (Water, Moon)  
June 22 - July 22
- Leo** (Fire, Sun)  
July 23 - Aug. 22
- Virgo** (Earth, Mercury)  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 23
- Libra** (Air, Venus)  
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
- Scorpio** (Water, Pluto)  
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
- Sagittarius** (Fire, Jupiter)  
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
- Capricorn** (Earth, Saturn)  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
- Aquarius** (Air, Uranus)  
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
- Pisces** (Water, Neptune)  
Feb. 20 - Mar. 20
- (element & ruling planet)

A birthday is a "special day" that only happens once a year, a day that is embedded in one's memory for a lifetime.

Turning 21, the age you dream about as a child, the number that declares your freedom, the day that officially states you're a legal adult with the right to do as you please is a birthday an abundant amount of college students can't wait for.

Freshmen leaving home to attend college on their own, no more living under the rules of dictating parents, free to come and go as they please, celebrate their birthdays away from home, some for the first time. Does the term "wild night out" mean anything to incoming freshman?

Four different students with four different lives gave testimonies of their birthday experiences in St. Joseph. Two students blossomed into the remarkable age of 21, while the other two students celebrated their first birthdays at Western. Find out what happens when St. Joseph turns from an honest college town to a non-stop fiesta.

With age comes experience, so finding something to do wasn't hard for juniors Joshua Spray and Kimbra Johnson.

Spray, member of Western's cheer squad, set out to make his 21st birthday the best and that's exactly what he did.

"We went out the night before my birthday and hit up a bar I had been to before," Spray said. "A couple of friends and I went out and drank a little, then the next day we went to Hooter's to get some wings."

After a nourishing meal and a full night of activities behind him, Spray couldn't think of any other better places to ring in his birthday than a strip club and a bar.

"I didn't have to pay for anything," Spray said. "I know I took well over 21 shots, and I think I passed out somewhere;

it had to have been at least 28, but I had a good time, lots of drinking, good food and lovely dancing."

After a two day fun-filled adventure of booze and fun, Spray finally passed out and called it a night. "My 21st birthday by far the most memorable birthday, even though I don't remember most of it," Spray said.

Junior Kimbra Johnson, vice president of sorority Delta Sigma Theta, started her night off in a relaxing atmosphere that ended up at Mirrors Night Club.

"When we got to Mirror's the bouncer didn't even want to check my ID," Johnson said. "That was the whole point of going to a club; I was legal so I wanted him to check me out. Before I was 21 they made sure they did and I was disappointed with the bouncer and the club."

On the other side of the spectrum, freshmen who weren't 21 found creative ways to celebrate their birthdays away from home.

Freshman Sylvester Gibson, wide receiver on the Western football team, celebrated his birthday on the football field as Western played against Emporia State in Wendy's Hall of Fame Game. Unfortunately, Gibson couldn't celebrate a victory on the field to go along with his birthday.

"I'm used to having games on my birthday; last year I had a game on my birthday," Gibson said. "My birthday wasn't too cool; it was Family Day so my mom came and visited me for a few minutes."

Still able to keep in touch with friends back home Gibson didn't feel celebrating his birthday in St. Joseph was any different than his birthdays back home.

"It's kind of hard to get homesick when my home is like five minutes away," Gibson said. "Kansas City is right around the corner, and my boy [Roger Allen] made sure my birthday was right. We just celebrated it wasn't my 21 birthday, but let's just say not being 21 didn't prevent me from having fun. My birthday was an experience that I will never forget."

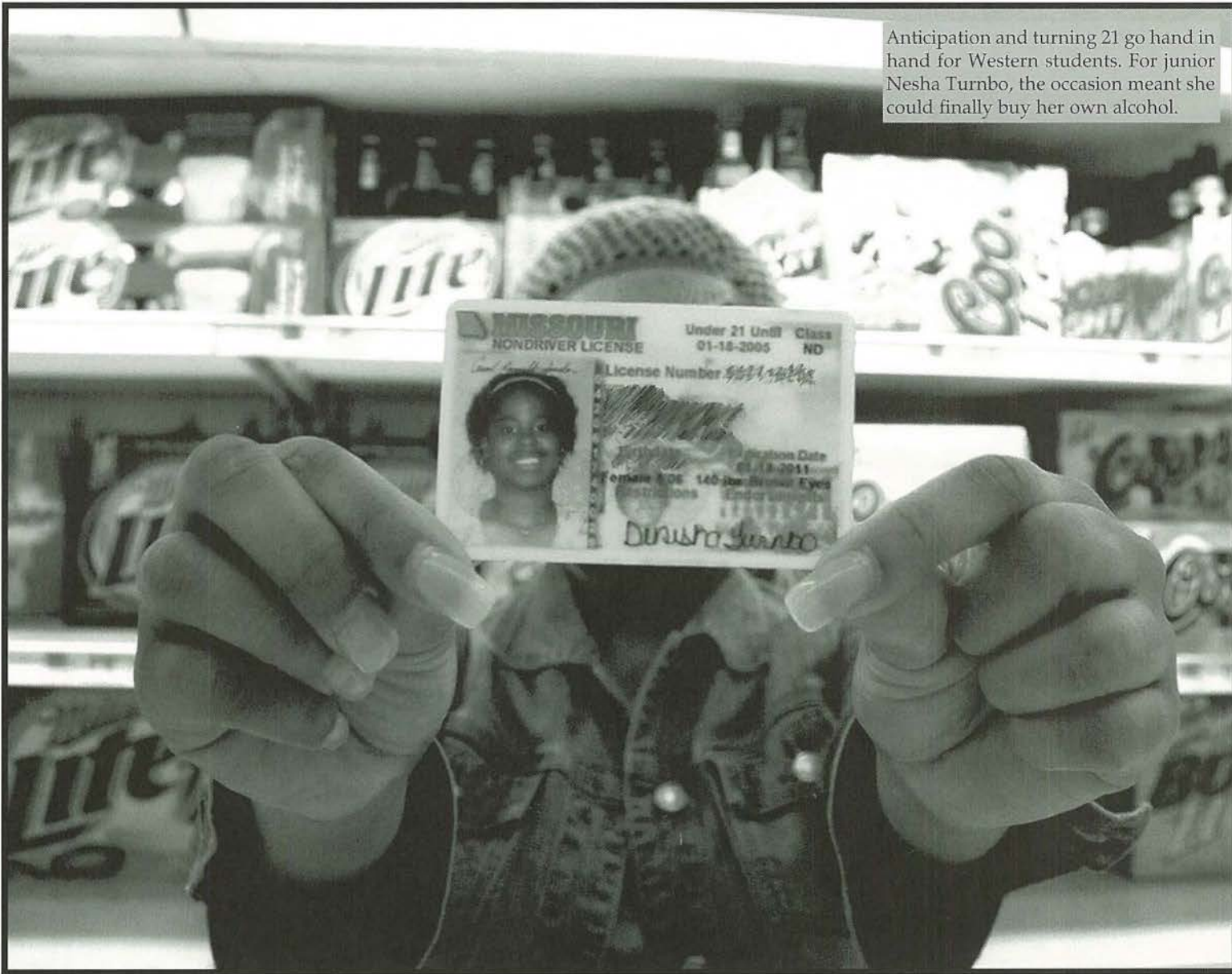
Freshman James Williams, member of a small dance group on campus called Versatile, also celebrated his first birthday away from home. With about 15 of his close friends, he referred to as "The Goonies," Williams was treated to a meal of champagne at Applebee's.

"Going to Applebee's for my birthday was hilarious," Williams said. "I usually don't do anything extravagant for my birthday because there is nothing to do, I live a simple life; I eat, sleep and dance."

Not expecting much from his birthday, Williams was surprised to find out he could actually have fun in St. Joseph. Although he wasn't homesick he does regret not being home.

"I had a niece on my birthday," Williams said. "I didn't find out until a few days later though, but it was just one of the things that made my first birthday away from home unique."

Anticipation and turning 21 go hand in hand for Western students. For junior Nesha Turnbo, the occasion meant she could finally buy her own alcohol.



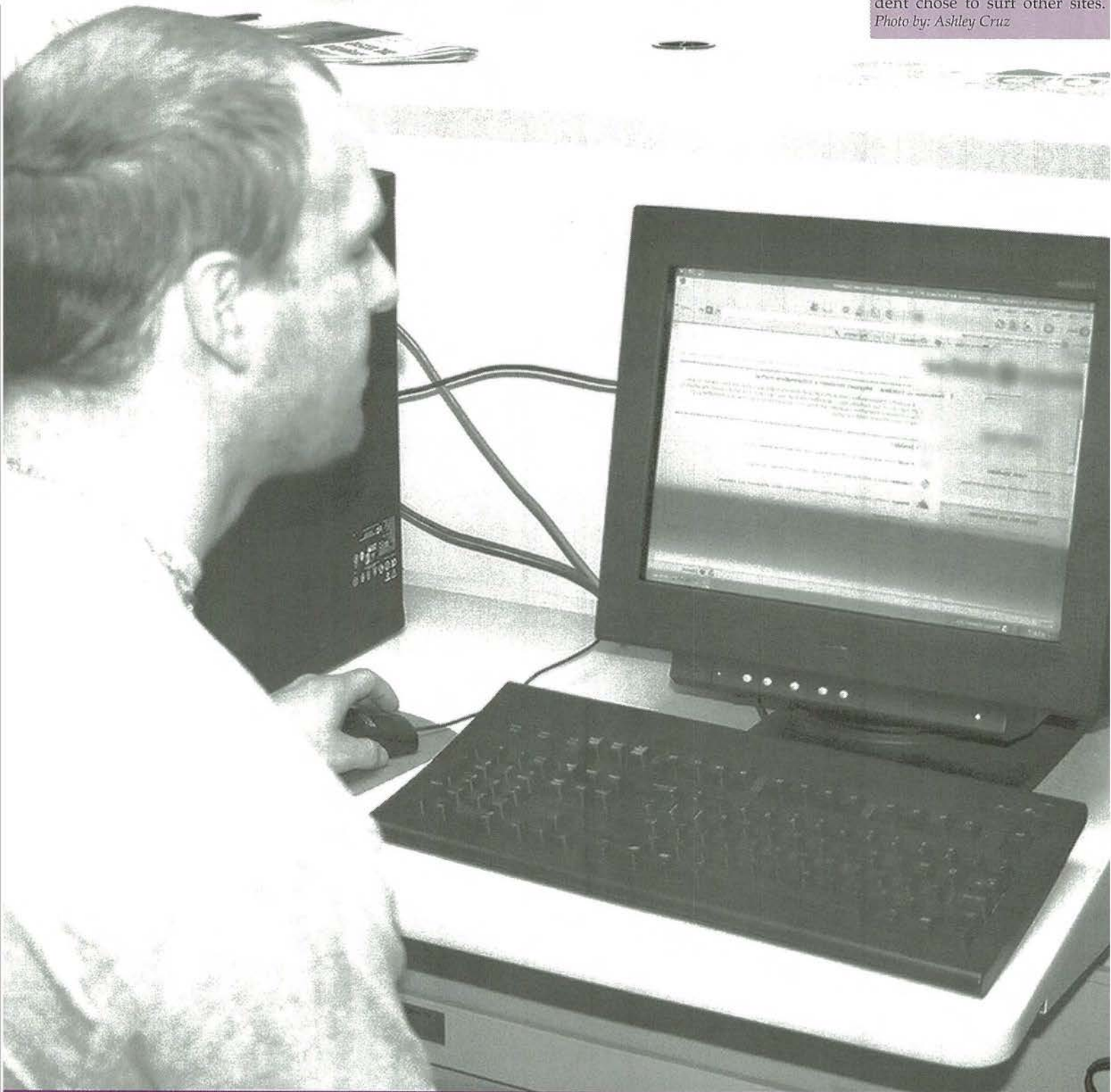
# What's Your Sign?

Western students express their views on their first birthday away from home and the "big one"

Story by: LaQuitta Alexander    Photos by: Ashley Cruz

You can have your birthday cake and eat it too. Most celebrations on campus involved birthday cakes and party favors from local stores such as Wal-Mart.

Many students spend free time in the computer labs checking friends' Xanga pages or updating their own page. This student chose to surf other sites.  
Photo by: Ashley Cruz



# What is Blogging anyway?

Blog (N) : a shared on-line journal where people can post diary entries about their personal experiences and hobbies

Story by: Traci Haug Photos by: Jenn Hughes & Ashley Cruz

# PUNK ROCK PRINCESSES

[jessamae: criticisms](#) - [happenings](#) - [regress!](#) [xanga](#) - [el\\_western\\_sunny](#) - [sign off](#)



Name: Jess  
Country: United States  
State: Missouri  
Day: 2/5/1983  
Sex: Female

Advice: Imagine something provocative and profound here while I catch up on my latest thoughts - this could take longer than expected.

Quotes: "Memories fade, they're designed that way."

"You could be anywhere when your life begins."

Member Since: 11/5/2003

What exactly is blogging? Basically blogging is an online journal where one can write about absolutely anything and interact with peers.

"Blogging is something everyone can do from a jock, to a drama major, to a computer techie; there is no limit to what is out there, and it's refreshing to be able to jot down your thoughts and ideas to share with someone else," Junior Chelsea Clark said. "At times, I find that the things someone writes really helps me and vice-versa."

Junior Jess McKenzie had been blogging for four years. "It's an easy way to get out everything that you think and feel," McKenzie said. "I use several different sites, but the main one that I use is Xanga."

Freshman Amber Redmond also used Xanga for her blogging needs. She had been blogging since 2003.

"I've always thought that online journals were dumb, but once I started mine, I realized that if you don't take it that seriously it can be good fun," Redmond said. "I don't have any bad feelings against blogging."

Blogging was one way several students relaxed and got away from the stresses of school. "It helps me to relieve stress and gets things off my mind," McKenzie said.

Other students made blogging a hobby. "I like to blog because it's a great way to jot down ideas and talk about whatever's going on at the time," Clark said.

Redmond thought blogging was a bit of a reality check. "I'm able to read about my peer's experiences as they go through life and realize that my problems are not that grand," she said.

There are multitudes of things people can do on a blogging site. "I am working on a book and sometimes the blog and other bloggers give me some great ideas," Clark said. "The fact that it's open to anyone is great; there are many different points of view out there and it's great to see all of that in such an open environment."

Blogging has many advantages, but it also has some disadvantages.

"I think that the advantage of blogging is getting to see what my friends are up to," Clark said. "They are all over the place, and it's one of the few places we can all get together. Even when I can't be with them, I know what's going on in their lives." Redmond also thought that blogging was a great way to talk to friends on a regular basis. "It allows me to keep in touch with my friends who attend other colleges, as well as old high school mates," she said.

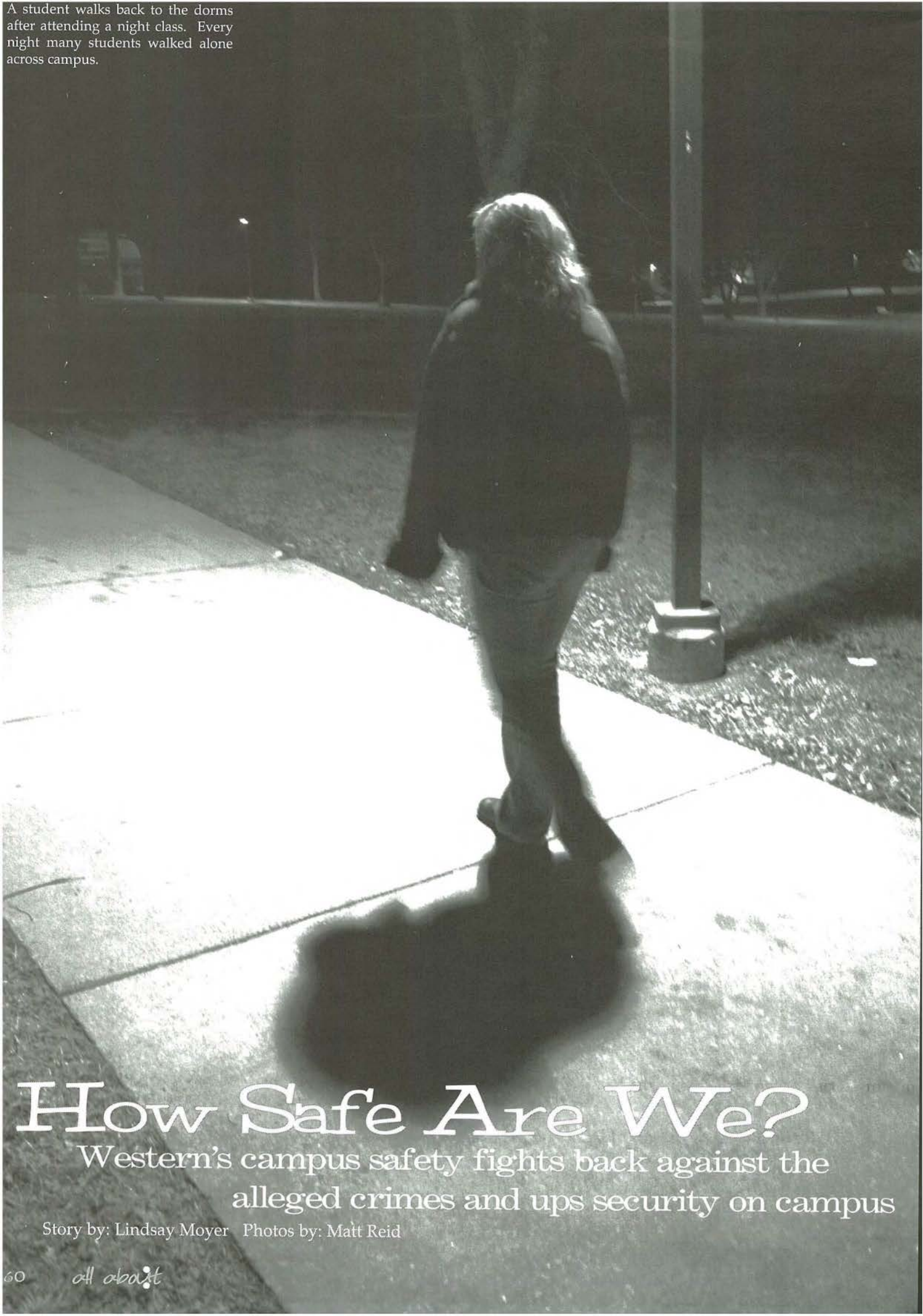
The only disadvantage of blogging that Clark could think of was that sometimes people disagreed with what one blogged. "The disadvantage of blogging is that sometimes you get narrow-minded people who disagree with you; that's ok, but since it's open, you do get some people that trash you or your site," she said.

Overall, blogging was just one new way that people could keep in touch with each other. It was a place for people to express themselves through writing.

"I think that blogging helps people; sometimes in life you need a place to share your feelings," Clark said. "With blogging you can lay all your feelings on the table, and no one knows exactly who you are. I find that people reveal more of themselves when no one knows who they are and they can't be judged for it."

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A student walks back to the dorms after attending a night class. Every night many students walked alone across campus.



# How Safe Are We?

Western's campus safety fights back against the alleged crimes and ups security on campus

Story by: Lindsay Moyer Photos by: Matt Reid

**D**o you feel safe walking around campus at night? For the first time in several years, Western had experienced many reported assaults. This had left members of the student body with varying opinions concerning their safety on campus. Administration, faculty and students each had their own opinions relating to this situation.

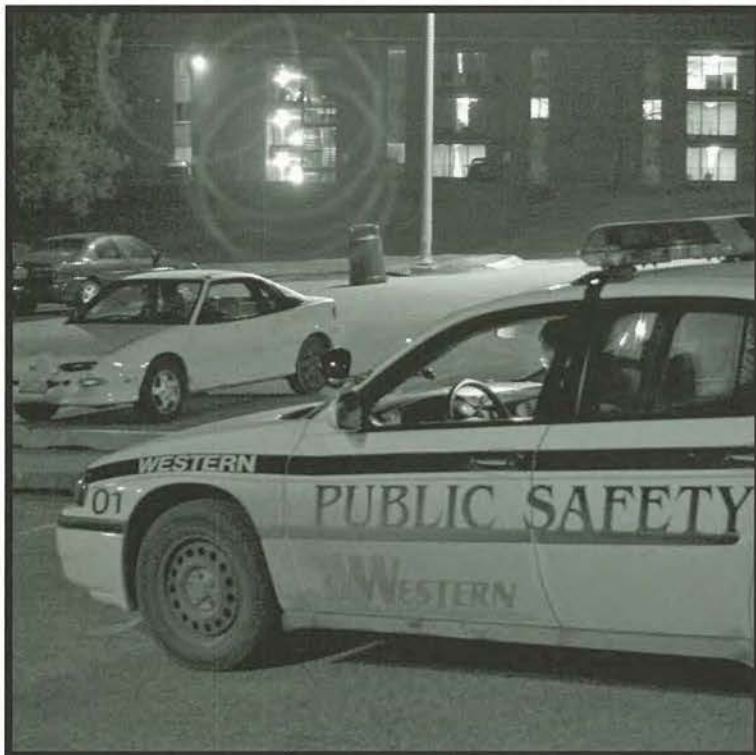
On Jan. 31, at 8:30 p.m., a Clery Act was posted by Western's Public Safety Department concerning a reported assault that occurred on campus. A female reported three white males harassing her in a Western parking lot. The Clery Act was posted as a warning on Western's Web site, on doors of the buildings on campus and emails were sent out to students. The warning was published to alert students and to help with the investigation.

After the reported assault and all the warnings, did students feel safe on campus?

"The Clery warning makes me nervous to walk alone at night and Campus Safety is never around," freshman Jordan Smith said. "I think they need to patrol the dorms better at night."

Sophomore Logan Compton disagreed. "I think this campus is safe compared to most campuses around our area, according to the Clery Report," he said. "But keep in mind there is no such thing as extremely safe. Students should have more common sense when walking into those kinds of situations, but sometimes they cannot be avoided."

The Clery Report was a report that included the reporting of crimes (including sexual assault) and other matters. The report had statistics of reported crimes on campus that occurred in the last three calendar years. Only one forcible sex offense was reported to the security



Western's Public Safety patrols in parking lot H. The members of the public safety unit patrolled the dorm area nightly throughout the semester to make sure students felt safe.

patrol in 2003.

"Public Safety does a Clery Report every year around mid-to-late September," Director of Public Safety, Jonathan Kelley said. "By the time the report is released, we have already taken steps to address any issues related to the previous year's crimes. As far as crimes that happen throughout the year, we address these incidents when they occur and make adjustments to our patrol/response activities as necessary."

Several first year students felt uneasy walking across campus while more accomplished students disagreed.

"The warnings do not scare me to walk on campus by myself," senior Sarah Rathburn said. "I usually walk alone when I am on campus."

Whether or not students felt secure, there were preventable actions that they could use. "I suggest prevention of putting yourselves in situations that might result in becoming a victim," Kelley said. "Walk in groups or with other people you know, use the Public Safety Courtesy Patrol, be aware of your surroundings and if something looks funny, leave; you should make eye contact with people and be observant, use common sense when coming and going in the evening and late hours. If you are a victim of a crime, try to get as much information as possible and contact Public Safety as soon as possible."



Jessica White and Kristin Heidbrink walk together to insure their safety. Students were encouraged to have a walking buddy if they were going to be by themselves after nightfall.



At the end of the night the Emcees announce the category winners and the overall Mr. MWSC. Noah Haahr, who is a member of Alpha Sigma Phi and was sponsored by Alpha Sigma Alpha, was crowned the 2005 Mr. MWSC.

## Category Winners

Formal: Noah Haahr  
(Alpha Sigma Phi)

Swimwear: Jeff Winn  
(Alpha Sigma Phi)

Talent: Jeff Winn  
(Alpha Sigma Phi)

Spirit: Noah Haahr  
(Alpha Sigma Phi)

Costume: Nate Whitmer  
(Phi Delta Theta)

The sorority sisters of Alpha Gamma Delta were searching for a man, not just any man, but a man who was worthy to be crowned Mr. MWSC. On March 29, AGD hosted its eighth annual Mr. MWSC beauty pageant. The title of Mr. MWSC went to Junior Noah Haahr.

Haahr was looking forward to participating in the pageant.

"The fact that it's going to a good cause is what made me excited to do it," Haahr said. "The pageant is always a good event even if you're not in it; it's just fun."

Haahr was involved in many different activities as well as organizations at Western. He was a member of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity, as well as president of Residence Council and he was crowned Homecoming king.

Alpha Gamma Delta hosted the beauty pageant as a fundraiser, and all proceeds went towards the Alpha Gamma Delta foundation and the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. The pageant raised over \$1,000 in support of diabetes.

Coordinator of the beauty pageant Laura Peschong enjoyed the festivities and thought it was a great way to raise money.

"The pageant is a way for us to do something different," Peschong said. "Our goal is to raise as much as we can to go towards the foundation."

The participants in the beauty pageant were nominated by numerous organizations. Each organization could sponsor up to two male contestants. The contestants also attended an informational meeting, in which they were provided with an outline of the categories and what each one consisted of.

"The pageant is open to everybody," Peschong said. "We send out letters to each organization, and for each person they nominate they have to pay \$20"

These stylish "beauty kings" had to showcase their style and grace in four different categories, which determined who was going to walk away as the winner.

These men appealed to the ladies by showing off their talent, swimsuit, formal and costume attire. The spirit category was not showcased on stage, but was based off which contestant raised the most money.

The men made sure they were prepared of the contest, especially in the talent competition.

"Some of the guys are really preparing for the talent part," Haahr said. "I think most of us are just having fun with it though."

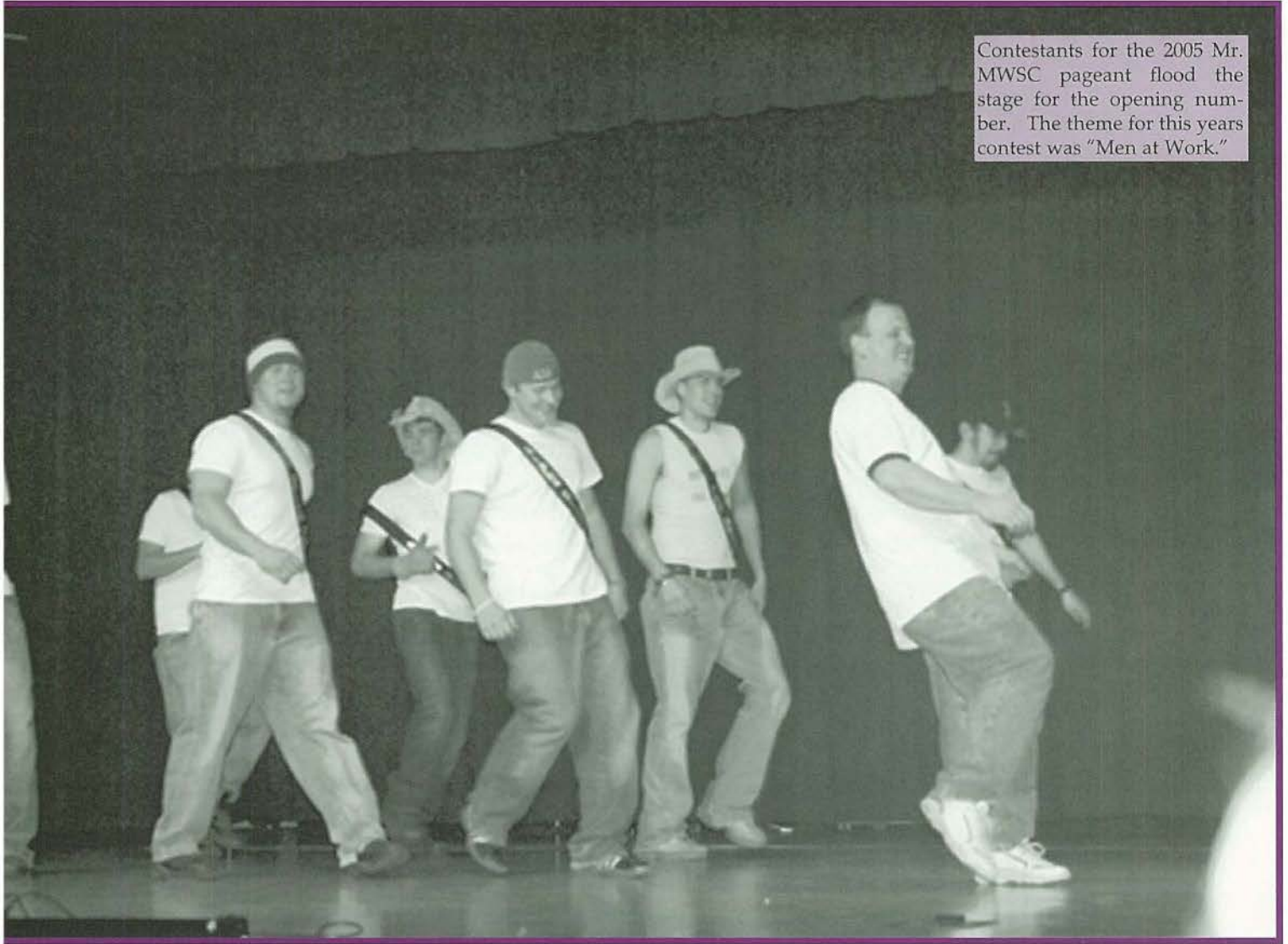
The boys had a chance to win in each separate category. Taking it home for talent and swimsuit was Jeff Winn. Nathan Whitmer won best costume and Haahr outshined the rest in the spirit and formal categories.

The judges calculated and tabulated the scores, deeming Haahr as the new Mr. MWSC.

President of Alpha Gamma Delta Alicia Schmidgall was proud of the contestants' commitment to the event.

"The overall winner received a trophy as well as a crown, and the winners of the other categories received trophies as well." Schmidgall said. "We always try to make sure our philanthropy events are fun."

Contestants for the 2005 Mr. MWSC pageant flood the stage for the opening number. The theme for this year's contest was "Men at Work."



# 'Men at Work'

Alpha Gamma Delta's annual Mr. MWSC pageant raises over \$1,000 for sorority's foundation

The Mr. MWSC pageant is an annual philanthropic event for the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. During the talent portion of the contest, participant Jeff Winn and partner Summer Love performed a swing dance.

Story by: LaQuitta Alexander

Photos by: Ashley Cruz





Crossing the border to Mexico is a must for students who road tripped to Texas. Spring breakers who went to the South Padre Islands often migrated to Mexico since it was so close. *Photo by Brandon Rodriguez*

The road trip to Mexico comes to an end for Midwestern students. Students who didn't speak Spanish managed to have a good time and made the best of the language barrier. *Photo by Brandon Rodriguez*

## facts

: It is 1514.1 miles and 22hrs and 27 min. to Miami, Fla from St. Joseph, Mo.

: Over 35 million people visit New York every year

: Thousands of college students travel to Cancun, Mexico for spring break

: The longest national highway in the world is the Trans-Canada Highway, which stretches 4,860 miles

: Dellview, N.C., is the smallest town in the United States. Population is 10 people

: Europe is the most visited tourist destination in the world

Lots of college students took road trips, especially during Spring Break. The adventure served as a right of passage into adulthood. And inevitably, when the best of friends take out on their own to explore whatever region of the country they choose, there will always be stories to tell. Stories of greatness and stories of failure; these are the highs and lows of various student's quests for fun and what they found when they got there.

"We were at Devil's Tower, Wyo., having a great time mountain biking when my friend, Chad sliced his hand open; he was bleeding everywhere," student Cherish Nigh said. "After an ambulance ride, several stitches, a sixteen-hour drive home and two surgeries later his thumb still didn't work right. It was wild!"

...Guess you had to be there.

"It was the time of my life," student Terrann Wood said. "We went to the South Padre Islands in Texas. It took us twenty-four hours to drive there because of all the setbacks. We had two flat tires, and the radio quit working in our RV, so we had to buy a new one and the boys installed it. By the time we got there, all the hassles were worth it; it was so much fun!"

...Guess you had to be there.

"We had to take a friend back to hometown in Washington," Tyler Kran said. There were four of us piled into the Jeep Grand Cherokee; it was very cramped. The coolest part was when we stopped at this waterfall. Jake and I worked our way around the bank and figured out how to get behind the waterfall. It was awesome.

...Guess you had to be there.

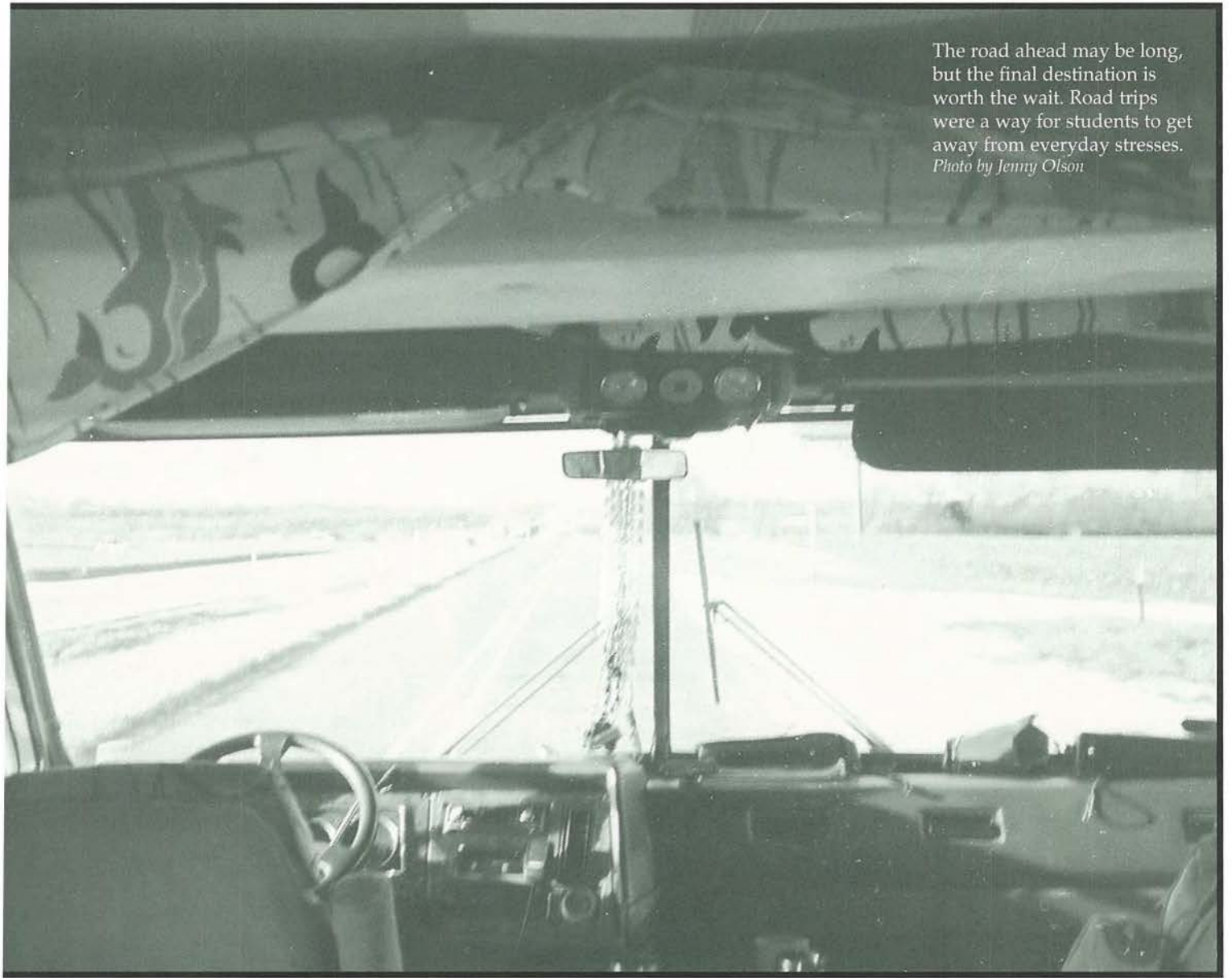
"A friend and I went to Warrensburg, Mo., to spend time with some old friends of mine," Becky Lewin said. "We went on the strip and that is pretty much all I remember. The next day I felt like crap, that night was fun!"

...Guess you had to be there.

Some of the greatest adventures of a lifetime happen on college road trips. Memories of such trips will stick forever and though the stories are great, they are never better than the experience itself.

Moral of the story: Take your own trip so you can have your own stories. And next time, when you read snippets of other people's journeys you can smile knowing that you have a story that is somehow better, better because you were there, because you lived it, and that experience, whatever it was, changed you forever.

The road ahead may be long,  
but the final destination is  
worth the wait. Road trips  
were a way for students to get  
away from everyday stresses.  
*Photo by Jenny Olson*

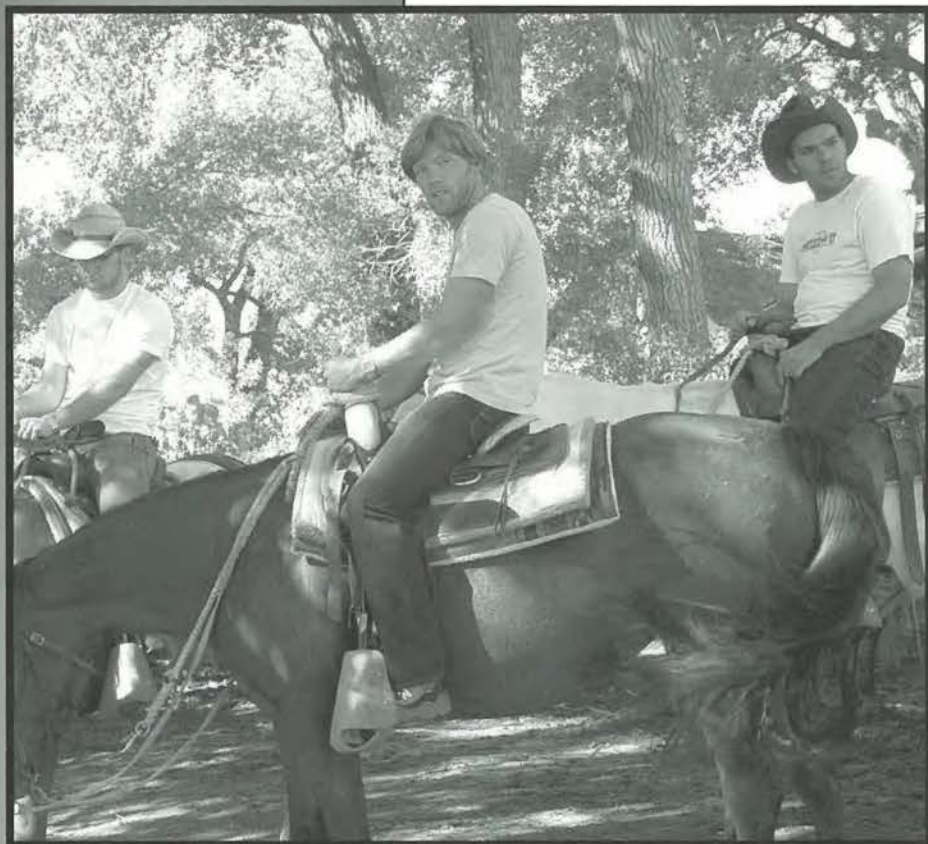


The beach is a popular destination for road trippers. Spontaneous students would pack up their bags and hit the road not knowing where they would end up. *Photo by: Jenny Olson*

# On the Road Again

...Guess it was one of  
those moments where  
you had to be there

Story by: Mitchell Buhman



Alex Bartley, Brendon Riggs and Richard Sonnenmoser saddle up. Horseback riding allowed students to explore untraveled terrain.

## facts

: Every year students go on spring breaks across America

: Missouri Western's spring break went from March 13th to the 20th

: The most popular spring break destinations for 2005 included Panama City, Fla.; Daytona, Fla.; South Beach and Miami, Fla.; Key West, Fla.; and South Padre Island, Texas

: Be careful what you wear in Daytona Beach. Tiny bikinis and thongs have been banned in the city, and violators can be fined up to \$500.

**A** week of relaxing on the beach, fun in the sun, out at all hours of the night clubbing it up--Spring Break 2005. Several Western students were fortunate enough to travel to certain hot spots, such as Panama City, Fla., or South Padre Island, Texas for a trip that was unforgettable.

Some students chose to fly to their destination while others went the cheaper route and decided to road trip it. With friends along for the ride, no matter what option of transportation was used, both ways were eventful.

Panama City Beach, Fla. was an ideal location for an exciting Spring Break. The warm weather, the beach, and the ability to relax and get away from the pressures of school intrigued most students. The trip sounded appealing until one realized how long it was actually going to take.

"We left Friday night and at about 3 a.m. my car started making a funny sound," student Luke Gorham said. "My car had died in Mt. Vernon, Ill., and we had to leave it there. After

my car died, we all had to pile into the cars until we met up with another friend in Nashville, Tenn., to lighten the loads on the cars. We went to some concerts, sat on the beach, went to the clubs and hung out. Even though the weather sucked, we still got in the water."

South Padre Island, Texas was another place Spring Breakers from Westerns were destined to.

"My friends and I drove down to South Padre for our Spring Break," student Jeff Smith said. "After driving 20 hours straight we arrived in South Padre and went to some clubs. We had to walk a lot to get to the clubs from our hotel room. There were too many of us booked in our rooms so my girlfriend and I had to sleep on the floor. My package plan for my vacation wasn't as great as I had expected, and I had to spend more money than planned. My Spring Break was all right, but I could have had a better time somewhere else."

Road trips were a fun time for friends to drive for hours with each other to go to a sunny location. For others, being trapped in a car for twenty hours was not appealing. Traveling on an airplane to reach a destination appealed to the many who opposed driving.

"On our Spring Break we flew to Chicago, Ill., and stayed with a friend there. I was traveling to Daytona Beach, Fla., with us," student Noah Haahr said. "The next day we flew down to Daytona and stayed there for six days. While in Daytona we stayed at a motel on the beach and rented a car. Everyday we were on the beach playing football, went to a few of the clubs, ate at a few restaurants and mainly relaxed."

No matter what beach each student went to, the end result was the same. The memories, good or bad, would last a lifetime or at least until the next Spring Break came along.

Students play baseball at a rest stop in Wyoming. Finding creative places to stretch your legs during a road trip was half the adventure.

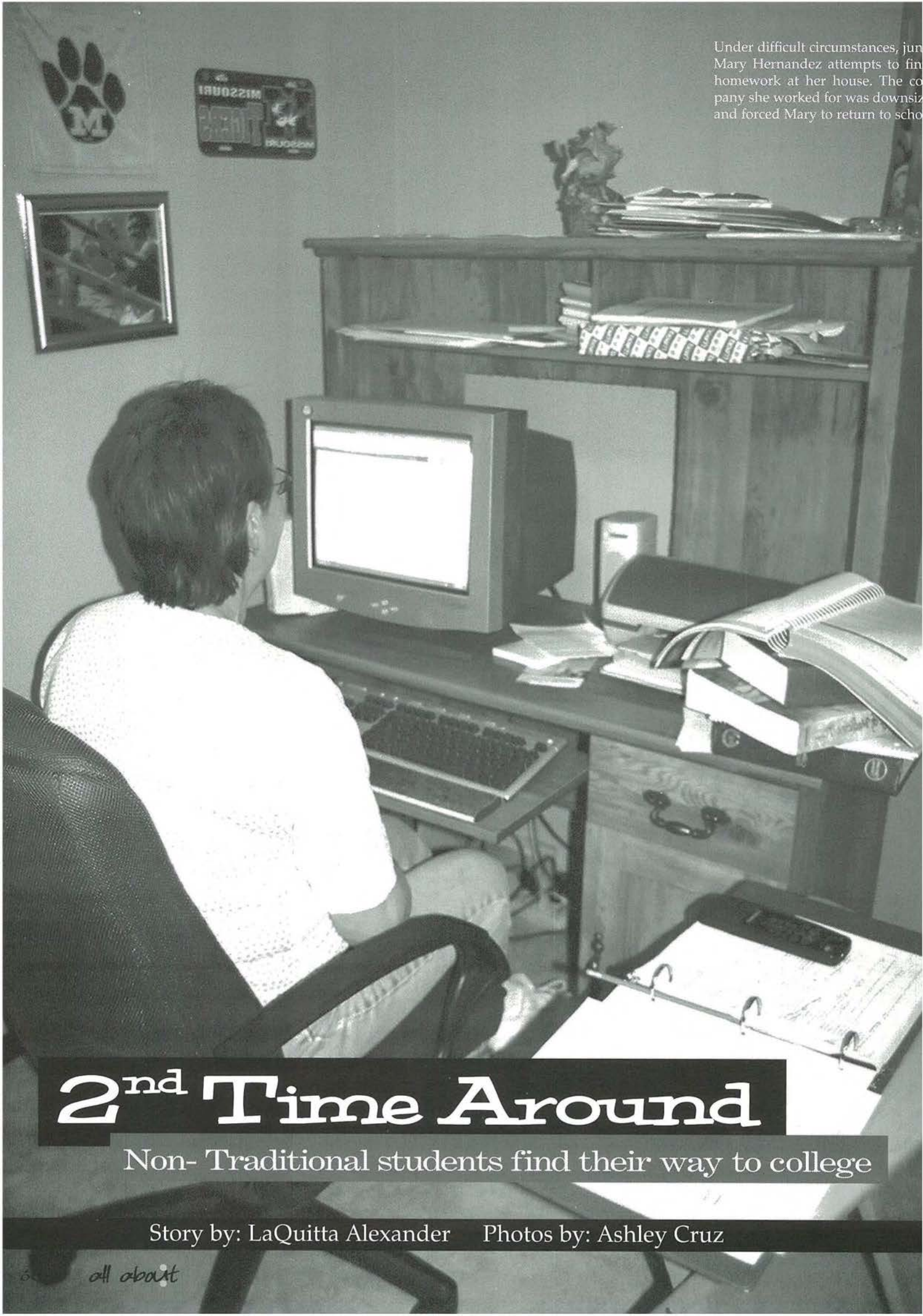


# Spring Break 2005

Students celebrated their spring breaks from coast to coast

Story by: Lindsay Moyer Photos by: Matt Reid

The early morning sun breaks through the Oregon Coast forest. Students found inspiration in new perspectives.



Under difficult circumstances, junior Mary Hernandez attempts to finish her homework at her house. The company she worked for was downsized and forced Mary to return to school.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Time Around

Non-Traditional students find their way to college

Story by: LaQuitta Alexander    Photos by: Ashley Cruz

# W

hen I grow up I want to be a doctor, a lawyer or an astronaut. What about after one has grown up? One had accomplished many

goals in life already--does one really need to go back to school? For many adults, having a college education was very important. Non-traditional students were just as involved with their academics as other students who came to college straight from high school.

According to Western, a non-traditional student was 25 years or older, attended college for the first time or came back after an absence, or did not conform to the definition of a traditional student.

To accommodate the many needs of non-traditional students, Western had its very own Non-Traditional Center available for them.

After achieving all they could some students found joy in setting new milestones in their life. A retired physician and hospital medical director, Charles Mullican's, journey back to school had been nothing but an exhilarating experience.

"I needed structure in my life in retirement, and I love art," Mullican said. "Much as I would like to say I'm in this for the career, there are still competitive juices flowing that say, 'set the curve!'"

For some non-traditional students coming back to college was a little more complicated than "back to schoolitters." Many factors came into play, like family and work.

First semester non-traditional student Stephen Shrum had to adjust to his early schedule, as well as his education.

"I work for the 'St. Joseph News Press,'" Shrum said. "I have to be at work at two in the morning then I go straight to class."

Communications major, Shrum, now 35 years of age, thought a college education was something he felt everyone should have.

"The reason I chose to come back to school, is

basically because of the economy," Shrum said. "I wanted to get something better; I don't have any kids so I didn't have many reasons not to go to school. I encourage everyone to come back to school no matter what age you are."

Other non-traditional students like Kate Meinhardt, who was a single parent, found going to school a milestone and felt no influences should hinder one's educational growth.

"I have three kids, but luckily for me they're at an age where they can take care of themselves," Meinhardt said. "Other non-traditional students who have smaller babies; it can be really difficult for them at times, but they are still making a way to get out and go to school."

Meinhardt, 33 years of age, is seeking a degree in business and minoring in psychology. Meinhardt feels the professors at Western are very cognizant of non-traditional students and the fact that they do have lives.

"A lot of professors appreciate non-traditional students because we are more likely to ask questions in class," Meinhardt said. "A lot of professors acknowledge the fact that we are putting forth the effort; non-trad students are just a different type of breed, we are generally more focused because a lot of us definitely feel like if we don't do it now it's not going to get done."

Although some students went to college to seek a career, most non-traditional students wanted to further their career or develop a new love and passion for a study they never knew was there. For non-traditional students, coming back to school was like riding a bicycle; you never really forget how to do it, it's just a matter of readjusting yourself to the seat and the peddle.



Sophomore Mark Koncevic studies vigorously in the lounge in between classes. Koncevic was a substance abuse counselor, but came back to Missouri Western to major in business.



A group of Western non-trad students congregate in the non-traditional student lounge in. Many of them commented that they felt as though they could draw support from each other.

The band "Flee the Seen" perform in front of a large crowd as part of "Party-A-Thon." The group was one of 11 bands that performed throughout the night.



# PARTY-A-THON

Variety of bands rock the field of Western

Story by: Amy Chastain Photos by: Luke Gorham



eleven bands blew the roof off of the Spratt Memorial Stadium on April 3 for Western's "Party-a-thon." Bands took the stage at 4 p.m. in the stadium and did not quit playing until 11 p.m. Music ranged from rock, punk rock to

untry.

Coordinator of the event Luke Gorham found a variety of bands such as "Anchondo," "Jake's Way Station," "Alice," "Crash of '29," "Broken Avenue," "Flee the Seen" and "Ross Christopher." All bands were local talent or from the surrounding areas of Kansas City, Mo. and Omaha, Neb. The other four bands that played throughout the night included "More Than Yesterday," "Eyes Catch Fire," "Reagan Era" and "Trippin' Default."

The "Party-A-Thon" was an event that helped raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital to benefit children with cancer. Western's Inter-Greek Council and the Student Senate sponsored the event. Gorham had first requested money for the concert from Western's Campus Activities Board, but his request was not granted. He then went to the Student Senate to request money, which was approved.

"Party-A-Thon" was open to the Western students and the community. Students got in free with their student id. The admission fee to the public was \$10. Free t-shirts were handed out after the concert. Donations for St. Jude's Children's Hospital were welcome and proceeds of the ticket prices were donated to the hospital.

Students that attended the concert thought it was great, but were disappointed about the turnout.

"It was an awesome concert," Sophomore Drew Bell said. "There weren't as many people there as I had

expected, however; there were a lot of people from the St. Joseph community there."

Everyone had his or her favorite act. "Anchondo" was the best performer by far," Fell said. "The only problem that I saw was that there needed to be more people there to support the bands."

Assistant head coordinator Lindsay Moyer helped set up the event and was glad to see that Western brought the event back with the help from Gorham.

"It was a great way to raise money for children at St. Jude's," Moyer said. "They really needed the money and something like this will help bring in the community to Western. Luke was a thrill to work with in preparing for the event. Without him, the concert would never have happened."

Gorham was glad to coordinate the event, not only because it brought more people to campus, but also because it benefited the children of St. Jude's.

"Some families cannot afford to pay for medical expenses; I hope that this will help them save their little boy or girl," Gorham said. "As for Western, this helped provide more campus involvement."

