students Slam poetry

Once a month, Western students take their own shot at a growing trend — slam poetry

By A. Layne Stackhouse

The doors open at 9 p.m. and the line forms. Attendees sip their drinks and have little to worry about for a few hours. The location? A high school gym, of all places.

The Jackson plays one final instrumental song and the doors are opened. Attendees settle in for what promises to be an exciting night of performances.

The slam poetry competition takes place Friday, March 16, in the Holloway-McWilliams Center. The event begins at 8:30 p.m. and is free to attend.

The slam poetry slam is the brainchild of the students themselves. It has been going strong for the past few years.

“People love it because it’s a fun, creative way to express themselves,” said Samantha Belcher, one of the organizers.

The event is open to everyone and is judged by the audience. The poetry is read aloud, and the audience is asked to rate the performance on a scale of 1 to 10.

The winner is announced at the end of the night, and a prize is awarded.

“Our goal is to bring the community together and to show off the talent we have here at Western,” said Belcher.

The slam poetry slam is just one of the many events happening on campus this spring. For more information, visit the student union or check out their social media accounts.

University worry about ‘privatization’

Donations replace state funds

By Kelly Richardson

Who needs state money anymore? Universities have found another way to keep their budgets filled.

With the federal government cutting back on its financial support, many universities are turning to private sources for funding.

“Private donations are now a major source of revenue for our institution,” said President John Smith.

The move to private funding has been met with mixed reactions. Some see it as a way to ensure the university’s future, while others worry about the impact on the quality of education.

“Private funding allows us to offer more scholarships and grants to our students,” said Smith.

Others argue that relying too heavily on private donors can lead to a loss of academic freedom.

“I worry that private donors will start dictating what goes on in the classroom,” said Professor Jane Doe.

Despite these concerns, universities continue to rely on private funding.

“Private donations are crucial to our success,” said Smith.

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New prepaid ordinance gets mixed reviews

By Adam Gibson

High-speed internet involving gas tanks may no longer be a problem for Bowling Green ga stations. But customers aren’t too happy with the cost of decreasing drone fuel.

The Bowling Green police board has adopted a new ordinance that limits the use of drones near gas stations. The ordinance was passed unanimously during Monday’s meeting.

The ordinance affects gas stations within city limits and requires them to obtain a city permit before operating a drone.

The ordinance passed after an increasing number of drone pilots have been seen near gas stations without proper permits.

Several members of the community spoke in support of the ordinance, while others expressed concern about the impact on business.

“Drones are becoming a regular sight near gas stations,” said one community member.

On the other hand, some pilots argued that they should be able to operate freely without restrictions.

“Flying drones near gas stations is perfectly safe and legal,” said another pilot.

The ordinance takes effect immediately and will be enforced by the city’s code enforcement officers.

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Students slam poetry

(Top) Senior Adam Harrison recites his poem ‘Poetry,’ which is about how ‘fire’ isn’t really taught in schools because it’s ‘consistently non-academic’ and because it is so much more important than ever. (Bottom) Ben Rains won first place at the Poetry Slam, held every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Student Union. Students can enter any poem they want, and the winner gets a cash prize.

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AGRs suspended three years

Violations include hazing, alcohol

By Cory Paul

Wounded war veteran Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity is a student organization that has any and all responsibilities for the next three years, pending further leadership scandal that occurred almost two weeks ago.

Western officials told the Herald that AGRs were accused of an alcohol-related incident, psychological hazarding and sexuality during their initiatory rituals.

Officials also determined that similar types of behavior had occurred on AGR initiation nights at least twice before.

One official said, "I feel this three-year suspension for the fraternity is appropriate given the seriousness of the violations," said Gaming Dean Steve Parker, president of Student Affairs and Campus Services, in a Western press release. "This behavior has sometimes become part of the culture of this group."

AGR Chapter President Ben Preller declined to comment.

The national organization is closer to completing its investigation and has interviewed each Western AGR member, said Philip Joseph, executive director of the AGR national fraternity.

Joseph has made a much-needed contribution to the AGR National Board of Directors, which requires unanimous consent to approve sanctions, he said.

They might come to a decision as early as tomorrow, Josephson said.

