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KANZA

2006





# KANZA 2006

**August 2005-May 2006**

**Pittsburg State University**

**Pittsburg, Kansas**

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KANZA 2006



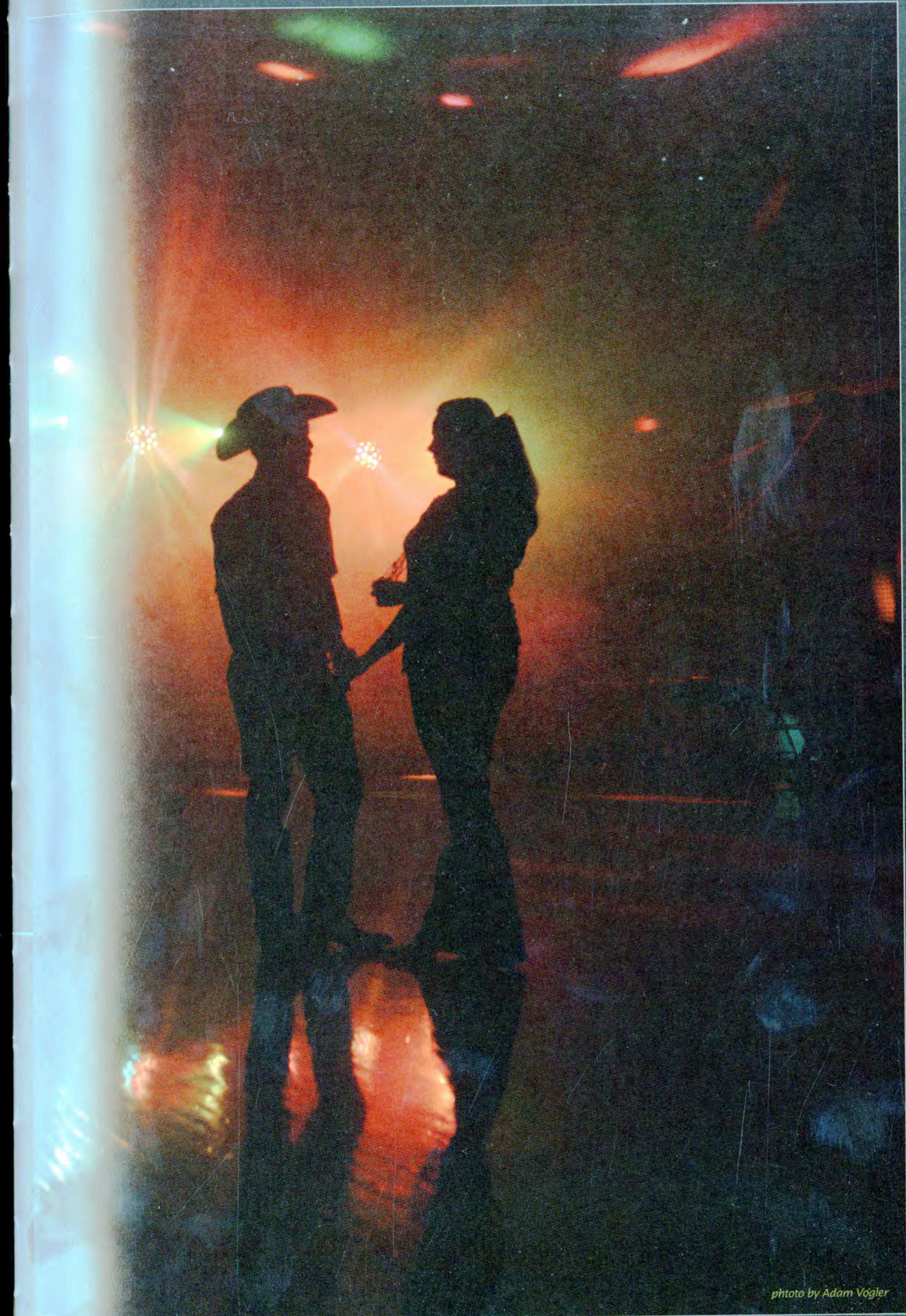


photo by Adam Vögler



Gus crowd surfs during the quarterfinal  
playoff game against Northwest Missouri  
State University.

*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*









Xunzhuo Xu, freshman in biology, dips into a basket of candy during the Homecoming parade Saturday, Oct. 8.

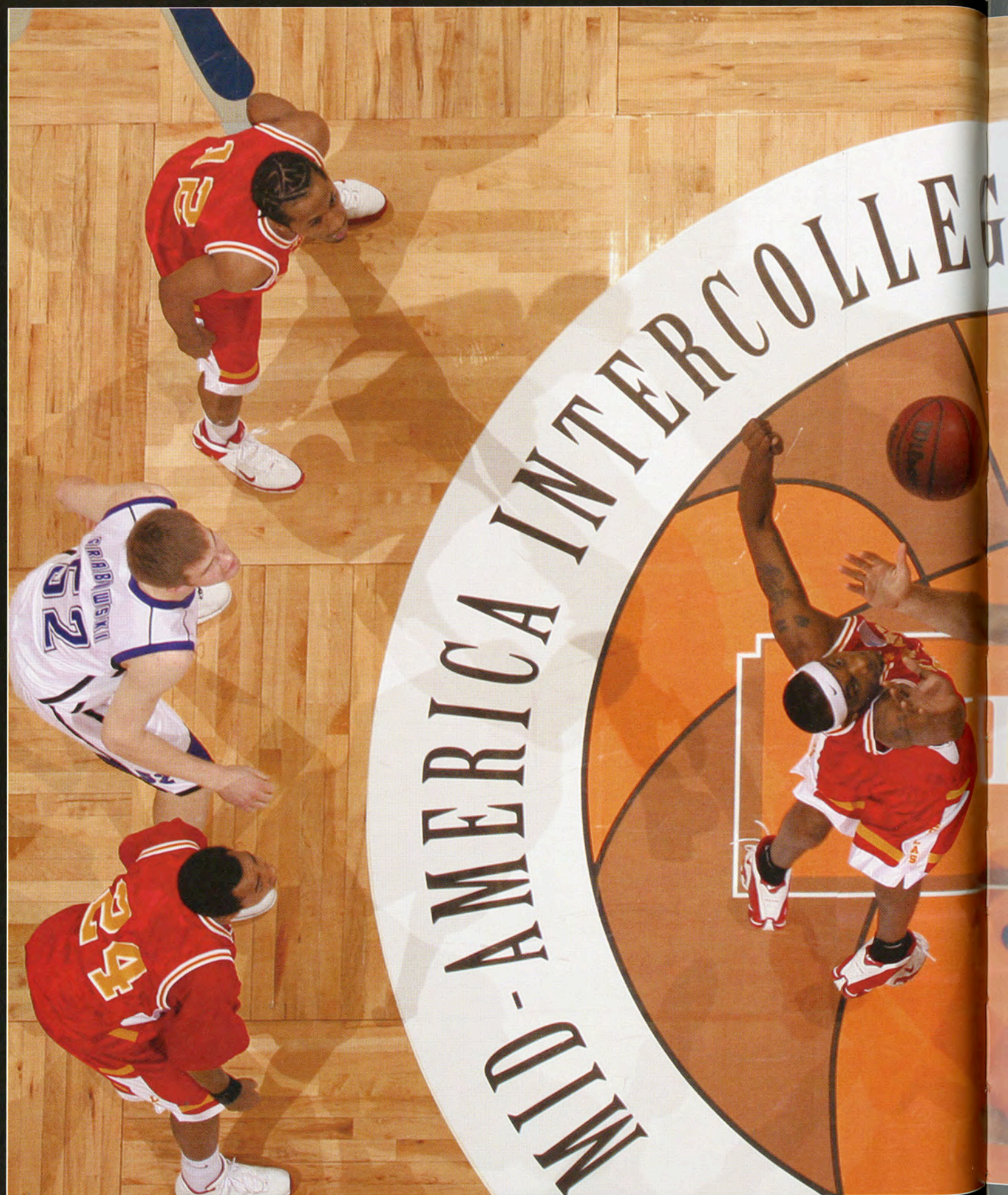
photo by Kevin Meives















*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*

Ed Morris, junior forward, and SBU's Frans Steyn go up for the tip-off while teammates wait for the ball during the first round of the MIAA Championship at Kansas City Municipal Auditorium on March 3.





# Life

Danny Yang, fourth level in the Intensive English Program, dances the Virginia Reel with Camille Olcese, professor in the Intensive English Program, during the International Thanksgiving celebration held in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom

*photo by Kyle DeRodes*









# Moving in

Students get help  
from volunteers



*photo by Kevin Meives*

Ashley Davis, sophomore in criminal justice and biology, helps a student move into a residence hall on the north side of campus. Pitt State was in overflow housing mode this year because 30 percent of students returned to the dorms from last year and there was an increase in the number of freshmen living in the dorms. This meant that 45 students were asked to move into Mitchell Hall, which is not usually inhabited.

Chris King, sophomore in accounting, helps unload a student's car.

*photo by Kevin Meives*







*photos by Kevin Meives*

Members of the move-in crew unload boxes on the north side of campus.  
Above: Veronica Bevels, undeclared sophomore, unloads chairs out of a trailer.



# Off2PSU

Students get hearty  
Pitt State welcome

by Kondja Kamatuka

Lincoln Park started Off2PSU week with a bang.

No gloomy clouds could erase the laughter that filled the air as students walked through the park that Sunday. Not even the chance of rain could hamper the activities, which ranged from sand volleyball to just sitting in the grass getting to know each other.

"I'm a transfer student from KU and we never had anything like this," sophomore Jenni Unruh said. "It was a good way to understand what PSU is about."

Off2PSU is a chance for new and old students to have some fun and meet new people during the first few weeks of classes. It also helps to ease the stress and anxiety some may feel in a new school, and for many, a new town.

"I'm really glad they had so much for us to do because I'm from Oklahoma and I only knew one

other person here," said Dorothy Shrader, freshman in music education. "It gave me a chance to meet new people before classes started."

Lincoln Park kicked off a week of activities including karaoke, Casino Night, and an outdoor movie, just to name a few. The events were open to all PSU students.

"Karaoke was so much fun," freshman Natalee Hulstine said. "Any excuse to rock out to Kelly Clarkson is an opportunity I can't miss."

By all accounts, the events gave students a warm welcome to the campus.

"I don't care if it rains, you can't beat free food," freshman Brittany Gholson said, laughing as she reached for cookies.



photo by Kevin Meives

Katie Kanatzar, freshman in elementary education, Julie Burdick, freshman in fashion merchandising, and Sarah Glavin, undeclared freshman, sing karaoke and dance in the U-Club in the Overman Student Center. Karaoke night was part of a week of events welcoming students to PSU.







*photo by Kevin Meives*  
Kyle Morey, freshman in business, Zack Smith, freshman in biology, and Brad Crockett, freshman in business, float down the lazy river at Lincoln Park.





Above: Michael C. Anthony, hypnotist, gets students to act crazy during his performance at the Overman Student Center.

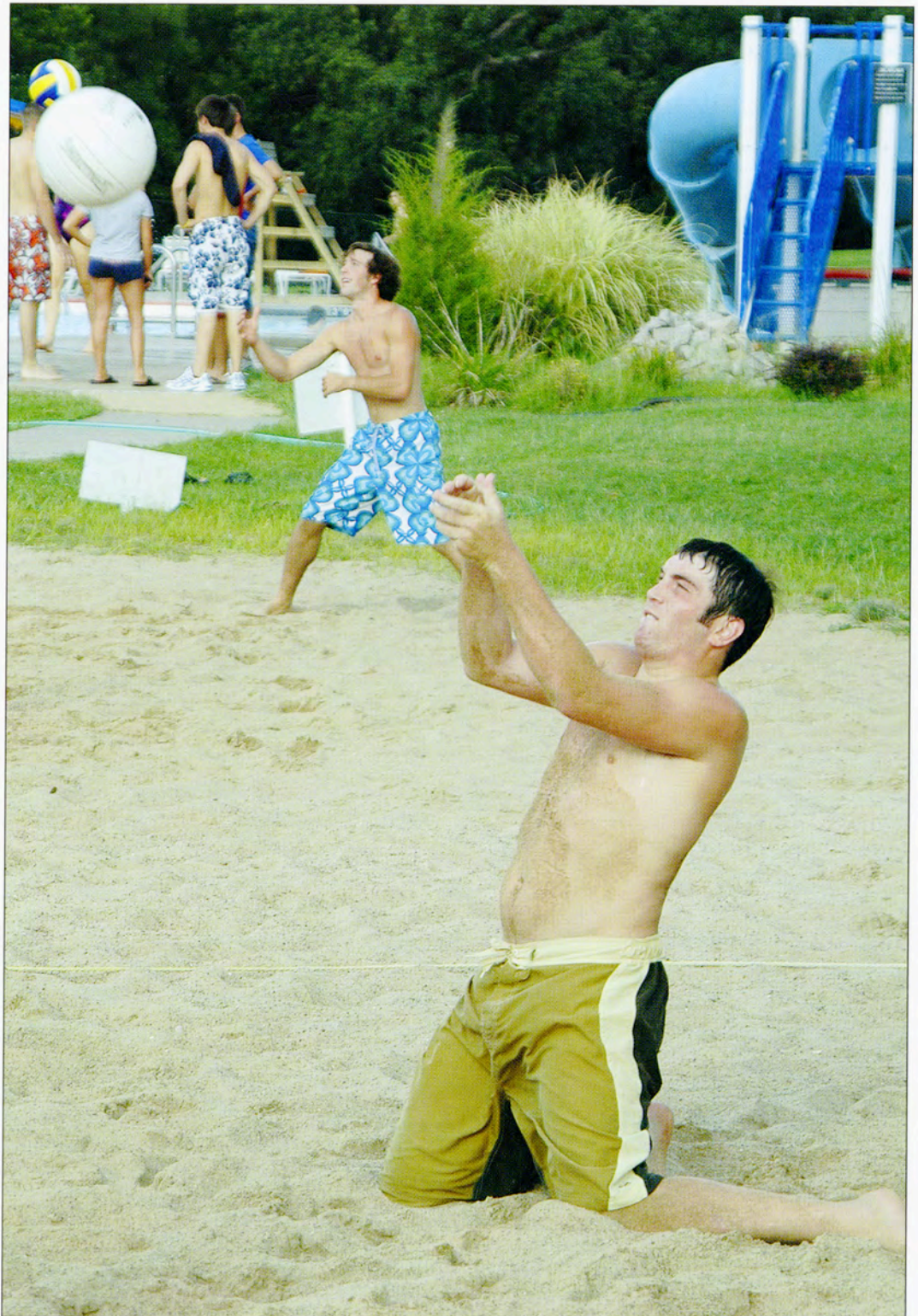
*photos by Kevin Meives*  
far right: Students, cast under the spell of the hypnotist, use their shoes as oxygen masks.