"Party-A-Thon" was first introduced to the campus last year, formally known as "Party at the Clock Tower." Western Alumna Morgan Perry came up with the idea of the event to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



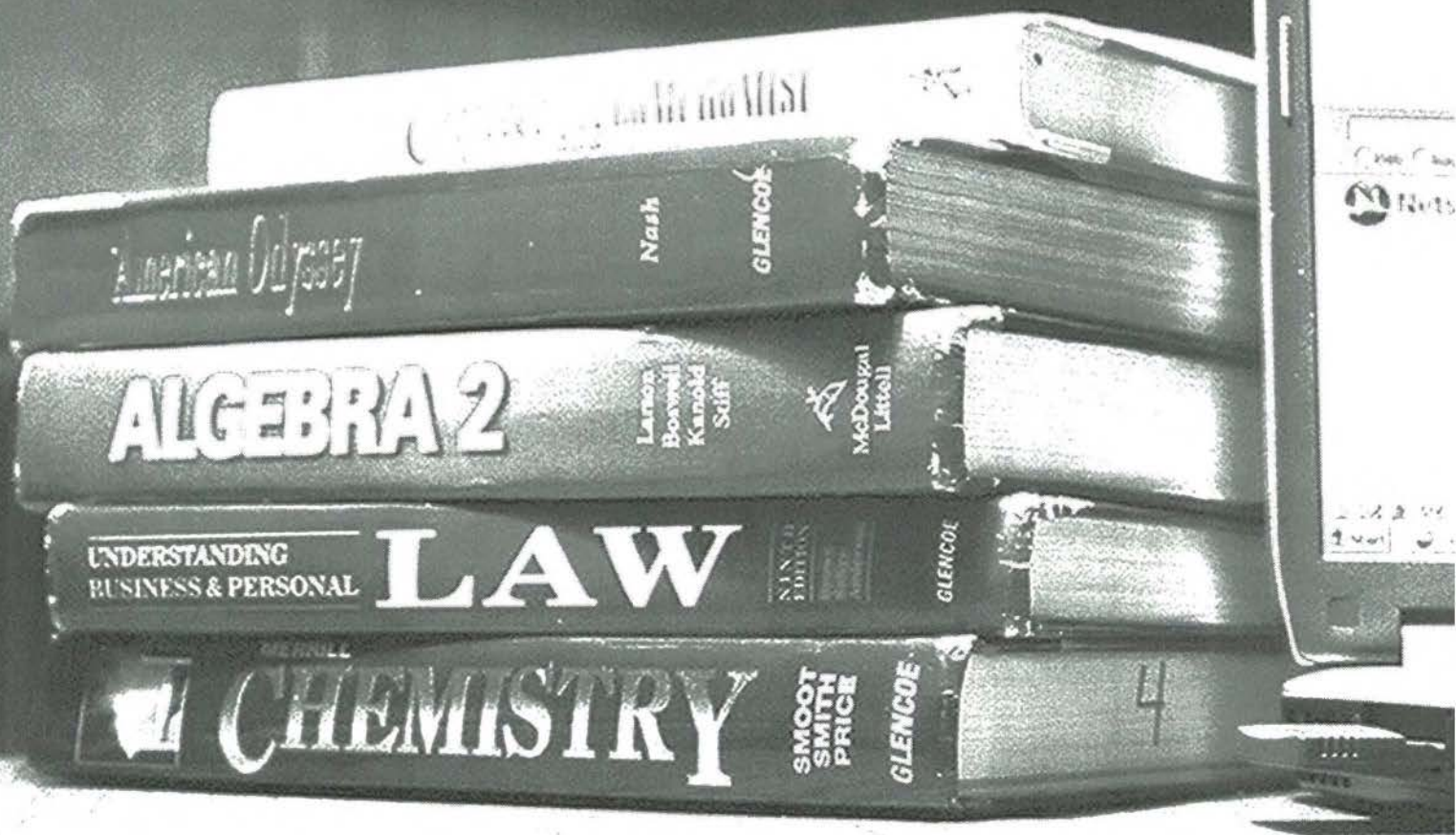
Local band sings to fans at the Spratt Memorial stadium on April 3. The concert lasted until 11 p.m.



The lead singer from "More Than Yesterday" rocks out with his band. "Party-A-Thon" was an event to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.



Used text books are the hot items on the student created Web site, [www.buymycollegejunk.com](http://www.buymycollegejunk.com). The Web site was geared toward students who were looking for the best economical advantage.  
Photo by: Mitchell Buhman



# I Don't Need It Anymore

Western students find new ways to make money

Story by: Mitchell Buhman

W

orking out of a basement in Country Club Village, Lutfie Atieh created a student-friendly Web site, which was cleverly titled, <http://www.buymycollegejunk.com>. Atieh

designed the site to help students buy and sell books with the greatest economical advantage to them and their buyer. Essentially the Web page was bypassing the need for a bookstore when dealing with used books and other supplies.

The basic idea for the site came naturally to the computer and Internet inclined Atieh. His approach was where Atieh derived his slogan of "cutting out the middleman."

"All I needed was to sell a few items that would appeal to students, and I knew that there were students who needed to buy them," Atieh said. "I, with the help of Josh Drake, designed a user-friendly web page to accommodate the buying and selling of college 'stuff' that students needed."

Along with Drake, Atieh also enlisted the help of graphic design student Tim Canton to help with the esthetics of the project. Canton was a senior with much experience in the design field, including his design of his own Web page, <http://www.cantondesign.com>.

Canton supported Atieh in his decision to create a new Web site. "It's a great concept, a real win, win situation," he said.

[Buymycollegejunk.com](http://www.buymycollegejunk.com) was up and running in mid-January and officially operating with advertisements on March 18. Before the Web site was even official it had 42 members and over 100 hits a day.

Atieh offered free membership and unlimited uses to students. After becoming a member, users just needed to place an ad for whatever they were trying to sell. As of mid-February, the site not only had books being sold, but computers, chemistry goggles and even a car had been placed on the page.

When someone had found an item to buy, they connected with the seller through the site and established a rendezvous point to make the transaction. Atieh recommended that students meet in a public place during daytime hours. In most instances, students could sell books to fellow students for more money than they can sell them back to a used bookstore. The purchasing student could purchase a used book cheaper via a fellow student by avoiding the bookstore "middle man."

Atieh planned to sell advertisements to local businesses that supported students. "I am only going to sell the advertising space to companies who will give Western students a discount or printable coupons," he said.

Atieh wanted the Web site to become a popular site among students, so he displayed flyers around campus and told as many people as he could. Several students were impressed with the site. "It's about time students took advantage of their own capabilities and provide services for other students," student Rob Foster said.

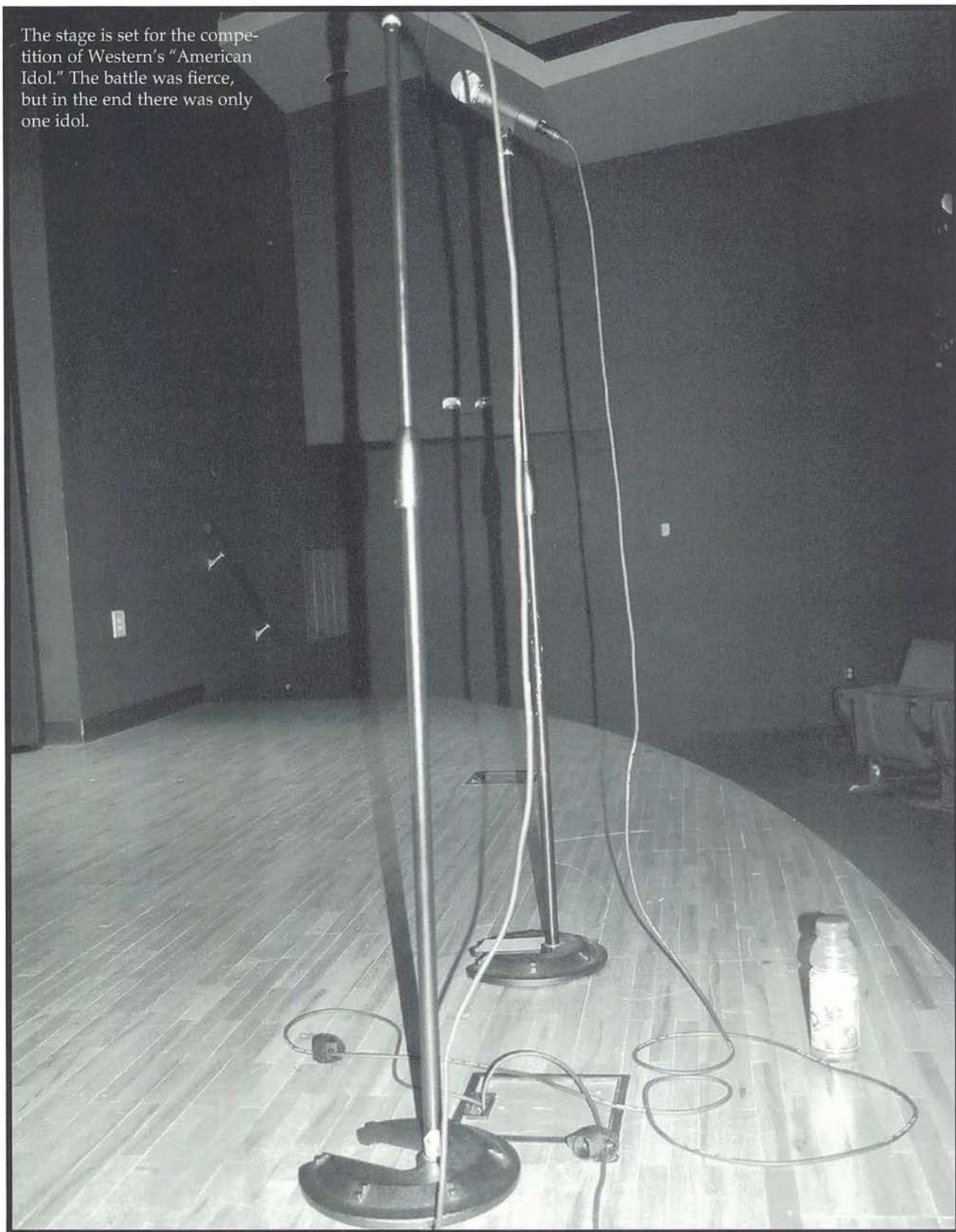
Student Chip Wade agreed with Foster and thought the Web site was a great idea. "It's great to see Mo West students using their knowledge that they get from the classroom and applying it to a real business application," he said.



Money can be found anywhere, especially on one's floor. Money-deprived students even sold their textbooks for a little extra cash.

Photo by: Jennifer Smith

The stage is set for the competition of Western's "American Idol." The battle was fierce, but in the end there was only one idol.



# American Idol: Discovering Talent

Singing for fame with no shame

Story by: Traci Haug Photos by: Johntell Young

# :A

Western graduate managed to surpass the harsh words of judge Simon Cowell during the first round of "American Idol" to advanced on to Hollywood. Asa Barnes waited in

line with over 20,000 people who thought they should be the next 'American Idol.'

"I spent many hours outside waiting for just 15 seconds of fame," Barnes said. "Those were the hardest 15 seconds of my life."

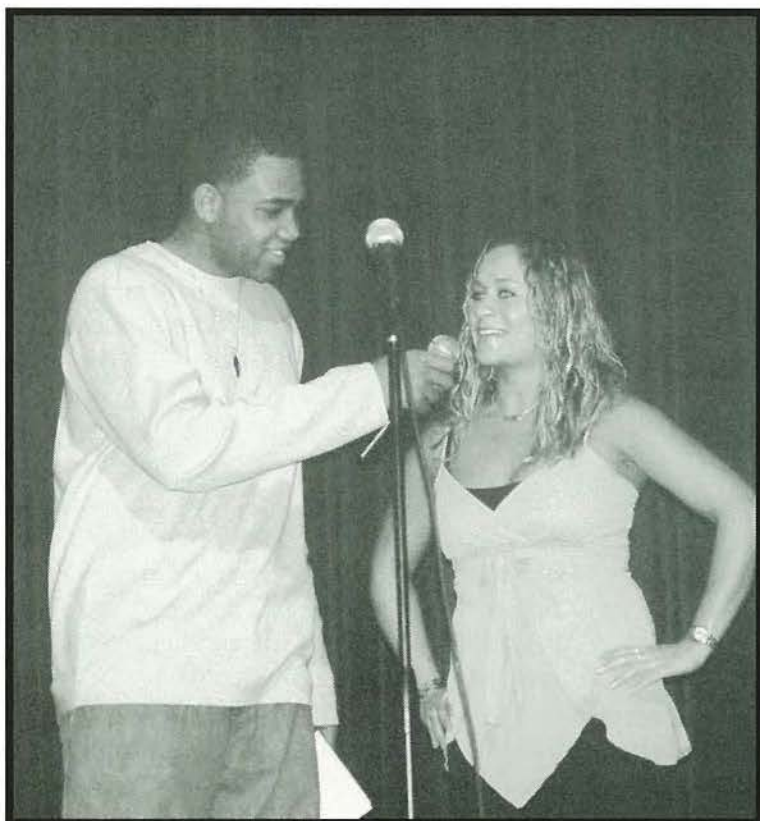
Barnes was prepared for the work ahead of him, but he knew "American Idol" was a great opportunity. "I was overjoyed with my performances, and it was definitely worth it."

Barnes' time at Western helped him prepare for the "American Idol" auditions. He was a member of the Steel Drum Band and had solos with the marching band. "It's hard to open up and feel comfortable on stage, but I had done it before so I wasn't nervous."

The professors of Western played a large part in helping out Barnes. "Asa is probably one of the most naturally gifted musicians I have ever met," Professor of music Dennis Rogers said. "He has an ability to bring people into the music; he totally grabs an audience by the heart."

Western brought its own version of "American Idol" to campus on Feb. 28 as part of Ebony Collegians week. The program was a way for students to show off their singing abilities.

There were seven contestants who battled for the "Idol" spot. The variety of talent made the elimination



Asa Barnes, using his experience from the real "American Idol" hosted the talent show on campus. Barnes interviewed Lindsay Bosch after she sang.

process much easier for the judges to choose their favorite performances. This made it possible for Keyonia Sanders to walk away with the victory.

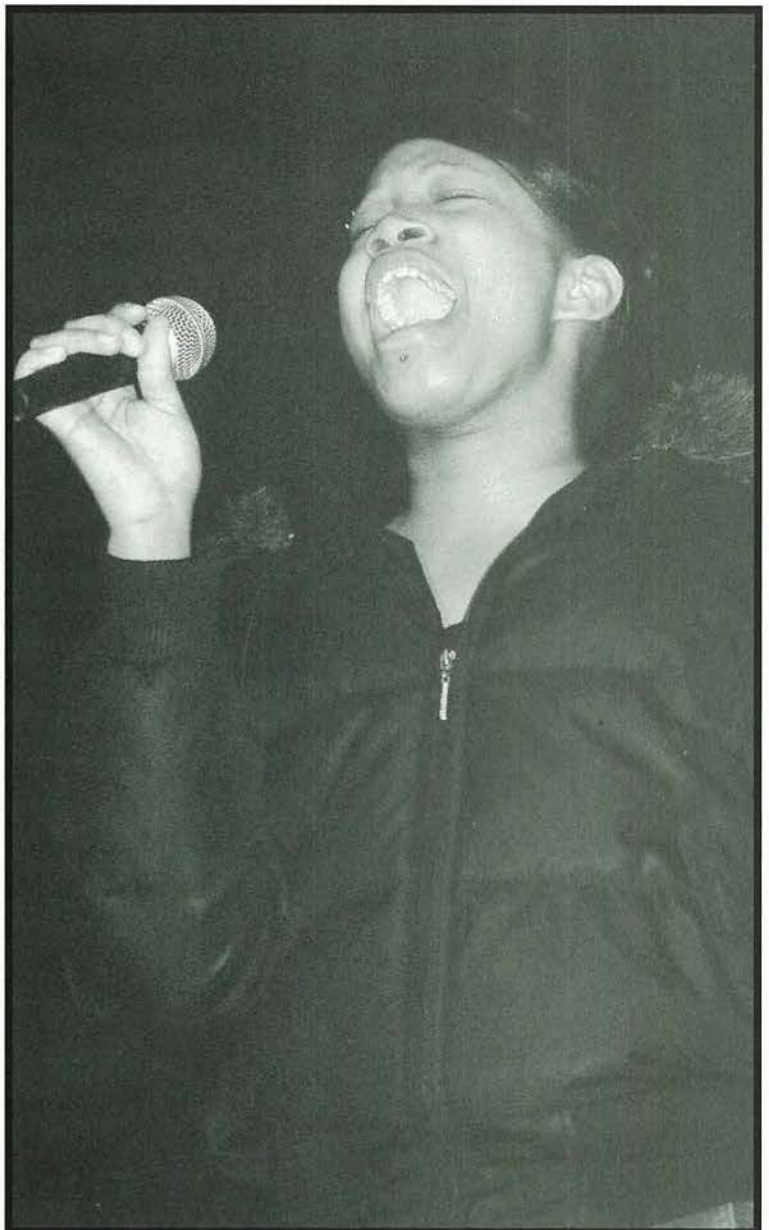
Several students that attended the event thought it was a great way for students to become involved on campus.

"I really enjoyed attending the performances," junior Charles Howell said. "It was neat to see all of the differences in the choices of what was being sung."

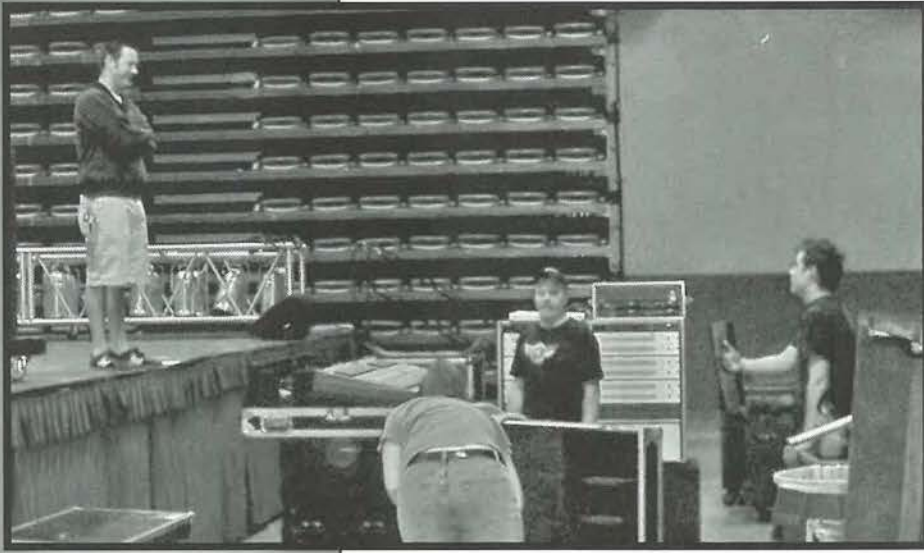
Senior Amy Ramsey went to the show to support her friends. "I liked watching the performances," she said. "It was fun because some of my friends were in it."

Like the original "American Idol," Western's version also had some performers that some students thought didn't perform to their best abilities. "I guess I just expected more out of Western's best singers," Ramsey said.

Western's Idol helped those with musical talent to stretch their dreams, which allowed them to hear critical suggestions to guide them in their music career.



Shalise Cubie shows her talent by singing her heart out in round one of the "American Idol" competition. She sang for the audience "His Eye is on the Sparrow".



Left: Members of the event staff discuss what to do next, while they work on the sound system for the Twista concert. Most of the crew was Beta Chi Delta members; they worked on various projects for about 11 hours from 9 a.m. until the show started. Bottom Left: "The Core Project" gets the crowd pumped up by rapping a familiar tune of Ice Cube's. The group was from St. Louis and did shows with the likes of Nelly and Jay-Z.



Racen filmed the show for Griffon Eye Productions to make a video for orientation for incoming freshmen. He also helped set up the sound system, unloaded the truck and gear. "We started setting up at 9 a.m. and worked on things until the show started, so it was an all day event," Racen said.

Gorham put the crew together who consisted of mostly Beta Chi Delta members. "I was mostly the go-to-guy for everything," Gorham said. "I made sure the bands had everything they needed, dealt with contracts with the artists' agents, civic arena and the production company; I dealt with the overall running of the concert."

Opening for Twista for the first time was a great experience for the hip hop/funk group "The Core Project." "We have done other college shows with some pretty big artists like Nelly, Jay-Z and 'Jurassic 5,'" a member of "The Core Project" said.

The group was no stranger to St. Joseph. They played at The Bone for a multiple amount of times over the past three years.

"The Bone is the best place to play in St. Joe," member of "The Core Project" said. "'The Core Project' does The Bone."

Due to the hard work of CAB members and the crew the concert went off with no problems. Several students found that the lack of publicity was the only problem with the event.

"Publicity is never up in time with CAB, but next year we are going to be on top of things," Gorham said. "When Twista came out and everyone was yelling and screaming that's when all the hard work was worth it."

## facts

: The Spring '05 Concert was free for Western students

: Twista rapped other songs besides his own

: "The Core Project" had performed at The Bone for the past three years

: The CAB sponsored event attracted 1,200 people

: The event was the night before "Dead Day"

Students listened to the tongue-twisted rhymes of Twista before cramming for finals. The night before "Dead Day," the Campus Activities Board sponsored the Spring '05 Concert that was held at the Civic Arena on Monday, May 2.

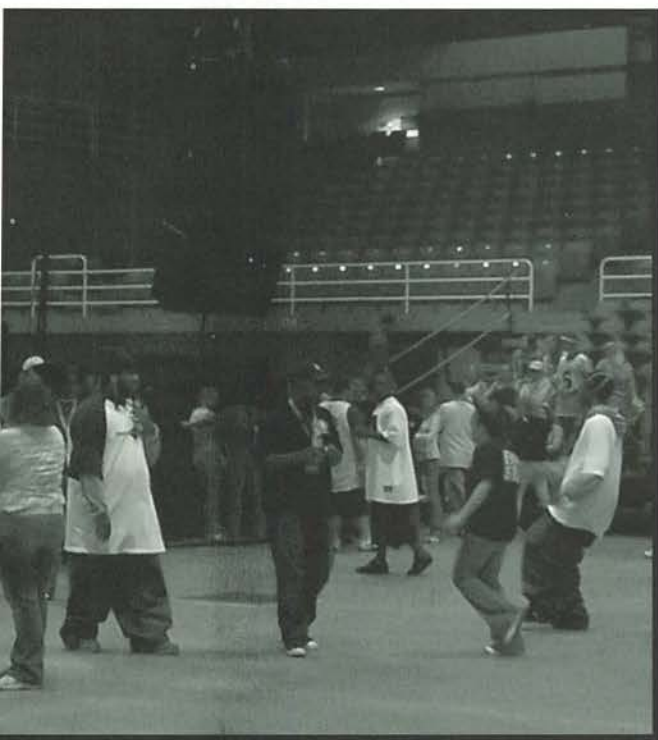
The free event for Western students attracted 1,200 people, and tickets went on sale to the public. A St. Louis group known as "The Core Project" opened for the rapper.

Special Events Chair for CAB Luke Gorham said that Twista was chosen because he was in the top 10 of a campus survey that CAB sent out to students to see who they preferred to see in concert.

"Twista was the most flexible, but we actually had Ciara in mind first," Gorham said. "That didn't work out, so we went with Twista."

The show was put together in only two weeks with publicity out in one week, due to the fact that CAB had to pick a new person or group to headline the event. "The turnout was pretty good considering that publicity was only a week before the concert," senior Dustin Racen said.

Famous rapper Twista raps his hit "Overnight Celebrity" at the Civic Arena for CAB's Spring '05 Concert. The event was free for Western students and open to the public; around 200 people filled the arena.



Audience members wait anxiously in the Civic Arena before the concert begins. Students couldn't wait for the main event.

# Twistin' it up

Famous rapper spits rhymes at Civic Arena for CAB's spring concert

Story by: Jenny Olson  
Photos by: Luke Gorham

# does credit really matter?

An abundant number of students fall under the deceptions of a little plastic card

**I** "I would never get a credit card," freshman Rex Martin said. "The only reasons I would ever get one would be for an emergency and to get good credit."

Martin had seen too many people fall under the deceptions of credit card debt to ever want to get one, unless he had to. A credit card collector from Citibank, Martin had many horror stories of good credit gone bad, resulting in debt with thousands of dollars piled on high-interest credit cards. The English with an emphasis in journalism major had been a collector at Citibank since the beginning of August of 2004.

Martin worked with a lot of college-aged students. "I have seen a lot of college aged people start off with an account and rack up \$500 on the first day," he said. "They blow money they don't have, then get their statement and realize they can't pay it; it's crazy. I know some kids in their 20's declaring bankruptcy, which is sad."

Freshmen were faced with the expenses of college for the first time and often looked to a credit card for relief. But, that was not always the best answer. Credit card bills were added on top of tuition, rent, car payments, cell phone bills and not to mention paying off loans.

According to [nelliemae.com](http://nelliemae.com), 79 percent of surveyed students used credit cards for multiple purposes, but only 13

percent reported limiting credit card for emergency. An abundant amount of students thought they could get by paying the minimum balance each month. It would take a student more than 12 years and \$1,115 in interest to pay off a \$1,000 on a card with an 18 percent annual rate, according to [bankrate.com](http://bankrate.com).

So many students fell into credit card debt because it was so easy to get a piece of plastic. Booths were even set up on beaches for spring breakers. They could get a free t-shirt—all they had to do was apply for a credit card. Students not in the right state-of-mind would apply for a credit card just to get a free t-shirt, and then when they got home they opened the mail and to their surprise—they are the brand, new owner of a credit card with a high interest rate.

Like Martin, several West Virginia students refused to apply for the hundreds of credit card applications that popped up in their mailboxes and e-mail accounts. Martin advised his fellow peers who had credit cards to stay in control and to spend responsibly.

"Don't go crazy; you gotta be responsible," he said. "Stay within your limits—understand what you can afford. If you can't afford something at the time, then don't put it on your credit card because you probably won't be able to afford it when your bill comes around."

Story by: Jenny Olson

Photos by: Jenn Hug

Junior Brandon Rodriguez uses his credit card at Barnes and Nobles to purchase books for his classes. Many students put large purchases on the plastic card so they could pay later.





"I came to MWSC in 1983 and spent most of my first year trying to find a position elsewhere! I had not anticipated the intensity of the teaching loads here. Thankfully I was unsuccessful in my attempts to leave. My 20 plus years teaching at Western have been extremely fulfilling. I have been able to lessen the impact of our heavy teaching load by encouraging students to participate in research projects as collaborators.

-Prof. David Ashley

"Travel is a great educational tool. When I was a young child my father was one of the first psychologists employed by corporations to do psychological testing of candidates submitting applications for CEO positions. At that time he interviewed the person in his own surroundings. Dad would get a call and it was instant road trip! By the time I was eight I had visited every state in the continental United States."

-Prof. Allison Sauls



# what i learn need



"I've been all about wanting to own the flashiest car in the faculty parking lot. When I was a student at MWSC, I used to eye the faculty parking lot to see what my professor drove. Now it seems that the roles have reversed."

-Prof. Steve Saffell

"I love teaching Spanish and courses on the literature and culture of Spain at Missouri Western. I truly enjoy sharing a little of my country with my students; it makes me feel closer to my homeland."

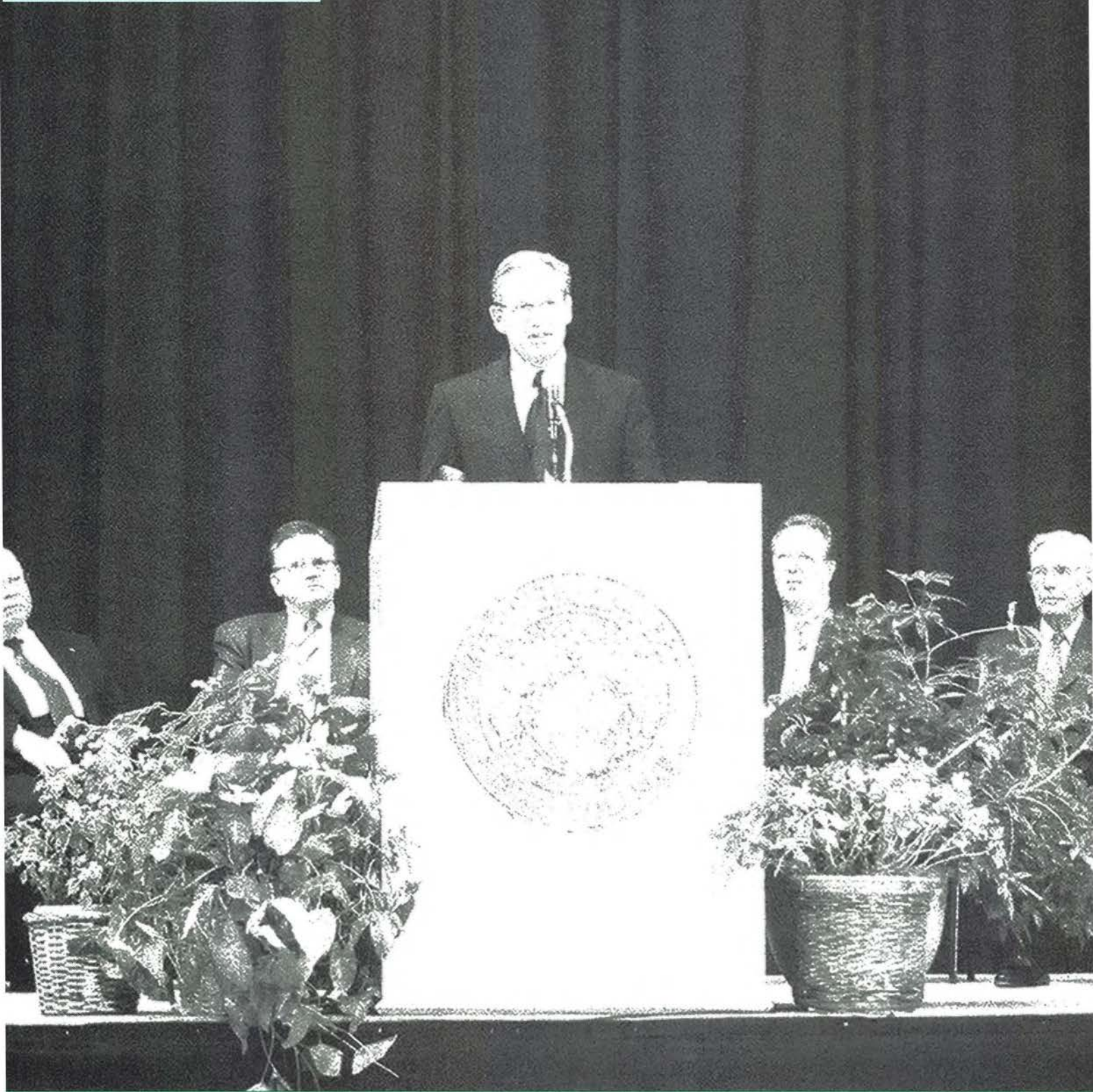
-Prof. Alicia de Gregorio

# academics

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything  
without losing your temper or your self-confidence."

-Robert Frost

Journalist Bob Woodward speaks about political issues and his book, "Plan of Attack: President Bush and the War on Terrorism." A large percentage of the student body attended the convocation.



# 11th Annual Convocation

Journalist Bob Woodward encourages students to vote if they want their voice heard.

*"He was a great speaker because he was able to be as bias as possible when talking about this year's current issue."*

*-Nick Thyfault*

Pulitzer prize-winning author and journalist Bob Woodward spoke on "Plan of Attack: President Bush and the War on Terrorism," on Sept. 14, at the 11th Annual Convocation on Critical Issues.

Woodward began by polling the audience. He asked three questions, trying to get a feel for who the audience might vote for on Election Day.

"These were some trick questions to decide how many rich, warmongering Republicans are in the room today," joked Woodward.

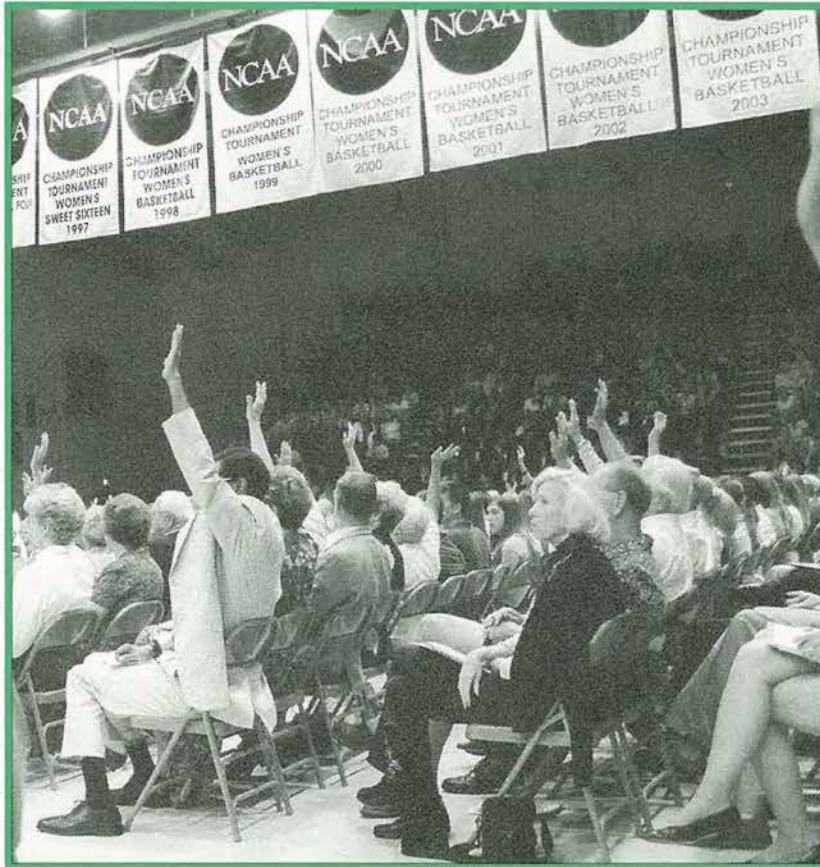
Woodward was a well-known man, and some of the students felt he was an educational and powerful speaker.

"He challenged the audience to look more in depth at our candidates," senior Malcolm Malone said. "The convocation was very stimulating and educational; I hope we get more speakers like him in the future."

Other students agreed he was a good speaker for this particular presidential election.

"He was a great speaker because he was able to be as bias as possible when talking about this year's current issue and that is very important with elections so close," Nick Thyfault said.

Woodward covered his thoughts on his 21-page-memo to President Bush. He got an opportunity that no else has ever



Woodward polls the audience at the beginning of his speech to see whether or not the audience is in agreement with him. Convocation this year brought many surprises and interesting ideas.

*"He challenged the audience to look more in depth at our candidates."*

*-Malcolm Malone*

had. Woodward held an interview with the president for over three hours and asked him about 500 questions, making it the longest interview ever held in one setting with a president in office.

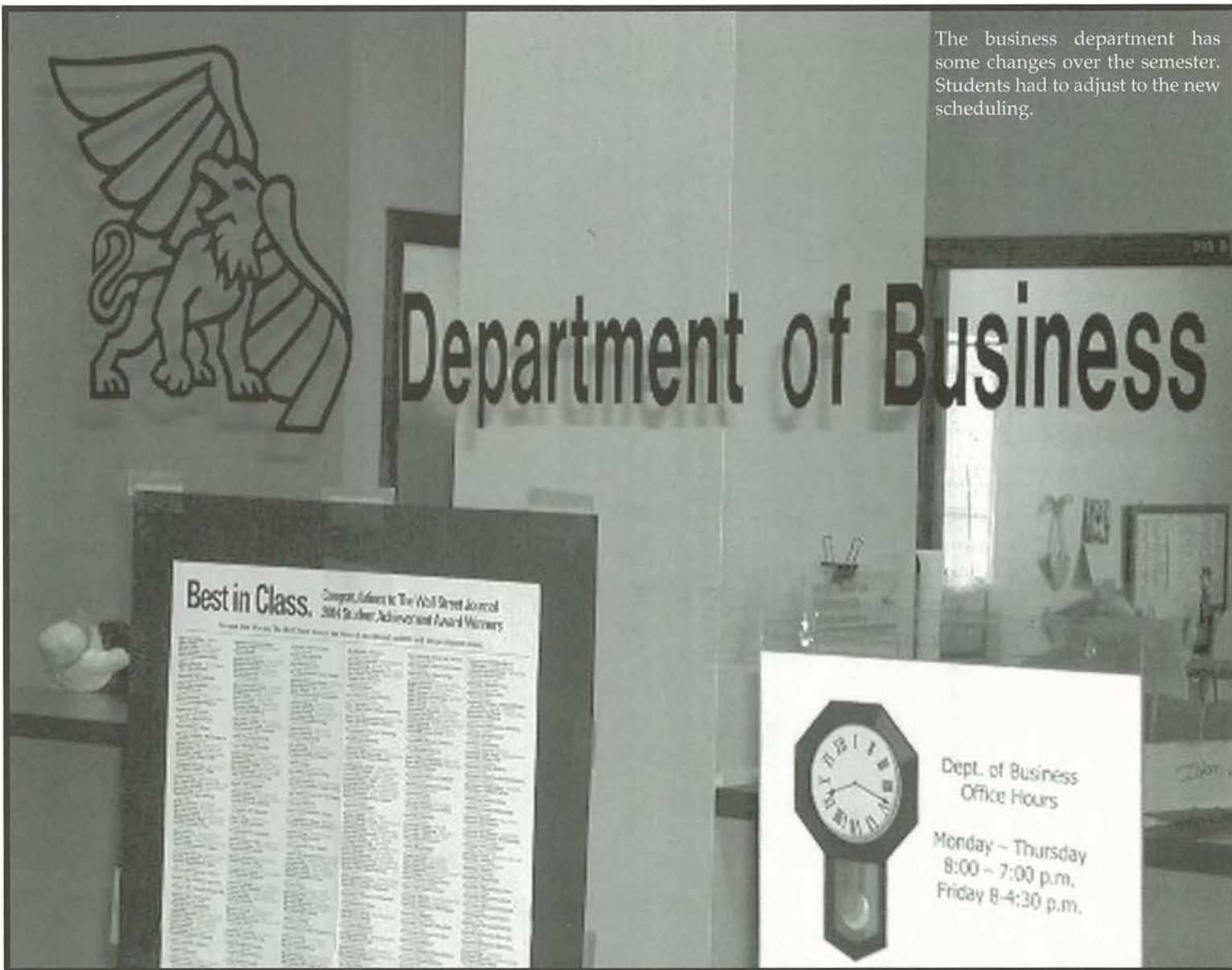
"President Bush never denied any of his actions that have taken place while he was in office; he answered every question to his fullest," Woodward said.

The fact that Woodward had the chance to ask our president so many questions highlighted his magnitude around the White House and the nation.

The crowd was one of the largest turnouts Western had seen for a while. "The turnout to this year's convocation was outstanding, I didn't expect to see so many faces," Malone said.

Many students agreed that the turnout was better than past convocations.

"You will never get the whole student body to attend, not unless our teachers make it a requirement," Thyfault said. "But the turnout was definitely better than the past years; I saw more students that I actually know. I would say on a scale of one to 10, it was awesome. I would have to rate this year's convocation a 10."



The business department has some changes over the semester. Students had to adjust to the new scheduling.



Professor Shiba Nandan stops before entering the faculty lounge. Faculty expected the scheduling change to be effective and business majors would appreciate the changes.

On campus, drastic changes were made concerning the business department. The department decided to change the scheduling in classes. Classes previously were held for sixteen weeks on either days of Monday, Wednesday and Friday or on Tuesday and Thursday.

Students adjusted to the change and were in class for eight weeks, five days a week instead of the regular sixteen-week semester. Once the eight weeks were over, they started another eight-week schedule of classes.

This change allowed students to be able to cover more information in classes, but there were some concerns with the change. Students who worked a full-time job or had children had a problem with this change because they were only able to attend classes two to three days a week. Classes for five days a week raised some issues.

"Studies have shown that this change will improve students grades by

# Business Department Changes

## Mixed feelings arose when the department made changes in class scheduling

Story by: Amy Chastain Photos by: Jamison Burns

teen percent," Larry Lawson, previous chair of the business department, said. With this change, students will accelerate a faster rate."

However, not all business majors were happy with this change. Junior Scott Burnham was worried about graduating on time, but he did think that students would receive some advantages with the change. "I am worried that I may not graduate by next May, but I do think that students will benefit from this change because we will be able to cover more in class," Burnham said.

Sophomore Kyle Hanrahan thought that this change was a good idea.

"I don't have a real problem with the change," Hanrahan said. "I believe students will benefit because it will force you to learn the concepts in a shorter amount of time."

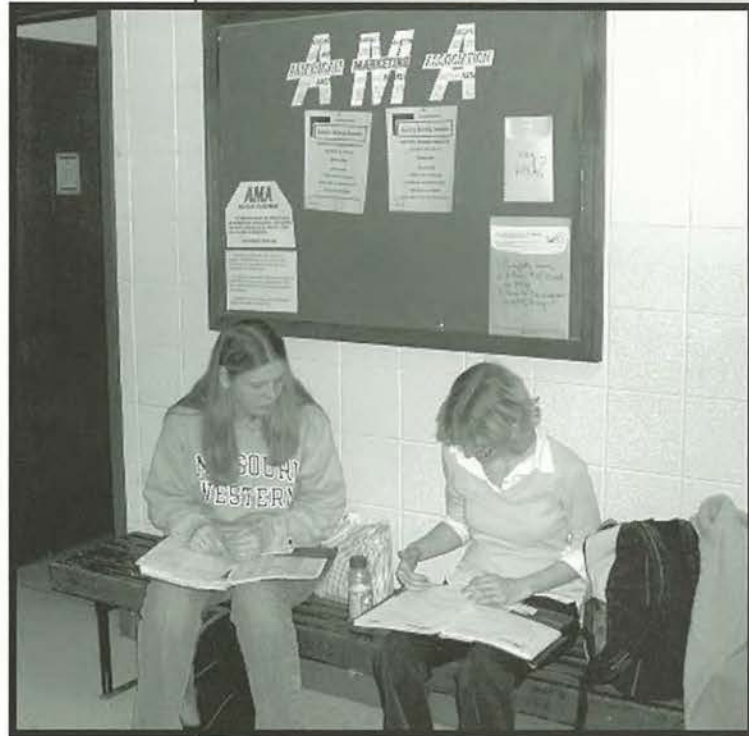
David Shutt, a non-traditional student, didn't necessarily have a problem with the change, but he had some concerns regarding the time of when classes were available.

"I already attend classes on Monday through Friday, but I work in the afternoon," Shutt said. "I do have a problem if classes are offered in the afternoon because I have a family to provide for."

Western students mainly believed that they were benefiting from this change. Some students, however, did have a few concerns.

"We started considering this change about a year ago, so students could arrange their time schedule according to the class schedule," Lawson said. "That is the best advice that I can give to students to arrange your time wisely."

This was hard for some students who worked full-time and were not able to change their work schedule. Students with business majors had to arrange their daily schedule somehow in order to graduate.



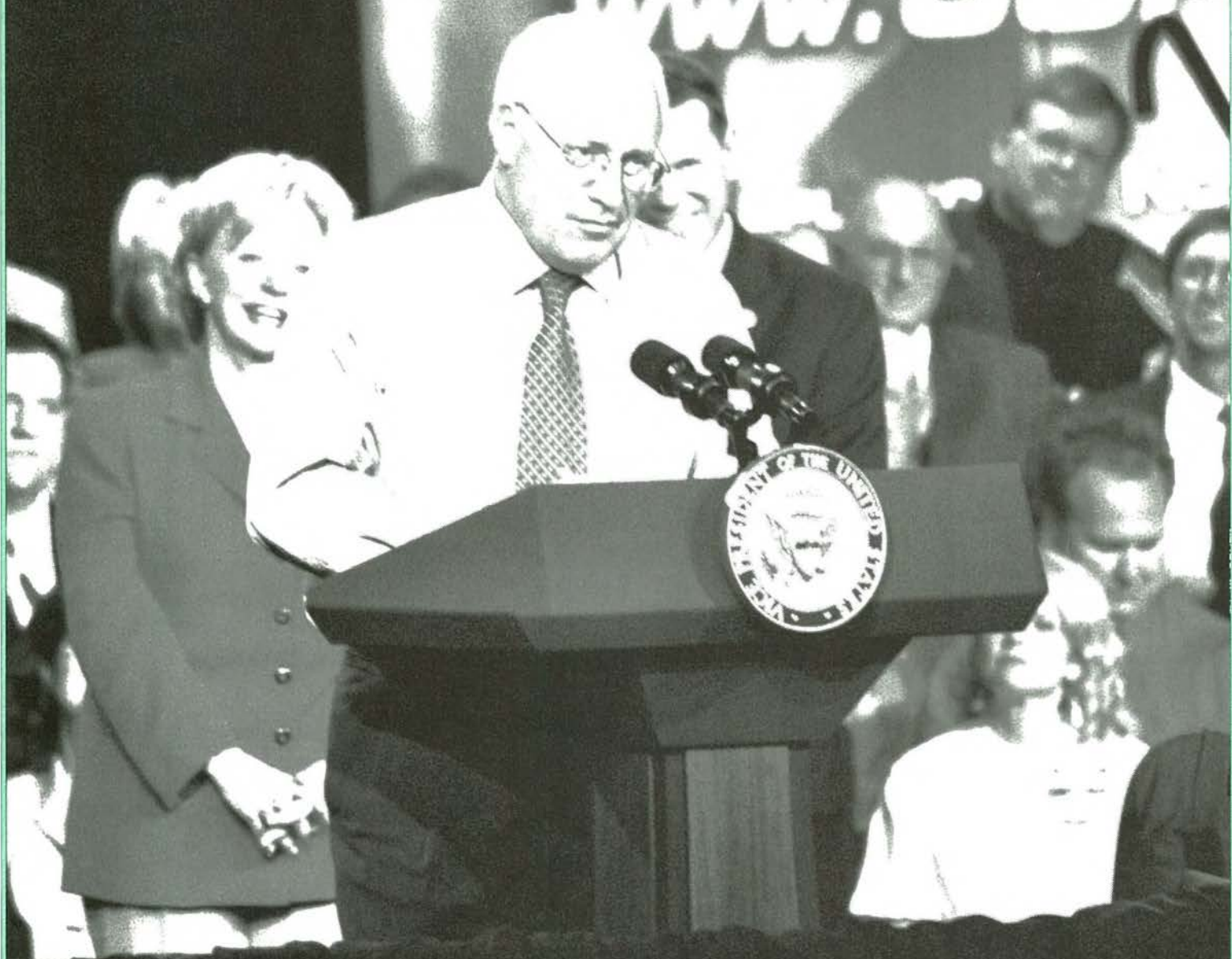
Top: Two business majors study before class. Eight week classes required students to study more at a shorter amount of time than when they were sixteen weeks. Bottom: Professors will have to prepare for more classes each week. Faculty and students worried about the changes in scheduling.

Vice President Dick Cheney talks to the Republican crowd during his visit to St. Joseph. Cheney was here to pump up the Republicans for the upcoming election.

Photo by: Rachel Euchner

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# Cheney Reaction

Both supporters and protesters make appearances when Vice President Cheney visits St. Joseph

No matter which political party you affiliate yourself with or to what generation you belong to, one fact remains strikingly clear—older, white Republicans fill seats. This truth was once again played out during Vice President Dick Cheney's visit to St. Joseph in September.

Cheney, whose visit came during the losing months of incumbent President George Bush's campaign for re-election, spoke about topics that were prominent in the election, including national security and terrorism.

The rally, which drew around 1,800 people, was close in content to the Republican National Convention.

"I was a little disappointed because it was basically a re-hashing of the Republican National Convention," Bob Bergland, professor and advisor of "the Griffon News," said. "The goal was to rally the faithful, so it was mostly Cheney preaching to the choir."

And even though the rally that was held at the Civic Center was open to the public, there were some issues of who the public was. "One of our reporters was denied a ticket because he had identified himself as a Democrat," Bergland said.

On the other side of the political spectrum 330 Democrats attended a protest outside the rally. One of the protestors in attendance was Stacia Bensyl, a professor of English, who believed that protests were a good way for American voters to vocalize their viewpoints.

"You have to put your vote where your mouth is," Bensyl said. "If you have a

*"I was a little disappointed because it was basically a re-hashing of the Republican National Convention."  
-Bob Bergland*

position on a topic, articulate it."

For Bensyl the protest was a good way to bring politics to members of the community.

"I believe protests and rallies increase people's political awareness, and it doesn't matter which side you're on," Bensyl said. "What matters is that you take part."

And taking part was what numerous Western students did. Junior Jeff Knapp attended the protest because he didn't agree with President Bush's views on

certain topics. "I was there because I don't support the Bush/Cheney agenda," Knapp said.

When the word "protest" was used, especially in a political context, most people imagined a Vietnam-era, bullhorns blazing, teargas-filled scene of chaos and rage, but Bensyl thought that today's political protestors were more constrained than in the '60s. "We

had a lot of seasoned protestors there, and we know free speech means responsible speech," Bensyl said.

But in the rare occasion where emotions flare, Bergland believed it was only natural given the topic.

"People are very passionate about who should be president," Bergland said. "Given that passion, such confrontations can be expected."

Fortunately for everyone involved, Vice President Cheney's visit to St. Joseph went over smoothly for both sides, and it hopefully influenced more college students to go vote because as Bensyl put it, "Apathy will kill you."



Standing up for yourself and your beliefs is sometimes hard. Many students jumped right in and participated in the Democratic-led protest. Photo by: Jeremy Weikel

*"I was there because I don't support the Bush/Cheney agenda."  
-Jeff Knapp*



Dr. Seuss waits for a student to drop a book in his box. The drive urged readers to give old books to the literacy program.



Ends this Friday

From the library  
To the author's list  
By that you be  
Book drive



# Red Fish, Blue Fish

Book drive promotes literacy in St. Joseph

The famous Dr. Seuss character, from the book, "The Cat in the Hat," was found on the first floor of every campus building as part of a book drive throughout the month of February. The boxes were placed around campus as part of the Western Student Affiliate of the National Council of Teachers of English gently used book drive. The books were donated to St. Joseph children to promote local literacy.

"The book drive was to promote literacy for the local area," junior Jade Bryant said. "None of the books will ever leave St. Joseph."

Most of the books went to the Juvenile Office and will be distributed to the Buchanan County Academy.

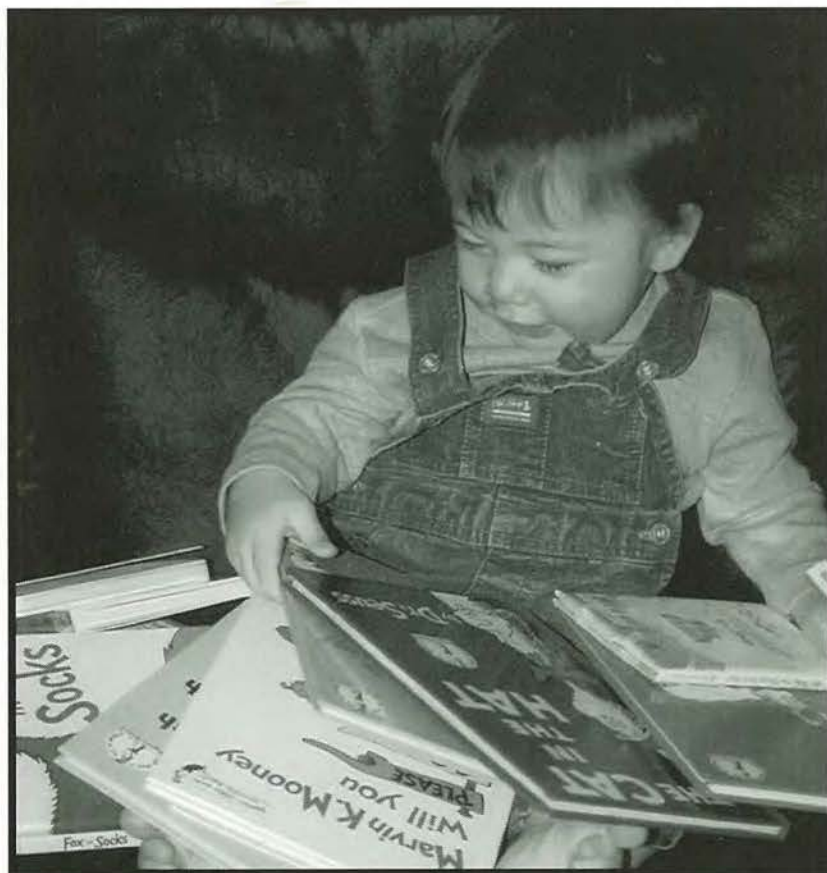
"They need to restock their library shelves," Adrian Chleborad said. The Juvenile Office also needed to restock their waiting room with new books for all the little kiddos, so we were able to help with that as well. These books are some of the tools the Juvenile Officers use to calm the kids and to help distract them while they take care of unpleasant business."

Bryant wanted to participate in the book drive to help promote literacy. "I participated in the book drive because I feel it is important for children to have their own books," she said. "I don't believe there is any reason why children shouldn't have their own books, and this was my way to help get the amount of books for children who don't have their own."

Several students and faculty donated books to the drive. "I donated books because it was for a good cause; there are so many kids in the St. Joseph area that need

*"I donated books that I enjoyed when I was younger; if I am able to help younger kids with literacy, I know that I am doing my part."*

*-Amy Ramsey*



Connor Hughes, son of Western student Jenn Hughes, looks at his Dr. Seuss books that his mother has collected over the years. Dr. Seuss has been a big part of students' lives.

*"I participated in the book drive because I feel it is important for children to have their own books."*

*-Jade Bryant*

to be able to own their own books, learn how to read and gain the confidence they need in life," Michelle Percell said. "Being literate is a way towards that confidence that every person needs in the type of world we live in. I'm glad that I was able to help in this cause and hopefully next time more people will participate."

Senior Amy Ramsey remembered some of her favorite books she read as a kid and

wanted others to have that luxury.

"I donated books that I enjoyed when I was younger; if I am able to help younger kids with literacy, I know that I am doing my part," Ramsey said. "I also donated because I am a nursing student, and I know how much reading it takes in just one class."

Chleborad was pleased with the turnout of the book drive and was thankful the children had something to read. "We collected about 200 books, double my goal," she said.

She hoped that by having something to read, it would help

the child in difficult circumstances.

"When a child is taken into protective custody, they are given sort of a care package, which is a backpack" Chleborad said. "Now they will receive a book within this care package to help ease the trauma of taking the child out of their home or any other unpleasant circumstance the child may be facing."