"We continue to be embarrassed and insubordinate to the behavior we have found," Josephson said.

Punishment could range from multi-disciplinary action to extreme of the AGR chapter’s charter, but will likely be similar to what given by Western, Josephson said.

Individuals could also face a large range of sanctions from the national organization pending investigation.

The investigation stems from an early morning incident at the AGR house on Feb. 16, Police responded to a noise complaint at 1:10 a.m. when the group discovered a man in the basement storage area.

A member told police the individual had to convince new members they went to have sex with it, according to the police report.

The police also discovered alcohol and illegal substances at the house.

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Student loan rates increase

Five-year decrease ends

By Andrew Cotter

Herald reporter

Carter Stewart will be paying back student loans for at least 10 years. But the English and English as a second language teacher graduated in May. drawback is a significant increase in student loan interest rates.

Loan rates will increase from 4.45% to 6.33% on May 1, according to the U.S. Education Department. The rates are set by the federal government and are regulated by the Federal Reserve Bank.

The increase is due to the fact that the U.S. government is no longer subsidizing student loans. Students now have to pay all loan interest, even while they are in school.

This affects students who are undergraduate or graduate students and are enrolled at least half-time.

The increase will affect both direct unsubsidized and subsidized loans.

According to the Education Department, the interest rate increase will have a significant impact on students and families.

"The interest rate increase is a major concern for students and families," said Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

She added that the increase is necessary to keep the cost of education affordable.

The Education Department is working to create more affordable options for students and families.

"We will continue to look for ways to lower the cost of education," said DeVos.

The interest rate increase is set to take effect on May 1, according to the Education Department. The increase will impact all federal student loans.

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Universities worry about ‘privatization’

Donations replace state funds

By Kelly Richardson

Colleges and universities always welcome more donations, but some worry about losing control.

The higher education secretaries from across the country are worried that decreased state funding could mean an end to the "public." Professors, administrators, donors--all those who have worked hard to maintain their institutions--are worried about the impact on their university.

"We've always been able to rely on state funding," said Professor John Smith.

"Now we're worried that private funding might be the only way we can keep our doors open," said Smith.

 Funding from private sources is taking up more of our budget, and that's making it difficult to maintain the quality of education we have come to expect. It's also raising concerns about how universities will be able to continue to provide a high-quality education.

"Private funding is not the same as state funding," said Professor Jane Doe.

"Private donors often have different priorities than what we need to be focusing on," said Doe.

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Check out the Herald online at www.wkuherald.com for a story about the Olympic Trials in "Western last Saturday."
1893

Year Fig Newtons were invented by the Kennedy Biscuit Works in Massachusetts.

1 billion

Number of Fig Newtons, the third most popular cookie, consumed in the United States every year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- Hearing Glass Throughfield 3 p.m. today, DUC room 308
- Graduation Play 10 a.m. 1 p.m. today through March 6, DUC
- Kentucky Institute for the Study of Religion Research Workshop on Holocaust Education 8 a.m. 4 p.m. today, Catholic Student Center
- Pi Sigma Phi 2-3 p.m. Heritage Room
- UKW/WWJ Radio and Golf Dinner Reception 6:30 p.m. today, Van Meter student union
- Meet the Media: University Facilities Members April 3, 11, 19, 20, 27, 29, 7, 14, 21, 28

Hitching a ride

Christian Hansen/Herald

Clearing the air

- Due to a Herald error, the publication date of the Encyclopedia of Northern Kentucky was incorrect in a page 10 story of Thursday's issue. It will be published in 2007. The Herald regrets the error.
- Due to a Herald error, Fred Miller, Nancy Smith, Amy Robertson, and Dave Morrison were incorrectly identified in a front page caption of Thursday's issue. Monica Dixon, left, Fred Miller, center, the Herald regrets the error.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters' or editors' attention. Please call 275-6011 or 274-3004 to report a correction, or email us at herald@wkusherald.com.

St. Thomas Aquinas
Catholic Campus Center
ASH WEDNESDAY
March 1st
Mass Schedule
6:00 pm & 8:00 pm
1403 College St. • 843-3638
www.wkuatholiccenter.com

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Former mall now used as research facility for Western

By Andrew McNamara

A concession area and ticket booth will soon be in the formerly Greenwood 6 movie theater in the old mall on Nashville Road.