Charlie Jamison, freshman in woodworking, Casey Jameson, freshman in social work, Stanley Peronne, freshman in computer science, and Elizabeth Darling, freshman in art education, exercise their vocal chords during karaoke night at the U-Club.





# Off2PSU



Tim Elder, senior in plastics engineering, dives to bump the volleyball in a game of sand volleyball at the Off2PSU pool party.



# Homecoming urges students to 'Be a Kid Again'

By Sarah Chenoweth

There are times in every college student's life - finals week, midterms, etc. - when he wishes he could just be a kid again. For PSU students, that wish came true during Homecoming 2005. The homecoming theme encouraged everyone to "Be a Kid Again," and drew out the playful side of everyone on campus.

The homecoming week kicked off Monday, Oct. 3, with Yard Art and Gorilla Games in the Oval. Stephanie Schartel, communication major, said it took about five hours to complete the Campus Democrats' piece of yard art.

"It was so much fun," said Schartel. The Democrats gutted an old television set and, according to Schartel, "randomly put stuff in there until it made a scene we thought looked cool." The scene consisted of small toys, and even a Furbie.

The winner of the Yard Art competition was Inter-

national Interior Design Association with its display of "Gorillas in Wonderland," an Alice in Wonderland inspired theme.

The competitions in this year's Gorilla Games brought the inner kid out in the organizations competing. Events included a pie-eating contest, a carnivalesque dart throwing/balloon pop, an airplane toss, and a cookie-stacking competition.

Some people, like Kevin Hemenway, marketing major and member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, and DeAnna Goering, English major and RHA member, cheered their fellow teammates while waiting for their turn to perform later in the week at Yell Like Hell.

Goering said RHA had a good shot at winning some of the homecoming events. "Our airplane went super far," she said, and "all the judges thought our yard art was really cute."

Billy Grassie, undeclared major and member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, admitted he only did "OK" in his

event, the balloon pop, but still announced enthusiastically that Sigma Chi was going to win.

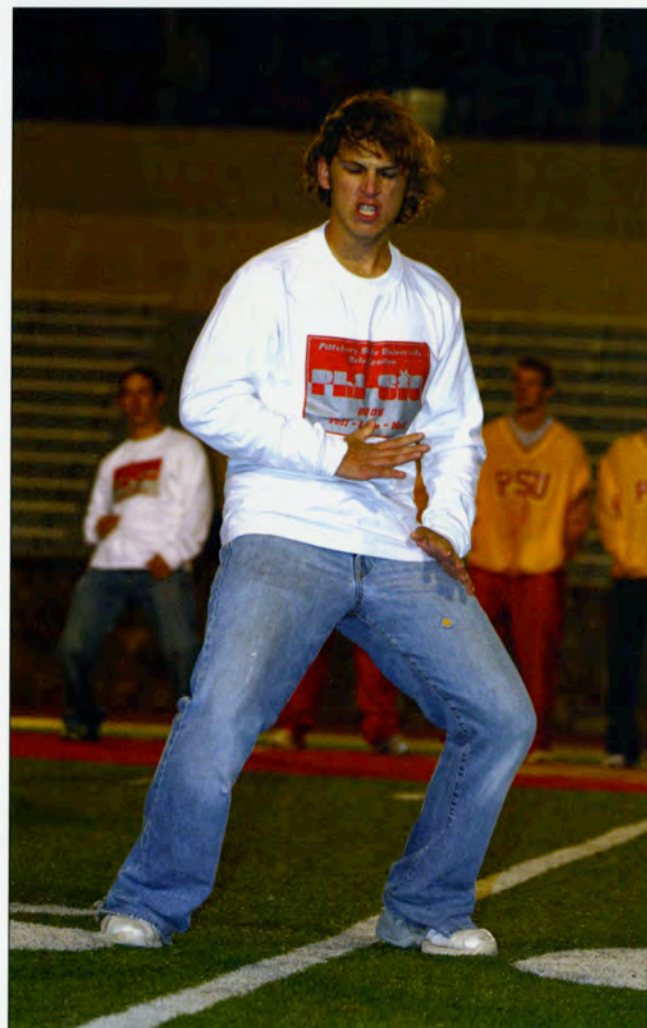
"We're going to step it up a notch in the pie-eating contest," said Grassie.

But Troy Baugh, pre-engineering major and member of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, said he thought he had the pie-eating contest in the bag. "I have a good strategy," said Baugh. "I think I'm going to slurp more than I eat!"

In the contest, one person "made" the pies out of pudding and whipped cream and ran them over to an awaiting teammate, who tried to gobble down the pie before his or her competitor.

Homecoming convocation was held in Carnie Smith Stadium at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 6. First, a panel of nine judges of students, faculty, staff and community members narrowed down the field of 34 candidates to 12 semifinalists.

*Continued on page 22*



*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*

Matt Medenci, junior in accounting, performs with Phi Sigma Kappa during Yell Like Hell. Phi Sigma Kappa placed fourth in the men's division of the competition.



Members of Alpha Gamma Delta perform a dance during Yell Like Hell.

*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*





*photo by Kevin Meives*

Bethany Lee, left, sophomore in nursing, Kara Wolf, center, sophomore in nursing, and Kendra Wolf, sophomore in business, walked in the homecoming parade dressed as Little Bo Peep's sheep.



*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*



*photo by Kevin Meives*

Justin Berko, undeclared freshman, builds a tower of peanut butter and cookies. This contest was part of the Gorilla Games. The person who could build the tallest tower the fastest without it falling over won points for his or her organization.



# Homecoming urges students to 'Be a Kid Again'

*continued from page 20*

The Pride of the Plains Marching Band performed along with the Spirit Squad and the Crimson and Gold Dancers as members of Lambda Sigma tallied the votes for homecoming king and queen. Mentalist Craig Karges also performed on the field at convocation, as well as later that night in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.

First the king and queen's court attendants were announced. Second attendants were Evan Besperat of Honors College Association and Ginger Niemann of Student Government Association. First attendants were Jared Smith representing Alpha Gamma Delta, and Gegan Ketchum of University Student Ambassadors.

Finally came the announcement of the homecoming king and queen. Andy Majors and Amanda Steuernagel, both representing Alpha Sigma Alpha, were crowned by last year's winners, congratulated by other candidates, and cheered by the audience.

"It's amazing," Steuernagel said. "It's been a long couple of weeks."

Majors agreed that the last few weeks had been stressful. "It's very flattering," he said, "I'm very flattered to be standing here beside Amanda."

On Thursday, Oct. 6, Yell Like Hell brought fun, excitement and cold weather.

Spectators bounced beach balls through the crowd, a stray dog wandered around the field, and Rachel Barney, freshman in nursing and performer with Alpha Gamma Delta, broke her arm.

"My radius went into my elbow and cracked both bones," Barney said. Still, she finished her routine and was later driven to the hospital by members of her sorority.

The campus groups who performed by doing dances, routines and cheers, were able to cut loose and have fun with the theme of "Be a Kid Again." Sigma Phi Epsilon did a routine based on Michael Jackson's "Thriller," and Phi Sigma Kappa included the Pink

Panther and Flintstones theme songs into their dance. Titus house did something a little different and incorporated football moves into their routine, which drew cheers from the crowd.

Winners of Yell Like Hell were, in the co-ed division, RHA; the women's division, Sigma Sigma Sigma; and men's division, Pi Kappa Alpha.

Saturday, Oct. 8, brought with it not only the big game, but the big parade. Campus groups designed and built floats, many bearing the week's theme, and made their way down Broadway to show their school spirit. Even Jack Overman, former director of the Overman Student Center, marched in the parade all decked out in PSU colors.

The parade was a competition, with honors given for best small and large floats. The winner of the mini float contest was Newman Club, while Sigma Sigma Sigma tied with Pi Kappa Alpha for first place in the large float competition.



Members of Sigma Sigma Sigma embrace after hearing they were awarded first place for the women's division of Yell Like Hell.  
photo by Carla Wehmeyer





Damon McKinney, freshman, performs a dance with the Sigma Chi fraternity.

photo by Carla Wehmeyer

Below: Rachael Rank, junior in fashion merchandising and communication, staples balloons to a dartboard during Gorilla Games.

photo by Kevin Meives





# A parade fit for a king and queen

By Beth Schulte

The long-awaited moment arrived on Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 5, when Tom Bryant, university president, introduced Andy Majors and Amanda Steuernagel as the 2005 homecoming king and queen.

Candidates were interviewed throughout the previous month by a judging panel of three PSU faculty and staff members, three PSU students and three community members. The candidates underwent personal and group interviews. They were also judged on their answers at the king and queen presentations, also known as "fishbowl," on Oct. 4 in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.

"After I went to the king and queen presentations, I got a good synopsis of what the candidates were all about," said Ali Reals, sophomore in elementary education. "I just applied that when I voted."

During convocation, the 34 candidates were introduced to the crowd before being narrowed down to 12 semifinalists.

The king semifinalists were Scot Schiefelbein, representing Student Government Association; Majors, Alpha Sigma Alpha; Evan Besperat, Honors College; Jared Smith, Alpha Gamma Delta; Zac Robinson, Society of Plastics Engineers; and Chris Matzenbacher, Sigma Sigma Sigma.

Queen semifinalists were Ginger Niemann, Student Government Association; Becky Moore, Omicron Delta Kappa; Kellie Borders, Residence Hall Assembly; Lindsey Klemencic, PR/Ad Club and Lambda Pi Eta; Steuernagel, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Gegan Ketcham, University Student Ambassadors.

"It is such an honor," Moore said about her nomination. "I had a lot of fun doing it. It was an honor representing ODK. And to be one of the top six queen

candidates was extremely, extremely exciting."

The Pride of the Plains Marching Band provided music before convocation began. While waiting for the votes to be tallied after submitting them to members of Lambda Sigma, the crowd was entertained by comments from Chuck Broyles, head football coach; a dance and cheer routine by the Spirit Squad and Crimson and Gold Dancers; and Craig Karges, mentalist, who performed Wednesday night in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.

Cassie Wilson, Yard Art chair and junior in marketing, also announced the winners of the Yard Art competition. Fourth place went to Alpha Sigma Alpha, third to the Newman Club and second went to Pi Kappa Alpha. The first place winner was International Interior Design Association, with its display of "Gorillas in Wonderland."

The king and queen's court was announced first,

with Besperat and Niemann being named second attendants. Smith and Ketchum were first attendants.

Reals says she was surprised with this year's winners, but thought all the candidates had "awesome qualities."

"I think they represented their organizations well," Reals said.

After being crowned by last year's royalty, Paul Cope and Amber Shaverdi, Majors and Steuernagel, both representing Alpha Sigma Alpha, were congratulated by the other candidates and students from the crowd.

"It's amazing," Steuernagel said. "It's been a long couple of weeks. It's kind of a relief to have it over with."

"It's very flattering," Majors said. "It has been a long couple of weeks, but I'm flattered to be standing here beside Amanda."

The king and queen will help with the rest of this week's homecoming events.

"This is all new to me," Majors said. "I'm just going to follow Amanda."



Jared Smith, Alpha Gamma Delta, with fellow Alpha Gamma Delta member Chris Matzenbacher.

above: Melanie Moore, Omicron Delta Kappa, representing the Student Government Association.

left: Amanda Steuernagel, Alpha Sigma Alpha, the homecoming queen.



# queen

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photos by Kevin Meives

Jared Smith, Alpha Gamma Delta nominee, waves at the crowd during the homecoming parade. Smith rode in a car with fellow Alpha Gamma Delta nominee Erin Paul.

above: Melanie Rambo and Chris Matzenbacher, Sigma Sigma Sigma nominees, ride in a car at the homecoming parade.

left: Amanda Steuernagel, homecoming queen, and Andy Majors, homecoming king, smile for the cameras during the homecoming parade. Steuernagel and Majors represented Alpha Sigma Alpha in the competition.

"It's very flattering. It has been a long couple of weeks, but I'm flattered to be standing here beside Amanda."

Andy Majors



# Whom did Jeopardy turn into a celebrity?

"A lot of the things we call trivia are just good old-fashioned general knowledge."

—Ken Jennings

By Sarah Chenoweth

Did you know that opossums have 13 nipples? How about that the first computer programmer was the daughter of British Romantic poet Lord Byron? Did you know that record-setting Jeopardy champion Ken Jennings won 74 games straight with prize money totaling \$2.52 million?

He did, and on Thursday, Sept. 22, Jennings came to PSU to speak about trivia and knowledge; and of course to have a final Jeopardy-style showdown with Robert Ratzlaff, vice president of academic affairs, and Andrew Johnson, former SGA president.

Jennings won the battle, correctly answering five questions read by J.T. Knoll, wellness program coordinator. Jennings beat Ratzlaff and crowd-favorite Johnson's total of one correct answer each.

Although Jennings was ill, he was ener-

getic when talking about trivia, admitting that he was "an information junky" and "curious by nature."

Jennings said that the word trivia was "strictly forbidden" on the set of Jeopardy, probably because the crew likes to think of the show as knowledge-based and important - not trivial.

But Jennings said that trivia "gets a bad rap."

"A lot of the things we call trivia are just good old-fashioned general knowledge," he said. "We don't live in a time where it is possible to know everything. But trivia can get you interested in something you wouldn't otherwise have been interested in."

Jennings said that his run on Jeopardy was a weird time in his life. During that time Jennings would compete in five shows a day, taping 48 winning shows before any went on the air.

Jennings was also bound by a confidentiality agreement not to tell anyone of his progress on the show where, he said, he felt like Clark Kent, living two separate lives.

After his talk, Jennings answered many student and audience questions in which he was well-rehearsed: his favorite categories were movies and literature, the first things he did with the money was buy a wide screen TV and remodel his wife's kitchen, and, yes, actually, he was relieved when he finally lost on his 75th game, although, he said, he "made Alex Trebek cry."