Each year Western has a banned book reading held on campus. Students were encouraged to make their decision based on their own views whether or not to read certain books.

...been better simply to have them...  
...Dell had said he would kill her...  
...himself to do so. It was...  
...continued attempts to...  
...that he would...  
...it was the doubt and...  
...that somehow he wasn't...  
...believed, that she knew...  
...—she was a harbinger...  
...ets would be lost forever.  
...he pictured her in his...  
...ring their journey north. He could...  
...er features, the way the light's...  
...only made every aspect seem...  
...hear the music in her voice. He...  
...touch. She was real and impossible...  
...own admission, a thing made of...  
...Ell was a man whose respect for...  
...ened by his killings. He was a...  
...never failed. ...ing. He was a...  
...could not be breached; he was...  
...for those brief moments he chose...  
...But Quickening—this strange, eph...  
...of that. She had it in her, he be...  
...and in the end to destroy him. ...  
...believed it was so. She had the...  
...have been anxious to kill her...  
...asked. Instead, he was intrigued. ...  
...anyone until now who he felt...  
...rid himself of that threat; yet he...  
...the streets of Eléwist, down...  
...between the silent, towering...  
...endless gloom, unbothered by...  
...wants. The shadows reached...  
...as much at home here as he had...  
...the solitude. ... he mar-

231  
...time. He pictured each as he had...  
...sidered the potential of each as...  
...Carisman. He dismissed the...  
...him so? He hated the way the...  
...if seeing right through skin and...  
...mentarily, then shrugged it away.  
...no magic.  
...Morgan Leah. He disliked the...  
...obviously Quickening's favorite. ...  
...not her—not the elemental daughter...  
...River. She was simply using him...  
...reasons her own, carefully concealed.  
...and rash and probably would find...  
...he became a real problem.  
...That left Walker Boh.  
...As always, ... of time  
...him. Walker Boh was an enigma. He...  
...seem comfortable using it. Quickening...  
...him from the dead, yet he seemed...  
...hidden deep down inside, secrets...  
...girl. Walker Boh had a sense of...  
...might even be prescient. Once, some...  
...of a man who lived in the Eastland...  
...animals and read the changes in...  
...pass. ...? He was said to...  
...ponent; the Gnomes were terrified...  
...He would have to be especially careful...  
...Pe Ell wasn't frightened of Walker Boh.  
...Boh frightened of him.  
...Yet.  
...The minutes drifted away, the night...  
...remained empty and still. ... wa...  
...Rake would eventually come as it h...  
...ing for their hiding place, seeking...  
...exterminate them as it had been tr...  
...ception. ... self consider for a...  
...like th

# What the @\*%# is this?

This story contains explicit faculty opinions...discretion is advised

*"It depends on what the mission of the institution is whether or not certain aspects of student life are aligned with this mission."  
-Stan Sweeney*

What would happen if nothing was censored? Would there be everyday events like the Janet Jackson Superbowl halftime show? What's the fine line between risqué and morality? What needs to be censored and what doesn't?

A numerous amount of things are censored, even on Western's campus. Every event that goes on within the institution must first be approved by the Dean of Student Affairs. Any publicity that reaches campus walls must receive the stamp of approval from the same dean's offices. So when it comes to public opinion these days, it seemed necessary to first subject it to private examination. What was traditionally looked at as proper protocol was now being looked upon as thought control? When brainstorming for programming ideas within your respective organization was it necessary to consider if the dean approved?

With such controversial programming as the Pride Alliance drag show and the R.A.C.I.S.M. symposium that never infiltrated the campus community, that question seemed to be a bit of a toss up.

"Sometimes it's needed, and sometimes it isn't," Director of Student Affairs Stan Sweeney said. "It depends on what the mission of the institution is and whether or not certain aspects of student life are aligned with this mission."

Students believed that censorship was only used at specific times.

"This college has a responsibility to all of its students as well as the campus

*"Censored or not, I believe the student's voice is valued at Western, and that's more than I can say about some universities."  
-Angela Smith*

community, and while it isn't always necessary to act like mother goose when it comes to a student's right to express themselves if it isn't censored you may get something that isn't educational, inviting or entertaining," Alpha Sigma Phi member Jeff Knapp said.

Many felt the dean was very fair with his choices of what to censor.

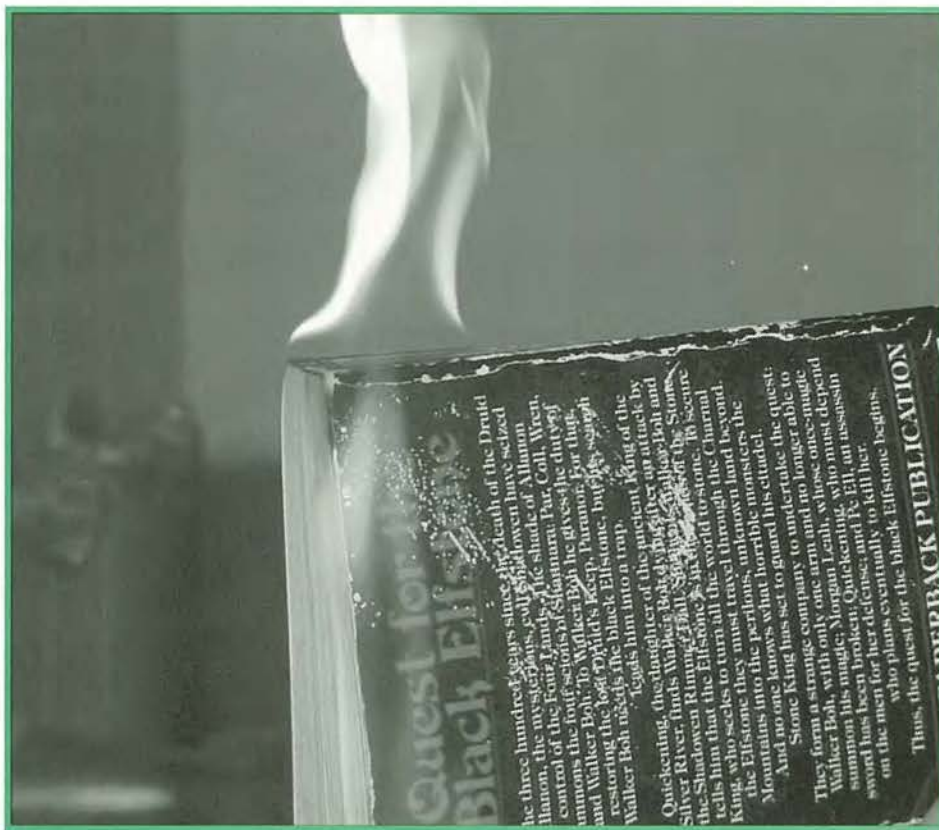
"Dean Klostermeyer is usually very liberal in his approach to event approval and he usually has a non-partisan approach to letting things happen on campus," senior Angela Smith said.

The faculty had a strategic plan on figuring out when censoring was necessary.

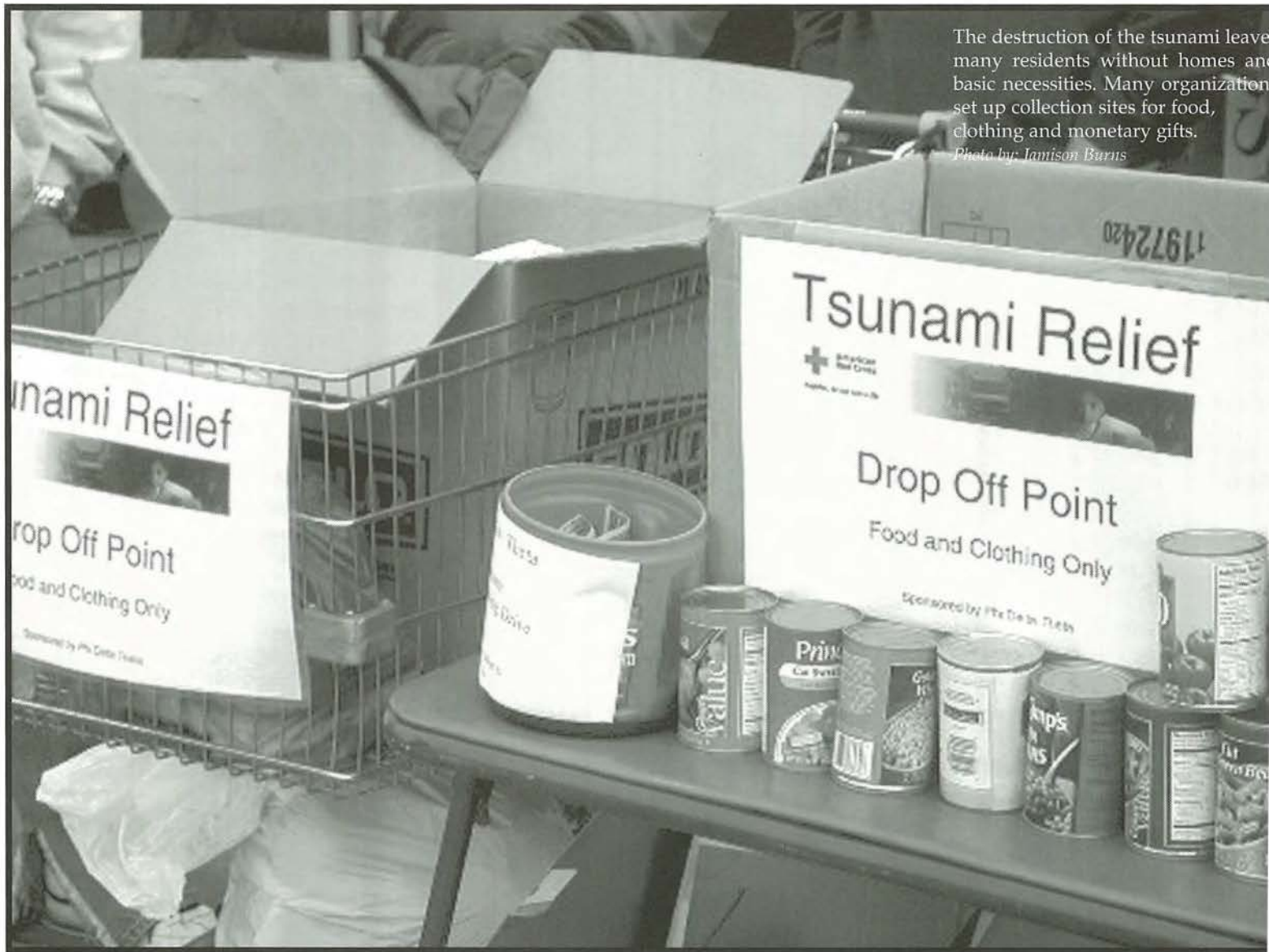
"Sometimes it's the place for change, just not the time," Sweeney said. "So we provide these mediums of censorship so the larger mission of the college is accomplished. We will challenge the mission if

something has educational value, but not just for the sake of challenging the mandates this institution has set for itself."

It seems that despite the chambers of censorship one must overcome to make it to the campus community. Western always competed with other ivory tower institutions because of its consideration of the student voice. "Censored or not, I believe the student voice is valued at Western, and that's more than I can say about some universities," Smith said.



Several Western students are unaware that faculty members can censor information given to them. The faculty figured out when censorship was necessary.



The destruction of the tsunami leave many residents without homes and basic necessities. Many organizations set up collection sites for food, clothing and monetary gifts.  
*Photo by: Jamison Burns*



Phi Delta Theta members Cory Brooks, Aaron Buncker and Lutfee Atieh organize canned goods in a box for victims of the Tsunami Relief. They worked many hours to collect enough food and clothing to send to the tsunami survivors.  
*Photo by: Jamison Burns*

A series of deadly waves generated by an undersea earthquake, also known as a tsunami, hit southern Asian and eastern African countries on Dec. 26, 2004. Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Maldives and Thailand were among the other countries that were hit badly by the deadly tsunami. There was a reported 280,000 plus people who were killed by the undersea earthquake. More bodies were found even a month after it struck.

An abundant amount of countries acted fast to send in reinforcements and donations to the people of southern Asian and eastern African countries. There had been thirty-seven countries that contributed millions of dollars in aid to tsunami survivors, sent medical assistance and food. The United States sent \$350 million in aid.

There had been numerous contributions that have been made to the countries hit by the deadly tsunami from the American Red Cross, Action Against Hunger and Save the Children. The American Red Cross helped 330,000 tsunami survivors. They received donations totaling \$297.4 million.

# Students Aid Victims

Story by: Amy Chastain

On the campus of Missouri Western, another group of young men helped send donations to the tsunami survivors. A fraternity known as Phi Delta Theta came together to donate food, clothes and money to send over to the tsunami survivors. Right after the tsunami hit in southern Asian and eastern African countries, the brothers of Phi Delta Theta decided to come to the needs of the survivors. On February 5 and 12, the fraternity held a charity drive at North Belt Wal-mart in St. Joseph. They accepted donations such as clothes, toys, canned goods and money.

Aaron Bunker came up with the idea of holding a charity drive for the tsunami survivors. He, as well as many others in the fraternity, wanted to help those in need.

"We decided to take action immediately," Bunker said. "We figured we would act fast before other sororities and fraternities could do something."

Another brother of Phi Delta Theta Lutfee Atieh thought it was an excellent idea. "I felt like I could do something to contribute to the tsunami survivors," he said. "It felt good to help them; we had an awesome turnout."

Phi Delt Brandon Rodriguez also helped out with the charity drives on both days.

"People were very generous and giving; we received frequent donations such as clothes, canned goods and shoes," he said. "We were really happy with the way things turned out. Helping the tsunami survivors really made me appreciate life so much more."

Much had been done to help the tsunami survivors especially on the Western campus. The campus worked together along with many other charities to help those in need so that they were able to build a new community and live a better life.

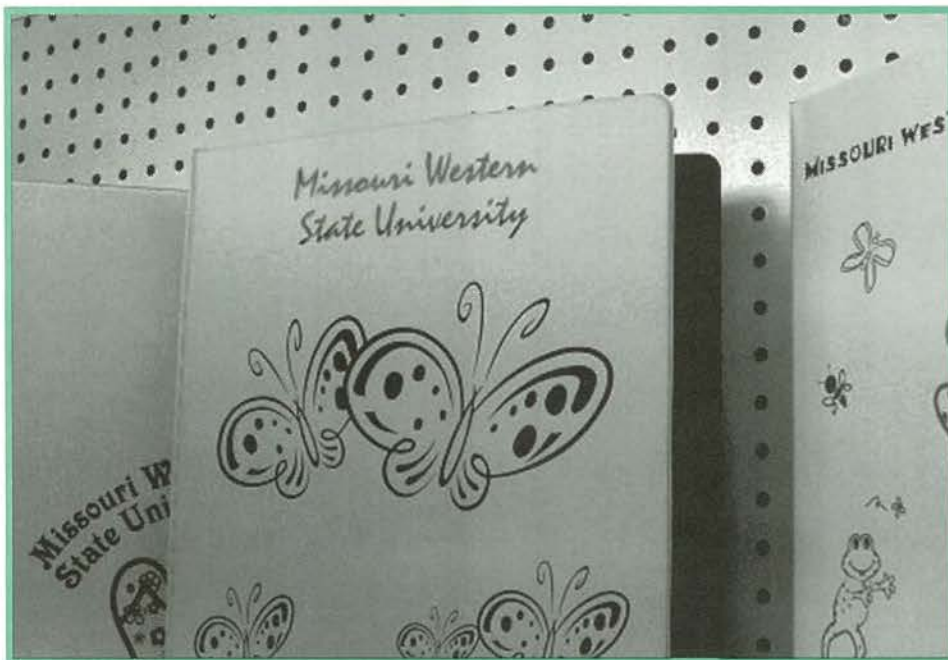
People thousands of miles away suffered, but MWSC and the community came together to offer help



Top: Just two weeks after the tsunami, swimmers were back in the ocean on the coast of Madras (Chennai), India, and little debris remained on the beach. There were 212 deaths in Madras as a result of the disaster. *Photo by: Paulette Thorne*

Bottom: Paulette Thorne helps pick out fabric for saris at a store in Madurai, India. Donations from St. Joseph and other Missouri residents were used to buy saris for women who lost all their possessions in the tsunami.

*Photo by: Jacob Thorne*



The Missouri Western State College merchandise went on sale at Barnes & Noble at the end of the spring semester. The store tried to get rid of the merchandise with the word 'college' and 'MWSC' and left room for the new merchandise with 'university' labels.

Story by: Amy Chastain Photos by: Jenn Hughes

Cheers erupted on the Missouri Western campus as Governor Matt Blunt signed the final papers to make Western a university. This brought an end to the several years of attempts to make the college into a university.

In 2003, Western had gotten the farthest it had ever gotten to university status; however, it was shot down when Northwest Missouri State University would not back Western. In 2005, though, Southwest Missouri State College, now known as Missouri State University, backed Western making it Missouri Western State University.

As Western students, alumni and professors were ecstatic, there were some who were worried about the future changes. These changes included the cost of tuition, room and board, meal plans and when graduate studies would be made available to students.

Former Student Senator of the Student Government Association and Traditions Chair of Campus Activities Board Becky Monnig felt that the name change would bring many benefits.

# Missouri Western State University

Students anticipate the change  
but some worry about the effects

"Every year costs goes up as with every institution. I don't think that we will be directly affected by the name change," Monnig said. "If costs do rise, students must remember that with the changes, our school will be more likely to receive grants from the state, which so means more scholarships. The benefits will level out the negative ones that will come with this change."

Sophomore Seth Cox had a slight difference in opinion. "I don't think that costs will rise, but they will probably rise here in a year or two," he said.

Former SGA President Elijah Haahr knew that the process of changing from a college to university would take some time.

"I think the major change that Western students will begin to see is the name change," Haahr said. "Changes such as cost of tuition, housing and meal plans will probably shift in a few years. It is going to take a while for Western to start offering graduate studies."

There was no question that the campus would benefit from the change. "Western students will definitely benefit from this," Cox said. "We are finally becoming a university and that will open so many doors for the students."

Although university status would bring a multitude of benefits, it would take time. "The benefits of being a student of a university won't be immediate," Monnig said. "We have to give the administration time to build programs, but as students of Western today, we are helping build a stronger academic experience for future students."

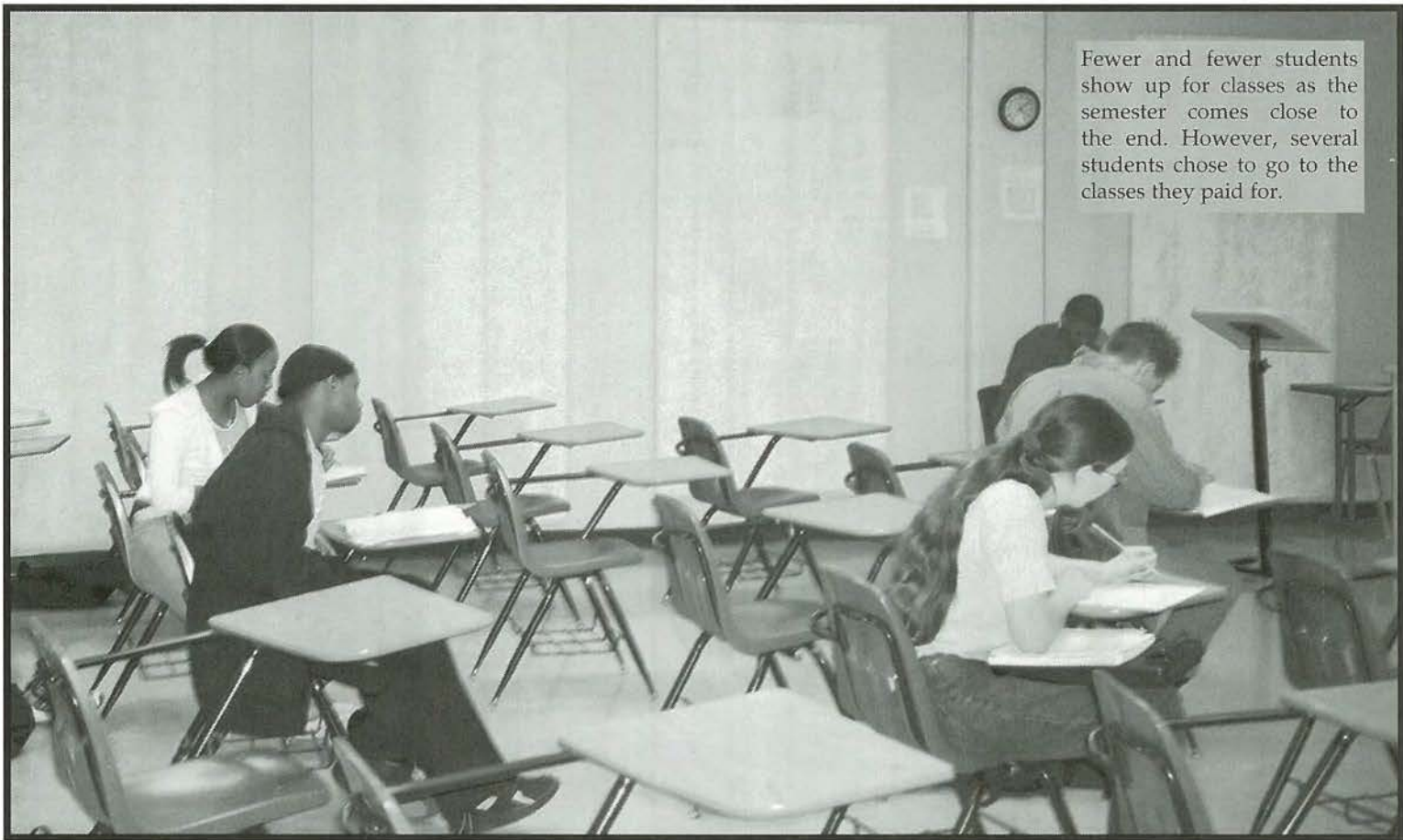
Gaining university status meant so much to Western students. This final decision brought an end to those who have been continually fighting the government for the status. By gaining this status, Western also gained much more recognition and respect of its fellow students, alumni and professors.

"Gaining university status is the first step in offering more to students," Monnig said. "Our school will be able to offer students graduate courses and more chances to be involved with research. It will help provide an overall better experience for students."

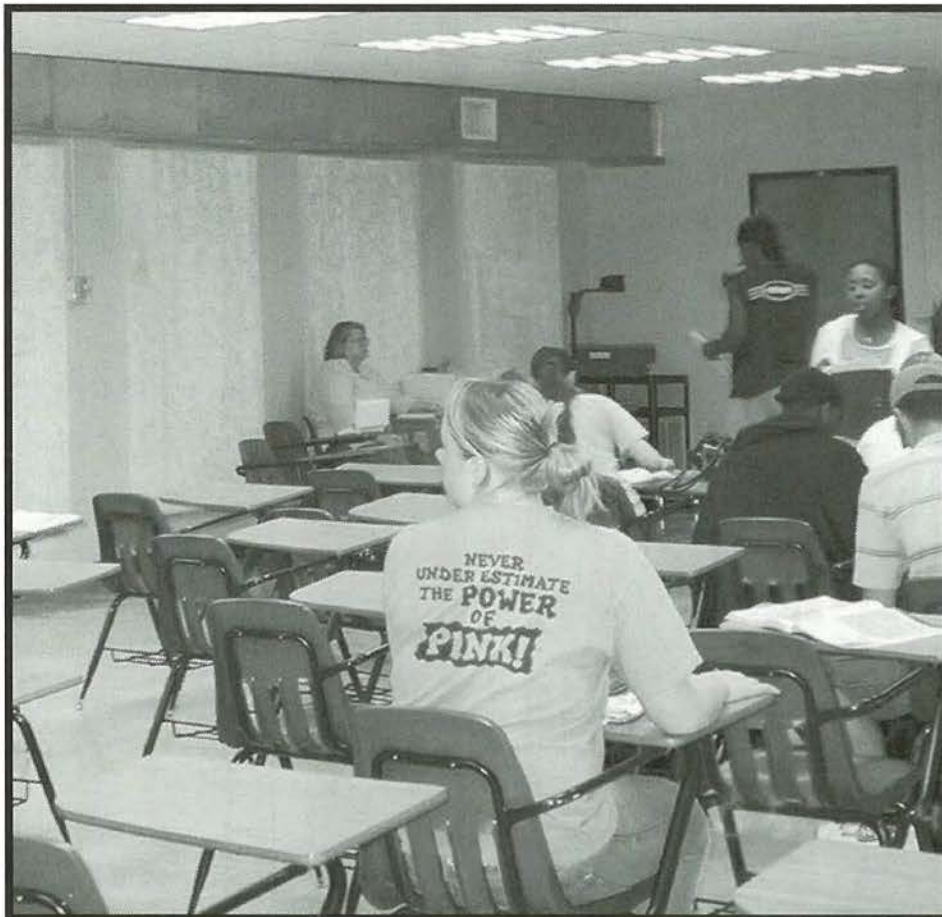


Top: The entrance to the Fulkerson Center displays a seal with 'University' on it. The center opened on the campus in March. Above: The entrance to the campus off of Mitchell displays a sign that will change. Becoming a university was a long, hard battle for the school, and along with the name change, many other alterations were made to the campus.





Fewer and fewer students show up for classes as the semester comes close to the end. However, several students chose to go to the classes they paid for.



Students who fear repercussions from professors for not attending class went everyday so they wouldn't get knocked down a letter grade. Several professors made mandatory attendance policies so students would go to class.

For years, students had been contesting professor mandated attendance policies. "We are paying for the class, so attending should be our prerogative," student Wade Williamson said.

Williamson's stance on the topic was a view that was shared with several students. "A student's grade will reflect his or her attendance without it being figured into the grading system," junior Becky Lewin said. "If I missed a lot of class, my grades would not be as good as they are."

General education classes were the main targets for student ridicule of attendance policies. Several students thought being required to attend lectures that just summarize the text was unnecessary and a waste of time. General education classes were required of all degree-seeking students, regardless of his or her major.

Astronomy professor Darell Johnson didn't have an attendance policy for his Physics 104 class, but he did have students write attendance essays everyday that were worth 10 points. "Students learn more when they attend class," he said.

Johnson's profound declaration seemed to fit the general format of a previously conjured carefully rehearsed stance. It might not have been the first time that attendance policies have raised a student concern at Western. (See 1992 Griffon yearbook).

# Students vs. Professors

## Attendance policies cause minor disputes in classrooms

Story by: Mitchell Buhman Photos by: Jennifer Smith

Junior Keri Harder had strong feelings about attendance policies and general education classes.

"I dislike most attendance policies, especially classes that aren't important to my chosen field," Harder said. "In most of my gen-ed classes I could have passed the course without ever attending a lecture. Most of the information I need for those classes [general education], I get cramming for the test the night before, reading from the book and the Internet."

Both students and professors agreed that attendance was necessary in certain classes to pass the course. Jim Estes, professor of ceramics in the fine arts department said that his class was a hands-on studio class; experience and repetition were the most efficient ways to improve one's skills.

"Attendance is imperative in my class, if students don't attend they miss crucial demonstrations and videos," Estes said. "I expect students to produce a quality body of work and the tools and materials to do that are here, in this classroom. Most knowledge in this department isn't gained through books, it is gained through experience."

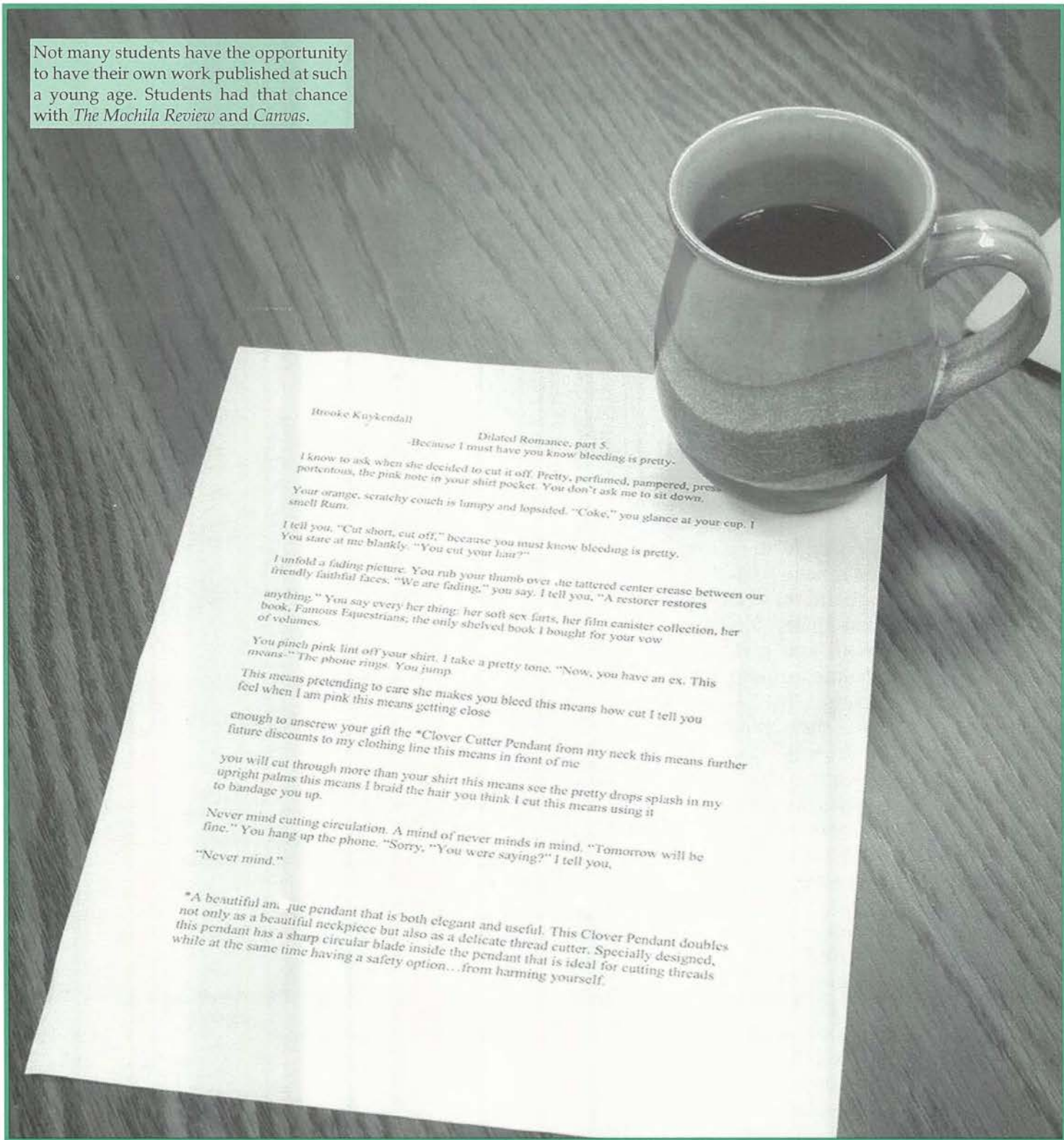
Cherish Nigh agreed with Estes. "English, Math and Science can be learned through books, but if I am serious about my major [art], I need to attend those classes," Nigh said. "Things you learn in this department [art] can't be found in books. It is visual learning."

Numerous students opposed attendance policies. But if they didn't go to classes, like astronomy, religiously five hours a week they might have missed a neutrino sized blip of information concerning a star millions of light years away. And that morsel of lecture knowledge might just save students' lives.



It was not uncommon to see empty seats in classrooms, especially on Fridays. Students opted to do other activities instead of going to class.

Not many students have the opportunity to have their own work published at such a young age. Students had that chance with *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas*.



Brooke Kuykendall

*Dilated Romance, part 5.*

*-Because I must have you know bleeding is pretty-*

*I know to ask when she decided to cut it off. Pretty, perfumed, pampered, pressurized, portentious, the pink note in your shirt pocket. You don't ask me to sit down.*

*Your orange, scratchy couch is lumpy and lopsided. "Coke," you glance at your cup. I smell Run.*

*I tell you, "Cut short, cut off," because you must know bleeding is pretty. You stare at me blankly. "You cut your hair?"*

*I unfold a fading picture. You rub your thumb over the tattered center crease between our friendly faithful faces. "We are fading," you say. I tell you, "A restorer restores anything." You say every her thing: her soft sex farts, her film canister collection, her book, Famous Equestrians; the only shelved book I bought for your vow of volumes.*

*You pinch pink lint off your shirt. I take a pretty tone. "Now, you have an ex. This means." The phone rings. You jump.*

*This means pretending to care she makes you bleed this means how cut I tell you feel when I am pink this means getting close*

*enough to unscrew your gift the "Clover Cutter Pendant from my neck this means further future discounts to my clothing line this means in front of me*

*you will cut through more than your shirt this means see the pretty drops splash in my upright palms this means I braid the hair you think I cut this means using it to bandage you up.*

*Never mind cutting circulation. A mind of never minds in mind. "Tomorrow will be fine." You hang up the phone. "Sorry, "You were saying?" I tell you,*

*"Never mind."*

*\*A beautiful antique pendant that is both elegant and useful. This Clover Pendant doubles not only as a beautiful neckpiece but also as a delicate thread cutter. Specially designed, this pendant has a sharp circular blade inside the pendant that is ideal for cutting threads while at the same time having a safety option... from harming yourself.*

Photos by: Johntell Young  
Story by: Amy Chastin

# Journalistic Opportunities

These publications give students a chance to see their work published

To writers, writing is an art form and a sense of expression of their inner soul. This expression helps writers to drown out their emotions.

Missouri Western provided a student publication journal known as *The Mochila Review* and a literary journal known as the *Canvas*. *The Mochila Review* was Western's literary journal where poets and authors from all around the world shared their works of art with others.

Western students were able to submit photographs, poetry or short stories to the *Canvas*. They were carefully examined by a group of editors and chosen to be published in the *Canvas*.

*The Mochila Review* and *Canvas* was offered as a class known as English 285. The Department of English, Journalism and foreign languages published the student publication and literary journal annually. *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas* were open to many different genres of contemporary writing such as free verse, mixed form poetry, prose poetry, sudden fiction, short stories, lyric essays and creative nonfiction. The general submission was between August and October. Selections were made by the first of February and published by the beginning of May. Bill Church was the editor and professor of *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas* for the fall and spring semesters.

In the fall semester, students looked over submissions for the literary journal and student publication journal. "There tend to be 300-400 pieces of writing that need to be looked over," Church said.

Because of the large submission of pieces, each student became a reader. Students apply for editor positions and when I look over them and pick the best person for the position," Church said. "There

*"There are many positions that are needed to be filled such as marketing, communications, fiction, poetry, nonfiction, web designer and a typist."*

*-Bill Church*

are many positions that are needed to be filled such as marketing, communications, fiction, poetry, nonfiction, web designer and a typist."

Stories and poetry were rated on a scale from one to five, one being bad and five being outstanding. The pieces that were not chosen were sent back to the authors and poets by December, usually by email. Church contacted the authors and poets who were chosen for publication

by email as well. "Once the author or poet has been contacted about his or her story, they are to send us the piece electronically usually by March," Church said.

Former Web Designer of the 2005 edition of *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas*, Craig Moore felt that his experience would help him with his career after graduation "I gained experiences with publishing," Moore said. "I made so many close relationships and learned so much from working on *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas* that it will prepare me for a career in the English field."

Emily Winslow, a technical English major and former typist of the 2005 edition of publications, described her experiences with working on the two journals.

"Being a typist made me learn a lot about the technical field," Winslow said. "I did an internship in 2005 for *The Mochila Review* and *Canvas*. Working on it made me see what people were looking for."

*The Mochila Review* and *Canvas* offered students seeking a career in the English and journalism field a sense of what employers were looking for in an employee.



The staff of *Canvas* contemplates what will be in their book this year. The publication came out in late spring.

*"Being a typist made me learn a lot about the technical field," Winslow said. "I did an internship in 2005 for The Mochila Review and Canvas."*

*-Emily Winslow*



The drumline is in sync as they hit every beat of the song. The members of the drumline began practice in the summer.



Kip Veith plays his trumpet during halftime of a football game. The Golden Griffon Marching Band played at every home football game.

If catchy jingles in commercials and cinematic strings in a horror movie and your favorite singer's accompaniment were taken away, it would be a pretty quiet world. Infamous composer Ludwig Von Beethoven once said, "Music is the one incorporeal entrance into the higher world of knowledge which comprehends mankind, but which mankind cannot comprehend."

The Golden Griffon Marching Band was comprised of some of the greatest philosophers of our time that were misunderstood geniuses who marched and played their way into notoriety 30 to 40 times a year.

"The life lessons learned with the band consists of a long list," Jeff Hintz, director of bands and instrumental studies, said. "They have to understand the value of time, preparation and teamwork. Each band student has the opportunity to perform 30 to 40 times within an academic year and have traveling possibilities as well as the chance to develop an art form."

# Can we get a drumroll please?

## Dedicated students entertain fans at sporting events and concerts

Story by: Darren Moten    Photos by: Jeremy Weikel

Intense sessions of 10-14 hours a week encourage students to take their craft seriously.

"Professor Hinton taught me that my greatest foe is myself," Junior Donald Bayliss said. He was a member of the percussion section in the marching band and a musical performance and precision major.

By the end of October, students had already traveled to a band festival at Clarinda, Iowa, in addition to performing at all home football games. No doubt a tedious task, most students were committed to these obligations.

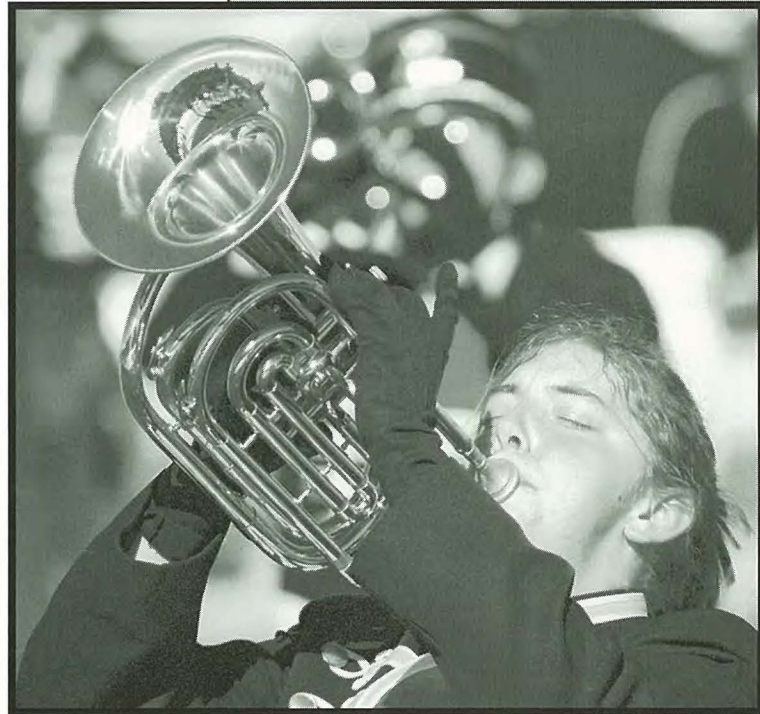
"Problems with commitment don't exist in large scale because the majority of my students are excited about what they do," Hinton said. "Most of them want to make a career out of musical performance, so they understand that it is a competitive atmosphere in this work force so they only get out what they put in."

Opportunities to represent Western on a regional and national level, as well as competing with bigger universities, sets Western's bands apart from other entities at MWSC.

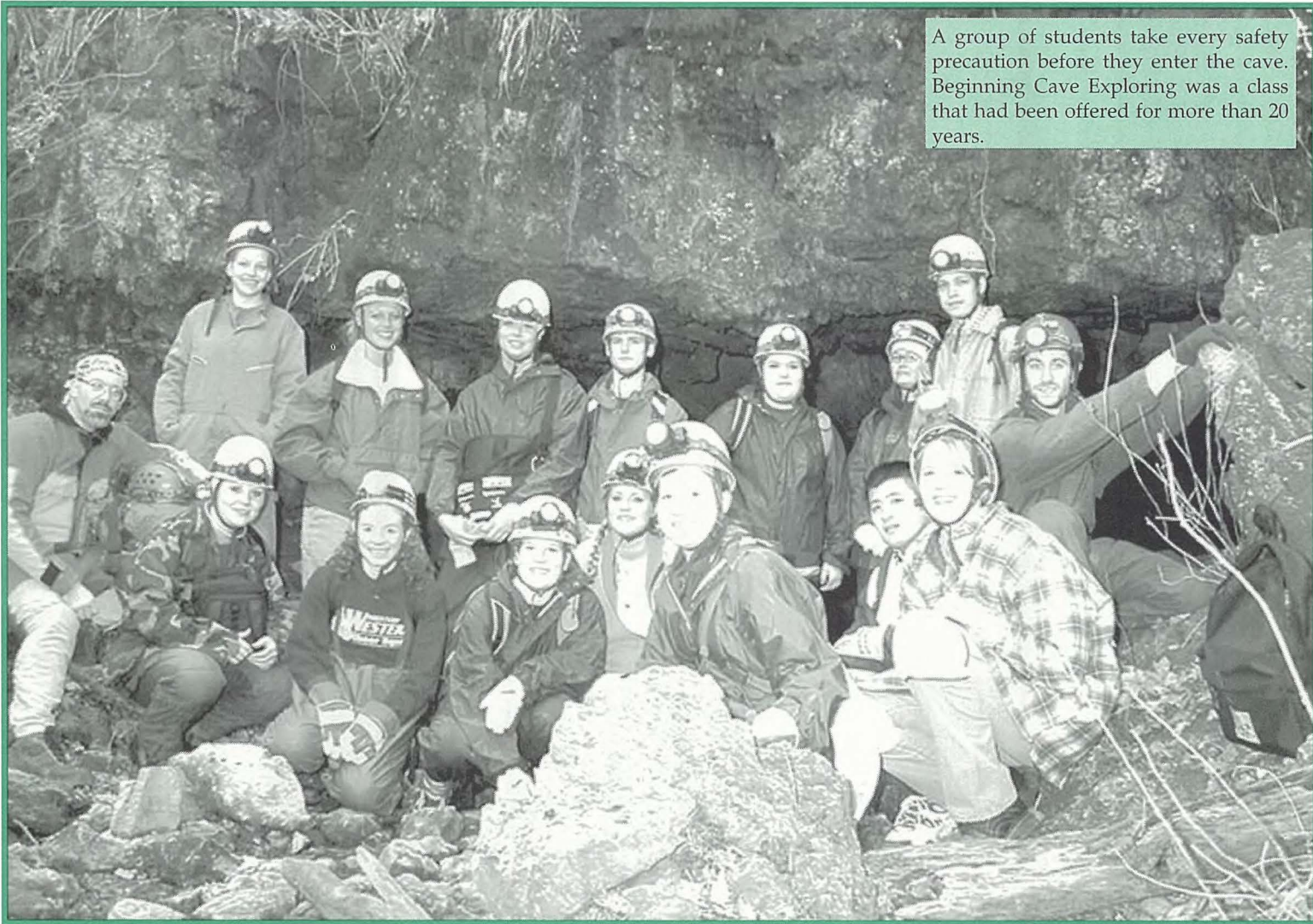
"You feel like your part of a grand scheme of things, and that's something I don't receive in a traditional classroom," Bayliss said. "Western's band has a unique style and energy that can only be found within our program. It's valuable to our institution because of the positive representation it brings to the table. The band is the soundtrack to almost anything you can think of from sports, to concerts, to pep rallies; it's the band that livens things up."

The students and directors shared the same idea that if everyone was passionate about their music, it would be the greatest band ever.

"Musicians are important because their art is engraved in culture itself," Hinton said. "As far back as we can remember music has had its hand in our development and culturing. Respect for what our bands do is as important as respect for what our football or basketball teams do because without them everything seems lifeless."



Western mellophone player concentrates on hitting the correct notes during the halftime show. The band practiced weeks in advance for every halftime show.



A group of students take every safety precaution before they enter the cave. Beginning Cave Exploring was a class that had been offered for more than 20 years.



One student struggles to get through the "birthing canal." The hole resembled a child being born when a caver emerged from it.

If you like crawling through dark holes, intertwining with creatures of the night and challenging yourself, then spelunking might be the sport for you.

Beginning Cave Exploring was a class offered under lifetime sports physical education activity courses. This class had been offered at Western for over 20 years. Professor of the course, David Ashley felt that each year it just seemed to get better.

"The class is an excellent course," Ashley said. "It introduces them to [spelunking], and the science of caving, providing the opportunity for students to have a very structured safe experience."

The class required nine hours of formal class instruction before they went on the cave trip.

"It's a weekend caving trip," Ashley said. "It's near Sullivan, Mo., and we explore two caves that I have full access and permits to, providing a variety of experiences."

In the lecture, the class prepared the students for different types of situations that might have occurred when they were actually in the cave. The class also went over cave ecology.

"The lecture tries to cover a little of everything," Ashley said. "We go over how the animals, stalactites and how the caves are formed."

Due to safety regulations the class only allowed 15 students in a class.

# Climbing Outside the Classroom

PED classes allow students to experience activities they normally wouldn't

"Fifteen students are too many for a caving trip, I wish we could get it down to five," Ashley said. "You need to have at least 10 people in a class for registration and enrollment, but with a big group it could sometimes have a negative impact on the cave."

Numerous students enjoyed the hands-on experience they received from the class. Student Shellney Barthol has gained a whole new appreciation for being in small places.

"Dr. Ashley did a wonderful job in preparing me for what was to come," Barthol said. "It was very exciting! When Dr. Ashley showed us the pictures of the caves I got very anxious. I am most definitely not as scared of small places anymore; it was a whole new experience and I was glad I did."

Many of the fables some people believed about the creatures hiding in caves can be put to rest because a lot of them are untrue.

"I was amazed at how small bats are," Barthol said. "They're actually about the size of a mouse, not including the wings, and they're actually cute! Caves are not as scary as one might think they are, actually very pretty and very real."

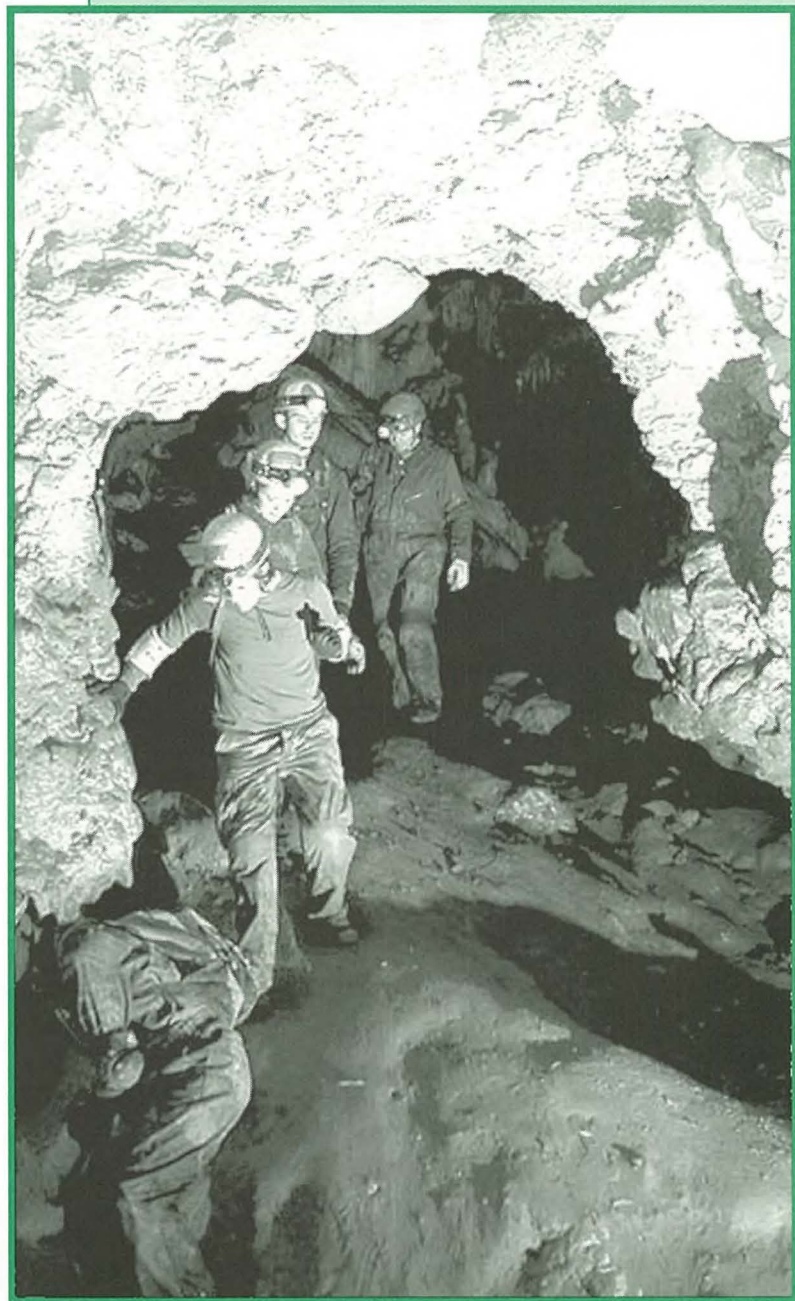
Student William Gilbertii shared many of the same views and thought the cave exploring class was great.

"I have a respect for the ecosystem, that most people will never get to experience," Gilbertii said. "I went to several commercial caves before this class, but when I had the opportunity to 'self-guide,' I had the chance to explore things often missed when commercial caving."

Although the caving class may be fun, there were also many safety precautions taken as well. Sometimes students may experience anxiety or stress when in the cave or going through some of the small holes.

"I have two assistants in case a student gets stressed out," Ashley said. "If they are nervous I try to explain what the organisms are like and they will not hurt them."

Western students who like to try new things and don't mind crawling out of a muddy situation can consider cave exploring for a class, it might just be the challenge students need.



Climbing is a huge part of all the trips that Prof. David Ashley conducts; PED 191 is not for the faint of heart. Although, there are advanced options to the trip, many chose to take the beaten path and just admire the cave from afar.

Story by: LaQuitta Alexander

Photos by: David Ashley



Nicole Turner plays with a student from an area school for their weekly meeting. Western volunteers help area children set higher goals for life.



# Healthy Buddy

Missouri Western students take time to teach area school children the importance of their future

Story by: Traci Haug   Photos by: Jamison Burns

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Students participated in the Healthy Buddy program where they provided assistance to at-risk children. The program was developed to achieve measurable impact on the health and quality of life of children.

The overall goals of the initial program were to equip future leaders to have a greater understanding and knowledge in dealing with children and families, as well as to positively impact the health and quality of life for children.

Since beginning the program in September 2002 over 100 children and college students had been involved per year. "Children participating were selected from the six Title I schools in the school district," Evelyn Brooks said.

College students from several departments including nursing, psychology, criminal justice and legal studies, health physical education and recreation, economics, physical therapy assistance and social work participated in the program.

Senior Dennis Jenkins participated in Healthy Buddy giving him the chance to work with at-risk youth in the St. Joseph schools.

"Any time you can spend quality time with a kid, whether they are "at-risk" or not, it is worth it. It lets the kid know that people in the community care about him or her," Jenkins said. "The kids are accepted for who they are and they don't worry about being judged. It allows us to show the kids alternatives and solutions to problems they may have."

Each college student went through an orientation and training session regarding effective mentoring practices through a partnership with the local school district. Students made weekly Healthy Buddy visits.

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*"I don't know if I make a difference in the kids' lives I helped. What I know is that the kids seem to enjoy the program and look forward to the visits."*

*-Dennis Jenkins*



Corey Farnsworth takes time out of her busy schedule to play ball with an area child. Farnsworth enjoys helping underprivileged youth.

*"Any time you can spend quality time with a kid, whether they are "at-risk" or not, it is worth it."*

*-Dennis Jenkins*

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Jenkins looked forward to the visits and he enjoyed it when the kids came to campus.

"I think that the best part of participating is seeing that the kids look forward to the visits," Jenkins said. "At the end, the kids all come out to the college and eat at our cafeteria; they get really excited about it."

Each department integrated the mentoring experience into coursework using a variety of pedagogical and reflection techniques.

"Nursing students developed a Healthy Buddy concept map throughout the experience while psychology students explored the experience through oral discussion and written reflection related to social and developmental psychology," Jill Miller said.

All the students that participated made sure they were prepared for the tasks that were ahead of them.

"If we are going over safety stuff, we bring the BAT book that is provided by the American Red Cross," Jenkins said.

"I prepare a puzzle for the kids to put together and sometimes it is just as simple as showing up

and visiting with them to listen to how their week has been."


Jenkins enjoyed participating in the program and hoped that he helped out the kid he was mentoring.

"I don't know if I make a difference in the kids' lives I helped. What I know is that the kids seem to enjoy the program and look forward to the visits," Jenkins said. "My healthy buddy is a little small, but he loves to play basketball. We had a good time."

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# study abroad? not any more.