While the plaza of the former theater用于 dual, scientists have transformed other areas of the building into a minimally recognized research facility.

The Institute for Combustion, Environmental Science Technology officially opened Thursday with a crowd of more than 50 Western employees, students,_estimate and board representatives celebrating the event.

At the ceremony, Vice-President Gary Russell, Legislative Director Scott Kanipes and Kentucky Commerce Secretary George Bird spoke about the partnerships that were made to build the center and the research done in the labs.

Russell said the institute is a good example of how federal funding has improved Western's quality of education and support for the local community, and therefore the region's economy.

The groundbreaking event included a check presentation to the Department of Energy from the University of Kentucky, establishing the University of Kentucky as a national partner in the research.

The research will be a partnership between the local power companies, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Electric Power Research Institute and Electric Energy Inc.

Russell said the research will fit the basic principles of Gov. Ernie Fletcher's state energy strategy to maintain Kentucky's low-cost energy, responsibly develop Kentucky's energy resources and maintain the state's commitment to environmental responsibility.

Some signs of the mall's old cafeteria still remain in the area.

Officials have replaced some of the centers and doorways are almost the same.

The USDOE-computer facility contains the Thermal Analysis Laboratory, Combustion Laboratory, Mercury Emissions and Control Laboratory.

None of the programs at the Institute are new to Western, but they will now be managed inside a private facility and research conducted in seven unique locations, Pat said.

All of the researchers and available labs are funded by government grants and private companies, Pat said.

The institute will bring in $1 million to $4 million a year in revenue, which is paid to pay for equipment, staff salaries and other expenses, Pat said.

In 2003, the university signed an agreement to lease the building to a Western-owned research company, Pat said.

Research at the facility will be a great example of how Western should be applying research and faculty to the improvement of the community.

This strengthens the impact of the entire university, and it has offered an opportunity that the state has made in it, Russell said.

Law Coordinator Pauline Hack said the lab conducts research on several aspects of the research experience and hands-on learning on a scale and in a depth that is taught in classrooms.

"Students don't typically get to work with $300,000 equipment or have access to the knowledge that comes through here in terms of the visiting scholars and doctors," Hack said.

Reach Andrew McNamara at nmcnamara@wku.edu.

News brief

Inaugust hosts open house in MINTTH

The nation's first student-operated advertising and public relations agency is opening the doors of its offices in the past March 7.

Inaugust is opening an open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in their third floor office at the Mass Media and Technology Hall.

The open house will give potential clients and prospective student interns a chance to see what daily operations are like.

Inaugust offers positions in graphic design, web design, broadcasting and other positions in student work.

Since the agency opened in spring 2004, more than 30 students have interned at Inaugust. There are 11 interns working this semester.

The agency itself has worked on more than 200 projects for more than 50 different clients, including Western, said agency founder Kathy of Klein Consulting and Holland CPA.

"Inaugust is a great way for the students to apply the skills they learn in the classroom," said Cliff Shalita, Western's advertising and public relations coordinator.

During the open house, the agency's work will be displayed and tours of Mass Media Hall will be given throughout the day.

Bobby Harrell

Technology

IT IS TIME TO GET INVOLVED!!!

The annual Student Government Association elections are fast approaching. If you are interested in running for any positions you must be there!!!

Fast Tuesday March 1 in the SGA Senate, office, DGC room 123.

Positions Include

President
Executive Vice President
Administrative Vice President
Senator

Student Government Association

We're worldwide. Check us out: www.wkuherald.com
**Food service blunders**

The food services on campus need to have higher expectations:

Food services included improper sanitation levels or water used to wash dishes and utensils contaminated due to cross-contamination. The latter was cited eight times in the 33 inspections. Bus boys’ service was also a constant problem. Customers’ service was delayed twice for improper temperatures, which caused the food to be discarded.

Other violations were for poor sanitation in the dishwashing room and cases of food being put on a plate before being cooked. Food was dropped off outside without being properly stored.

Campus food services had done a great job fixing the cited problems. Western has always been good at fixing the following problems. Campus food services should not wait for the inspectors to find the problems. There were no one reported deficiencies in the time the inspectors caught the campus food service. Customers should have confidence in the food services on campus.