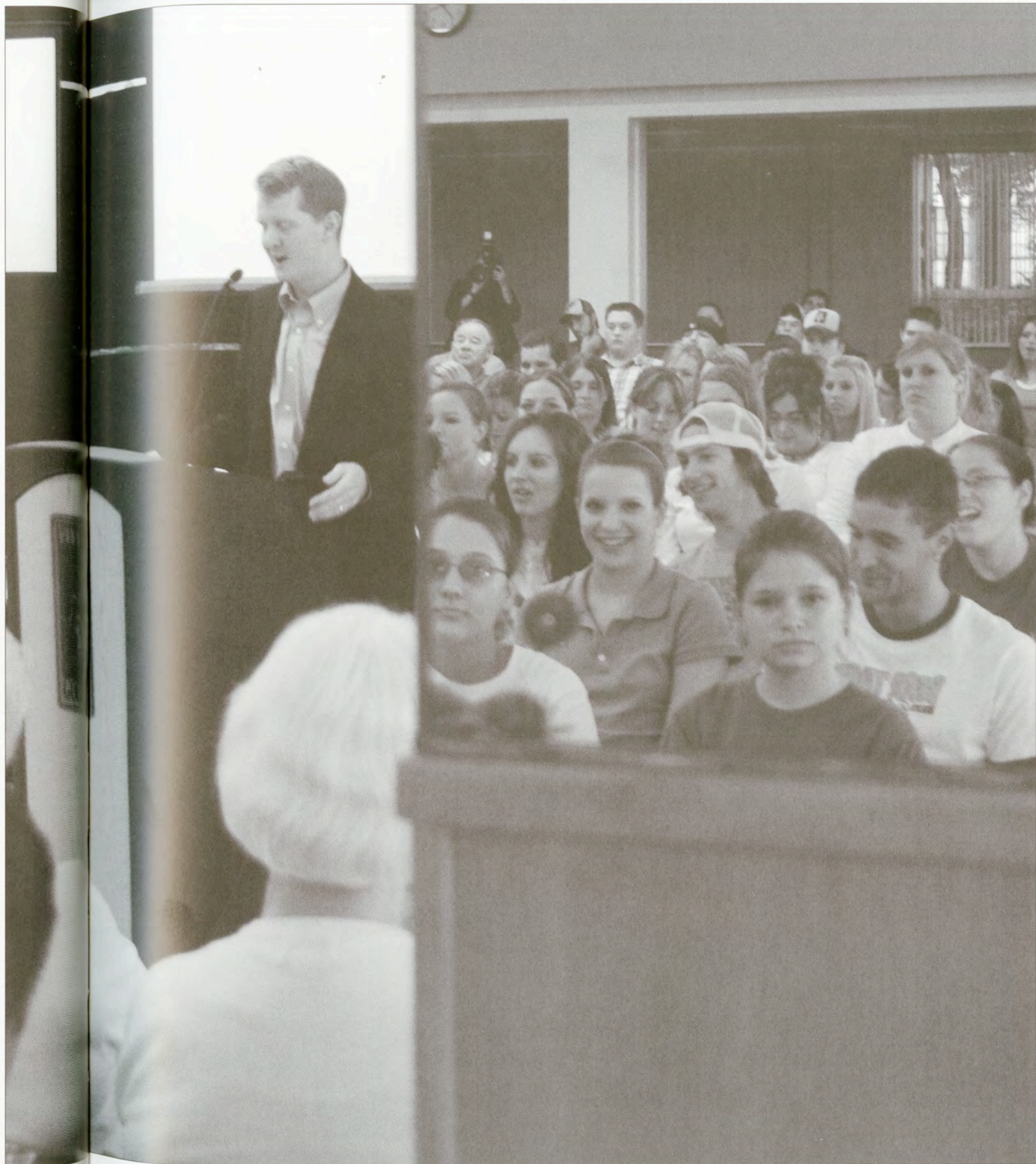
Jennings said he likes to advise people that, "You don't have to be sitting at home reading the almanac or sitting in a classroom to be learning." Jennings told the audience he thinks it would be great if we could "live every day of our lives in the form of a question."



photo by Teresa Gawrych

Andrew Johnson, right, Robert Ratzlaff and Ken Jennings look at the final question during a mock Jeopardy show held in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.





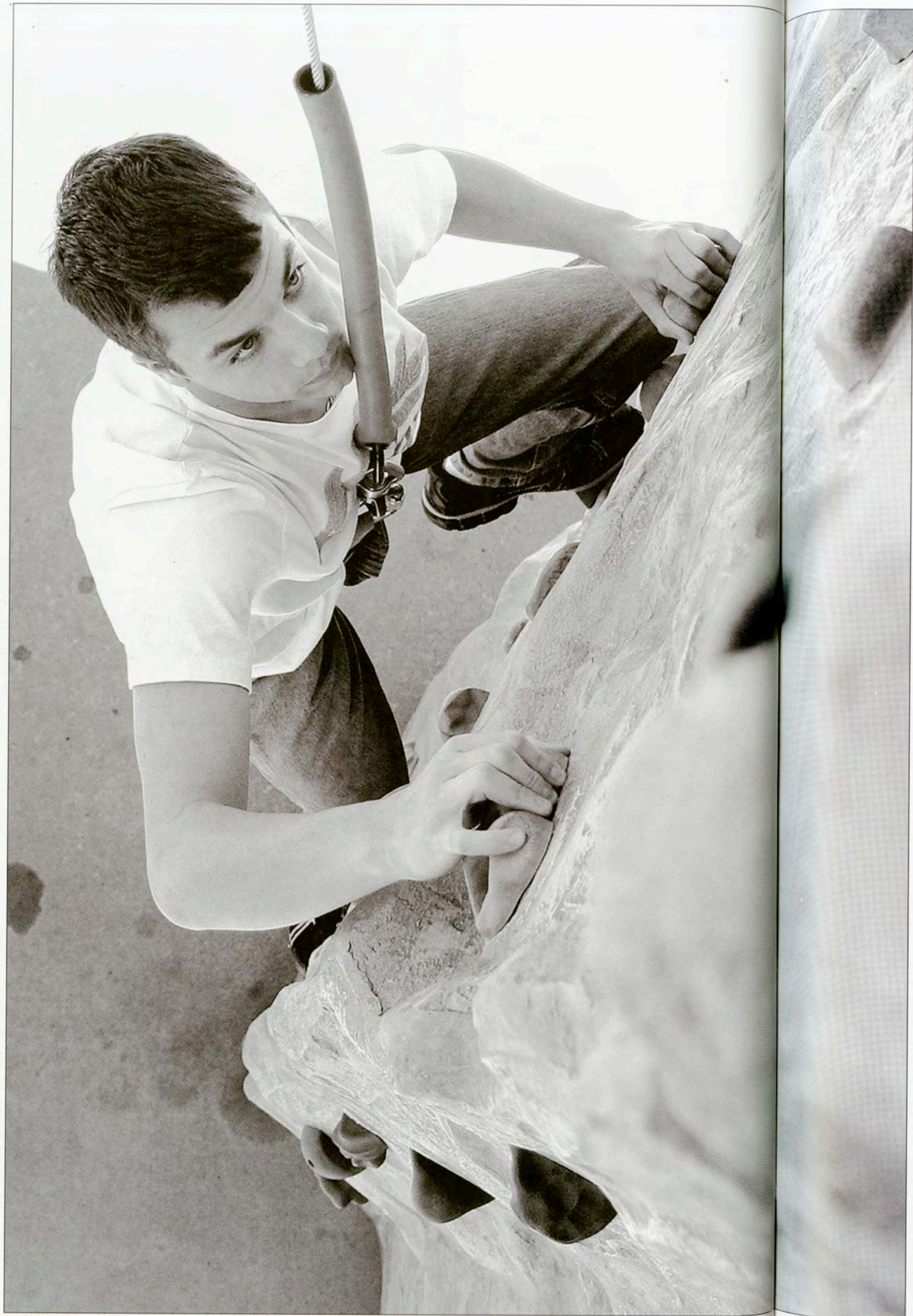
*photo by Teresa Gawrych*

Ken Jennings talks to PSU students and members of the Pittsburg community about trivia and his time on Jeopardy in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom. Jennings won \$2.52 million during his 74-game winning streak on the hit television show.



*photo by Brett Armbruster*

Freshman Gabe Spurgeon, math and physics major, climbs the Army's rock wall.





# Week raises Alcohol awareness

By Stephanie Graham

One day Mark Sterner woke up from a coma having no idea where he was.

Realizing that he was lying in an austere hospital bed with a neck brace on and several broken ribs was the least of his concerns. He was torn apart as soon as he learned that a week ago, he had killed three of his best friends. They died in a car accident after a long night of drinking and partying. Sterner was the driver.

That one night changed his life.

Sterner came to PSU to share his story with students to warn them about the

dangers of driving drunk.

Sterner started his program by asking the audience members about their experiences with alcohol. Laughter and giggling echoed throughout the Crimson and Gold Ballroom of Overman Student Center.

But after Sterner shared his memories of that deadly night of drinking, the nearly full ballroom grew silent. Tears welled up in students' eyes as Sterner told them that he and his three friends were supposed to graduate within a few months of their accident. But now, instead of being the first member in his family to graduate from college, Sterner was going to be the first to go

to prison - a maximum security prison.

Sterner showed graphic pictures of the car crashed into a tree in order to drive home the devastating effects of drunken driving.

"It made you think about how the decisions you make can have such of an impact," said one student after Sterner's presentation.

The program was sponsored by the Student Government Association in conjunction with Alcohol Awareness Week, Oct. 17-21. Other activities held during the week included an Army climbing wall and an outdoor movie in the Oval.



photo by Kyle DeRodes

Mark Sterner raises his hand after posing a series of questions that ended with him asking, "How many people in here have killed their three best friends?" Sterner was the only one in the room to raise his hand for this question. His presentation took place in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.



# Students hold Halloween bash for kids

By Stephanie Graham

Two twin pigs and one tiny baby pig fast asleep in his father's arms made an appearance at PSU's Safe Trick-or-Treat on Thursday, Oct. 27. The three little pigs, Heyleigh, Molly and Tucker Harrell, won first place in the costume contest, which was just one of many activities during the event.

A flock of about 100 little ones dressed as everything from ladybugs, gypsies, Spiderman and jesters to Buzz Lightyear filled the Crimson and Gold Ballroom with faces lighting up at the sight of candy

and big college people in costumes. Bat lights and spider webs were strung about while excited children toddled about from station to station in darkened mood lighting to play games and collect handfuls of candy.

PSU's Circle K club set up a "Pumpkin toss" where children had to toss ping pong balls into pumpkin baskets before they could get candy. Some children, so little that their tiny costumes were baggy on them, stood inches away from the pumpkin and made several attempts at tossing the ball before finally, in frustration, just placing the ball inside the pumpkin.

Honors college students set up a lollipop tree station. The Presidential Emerging Leaders program set up a bob-for-treats game. Children could also decorate cookies and play bean bag toss games, get their faces painted, color Halloween pictures, or play "Treat Walk," much like traditional musical chairs.

Evan Besperat, junior in finance dressed as a Ninja turtle, was one of the many students who handed out candy.

"This event is awesome," he said. "The kids are having a great time and it gives college kids an excuse to dress up."

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Evan Besperat, junior in finance

Brian Lamb, junior in construction management, supervised children attending the stations.

"I was impressed with the little kids because they were really well-mannered," Lamb said.

Safe Trick or Treat provided children a way to enjoy Halloween fun without risking the potential hazards of traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating. The annual event was open to all children in the community.

"I still take my kids trick-or-treating the traditional way but we love PSU's Safe Trick-or-Treat because it gives them an opportunity to wear their costumes twice and they always look forward to it," said Craig Fuchs, chairman of the Music Department.





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photo by Kevin Meives

Logan Widmer, freshman in business management, plays a game with some of the children of the Pittsburg community.

left: Student volunteers hold a ring toss for children during Safe Trick or Treat.

photo by Kyle DeRodes





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left: Student volunteers hold a ring toss for children during Safe Trick or Treat.

photo by Kyle DeRodes



# Theater students perform f

By Stephanie Graham

The PSU Theatre's fall production of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever" left its audiences rolling with laughter.

The story begins when the Bliss family invites strangers for the weekend to their not-so-humble home. The guests, who appear to be solely interested in the mother's faded stardom, are at first excited by the prospect of spending a weekend at the Bliss household. However, they become progressively unsettled as they realize that the family is outrageously eccentric, psychotic even.

The guests are eventually so over-

whelmed by the family's whimsical and nutty personalities that they make their getaway right before the curtain comes down and cast members take their bows.

With two children, Sorel and Simon (played by Kim Anderson and Daniel Shepard, both seniors in communication), and a melodramatic, once-famous mother named Judith (played by Lucy Miller-Downing, sophomore in communication) shouting out random things like, "This has gone far beyond superficial apologies!" and re-enacting scenes from her glory acting days, the entangling frolic embodies the spirit of the 1920s.

"I enjoyed the subtleness of the humor," said Rachel Ayers, senior in English, who played one of the guests. "Some things had to be said with the right inflection to give the humor the right punch. I also think everyone can relate to the guests in this story because we've all been in situations surrounding awkward people and not knowing how to react."

Bringing the play together took the work of many people, including director Cynthia Allan, associate professor of communication. Lighting and costume design were by Denise Williams and Lisa Quinteros, theater costume

designer.

Dan Williams, assistant professor in communication, a newcomer to PSU, and designer of the fanciful and intricate set, spent the summer poring over the script and various ideas to come up with the living-room set. Scenic arts and technical theater classes also helped in building the set.

Cast members spent eight weeks rehearsing before opening night. At the end of the show, cast members reflected on their time spent working on "Hay Fever."

"A lot of the wording in the play

*photos by Raymond Hillegas*

right: Richard, played by Jacob Schreiner, junior in communication, shares a cup of tea with Sorel, played by Anderson.

far right: Judith, played by Miller-Downing, flirts with Richard, played by Jacob Schreiner, junior in communication, during a scene from "Hay Fever." In this scene, Miller-Downing played the piano while Schreiner sang along with her.

below: Judith, played by Miller-Downing, far left; David, played by Roy Hatcher, sophomore in communication; Jackie, played by Rachel Ayers, senior in English; Sorel, played by Anderson; and Simon, played by Shepard; spend some quality time together drinking and discussing issues.