New Western Institute policies leave students at home  
with credits to be earned elsewhere



Western students found it extremely difficult to study abroad due to policies that caused the cancellation of trips. In the past, most student trips were carefully planned by the sponsors to ensure a fun and educational experience for the students at a base price. The goal in the past was only to break even; the trips were never intended to be a source of profit, unless the number of students enrolled exceeded the number planned for. But, that didn't seem to be the case any longer.

The study abroad, part of the Western Institute, fell under new policies during the fall semester. Sponsors canceled several trips when the cost presented by the Western Institute was hundreds of dollars higher than the cost they had originally put together. Professor Sipp, from the art department, lost his trip to New York City, because it was short of students. "The drastic change in sticker price scared off a lot of students," he said.

In most of the trips that were cancelled the cost appeared to be too expensive for many students. When the Western Institute figured trip expenses differently than what the sponsors had anticipated, the students were left facing

a drastic increase from the prices they were expecting.

Spanish professor Robert Shell also had a trip cancelled this year. It would have been his 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive class he had taken to Mexico. "I am disappointed for the students that didn't get to go, but I am optimistic for next year," he said.

Shell's optimism was spurred on by the progress that has been made by a faculty task force. Heading up the task force was English professor Karen Fulton. Fulton led one of the few trips that were fortunate enough to proceed. She wrote an informative letter to the editor of *The Griffon News*, which explained some of the problems that the Study Abroad program was having. "One of the major changes that needs to take place is the classification of the trips," Fulton wrote.

With the leadership of Fulton, the task force seemed to have made great strides towards correcting the Study Abroad program at Western. The future of the program was hopefully going to include a separate department for "Study Away." The classification of the new office enabled it to also cover trips within the United States. Another goal of the program was increasing the number of foreign students studying at Western.

Story by: Michell Buhman

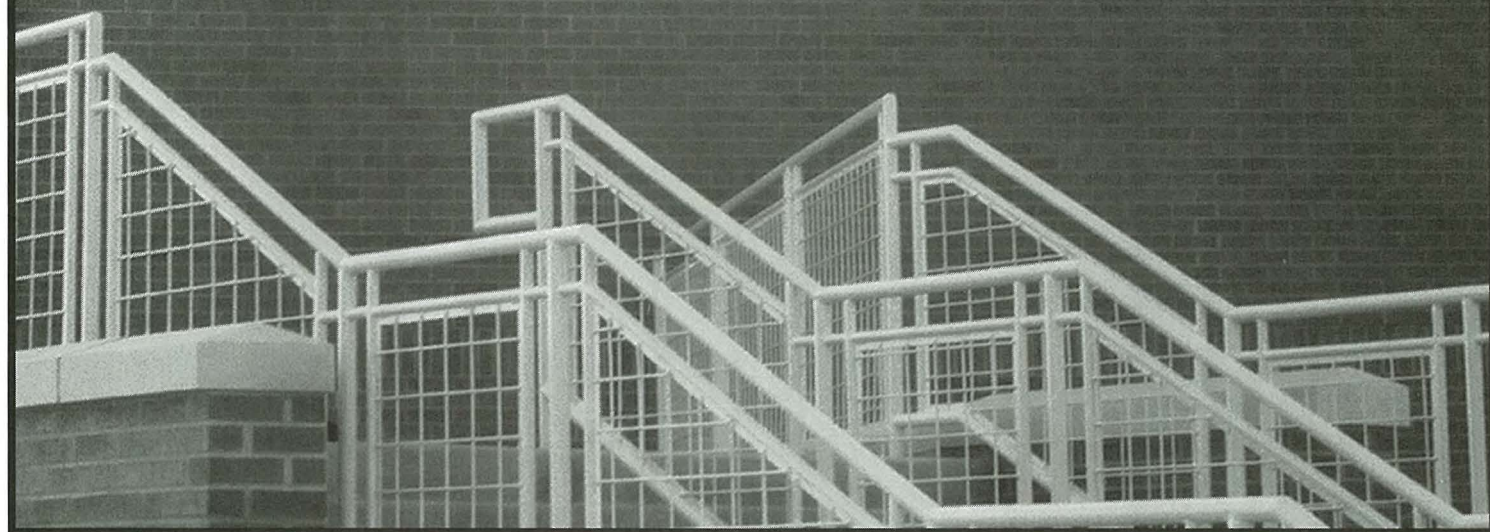
Photos by: Diamikia White

Bullfighting is just one of many activities students have previously witnessed on a study abroad trip. Students had the opportunity to travel to Spain and apply the hours towards a Spanish degree.



The new building attracted not only current students, but alumni as well. The center was created for conferences, banquets and to provide many services.

## FULKERSON CENTER



# New Addition

Brand new building attracts alumni

Story by: Traci Haug Photos by: Johntell Young

The opening of the Fulkerson Center took place on March 24. It featured Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond as the guest speaker at the banquet. Over 200 people attended the opening.

"I thought that the Fulkerson Center opening was delightful; it was very nice and had a great meal," Alumnus Dick Rochambeau said. "The guest speaker was one of my favorite people, Senator 'Kit' Bond. He delivered a wonderful speech. I think that it went over quite well."

The new center was sited between the Leah Matt Building and the Belle Blum Student Union and was linked to both.

The Fulkerson Center was funded completely by private donations and was named after Marie and Norman Fulkerson. The Fulkersons owned and operated the DeMuth Supply Co. in Joseph until 1972.

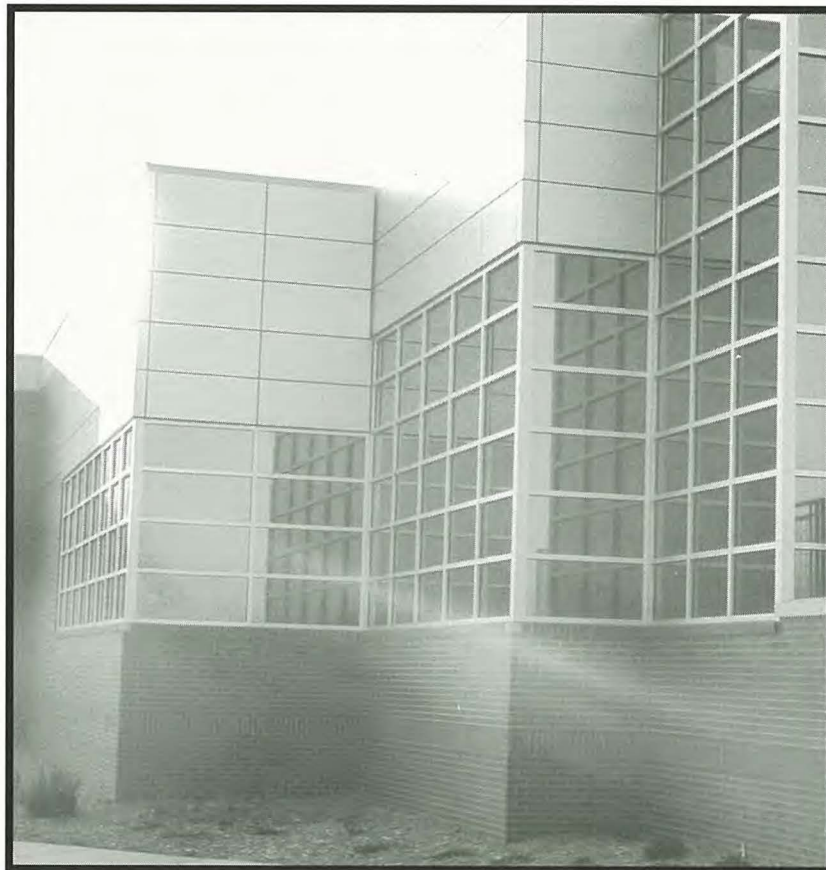
The 12,000 square foot structure housed a large conference and banquet facility that could be divided into three smaller rooms. Part of the building included about 10 rooms for conferences, an Alumni room, an assessment center for area businesses to use, a training area and a geospatial lab.

"I was impressed with how the building turned out," Director of Development Jerry Pickman said. "In some ways it's even better than I anticipated."

President Scanlon noted that the center aided the college in expanding its services to the public and private sector, such as assisting employees in developing new skills, helping displaced employees find new careers and assisting professionals. "The center will accomplish all this as a partner with business, industry and gov-

*"I thought that the Fulkerson Center opening was delightful; it was very nice and had a great meal."*

*-Dick Rochambeau*



When darkness falls upon the campus the lights from the center brighten the area. The builders installed several glass windows to accent the campus.

*"The Fulkerson Center will benefit students by helping to extend the focus on applied learning and community partnerships."*

*-Jerry Pickman*

ernment," Scanlon said.

The center was built to provide many services and host several events.

"The Fulkerson Center will be used to host larger college events, showcase the students of Western, hold conferences and banquets and it will be used to help with the work force development areas," Pickman said. "I think the best feature in the Fulkerson Center is how they made it black and gold, it really shows that it's a Western building."

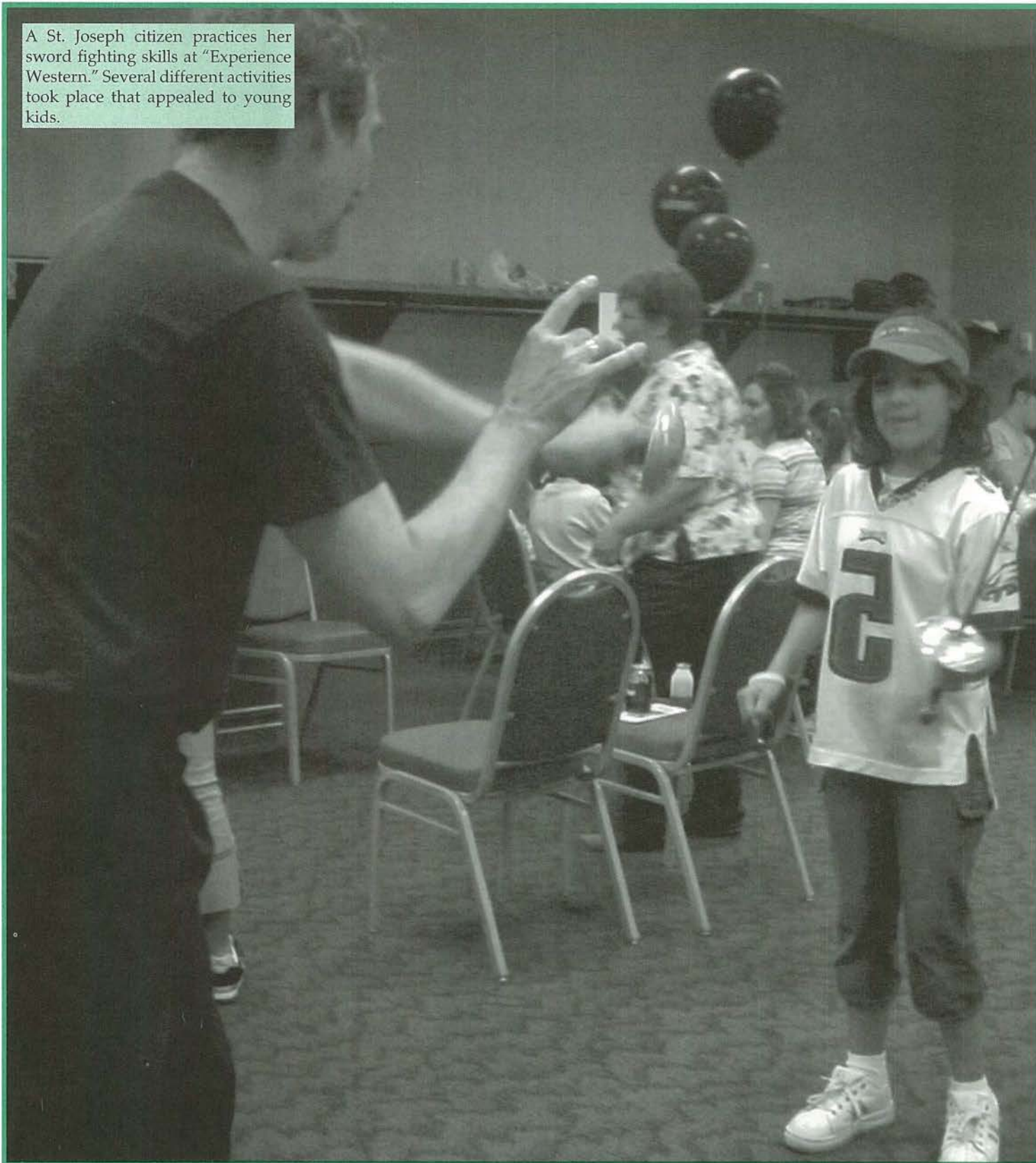
Pickman continued with how the center was built with the students in mind.

"The Fulkerson Center will benefit students by helping to extend the focus on applied learning and community partnerships," he said. "It will also provide our students with the opportunity to work with the community and eventually open doors for all Western students."

The center was a great way for Western to reach out to the community with its new university status.

"The Fulkerson Center will get Missouri Western State University out to the community," Rochambeau said. "We may be able to rent out the area and get more out of it than we expect. The Center will help with bringing in bigger groups and there will be places for meetings as well as negotiations. It was a wonderful accomplishment for Missouri Western. It shows Western's commitment to the economic development in this region."

A St. Joseph citizen practices her sword fighting skills at "Experience Western." Several different activities took place that appealed to young kids.



# Western's Hidden Treasures

Students and community members came to discover what Western is really about

*"I think that the car show was the best part of 'Experience Western,'"*  
*- Warren Webb*

The smell of popcorn, revving car engines and the laughter of children could be heard around campus. Many members of the community graced the campus on Saturday, April 9 for Western's "Experience Western: Discover the Treasure."

"Experience Western" was an event to display the different departments and organizations among the campus.

Members of each group set up booths to show off work they had done throughout the year and gave general information to the people walking through. "I worked the Tau Kappa Epsilon booth where I was able to distribute information about my fraternity to prospective students," sophomore Warren Webb said.

Students worked the booths throughout the day. "I was in the education department room all day," Jennifer Nanneman said. "We played fun activities with the little kids, and I had a great time."

Students handed out punch cards with each organization's name on them to the people who attended the event. The incentive was to get at least twenty hole-punches from different booths to be eligible for a prize. This brought more people to each booth, and it was a way for people to learn more about the different organizations and departments located throughout the campus.

"The Student Government

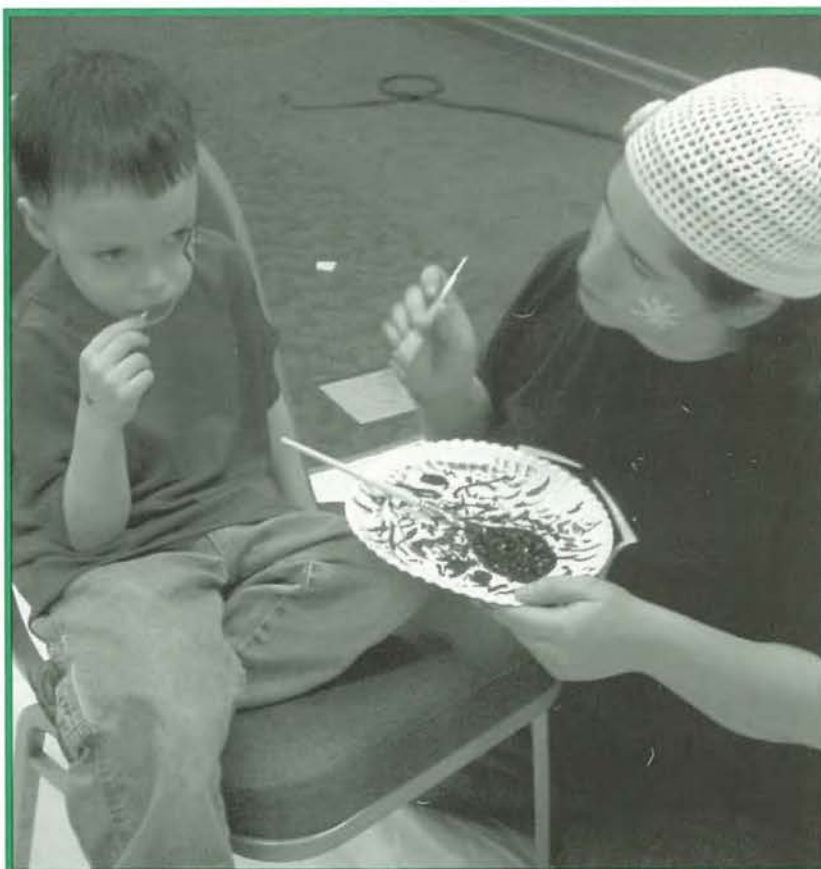
Association and Campus Activities Board had a table handing out free popcorn to anyone who wanted it," freshman Michael Walgren said. "We handed out popcorn all day and had a poster board telling about the different things CAB had done this year."

Besides the students who worked the booths and tables, other students attended the event.

"I went over to the Fulkerson Center to see what was going on," freshman Jessica Bruns said. "I was surprised to see how many people I knew who were working the tables."

Although many departments had great activities inside the building, a car show was held outside that attracted many people to campus. K-JO radio station was also located outside by the car show. "I think that the car show was the best part of 'Experience Western,'" Webb said.

The Public Safety attended the event throughout the day to make sure the event had no problems. "We were there to make sure everything ran smoothly and to open and close the buildings after everyone left," public safety worker Cole Shrouf said. "Overall there were a lot of people, and I think that everyone who came to 'Experience Western' had a good time."



A student paints a little boy's face during Western's "Experience Western: Discover the Treasure." Different departments and organizations participated in the event.

*"We played fun activities with the little kids, and I had a great time."*  
*-Jennifer Nanneman*



Students work on landscaping at the Big Event. Habitat for Humanity was one service that fraternities and sororities participated in for their philanthropy services.



# Lending a Helping Hand

Western students participate in various acts of community service

*"All sororities and fraternities are required to become involved with philanthropy events throughout the school year."  
-Amanda Miller*

In Western students who took part in a community service project helped build relations with the community and the campus.

Philanthropy or community service was required for most organizations on campus. Whether it was the Campus Activities Board, a Greek organization, or the Student Government Association, each extra-curricular activity was involved with community service. It was just one way for the students and the school to become involved with St. Joseph.

Habitat for Humanity was one service that Western students took part in throughout the school year.

"There is a high demand for adequate housing in the St. Joseph area, so this group would provide a connection between the campus and the community," President of Habitat for Humanity Amanda Gruber said. "In the fall semester, we built a playhouse to be auctioned off. We worked on the playground every Saturday and raised around \$1,000. We have also painted, sided, shingled a house, landscaped, sanded and did other miscellaneous jobs throughout the year."

Not only did students help remodel homes in the St. Joseph area, they also raised money for research and had canned food drives. The Non-traditional students



Students help out the community by participating in the Big Event. Remodeling houses was just one event students did to help out St. Joseph.

*"We worked with Second Harvest for the canned food drive."  
-Fred Cline*

had a canned food drive during the spring semester. Boxes were laid in the hallways for students to drop canned foods into.

"We worked with Second Harvest for the canned food drive," Non-traditional student Fred Cline said. "They currently have a shortage of food and need as much help as possible. No matter how much food we collect throughout the drive, we could definitely use more."

Canned food drives were just a small part of philanthropy when it came time for sororities and fraternities to become involved with helping out the community throughout the year.

"All sororities and fraternities are required to become involved with philanthropy events throughout the school year," Philanthropy Chair Amanda Miller said. "I am in charge of organizing philanthropy events that my sorority takes place in. This year we have helped Habitat for Humanity, had a kickball tournament, Greek Gods War and helped other organizations raise money for their philanthropy events. All of the money that my organization raised went to Children's Miracle Network."

Charles, played by Kellen Perry, shows his irritation towards his deceased wife Elvira, played by Erika Pontius, because she was taunting him. Charles was the only one who could see Elvira's spirit.  
*Photo by: Kristin Wampler*



# 'Blithe Spirit'

Story by: Alison Krieg

The theater department brings life to a unique comedy about the supernatural

Who knew that an after life really existed? Who really believed in ghosts and raising spirits from the grave only to find them in standing in your living room?

Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" was a classic comedy of the supernatural life. The theater department put on their own "Blithe Spirit" Sept. 30 through Oct. 3. The cast presented a performance to the community and their peers.

The play began in a normal setting. Charles, played by Kellen Perry, and his wife Ruth, played by Cristiana Hansen, carried on an everyday conversation.

As the play progressed the story became bizarre. Next, Dr. Bradman, Steven Hickman, and wife, Samantha Lord arrived, and the couples performed a séance to see if anyone from their pasts had unfinished business. Madame Arcati, played by Candace Schrader, came to lead the séance. At first, the couples thought Madame Arcati was crazy until she did the unthinkable. She brought Charles's deceased wife Elvira, played by Erika Pontius, back into their lives.

Each of the characters had a comic role in the tale.

"My character was Madame Arcati, the crazy medium," Candace Schrader said. "I was the reason that Charles's first wife appears and later his second wife; it was my mistakes that brought the main plot of the play into action."

The cast was brilliant in making the audience believe in what was taking place on stage and kept them entertained throughout the entire show.

*"I was the reason that Charles's first wife appears and later his second wife; it was my mistakes that brought the main plot of the play into action."*

*-Candace Schrader*



Madam Arcoti, played by Candace Schrader, raises her arms to summon the spirits. She spoke to many spirits throughout the play.

*Photo by: Jenn Hughes*

*"I went to see 'Blithe Spirit' and I left with a smile on my face."*

*-Megan Dungan*

"I went to see 'Blithe Spirit,' and I left with a smile on my face," sophomore Megan Dungan said. "The play was well worth my time; it had a very interesting plot, and I have never seen a production quite like it."

The reaction of the audience watching the play was a major key to the cast members feeling like they really succeeded.

"The audience responded wonderfully," Schrader said. "It was just the response we were looking for. Rehearsals were starting to get stagnant without anyone to laugh at our jokes, so when we finally got to put the show on for an audience and hear reactions, it put a whole new life to the show."

The actors put in hard work and it showed when it came time for the opening curtain.

"I worked on memorizing my lines night and day," Hickman said. "Any free time I had I spent going over my lines;

even though I only had a minor part, it was still important to add my piece to the show."

Members of the audience thought that the cast put on a great performance. The cast and crew proved that the play was still a classic and supernatural life can be more than just a séance.

One student participates in the opera. Rehearsals took place during class.



# The Old Maid & the Thief

Professor Benz brings the opera to Saint Joseph  
with his Chamber Opera classes

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*"A lot of people were hesitant to come after hearing it was an opera, but after they came they really had a good time."*  
-Karla Buckminster

Western put on an opera that told a humorous story of misunderstandings and twists. The free event consisted of students that were enrolled in the director David Benz's class. Rehearsals took place during regular class, and the cast met outside of class for more preparation.

The story line was about an old maid known as Miss Todd who allowed a stranger who showed up at her door, to stay with her. The old maid's friend Miss Pinkerton reported that there was a runaway thief and murderer let loose in the neighborhood, and oddly enough Bob fitted that description.

In order for the old maid to protect her friends and neighbors from being robbed by the thief, she decided to support Bob and gave him money herself; money that she did not have and in order to get it she in turn ended up robbing her friends and neighbors.

In the end, Bob revealed his name and let the old maid know he was neither a murderer nor thief.

The housekeeper Laetitia, who was in love with Bob, convinced him to run off with her. Bob and Laetitia left the old maid with nothing but her sorrows and guilt of what she did.

Student Karla Buckminster played Miss Pinkerton and she felt confident

in knowing her role for the debut of the opera.

"The practices were great," Buckminster said. "Towards the end, meeting up to rehearse really helped both casts."

Cara Humphrey, who took on the character of Laetitia, enjoyed working on the opera. "Overall we did an excellent job; the class rehearsed, all our hard work paid off and I am sure everyone enjoyed the performance."

Buckminster was worried that people wouldn't show up to see the opera because it was an opera. "A lot of people were hesitant to come after hearing it was an opera, but after they came they really had a good time."

Mark Smoot, who played Bob, was surprised to see such a great response from the audience.

"It was nice to have the support of the students and faculty," Smoot said. "As the performances went on we also noticed that more and more people would come out to support. The opera was hilarious and we're glad that everyone enjoyed themselves."

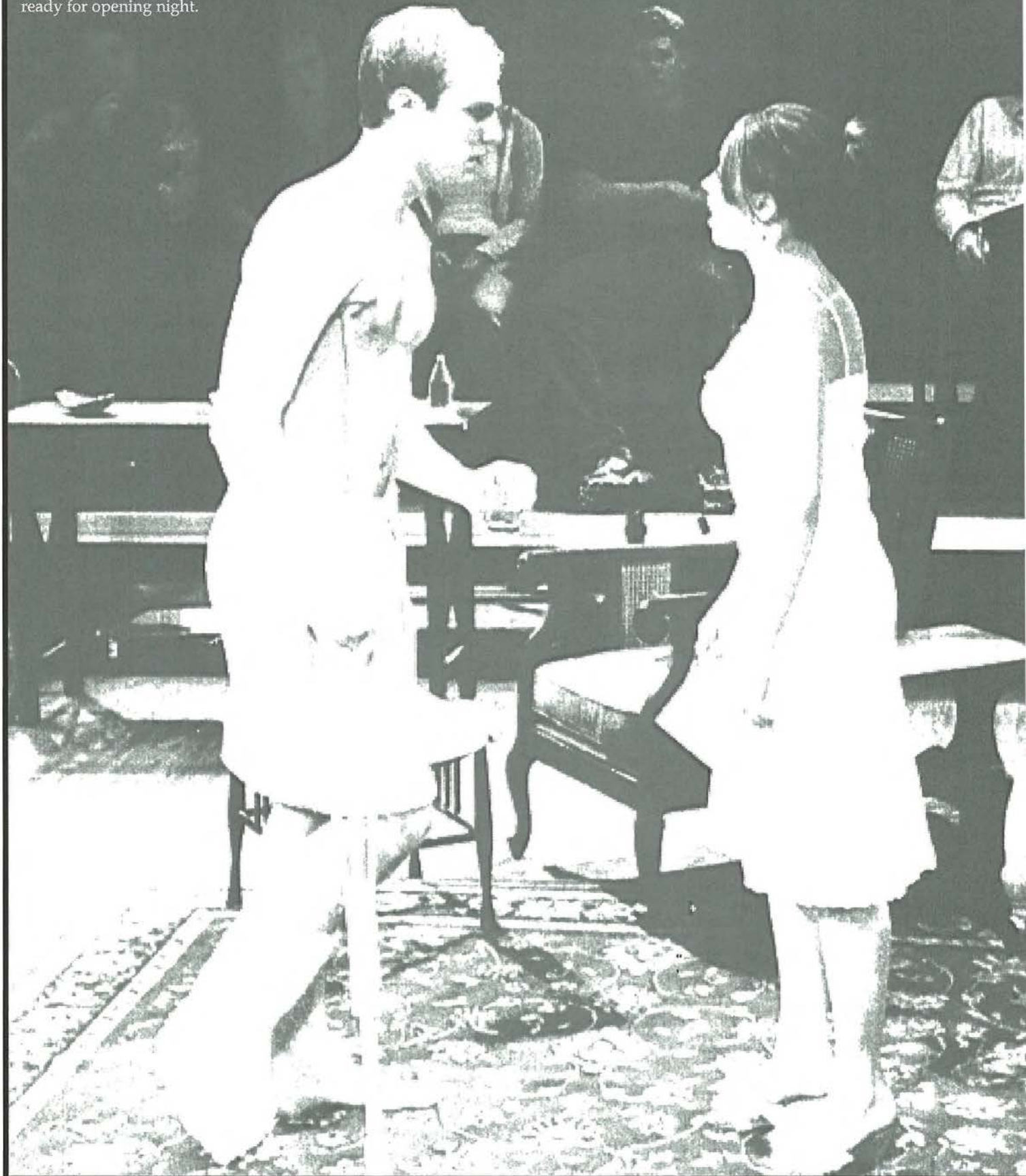


Cara Humphrey, who played Laetitia (the maid) was torn between her boss and Bob. In the end, Laetitia chose to run away with Bob and leave her boss.

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*"It was nice to have the support of the students and faculty."*  
-Mark Smoot

Cast members argue in a dramatic scene. The cast made sure they were ready for opening night.



# 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'

Story by: Lindsay Moyer  
Photos by: Cherish Nigh

Last performance for the fall semester  
brings the south to Western

*"To prepare for the performance we had about five weeks of rehearsal time."*

*-Brent Corey*

Western's theater department put on its last performance of the fall semester on Oct. 18-21, at the Black Box Theater. Denny Staggs and Kellen Perry directed "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

Auditions for the play started on Oct. 5. When the cast was picked, rehearsing started immediately. The cast made sure they were ready before the opening night.

"To prepare for the performance we had about five weeks of rehearsal time," cast member Brent Corey said. "We met for about three hours every night and some cast members put in some weekend time for this show."

The plot of the play was about an old, southern family whose father, Big Daddy, was terminally ill. Gooper, the oldest son, was determined to inherit Big Daddy's fortune of \$10 million and 2,800 acres. On the other hand, Brick, the younger son, was more concerned about his personal crisis than the family fortune.

While Gooper focused on money rather than his father's condition, the actor Brandon Hylton, led the opposite life outside the acting world.

"I loved it; playing someone means a great experience because I feel I am nothing like that, aside from the Gooper character," Hylton said. "This gave me a good opportunity to develop a character I had never experienced before in the acting world."

By the reaction of the audience, the cast members were pleased to know that

they appreciated their performance.

"I am not real big on watching plays, but my friends begged me to go," freshman Kyle Brown said. "The play ended up being better than what I expected it to be, and I don't regret going."

Knowing that their performance was a success, cast members also viewed their performance as a great turnout.

"There is absolutely nothing about the play I would change other than maybe having another week to work out some kinks on set construction," Corey said. "But overall, I think the whole play was a success. The ensemble I was able to work with, as well as our directing team, consisted of all talented people."

The play ended with a hint of jealousy arising from Gooper. Brick and his father became closer and ended the turmoil among the family. After becoming closer with his father, Brick and his wife Maggie inherited the family fortune.

The cast enjoyed performing the play and would like to have had it last longer than four days. "I would love to do the play again," Hylton said. "I hope next year they try to have the black box performance go two weeks instead of one so more people can see it."

Members of the cast were glad they were able to act together. "It was a privilege to work with such talented actors; our college should be proud," Hylton said.



Playing their parts, cast members perform in front of an audience. The play took place in the Black Box Theater.

*"But overall I think the whole play was a success."*

*-Brent Corey*





Top: Kate threatens Sylvia the dog to get off the couch or she would get in trouble. Aisha Tanner played the role of Sylvia. Above: Candice Shrader plays the role of Kate, the wife of Greg. It took Shrader about two weeks to have her part memorized.

Western's theatre fraternity Alpha Psi Omega presented A.R. Gurney's play "Sylvia" on April 21-24 in the Thompson Potter Hall Black Box Theater. Directed by history major Brent Corey, "Sylvia" was a comedy about a man, a marriage and a dog.

"The script is hilarious," Corey said. "I chose to direct this play because it made me laugh."

The play was about a man, Greg going through a mid-life crisis who brought home a dog, known as Sylvia that personified the man's wife's fear of him wanting a younger woman. His wife Kate didn't want the dog so Greg had to choose between Kate and Sylvia.

In the end, Kate changes her mind and everything worked out; their marriage was fine. Sylvia never got in between the happy couple again.

The small cast of six worked well together. They worked hard during rehearsals for about two to three hours a night.

# 'Sylvia' sells out Black Box Theater

## Comedic play directed by first-time student director

Story by: Jenny Olson & Jeremy Weikel    Photos by: Jeremy Weikel

"Rehearsals began on March 10 and took a break during Spring Break," Corey said. "We came back, and rehearsed until the night before the opening of the play."

The title role of Sylvia went to student actress Candice Schrader.

Candice Schrader played the role of Sylvia, and she tried relating to the character by comparing it to her current relationship.

"Kate wasn't terribly fond of Sylvia when I was around the dog I tried to think about how Kate would feel and portray that on stage," Schrader said. "I also tried to think about the ways a mother acts around her children and relate that to how I responded to the actions of Sylvia."

Steven Hickman worked hard to land the role of the lead, Greg. The original lead was canceled out seven days before opening night, but Hickman had his work cut out for him, but was up for the challenge.

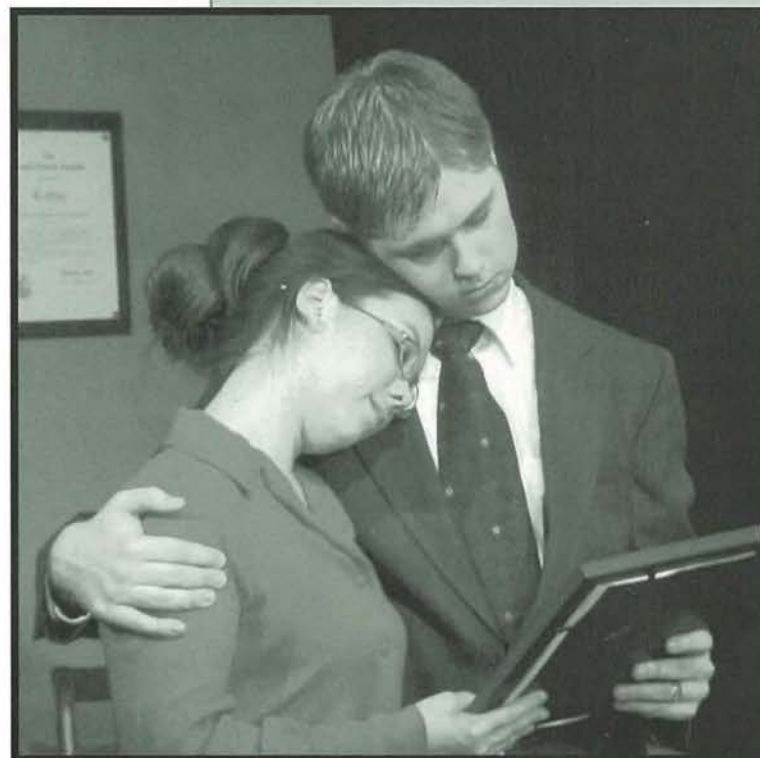
"Brent begged me to help him out, so of course I did," Hickman said. "It took me several days to memorize the lines, and I made sure I kept a script in my hands at all times."

Despite the problem with the lead actor, the play sold out and the cast was happy with the turnout.

"I don't think any of us expected the turnout we had, and the audience's reaction to the play was better than anything we could have asked for," Schrader said. "With all the timing issues right at the end, I don't think we could have presented it any better. The whole cast really came together and worked hard to put our best out on the stage."

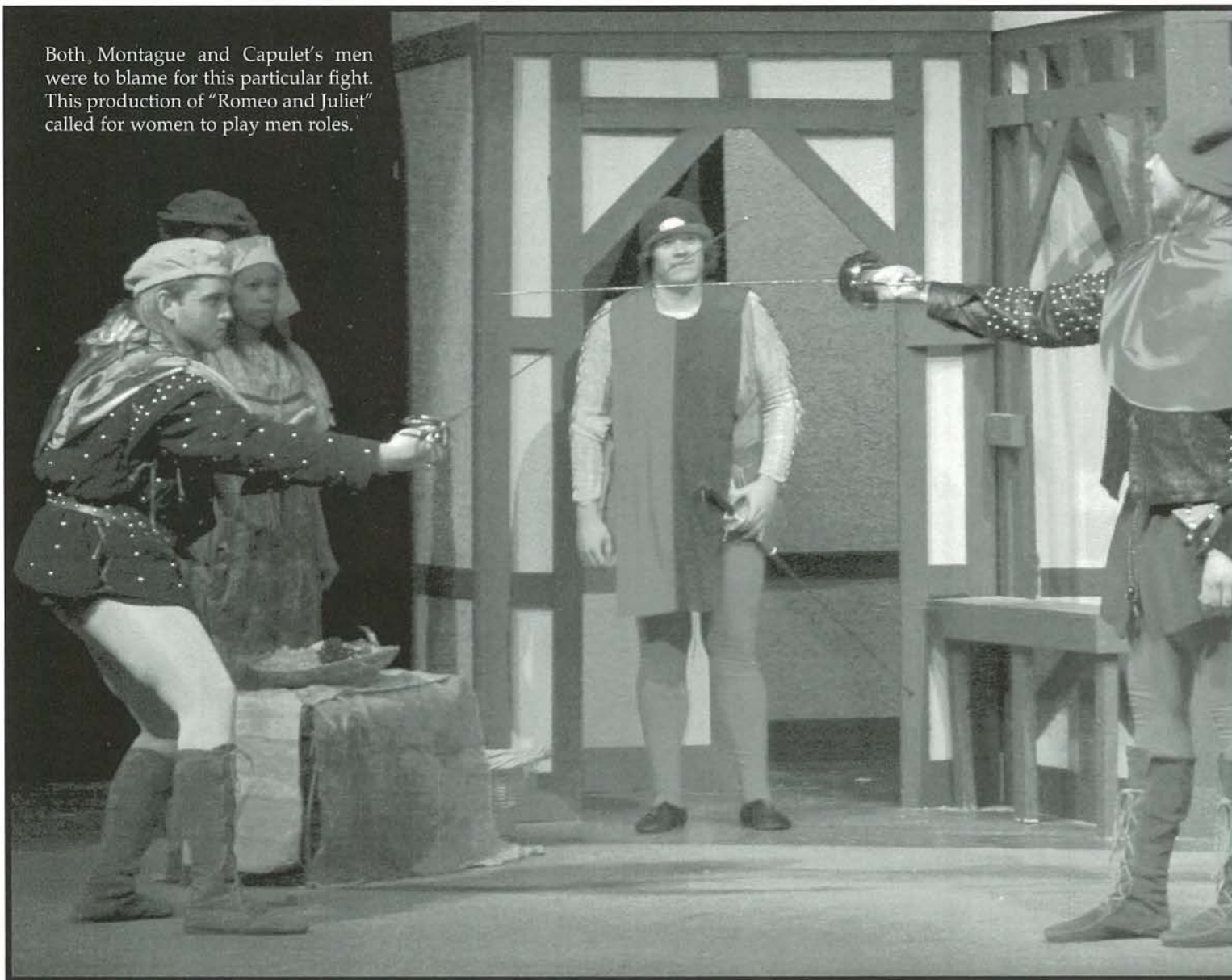
Corey was thrilled with the success of his directorial debut. Everything fell into place and worked out for the best.

"All in all it was a fantastic experience," Corey said. "Directing is like raising a kid; you invest a lot of time, energy and money. When it's time to send it off you hope for the best. 'Sylvia' was my baby."



Top: A man in the park Tom, holds Greg back as he fights to get free after he sees Sylvia with another dog. Tyler Ingrium played the role of Tom. Above: Kate and Greg mourn over the death of Sylvia. Sylvia was with them for 12 years after Kate changed her mind and kept her.

Both Montague and Capulet's men were to blame for this particular fight. This production of "Romeo and Juliet" called for women to play men roles.



Tara Stull, who played the infamous nurse who helps Romeo and Juliet be together, not only nailed her lines, but gave the play the added spunk it needed. The nurse told Juliet of her arranged meeting with Romeo later that day at the church where they were to be married.

Western's version of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" took place on March 3-6 and was held in the Fine Arts Building. It was directed by assistant professor of theater and video D Lillie.

"The play was about three hours long in which we had three weeks to work on the show," senior Ryan Gerster said. "This was a typical show that went quite well."

Kellen Perry and Rebecca James played the star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet.

The tragedy consisted of a variety of personalities within the characters. Some of the characters contributed a serious aspect while others were the comic relief of the production. "I was Juliet's nurse, who was her foster mother, who had taken care of her since she was born," senior Tara Stull said.

Stull felt like she was like her

# Wherefore Art Thou Romeo?

The ongoing rival between the Montagues and the Capulets grace Western's stage

Story by: Lindsay Moyer Photos by: Matt Reid

character in several ways. "Juliet confided in the nurse and this is how the nurse and Juliet related to one another," Stull said. "Some people refer to me as the mother hen and I think that is how I act similar to the nurse in real life."

Along with the variety of characters in the production, there were also a variety of reasons the cast auditioned for the production. Several cast members were theater majors, while some auditioned for the love of the theater atmosphere.

"Really I have never performed in theater now," Candice Schrader said. "I really wanted to play a male in a play. Sword fighting intrigued me and that's why I enjoyed my character Gregory so much."

The cast members had a passion for performing and also enjoyed spending time together. The cast had some memorable moments they would'nt forget.

"Juliet and I kept stumbling over our lines during rehearsal and kept laughing, so the director said to take a break," Stull said. "It was just one of those days where you just kept laughing and couldn't stop."

Many cast members had inside jokes that became funny while rehearsing. Everytime this specific line 'Oh lord they are watching, I will go call the watch,' we would check up back stage when this was spoken for no apparent reason," Schrader said.

The cast members were not the shy ones who worked hard throughout the week of rehearsals. The production crew also put forth many hours into their rehearsals.

However, the set almost didn't get finished. It was down to the wire, and the crew actually didn't finish the set until opening night. The set of "Romeo and Juliet" consisted of two stories and there was a little crew to work on it. However, they managed to finish the set on opening night before the curtain rose. The result of their hard work was a successful production of a Shakespearean piece.



Romeo (Kellen Perry) and Juliet (Rebecca James) re-enact the balcony love scene where Juliet calls for her Romeo. The theatre production of "Romeo and Juliet" was one of the most well-known plays to come to Western this year.

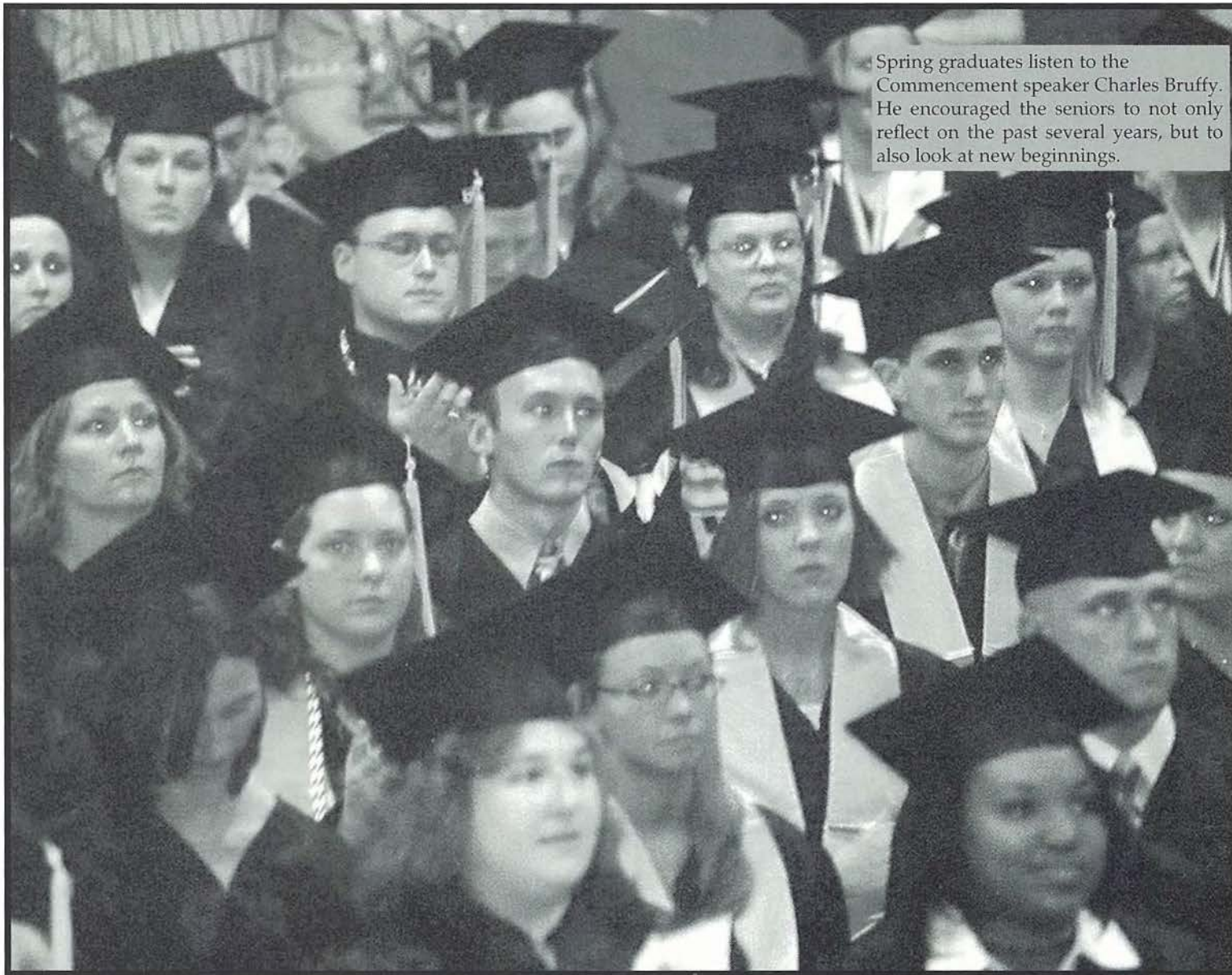


Senior Kamita Shelby gives a huge grin after walking across the stage in the PE Arena. She was very excited to see her family and friends awaiting to take pictures.

# Fa11

Angela Smith is greeted by her grandmother with a bouquet of flowers. She almost cried as her family member hugged and kissed her.





Spring graduates listen to the Commencement speaker Charles Bruffy. He encouraged the seniors to not only reflect on the past several years, but to also look at new beginnings.



Seniors look on as they listen to the speakers during the ceremony. Graduation was held on May 14 in the Western Fieldhouse.

Commencement speaker Charles Bruffy said it right when he said, "Today really is about you; today is a day to not only look back, but a day that brings new beginnings."

May 14 was a day of celebration for many seniors. Parents, relatives, professor friends, students and, of course, seniors filled the Western Fieldhouse at 11:00 a.m. and once again at 3:00 p.m. "Today you need to think about yourself, friends and family, but today really is about you," Bruffy said.

For most seniors, the day was bittersweet. "I am relieved and anxious at the same time; relieved that I no longer have to go to class, but anxious that my bills are piling up, and I can't get a job fast enough," Jake Grzenda said.

Criminal justice/legal studies major Seth Brackman felt accomplished with his college career and looked forward toward the future. "I have completed one phase

# Spring Graduation

Overwhelming tears of joy, relief and sadness fill the gymnasium

Story by: Jenny Olson    Photos by: Jenn Hughes

my life that I will never forget, and I am now looking forward to beginning the next phase of my life at law school," he said.

The hardest decision for most seniors was trying to figure out what to do once graduation was over. "I am trying to get a graphic design job in Olathe, Kan.," Grzenda said.

Brackman knew that he was going to law school, he just couldn't decide on which one.

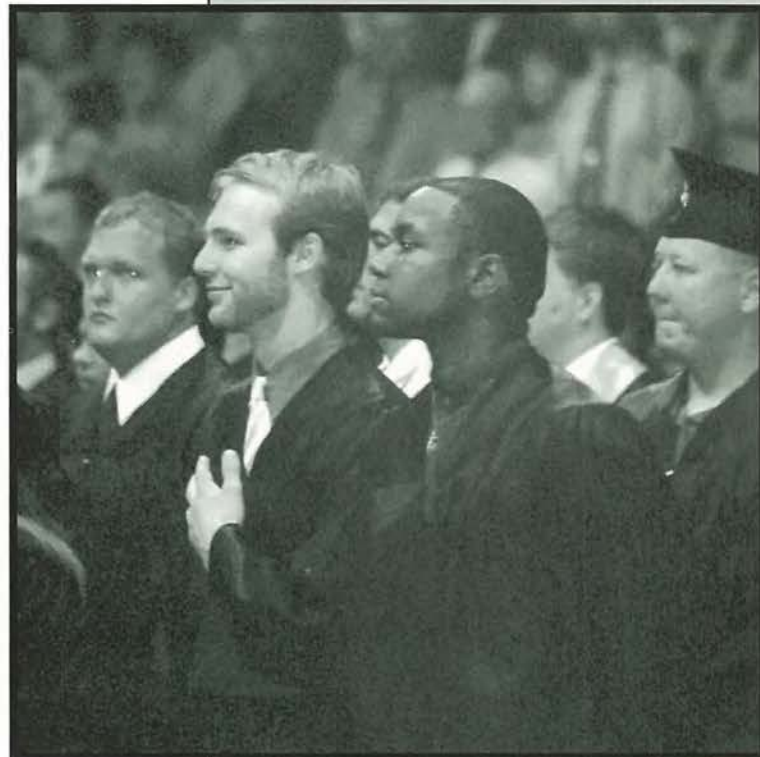
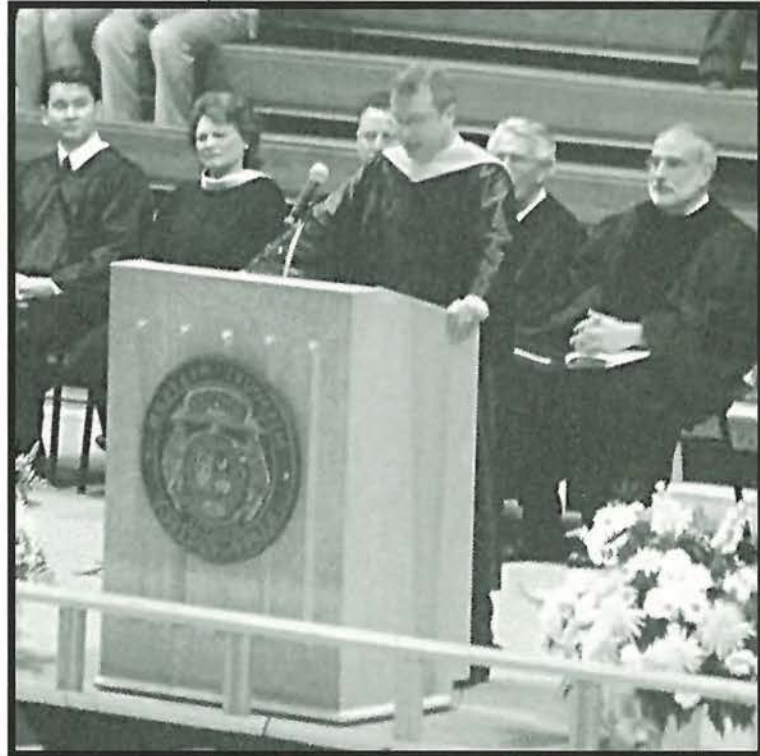
I am trying to decide between Washburn and Drake," Brackman said. "I wish to practice law, international law, I am kinda interested in real-estate, contract law, maybe politics. My ultimate goal is to become a Supreme Court justice or other government judicial positions."

Graduation was a day for reflection. Seniors sat back and reflected on how Western prepared them for the real world. Several professors made an impact on the seniors' lives.

"The knowledge of teachers that worked in New York including Geo Sipp and Bill Eickhorst helped me out a lot," Grzenda said. "Another way Western prepared me was by taking a business of arts class, which was basically an interview process for a career. We had to get a whole package together, including our resume, and slides of our work."

Brackman was grateful for the legal studies emphasis in criminal justice department. "The department has given me an advantage over first year students at law school because the people in the department have taught me legal research, legal writing and how to interpret and argue various court cases and positions," he said.

Both Brackman and Grzenda graduated with honors, Cum Laude. "I was in complete shock because I had no idea I was getting any kind of honors," Grzenda said. "I found out on the day of graduation; they just gave us the honors sash."



Top: Commencement Speaker Charles Bruffy speaks to the graduates before the handing out of the diplomas. Bruffy was the Artistic Director of the Kansas City Chorale and Phoenix Bach Choir.

Above: Seniors listen as the Director of Vocal Studies Sharon Gray sings the National Anthem at the 11:00 a.m. program. Student Cara Humphrey sang the anthem at the 3:00 p.m. program.



"I'm you're average kinda guy. I like to go clubbin', watch television, play video games and go to parties. I am very laid back. I have played basketball for 15 years. I started playing at the YMCA when I was a little kid in Memphis, Tenn., After college, I would like to continue playing ball overseas in Europe."

-DeVonte King  
Griffon Basketball Player

"I'm a student athlete here at Mo West and a lot of people recognize me because of my fuzz, especially when it's really humid.

I own about 30 hooded sweatshirts and won't be seen without one on. I like to wear sandals year round, even when it's snowing!"

-Amy Beverly  
Griffon Softball Player



# sweat + sacrifice



"Through hard work and dedication I accomplished many goals in athletics. I like to use the same work ethic and desire to become successful in life."

-Justin Montgomery,  
Griffon Football Player

"I have played soccer since I was nine old, and I was a four year varsity starter on my high school soccer team. My select team was very successful, as they were second best in Missouri."

-Kristin Watkins,  
Lady Griffon Soccer Player

# sports

"The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur."

-Vince Lombardi



Left: Tight end Nick Richardson celebrates a touchdown with his teammate. The Griffons put in an incredible effort and ended with a 27-16 win over Truman State. Top: Senior Nick Richardson played his emotions after scoring in the game. Middle: Teammates Bill Noll and Jarrett Brooks scramble towards Western's end. Bottom: The defensive line pares to charge the opposing team. Most coaches and players agreed that defense played a large part in winning the game.