"This staff orientation meets the requirements of the (Western) Board of Regents of the State of Illinois."
Campus government

SGA may advertise on Facebook

BY Katelyn Bradbury

For Facebook users, the SGA is searching for new ways to increase its presence on campus. One plan is to use Facebook as a marketing tool to advertise events and services.

"It's a great way to reach students," said SGA President Robert Thomas. "By advertising on Facebook, we can reach a wider audience and increase student engagement." Thomas added that the SGA is currently in the process of purchasing Facebook advertising space to promote upcoming events and services.

"We want to be more visible on campus," said SGA Vice President Sarah Russell. "Facebook is a great platform for us to connect with students and encourage them to get involved with the SGA." Russell noted that the SGA is currently exploring different advertising options and will make a decision soon on which one to use.

Campus life

Cupula Society awards donors

BY Amber Coulter

The Cupula Society recently recognized its top donors with a special award ceremony. The society, which recognizes donors who have made significant contributions to the university, held the ceremony on February 28.

"We are grateful for the support of our donors," said Cupula Society President Tim Thayer. "Their generosity is essential to the success of our university." Thayer added that the society is looking for new ways to recognize and thank its donors.

The Cupula Society awards are given to donors who have contributed a minimum of $10,000 to the university. The awards are presented during a special ceremony to recognize the donors' contributions.

About 60 donors were honored at the event, with gifts ranging from $10,000 to $1 million.

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It's like having a part-time job without a boss

"I don't think people realize, for two hours a week, they can give someone a chance at life. That's priceless!"

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We Can Help You!!!!
Career Advising Job Search Counseling Job/Career Fairs
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New Program!
PEER CAREER COUNSELOR
Gain KNOWLEDGE of the JOB MARKET and get SKILLS to equip you for LIFE AFTER COLLEGE!
Gain LEADERSHIP SKILLS to put on your RESUME!
"Seeking students to start in the Fall Semester"
APPLY TODAY
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WKU SPRING JOB FAIR
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Centennial Celebration continues with March the Hill

By A. Layne Stackhouse Staff Reporter

With red torches burning, small but lively crowds of people chanted and sang songs to President Tom Sullivan's speech in front of the Kerrigan Building Saturday afternoon. As part of the Centennial Celebration, students were encouraged to sing and dance through campus activities. March the Hill provided students, faculty and members of the Bowling Green community the opportunity to continue the celebration.

The event was meant to be symbolic of the match that took place on Feb. 4, 1911 and changed the fate of Western and the rest of the nation.

David Lee, dean of Potter College, introduced Kendall but first explained the significance of his name.

Dr. John Mallory, president from 1905 until his death in 1917, wanted Western to move to the top of the Hill.

Originally, the Western Kentucky State Normal School was located at 1109 College St. in Bowling Green. The new campus was built on the hill, and Dr. Mallory was a proponent of studying and living on top of the Hill.

The Administration Building, which is now the Hill Hall, was built because Mallory wanted to expand.

However, by Feb. 4, 1911 Mallory was ready to move to the Hill. Students and faculty gathered and sang and danced to celebrate the change. Since the celebration was held on top of the Hill, students were happy to see the importance of the move to the Hill when they were not living in a residential campus, but instead on top of it.

Kendall, who grew up in a block away, was a student and friend of Dr. Mallory.

The Hill makes us unique and creative, Kendall said.

After the celebration, everyone gathered on the lawn to increase the pleasure of the 1911 students, before walking to Bowling Green.

McDonald, who grew up a block away, was a student and friend of Dr. Mallory. She was an important part of the Centennial events and exhibits for a short time.

Gary Haysley, associate dean of nursing and annual giving, said that anyone who participated in the Centennial events and exhibits for any length of time.

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Sweet Wranglin’ Sunday

Tommy Naylor of Henderson, Tenn., and his daughter Jaina Naylor watched anxiously as other penning teams prepared in the open division Sunday afternoon at the Agricultural Exposition Center. The Naylors were trying to hold on to the best time they achieved earlier in the event.

