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hilltopper

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

an orientation newsletter prepared by western students

vol. 4, no. 8 november, 1978

Life After Western 8

A couple of years ago while reading a set of student essays, I came across the phrase "life after college." The phrase is, of course, modeled on another more common phrase "life after death," and the student's association of "death" with "college" struck me as amusing but a bit disconcerting. I am not at all prepared to accept the notion that college is somehow distinct from "life," but at the same time I recognize that for most undergraduates the question "Is there life after college?" is not something to be taken lightly.

Your life after you graduate from Western will in fact be shaped to a certain extent by your life here, and it is certainly not too soon for you to begin thinking about how you can get the most out of your college experience now in order for it to benefit you in the future, in "the real world."

Admittedly, your later life may be influenced by your college career in profound, or unexpected, or even whimsical ways. Some students seem to graduate clinging to a C average and such essential fragments of information as how to delay a report until the last possible moment, how to do laundry, ways to avoid scheduling anything before 9:10, or how to "get along with other people."

But surely college can contribute more than information of the how-to-make-change variety. At the same time, while your college career will obviously influence your later occupation, a university can and should provide you with more than a saleable skill or a marketable degree.

What Western can also offer you is the opportunity to broaden your experience, to expand your understanding, and, occasionally, the time to stop and think. Your classes will contribute much to your understanding, and they certainly should enrich your life by allowing you to take your place among other thoughtful human beings.

But at the same time, other liberalizing influences are available to you here at Western, but only if you seek them out. You might, for instance, become active in a departmental club in your major so that you can become acquainted with the faculty and other students interested in the same field as you are.

Or you might take a class in a subject, not because it is required in some way, but because the topic sounds interesting, or it's something you know a great deal about, or something you know nothing about. For example, last semester a student who was not an English major took a Chaucer class with me simply because she read and enjoyed Chaucer on her own and realized that this might be her last chance to study a topic for the fun of it.

Or you might want to try a different sport or activity—my colleague Bob Wurster teaches a popular Yoga class; another faculty member sponsors a fencing club in which novices receive instruction; or try karate, or white-water canoeing, or backpacking. Groups on campus can help you get started in these and other activities.

Or maybe you have had little experience with the arts, and would like to see what they are about. You have all kinds of opportunities to remedy the situation—you can attend some of the fine theatre productions on campus, you can go to a symphony concert, a dance program, an opera, or sample some foreign films, or visit an art exhibit in the Fine Arts Center, or any of a number of fine arts activities on campus.

The point is that Western offers more than classes, and more than spectator sports and rock concerts. And it is that extra dimension to college life that can add to the dimension of your life, during college and after. Maybe that's what Dr. Cherry meant when he wrote the motto on the Western seal, "Life More Life." Your life here at Western will have a definite effect on what you do the rest of your life.

—Dr. James Flynn
English Professor

Want to Travel and Learn

If you want to see other parts of the world while earning a degree at Western, why not participate in one of the several International Education Programs offered by Western?

Western offers a variety of International Education programs. Some continue over several years and others are offered periodically for only one term. All programs are carefully planned according to the objectives of the University and the academic unit or department sponsoring the program.

Western gives students the opportunity to visit France by taking part in the WKU in France Program. A student can earn up to 30 credit hours while attending the University of Paul Valery in Montpellier, France, from September to June. This program is offered each year. Since the classes are taught in French, two years of college French or the equivalent are prerequisites. The University also requires that the participants have junior standing.

An eight-week tour of Austria will provide the opportunity to study the German language, art, and music. Six hours of credit may be earned by German majors as well as students majoring in other areas.

A proposed three Study Tour of the Spanish Southwest and Mexico will also be open to all students and will provide three hours of credit. This tour will be in May.

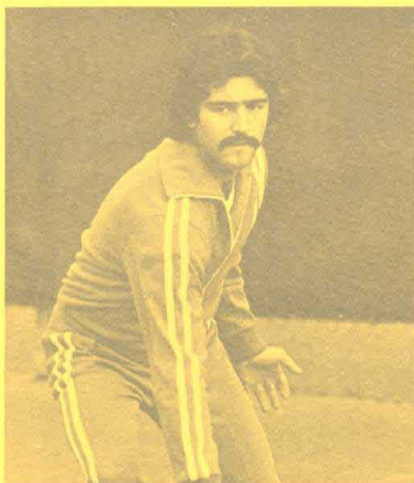
Periodically, Western offers programs in international education during the regular session or during the inter-term periods. Some of the programs offered from time to time are the Summer in Spain, the London Theatre Study Tour, the May Tour in Mexico, the May Tour in Guatemala, and the Fashion Study Tour.