# Griffon Football

# UNITY

Uncertainty proves to be a hindrance in achieving a repeat winning season and forces the team to focus on team building

Story by: Traci Haug  
Photos by: Jeremy Weikel

The Griffons may have had a losing season with a 5-6 record, but that didn't stop the team from playing their best each and every game. The season was rocky with close loses to Missouri Southern and Emporia State, but the Griffons won many games by a large score.

"Our team is much better than our record displayed this year," center Justin Montgomery said. "We lost a few, really close games that could have gone either way."

The team took the losing season hard, but they were already focusing on ways to improve for next season.

"This season was upsetting because we lost games we should have won," senior right offensive guard Steve Warner said. "We have too much talent to play that poorly, and we knew it each week. Now that the season is over we are focusing on getting back to work and repeating what the senior classes before us have built."

## 2004 Record:

Winona State 27 Western 10  
Western 34 Benedictine 14  
Western 42 Southwest Baptist 28  
Emporia State 33 Western 30  
Missouri Southern 23 Western 21  
Western 49 Central Missouri 44  
Western 27 Truman State 16  
Northwest 31 Western 13  
Plattsburg State 48 Western 21  
Washburn 30 Western 23  
Western 49 Missouri-Rolla 14

Despite the upsetting season, the Griffons scored a few individual accomplishments. Senior offensive lineman Earl Jack and sophomore defensive lineman Michael Cobbins were both named first-team, all-MIAA. Junior line backer Tony Matske broke the 100 tackle mark for the season in the last game against Missouri-Rolla. Also against Missouri-Rolla, Jarrett Brooks and Greg Carbin broke the school record for kickoff return yards in a season with 1,207.

"There were some bright spots here and there on both sides of the ball," senior offensive tackle Mike Hill said. "We had some great individuals that shined this year."

Many players enjoyed playing on the team and for their coach Jerry Partridge. "Coach P. is a hard-nose, stern and emotional man who will push you every which way to your full potential week in and week out," Warner said. "Simply put, Coach P. is a man with character and dedication."

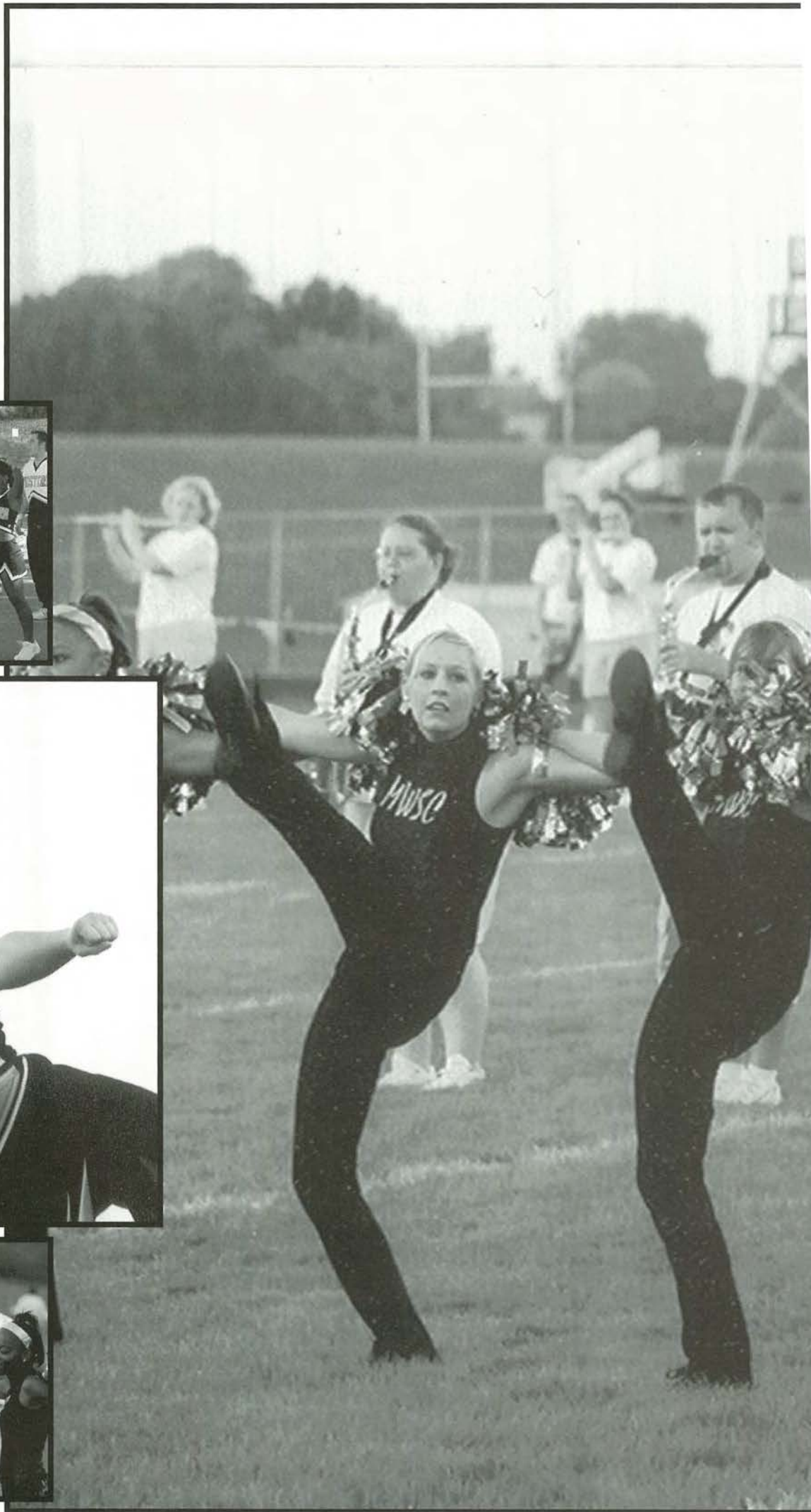
The players had many reasons for being on the team, but to some it wasn't all about winning. "The best part of playing football is the camaraderie and the friends I made throughout the years," Hill said.

Montgomery said that the best part of being a Griffon was winning the games and developing lifelong friendships with his teammates.

As the Griffons focus on next season, one thing they would like to see change is more fan involvement. Win or lose, they want the fans to support them.

"I would like for more fans to come out and watch the games," Montgomery said. "The MIAA is a competitive league and a lot of good games are played every Saturday."

Right: The Mystics perform at the Homecoming halftime show. This year they focused on designing their own routines. Top: The Griffon cheerleaders and yell leaders walk through the Homecoming parade while doing a chant. The group participated in several events to show their support for the Griffons. Middle: Griffon cheerleader Kim Arn stays upbeat during the football game. Keeping the crowd involved and enthused was one of the girls' major jobs. Bottom: Two Mystics put on their show during halftime of a football game. The Mystics made sure they were prepared before each performance.



# SUPPLYING ALL

the spirit for Western

Mystics and Cheerleaders work hard to maintain school pride at all functions

Story by: Alison Krieg  
Photos by: Jeremy Weikel



GO! FIGHT! WIN! GRIFFONS! WIN! The yell leaders shouted loud and proud, supporting the Griffons through the thick and thin of the athletic seasons. Cheerleading was often mistaken as a hobby rather than a sport, and the male yell leaders often got stereotyped as being gay.

"We always get misconceptions that guy yell leaders are gay and I want to clarify that it is definitely a stereotype," Josh Spray said. "In fact, one of the reasons I joined was to meet more chicks. I also needed an extracurricular activity to be involved with, but meeting girls is a nice bonus."

The squad hoped in the future to have more guys try out for the team. There were many more stunts to be shown if there were more guys, plus the team would have looked more professional.

"I wish guys would actually look at cheerleading as a sport," Kimberly Arn said. "The more males we have on the team would help with our stunts. There are more challenging stunts we could show the fans with more guys on the squad. We would be able to go to competitions, and I think we would look more professional. I joined the cheer squad here so maybe someday I will be able to coach my own squad, plus I feel that I am good at what I do."

Like the cheerleaders, the Mystics may have joined the dance team for similar reasons.

"I joined the Mystics because I have always been involved with different things and I wanted to stay involved when I got to college," Kari Taylor said. "Dance is the one thing I feel I am good at and enjoy doing the most."

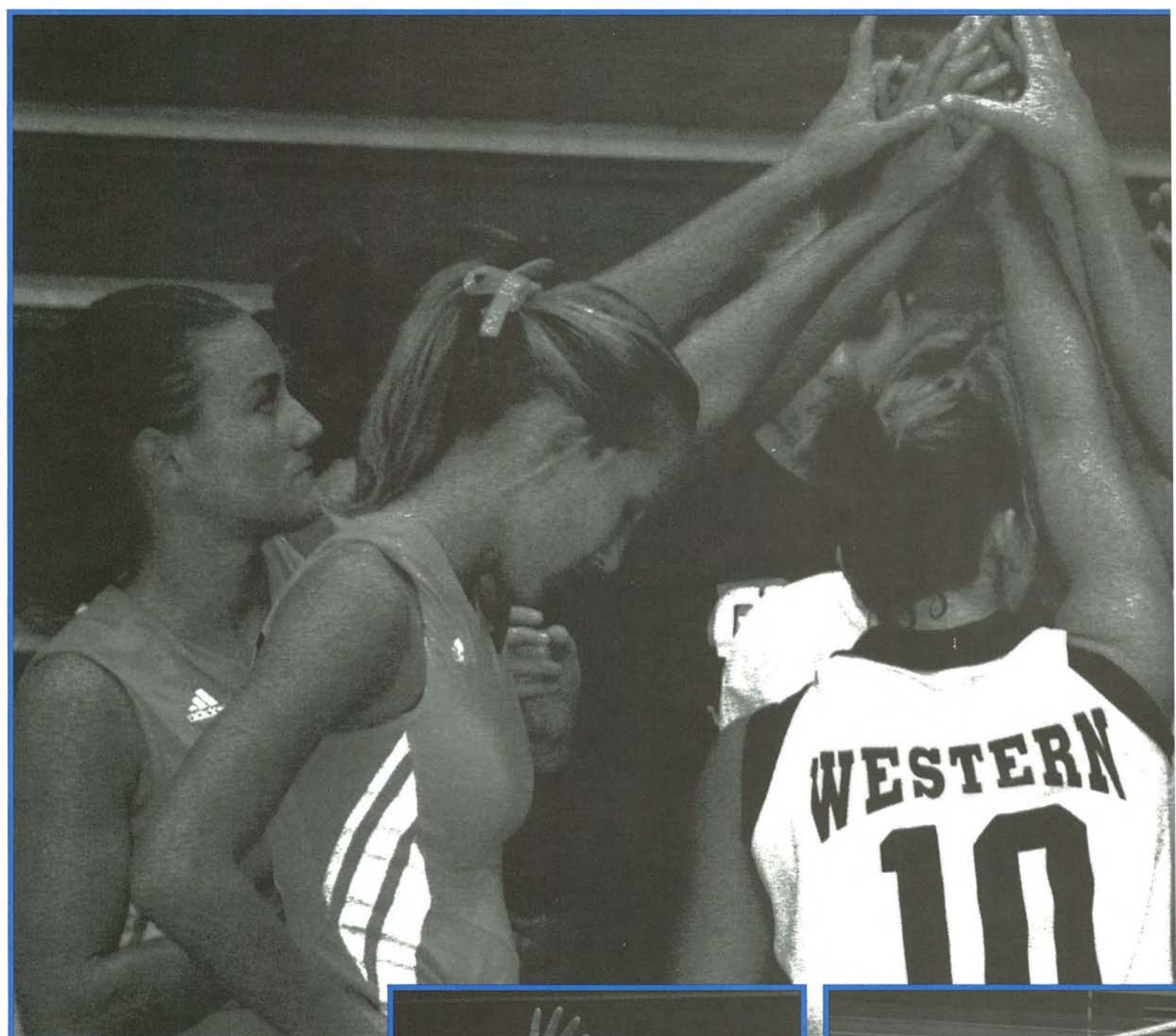
The Mystics danced at several games through out the year including basketball and football games for halftime entertainment to both band music and music of their choice.

"There are benefits with each of the performances we do," Kara McDowell said. "Dancing with the band allows us to meet more people, and the dancing is more challenging because there are more things to remember like exactly where to go on the field. But dancing to our own music is better for getting reactions from our peers because the music is music that is regularly played on the radio, and people are familiar with it."

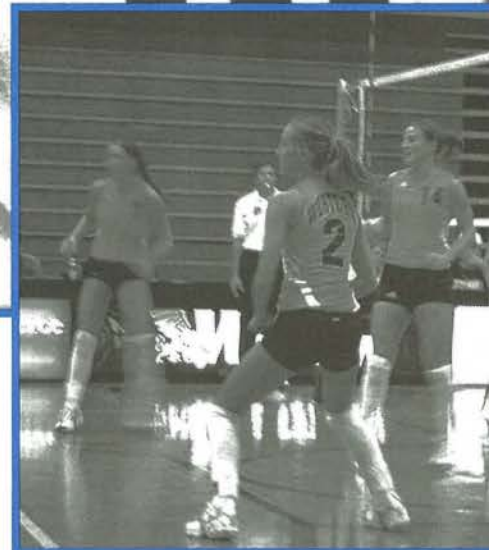
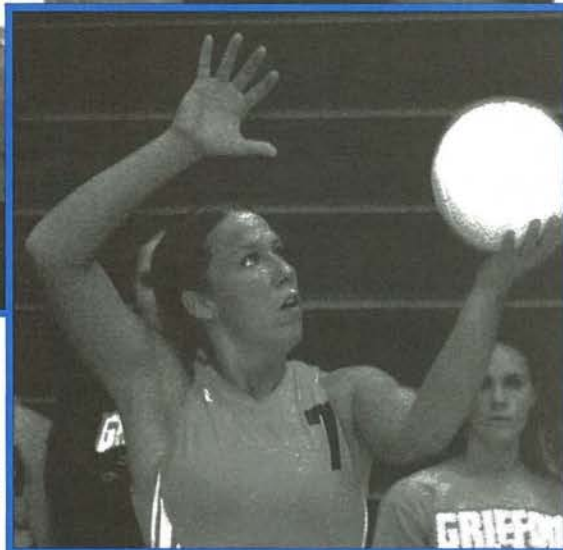
The dances were learned and perfected in a rather short amount of time.

"We learn a complete dance in one practice, and after that we have a few practices to perfect the dance. Mystics that have graduated will come in and help us put together routines, and two of the graduated Mystics are actually Chiefs cheerleaders now," Taylor said.

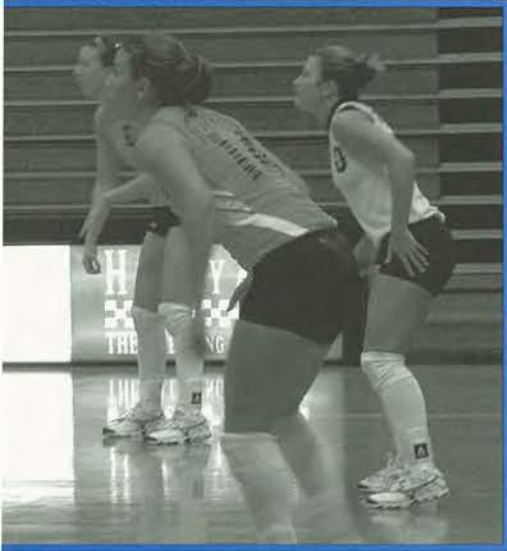
Both cheerleaders and Mystics made sure they performed the best they could to make Western proud.



Top: Coach Cindy Brauck gathers her team to encourage them and make adjustments to win the match. Despite the teams enthusiasm, the Griffons fell to Washburn 1-3. Bottom Left: Senior outside hitter, Shelly Chiles prepares to serve. Throughout the fall season, Chiles's power proved to be an asset to the Griffons. Bottom Middle: The Griffons are in offensive mode preparing to return the volley to their opponent. The team worked well together both on offense and defense. Bottom Right: Junior Marian Broderick anticipates receiving a serve from the opposing team. Broderick was a leader in defensive action, both in digs and service receptions.



# Lady Griffons pull together and learn to work as a team NO "I" IN TEAM FO



They served, they set and they spiked the volleyball into a tough season. The Griffons finished the season with an outcome they hope to improve next season. The final season ended up 13-15.

The losing season was not what mattered to the players and coach Cindy Brauck, who had been coaching the girls for eight seasons.

"We were a young team that fought through a tough season with injuries and disappointments to win a big match at home at the end of the season," Brauck said. "It took a lot of desire and determination to accomplish that; we never gave up."

The Griffons accomplished many things throughout the season and were 10-2 outside of the conference. "We had a big win against West Florida during the West Florida Tournament, and we beat Rockhurst, who is nationally ranked, at the end of the season.

The players worked hard even during the off-season. They came to school about a month before other students arrived. In that month, the girls showed their dedication by working hard in their two-a-day practices. During the season the girls practiced on the days they didn't have a game to play.

"We have very intense practices that are mentally challenging as well as physically challenging," Junior Setter Therese Hand said. "Coach has early practices that are skill oriented for the fine-tuning."

The hard practice shined through and it showed on the court. "The girls work their butts off to have a good season; next year they know what they need to work on for a better outcome," fan Steffon Brown said.

One thing that the players would like to change is the amount of fan support. "It would be so great to have more fans in the stands; we would like to give them a good show if they would only come out and watch," Hand said.

The fans that do go to the games agreed. "I have been to a couple games and the volleyball girls just don't get the support that the football and basketball players do," Brown said. "People need to come out to their games and show their spirit and support."

To improve for next season, the players have to work just as hard. Coach Brauck was already focusing on ways to improve for seasons to come. "We need to work on consistent serve receive passing, terminating on offense by getting kills off attack and we need to have mental toughness," she said.

Coach Brauck was confident that next season would have a better outcome with the leadership the seniors will bring, and it was time for the younger players to show their talents.

"The experience that our young players gained playing in one of the toughest conferences for volleyball is one thing that we will carry with us to be successful next season," Brauck said. "Also, upcoming seniors Marian Broderick, Therese Hand and Jayme Schlake will give us leadership, talent and mental toughness for the upcoming season."

The players were looking forward to next season, especially since the team would mostly be the same.

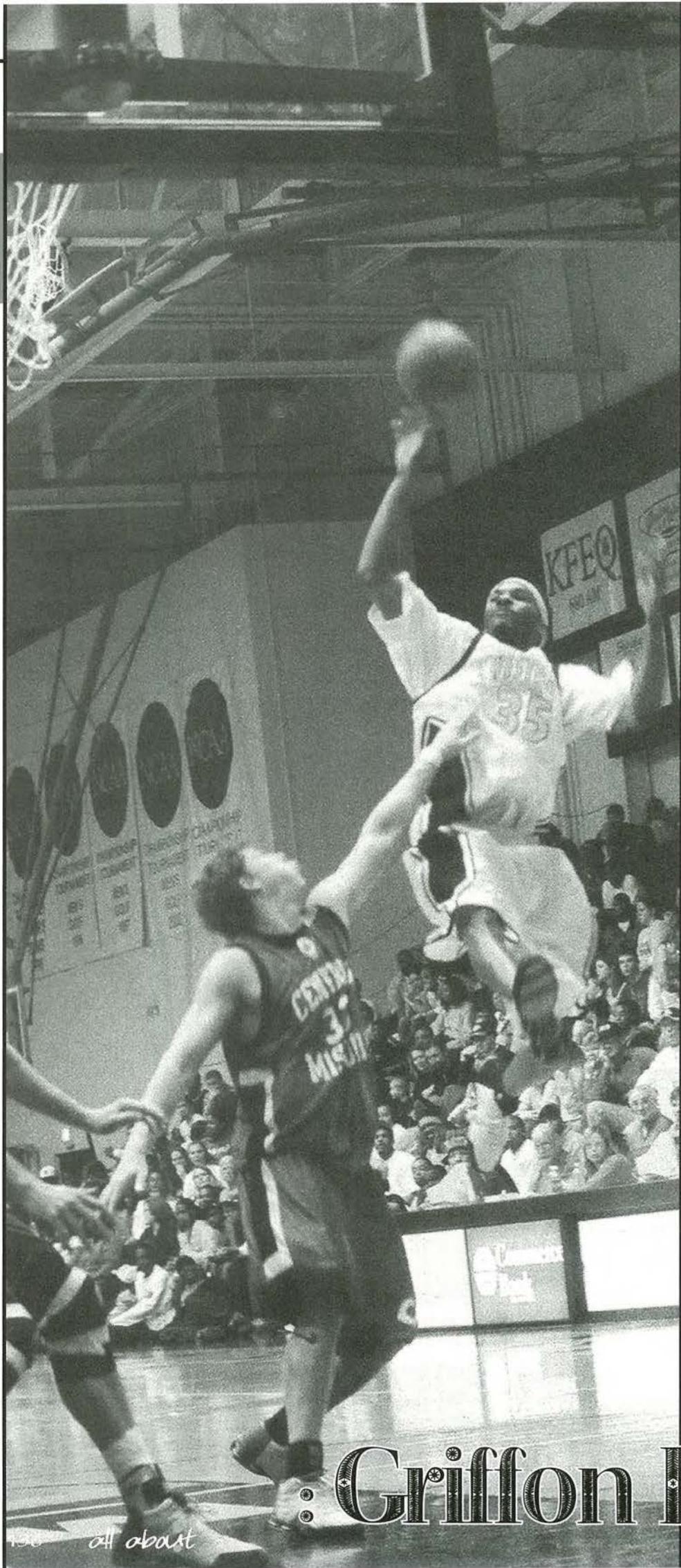
"We are only losing one player from this season, everyone else will stay together for next season, plus we have five red shirts that have been with us the whole way," Hand said. "I believe that next year we will play better and harder because we know each other's strengths and weaknesses."

a rebuilding year.

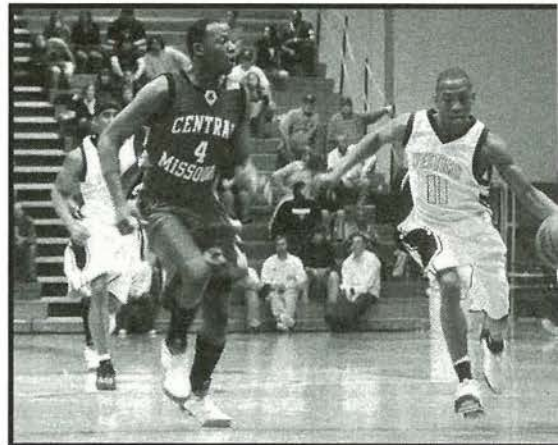
# '04 VOLLEYBALL

Story by: Alison Krieg Photos by: Sharyn Webb





Left: Senior Langston Grady attempts a jump shot over a CMSU player. Western was victorious with a score of 70 to 68. Top: The Western team partakes in a pregame ritual. The team worked hard throughout the season. Middle: T.J. Bishop drives to the hoop past his opponent. Bishop had a successful season and was a player to watch. Bottom: The crowd goes wild as Western scores against Northwest. Fans showed up to support the Griffon in an exciting game against rivals the Bearcats.



# Griffon Basketball

# Hoopin' it up Western style

The Griffon Men's basketball team steps up their game from last year, earning rights to post-season play...

With much support from Western, the Griffons' basketball team provided the fans with an exhilarating season that proved they are nothing less than contenders. Under the leadership of Coach Tom Smith, Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Famer, the men's overall record was 13-15.

For Western guard/forward Demarius Bolds, playing under Coach Smith was nothing less than an experience he'll keep with him forever.

"It was great playing for him," Bolds said. "He taught us a lot of things off and on the court. He set expectations for us because he believes we have the talent and skill to get the job done, and we didn't want to disappoint him."

Familiar faces on the team also played an intricate role in the chemistry of the Griffons. Tough practices motivated the Griffons and set the tone for the season. Western guard Roosevelt Bolden felt the practices prepared them for the games.

"Practice was very intense," Bolden said. "If you don't want to play, don't show up to practice, and if you do show up, play your best and step up your game."

In a season filled with ups and downs, the Griffons proved "only the strong survive." Facing off with old rivals and preying on new victims, the Griffons fought every step of the way, earning a chance to compete in the MIAA Tournament.

Memorable moments and devastating defeats capped up the Griffons' season. Wanting more, but bringing nothing but their best, the Griffons were the number eight seed going into the postseason and faced the number one seed, Central Missouri State University.

"It was a rollercoaster season for us," Bolds said. "We had a split (1-1) with CMSU, so we had confidence going into the game, we just couldn't pull it out."

Western fans thrived off rivalry games and what better challengers than Northwest. Western fell short in both bittersweet battles, but these fallen soldiers kept the fans on their feet.

"We have a good fan base," Bolds said. "They give off a lot of energy and passion so I know they feel it too when we can't get the win, especially against Northwest."

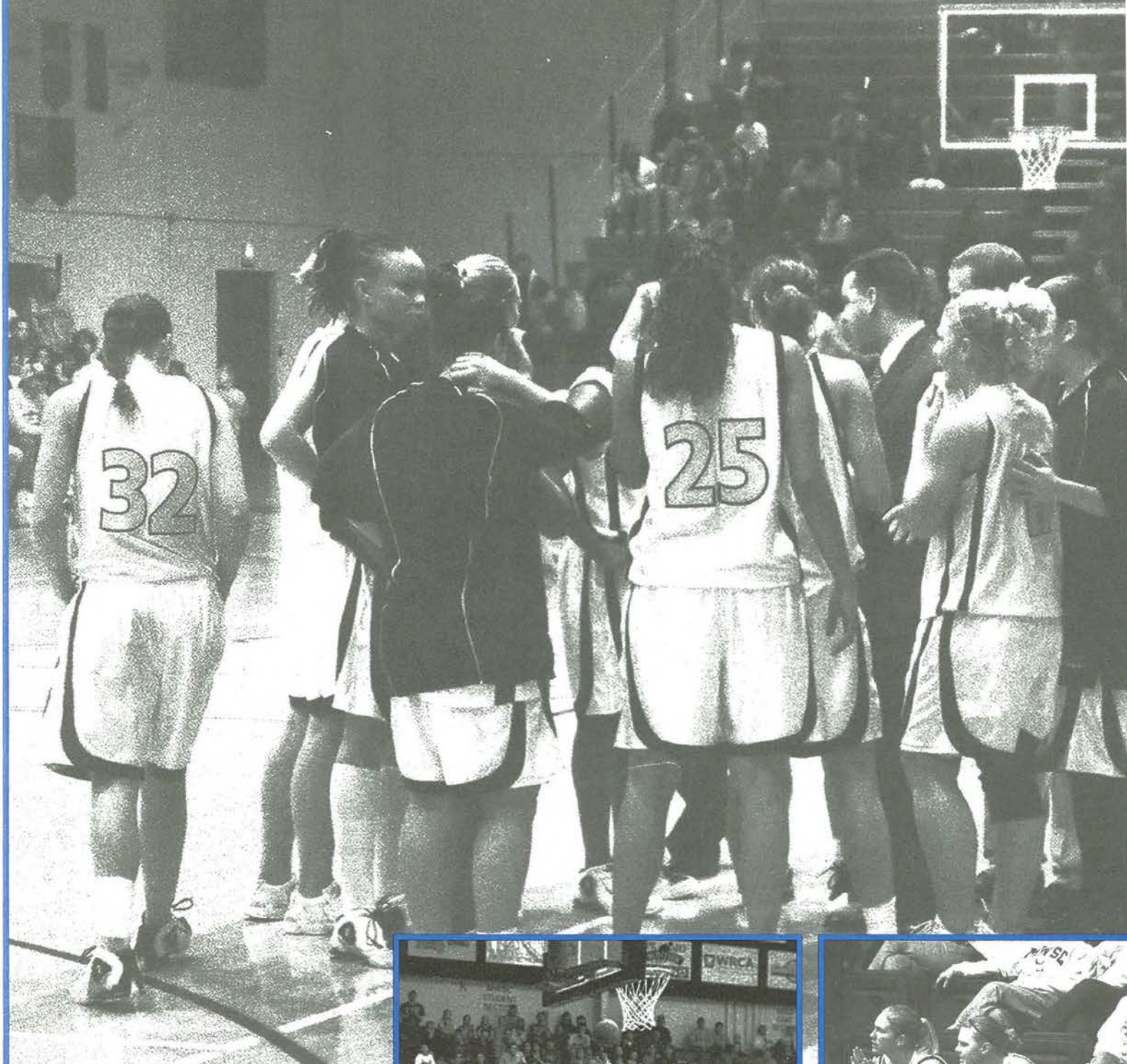
Western fan Kyle Williams enjoyed the thrills involved in the Northwest games, going to both the away game and home game; he remembered the enthusiasm of them.

"Northwest games are always nothing less than spectacular," Williams said. "They're our rivals, so everybody comes ready for the war, the players are out there battling for the win, but we're in the crowd just as much as they. When we get crunk it helps get the players hype as well."

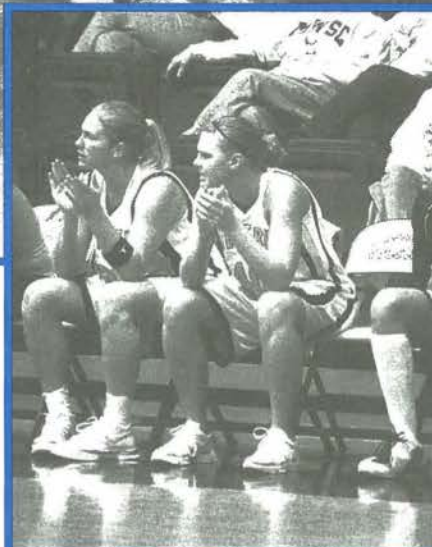
From intense practices to adrenaline filled games, Western's season concluded, but the hard work was not forgotten. Shocking the competition and entertaining the fans, the Griffons didn't plan on stopping until they made history.

The team wrapped up the season with two players earning All-MIAA honors. Bolds was a 2nd-Team, All-MIAA selection as well as named to the MIAA's All-Defensive Team. Senior forward Langston Grady was a Honorable Mention All-MIAA pick.

CMSU vs Western 65-63	MO Southern vs Western 83-69
Northwest vs Western 58-57	Western vs CMSU 70-68
Truman vs Western 71-60	Western vs UMR 73-54
Pittsburg vs Western 83-76	SBU vs Western 79-59
Emporia vs Western 84-80	Washburn vs Western 72-66
Emporia vs Western 73-69	Western vs SBU 81-67
Western vs Pittsburg 98-88	Western vs UMR 61-59
Western vs Truman 65-54	CMSU vs Western 79-72
Northwest vs Western 58-54	Western vs MO Southern 89-85
Western vs Washburn 73-70	Western vs Tarleton 86-60
St. Mary's Rattlers vs Western 78-67	NE-Omaha vs Western 81-73
Western vs Rockhurst 88-82	Rockhurst vs Western 79-71
Western vs Park U 72-58	Western vs Lincoln 78-65
Western vs Central Bible 97-40	Western vs NE State 56-55
Overall Wins-12 Losses-16	

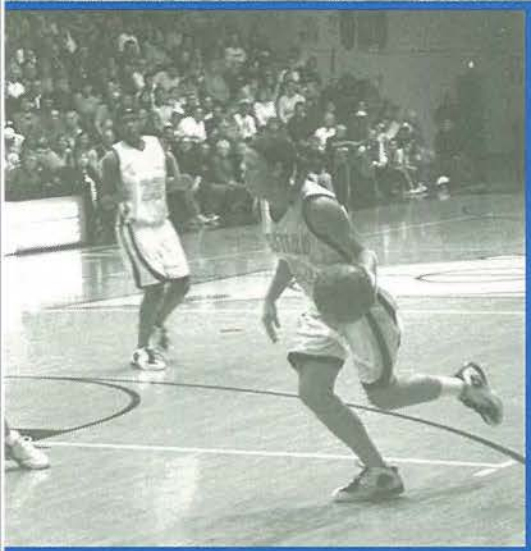


Top: The Griffons huddle during a timeout to come up with a winning play. The ladies worked well together. Left: Eldra Paixao shoots an easy lay up after hussling down the court. Paixao averaged 14.3 points per game. Middle: Team members wait anxiously to see the outcome of the game. The team cheered on those playing. Right: Shelly Chiles drives the ball down the court as teammate Brandi Rodgers anticipates her next move. The Griffons ended the season 20-9.



Lady Griffons win again as they play Northwest Missoula

# SHE SHOOTS, SHE



**T**he Griffons Women's basketball team ended its season with a loss (79-57) to Washburn University in the semifinals of the MIAA Tournament; however, the season ended with a winning record of 20-9.

"Our stats were really good for Coach Keister's first season as head coach," senior Selma Barbosa said. "It's the same amount of wins Coach Slifer had last year."

Coach Josh Keister was named the sixth head coach on April 8 after his mentor, Coach Dave Slifer decided to move on to Central Missouri State University after coaching the Griffons for nine seasons. Being head coach for his first season, didn't rattle Keister as he coached two of the top MIAA players and the first two foreign players in the program's history.

Barbosa was from Brazil along with teammate Eldra Paixao. After leading the MIAA in scoring, Barbosa was a 1st-Team, All-MIAA, 1st-Team All-South Central Region selection. Paixao was named Defensive Player of the Year and was a 1st-Team, All-MIAA selection.

The girls were more than just teammates; they became a family. "What made me part of the MWSC team was the coach, staff and the girls," Barbosa said. "They became my family here in America since mine was in another country. We all became really good friends; we helped each other in every way we could."

Freshman Jill Johnson found her friends on the basketball court. "Outside of basketball, my teammates and I are the best of friends," she said. "We are extremely close and make so many memories together."

Every girl had her own memories that stood out from the entire season. "My favorite part of the season is having the opportunity to play as a freshman and hitting three straight three-pointers in the game against Rolla," Johnson said.

Playing on the Griffon Women's basketball team was something Barbosa would never forget.

"The most memorable part of the season for me was everything, all our ups and down during the season, every accomplishment, every win, every loss," she said. "I will remember our last game at home, our last game away from home, and my senior night, our trips, every smile from our teammates, every time we cried and most of all, our friendship."

The season was a roller-coaster ride for the girls and Coach Keister, but in the end the Griffons came out on top with a winning season. The team was proud to be playing for Western and was happy to see the crowd fill the bleachers.

"Everyone should know that we are thankful for all the great fans that we had this year to support us," Sophomore Tera Peterson said. "It really means something to all of us when the stands are packed."

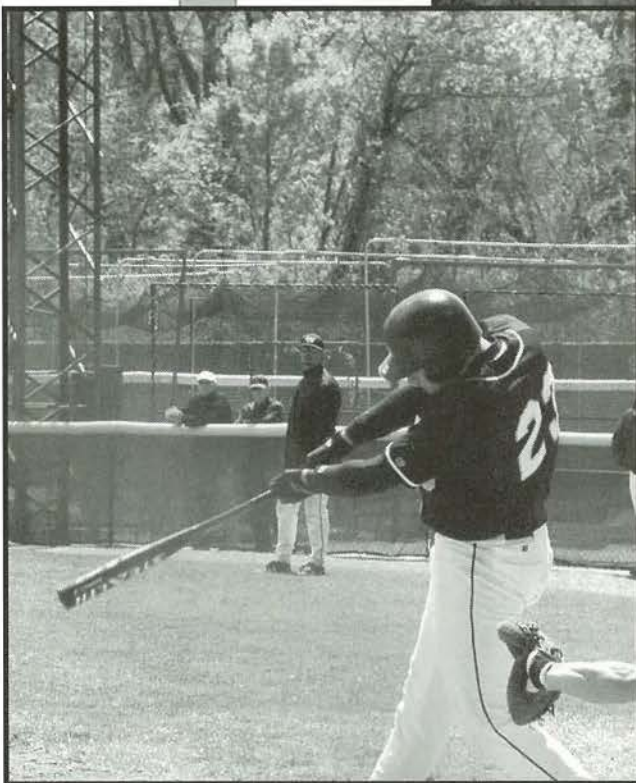
ate University

# SCORES

Story by: Traci Haug Photos by: Johntell Young

Right: Pitcher Trevor

O'Shaughnessy concentrates on hitting the target of the catcher's mitt. Finishing second place in the MIAA conference was the best the league had ever done. Below: A Western baseman prepares to catch the ball to get the runner out. The season ended with a loss to Emporia State by one point. Middle: Junior Ryan Zenn makes a key play during a crucial inning. The boys were 21-10 in conference play. Bottom: A Western pitcher strikes his opponent out. The season started off shaky, but the boys bounced back and ended up second in the conference.



# SWING BATTER

## Griffon Baseball

The team bounces back after a rocky start; finish second in conference

Story by: LaQuitta Alexander  
Photos by: Ashley Cruz

The Griffon baseball team started off rocky, beginning with cancellations and losses. The month of February was looking bad for Western's Griffons, and the players knew a change needed to be made.

Getting back into the swing of things, the Griffons season was a rollercoaster of wins followed by losses. The team found their rhythm more and more as the season went on.

Griffon's infielder Bill Payson felt the season got much better once the players adapted to one another.

"The team chemistry has always been very good," Payson said. "We're a group of guys who work well together and we learned that as the season went on."

Junior Ryan Zenn said that by early April the Griffons fought their way right back into the spotlight making a dramatic season turnaround.

"In a game against Washburn we were down two runs," Zenn said. "We won the game in the last inning and that was when our season changed; before we were just playing alright."

With more time spent with each other and more understanding of each other's contributions to the team, the Griffons got back on the right track.

"We're having a very good season," Payson said. "We did start off very slow, but towards the end we started playing much better and went into every game expecting to win."

Highlights of the season included the termination of their 27 game losing streak to the Central Missouri State University Mules. On April 23, the Griffons went up against the number one ranked Mules.

Receiving a defeat in the first game of the doubleheader could have potentially

destroyed the Griffons confidence. Instead they reversed their luck and played harder winning the second game. Turning their momentum around the Griffons finally defeated a team they have not been able to defeat for the last 27 games.

"We played up to our potential and we beat the best teams," Zenn said. "Our team came together, and we feel like we can beat anyone."

Fan Cedric Day was impressed to hear about the Griffons' great season.

"It's nice to see our athletics department doing great," Day said. "Griffons baseball was better than watching a Royals game."

Refusing to give nothing but their best, the Griffons' season consisted of a 10 game winning streak as of May 3.

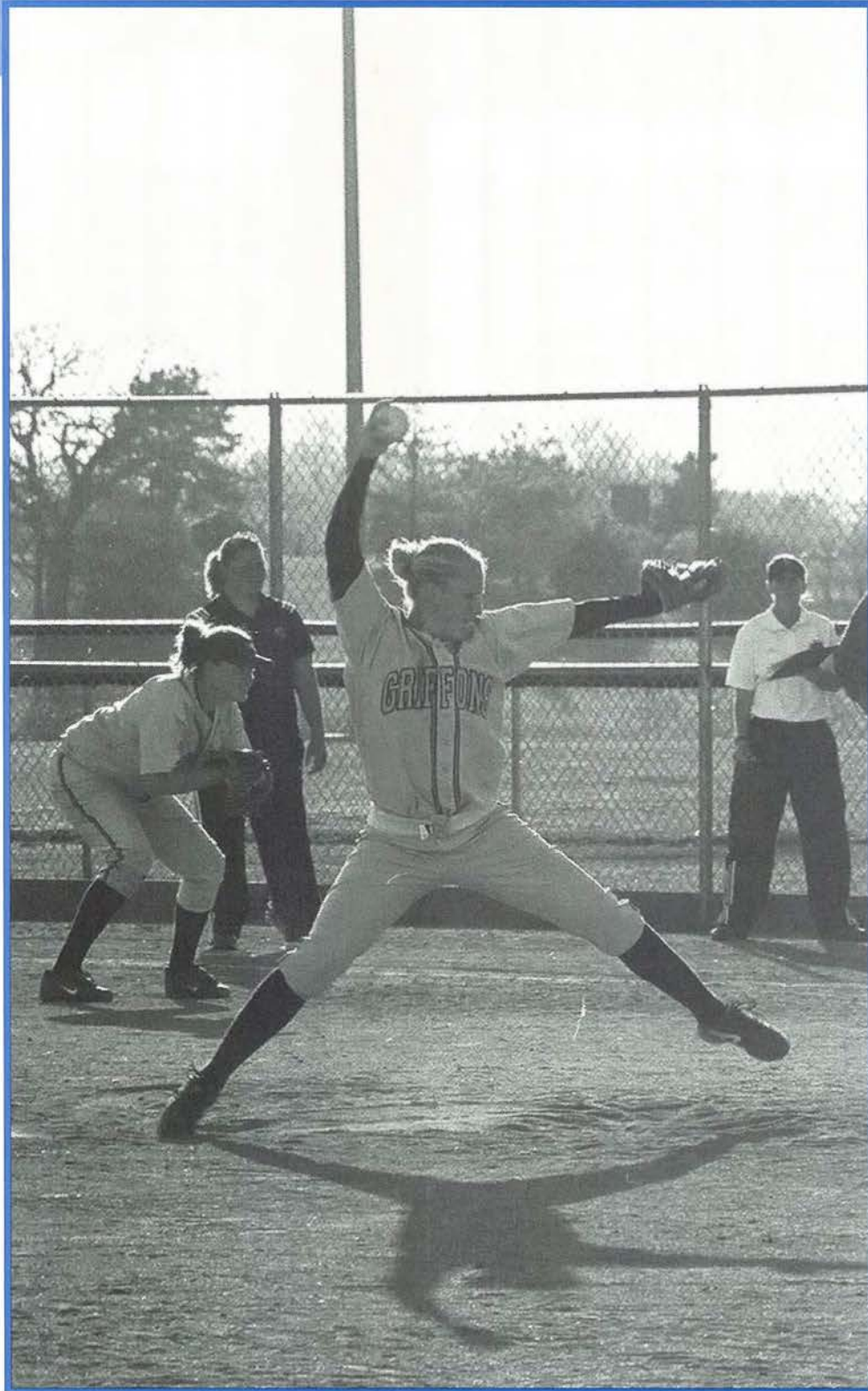
Cleaning the field with sweeps, the Griffons found themselves in the running for a playoff position owning the number two spot in the conference, which was their best finish ever in conference. "We're the hottest team in the conference," Payson said.

Not looking back, the Griffons went into the post-season with a win now think later mentality.

"Going into post-season we started doing a lot of things that were never done before," Zenn said. "We kept playing to win and it gave us that boost of confidence we needed."

Western faced off rival Northwest, the number three seed in the first game of the MIAA post-season tournament, but didn't pull out the win. They ended the season with a loss to Emporia State by one point (8-9); they were 21-10 in conference play.

1 (May 7)\*Western 6, Emporia State 2 (May 3)\*Western 5, Emporia State 0 (May 3)\*Western 7, Pittsburg State 4 (April 30)\*Western 8, Pittsburg State 1 (April 30)\*Western 5, Washburn 3 (April 26)\*Western 12, Washburn 7 (April 26)\*Western 5, Central MO 4 (April 23)\*Central MO 3, Western 1 (April 23)\*Central MO 13, Western 0 (April 22)\*Western 4, Truman 3 (April 19)\*Western 13, Truman 5 (April 19)\*Western 8, MO Southern 6 (April 16)\*Western 12, MO Southern 7 (April 16)\*Western 10, MO Southern 8 (April 15)\*Emporia State 4, Western 3 (April 12)\*Emporia State 18, Western 5 (April 12)\*SW Baptist 9, Western 8 (April 9)\*Western 9, SW Baptist 5 (April 9)\*Western 10, SW Baptist 6 (April 8)\*Western 6 (April 3)\*Western 3, Washburn 2 (April 3)\*Western 6, Truman 0 (April 2)\*Truman 4, Western 1 (April 2)\*NWMSU 4, Western 1 (March 29)\*NWMSU 9, Western 8 (March 29)\*Western 4, NWMSU 1 (March 25)\*NWMSU 10, Western 9 (March 25)\*MO Southern 11, Western 8 (March 18)\*Western 15, Henderson State 2 (March 17)\*Western 7, Henderson State 4 (March 17)\*Western 16, Ouachita 6 (March 16)\*Southern Arkansas 8, Western 6 (March 15)\*Western 9, Bennidji State 4 (March 14)\*Western 2, Nebraska-Omaha 1 (March 13)\*Nebraska-Omaha 5, Western 4 (March 13)\*Western 6, St. Mary's 5 (March 9)\*Western 13, Augustana II (March 6)\*Western 8, Augustana 6 (March 6)\*Augustana 6, Western 5 (March 5)\*Western 10, Augustana 1 (March 5)\*Wayne State 3, Western 2 (March 2)\*Wayne State 14, Western 1 (March 2)\*Central Arkansas 16, Western 1 (Feb. 27)\*Central Arkansas 3, Western 0 (Feb. 26)\*Western 5, MO-St. Louis 3 (Feb. 27)\*Western 13, MO-St. Louis 6 (Feb. 26)\*Nebraska-Omaha 10, Western 6 (Feb. 24)\*Western 11, Nebraska-Omaha 6 (Feb. 23)\*Nebraska-Omaha 4, Western 3 (Feb. 23)



Left: Griffon pitcher winds up to deliver a forceful pitch. She threw nothing but strikes during the Emporia State game. Top: Wendy Salgo plants her feet in anticipation for a great hit. She focused on knocking it out of the park. Middle: The softball team joins for a pep talk. The softball team played well together. Bottom: West's hitter focuses on making contact with the ball. The ladies had a dominant season.



# : Griffon Softball

# Knock it out of the park!

## Softball season turns out an awesome record and starts preparation for next year

Story by: Traci Haug Photos by: Johntell Young

The Griffon softball team stepped it up a notch and destroyed their season record from last year (31-19) and MIAA and Western records throughout the season. In one game against Washburn University, the Griffons set MIAA homeruns in a game (7) and homeruns in a season (17).

Their accomplishments at the beginning of the season set the bar as the ladies prepared for the MIAA tournament towards the end of the season. One of their goals was to go to nationals. "The most memorable part of the season hasn't really happened yet because we want to do really well in the regional tournament and maybe even go to nationals," junior Amy Beverly, first baseman, said.

The girls played hard throughout the season and were determined to beat last season's record, which was the most wins by a Western softball team in the history of the program. With a record of 47-18, they reached their goal. "It's amazing that we are in the top 25 in the nation with our statistics in softball," Beverly said.

The Griffons couldn't have achieved so many accomplishments without the aid of their coach, Coach Bagley.

"Coach Bagley is a very good coach just because she makes softball fun," Beverly said. "She's not one of those coaches who only cares about wins or loses, she makes the game fun and can joke around with us like

she's a player."

One reason Beverly decided to play for Western was because of Coach Bagley. "I decided to play softball here because I really liked Coach Bagley and the campus," she said. "I also enjoyed my visit when I came down here."

Of course, Bagley wasn't the only coach that helped the team become successful. "All of our coaches show that they care about us and make it easy for us to talk to them on a personal level," Sophomore Nicole Heineman, center fielder, said. "I decided to play softball because there were good teammates and great coaches."

The Griffon softball team loved what they did; they had a love for the game. "The best part of being on the team is getting to play the game that I love with people who share the same passion," Heineman said. Dedicated fans enjoyed watching the games and looked forward to next season to see if the Griffons could top the current season.

"It is interesting to watch the softball games because you can see how passionate the ladies are about the games," junior Charles Howell said. "You can tell they care if they win or lose. The ladies seem to get along, which makes the games a lot more fun to watch."

VSC 2, Upper Iowa 0	MWSC 1, NWMSU 0	Augustana 4, MWSC 2	MO Southern 9, MWSC 8
Concordia - St. Paul 6, MWSC 5	MWSC 6, SW MN State 2	MWSC 4, SBU 0	Pitt State 10, MWSC 4
I State 9, MWSC 8	MWSC 6, UMass-Lowell 1	MWSC 10, SBU 0	Pitt State 10, MWSC 7
Cloud State 7, MWSC 6	MWSC 3, WI-Parkside 1	UMR 1, MWSC 0	MWSC 5, Washburn 3
I State 3, MWSC 2	FL Tech 7, MWSC 1	UMR 3, MWSC 2	MWSC 10, Washburn 4
VSC 5, Lewis 1	MWSC 3, Indianapolis 2	Nebraska-Omaha 2, MWSC 1	MWSC 11, NWMSU 4
VSC 5, Bellevue 1	MWSC 5, Nova Southeastern 2	MWSC 4, Nebraska-Omaha 2	MWSC 5, NWMSU 0
VSC 4, Bellevue 2	MWSC 8, North Dakota 0	Emporia State 2, MWSC 1	MWSC 8, Nebraska-Omaha 1
VSC 4, Central Arkansas 1	MWSC 8, MN State 0	Emporia State 5, MWSC 4	MWSC 3, SCSU 2
VSC 2, Ouachita Baptist 0	MWSC 9, Wayne State College 1	MN State 6, MWSC 0	MWSC 6, Upper Iowa 0
VSC 5, Southern Arkansas 3	MWSC 7, Wayne State College 2	MWSC 6, Nebraska-Omaha 3	MWSC 2, UMR 0
VSC 9, Henderson State 8	MWSC 6, CMSU 1	MWSC 7, South Dakota 0	Emporia State 8, MWSC 0
VSC 7, MO Southern 6	MWSC 8, CMSU 0	MWSC 5, Emporia State 4	MWSC 5, CMSU 2
Emporia State 2, MWSC 0	MWSC 11, MN State 3	MWSC 5, NWMSU 0	Pitt State 4, MWSC 3
VSC 6, Washburn 4	MWSC 8, MN Duluth 0	MWSC 3, Truman 2	Total Wins 47 Total Loses 18
VSC 4, MO Southern 0	MWSC 6, South Dakota 0	MWSC 5, Truman 4	
VSC 6, Truman State 2	MWSC 3, North Dakota 1	MWSC 4, MO Southern 2	



Brice Garnett focuses on his game at the 2005 NCAA Division II National Championship. He shot a +1 in the final round finishing in fourth place.



Quincy Invitational (MWSC-577) 1st place\*Southwest Baptist Invitational (MWSC-606) 2nd place\*Central Region Fall Invitational (MWSC-604) 1st place\* Southeastern CC Fall Classic vs. Hastings (MWSC-618) 1st place\*Pittsburg State Invitational (MWSC-615) 5th place\*The Territory Classic (MWSC-625) 13th place\*MWSC Invitational (MWSC-623) 1st place\*Missouri Southern Invitational (MWSC-629) 3rd place\*Washburn Invitational (MWSC-620) 4th place\*Bemidji State (Dual) (MWSC-291) 1st place\*Division II Invite (MWSC-314) 8th place\*MIAA Championships (MWSC-902) 3rd place\*NCAA Regional Tournament (MWSC-910) 4th place

GRITTON MEN'S GO

# Western team gets a hole in one

Story by: Mitchell Buhman Photos by: Brett King

## Griffons get it together and pull out four consecutive top five finishes



The players that participated in the 2005 Central/Great Lakes Regional Golf Tournament consisted of Daniel Cor-dray, Cass Milsap, Scott Burnham, Brice Garnett and Aaron Lisenbee.

Golf is a game of skill and precision, a sport that has had a growing amount of interest among America's young people. Along with its popularity, men's golf at Western had also experienced success. In the fall semester, the team didn't finish a tournament lower than fifth place and boasted three firsts and a second; they were off to a great start.

Brice Garnett was a name that became synonymous with the success of the team. Garnett grabbed several first place victories, along with his two Golfer-of-the-Week awards.

"The awards were an honor," Garnett said. "It is nice to be recognized for good play."

Along with Garnett, Scott Burnham, Cass Milsap, Mitch Girres, Aaron Lisenbee and Craig Lytle all finished tournaments within the top five.

The spring season started off a little bumpy, with a thirteen-place finish in the Cameron Tournament in Oklahoma, but the golfers quickly regained their dominant presence that they obtained the previous fall.

"The fall season went well, but it was tough

adjusting to the weather in the spring," Burnham said. "We never really got a chance to compete on a nice day."

The team still managed to gather four consecutive top five finishes, one was a first place finish at the Griffons' home turf.

Through the spring, Garnett's leadership continued, and his efforts were complimented by the teams overall strong play, despite the

varying weather conditions. The team felt confident going into the 2005 NCAA Division II Central/Great Lakes Super Regional Golf Tournament. The tournament was held at the St. Joseph Country Club.

"We are optimistic about regionals being held at home," Girres said. "Home course advantage means a lot because it is the same course that we practice on; we know what to expect."

Host of the tournament, Western pulled out a fourth place finish. Individually, Garnett advanced to the 2005 NCAA Division II National Championship. He shot a +1 in the final round and finished in fourth place. Garnett was named first team, All-American for Western.



Above: The Griffons show there is beauty and brains when it comes to golf. Coach McGohan led the ladies to many victories during the 2005 season.

*Photo courtesy of Brett King*

Left: Whitney Vessar and her teammate prepare to putt the ball at a practice. The women's golf team finished 6th at the SIU-Edwardsville Cougar Classic.

*Photo courtesy of: The Griffon News*

Golf balls have 336 dimples or divits in it

: Women's Golf

# Teein' off

Story by: Lindsay Moyer

## The team works together to find ways to improve for future seasons

The women's golf team may have only been made up of five players, but these five women knew how to get down to business when it came to playing golf. The girls participated in many tournaments throughout the season.