Tommy Bale of Cave City, his quarter horse “Hummer” out of line,” and his son Michael Bale (background) waited for their next attempt during the open division.

Cowboys and cowgirls came from all over the region to stir up dust in the team penning competition. While the competition took place inside the Ag Expo Center, other riders kept their horses warmed up outside in the riding ring, waiting for their next event.

CONNECT TO OUR DINING STYLES SURVEY TELL US HOW DINING SERVICES MEETS YOUR NEEDS AND ENTER TO WIN!

GRAND PRIZE = iPod nano (2GB)
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WHEN: FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 10
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Students go Goodwill hunting

By NINA BOKSEN, Times reporter

A 16-year-old girl throughout Southwestern was looking for a white jacket on the front porch when she found a $100 bill. The student then asked her friends to help her buy clothes.

Western students went shopping at thrift stores, some perfectly for fashion, others for fun. Despite the small stores, they were able to find some good clothes.

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The students say, “I don’t like the dressing like everyone else,” and many of the stores are happy with the students because it complements the style of the shop.

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Helen Waters and James Willis, both from Bowling Green, spend time shopping for themselves and other people they know at the Goodwill stores around town.

Helen Waters, a student at Western, said, “I have seen some really fun things at Goodwill. If you are looking for a good deal, you can find it there.”

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AGRS: Individual investigations continue

The events that occurred were related to members of the organization carrying on these activities inappropriately, and by interfering standards of peaceful protestation practice,” Bailey said.

According to Bailey, his evidence of unlawful action was found, and the possibility was a "malicious and vexatious utterance." He said he would have been more careful if he had discovered any physical action that occurred with the group.

"We would have been startled if we had discovered any physical action that occurred with the group," Bailey said.

Ten or 11 AGRS may have investigated individual and joint associations with Western, he said.

Bailey said he hopes individual and joint associations will be finished by this week. The punishment won't include suspension from Western based on the investigations, he said.

Bailey met with the police last week and they agreed on a three-week suspension based on the severity of the breach and the previous alteration vote requirement.

The fixed rates will benefit students by making private sector rates more than the current rates. Students who do not interest in the fixed rates may be less interested, Barrick said. But rates set by the bill will be set, so they won't adjust with rates in the private sector.

The fixed rates will benefit students if private sector rates increase, Barrick said. But students who cannot afford private sector rates will have to pay.

The spending bill also increased the rates on PLUS loans, which are typically taken out by parents. Rates were previously scheduled to increase to 7.5 percent.

The bill will also allow institutions to use student loans for summer jobs. This is a current requirement. That should make loan distribution a little more convenient, Barrick said.

The Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority will not give borrowers extra costs, said Susan Bailey, executive assistant for KHEAA.

Leading companies will not charge interest rates on the former lending rates listed in the Wall Street Journal, said Michelle's Taylor, chief executive for Southern Methodist University.

Prime lending rates are the interest rates that banks charge their best customers.

Reach Amber Cooker at amcook@wku.edu

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**Graduation Fair**

**3rd Floor D.U.C.**

**Tuesday, February 28**

10:00-4:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 1**

10:30-4:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 2**

11:00-3:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 3**

11:00-3:30 p.m.

Get your Cap and Gown

Tables will be set up with the following:

- WCE Alumni Association
- Career Services
- Registrar’s Office Confirmation of Graduation
- University Bookstore: Cap and Gown
- Senior Class Challenge
- WCU Graduate School
- Tuition Payments and Orders
- Balfour: Announcements and WEIS Official School Ring Orders

This event is sponsored by the WCE Alumni Association, the University Bookstore and Balfour.
Western expects less funding

Legislators hope to vote on the budget in the House and send it to the Senate by March 16. But the budget might not stay intact. Western's basic tax funds could be revised, and the school's operating costs could be cut.

Private funding necessary

Western has been less successful than its two largest competitors in securing outside funding. Over the past three years, the university has been unable to agree with the state Department of Corrections on a funding formula that would make it easier to secure outside funding. But the state's education system is scheduled for a Sept. 30, 2004, transition to a new funding system, and many administrators expect that the state will pay more attention to the university's needs.