"... it was a challenge for me to keep my composure and stay in character instead of just bursting out laughing whenever the audience did."

Rachel Ayers, senior in English



# n feverishly funny comedy

was eloquent and that was the most challenging part of it, but I learned a lot and had a great time," Miller-Downing said.

Ayers found the play challenging for other reasons.

"I have a tendency to empathize with the audience, so it was a challenge for me to keep my composure and stay in character instead of just bursting out laughing whenever the audience did," Ayers said.

Jeremy Henson, senior in communication who played one of the guests, compared his Pitt State theater experi-

ence to those of his previous schools.

"This is the third college I've been to and I've been in 35 to 40 shows. Everything about this play came together really smoothly. It was a great experience."

Chelsea Smith, sophomore in theater, who played Myra Arundel, said she was excited about the play because it was her on-stage college debut.

"The cast was wonderful, and I got to play someone completely out of my character, so I had a blast," Smith said.

The play was performed at Memorial Auditorium on Oct. 20-22.





# Working like a hog: Program teaches students to work on Harleys

By Kristi Darr

The first thing noticeable when walking into the shop at the Harley school is that there are so many projects going on. There are so many students in the shop, and they are all focused on finishing their projects. There aren't a lot of playful antics going on among students or staff. The students are dedicated and willing to learn.

The Harley-Davidson Motorcycle Technician Training and Professional Development Program prepares students for a wide range of challenging careers such as line technician, service adviser, parts manager and regional service representative. Harley-Davidson is part of Fort Scott Community College with a partnership at Pittsburg State.

With entire television shows dedicated to the building of custom Harleys, the demand for these professional positions is high.

The students at Harley range from ages 18-60 and come from all backgrounds.

"We have students straight out of high school, people with plastics engineering background and a Catholic priest," said instructor Chauncy Pennington.

Pennington says that sharing his knowledge and skills with students and helping them make a living is what makes teaching at Harley enjoyable.

The students are required to take 64 credit hours all together; about 15 a semester. They have to take general education courses which are offered to them at Pitt State.

"Between their first and second year, they are required to do an internship with a Harley dealer that provides a potential job opportunity for them," said Pennington.

"I chose this program for an opportunity with Harley that wouldn't be available to me otherwise," said sophomore Kris Coester.

The students compete in the Skills USA State competition in the spring and the national competition in the summer. The main event that they compete in is motorcycle service.

"I have learned complete assembly and disassembly of every Harley model, correct service procedures and business relations," said Coester.

After completing training and finishing his bachelor's degree at Pitt, Coester hopes to take over a service department in Alaska.

Pat Dineen, sophomore, said he chose the Harley program because of its location and the timing was just right for him.

"My previous company closed and I heard about the program," said Dineen. "I was faced with a career change and everything just seemed to fall into place."

New models and quality skills are some of the key elements that Dineen has learned.

"Most of what I have learned was on my internship," said Dineen. "It was real life experiences."

Dineen has attended two of the leadership conferences.

"In my trade, learning organizational skills has been the most valuable," said Dineen.



Photos by Brett Armbrust

Working at the Harley-Davidson Center, Keith Deboutez, first year student, performs a pre-delivery inspection and setup on a motorcycle.

right: First year student Dennis Chartier helps perform a pre-delivery inspection on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle at the Harley-Davidson Center located in Frontenac.

"My previous company closed and I heard about the program. I was faced with a career change and everything just seemed to fall into place."

~ Pat Dineen, sophomore



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photo by Raymond Hillegas

above: Timo Siikanen, senior in accounting, does elevated push-ups during an ROTC Ranger Challenge workout.

photo by Kevin Meives

right: Aaron Moore, junior in history, does push-ups during a home football game. Members of ROTC did push-ups after each touchdown, accumulating to the number of points the Gorillas scored.





# Finland exchange students team with ROTC for Ranger Challenge

By Greg Grisolano

When Pittsburg State University's ROTC officers went looking for a few good men and women to participate in Ranger Challenge, a martial skills competition, exchange students Timo Siikanen and Antti Pajatsalo answered the call.

"We didn't recruit them," said Brad Roush, Gorilla Battalion commander. "They came out by choice."

According to Pajatsalo, a graduate student in business, the competition is proving to be more exciting than homework.

"It's good to find some challenge here," he said. "Even if it's just doing push-ups."

But push-ups are only one part of the competition. It also tests cadets in events such as weapons assembly, marksmanship, land navigation, patrolling, grenades, a rope bridge, an obstacle course and a mystery event revealed on site.

"The way I look at it, they're strong additions to the team," Roush, senior in justice studies, said. "It's all about beating Iowa State and K-State this year."

While both men have completed their service in Finland, Pajatsalo says he's still able to stay in fighting shape.

"My secret is a kickboxing aerobics class with the girls," he said. "That's why I'm in such good shape."

Unlike the United States, Finland requires military service from all men ages 18 to 27.

"By the time we graduated, we'd been in the army for six months," Siikanen

said.

"The money in ROTC is good compared to us," Pajatsalo said. "We got paid four bucks a day, because it's mandatory."

Aside from some initial problems assembling American M-16's, Siikanen and Pajatsalo say their main problem is getting back into the rigors of a regimented life.

"It's a challenge for us to wake up every morning and come to practice," Siikanen said. "We've been out of service for four years."

For five weeks, the cadets meet at 6 a.m. in the Weede gymnasium for physical training. After a brisk run around the building, cadets pair off and perform more than 150 push-ups and sit-ups before embarking on a three- or sometimes four-mile run.

John Saindon, senior in biology and an ROTC cadet for four years, says Siikanen and Pajatsalo are an asset to the Gorilla Battalion in their field abilities and in the diversity they bring to the unit.

"The skills that they bring to the team make us stronger," he said, "as far as athletic abilities, marksmanship and being good teammates."

Saindon has previously served in the U.S. Army and says the experience of working with servicemen from other countries will better prepare the cadets for military life after school.

"In the medical field, we work with them all the time," he said.

Both Siikanen and Pajatsalo say they've enjoyed training with the cadets.

"It's given a lot to us," Siikanen said. "We hope it's given something else to other parties."

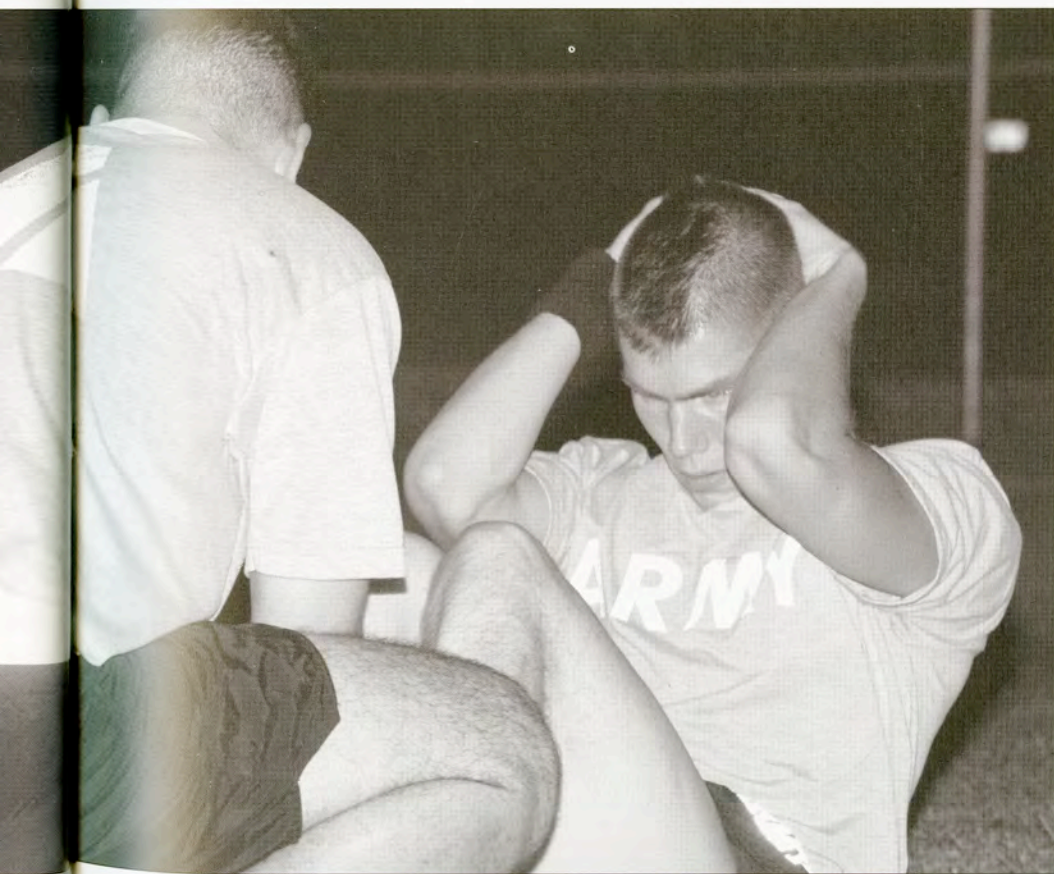


photo by Raymond Hillegas

Antti Pajatsalo, graduate student in business, performs one of many sit-ups during one of the early morning ROTC Ranger Challenge workout.



photo by Kevin Meives

A member of ROTC loads a gun after shooting it. ROTC shot a gun after every PSU touchdown.



# Directors' chair

## Theater students get chance to direct

By Stephanie Graham

Mix three monkeys, a hypochondriac and tacky yard art together and what do you get? PSU's "One Act Weekend."

For seven students, the weekend of Dec. 2-3 was the end of their theatrical directing class's final project, in which everyone was required to direct a one-act play.

"Getting to be a director was an awesome experience," said Bekah Grieb, junior in communication. "I also think these one-acts are good for students who are pressed for time or interested in theater but not totally sure about it yet."

The plays were performed in Grubbs Studio Theatre and included "War," "Wanda's Visit," "The Monkey's Paw," and "Find and Euba."

Auditions for the plays were open to anyone who wanted to try out.

One of the plays presented was called "Words, Words, Words" and featured three silly monkeys. The comical and hypothetical act tested the saying that "three monkeys typing into infinity will sooner or later produce Shakespeare's 'Hamlet.'" As soon as the stage lights came up, three monkeys, two boys and one girl dressed in a big, fluffy and purple skirt were all seen crouching at typewriters.

They began to noisily type away about whatever came to their minds. The male monkeys, Swift and Milton, were dressed in bow ties and suspenders and tried hard to think philosophically about what they should type. The female monkey, Kafka, drank from a sippee cup, typed the letter "k" 20 times in a row, and gobbled down a banana before recklessly throwing pieces of the banana peel all around the stage.

Occasionally, the monkeys would

jump away from their typewriters and hop around like children wired on sugar. After using their feet to type some historical references (but still never typing Shakespeare's "Hamlet") the last word they think of to type is "Bazooka!" before they ceased trying and the lights went down.

"I thought Shakespeare was portrayed in a bad light by saying that a monkey could do his job," said Jeremy Henson, senior in communication who played Milton. "I also felt like I was typecast for the role because I act like a monkey quite frequently."

Marc Johnson, PSU alumnus who played Swift, said he enjoyed acting as monkey.

"In order to prepare for my role, I watched movies with monkeys and visualized monkeys in zoos. I thought the play was just satirical with good literary statements that made punch-

lines."

Another act featured was "The Proposal," in which Russian hypochondriac Ivan Vassilievich attempts to ask for his neighbor's daughter's hand in marriage. Before he gets around to popping the question, Ivan cries out dramatically about his excruciating heart palpitations and side pain. He then gets into an argument with the girl he is meaning to propose to. Ivan and the girl fight and argue ferociously before Ivan pretends to melodramatically die. When they discover that Ivan is actually still alive, the two reconcile so that Ivan finally gets a chance to ask for the girl's hand in marriage.

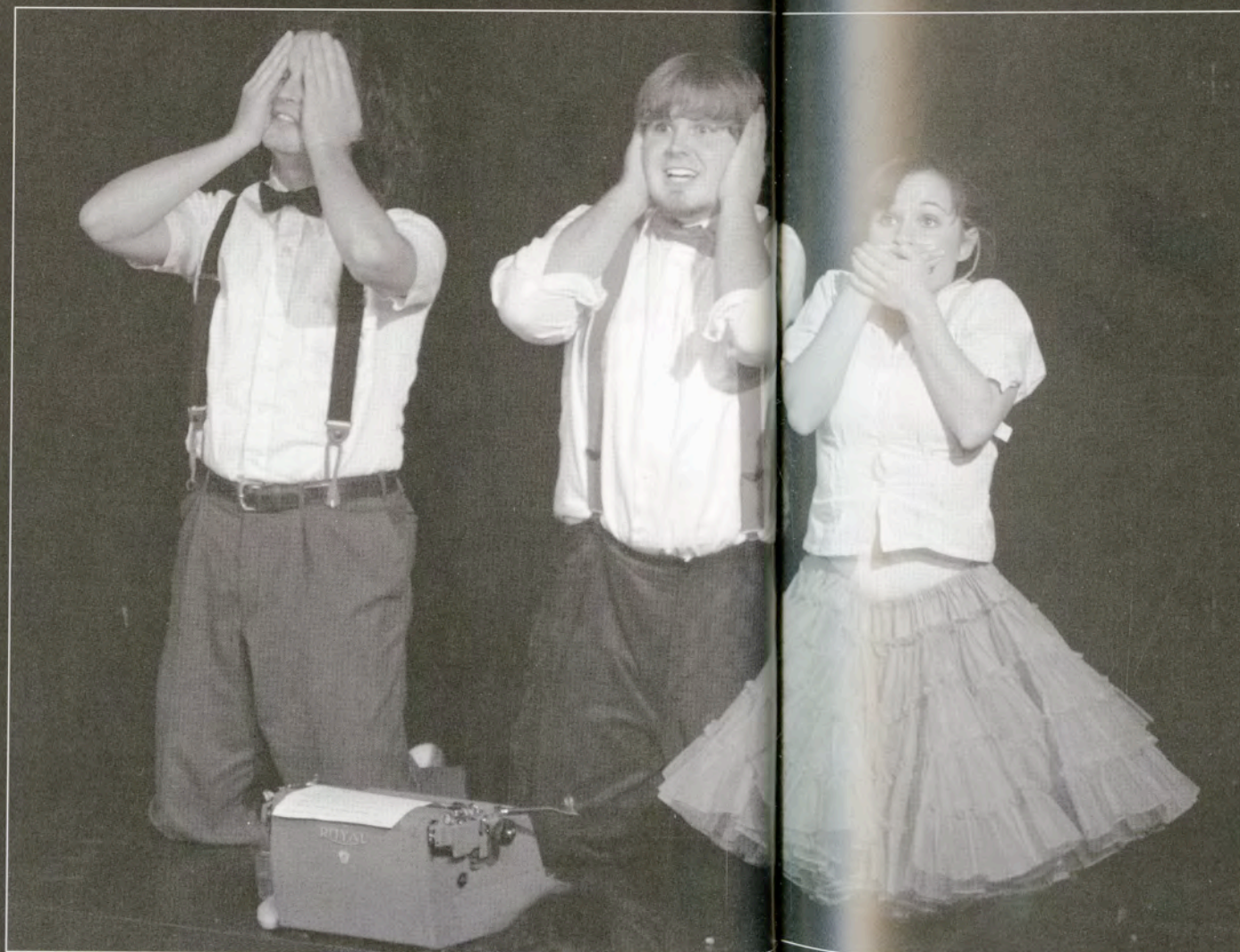
"This was my first performance and the play was phenomenal," said Steve Tacharla, junior in Spanish, who played as Ivan Vassillievich. "I like the goofiness of the characters and thought that my role worked really well with my personality. I just had a wonderful time."