"One accomplishment I am proud of is that I placed third in the Truman tournament this season," sophomore Lisa Cross said. "I hope to do better in all of my tournaments next season."

However, the season didn't go as well as the team planned it would. The players felt they could have done better individually and the team as a whole could have done better throughout the season.

"We didn't do as well as we expected, and we plan on doing better next fall," junior Kari Harder said. "I need to learn to play to my capabilities, and the team needs to shoot to their capable scores so we can improve."

When the team participated in tournaments, Cross and Harder lead the team to place near the top. Cross tied for third place at the Winona State University tournament. It was the highest score of the women's golf team in a tournament this season; the team took fourth overall in the tournament. Along with being the highest score, it was also the highest finish for the whole season. At the Mustang Invite, Harder was only nine shots off the pace set from the tournament medalist and Cross was off by ten shots.

When the team was not participating in a tournament, they were out practicing for the next tournament.

"Practices usually ran for two hours on Tuesday and Thursdays," Harder said. "On Monday, Wednesday and Friday we practice at Fairview Golf Course and play eighteen holes."

The team worked hard at practice, they also strived to set goals. Each player had goals they set for themselves individually and for the team. The girls wanted to achieve at least one of their goals next season, but hoped to achieve all of their goals.

"My personal goals are to make it to regionals and to make the top five at every tournament next season," Cross said. "I also want to win at least one tournament."

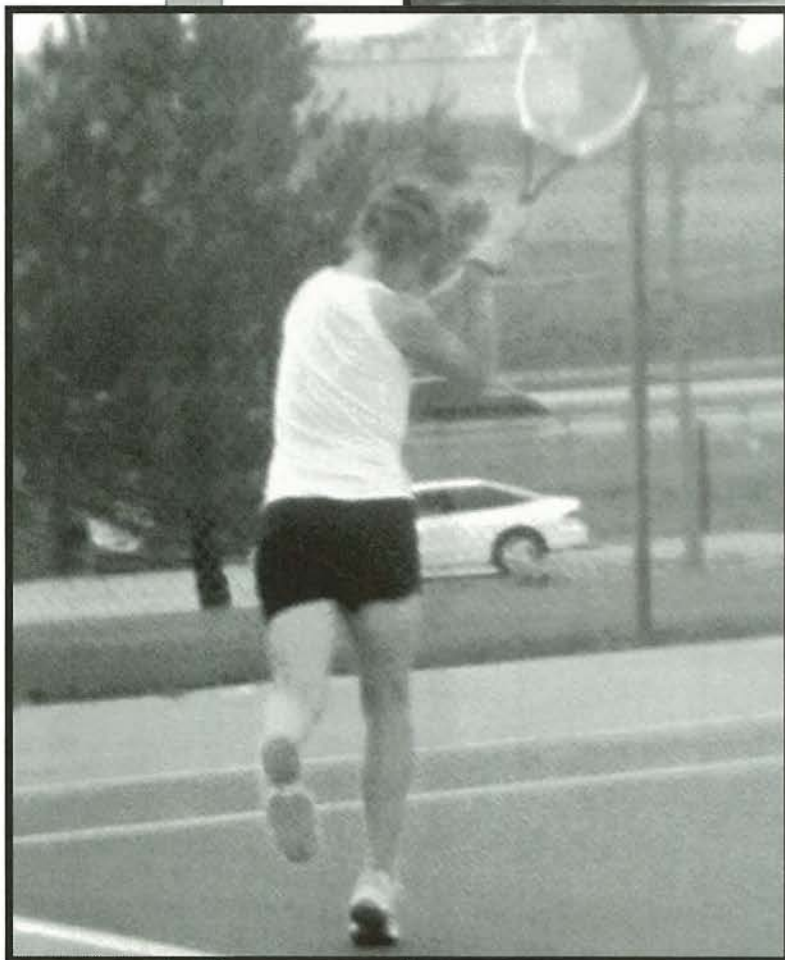


The field allows the Western golfer to relax and concentrate as she hits the ball in the hole. The ladies averaged 4th place in home and away games together.

Photo courtesy of: The Griffon News

Right: A Western tennis player focuses on her swing as she hits the ball to her opponent. The team improved from last season.

Bottom: A Griffon swings for the ball at one of the practices. The team finished 12-14 overall for the 2004-05 season.



# WOMEN'S TENNIS

stays strong and improves skill

Team continues to grow together and build on past seasons for future

It was a fresh start for the Missouri Western Tennis team. After battling a rocky past, the team regrouped during the 2005 spring season. They may have had more losses than wins (12-14), but it was a far improvement from last season. Compared to the two wins from the previous year, the tennis team has gotten back on track.

"The girls have grown so much this year compared to last year; they are solid on their double players and have good hands," Coach Matt Micheel said. "This is a young team, and they just keep growing."

The tennis team's season lasted from the middle of February to the beginning of May. The girls started practicing when they come back to school after Christmas. During practices, the tennis team worked on match plays, conditioning and drills.

"Outside of practicing, I work out about five days a week," sophomore Rachel Ledbetter said. "I do a lot of running and weight lifting."

Before a match, the girls huddled up, discussed what they were going to do for the upcoming match and remained focused. The length of matches depended on how many matches a team had. The girls were a tight group and learned from their experiences.

"I have learned a lot while playing tennis," junior Mindy Buschbom said. "The main concept that I have learned is leadership. You have to think for yourself and stand your ground."

Sophomore Mary Pankiewicz had been playing tennis for six years.

"With tennis you have to be a team player," she said. "I have enjoyed playing for Western."

The tennis team had to overcome many obstacles, not just from working on their performance. In 2005, the Western Athletic Department granted the tennis team

\$5,000. The girls competed in more than 25 matches and tournaments across the Midwest. With the low budget, the team couldn't afford the traveling expenses. To raise money, the girls were each required to work concession stands for Western's local sporting events.

Another problem that the tennis team faced was the issue of uniforms. Before Micheel became the tennis coach, there had been no uniforms. The first thing that he did do was order black skirts for the girls so that they could at least match.

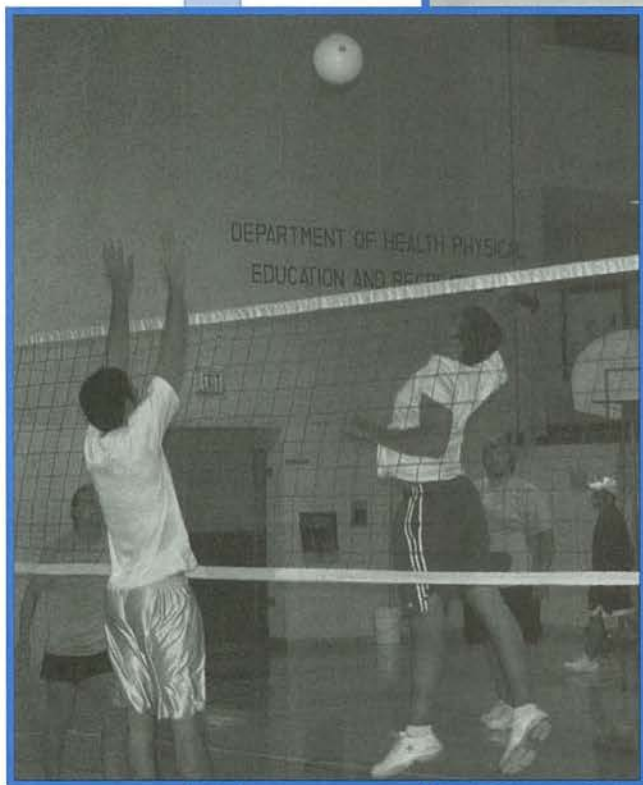
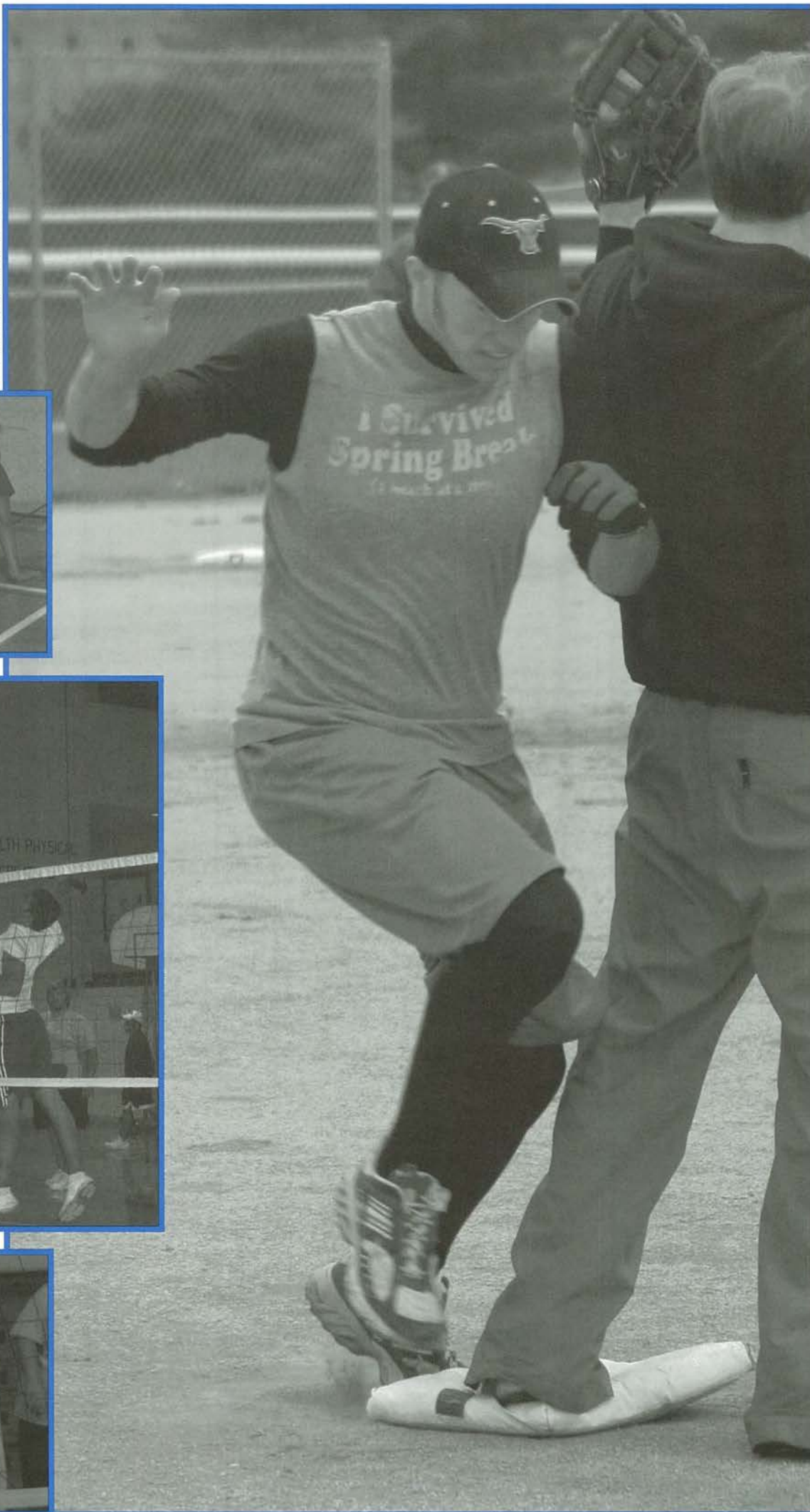
"It has been a lot of work, but we have definitely bounced back even with budget cuts; we are in a rebuilding process," Ledbetter said. "Coach Micheel has really helped shape this team."

## 2004-2005 Tennis Results

MWSC 9, Buena Vista 0  
MWSC 6, Simpson College 3  
Nebraska-Omaha 6, MWSC 3  
MWSC 7, South Dakota 2  
MWSC 5, BNebraska Wesleyan 4  
Northeastern State 9, MWSC 0  
East Central 9, MWSC 0  
MWSC 5, SE Oklahoma 4  
NWMSU 7, MWSC 1  
SBU 7, MWSC 2  
MWSC 6, Nebraska-Kearny 3  
MWSC 6, Midland Lutheran 3  
Augustana 5, MWSC 4  
MWSC 9, Concordia 0  
MWSC 8, South Dakota 1  
MO Southern 5, MWSC 4  
MWSC 6, Fort Hays 3  
Rockhurst 7, MWSC 2  
MWSC 9, Lincoln 0  
Emporia State 9, MWSC 0  
MWSC 9, SW MN State 0  
Truman 5, MWSC 4  
NE State OK 9, MWSC 0  
Washburn 9, MWSC 0  
Washburn 5, MWSC 2  
SBU 5, MWSC 2

Story by: Amy Chastain  
Photos by: Jamison Burns

Right: Softball gets intense as this fast runner tries to steal the plate. The catcher stood firm while taking the runner out of the game. Top left: A group of friends play volleyball in the Physical Education building. One gave all she could ending up on the floor. Middle left: A student jumps high to get the ball across the net. Meantime, the opposing team member attempted to knock it down. Bottom left: Amanda Gruber keeps her eyes on the volleyball as it comes her way. Awaiting patiently, she slammed down the ball in full force. All left photos by: Sharon Webb.





# LET'S PLAY BALL!

Western students engage in intramurals and gain bragging rights

Story by: Lindsay Moyer

The spring semester brought new faces to campus, warmer weather and the start of spring intramural sports. From members of fraternities and sororities to friends who formed teams, many students participated in the spring intramural sports.

Intramural sports were one of the most popular ways for people to be able to compete against each other and have a good time. Teams signed up to play basketball, softball, dodge ball and many others this spring. An intramural sport was a way for students to play the sport they loved, but wasn't able to play on Western's team at the college level.

"I played on intramural teams with my fraternity," Nick Kennedy said. "I really enjoyed hanging out with the brothers while participating. We did a fair job throughout the season, we weren't the best team nor the worst team."

The competitive side started to show when students teamed up to play intramurals against each other.

"I am a very competitive person and that's why I liked playing on an intramural team," Heather Grom said. "I had a lot of fun playing on a team, and I am sure that I will play volleyball next semester."

Whether students played for their organization or with a group of

close friends, everyone who played had a great time.

"We signed up to play intramurals to take a break from school work and to have some fun," Alicia Cummins said. "Even though our team wasn't that great, everyone who played had a really good time and plan on playing again."

The teams played in tournaments to play for the championship game to make intramural sports more competitive. While some teams wanted to play to win the championship, others just played for fun.

"I am the intramural chair of my fraternity, and I sign up our members to play on intramural teams," John Wallace said. "This is a good way for us to play competitively against other teams and to bring our fraternity closer. We all compete because we love the sense of competition against others and ourselves."

Along with making new friends, intramural sports became important to the competitive sports players.

"Intramural sports are great because they bring people closer in a sense that we could compete together as a team," Kennedy said. "I will participate again because I love the competitive nature."



# KICKING

the black and white

## Women's soccer team becomes official

Story by: Traci Haug & Jenny Olson

A new program hit Western's campus along with a new face. Leroy "Chip" Wiggins became the first ever women's soccer coach.

In order for Western to remain in the division II program, the college needed to add another sport. A minimum of 10 athletic categories by the fall of 2005 was required for competition. Western decided to add women's soccer to its plate.

"We chose soccer because it is very apparent that soccer is an upcoming sport in the community, and eight other schools have soccer in our division," Director of Athletics Mark Linder said.

The search for a coach was long and difficult. A committee that consisted of five people from Western and the community narrowed the search down from 80 to three finalists, but Wiggins was the chosen one. "Chip was successful, he brought experience and did a good job at recruiting women for the team, so he was the best choice," Linder said.

Wiggins came from Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kan., coaching there for three years. He held a 44-15-3 overall record and a 21-3-2 record in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. His team won two KCAC regular season titles, three KCC postseason tournament titles and advanced to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics regional tournament in all three seasons, getting to the semifinal round in 2004. Prior to Ottawa, Wiggins was the head coach and

assistant athletic director at the high school level in Lee, Maine.

Coach Wiggins knew that the process of building a brand new team was going to be a challenge, but that's what he wanted.

"This job was attracting because I get to build a program how I like to run it since it is a first year program," Wiggins said. "I am going to try the best I can to put the best quality team out there."

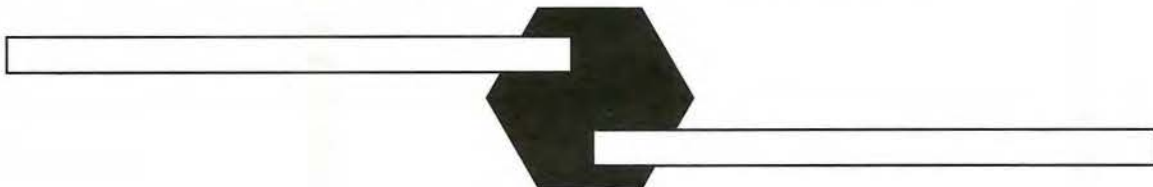
Western students couldn't wait for a new team to grace the campus of Western.

"I think that the soccer team will be a great opportunity for students to join a sports team; I know a lot of students here that don't play any sports," freshman Crystal Scott said. "A lot of these students did play soccer in high school, and I know they are happy because we are getting a soccer team and therefore will be able to play again."

Scott thought that having a soccer team would benefit the college in many ways.

"I think that the benefits of a soccer team are many," she said. "First, there will be more student athletes and there will be more scholarships for those who are on the team. Also, soccer will be another activity that can help school expand to university status."

The Griffons took the field for the first time on August 27 versus Central Missouri Western State University at the Riverside Soccer Complex.



# h

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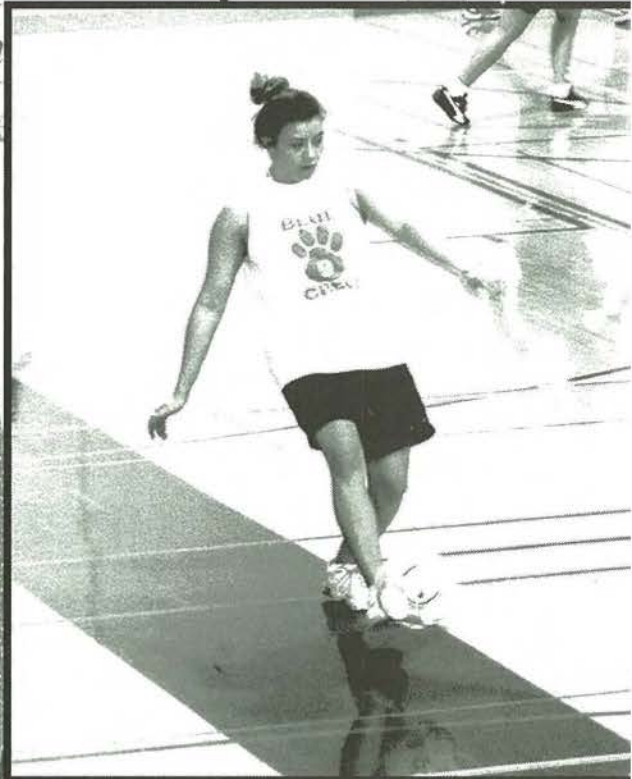


Far Left: Head Coach Leroy "Chip" Wiggins speaks at a press conference. He spoke about the upcoming soccer team at Western. *Photo by: Johnnie Young*

Top Right: A hopeful student shows off her skills at soccer tryouts. Many women tried out and hoped for the best. *Photo by: Jenn Hughes*

Middle: A soccer player tries out in the gym with her fellow kickers. The community was looking forward to seeing the new team. *Photo by Jenn Hughes*

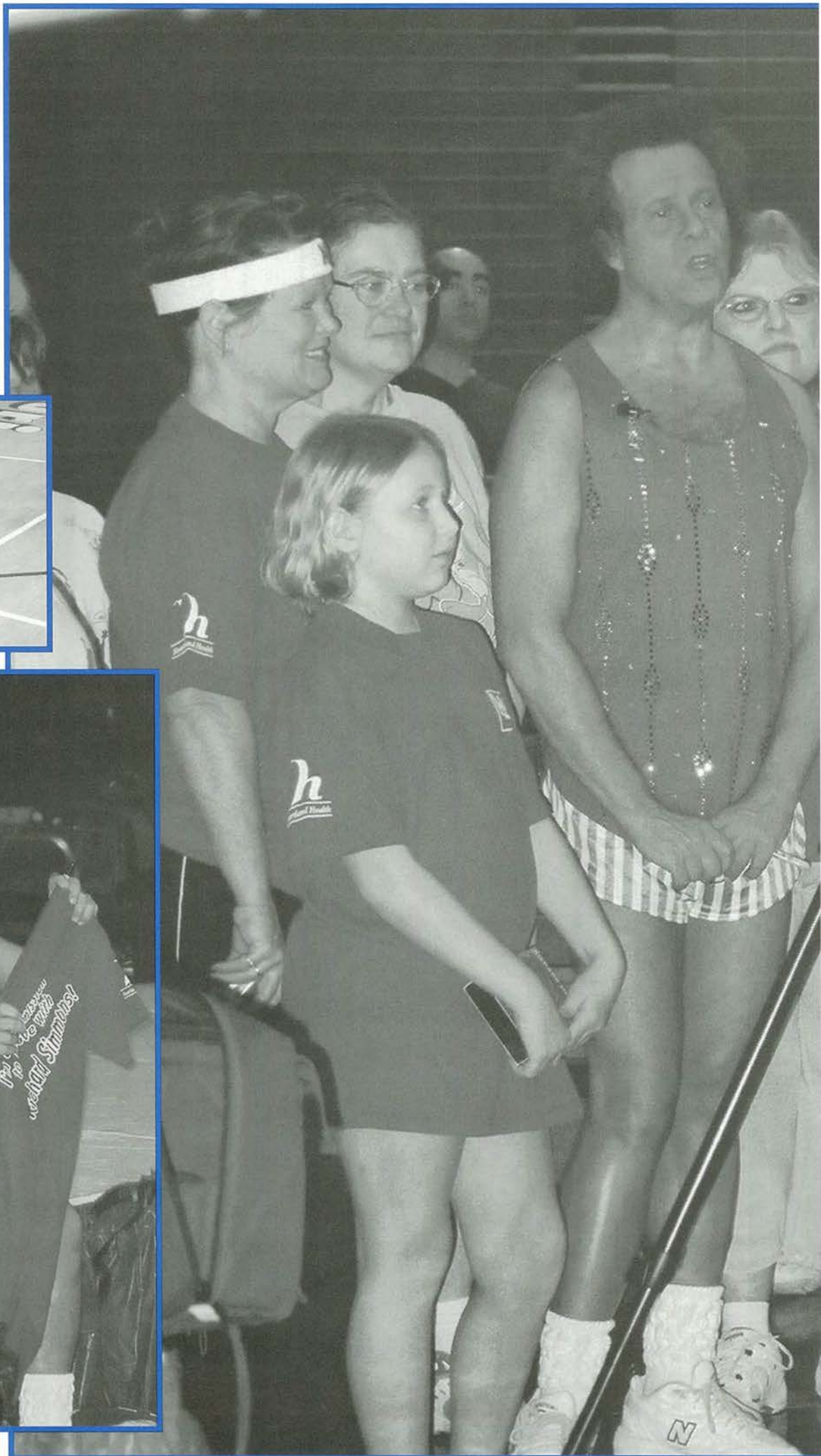
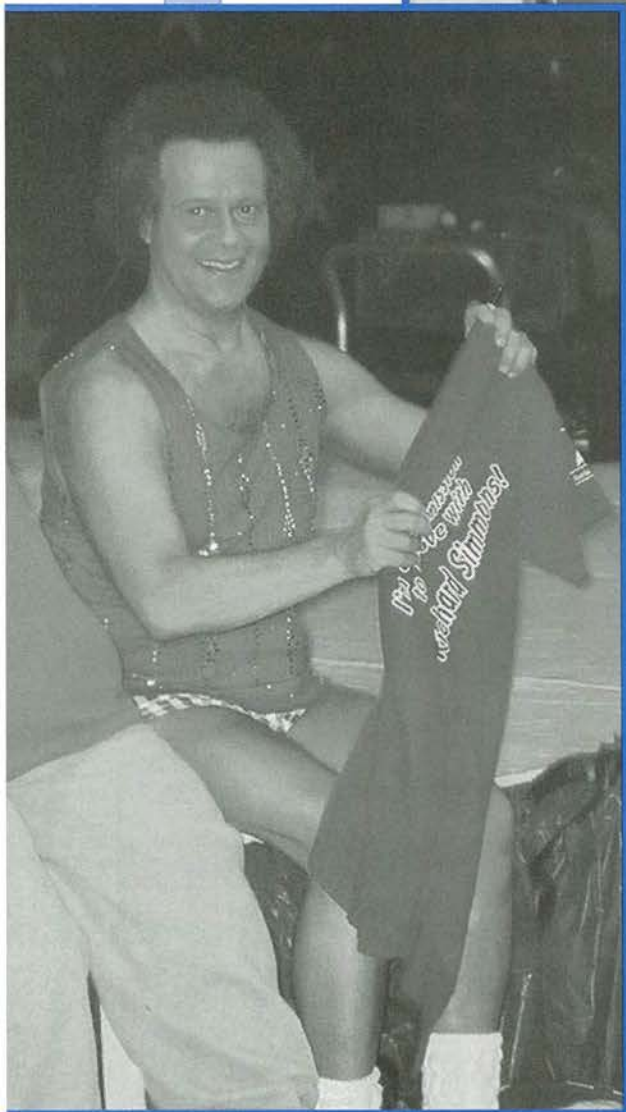
Bottom: Kristen Watkins works hard to prove herself during tryouts. She was determined to get past her opponents. *Photo by: Jenn Hughes*



Right: Fitness guru Richard Simmons answers questions about his "Mission to Move" program. The third time was a charm for Simmons as he visited St. Joseph.

Middle: Members of the community prepare to sweat to the beat with Richard Simmons. The workout lasted a total of two hours.

Bottom: The workout king prepares to pass out free t-shirts to everyone who participated in the exercise program. Getting something free was just one of the perks the Western students and the community received for going to the workout.





# FITNESS GURU

keeps going and going...

## Richard Simmons, sweatin' in his 50's

Story by: Mitchell Buhman

Photos by: Jennifer Smith

The fifty-one-year-old flamboyant fitness guru Richard Simmons visited Western on March 5 supporting his "Mission to Move" campaign. "Mission to Move" was a fitness movement of Simmons, which was sponsored by Heartland Health and K-Jo 105.5. The visit to Western's Loony Complex was a first for Simmons, but it was his third trip to St. Joseph corresponding with the mission.

Simmons was greeted with open arms by his army of faithful followers. Likewise, Simmons welcomed mostly everyone with a hug, a kiss on the cheek and if someone was lucky enough to have a name that Simmons knew from a lyric, he would sing them a song. Needless to say, celebrity or not, the man left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

"I almost cried," non-traditional student Adrian Peacock said. "I grew up watching Richard. We came early, and when he burst through the door and gave me a hug and a kiss, I just about shed tears!"

Other students had more reserved emotions about the meet-and-greet experience. Tyler Krampe, who attended only as part of a class project, expected the unexpected.

"He was as giddy in person as he is on TV," Krampe said. "He's a little different, but people seem to like him."

True to the program, Simmons was on a mission, a mission to motivate. "The program starts with a class and after

the class we'll talk about 'Mission to Move' and talk about people who have lost weight and who have lowered their cholesterol," Simmons said.

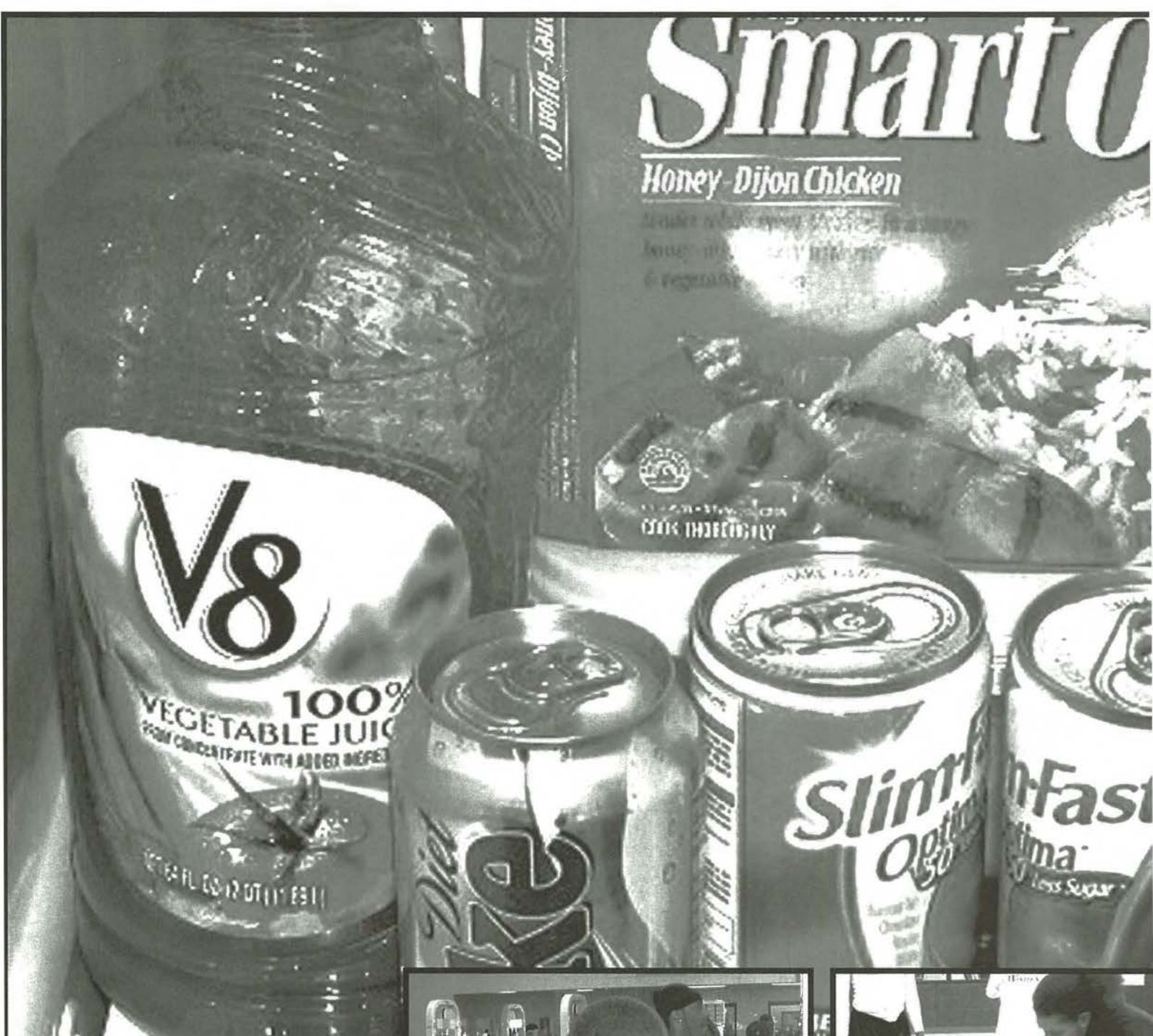
Simmons spoke on how the mission was for the people and how the program was intended to help overweight people get their life back on a healthy path. Simmons had many aspirations for the entire "Mission to Move" program. "I hope it lasts forever...these people need this," he said.

The fitness buff had a real love for people and a genuine knack for making people smile. With his goofy antics and outrageously exaggerated mannerisms, the fitness expert made exercise fun for many people.

Simmons was his own testimony to weight loss success through diet and exercise. When asked if he ever took a day off from working out, he covered his ears, closed his eyes and yelled nonsense words as if he were a child not wanting to hear what a parent was telling them.

He then proceeded with his philosophy, "Everyday you eat, you need to workout."

When commenting on his success as a fitness guru, Simmons gave what seemed to be his most humble and dignified advice. "You are only as good as the people around you, so surround yourself with good people, and you will go far in all aspects of life," he said.

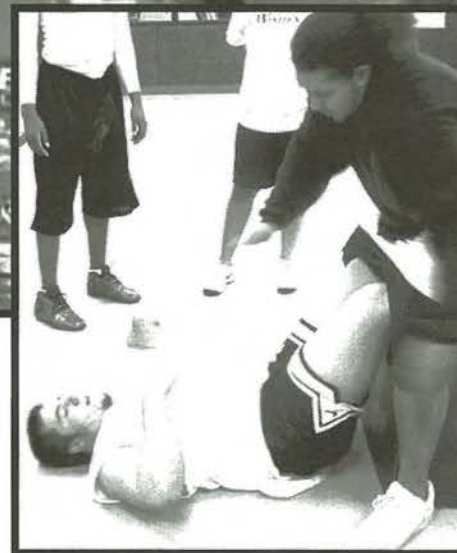
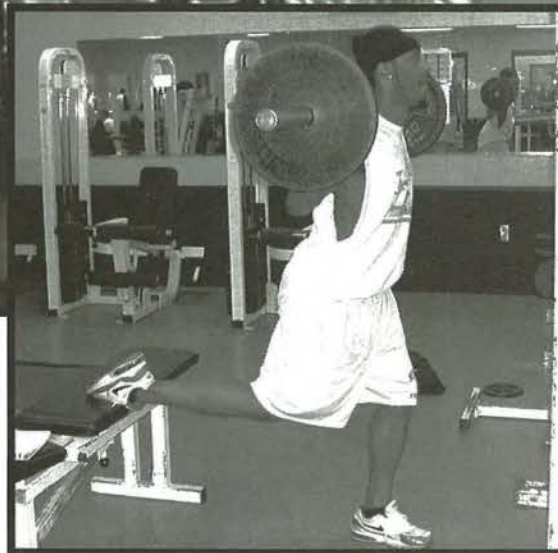


Top: Eating healthier is an important part of losing weight. Students had more choices when companies introduced low fat/low calorie options.

Left: David Burnie lifts weight to strengthen his back and legs. Exercise was important to dieting and helped tone his body.

Middle: Marcus Salmon assists Patrick St. Louis during a touch-crunch workout. Both football players did abdominal workouts to help build endurance.

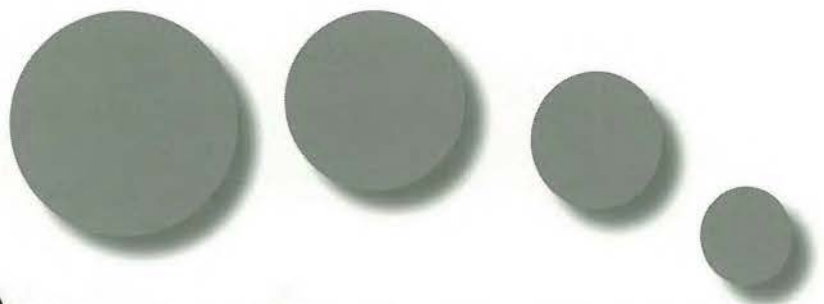
Right: Brett Jones is doing a set of bent over rolls. This exercise helped him build stronger muscles in his back.



# F

Western students are not immune from the diet fad

# FIGHTING THE P



On Western's campus, people love food. Food, on the other hand does not love people, especially their bodies. It was difficult for some college students to get the basic nutrients and exercise that his or her body needed in order to stay in shape and to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Colleges throughout the country had what is known as the "Freshmen 15." "The "Freshmen 15" applied to incoming college freshmen that tended to eat various amounts of junk food, and of course, gain 15 pounds.

Some college students felt the need to go on diets such as Atkins, no carbohydrates diet, Slim Fast and Weight Watchers. With these diets however, exercise was necessary to achieve the ultimate goal of dieting which was to lose weight.

Sophomore Lacy Allen was on the Weight Watchers diet. Weight Watchers had a point system. One received points based on his or her weight. As he or she lost the weight, the points were also taken off. There weren't many restrictions on this diet because it was based on the point system. One did however have to eat healthy foods, and exercise was part of the diet. So did Weight Watchers work for Allen? "It worked; you just try to eat the healthier foods because you can eat more of them for less points," she said.

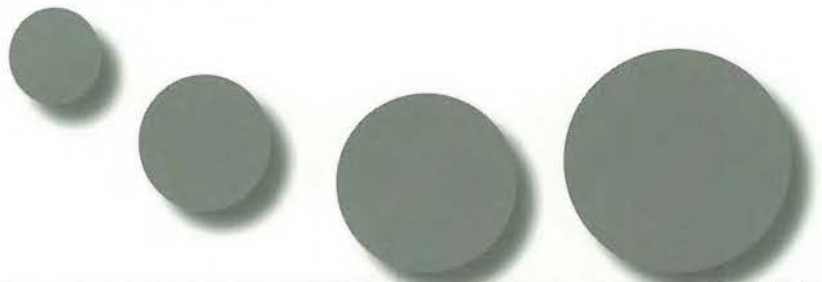
Other college students, such as sophomore Craig Lytle, worked out, but did not maintain a balanced diet. Lytle worked out three times a week, an hour a day at Western's fitness center.

"I work out because I want to have good health and hopefully to live a longer life," Lytle said. "It makes me feel better when I am not just sitting around in my dorm. I don't eat the nutritional foods that I need though because I eat in Western's cafeteria."

Athletes such as Gijon Robinson, a Western football player, ate whatever they wanted. "I work out five days a week for two hours a day; I run twice a week for forty-five minutes, but I usually eat whatever I want," he said. "I do eat a lot of meat such as beef."

Tennis player Rachel Ledbetter, a physical education major, worked out five days a week for an hour a day. "I tend to eat a lot of dairy, especially milk and cheese, but I am not actually on a diet," Ledbetter said.

There were some college students who tried to maintain a healthy lifestyle by eating right and exercising. It was difficult though when one lived on a campus with loads of greasy foods. With the stresses of classes and work, the added on pressure on many college students' minds, generally led them to indulge in food.



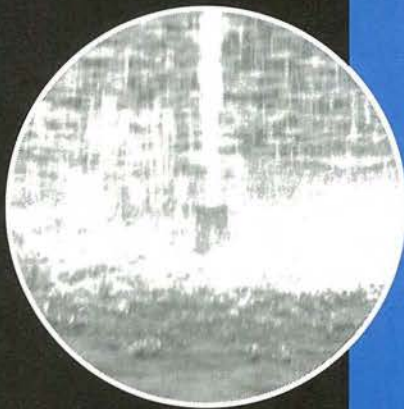
s sweeping the nation

# UNDS

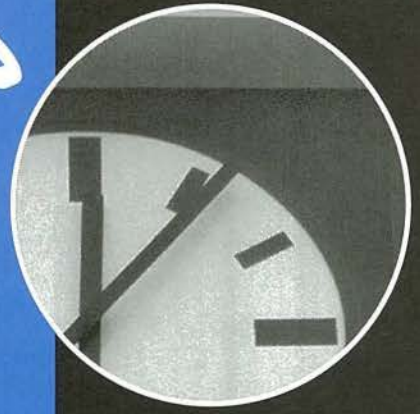
Story by: Amy Chastain Photos by: Jamison Burns

The Glenn E. Marrion Memorial Clock Tower was completed in 1998 and chimes on the hour, every hour. Glenn Marion was a professor emeritus of Engineering Technology. The clock tower was a landmark on campus.

I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



# capture everything



Fountains were amazing inventions. They seemed to draw your inner child back out of its adult hiding place and force it to play again. You're instantly transported back to being five years old again, running through the sprinkler in your front yard.

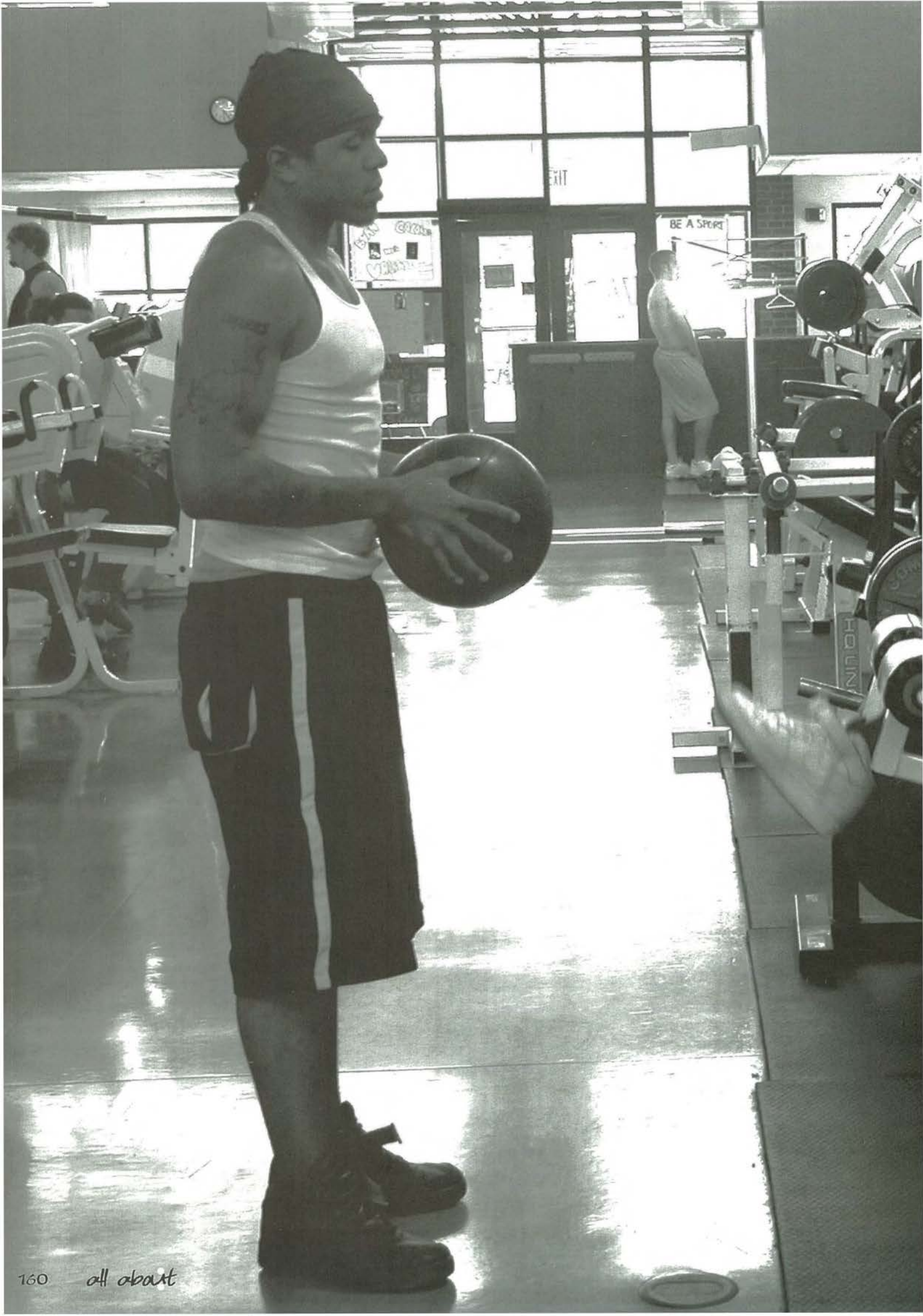
Letters are symbols of pride. They represent your school, your fraternity, sorority or even a group you belong to. Our letters on the west side of campus will be undergoing a facelift as we move into our University status.

# witness

*"Life without a friend is like death without a witness."*

*-Spanish proverb*





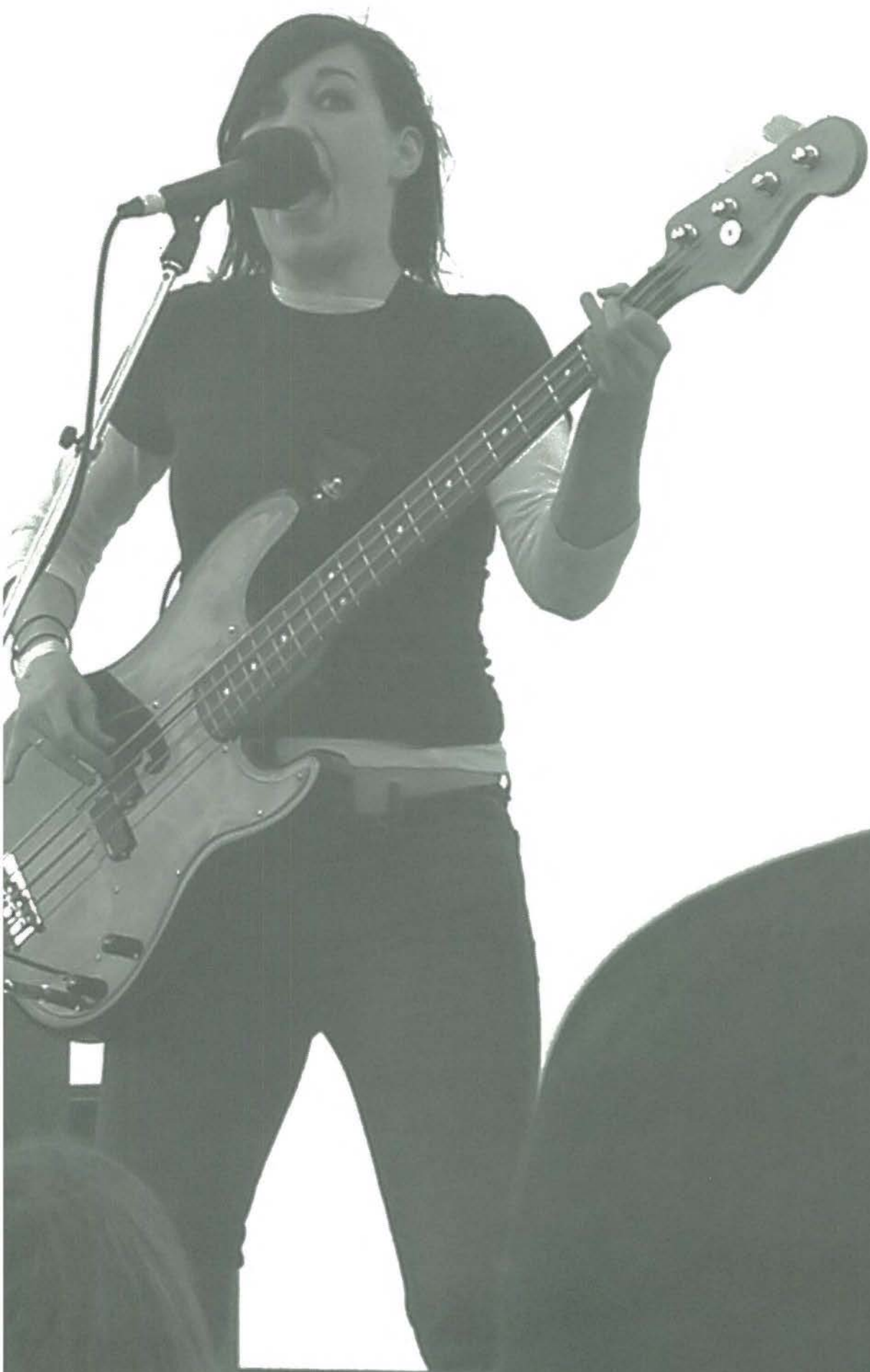
Two Western students workout at the Fitness Center. The medicine ball had been a good way to work out the triceps and biceps  
*Photo by: Sharyn Webb*

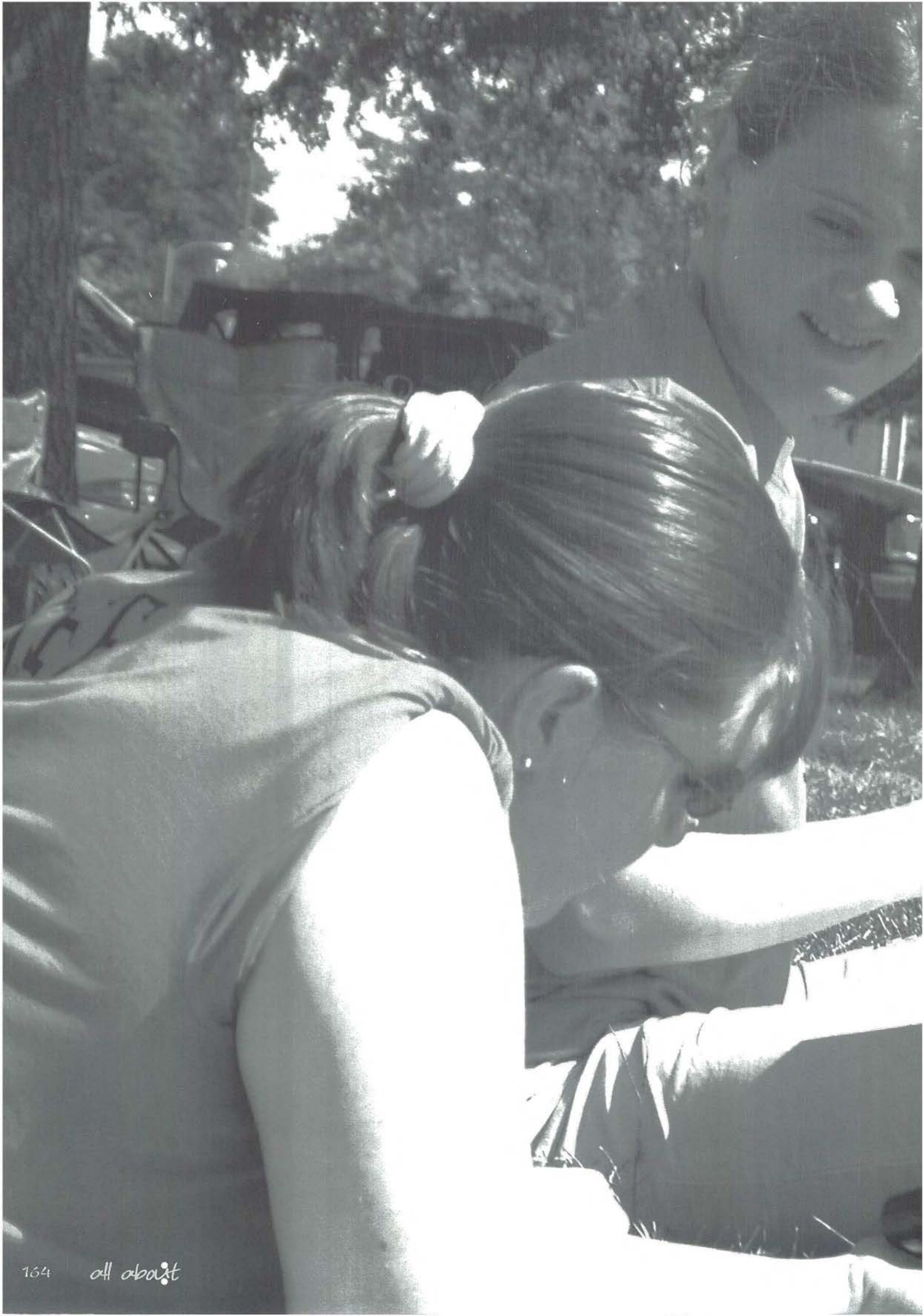


Lead singer from "Flee the Scene" entertains the crowd at the second annual Party-A-Thon. The event helped raise money for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

*Photo by: Luke Gorham*









Phi Mu members Amiee Pike and Sarah Rathburn keep score of their first annual kickball tournament. The Phi Delta Theta fraternity won first place.  
*Photo by: Sharyn Webb*



Christiana Hanson prepares her camera for a shoot. The communication department was one of the largest departments on campus.  
*Photo by: Sharyn Webb*



Panasonic



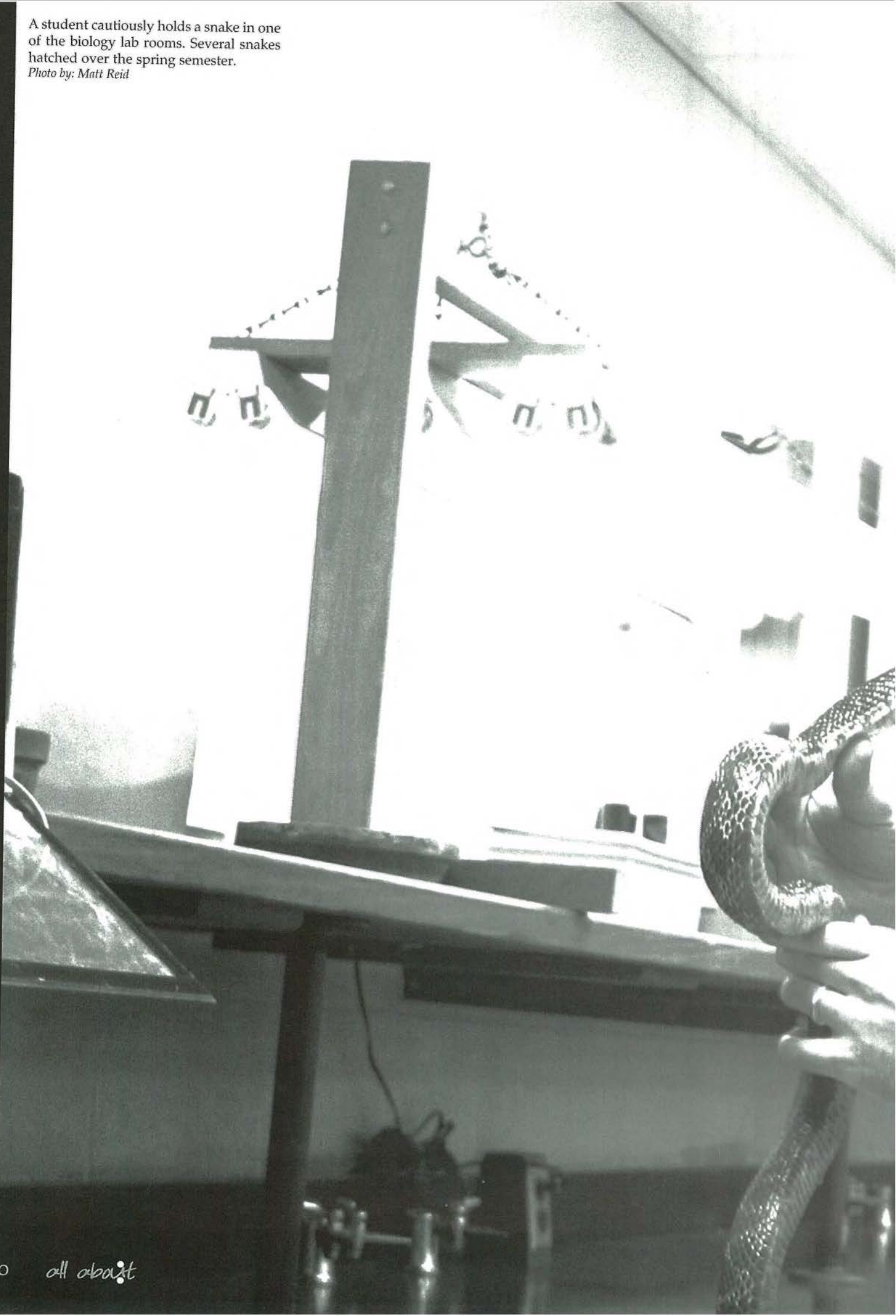
The fountain in front of the Student Services and Classrooms building is one of the first things people see when coming from the entrance off Mitchell. The SSC was one of the first buildings that was built on the campus.