Since the subject areas that are offered are so varied, these programs are not restricted to a particular major. The University tries to keep the cost of the study abroad as low as possible, and will not sponsor a program that isn't of value to the student.

In addition to Western's international programs, the University provides students with the opportunity to participate in international education activities sponsored by other Kentucky institutions.

If you are interested in any of these programs, drop by the office of Dr. Raymond Cravens, Dean of Public Service and International Programs, in the Cravens Graduate Center, Office 200, for up-to-date information on the various new programs that are being offered and on the tours that will be available in the near future.

DEBBIE HARVEY



Planning Your Schedule

At this point in the semester it is time to once again begin thinking about a class schedule for next semester. Being prepared at registration will certainly make registering an easier process.

The first thing you should do is to make an appointment with your advisor and be sure that you keep that appointment. However, you should not go to your advisor completely undecided as to what you want to take. Make a list of some classes you think you would like to take. Your advisor can then help you decide whether they will fit into your major, minor, area of concentration, or general education requirements.

Try to arrange your schedule (with your advisor's help) so that you have some classes that may be difficult and some that may not be so difficult. If you have already declared an area of study, try to take some classes in that area and some general electives each semester. This will give you a variety of subjects and an even class load.

After you have chosen the classes that you want to take, it is time to go to the schedule bulletin and choose the days and the times that you would like to have your classes. Try to arrange your schedule

so that you have some difficult and some not so difficult (or time consuming) classes on the same day. This may help you when test time comes around. Also, take into consideration the amount of time you have between classes and the distance between the buildings.

After choosing days and times, check the final exam schedule in the front of the schedule bulletin to be sure you do not have more than two finals on the same day. It is better to find out before registration so that you can alter your schedule if necessary.

It may be a good idea to work out at least two schedules because you never know when a class may be cancelled or closed. It would be less time consuming to have an alternative there with you. If you somehow end up with an entirely new schedule or even if you change only one class, be sure to check the final exam schedule once again.

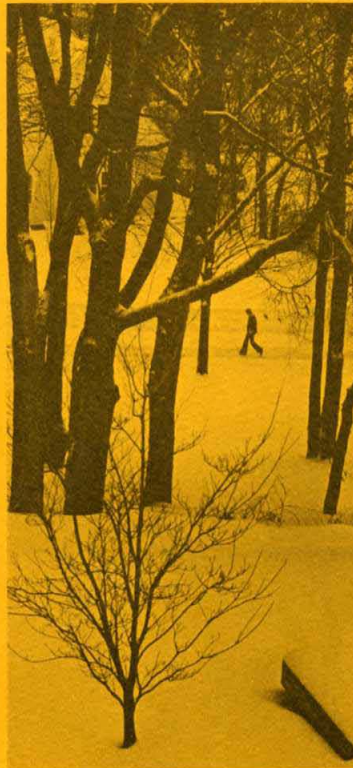
Planning a schedule does not have to be difficult. You just need to exercise patience and use good judgment. Be sure to tell your advisor if there are some classes that you would really like to take because you are allowed a few "free" electives.

—JANICE McCARTY

WINTER ON CAMPUS

Winter on Western's campus is a delightful time of year, especially after a blanket of beautiful white fluffy snow has covered the grounds. Even college students enjoy playing in the snow and building "snowpeople."

To help wind up the semester and to get into the Christmas spirit, plan now to attend the "Hanging of the Greens" in the Downing University Center. This year the trimming of the Christmas tree will begin at noon on December 5, and a special program will be presented at 4:30 p.m. that includes speakers and musical entertainment. A reception sponsored by the Faculty Wives Club will follow. In addition, there will be an Arts and Crafts Exhibit on the third floor of DUC from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Come and join in the festivities.



you asked us



I was unable to meet with my advisor during advisement week. What should I do?

You should call your advisor immediately and make an appointment with him/her before the semester ends. This will enable you to have a schedule ready before registration in January. It will also assure you that you are taking the courses required for your major/minor/area of concentration, and also general education requirements. If you have forgotten your advisor's name, call the Office of Undergraduate Advisement and Developmental Studies, 745-2691.

What are the academic regulations that I must meet in order to remain a student at Western?