*Photos by Raymond Hillegas*

right: Swift, played by Marc Johnson, PSU alumnus, Milton, played by Jeremy Henson, senior in communication, and Kafka, played by Kristen Livingston, cover their faces in "See no evil, Hear no evil, Speak no evil," expressions during the one act play, "Words, Words, Words."

far right: Ivan Vassilievich, played by Steven Tacharla, junior in Spanish, sits and talks to his neighbor before proposing to her in "The Proposal."

top right: Daley Leintz, senior in communication, sits and admires her pink flamingo during a one-act play performed during PSU's "One Act Play Weekend." Leintz was involved in one of seven one-act plays directed by students as a final for a theatrical directing class.





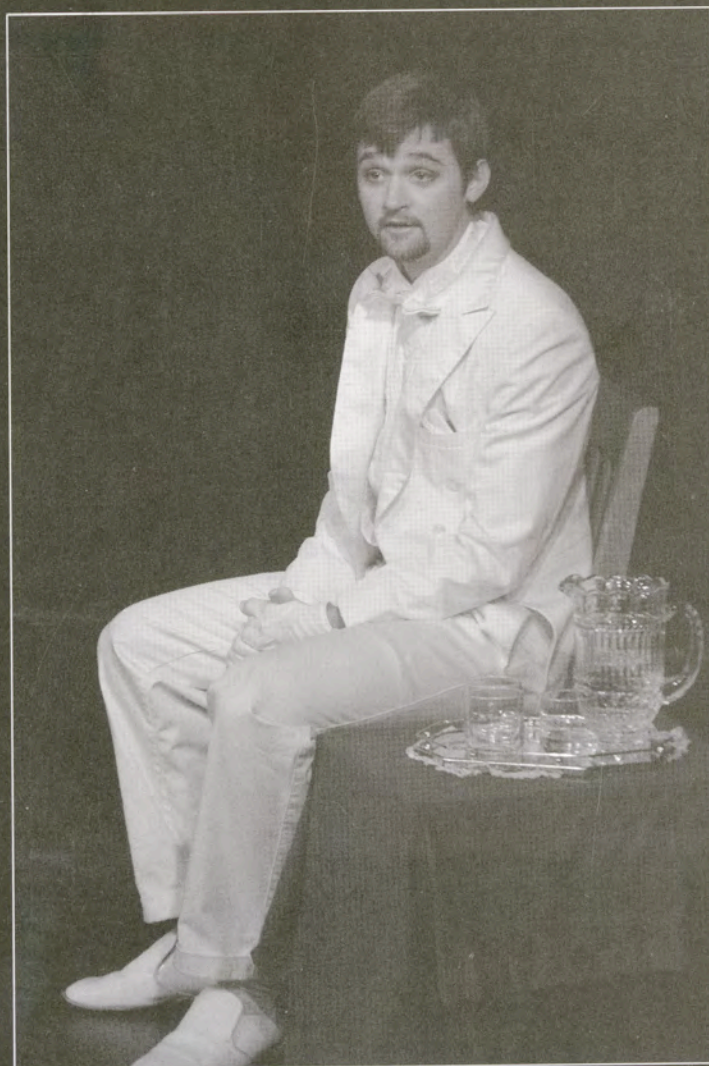
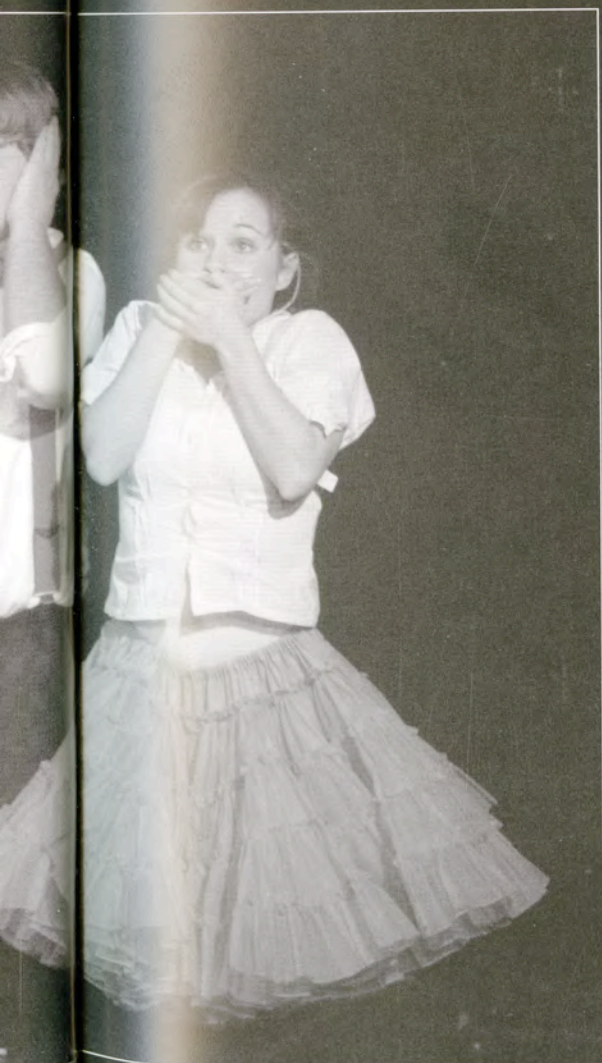
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# Vigil, rally bring light to women's safety

By Doug Graham

"What do we want? Safe streets! When do we want them? Now!"

Military-like chanting cut through the quiet of Pittsburgh's streets as a crowd of about 50 marched around campus at 8 p.m. Friday, April 21, to raise awareness of rape and sexual assault.

The march was part of this year's "Take Back the Night" campaign, and was followed by a rally at which Jim and Peggie Schmidt spoke about their daughter, Stephanie, a Pittsburgh State University student who was raped and murdered on Father's Day 13 years ago. She was killed by a co-worker who was released after a previous rape sentence that was unknown under then-less-strict sexual predator laws.

Following the Schmidts, the Sexual Assault Response Team and the Men



Against Violence Program performed a skit about the dangers of objectifying women.



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Against Violence Program performed a skit about the dangers of objectifying women.

Singer Amanda Rainey then performed a song about feeling unsafe on her own streets, receiving much applause afterward.

Outside, a somber candlelight vigil was held by the University Lake, with each participant receiving a candle. An additional 36 candles floated in the water, each representing 100 victims in Kansas. A moment of silence was held in remembrance. Lastly, victims were given a chance to talk about their experiences.

Brenton Garrett, junior in education, served as emcee. "It's an event for everybody," Garrett said.

"It probably affects someone you know, even if you don't know it affects them."

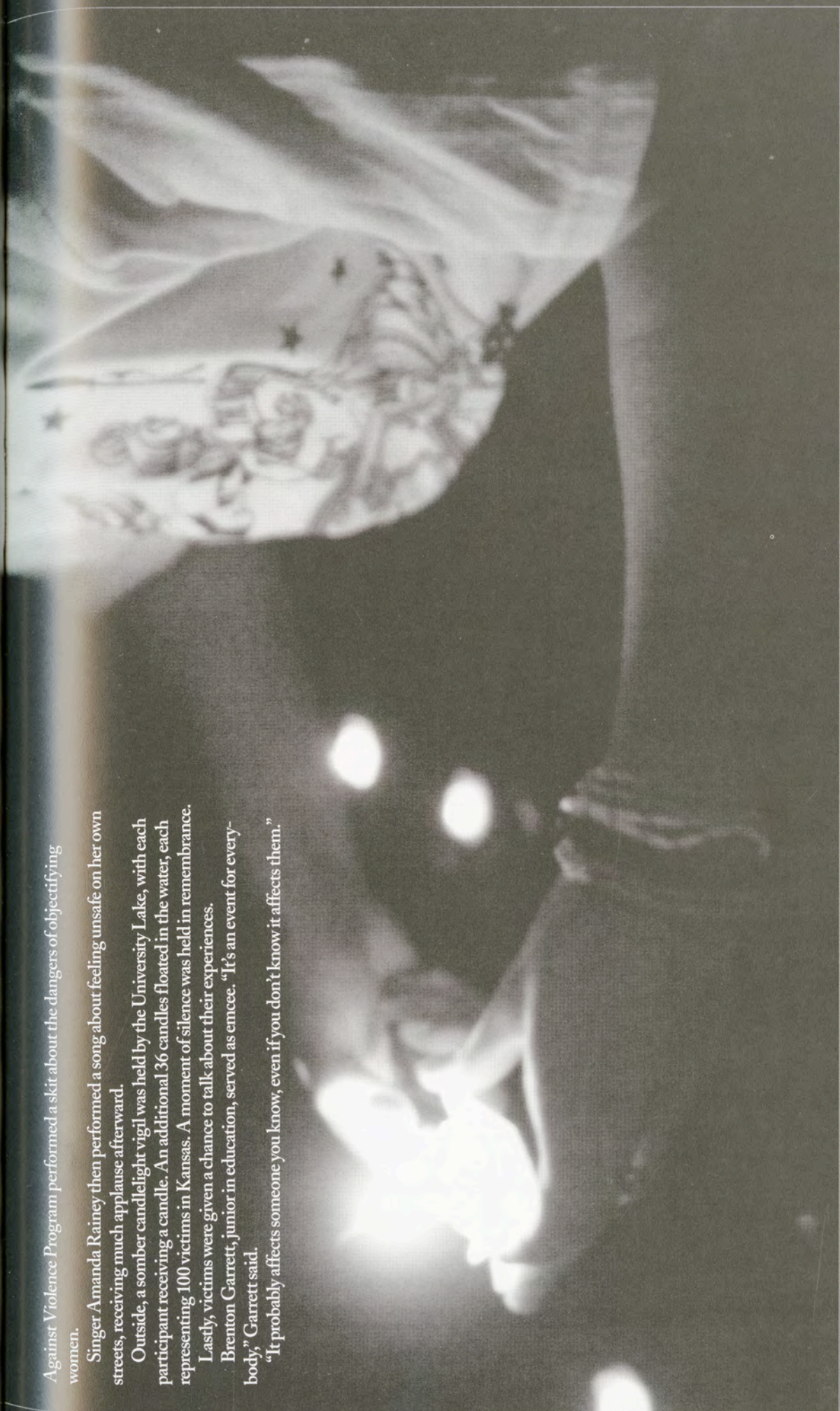


photo by Adam Vogler

Heidi Himebrook, a fashion merchandising senior, lights a candle representing the victims of sexual assault. The candlelight vigil held at the University Lake on Friday, April 21, marked the end of Sexual Assault Awareness Week.



# Into Africa

Students hold ball to celebrate culture

By Stephanie Graham

Students laughed, smiled and danced from 8 p.m. to midnight on Friday, Feb. 3, at PSU's first "Afriball."

"I heard about African music and wanted to be a part of it," Praneetha Santibhasker, engineering technology graduate student, said. "I like the excitement and energy."

Red and gold balloons and twisted streamers draped across the ceiling and walls as heart-thumping dance music resonated throughout the Crimson and Gold Ballroom. Songs played included '80s and '90s favorites, like "The Cha Cha Slide" and Michael Jackson's "Beat It." Nearly 40 people attended the dance, which was sponsored by the African Student Association.

"My roommate and I thought it would be really cool to have a dance. We presented the idea at an ASA meeting and everyone went along with it," ASA Vice President Linda Igbiginigie, sophomore in commercial graphics, said.

According to Igbiginigie, preparation for the event took several hours.

"We started decorating at 2 p.m. in the afternoon and it took four hours to decorate," she said.

In addition to the balloons and crepe paper, multi-colored rope lights lit up the dance floor while images of Africa glittered on the walls.

Students took the opportunity to dress up for the event, with some women wearing fitted and brightly colored dresses sent to them from their parents in Africa. Some men wore suits, while others wore traditional Indian outfits called saris. Gopal Chandrasekharan, senior in biology, and Crystal Pihl, junior in international studies, were awarded "best dressed" man and woman at the ball.

Ibraheem Suberu, PSU volleyball coach, came to the ball wearing his dyed danshiki outfit.

"I decided to support the students by being here," Suberu said. "I also like the opportunity to see our African international students together in the same environment. It's wonderful because not all of them are in the same department."

According to Seleipiri Akobo, junior in nursing, the ball gave students the chance to enjoy time away from school.

"We're having a lot of fun and that's what's important. I feel good, so good," ASA President Andrew Ikpeme, senior in construction management, said.

*photo by Brett Armbruster*

A senior in marketing at Pittsburg State University, Fomo Sendze, wears traditional Cameroon clothing to the Afriball, held in PSU's Crimson and Gold Ballroom.



*photo by Brett Armbruster*

At the end of the Pittsburg State University's Afriball, the crowd picked the best dressed man and woman. The winners were Gopal Chandrasekharan, senior in biology, and Crystal Pihl, junior in international studies, Spanish and marketing.