*Photo by: Jeremy Weikel*





A student cautiously holds a snake in one of the biology lab rooms. Several snakes hatched over the spring semester.  
*Photo by: Matt Reid*





"I'm from a small town of 100 people. I graduated first in my class of 17. When I came to Missouri Western, it was a big change for me. I was used to knowing everyone and being involved in everything. That was my biggest challenge; pushing myself to get involved, which I did and I love every second of it. Coming to MWSC has been a wonderful experience for me!"

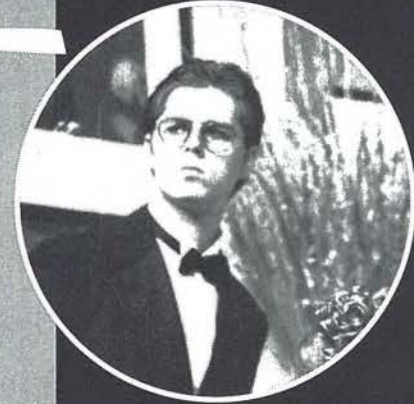
-Brooke Atha

"I just like to be myself. If you like it, fine. If not, that is fine too."

-Steven Hickman



# me and only me



"All my life, I have challenged the norms of female existence...I am currently the only girl within a department of over 30 male percussionists, and my quest to challenge won't stop with graduation! Instead, I intend to pursue my passions and dreams studying auto mechanics, eventually opening my own repair shop (complete with pink-overalls!) Being a female has never limited my goals; instead it motivated me to actively challenge the beliefs and norms of society."

-Erika Lipiec

"Everyone knows me from the weight room as being the guy with the baseball cap. I've been people literally walk right by me on campus and not recognize me without my cap on. I'm not you're typical college student. I don't drink; I'm too much of a health nut. I actually enjoy getting up at 5 a. m. for physical training and ROTC three days a week. I'm also one of the three shooters on the DPU firearms team, oddly enough, I'm the only one not old enough to buy my own ammo."

-Stewart Brought

# personalities

"The fact is that all of us only have one personality, and we wring it out like a dish towel. You are what you are."

-S.J. Perelman

"Life is too short to live the same day twice"

-Monster-in-Law

A man with a unique history Lutfee Atieh arrived in the United States in January of 1991. A Western student with an eastern background, Lutfee was born on May 1, 1984 in Kuwait City where he lived with his father and mother and later on two brothers. When building tension between Iraq and Kuwait turned violent toward civilians, Lutfee's father Saleh decided it was time to flee the country for his family's safety.

Lutfee told the story of his frantic trip to America. The family of five loaded up their small car with what belongings they could grab and some supplies from a local store, which consisted of mainly watermelons and water. They traveled day and night across the desert avoiding military checkpoints and bribing soldiers with what little money and food they had. Upon reaching Jordan, Lutfee's mother Stephanie and her three sons took a plane to Kansas City, Mo., and then traveled by car to Stephanie's grandparents house in rural Stewartsville, Mo. Saleh would rejoin his family a year later, after the attempt of reviving his business in Kuwait City seemed hopeless.

Once Saleh was back with his family in the States, they moved to St. Joseph where Lutfee began elementary school.

"We moved back to Stewartsville, when there was an outbreak of LSD on the back of lick-and-stick tattoos, or something; I was pretty young and just remembered how worried my mom was," Lutfee said. "I attended Stewartsville C-2 School from first through tenth grade."

When Lutfee was young he enjoyed all sorts of activities. He was a Boy Scout and played little league baseball and school related sports such as football and track.

# Lutfee



"Lutfee was always fun to have on the team, he always had a story to tell, and boy could he run," Joe Buhman, one of Lutfee's little league coaches, said.

Lutfee moved to St. Joseph to complete high school at Central and work for his Dad as a Director of Technical Support at the American College of I.T. (Information Technologies). The change of location and newfound income spurred ambitions in the aspiring technician. At the time, he was driving an early '90s, poly chromatic Ford Probe, with more problems than attributes.

"That car was a piece..." Lutfee said. "I bought a bra for the front wrap to hide some body damage, and I ended up having to fill it with foam just to give it a decent shape."

That car was the beginning of a quest for Lutfee, a quest to succeed and strive for a high standard of living.

Lutfee attended Missouri Western and majored in business/marketing. Staying involved throughout college, he decided to rush Phi Delta Theta and became the vice-president his junior year.

He loved traveling to other countries and taking flight lessons during the summer months, along with volunteering at Camp Quality. Lutfee eventually upgraded his ride to a well-earned BMW 328 IS, which was a big step forward from where he had started.

A well-known man on campus, Lutfee was one of the few who needed no last name. He enjoyed school, enjoyed being active and still enjoyed running.

# Atieh



:angel a smith



# Ready or not, here she comes; how Angie plans to conquer the world

Story by: Jenny Olson   Photos by: Jenny Jones



Smith: ordinary name, not so ordinary person. The woman behind the name, Angie Smith, was a successful businesswoman who made it to the top. Most students struggled to find the right career for them right after graduation, but not Smith.

After graduating from Missouri Western in December 2004, Smith became a full-time sales representative for the company Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. Smith was lucky enough to know what she was going to do straight out of college since her internship was with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

"I was elated, overwhelmed and in disbelief when I found out that they had hired me," Smith said. "My manager sent me an offer letter in October, so I knew I had a job before I graduated, that was a huge stress relief."

She was determined to stand out above the rest, especially with her training, once she was hired. Pfizer training was an intense program that lasted for 18 months.

"For the first week, I had to read a bunch of books and take five to six tests within seven days," Smith said. "During this time you are taking tests everyday and you have to pass with an 80 percent or you are out the door, so it was very stressful."

However, Smith didn't find her dream job right away. "Actually, I first interned with Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technology for three summers in the Human Resources department and realized that sitting behind a desk all day was not for me," Smith said.

Smith's success followed her wherever she went. She participated in a numerous amount of events while at Missouri Western for four and a half years. She was involved in The Ebony Collegians, Student Government Association, Learning Assistant for housing, Griffon Edge Leader and the Griffon Yearbook.

Western senior Diamikia White had known Smith for about two years. White was nothing but happy for her close friend.

"I think Angie was an essential part of Missouri Western and personally she was a role model to me," White said.

Taking so much on in college eventually helped her out with her career. "Having various leadership roles on campus allowed me to become much more mature and business savvy," Smith said.

The transition from college to the "real world" was difficult for Smith, but she managed to overcome the struggles.

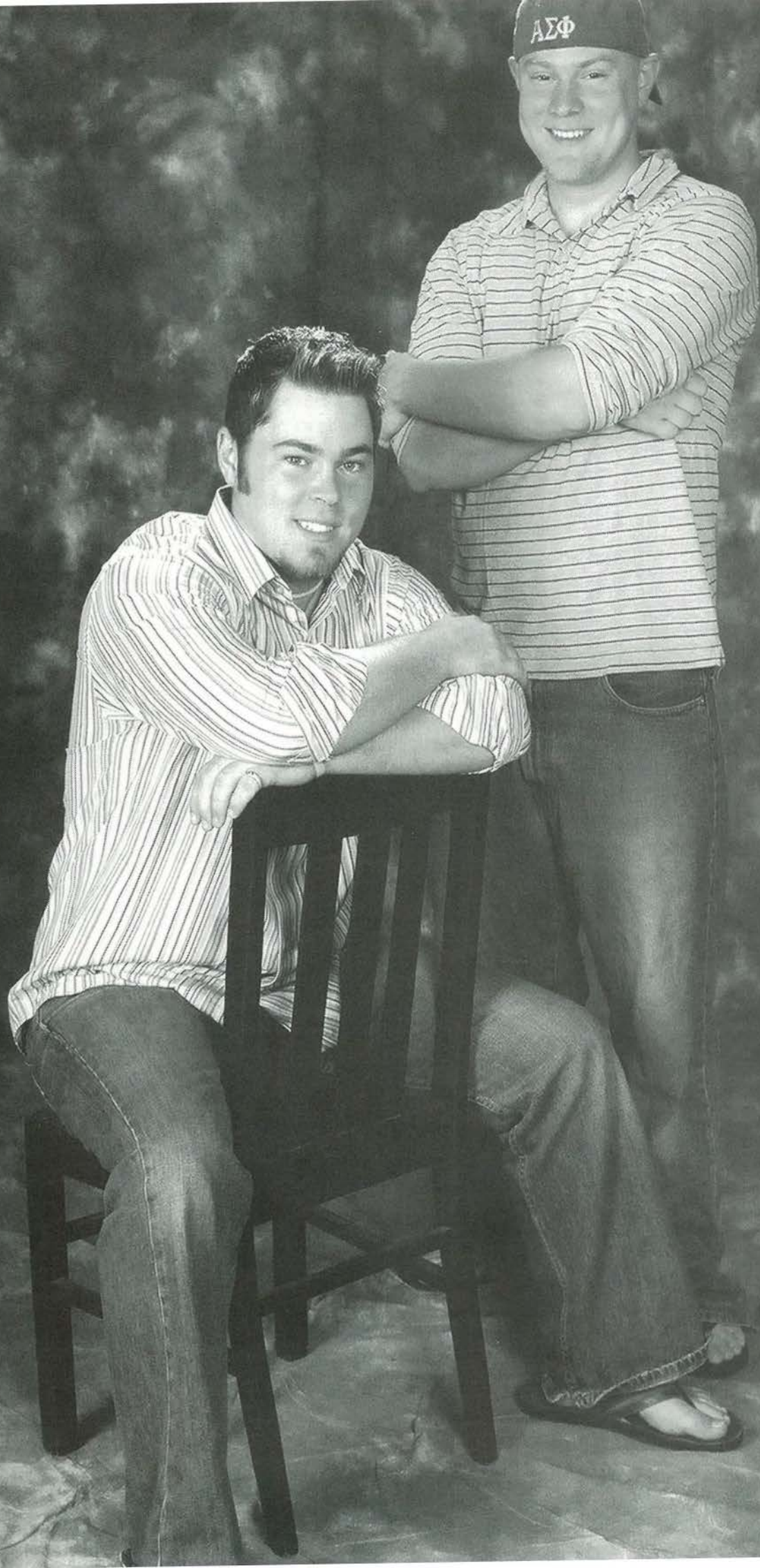
Smith advised upcoming graduates to figure out what they like when picking a career. She said that to be successful one needed to lead not follow and not be afraid of failing.

"Failing is sometimes the greatest success because you can learn so much from the low points in life," Smith said. "Be your own person, make good decisions, learn from your mistakes, be patient, keep God first, always give back to others and good things will happen in your life."



# !!Haaahr Brothers

Story by: Jared Herrin    Photos by: Jenn Hughes



# Elijah and Noah

same school, same fraternity, same organizations,  
same last name: two totally different men

---

Simon and Garfunkel. Siskel and Ebert. Venus and Serena. A lot of great people come in pairs, and this also occurred at Missouri Western. Take for example the case of Elijah and Noah Haahr, two brothers, who are only a year apart, have stuck together since they were kids.

"We grew up in the same room all the way up until the beginning of last summer," Elijah said. "Obviously we are really, really close."

The two separated when Elijah decided to move off-campus, while Noah remained on-campus, but that didn't stop the two from remaining present in each other's lives. "We're always discussing ideas and things we'd like to see happen with the Student Government Association," Elijah said. He was elected the SGA president.

Growing up, the duo, like many brothers, was competitive, but unlike most brothers, it wasn't a winner-take-all type of competition.

"We're competitive, but we respect each other," Noah said. "Though when it comes to competing for the same thing, we're just as competitive as anyone else."

Noah and Elijah were both founding fathers of Alpha Sigma Phi, but it took a bit of convincing on the part of Elijah to get Noah to take the leap into the Greek world.

"Elijah was going to the meetings at first and I wasn't," Noah said. "I was like 'I'm not interested in a fraternity,' but, Elijah kept saying, 'Just come to one meeting,' so I went to one, and from then on I wanted to be in it."

Elijah wanted to share the experience with his brother. "I was the first president of the fraternity, and I thought my brother has got to be in it," he said.

Between being active in a fraternity and the SGA, the two sometimes found it hard to find leisure time, but it was the hectic pace that the brothers enjoyed.

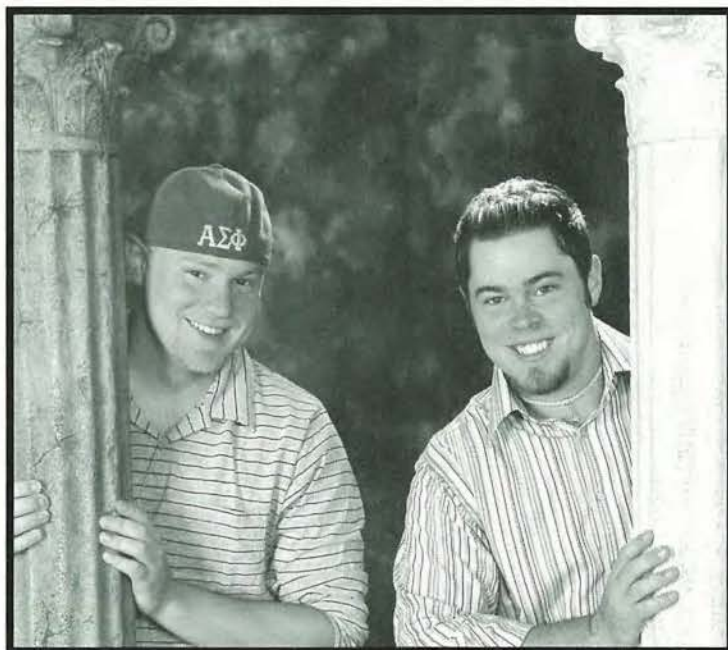
"When people ask 'what do you do for fun' I say 'hey, I have fun being Student Government President,'" Elijah said. "I know it's a lot of work, but at the same time that's where a lot of your fun comes in."

Noah liked being social. "Most of the time, I'm done with everything I have to do by 10 or 11 p.m., and for the next hour or two I just go hang out with different people that I know," he said.

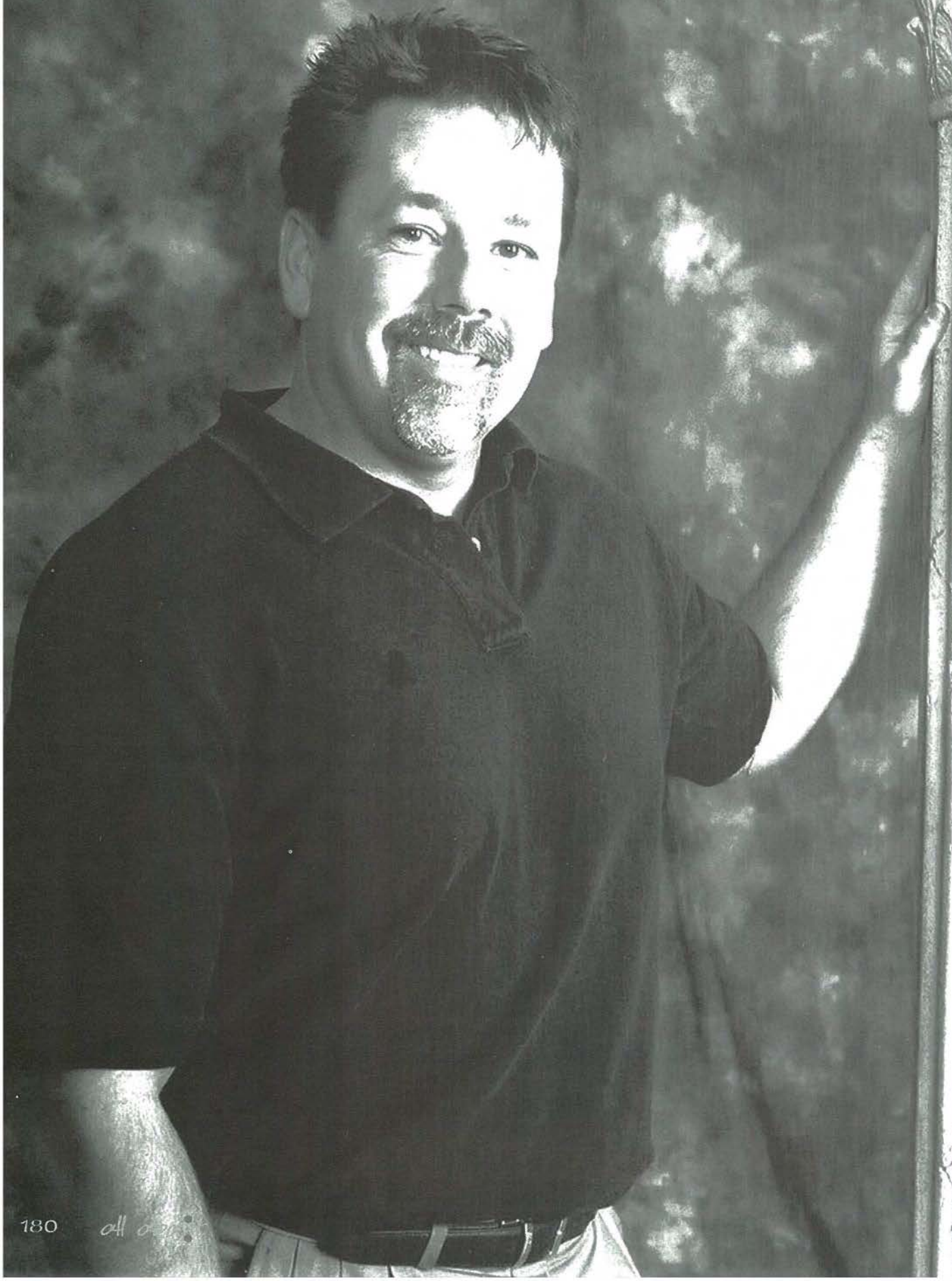
Noah, who was elected Homecoming king and was Residence Council president, held his positions with pride, but didn't really make a big deal about them.

"When I won Homecoming King, I thought it really wasn't about me," Noah said. "It just so happens that all the different people that supported me are from different organizations that I've been involved in. It's not like I'm king; I'm so special."

So, maybe they aren't adored by hippies everywhere, or haven't coined a catchphrase about a thumb, or don't rule the tennis courts, but the way Noah and Elijah Haahr worked together, it was only a matter of time before they outshined all the others.



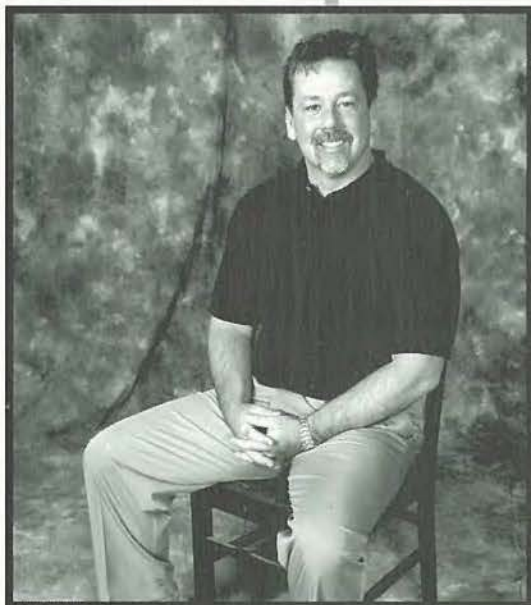
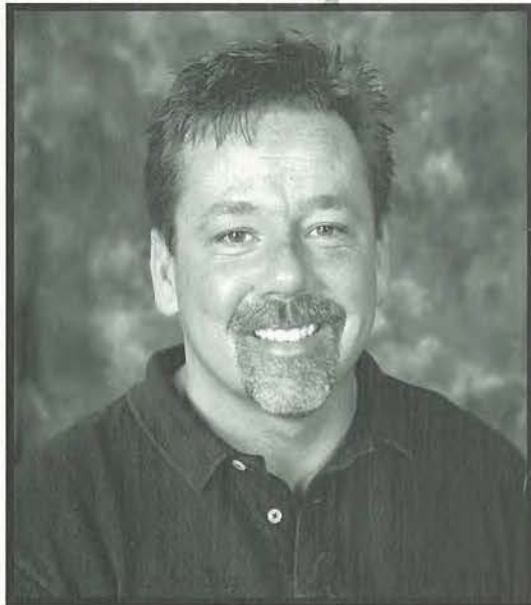
:greg kriewitz



# A humble man who would never admit he is a hero

Story by: Mitchell Buhman

Photos by: Jen Hughes



On the outside, physical education department instructor Greg Kriewitz seemed like any ordinary person, but beneath the surface lied something deeper. Aside from being an educator, Kriewitz had accumulated various other titles during his normal, yet fascinating life. Along with completing his master's degree and being a devoted husband, father and friend, he was also a conductor, a welder and a motorcycle enthusiast.

Instructional Media Director Max Schlesinger thought that Kriewitz was an excellent instructor.

"He is very conscientious about his content, and he presents it in a way that it can easily be understood," Schlesinger said. "Greg is also very interested in his students, and he is certainly an advocate for them."

Kriewitz spent the early part of his youth in the Ozarks where his father worked with the Missouri Conservation Department. He later moved with his parents to Bethany, Mo., where he attended school at South Harrison High. That is where he met Wendy, his high school sweetheart who he married and later shared a daughter, Lauren. "I was 15 and she was 13, and we have been together ever since," Kriewitz said.

After high school Kriewitz spent one year at Trenton Jr. College, one year at Western and finished his Bachelors of Science and Masters at Central Missouri State University. After college he was employed by the Burlington Northern railway where he took on a position as a welder and later became a conductor. In 1998 he was contacted by Western and informed of a job opening in the physical education department. Kriewitz jumped at the opportunity and began his career as an instructor that fall.

On April 2, 2004 Kriewitz added another title to his list: Hero. Although he humbly maintained that the term didn't apply to him, most others believed it did. On that morning he was driving to Western from his home in Bethany. He was on U.S. Highway 36 when a classic truck passed him quickly. The truck then slowed down in front of him. "I remember admiring the old truck, and then wondering why it was slowing down," Kriewitz said.

Apparently the truck had slowed because of a swerving car in front of him. The car then jerked to the right and back to the left and rolled into the median. Kriewitz immediately parked his car and without hesitation ran to the upside-down burning car and rescued the young man that had been driving.

The young man's name was Matt Ayers. Ayers was a senior at Hamilton high school at the time and was on his way to an orthodontist appointment that morning when he fell asleep at the wheel. Ayres didn't suffer any life threatening injuries, but was kept off the links for the end of his high school golf season with his damaged leg.

Ironically, the following fall, Ayers enrolled in Kriewitz's PED 101 class. "Matt was one of the best students I have ever had, I don't think he ever missed a class," Kriewitz said.

Ayers was grateful that Kriewitz happened to be behind him that morning because he wasn't sure if anybody else would have stopped to pull him from the burning car.

"Not only is he a great instructor, he is a really fun guy," Ayers said. "He is always there to help students, and he was there when I needed help the most."

Whether he wanted to accept it or not Kriewitz received the title of hero. "I wasn't trying to be a hero, I was just trying to help," he said.

# Bob Hughes

Story by: Lindsay Moyer      Photos by: Jenn Hughes



# Bob Hughs

## The man who didn't stop until the college became Missouri Western State University

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New faces arrive on Western's campus each semester along with the executive board of the Student Government Association. The positions elected each spring were no different. The battle for each position was very fierce. Positions on the executive board were paid based on the level. The student regent position was the only one not paid a salary.

Knowing that no money would be involved, who would want to fill such a position? This person was Bob Hughs. Not only did Hughs attend classes as a non-traditional student and obtain the student regent position, Hughs was struggling to make time for his wife and child.

Hughs also worked on the Saint Joseph School Board, which made attending classes at the college difficult at times trying to balance time to work. Even though the student regent was not paid, there were many advantages to holding such a position. "My position is created by State Legislation in which SGA cannot tell me how to perform my job," Hughs said.

During his term, Hughs was a huge factor into Western becoming a University. He started work during the summer of 2004 where he began talking to students to help with the long process ahead. He found people to help him in areas he was unfamiliar with. Hughs, along with Rob Martin, spoke with over 800 students face to face about the changes that would occur with the campus.

Luke Herrington, Nancy Deidrick and Hughs wrote 30 different variations of letters along with Brian Perrish who made randomized letters so each letter would not look the same. After the letters were finished students, such as Luke Gorham, helped put all of the letters into envelopes to be sent to the Senators. There was a letter for each member of the Senate.

After the bill was passed, there were letters sent to the Senators that voted against the bill being passed. Many changes took place among the campus, although Western had been operating in university style for previous years.

The effort enabled the bill to pass faster. "Our message was that we were not going to let them get away," Hughs said.

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The efforts put forth by Hughs and others may have seemed vast, but the end product of our campus as a university was a huge ordeal. Hughs efforts influenced others to become more involved throughout the campus.

"I love working with Bob because he was so passionate and so motivating with the people he worked with," Gorham said. "Bob is very goal orientated and very well at swaying peoples' opinions. This is something that all great leaders should have."

With all of the obstacles the group overcame, the outcome affected everyone, especially Hughs and his family. "The campus should thank my wife for putting up with me being gone all the time," Hughs said.





:brent corey



# Opposite ends of the spectrum come together under Corey's direction

Story by: LaQuitta Alexander    Photos by: Jenn Hughes



A man with two passions that were completely different, sophomore Brent Corey was involved with both history and theater. A history major with a minor in theater, Corey directed his first play at Western in the spring. He wanted to direct the play "Sylvia" because he thought the story was hilarious and would be a great show to put on.

The members of Alpha Psi Omega voted on a play to perform every spring. Facing a lot of competition, Corey's play received the majority of votes, which meant many others thought the play was comical as well.

"I was pleased when I found out I was going to be directing the play," Corey said. "I enjoy acting, but it is less hands on and more do as you're told. I definitely like working backstage more than acting."

When Corey came to Western, he couldn't decide what he wanted to do, so he did both.

"I plan to go to grad school and teach history," Corey said. "When I came up to Missouri Western I got involved in theater. I like to play around with the film stuff, but I always loved history."

When Corey wasn't studying history, he was making his own. His first directing experience was an event he learned from and would take with him after he graduated. He took the responsibilities of his first directing gig very serious, while having fun at the same time.

"I'm working with a great group of people," Corey said. "I don't like to think of myself as the boss man; we work as a team."

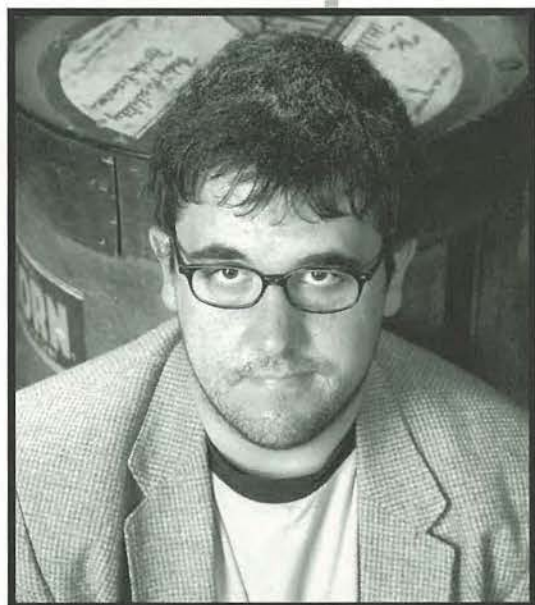
Besides directing, Corey also did a video film project and was the stage manager for two plays. "I pretty much spend all my time in the FA building," Corey said.

One of Corey's close friends Joshua Berry was impressed with Corey's intelligence and thought he was a character.

"He's kind of hard to explain," Berry said. "I've never met anyone like him; he's got a really, really good sense of humor and cares a lot about his friends. He is really smart, knows all his history and he's pretty crazy."

Stacie Batchelar described Corey as a hard worker, and he was committed to his projects.

"He is a very strong-willed guy," Batchelar said. "Although he's kind of quiet, he's dependable and if he says he's going to do something he's going to do it."



# ●● Kelli Pyle

Story by: Amy Chastain Photos by: J McBee Studios



# Kelli Pyle

## Western student has one aspiration in mind, to outshine all the rest, and she is on her way

Singing at an after party for the well-known pop artist Usher and the national anthem for former vice president Dick Cheney didn't seem like the normal life for a 21-year-old college student. Western student Kelli Pyle was not a typical 21-year-old. She experienced things that a typical 21-year-old would never get a chance to do in a lifetime.

With influences such as the vocal stylings of Christina Aguilera, India Arie, Usher and Billy Holiday, Pyle considered herself a rhythm and blues (R&B) and jazz singer.

Growing up, Pyle was an outdoorsy kind of girl. She loved to paint, dance, figure skate and, of course, sing.

"I love competing. My first public appearance was at a talent contest when I was 12, but I didn't win," Pyle said. "I was upset, but I didn't let it discourage me. I just kept doing my own thing."

Starting from the age of 12, Pyle discovered her passion of singing. She turned professional when she was just 15 and became involved in choir during high school. She also attended the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. From there, she decided to attend Western.

Pyle, a music minor, worked very hard to get to where she was. She was close with her mother Bobbi who was also her manager. Pyle started recording her own music at an independent studio in Cameron, Mo.

"When I first started singing, I decided that I wanted to write my own music," Pyle said. "I couldn't imagine singing anything else but that; I want people to connect with my music."

With college, singing and work Pyle found it hard to do other things she enjoyed. "I find it very hard to make time for myself," she said. "While I am a college student, I still have to keep up with my singing. As for work, I do need the money."

With singing came commitment, and Pyle knew that from the beginning. Throughout 2004 and 2005, she appeared on MTV, performed the national anthem for

former vice president Dick Cheney, sang at an after party in Tampa Bay, Fla. for Usher, and sang with Alicia Keys. She was also a member of Western's Concert Chorale and sang with Western's Steel Drum Band.

"It takes a lot of work in dealing with this business," Pyle said. "You face rejections every day, but at the end of the day there is always going to be one yes. I have gotten to where I am by making connections and working with people."

The future looked bright for Pyle. She already put out a CD and began working on her second one. She knew that for her, life wasn't too bad.

"I am so lucky to be where I am right now," she said. "I owe a big portion of my career to my mom. She has been such an inspiration. I hope that there will be more opportunities out there waiting for me."

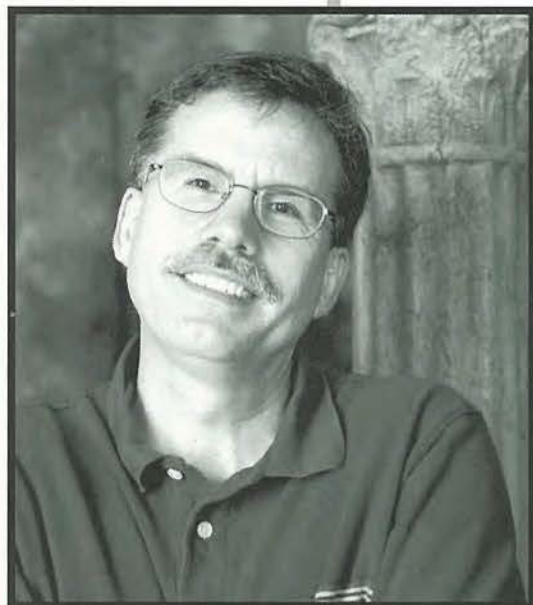


# :dave tushaus



# Making a difference with no strings attached

Story by: Melissa Scarce and Jenny Olson  
Photos by: Jenn Hughes



"I didn't want to work for just money," professor/attorney David Tushaus said. "The legal profession is a very challenging and rewarding profession, if in it for the right reasons."

An associate professor of legal studies, Tushaus had been at Western full-time since 1999. He was also an advisor of the legal studies association where he helped out with fundraisers and other activities.

When Tushaus was not teaching he worked with Legal Aid and did some pro bono work on the side.

"I do some individual representation that Legal Aid refers to me like unemployment compensation and consumer projects," Tushaus said. "I also do some more broad-based public service work."

Tushaus was an attorney at Legal Aid from 1985-1999, and he liked working with college students.

"At Legal Aid I had an opportunity to supervise practicum students from Missouri Western," he said. "I tried to encourage students to do public service legal work."

As an undergraduate, the associate professor went to the University of Missouri-Columbia and received his master's and juris doctorate degree at the University of Iowa. He knew he wanted to make a difference.

"When I decided to go to law school I was interested in public service. I knew that I wanted to make a difference," Tushaus said. "While in Iowa, I worked at clinics that were set up for working with people with no money. The experience was rewarding and challenging, yet sometimes discouraging and disappointing."

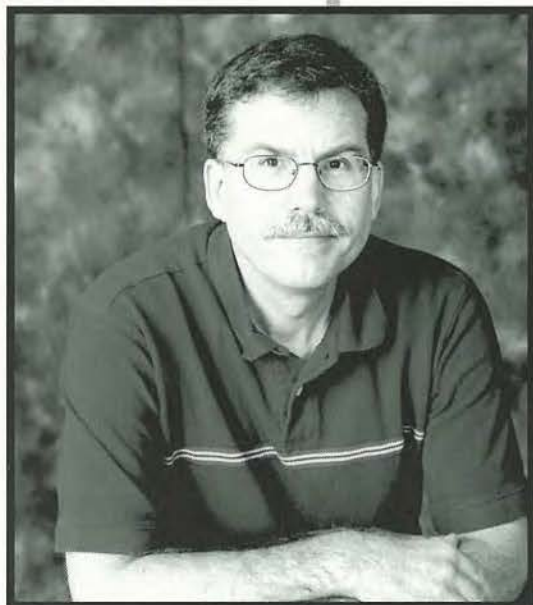
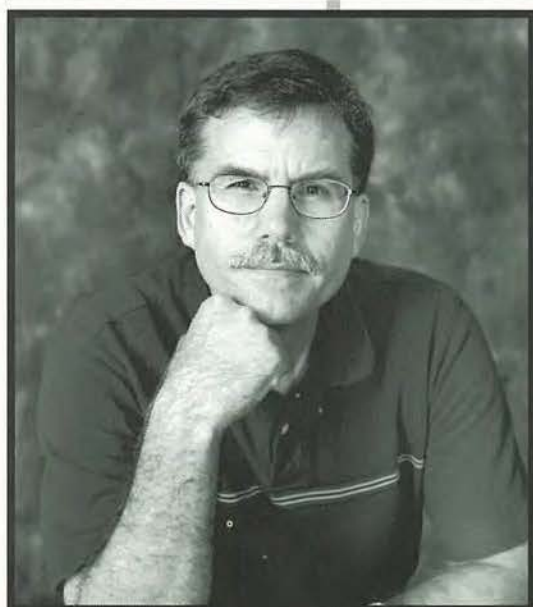
Since 1999, Missouri Western had been like a second home to Tushaus. He enjoyed working with the legal studies/criminal justice department. "People are easy to work with and I have a lot of freedom in professional development endeavors," he said.

Former student, Melinda Troeger credits most of her success to Tushaus. "I remember telling him more than once that he was being harder on the students he knew were going to law school." Troeger said. "I now know Dave was not being harder on me because he knew I was going to law school. He was being harder on me because he knew I was capable of more. I really appreciated this once I got to law school."

It was Tushaus's encouragement and guidance that set him apart from the stereotypical lawyer/professor. "Dave has high expectations for all his students." Troeger said. "He also deeply cares about them. It is this combination that makes us want to succeed."

Professor of legal studies Joanne Katz had known Tushaus since he was the director of Legal Aid. "It's because of Dave I served on the board for several years, since then, I have worked pretty close with him," Katz said. "Dave is really committed to students and the quality of the program."

The secretary of the legal studies/criminal justice department Barb Harris enjoyed working with Tushaus. "He has a very funny, dry sense of humor," Harris said. "He is very knowledgeable in his area and puts time into helping his students."



# Alchemist Club



Row 1: LeeAnn Schuster, Cindy Peters, Janessa Hovey  
 Row 2: Nathan Miller, Shellney Oehlert

# Alpha Gamma Delta



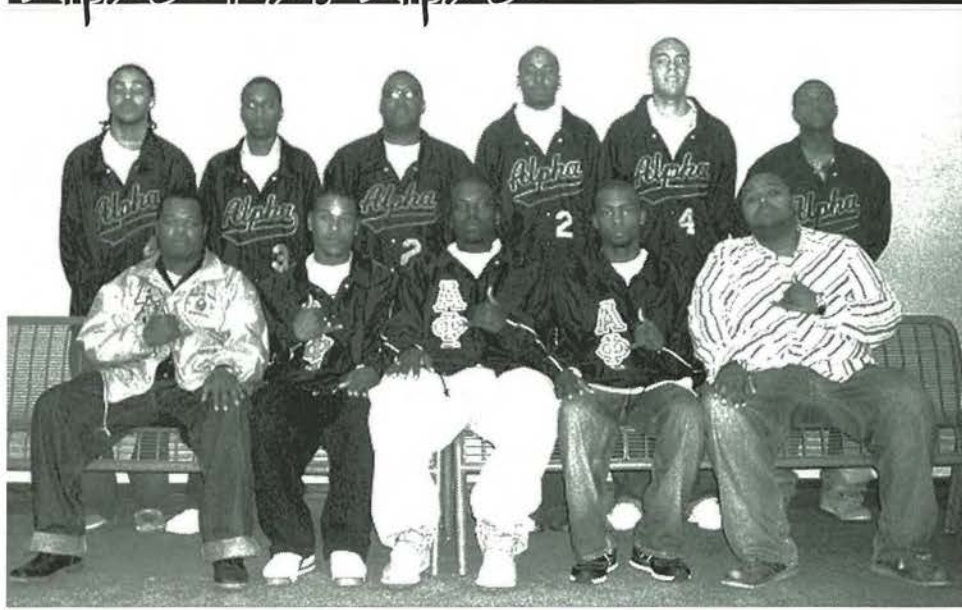
Row 1: Laura Peschong, Ashley Rockhold, Janessa Hovey, Jess McKinzie, Erin Wilson, Devon Kilgore  
 Row 2: Elissa Thomas, Alicia Schmielgal, Lauren Tsutsumi, Ashley Skidmore, Heather Porter, Jamie Goodall

# Alpha Kappa Psi



Row 1: Marcus T. Shobe, Stasi Reid, Ashley Falter, Rebecca Kuehn  
 Row 2: Dewanda Weeks, Eric Gee, Amanda Roe

# Alpha Phi Alpha



Row 1: Whitney Prim, Kenneth Cheacle, Darrell Henderson, Tyson Malone, Anthony Dixon  
 Row 2: Chauncey Mayfield, Darren Moten, Chon Walters, Reginald Martin, Andrew Weeden, Michael Calhoun

The Sigma Kappa chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated had an exceptional year. From hosting educational events, to throwing programs and serving the community, these men demonstrated the true meaning of brotherhood on campus.

Reginald Martin served as the 2004-2005 president for the Alphas. Martin was pleased with the activities and events his organization was able to provide for the students.

"Being a member of a fraternity, people sometimes have negative views or preconceived stereotypes of what our organization stands for," Martin said. "It's important to host educational forums and open discussion to show that we are leaders on campus, and we stand for way more than just partying."

One of the educational programs entitled "The Cycle Part 1 & 2" targeted the poverties, struggles and condemnations of young African-American males.

"'The Cycle' was one of our deepest discussions," Martin said. "It was deep because it gave young black men on this campus the confidence they need to overcome the challenges and obstacles that they face."

The Alphas also helped out the community by doing several different projects. "I think one of the sites we really had fun at was when we went to the La Petite Academy Daycare for Halloween," Martin said. "We helped build our very own haunted house and the kids really loved it."

Other programs the Alphas hosted included their annual "Egyptian Step Show" as well as the "Miss Black and Gold Pageant."

Andrew Weeden, past president of the Sigma Kappa chapter, was pleased with the members of the chapter as well as their dedication.

"Our chapter has grown and the commitment we have to the chapter has grown with it," Weeden said. "Our chapter will continue to grow and continue to exceed expectations."

# Alpha Sigma Alpha



Row 1: Katy Schwartz, Ella Howser, Johnna Thomas, Michelle Delaney  
 Row 2: Tiffany Zimmerman, Jessica Burgess, Tabby Larson, Jessica White, Nicolle Benjamin, Amanda Geno  
 Row 3: Erica Hidritch, Nicole Couch, Jennifer McKinley, Kristen Silcott, Whitney Smith, Alie Koile



# Alpha Sigma Phi



Row 1: Nick Thyfault, Adam Vader, Randale Gifford, Jr., Noah Haahr, Jeff Knapp, Jeff Winn, Luca Vollmer, Rich Crowe Row 2: Ben Elliot, Rob Martin, Don Lawrence III, Lance Cornelius, Elijah Haahr, James Wheeler, Anthony Widhalm, Brandon Todd, Cody Wise, Seth Logston

# Campus Activities Board



Row 1: Daniel Davis, Dochelle Kernel, Tasha Mitchell  
Row 2: Harvey Jackson, Lucas Gorham, Alicia Falter, LaSilvia Franklin, Erica Neier, Gannon Engelken  
Row 3: Marcus Shobe, Megan Boggs, Summer Love, Lacey Merrell, Johnnell Young, Becky Monnig, Ciarra Leathers, Camille Lewis

# Christian Campus Fellowship



Row 1: Jerome Bailey, Mike Mitchell  
Row 2: Laurell Gatrost, Bryana Harrah, Jenny Davidson, Dayna Rehr, Brittany Mattis, Seth Jenl, Jared Pickerell, Adam Kirschner, Aaron Dunn  
Row 3: Stacey Hollis, Angel Cline, Kari Snyder, Kelsi Fairley, Sarah Chenoweth, Alicia Bowl, Tammy Liebersbach, Kyler Keith, Ian Cole, Ma Pankeiwicz, Samuel Stanley, Ryan Hardie, Meg Boone, Gretchen Kunkle  
Row 4: Katie Barkman, Jerry Merrill, Craig Moore, Wiley Davis, Stacy Starbuck, Megan Clark, Kyle Lowe, Zach Ryun, Joseph Davis, Jason Briscoe, Andy Ewing, Justin Amos, Nathan Whitmer, Brian Graves

# Delta Phi Upsilon



Row 1: Seth Brackman, Sarah Stout, Ashley Smith, Mindy Swartz, Melissa Scarce, Amber Clutter, Jason Smith  
Row 2: Mike O'Neal, LeeAnn Fann, Samantha Morrison, Ryan Frick, Stewart Brought, Jared Musser, Nathan Miller

Delta Phi Upsilon was the local chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association – Lambda Alpha Epsilon. Delta Phi Upsilon was a co-ed professional fraternity committed to helping its members excel in the criminal justice field. Each year, members traveled to their Regional and National conferences all over the United States. This year, Delta Phi Upsilon's Regional Conference was held in Omaha, Neb., and the National Conference was held in Memphis, Tenn. Members took part in a variety of competitions at each conference. They completed written tests dealing with Police Administration, Juvenile Delinquency, Criminal Law, Corrections, and ACJA-LAE Knowledge. There were also competitions held including a Firearms team, physical agility course, and a talent/lip sync contest.

Delta Phi Upsilon took part in several fundraisers to finance their trips to conferences along with several campus activities and community service. They actively took part in Homecoming and Family Day in the fall and Criminal Justice Day in the spring. Delta Phi Upsilon also took part in highway clean up and volunteered to spend time with children at the Salvation Army's after school program as well as co-sponsoring a Walk for Fallen Heros in April.

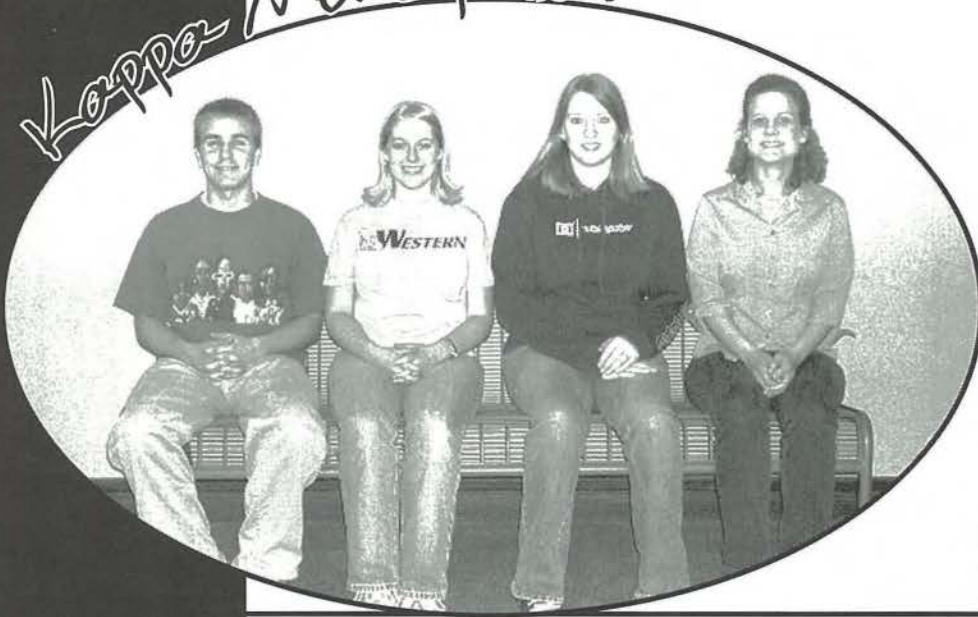
Delta Phi Upsilon's faculty advisor was Jill Ann Miller. Officers for 2004-2005 were Ashley Smith, president; Melissa Scarce, vice president and Sarah Stout, secretary/treasurer.

# Delta Sigma Theta



Row 1: Candice Day, Kelly Lee, Janel Jamison, Lea Bryant, Summer Cleaver  
Row 2: LaShelle Gray, LaQuitta Alexander, Kimbra Johnson, Shanan Finley, Keisha Jackson

# Kappa Nu Epsilon



Daniel Cassity, Heater Goforth, Whitney Lowrey  
Amy Pankau

# Griffon Habitat



Row 1: Tresa Ptaszuk, Steve Robinette, Amanda Gruber, LeeAnn Schuster  
Row 2: Ashley Falter, Natalie Bailey, Alicia Falter, Kair Snyder, Rebecca Kuehn

# Griffon News Staff



Row 1: Kelli Hovey  
Row 2: Cecelia Pecora, Ashley Hannah, Noll Underwood  
Row 3: Rikki Cason, Rachel Euchner, Kathy Crawford, Danford Compton, Jaime Woolard, Jay Shirley  
Row 4: Advisor Ken Rosenauer, Jared Herrin, Ma Reid, Leslie Payne, Brad Redmond, Ross marti Nick Draper, LaQuitta Alexander, Sarah O'Dell

# Griffon Yearbook Staff



Row 1: Ashley Bacon, Jenny Olson, Melissa Scearce, Jason Chen  
 Row 2: Diamikia White, Jenn Hughes, Tanisha Washington, Ella Howser, Advisor Ann Thorne  
 Row 3: Jeremy Weikel, Mindy Christensen, Shannon Swanson, Jessica Lederer, Darren Moten, Eric Bland, Brandon Rodriguez, Chelsea Clark, Traci Haug  
 Row 4: Cherish Nigh, Kristin Wampler, Michelle Anthuis, Alison Krieg, Jeremy Matthews  
 Row 5: Jenny Jones, Jania Amador, Lindsay Moyer, Sharyn Webb, Joshua Popp

The Griffon yearbook was a student publication led by student editors and advisor Ann Thorne. The editors work with the staff members to produce a high-quality book. The yearbook was a two credit class that consisted of four sections: design, photography, copy and business.

Throughout the year, students had a chance to go on trips to places such as Nashville, Tenn., New Orleans, La., New York, N.Y. and Dallas, Texas for conferences where they learned new ideas and received numerous awards. At the 2005 Missouri College Media Association conference the Griffon Yearbook won 15 awards in seven categories. Design Editor Diamikia White and former Editor-in-Chief Mika Snodgrass won first place in Portrait Design and Sports Design, and writer Gretchen Kunkle won first place in personality writing. Snodgrass also won second place for Theme Development and Editor-in-Chief Melissa Scearce and Assignment Editor Jake Grzenda received third place in Student Life Design. Photographers Valissa Kraus and Johntell Young won third place in Feature Photography and Jeremy Weikel won third place in Sports Photography.

Copy Editor Jenny Olson won Second Place for Organization Writing for Yearbook in the 2005 National Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Awards Competition presented in New York City.



# Non-Traditional Student Association

Row 1: Jennifer Koebel, Angela Saxton, Kandice Vogel, Jesse Campbell, Peg Pella  
 Row 2: Lois Willmore, April Jackson, Synthia Haggard, Lori Gregory, JoEllen Duncan  
 Row 3: Jerry Wagers, Weston Steele, Tiffany Steele, Micah Pangburn, Charles Baxter, Mark Koncevic, Jennifer Galloway

# Phi Delta Theta



Row 1: Jeremy Lancey, Jason Chen, Lutfee Atieh, Kellen Hatcher, Seth Brackman, Ben Hultquist, Adam Twedt, Tony Snook  
 Row 2: Matt Chrisman, Nathan Whitmer, Brandon Rodriguez, Brett Warga, Josh Drake, Jason Burster, Phil Sanders, Justen Smith

# Phi Mu



Row 1: Kelly Webb, Jennifer Nanneman, Heather Huff, Jessica Bruns, Alicia Cummins, Heather Grom, Lindsay Moyer  
 Row 2: Jackie Pottier, Erika Helin, Jacinda Seese, Brandi Lane, Amanda Miller, Amanda Balabon, Rikki Cason

# Residence Council



Row 1: Natalie Bailey, Tricia Dickson, Noah Haahr, Kari Snyder  
 Row 2: Kaavi Owens, Devon Kilgore, Tresa Ptasznik, Jenny Freur  
 Not Pictured: Jenny Jones, Randy Gifford, Seth Logston, Lacy Allen, Erica Neier

# SGA Executive Board



Jesse Holcomb, Director of External Affairs; Danielle Shoemaker, Director of Clubs and Organizations; Noah Haahr, Residence Council President; Elijah Haahr, SGA President; Ben Hultquist, SGA Vice President; Kristen Silcott, Director of Communications; Jennifer McKinley, Director of Internal Affairs; Bob Hughs, Student Regent  
Not Pictured: Malcolm Malone, CME Chair; LaSilvia Franklin, CAB President

The Student Government Association was a student-based organization in which students were elected to maintain and distribute the budget for student affairs. The organization was made up of an executive, legislative, Campus Activities Board and Residence Council branches. The legislative branch contained 20 senators and the executive branch contained the executive board.

Not only did SGA as a whole have goals they set, but individuals involved with SGA had goals for themselves as well.

"My goals for this year were solidly to modernize SGA," former SGA President Elijah Haahr said. "After the budget increase a couple of years ago, we finally had the money to really accomplish things for students. Unfortunately, we also had such a back log of outdated rules, we were hamstrung in what we could do. It became a major goal of ours to fix these for us and future administrations."