To be eligible to register continuously without conditions, the following requirements must be met: (1) a 1.7 cumulative GPA for 17 semester hours attempted; (2) a 1.8 cumulative GPA for 18-33 semester hours attempted; (3) a 1.9 cumulative GPA for 34-50 semester hours attempted; and (4) a 2.0 cumulative GPA for more than 51 semester hours attempted. However, any time that your grades fall below a 2.0 you are flirting with trouble. If these requirements are not met, you are placed on academic probation. Students on probation are allowed to continue in school on a semester-to-semester basis, provided they maintain a 2.0 (C average) each semester. If you fail to make a 2.0 while on academic probation, you will be subject to dismissal. Therefore, study hard and remember that you are responsible for the grades that you make.

I feel terribly lonely even when I am around people in my dorm, in class, at parties, and at ball games. Am I crazy?

Of course you are not crazy. Loneliness is a common feeling that hits everyone at one time or another during the school year. Perhaps you feel lonely because the pressures of school and/or special relationships are sometimes hard to bear when your family is not around to lean on. Don't be embarrassed to tell a friend or even your roommate about your feelings—they may be having the same feelings. If so, just talking about it may help. Also, face each day with the assurance that it is going to be better than the day before and you can probably defeat those lonely feelings. Stay busy and make each day count for yourself. But if you still feel lonely, don't hesitate to see one of the counselors at the University Counseling Services Center located in Room 408 of the College of Education Building.

What can I do if I have 3 or more final exams scheduled for the same day?

Don't panic. If you find that you have three or more final exams scheduled for the same day, just come to the Office of Undergraduate Advisement and Developmental Studies, Wetherby Administration Building, and see Dr. Jerry Wilder or one of the other staff members there. They will work with you to help you get one of the finals changed to another day.

webstern's dictionary

Indifference: This is the "WHAT THE HECK" feeling that you may experience before your last final. The desire to finish the semester and go home can cause you to do poorly on the exam because your mind may be on other things. Students with a free day before the last exam are especially susceptible to this feeling of indifference because they need to pack to go home, or they need to rest and celebrate passing all the other exams. So, if you have only one exam on the last day or the next to the last day, don't allow yourself to sacrifice a good grade in a class just because you want to hurry home to your Mom's good cooking. Remember, one of the best Christmas gifts you can give your parents is a grade report that you and they can be proud of. So, study hard, have a MERRY CHRISTMAS, and we'll see you in January!

Faculty Rank: Basically, there are four levels of faculty rank. They are as follows: Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. Usually, certain criteria must be met in order to move up in rank. For example, completion of a Ph.D. or an equivalent degree almost automatically promotes an instructor to assistant professor. Promotions to associate and professor are usually based on experience, effective teaching, publications, research, service activities, etc.

How Much do You Know About Higher Education?

MATCHING

Match Column A with Column B

COLUMN A

- a. Major
- b. Professor
- c. Prerequisite
- d. Report
- e. Instructor
- f. Test
- g. Scholarship
- h. Area of Concentration
- i. Library
- j. Deficiency
- k. Dean
- l. Syllabus
- m. Life More Life
- n. Probation

COLUMN B

- 1 1. A requirement that you must meet before you can enroll in certain classes
- 2 2. An outline of the work you are expected to do during the semester
- 3 3. The place where you can do four hours of dormitory studying in two hours
- 4 4. Between 30 and 43 semester hours in one particular subject
- 5 5. A device for teaching and for measuring knowledge
- 6 6. Usually the head of a college
- 7 7. Western's Motto
- 8 8. A grade of D or F turned in at the mid-term
- 9 9. An award for academic or social achievement
- 10 10. The highest rank a faculty member can achieve

MULTIPLE CHOICE (Choose the best answer)

- A 11. Where in the library would you find magazine and journal articles?
 - A. Fourth Floor Cravens
 - B. First Floor Helm
 - C. Second Floor Helm
- B 12. Where would you go to drop and/or add a class?
 - A. Admission's Office
 - B. Registrar's Office
 - C. Orientation Office
- C 13. What is the name of Western's radio station?
 - A. WKUY
 - B. WKRS
 - C. WKYU
- C 14. Where do I go if I forget who my advisor is?
 - A. The Center for Academic Advisement
 - B. Admission's Office
 - C. Registrar's Office
- A 15. How many quality points would you receive in a three hour course with the grade of B?
 - A. 6
 - B. 9
 - C. 8

*The answer to these questions about higher education and Western can be found in the previous issues of the Hilltopper. How much did you know about Western and higher education?

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