Chief Financial Officer Amy Y. Stuve says the university's goal for the current fiscal year, which ended June 30, was $35 million. The university had a deficit of $20 million, and Stuve says the new budget will be $10 million.

Deacon, who is overseeing the university's Education Committee, says that legislators have not negotiated with the university on funding formulas, but that they are thinking about it.

Deacon's deeply held senior budget package, the system of funding formulas, could result in Western losing money if the state's new funding formulas are not included in the proposed budget. The system could result in Western losing money in the future, and it could also result in a decrease in the general assembly's funding for Western.

The proposed state budget is under review in the House of Representatives and in the Senate's Appropriations Committee, which is expected to make a decision by the end of the month. The budget will be finalized in the House before it goes to the State Senate, and Deacon says it could result in Western losing money in the future.

Private money, maintains programs

Western administrators have helped several large-scale projects to attract money from the state's new funding formulas, including the Agricultural Experiment Station and the South Campus, according to the university's website.

The university's website highlights several projects, including the college's new library, which is scheduled to open in September.

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Poetry: Contest offers cash prizes

The Bowling Green State Poetry Society recently performed, and competed twice a month at different venues. Competitions consist of three rounds, with each round consisting of six poems, which will help them gain a spot at national competitions, said Adam Bernhard, a junior from Bowling Green, and one of the poetry society’s founders.

"Since poetry is focused on the spoken word," Bernhard said, "it has high-impact influences. The slam poet will reread some poetry during competitions to the ear such as alliteration, rhyme and internal rhyme." Described as a new literary movement, slam poetry has become popular in local Bowling Green coffee shops. However, a few poets are breaking new ground by trying to bring it to bigger areas in the Bowling Green community as well as communities everywhere.

Bernhard is the executive director and co-founder of The Greenhouse Poetry Inc., a new project designed to get more people involved and interested in slam poetry. One primary goal of the nonprofit organization is to capture a younger audience by performing at high schools. The Greenhouse Poetry Inc. has already started teaching slam and youth workshops and plans to offer scholarships and raise awareness about slam poetry.

"This will help a lot of people get into slam poetry, a lot of the people I have met so far were never taught in school because it doesn’t have the same academic views," Bernhard said.

Bernhard invited John Tufts, Tufts’ owner, if the team could perform slam poetry at his bar to broaden the audience. "The audience went away from the slam poetry that we have here," Bernhard said.

Tufts was very open to the idea since he was told slam poetry was about Bernhard.

"We’ve done a lot of different things here," Tufts said. "We try to provide a variety of entertainment.

January’s performance in Tufts’ was the first time Greenhouse graduate Nick Robinson showed a slam poetry competition. "To hear them get up there and say things that I am amazed," Robinson said.

The Greenhouse Poetry Inc., which was recently officially incorporated and has an upcoming performance at the Capital Art Theater downtown Bowling Green. Anyone is invited to get involved.

Although it is a nonprofit organization, The Greenhouse Poetry Inc. will sell merchandise and include a small membership fee to keep the project running and provide scholarships for high school students who want to get involved, Bernhard said.

With more money earned, more schools can be toured and more workshops can be taught, Bernhard said.

While anyone can get involved in the growing Green Slam Poetry Forum or The Greenhouse Poetry Inc., only the top performers compete in national competitions, Bernhard said.

He also said the project will bring slam poetry to a broader scene. "There is a lot of interest in Bowling Green, but because we are not in the big city, we don’t get a lot of exposure," he said.

Tonight’s competition will include cash prizes for the winner. Even though new people are interested in slam poetry, "The atmosphere will be held," Bernhard said.

Roach & Leake Watson
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The Herald has Western covered

GET YOUR NEWS, FEATURES AND SPORTS FROM WESTERN’S PROUD PUBLICATION

THE HERALD — MORE THAN JUST INTERNET FODDER

College Heights Herald
Western wins four straight

BY ABBY SHULL

Two come-from-behind rallies and 37 kills helped the Lady Toppers hand the South Dakota State Coyotes their second loss in as many matches.

The Lady Toppers dropped both matches this weekend against San Diego State (9-3) in the third and fourth matches after a dominating start. In the first match, senior hitter Lauren Holt brought fans to their feet with a powerful assist in the second set.