Not only did SGA modernize the constitutions and by-laws, the organization also revised many things among campus.

"One of the biggest accomplishments we made this past year was the renovations made in the Student Union lobby," Director of External Affairs Jesse Holcomb said. "This made the lobby become one of the most modern parts on campus."

Along with renovating the lobby and constitution, SGA sponsored many events brought to our campus such as the "Vote or Shut Up" rally, MTV's "Rock the Vote" and the "Party-A-Thon."

# SGA Senate



Row 1: Katy Schwartz, Becky Monnig, Randal Gifford, Elizabeth Needham, Vern Wheeler  
Row 2: Amanda Gonzalez, Natalie Bailey, Rebekah Needham, Crystina Trexel, Jeremy Funk, Jeff Knapp, Drew Solomon, Jeff Altmann  
Row 3: Luke Herrington, Adam Kling, Anthony Widhalm, Seth Logston, Logan Compton, Andy Ewing, Warren Webb, Joshua Baker, Darrell Henderson, Tyson Malone

# Sigma Sigma Sigma



Row 1: Jackie Giefer, Ally Browning, Jenessa Henderson, Kelly Files, Holly Jacobs, Ashley Wales, Franie Brancato, Jessica Snyder, Jacey Johnston  
 Row 2: Casey Pickett, Kristine Owen, BreAnn Baker, Amanda Haring, Stefanie Summa, Valerie Lee, Danielle Shoemaker

# SOS Peer Education



Row 1: Mallory Paines, Sarah Ambriz, Brittney Kelley  
 Row 2: Rachael Mulford, Harvey Jackson III, Jael Haecker  
 Row 3: Mignon Wilkins, Terrance Berger, Jasmine Thomas, Adam Scheideger, Karen Pruitt

# S.N.C.T.E.



Row 1: Ashley Wales, Mark Henderson, Jackie Clark, Amanda Gruber  
 Row 2: Kate McAllen, Jade Bryant, Misty Draeger, Adrienne Chleborad

# Student Honors Organization



Row 1: Heather Goforth, Amanda Gruber, Rachel Lyday, Whitney Lowrey, Ashley Falter  
Row 2: Tresa Ptasznik, LeeAnn Schuster, Danford Compton, Lydia Davis, Erin Wilson, Natalie Bailey

The Student Honors Program was created for the academic excellence of students. The program was designed for the students who enjoyed the process of learning and who wanted to enhance their personal goals through knowledge and understanding.

The program was designed for students who enjoyed the process of learning and who wanted to enhance their personal goals through knowledge and understanding. It gave students the training and skills needed for their own personal lives.

The organization had many advantages for the members. "The best part of the Honors Program is how I get to meet new people, I get to sign up for classes early, there are smaller class sizes and numerous scholarship opportunities," secretary Rachel Lyday said.

Many members made life-long friends from being in the organization. "The best part of the Honors Program is that I got to know a lot of people whom I now know and love," Danford Compton said. "For that I will always be grateful to the Honors Program."

The Honors Program hosted many activities throughout they year. "We have had game night, freshman retreat, charades, ice skating, bingo, ice cream socials, Homecoming events and pumpkin carving," Lyday said. "They were all a lot of fun. These events are what make the program fun and worth being in."

The president for the Honors Program was Amanda Gruber and the vice president was Warren Web.

## Tau Kappa Epsilon



Row 1: Warren Webb, James Smith, Logan Compton, John Fabsits, Jeff Smith, Justin Pike, Josh Wilson  
Row 2: Blake Parker, Vern Wheeler, Jeff Brandhorst, Eric Abraham, Bryan Bailey, David Williams, Michael Walgreen  
Row 3: Nick Kennedy, John Gee, Fredrick Cline, John Wallace, Greg Gallup, Joey Hull, Justin Aker, Chris Carson, Jesse Holcomb  
Not Pictured: Mitch Burton, Andrew Ferguson, Brad Drummond



# underclassmen

Tawana Abrought  
 Jeff Altmann  
 Sarah Ambriz  
 Abena Ampofo  
 Jayme Anderson  
 Michelle Anthuis



Megan Antle  
 Kimberly Arn  
 Brooke Atha  
 Natalie Bailey  
 Charles Baxter  
 Terrance Bell



Lavon Berny  
 Raya Blake  
 Eric Bland  
 Stacy Blankenship  
 Christopher Blodgett  
 Ashley Boley



Jennifer Bonnett  
 Danyell Bordeaux  
 Lanisha Bosby  
 Ellen Boyd  
 Shakia Boyd  
 Elizabeth Boyer



Rachel Bradford  
 Charly Brewer  
 Adam Brown  
 Nicole Brumbach  
 Jessica Bruns  
 Kimberly Buckles



Jamie Bunker  
 Tiara Burns  
 Kara Caldwell  
 Michael Calhoun  
 Marysia Campbell  
 Rachel Carrillo



Jamilla Carter  
 Nikeda Carter  
 Heidi Caselman  
 Amy Chastain  
 Jason Chen  
 Jennifer Clark





Erinn Cohen  
 Christopher Cole  
 Ian Cole  
 Ashlea Collins  
 Sarah Cool  
 Rich Crowe



Alicia Cummins  
 Stefanie Dalrymple  
 Tanisha Davis  
 Wiley Davis  
 Cedric Day  
 Tricia Dickson



Nancy Diederich  
 Bradley Dixon  
 Rachel Donnell  
 Megan Dungan  
 Katie Dunn  
 Cassandra Ellis



Gannon Engelken  
 Rachel Euchner  
 Alana Everett  
 Andy Ewing  
 Kelsi Fairley  
 Alicia Falter



Ashley Falter  
 Jenny Farrow  
 Shanan Finley  
 Lindsay Fisher  
 Rebekah Fisher  
 Kelly Flanders



Kelly Flores  
 Mary Fowler  
 Lindsay Frazier  
 Jenny Frew  
 Cassandra Gerhardt  
 Kim Giger



Princess Gilliam  
 Jenna Gilpatrick  
 Kathryn Givens  
 Ciara Glasgow  
 Tara Gnuschke  
 Heather Goforth



Amanda Gonzalez  
Christina Goodwin  
Lashelle Gray  
Autumn Greear  
Glanisha Green  
Tamara Gregory



Jamesha Grigsby  
Marie Guillaume  
Noah Haahr  
Tearsa Hairston  
Stacie Halstead-Gaston  
Ashley Hannah



Ashley Harden  
Jessica Hardin  
Erin Harris  
Kesha Harris  
Sonya Harris  
Rebecca Harrison



Traci Haug  
Sandie Henderson  
Jared Herrin  
Luke Herrington  
Robert Herron  
Steven Hickman



Stacey Hollis  
Elizabeth Holthaus  
Monay Hooker  
Ella Howser  
Jennifer Hughes  
Rebecca Humphreys



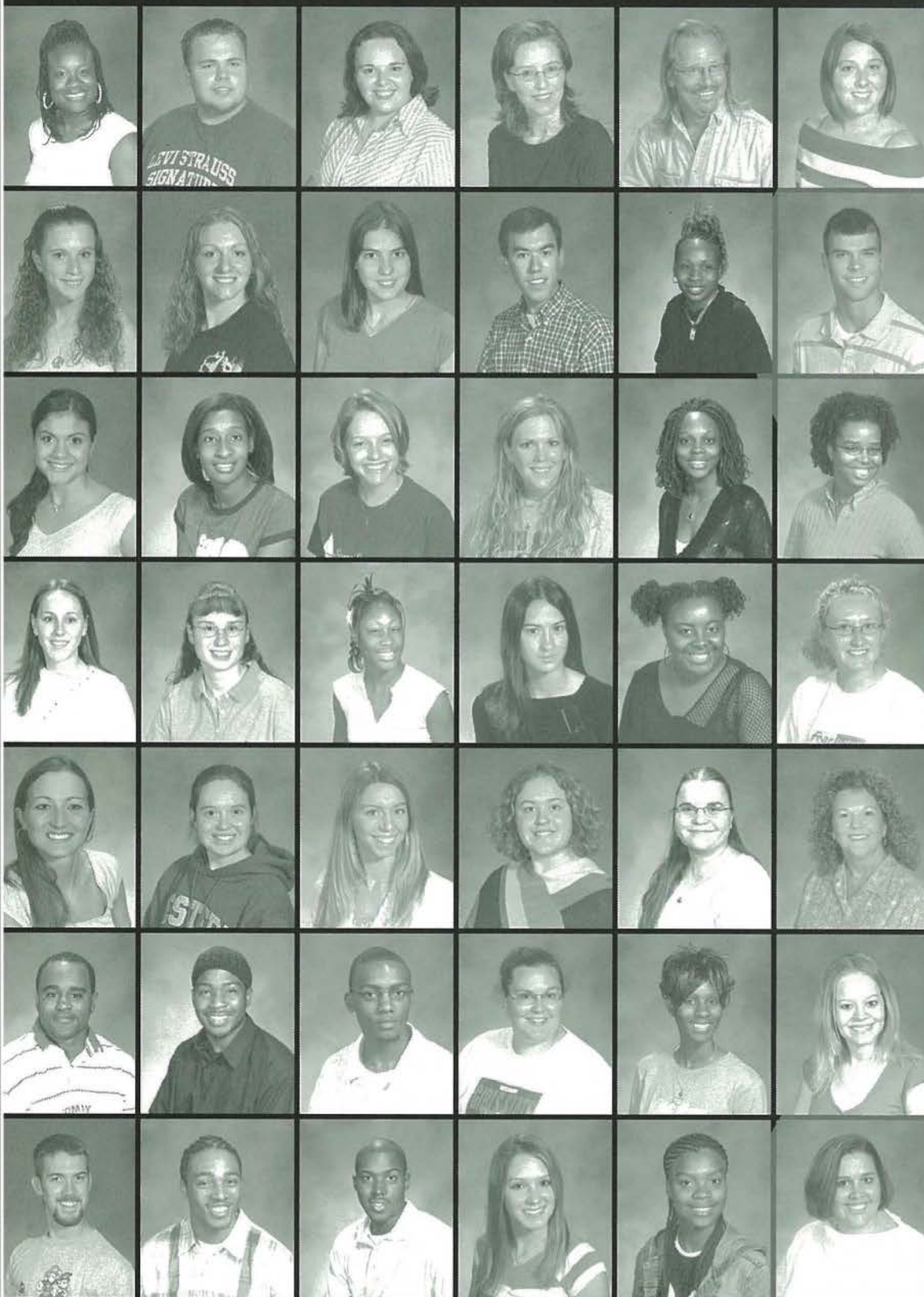
Melissa Hunter  
Jacqueline Jackson  
Bryson Janovec  
Dameika Jefferson  
Megan Jensen  
Brandon Johnson



Jill Johnson  
Jennifer Jones  
Laraine Jones  
Stefanie Jones  
Tierha Jones  
Krystle Jordan



# indivio



Brittney Kelley  
 Nicholas Kennedy  
 Devon Kilgore  
 Rebecca King  
 Mark Koncevic  
 Alison Krieg

Dawn Krumme  
 Rebecca Kuehn  
 Gretchen Kunkle  
 Keith Langabee  
 Ciarra Leathers  
 Cole Leazenby

Jessica Lederer  
 Kelly Lee  
 Valerie Lee  
 Kristin Lemons  
 Erica Lenior  
 Camille Lewis

Tammy Liebersbach  
 Ashlee Liebhart  
 Vanecia Lindsay  
 Jennifer Lloyd  
 Mya Locke  
 Summer Love

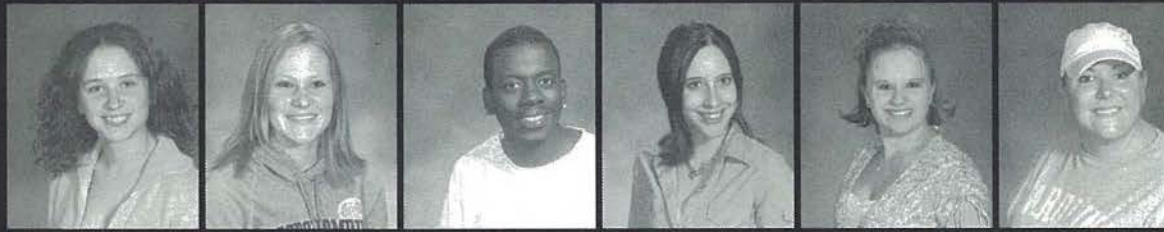
Jessica Lowry  
 Courtney Luke  
 Penny Lyon  
 Sierra Maag  
 Tracy Maddox  
 Betty Magee

Jerry Mallory  
 Malcolm Malone  
 Tyson Malone  
 Lauren Marsh  
 Nicole Marshall  
 Michel Martin

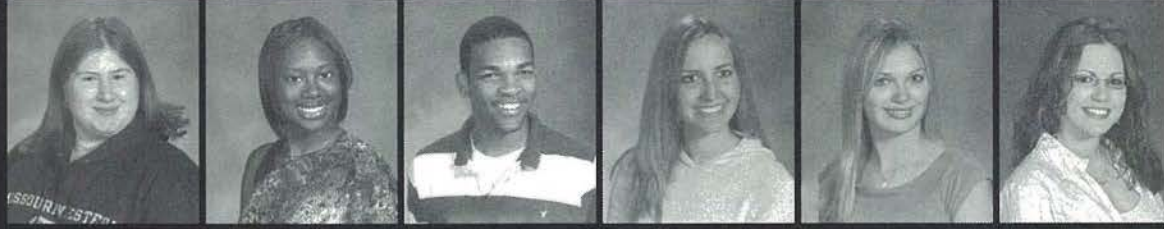
Robert Martin  
 Chauncey Mayfield  
 Steven McClenton  
 Kimberly McCoy  
 Lakeisha Mccoy  
 Sarah McDonald



Krystal Mcgee  
 Christi McGregor  
 Reneil McKeithen  
 Jess Mckinzie  
 Megan McManus  
 Lacey Merrell



Jennifer Mitchel  
 Latasha Mitchell  
 Robbie Mitchell  
 Becky Monnig  
 Alisha Montgomery  
 Jayme Morrison



Lindsay Moyer  
 Kyndal Mullis  
 Abby Murphy  
 Andrew Murphy  
 Beth Murphy  
 Michael Nash



Rebekah Needham  
 Tara Newey  
 Latoria Norton  
 John Nyman  
 Jenny Olson  
 Arlaysha Osborn



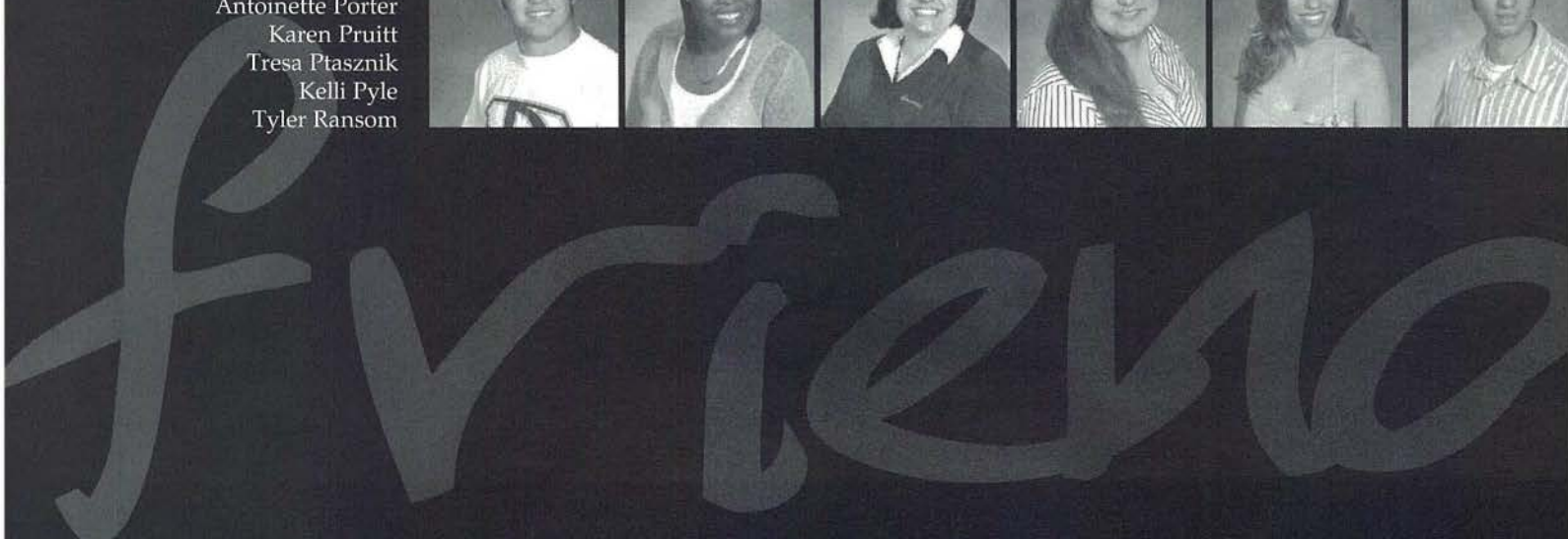
Lakaari Owens  
 Tonya Paige  
 Mallory Paines  
 Whitney Pankey  
 Ralph Parker  
 Tiquila Parnell

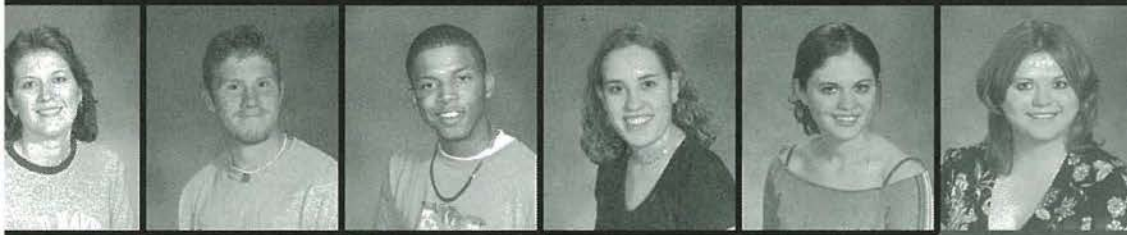


Brandie Partney  
 Christy Payne  
 Renata Peebles  
 Janelle Phillips  
 John Phillips  
 Jeremy Pierce



Kevin Poehler  
 Antoinette Porter  
 Karen Pruitt  
 Tresa Ptasznik  
 Kelli Pyle  
 Tyler Ransom





Jill Rardon  
 Matt Rauber  
 Larry Ray  
 Anastasia Reid  
 Bethany Rethemeyer  
 Rachael Reynolds



Jamil Rhinehardt  
 Tyler Rinehart  
 Donnell Roberson  
 Jennifer Robinson  
 Ashley Rockhold  
 Elizabeth Roderick



Rebecca Roderick  
 Jason Ruiz  
 Lindsey Ruud  
 Tegan Sampson  
 Nina Sanders  
 Melissa Searce



Lavon Schaffner  
 Alicia Schmidgall  
 Chelsey Schmitz  
 Ross Scholz  
 Sunny Schramm  
 Cassandra Schuster



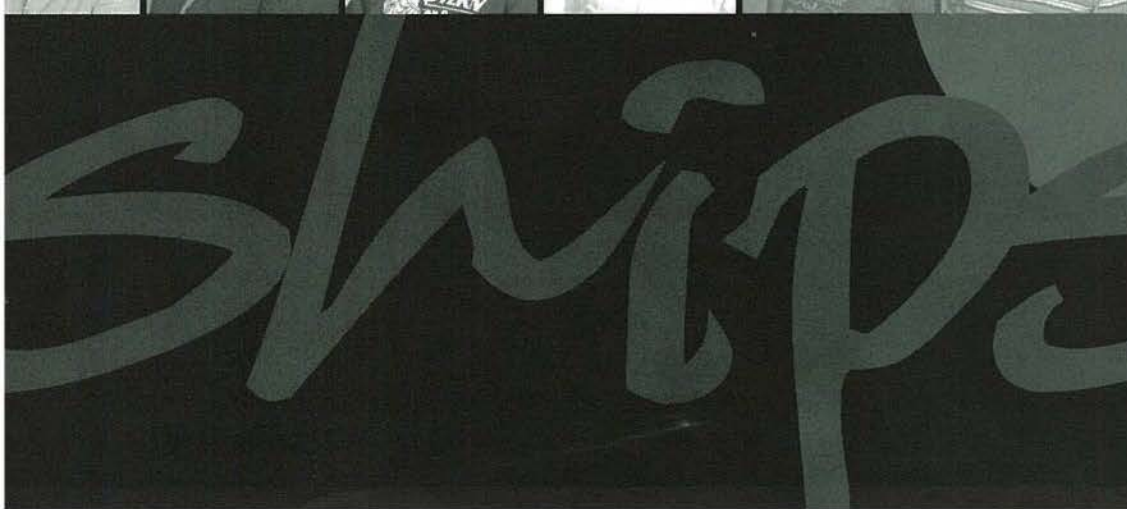
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 Crystal Scott  
 Tiffany Sears  
 Danyel Seipel  
 Nicole Sharp  
 Kristy Shaw



Tonya Shaw  
 Vanessa Shields  
 Rebecca Shipers  
 Jayna Shirley  
 Marcus Shobe  
 Jarod Shrouf



Kristin Slatten  
 Amber Smith  
 Hakim Smith  
 Ryan Smith  
 Whitney Smith  
 Kari Snyder



Lakita Solomon  
 Briana Stallman  
 Stacia Stallman  
 Stacy Starbuck  
 Erin Stauffer  
 Michael Stevens



Natasha Stonerock  
 Latosha Strong  
 Atia Styles  
 Shannon Swanson  
 Erica Taylor  
 Annabell Thomas



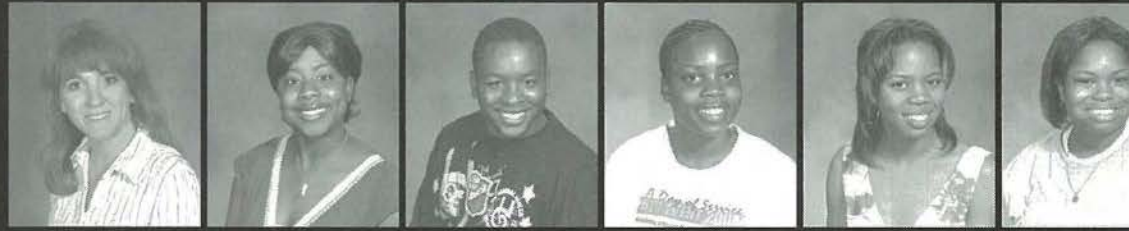
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 James Thomas  
 Nichelle Thomas  
 Shereesa Thompson  
 Autumn Todd  
 Walter Townsend



Ashley Turner  
 Sidnee Turner  
 Tyrie Upton  
 Amber Vanmeter  
 Nicole Vyhnaelek  
 Victoria Ward



Brenda Warner  
 Tanisha Washington  
 Julius Watson  
 Whitney Watson  
 Sharyn Webb  
 Jeanelle Williams



Justin Williams  
 Mia Williams  
 Ronda Williams  
 Shanae Williams  
 Tammy Williams  
 Victoria Williams

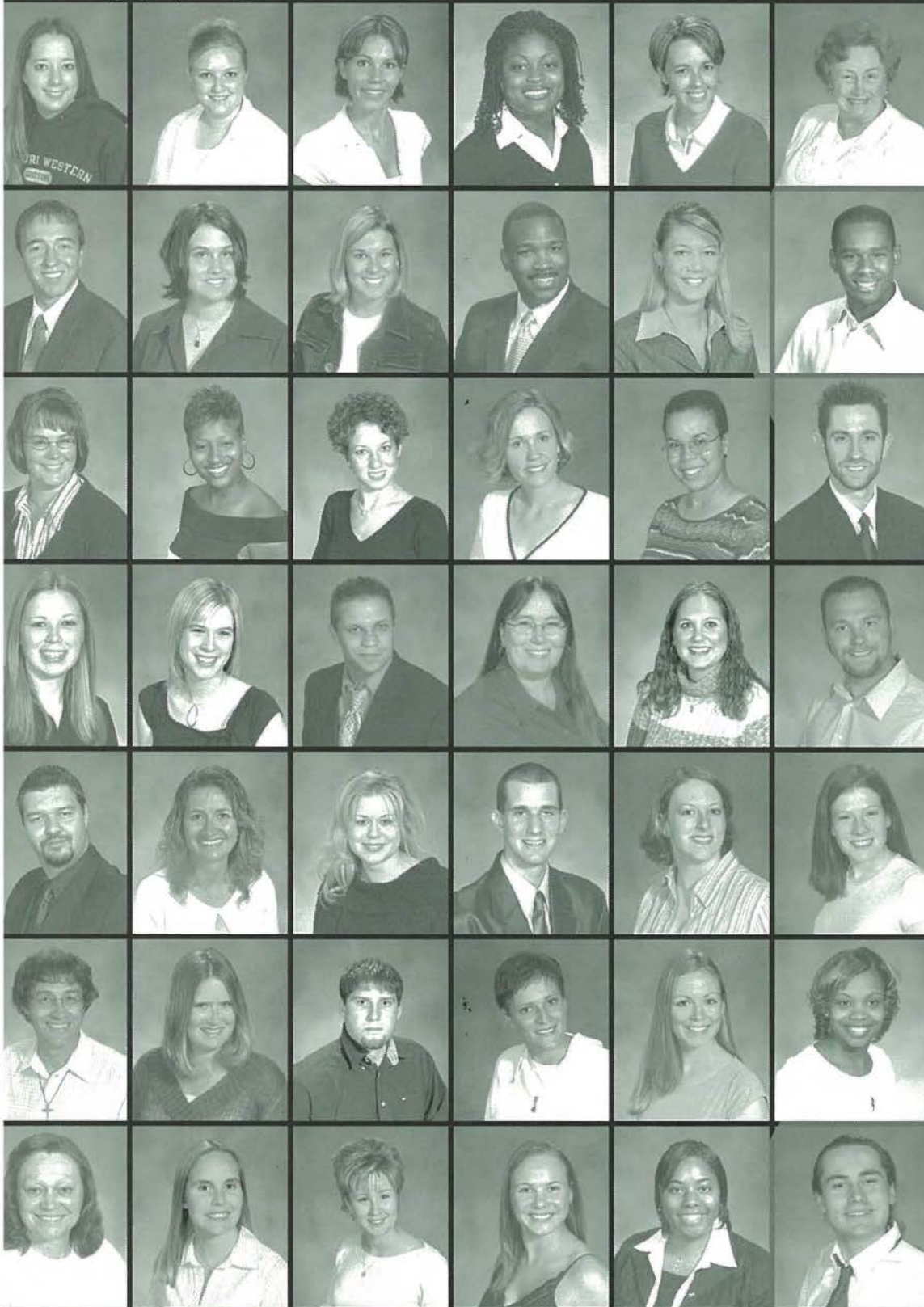


Jennifer Willis  
 Erin Wilson  
 Cassandra Wiseman  
 Crystal Wissman  
 Johntell Young  
 Tiffany Zimmerman



come

# Seniors



Megan Zurek  
Lacy Allen  
Holly Anderson  
Fatimot Aregbe  
Emily Asher  
Carol Sue Bailey

Joshua Baker  
Rachel Barton  
Kimberly Bax  
Karl V Bell  
Jaymi Blackmore  
Sylvester Brandon

Julie Bravo  
Crystal Bray  
Ashly Brickner  
Jennifer Bruce  
Desirae Bruns  
Aaron Bunker

Kimberly Bunten  
Cindy Burke  
Tim Canton  
Penny Capps  
Shanna Carl  
Gregory Cayer

Lucas Chisam  
Lisa Christmas  
Rachel Clary  
Derek Colburn  
Kimberly Coleman  
Marjorie Conant

Terry Cook  
Christina Cox  
Bradley Coy  
Vickie Craft  
Becky Crawford  
Candice Day

Melonie Decker  
Nicole Dejongh  
Lydia Dial  
Lindsay Dickie  
Pamela Downs  
David Drake

# Seniors



Rachel Drowns  
Cody Dunlap  
Sara Dwyer  
Brandi Eckels  
Aurora Edwards  
Tari Elder



Christopher Ellis  
John Fabsits  
Leeann Fann  
Roberta Farris  
Joseph Fehlker  
Jeffrey Findley



Lindsay Fowler  
Donna Frantz  
Kelli Gardner Bell  
Natoyla Gates  
Andrew Gerdes  
Nicole Goetz



Adrian Gray  
Tinasha Groves  
Jacob Grzenda  
Amber Guymon  
Elijah Haahr  
Jael Haecker



Chris Hamilton  
Scot Hamrick  
Nicole Harp  
Nicole Hartenbower  
Annetta Heckman  
Travis Heldenbrand



Theresa Helm  
Crystal Hickey  
Wendy Hill  
Colleen Hinshaw  
Dustin Holcumbrink  
Brynn Holloway



Amanda Housewirth  
Loretta Hughes  
Mary Hulsey  
Richard Hussey  
Melissa Jackson  
Rachelle Jacobs





Candice Jennings  
Denise Johnson  
Emily Kempf  
Pamela Kendrick  
Laura King  
Jeffery Lacy



Brandi Lane  
Donny Lane  
Tabitha Larson  
Krista Lasley  
Blair Lehr  
Anjelica Lewis



Brooke Lindenbusch  
Melissa Link  
Shawn Livengood  
Jacob Lovely  
Tim Maclean  
Julie Mast



Katherine Mccloud  
Jennifer Mckinley  
Kristin Mills  
Rachael Mulford  
Shanin Mullen  
Sharon Myers



Jayme Neal  
Kristen Neeley  
Margaret Neumann  
Cherish Nigh  
Shellney Oehlert  
Heather Owens



Cindy Peters  
Danette Peters  
Schanavia Pettaway  
Dan Pfister  
Bart Phillips  
Melissa Phillips



Brandie Ponting  
Joshua Popp  
Shannon Potter  
Kathryn Qalbani  
M Marlene Ralston  
Jennifer Rippy



Nathan Roberts  
 Dustin Robinson  
 Joseph Roche  
 Jenni Rope  
 Amber Rouner  
 Jenny Sale



Shaliese Samuels  
 Jonathan Schoonover  
 Heather Schroder  
 Kristina Sharp  
 Kamita Shelby  
 Tara Sippely



Angela Smith  
 Ashley Smith  
 Chermona Smith  
 Geraldine Smith  
 Jason Smith  
 Melissa Smith



Jessica Snyder  
 Jenny Soptic  
 Julie Sparks  
 Jodi Sproat  
 Amanda Stapleton  
 Josiah L Stevens



Vanessa Stevenson  
 Mildred I Stewart  
 Sarah Stout  
 Tara Stull  
 Dusty Summers  
 Latasha Thaxton



Tierra Thomas  
 Thomas Thompson  
 Dana Underwood  
 Jennifer Urquhart  
 Natalie M Vertin  
 Kristin Wampler



Ryan Wear  
 Andrew Weeden  
 Dewanda Weeks  
 Amanda Welch  
 Cassandra Werle  
 Diamikia White



*comp*



Paula White  
Robert Wiley  
Shelly Wilson  
April Woodbury  
Rachel Young

The Griffon Yearbook would like to congratulate the Class of 2005 and wish them continued success!



Griffon 2005 Editorial Staff



Congratulations Diannikia!  
Your dedication and talent will be missed!  
Good luck in all you do!  
We love you!

SSION

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Y-Z

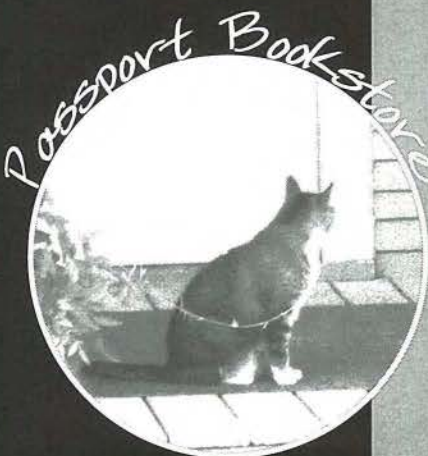
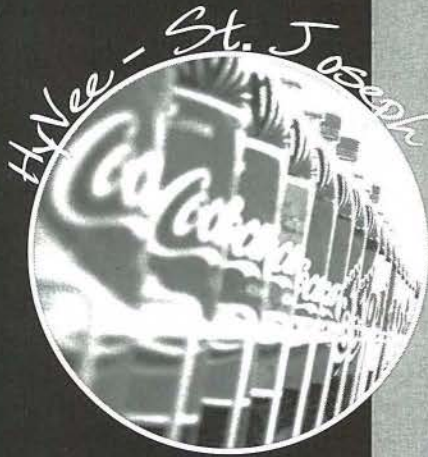
Young, Johntell 206  
 Young, Rachel 211  
 Zenn, Ryan 140  
 Zimmerman 206  
 Zurek, Megan 207

"I did attend Missouri Western and I feel that [Western] is a great asset to the city of Saint Joseph. We as a business want to support the school as much as we can. We have a very good relationship with Missouri Western; [the college] has counted on us and we have counted on them in the past and are positive of the continued success."

-Denise Lewis  
Director of Marketing

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-Alumni Alicia Crabtree  
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# continuous support



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-Denny Villhauer  
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-Ann Redmond  
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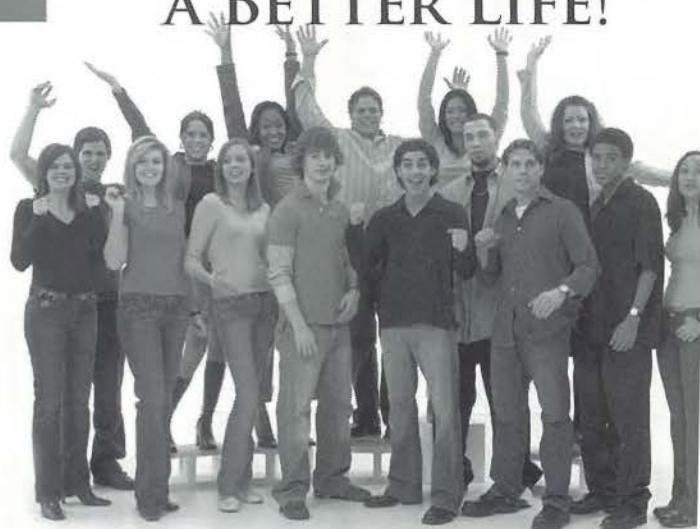
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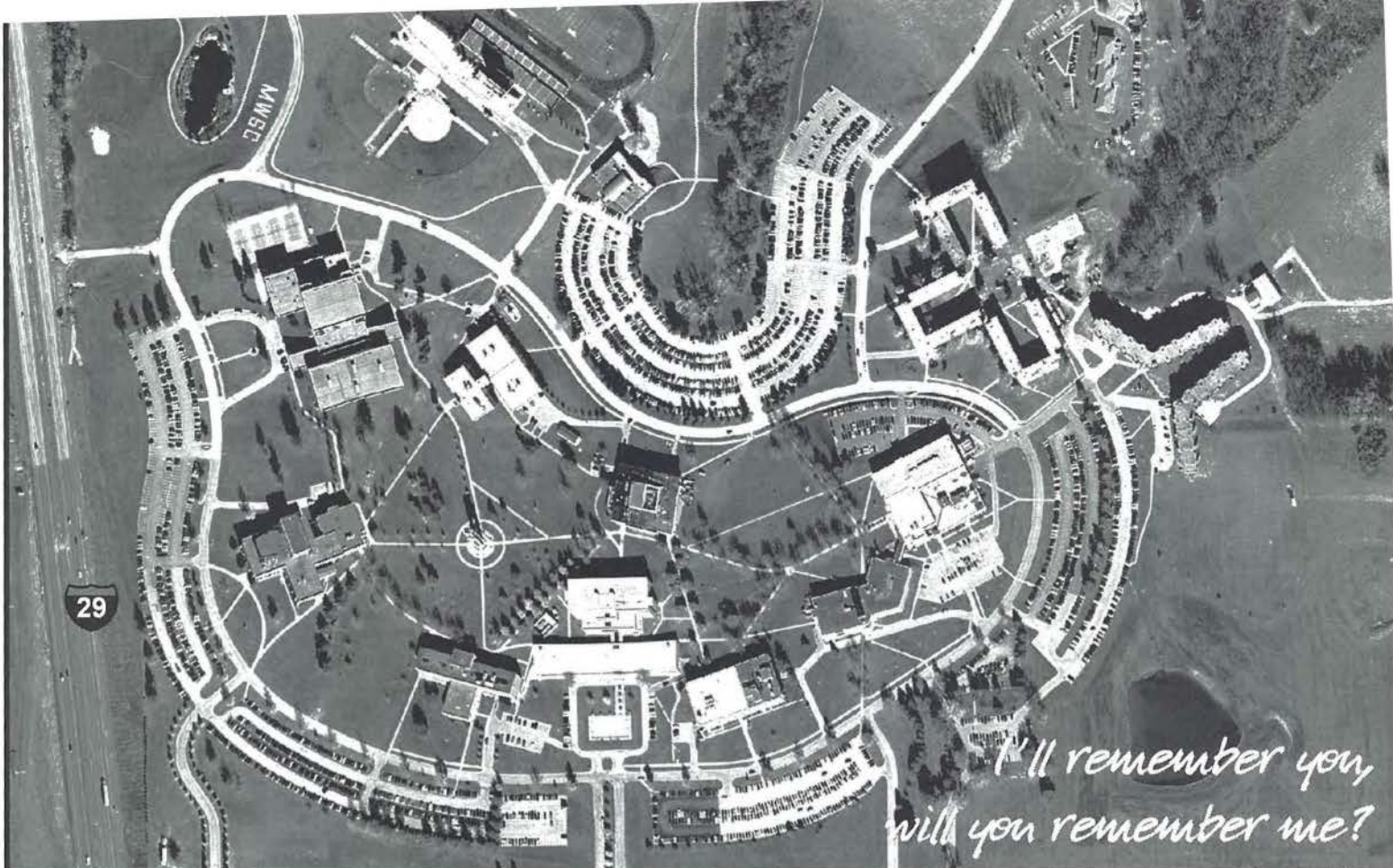
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- Ralph Waldo Emerson -



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Paul Shang, Dean of Student Development

Kathy Kelly, Administrative Coordinator

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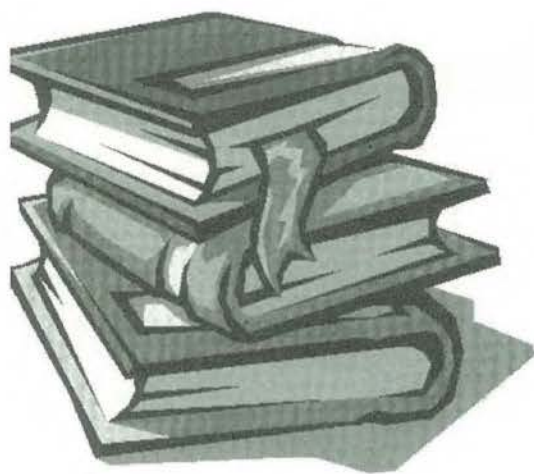


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Ellen Kisker

Director Non-Traditional Student Center

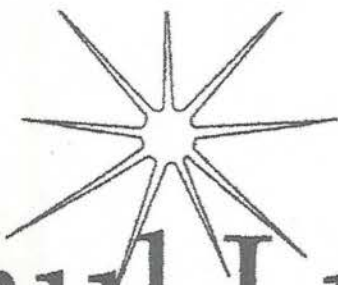
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Michael R. Ritter

Disability Coordinator

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*Student Services wishes the 2005 graduates the best now and in the future.*

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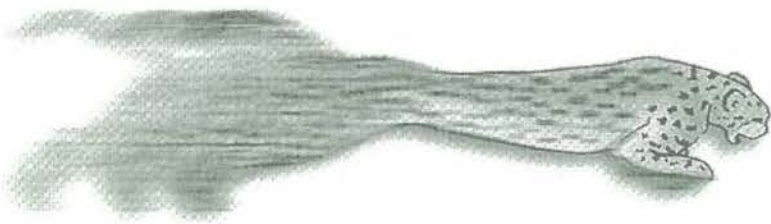
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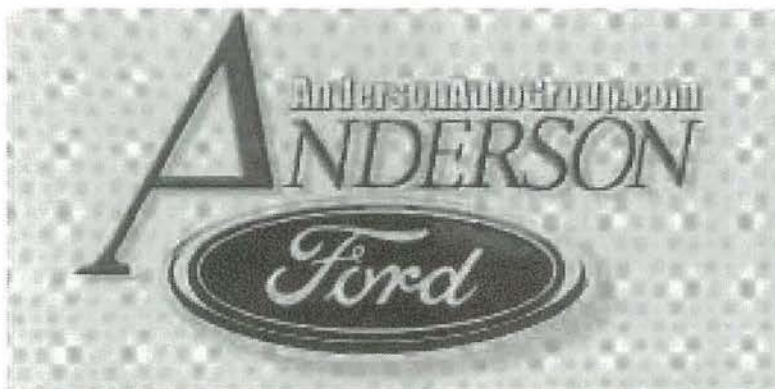
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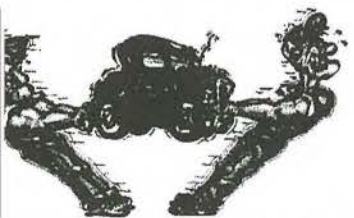
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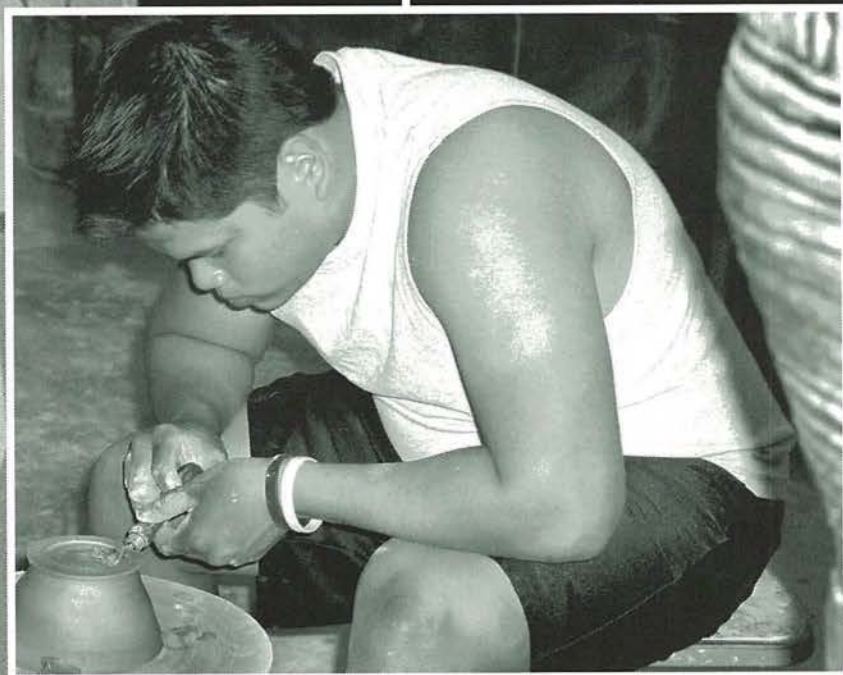
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# all about: people



Left: In between classes, students socialize with each other. The 10 minutes between classes was one way students found out what was going on with each other.

*Photo by: Johnnell Young*

Insert: A student concentrates on creating a pot in his ceramics class. ART 140 was just one of the many art classes Western offered.

*Photo by: Hayleigh Hinton*





Missouri  
Western  
State  
College

all about:  
*good  
bye*

*"this is not the end.  
this is not even the  
beginning of the end  
it is, instead,  
the end of the beginning."*

*-anonymous*

*Missouri Western  
College  
State  
1969-2005*

Photo by: Melissa Scearce  
Illustration by: Matt Reid

*dosing*

245



## Editor-in-Chief

### Editor-in-Chief

Wow is all I can really say for this book. It took a ton of people, their ideas and their dedication to create this masterpiece. Most people will never know or possibly never care how much we collectively put into this book, but nonetheless we did it and we put our hearts behind everything we created. This book stemmed from a smart ass conversation with Jake Grzenda over a year ago and look where it went. Vol. 79 is honestly **all about** you! I sincerely hope you as students and faculty are proud of this publication because I know we are. Enjoy!

*Melissa J. Soerwe*  
hometown: Dallas Center, Iowa  
year in school: Senior  
major: Legal Studies



Dr. Ann! Each year a new editor comes in and you have to get to know their personality and you have to learn how to work with them. I am sure working with me was not the easiest, but it is because I am stubborn and I am a perfectionist! I had a vision and I went with it even though you were not always in agreement with me. I hope this book makes you proud and that your memories of Mel will be pleasant ones! Thanks for your advice and helping me achieve the book I worked so hard for!

*Dr. Ann Thorne*  
hometown: Columbia, Mo.  
years as Griffon advisor: 18  
title: Associate Professor

## Advisor

### Advisor

## Design Editor

### Design Editor

Roommate! Well, at least for about 10 minutes, which is long enough for you to paint your name on my apartment's wall! Thank you will never be enough for your dedication and your input in my vision. Your couch talks and late hours will never be forgotten as well as your wonderful designs and ideas. This book would have never been a book without you and your unending commitment to me and my demanding ways. I wish you the best of luck in life and your career. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!



*Ella Hawser*  
hometown: Dixon, Mo.  
year in school: Sophomore  
major: Accounting/Marketing

FREAK! You have been a life saver at times and I will never be able to express my thanks to you. You have kept this office lively and exciting and you even wrote your name on it! You are a very talented designer and I know you will succeed in all that you do. We started this adventure together as design staff and look where we have gone! This book is AWESOME and much of that is thanks to your intuitism and talent! You are a beautiful person and an even better friend! Good luck in your life and design the world just for yourself -- in stlletos of course!!!



*Dramikia White*  
hometown: Kansas City, Mo.  
year in school: Senior  
major: English/Public Relations

## Design Editor

### Design Editor

## Copy Editor

Copy Editor

Hooker! My how times have been interesting with you! You helped me more than you'll understand until you take this job over for yourself! The friendship we have made will be one to last, and I'll never forget the times we had in the office with B-Rod and Chen. You are a great copy editor and even though you were on your own this semester, you did an awesome job, and there is no one that deserves EIC next year more than you. By the way, never have anyone call me to find you if you are missing at 6 a.m. again! Good luck and keep those Phi Delt's in line!



Jenny Olson  
hometown: Sweet Springs, Mo.  
year in school: Junior  
major: English/Journalism

Chenny! We made it a long way from when I made you join staff two years ago to you becoming an editor! I'll take this time to announce that I did indeed win the bet because I sold 26 pages and you only made it to 22, but I do still owe you Red Lobster, so oh well, it was all in good fun! Seriously, you did a great job and if for nothing else you helped keep me grounded. You are a great friend and you did an awesome job as business editor; I would have never made it without you! Thank you! P.S. "After all we've been through, it's like that huh?!"



Jason Chen  
hometown: St. Joseph, Mo.  
year in school: Junior  
major: Business Management

## Business Manager

Business Manager

## Photography Editor

Photography Editor

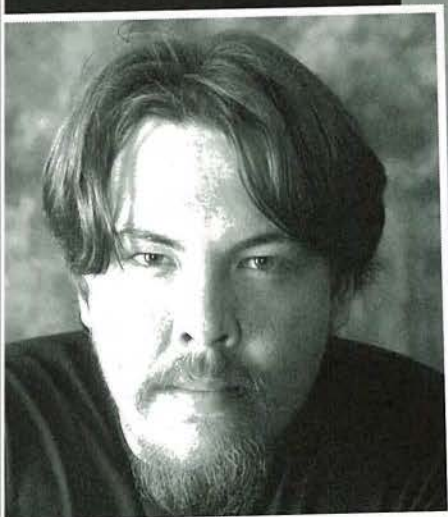
Connor's MOM! Thank you so much for being so dedicated to this book. I know at times it probably got to be too much, but you were always really here! You took over a job that can be tedious at times and I thank you for the dedication in every task I gave you. Being a full time mom to such a cute and adorable little boy will always come first, but even Connor put something into this book! Thank you again and good luck with all you do in life!

Jenn Hughes  
hometown: St. Joseph, Mo.  
year in school: Junior  
major: Elementary Education



Weikel! I even spelled it right! You have been on year-book more than me and most of the editor's combined, so I am not sure I am worthy of giving you gratitude. You are an excellent photographer and you helped me with the computers when I went into "What the #@%&" mode. Thanks for your unending dedication to the Griffon yearbook! I am sure Jenny will need you next year, so please don't be a stranger. P.S. Thank you for BRAD! We are very happy together!

Jeremy Weikel  
hometown: Belton, Mo.  
year in school: Senior  
major: Technical Theatre



## Asst. Photography Editor

Asst. Photography Editor

# colophon



Row 1: Jenn Hughes, Amy Chastain, Melissa Fisher, Hayleigh Hinton, Brandon Rodriguez, Sanders  
Row 2: Jeremy Weikel, Jenny Olson, Melissa Scearce, Ella Howser, Jason Chen, Diamikia  
Row 3: Matt Reid, Ann Thorne, Traci Haug, A Cruz, Brandon Todd, Jamison Burns, LaQuit Alexander, Tyler Krampe, Nathan Martinez, Jennifer Smith, Mitchell Buhman

The 2005 *Griffon*, volume 79, was created by a staff at Missouri Western State College and printed by Walsworth Publishing Company in Brookfield, Missouri. The publishing representatives were Don Walsworth Jr., Michelle Brosemer and Shelley Riewski. Individual portraits were taken by Thornton Photography Studio. Organization photographs were taken by the *Griffon* photography editor, Jenn Hughes. Full-time students paid a mandatory yearbook fee of \$5 per semester. Students attending Western full time during the fall of 2004 and spring of 2005 should pick up their yearbook by November 1, 2005.

## Printing

The book was printed on 80-pound legend matte paper. Press run was 1050 books. The cover was a Smyth Sewn Hard Cover on White Linen

## Cover

The cover was created and designed by Melissa Scearce with photographs taken by Matt Reid

## Typography

The typography used throughout the book was AWPCSleepwalker, regular and bold.

## Production

The 2005 *Griffon* was produced by a team of Macintosh G4's and G5 using Adobe InDesign CS and Adobe Photoshop CS software. Editorial content does not necessarily reflect the views of the college. Address inquiries to: *Griffon* Yearbook, 4525 Downs Dr. 220 Eder Hall, St. Joseph, MO 64507 or call the office at 816.271.4540. Copyright 2005, *Griffon* staff and Missouri Western State College. All rights reserved.

## Thank You

First of all, I need to thank all the staffers and especially the editors of the 2005 *Griffon*. Working with you guys has been one of the best experiences of my life. From there, I need to thank the people that helped me create this either personally or professionally; Shelley Riewski from Walsworth, you are my angel! You helped my vision become an actual book. Thank you so much for all your extra help and dedication. I need to thank my friends because I was not always the most pleasant person to be around during this experience; thank you so much for being on my side. I also need to thank Eric because even though you weren't there for the completion of the book, you got me through the very beginning. Without your support, I would have never been able to stay sane and complete this beautiful book. Finally, thank you to everyone taking the time to read this book; this book is **all about** you and that is why we put our blood, sweat and tears into its existence. Be proud of Western, yourself and your 2005 *Griffon* yearbook! Love always, Mel

Melissa J. Searce  
Editor-in-Chief

Ann Thorne  
Advisor

Diamikia White  
Design Editor

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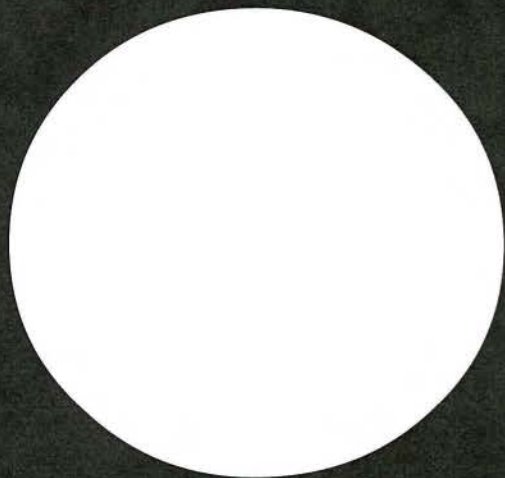
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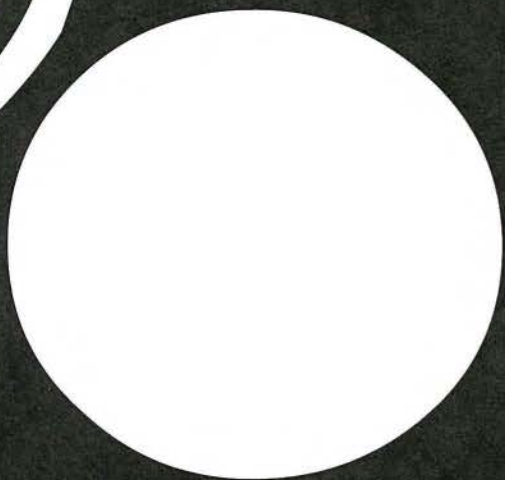
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# griffon



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