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photo by Brett Armbruster

A senior in marketing at Pittsburg  
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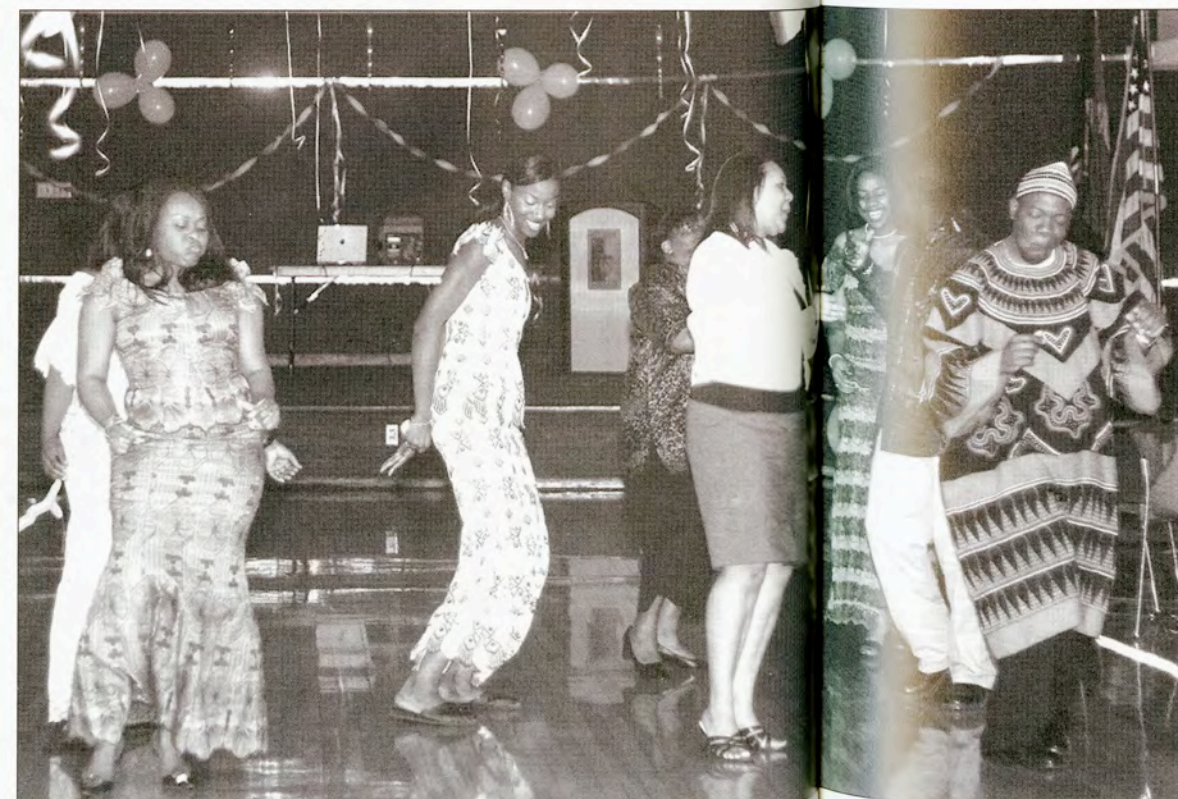
photos by Adam Vogler

Attendees sample the buffet at the Afriball on Friday, Feb. 3.

left: Attendees at the Afriball dance "the Hustle." The event held at the Crimson and Gold Ballroom featured rock 'n' roll favorites.

"I also like the opportunity to see our African international students together in the same environment. It's wonderful because not all of them are in the same department."

Ibraheem Suberu, volleyball coach





photos by Brett Armbruster

right: Dancing vigorously to the beat of African drums, Darlene Freeman, junior in political science, and Priscilla Kioko, junior in communication, come on stage to end Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Africa's performances.

below: During Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Africa, senior Andrew Ikpeme, construction engineering technology, and Kossi Itty act out the continuation of the long drama. Performed by African Students' Association, Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Africa was held in PSU's Crimson and Gold Ballroom.



Fomo Sendze, senior in marketing engineering technology, show the African woman during a long drama.

left: Performances of Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Africa, song written and performed by



# Into Africa

## Students present a cultural mix of a diverse continent

By Stephanie Graham

Many people gathered in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom for "Sights, Sounds, and Tastes of Africa" on Friday, April 7. The program was sponsored by the African Student Association (ASA) and featured PSU students from six African countries. Collectively, the students spoke more than 15 different languages and represented diverse African traditions during the show.

"It's exciting to be able to show America the African culture and explain things to them that they wouldn't otherwise understand," said Elaine Otuije, graduate student in business.

Otuije, a native of Nigeria and mistress of the ceremony, wore an African gele headdress and said that ASA members put a lot of work into preparing for the event.

"We made sacrifices and it paid off," said Otuije.

The program began with welcoming remarks by Pastor Allan Parker and Tom Bryant, PSU president. Six members of ASA then stood and led the singing of the African anthem, which was preceded by the U.S. national anthem.

Throughout the remainder of the evening, ASA members showcased various talents and participated in presentations for the audience. Sev-

eral of the artists and performers were dressed in colorful, bright, and flowing or fitted outfits from Africa. Some audience members also participated in wearing African attire to the event.

Performances during the evening included poems, dancing with drums, short and long dramas, a drum presentation and an Okoso dance.

Priscilla Kioko, a native of Nairobi, Kenya, and junior in communication, also played her guitar and sang a song she wrote called "Finding Yourself."

Kioko represented part of the African culture by wearing a purple African kitenge shirt during the solo.

"I loved everything and reconnecting with the African culture. I wanted to share my talent and include it as part of the night. It was a great night," said Kioko.

After about two hours of action, songs and poems, the presentation was concluded by a fashion show that featured modern African outfits sported by ASA members.

"I liked wearing my outfit at the fashion show the most," said Nsikak Akpan, graduate student in engineering technology.

African refreshments were also available for audience members after the show at the Newman Center.

"It's exciting to be able to show America the African culture and explain things to them that they wouldn't otherwise understand."

—Elaine Otuije, graduate student in business



photos by Brett Armbruster

Fomo Sendze, senior in marketing, and Andrew Ikpeme, senior in construction engineering technology, show the audience what a man must do to marry an African woman during a long drama of Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Africa.

left: Performances of Sights, Sounds and Tastes of Africa include "Find Yourself," a song written and performed by Priscilla Kioko, junior in communication.



# 'Big Event' has big outcome

Greg Grisolano

Big jobs and a big student turnout highlighted this year's Big Event, an annual volunteer project organized by PSU's Student Government Association.

About 550 students participated in this year's community cleanup project, compared to about 400 at last year's event.

Students gathered Saturday, April 1, in the stands of Carnie Smith Stadium. SGA provided doughnuts, bottled water and equipment for students to take to job sites, including rakes, trash bags and hedge clippers.

When she addressed the crowd at the start of the event, Danielle Bortmes got a little choked up.

"You don't see how much they appreciate it," she said, tearing up. "But they do."

Bortmes, director of the Big Event, later said the preparation for the event took its toll.

"It's so much stress," she said. "Then it all comes down and it's like, 'Thank God it's over.'"

Bortmes introduced PSU vice president Robert Ratzlaff, who thanked students for their participation.

"Whatever community you live in, you need to be engaged by that community," he said.

The Big Event is a chance for student organizations to donate their time to help area businesses and

residents with labor and maintenance work. In addition to the usual tasks of raking leaves, cleaning gutters and washing windows, some groups helped out with major jobs, like landscaping and tree trimming.

Members of the PSU football team moved more than 11 tons of dirt to help Pittsburg residents David and Sharon Keller level off their back yard.

"Before, it was just really sunk in," Keller said. "You'd get a big puddle back there when it would rain."

Keller says this is the third time he's participated in the program. While he plans to participate next year, he hasn't decided on a job for the students.

"Not yet," he said. "Unless they want to come in and try to clean up a basement."

Freshman Liz Darling says she wasn't sure what to expect at her first Big Event.

"I had no idea what I was getting myself into," said Darling, a member of the University Art Association. "But it's great. Raking is a lot easier than I thought it was."

Patrick Tyler, another first-time volunteer, says he's glad for the opportunity to help.

"I'm not big on manual labor," said Tyler, a freshman and member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. "But it's a really good thing to do for the community."

Erin Hebert and Areke Worku are both veterans of

the event. Both say they enjoy participating with their sisters in Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority.

"I just really enjoy it," said Hebert, junior in elementary education. "It's a good way to get PSU's name out there."

Worku said she doesn't mind sacrificing a Saturday once a year to help residents.

"Pittsburg has given so much to the university," she said. "It's our time to give back."

While no major problems were reported, Bortmes says some residents complained that their leaves were picked up by the city on Monday.

Although there were only 88 job sites this year compared to 114 last year, Bortmes says it's likely that scheduling snafu contributed to the reduced number of job sites. The Pittsburg High School soccer club held a community clean-up fund-raiser the weekend before PSU's event.

"It didn't matter," she said. "We had a lot of extra people, so it made things go quicker."

The Big Event committee consists of seven SGA members, including Bortmes. They had been planning this year's event since last fall. In spite of the stress, Bortmes says she will apply to be director of next year's event.







I'm not big on manual labor, but it's a really good thing to do for the community."

~ Patrick Tyler, member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia



photos by Brett Armbruster

Pittsburg State freshmen football players were assigned to move eleven tons of dirt to build flowerbeds and a walkway for a Pittsburg resident Saturday, April 1. The football players, along with many other PSU organizations, went out into the city to help anyone who needed it.

left: Shawn Churchman, freshman in business and finance, and Will Bailey, freshman in nursing, help move eleven tons of dirt for a Pittsburg resident during the 'Big Event.'



Ke'o Verzon, freshman in psychology, and Dana Pugh, undeclared freshman, put leaves in a trash bag as they and fellow Campus Christians clean up a Pittsburg resident's yard during Pittsburg State's Big Event.

far left: Organizations sign up to get their assignments for the Big Event, held on Saturday, April 1. Students from PSU performed community service all over Pittsburg and Frontenac.



# Fix my ride

This automotive shop is a classroom, too

By Stephanie Graham

When automotive technology students go to class, they don't always just walk in and take their seats. Instead, students spend six hours each week working in the automotive technology service techniques laboratory.

"When working in the lab, you don't have to sit at a desk the entire time," said Matt Trego, junior in automotive technology.

The lab, located near the northeast end of the Kansas Technology Center, is filled with more than 15 cars donated from companies, including Infinity and Toyota. It is also supplied with large red tool boxes on wheels and other repair equipment, some of which hang from the ceiling. Students go to the laboratory to learn about car problems and repair techniques.

"We diagnose various car problems and figure out what we need to do to fix them," said Roper Slavin, senior in automotive technology.

According to Ron Downing, auto tech instructor, lab classes teach students how to write repair orders and about safety issues, including the proper disposal of poisonous chemicals. Students can learn how a car shop operates by working in the lab and are also allowed to bring their own cars in the shop to work on.

"We try to orientate them to what a real shop would be like. We pass on a lot of the tricks of the trade and teach proper use of equipment," said Downing.

According to Trego, grades given in the lab class are based on how many tasks students complete and if they've done those tasks correctly.

"The most challenging thing is not messing up," said Ben Nwagwu, sophomore in auto tech, as he and Charles Toler, junior in auto tech, examined a car on a rotary lift.

According to Nwagwu and Toler, technicians must be able to work with and understand the computers inside of cars.

"Computers in cars all read [information] differently. You have to remember everything and know how to translate from the computers to actual physical work," said Toler.

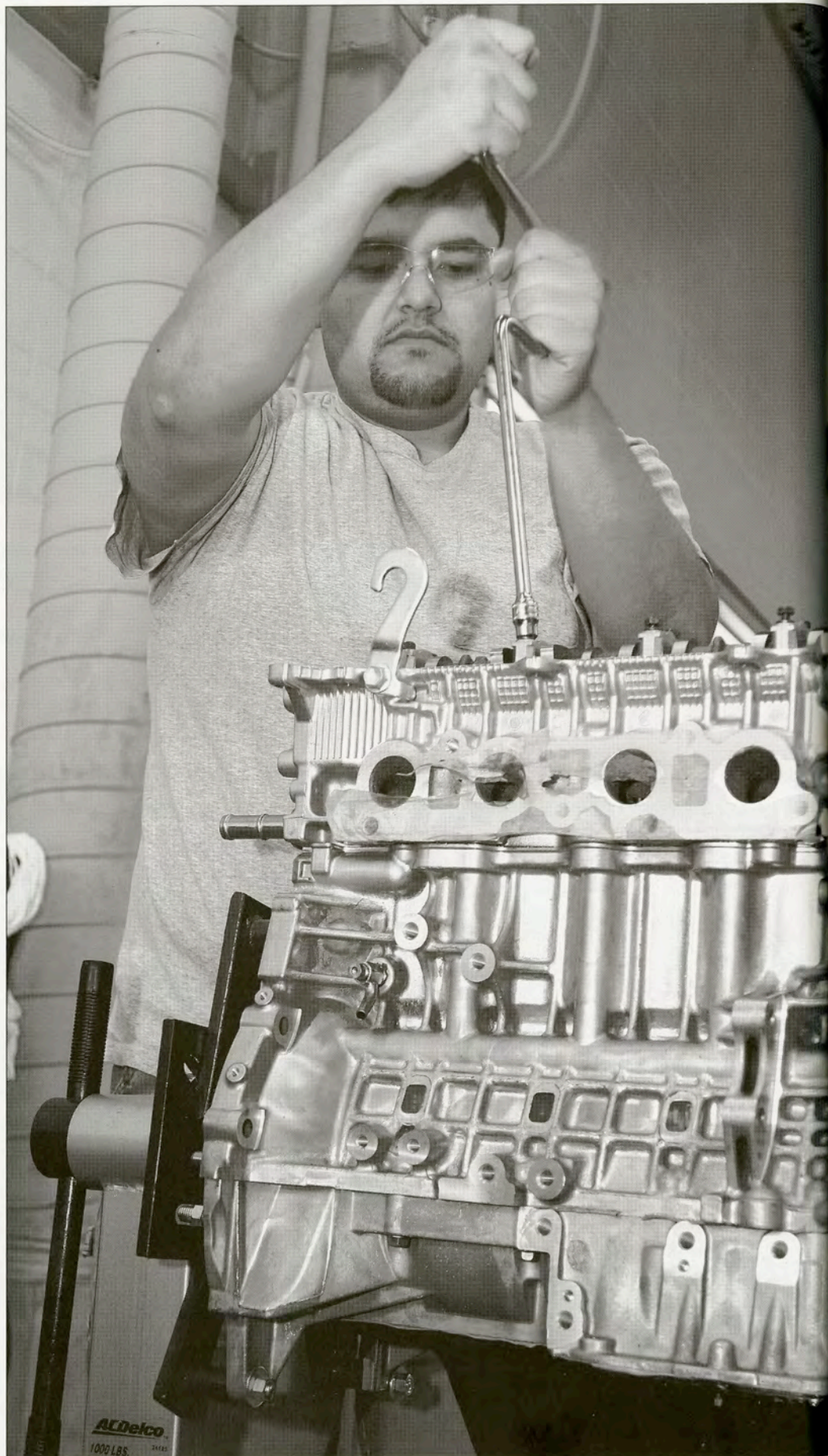
While hands-on learning takes place in the lab, students must still be able to take knowledge from books and apply it to problem solving with cars.