The Lady Toppers opened the fourth set with a 15-8 lead, but the Coyotes fought back to take a 22-21 lead. Senior hitter Lauren Holt then led the way with a powerful assist, leading to a 25-22 win.

The Lady Toppers won the first set 25-14, the second set 25-14, and the third set 25-12.

WIN: Ransdell hits first homer of year

BY PEGGY WILLIAMSON

It was a strong showing for the Toppers on Friday night against the No. 3 ranked Bulldogs at Mead Park.

The Lady Toppers used their strong fielding and hitting to defeat the Bulldogs, 2-0. The Lady Toppers scored two runs in the first inning, and held the Bulldogs scoreless in the remaining innings.

The Lady Toppers' strength was their hitting, as they scored two runs on a single hit by junior hitter Emily Ransdell. Ransdell's hit was the first home run of the year for the Lady Toppers.

The Lady Toppers also benefited from the strong fielding of their defense, which held the Bulldogs scoreless throughout the game.

Track and field

Lady Toppers win Sun Belt indoor title

BY KG LUTHER

For the first time in Western history, the Lady Toppers took home the Sun Belt Conference indoor championship.

The Lady Toppers scored 210 points, while the next closest team scored 160 points. The Lady Toppers were led by junior runner Alexia Thompson, who won the 800 meters.

The Lady Toppers' strong performance was highlighted by the team's success in the field events.

Sports brief

Men's tennis wins two, loses one in weekend matches

The men's tennis team is on a downward trend after playing three matches this weekend.

The team played well in the first two matches, but fell short in the final match against the University of Alabama, 4-0. The team remained unbeaten in conference play.

The team's next match is against the University of Kentucky on March 6.

''Baby Doll' - 'Wave on Wave' - 'Don't Break My Heart Again'

The group's new album is set to release on March 4.

The group's first single, 'Baby Doll,' was released in December and has been a huge success. The album also features the singles 'Wave on Wave' and 'Don't Break My Heart Again.'

The group's next single, 'Break My Heart Again,' is set to be released in April.

For more information on the group, visit their official website or follow them on social media.
High: Some students asked to move seats

To readers:

[Address]
Western dazzles full house in finale

Tops get 15-point win

By JASON STEAM

Top seed Western State got its 15th point win of the season when it overpowered Southern State 67-52 in the first round of the NCAA Division II men's basketball tournament on Saturday at the University of Colorado.

Western led by as much as 20 points in the second half, but Southern State came back to within 17 points with 11 minutes left in the game. The Thunderbirds' defense held them scoreless for the last five minutes of the game.

"We played well defensively," said coach Bob Harkins. "We limited their scoring opportunities and forced them into difficult shots."

Western's David Thompson scored a game-high 21 points, while teammate Anthony Washburn added 19 points. Southern State's Leading Scorer, Josh Jones, contributed 10 points.

The win advances Western State to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division II tournament, where they will face the winner of the game between No. 2 seeded Arkansas and No. 3 seeded Arkansas-Little Rock.

Lady Tops take top seed from MTSU

By JAYE MITCHELL

It was Senior Night for the Lady Tops, but the Lady Tops'30-point win over the South Conference powerhouse事务 on Monday was no contest for them. They went up by double digits within four minutes and never looked back in their 83-54 victory over South Conference rival MTSU.

The Lady Tops were led by senior guard Shalyn Butler, who scored 16 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Freshman forward Taylor Jones added 14 points and seven rebounds.

"We really needed this win," said coach Bruce Matthews. "Our team has been struggling lately, and tonight we showed that we can compete with the best of the best."

The win improved the Lady Tops' record to 20-2 on the season and gives them a 3-1 record in the South Conference.

Baseball

New coach gets first two wins

By DAVID HACKETT

In the Thunderbirds' second game against Cal State Fullerton, coach Brian McFarland led his team to a 7-3 victory over the Titans.

The Thunderbirds scored three runs in the first inning and never looked back, building a 4-0 lead by the end of the fourth inning.

"I'm pleased with the team's performance," said coach McFarland. "They played aggressively and made key hits when they needed them most."

With the win, the Thunderbirds move to 24-10 on the season and remain in the hunt for a spot in the NCAA Division II playoffs.