"The most challenging thing is actually applying what you see in a book," said Fermin Garcia Lugo, senior in auto tech.

Joe Schmidt, junior in the program, said that he did mechanic work before beginning the program and that the program provides more in-depth learning.

"This program gives an advantage. It sets you up for the industry a lot better and you get a lot more prepared," said Schmidt. "It's just a good program."

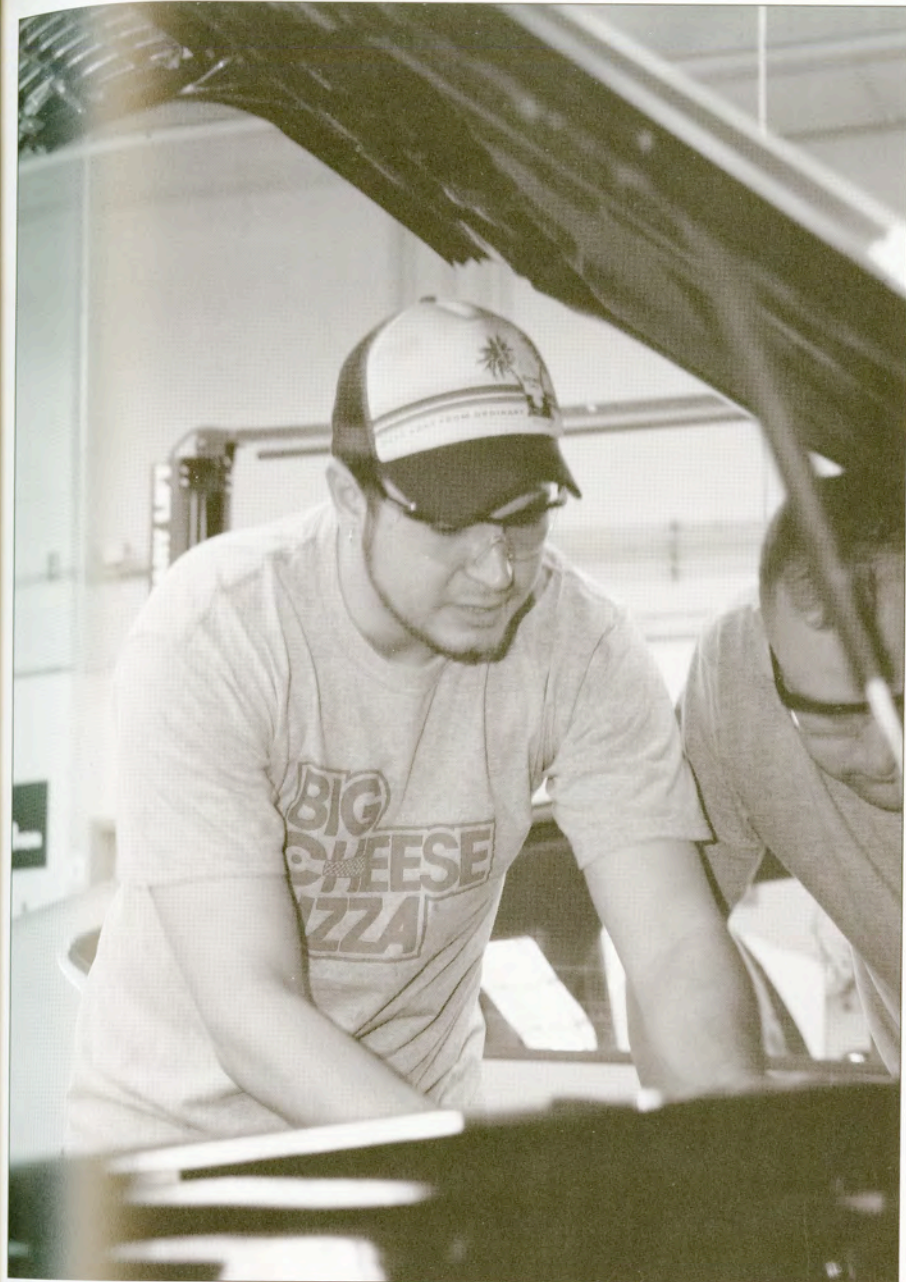
Before students in the four-year automotive technology program graduate, they are required to complete eight written examinations from the Automotive Service Excellence organization before they can attain the National Blue Seal Logo of distinction for automotive service technicians.



Photos by Brett Armbrust

During the automotive technology lab, Fermin Garcia Lugo, senior in auto tech, finishes putting an engine back together.





*Photos by Brett Armbruster*

Charles Toler, junior in automotive technology, checks the rotation of the tires on a Ford Taurus.

left: Matt Trego and Joe Schmidt, juniors in automotive technology, prepare to perform a spark test during their auto tech lab.

below: Testing out the repairs on the Plymouth Prowler donated by the Chrysler Corp., Ben Nwagwu, sophomore in automotive technology, takes the car for a ride.





# The last hurdle

## Some departments require portfolios, projects for graduating seniors

By Stephanie Graham

Before some seniors could graduate, they were required to create final portfolios or projects during the spring semester.

"We got the assignment the first week of the semester. The projects take as long as you want them to. We do them to show how our skills have grown and developed," said Amanda Rhorer, senior in communication.

While seven different areas of emphasis are offered as possibilities with a major in communication, all students graduating with one emphasis of communication were required to create a project, according to Rhorer. For example, communication seniors with a broadcasting emphasis worked on projects that focused on broadcasting. Commercial graphics seniors were also required to create portfolios before graduation. Emily Pentola, senior in commercial graphics, created a 36-page travel magazine for her project.

"I want to be a person who does magazine layout," said Pentola.

The magazine included her designs, created advertisements and stories by her and some of her family members. Stories in the magazine described many different places Pentola has visited including Washington, D.C., Walt Disney World, Paris and

Canada.

According to Pentola, many journalism skills were required to write the magazine's stories. In the process of creating her own magazine, she also taught herself how to use a new Adobe computer program.

Rhorer, with an emphasis in public relations, said that since portfolios were independent projects, students were allowed to choose what they wanted to do for them.

"I chose to develop campaigns, create press releases, news releases and media kits to include in my portfolio," said Rhorer.

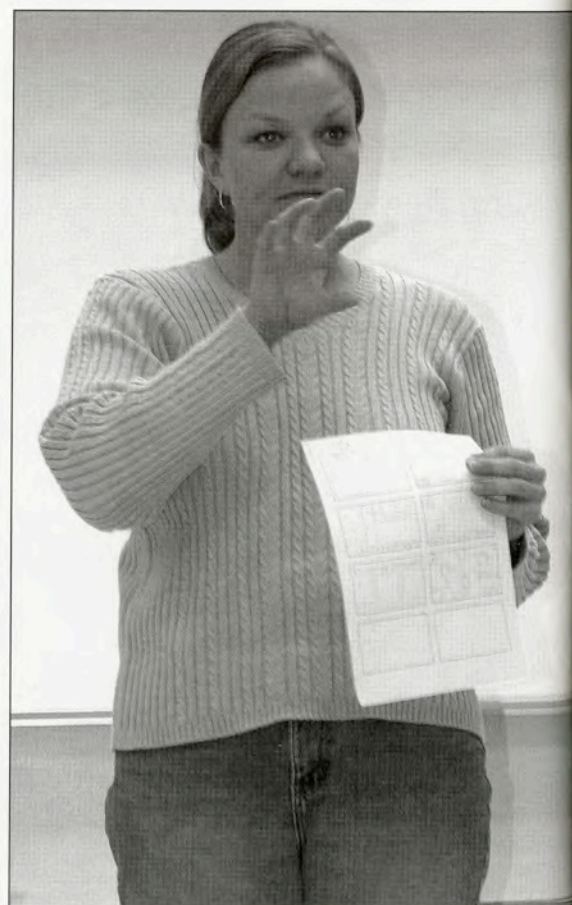
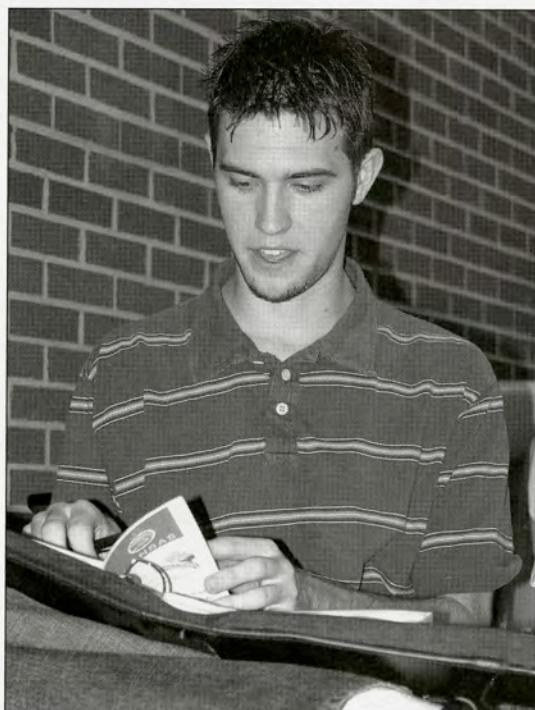
After creating and assembling the projects, seniors were required to present them to campus faculty members at the end of the semester. After seniors presented their projects, answered questions and took suggestions offered, they could then receive their final grade and credit hours for the projects. Seniors could also use their projects to show to potential employers, according to Rhorer.

"A lot of communication employers like to see what we've done. We can put our personalities in the projects and show who we are. They also show how we're going to benefit society with the education we've received," Rhorer said.

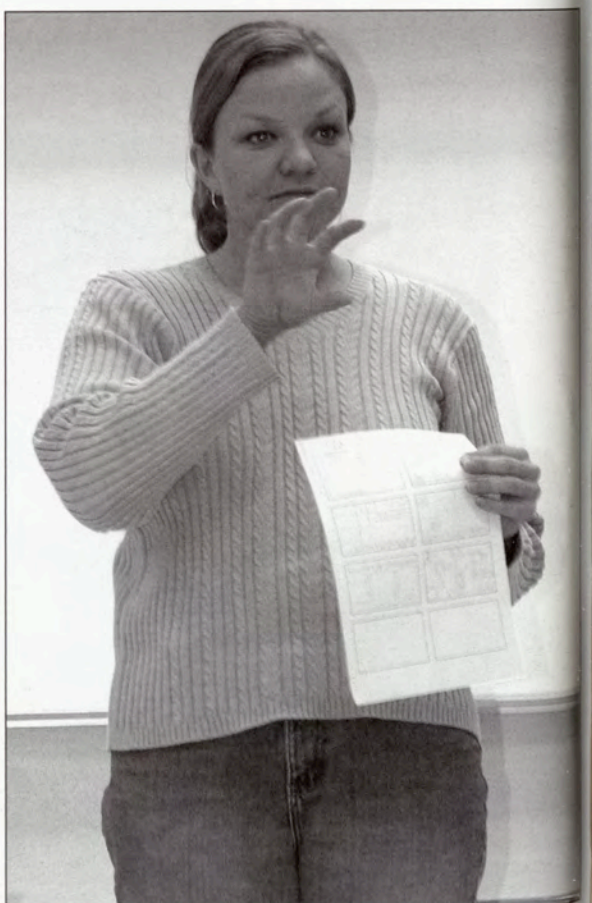
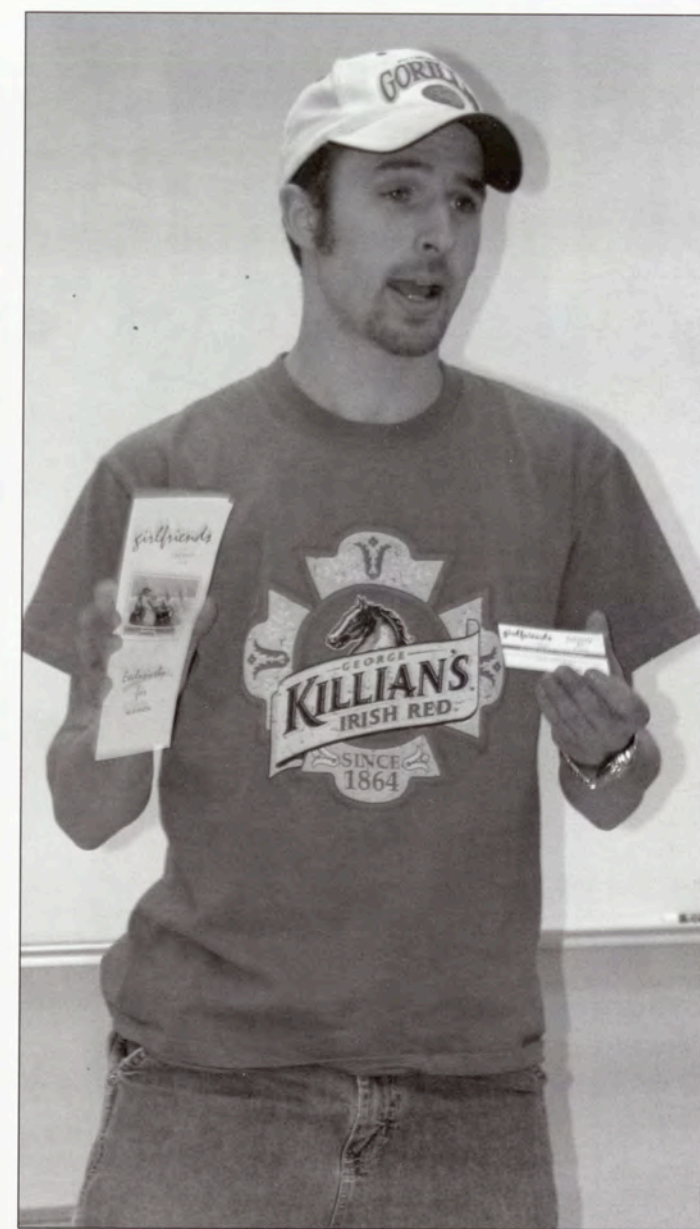
*photos by Cecilia Stumpff*

right: Garrett Reist, a senior in communication, flips through his portfolio for his Communication Careers in Society class before turning it in.

far right: Melissa Kipp, a senior in commercial graphics, explains how she is making business cards and a portfolio for her photography business in her Senior Project class.







"We can put our personalities in the projects and show who we are. They also show how we're going to benefit society with the education we've received."

—Amanda Rhorer, senior in communication

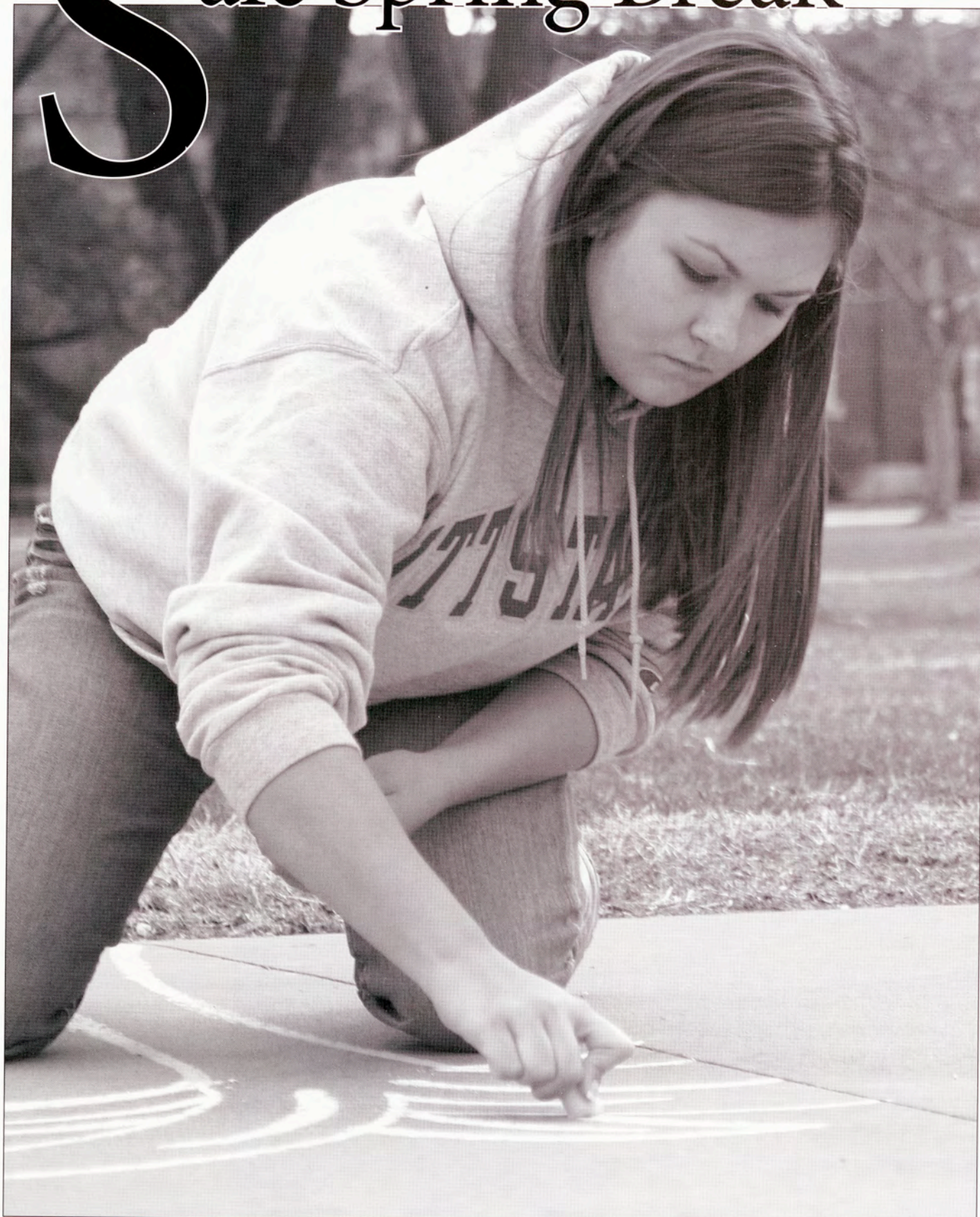
top left: Tina Allen and Amanda Rhorer, both seniors in communication, look at each other's portfolios for their Communication Careers in Society class.

top right: Tyler Gariglietti, senior in commercial graphics, shows his Senior Project class the pamphlets and business cards he has designed.

bottom left: Sam Stewart, senior in communication, puts the final touch on his portfolio before turning it in for his Communication Careers in Society class.



# Safe Spring Break



Jenna Myers, freshman in commercial graphics, works on a palm tree for her Safe Spring Break Sidewalk Chalk drawing. *photo by Cecilia Stumpff*





*photo by Cecilia Stumpff*  
left: Ryan Sullivan, junior in computer science, plays his imaginary fiddle for "Devil Went Down to Georgia" during the Safe Spring Break Karaoke night.



*photo by Brett Armbruster*  
far left: Cooking hamburgers, Scott Benjamin, sophomore in commercial graphics, helps hungry students at the Gamma Picnic held at Gorilla Village.



*photos by Brett Armbruster*  
above. Striving for the top of the Army climbing wall, Lee Ann Brodie, freshman in psychology, participates in one of the many events provided during Pittsburg State University's Safe Spring Break.

left: Michael Ramsey, sophomore in automotive technology, serves hamburgers to students like Chad Hicks, senior in automotive technology, at the Gamma Picnic.



"It's really fun to get to see all of the happy smiling faces and excitement of the children. It makes all the hard work worthwhile just to see them happy."

—Erica Shultze, senior in social work and Kid's Fun Day volunteer

# Social work club gives children day of fun

By Stephanie Graham

After working all year long in preparation, PSU's Social Work Club held its annual "Kid's Fun Day" Saturday, April 8 at Lincoln Park. The event was open to all children and provided games including throwing darts at balloons, a rubber chicken toss and a real goldfish toss.

The game's stations were set up in a large circle and manned by members of the Social Work Club. A clown, named Rosy, was also present for the children and carried a frilly purple umbrella while wearing a large flowery necklace.

"It's a fun-filled event. Just watching the kids with smiles on their faces brings joy," said Cory Smith, senior in social work.

Children could also have their faces painted, participate in a cake-walk, dig for treasure coins or search for eggs during one of three egg hunts.

"One of the egg hunts was a little chaotic, with lots of kids running all over," said president of the club Laura Garrison, senior in social work.

According to Garrison, kids received prizes, such as candy, after every game they played.

"It's really funny and we're going through the candy," said Garrison.

Larger prizes for kids, including two bikes, were given away after drawings throughout the day.

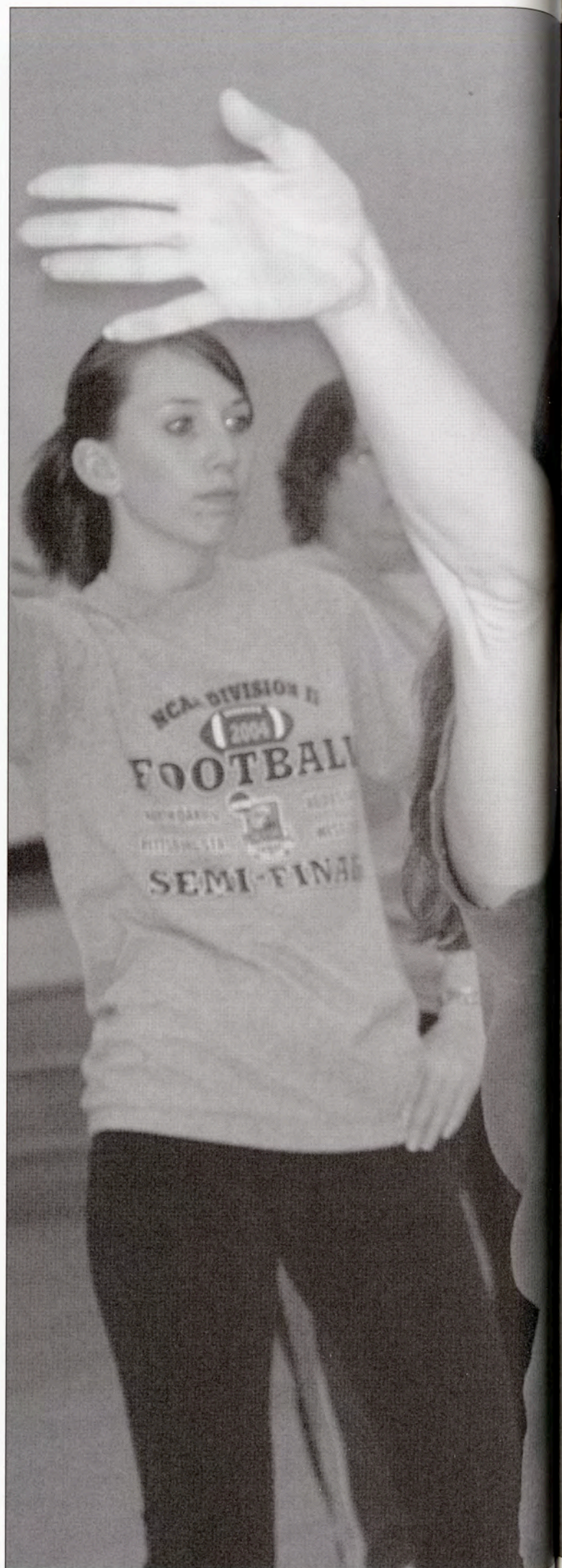
The event also benefited the Big Brothers and Sisters of Crawford County program, which provides mentors for children. Some of the children's games cost a small fee and all proceeds from the event were donated to the organization.

"We chose to help kids out who need a role model," said Garrison.


Businesses throughout the community donated money, prizes including savings bonds, gift certificates and food.

Some club members volunteered at the concession stand to sell hot dogs, chips and drinks to also raise money for the Big Brothers and Sisters program. Children could also buy snow cones or bounce in an inflatable bouncing gym and compete in relay races for fun.

"It's really fun to get to see all of the happy smiling faces and excitement of the children. It makes all the hard work worthwhile just to see them happy," said volunteer Erica Shultze, senior in social work.







# One and two, zumba!

## Dance craze spreads to Pitt State class

By Sarah Chenoweth

Julia Spresser's class likes to tango. They also like salsa, flamenco and cumbia, dances they got to learn and try out in fall 2005 in PSU's debut of zumba.

Zumba is a Colombian-style aerobic workout that started in Miami, Fla. The high-low-intensity workout mixes Latin, Arabic, Greek and other cultural dances with traditional dance and aerobic steps that burn more calories.

Spresser taught zumba at the YMCA before bringing it to PSU, although a similar class of Latin dancing was taught in spring 2005.

"Zumba is really hard to teach," said Spresser, "because it is so music driven. You have to know what is coming up in the music, and it's not always standard."

Spresser says that even though there are set routines, a dance can morph to fit the instructor, who can use original moves and combine them with others or change them entirely.

Charla Atkinson has taken dance before, but never anything like zumba.

"It's lots of fun," said Atkinson. "I've met a lot of new people."

Spresser uses some class time to talk about the history and culture surrounding the dances. She explains that when doing the cumbia, one foot must always stay in place on the ground because the dance originated from slaves who would be secured by ball and chain to one spot.

Spresser says she was proud of having "a very lovely cross-section of students who probably aren't on a sports team and are just working to keep fit."

Mary Helen McCloud, a non-traditional student in French education, said, "When the class first started, I was the oldest person in the room."

But after only a few weeks, McCloud's arms were thinning down and she was losing weight.

Spresser plans to teach the class again and says it was a "fun addition" to the curriculum. She adds that anyone can learn the zumba workout.

"As long as you have a good sense of humor and like the music, you should be good in zumba."

*"As long as you have a good sense of humor and like the music, you should be good in zumba."*

~Julia Spresser, zumba instructor

photo by Kyle DeRodes

left: Julia Spresser leads students in dancing during zumba, an aerobic dance class offered for the first time during fall semester in the Weede Dance Studio.



# 中國文化同學會

## Club brings Chinese culture to Pitt

By Stephanie Graham

Students and community members tried to say "good morning," or "wang xian sheng," as part of the Chinese Culture Club meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, where the group worked on learning to say common Chinese expressions.

"It is interesting and hard to learn Chinese," Brandi Unruh, freshman in communication, said.

Chinese and American translations of various phrases were written on paper and handed out to the group at the beginning of the meeting so they could better understand how to say or spell the expressions. Each person also had the opportunity to sit next to a Chinese or Taiwanese club member so that they could practice saying the new expressions with those already

fluent in Chinese.

After American members learned about the language, Chinese dumplings containing pork and some vegetables were served. Fortune cookies were also handed out later in the meeting. After nearly 40 people in attendance sampled the dumplings, an informational slide show was presented to help explain some of the Chinese New Year traditions.

"I really love to share my experiences with a foreigner so they can know more about Chinese and Taiwanese culture," Joyce Pei-Jhen Wu, senior in commercial graphics, said. "I encourage everybody to learn about Oriental culture. It is never too late to learn and always good to learn something new."

The club is open to anyone interested in the Chinese

language or culture. While some classes offered at PSU teach about Spanish and French culture and language, no classes exist that provide an in-depth exploration of the Chinese language and culture.

"I have lots of Asian friends and want to be able to communicate with them in Chinese," Shawn Balk, sophomore in biology, said. "I also think it would be cool if there was a class like this for credit."

According to Sandy Huang, senior in business, the club met weekly through the year to teach about Chinese culture as well as to give international students, American students and community members an opportunity to meet one another.

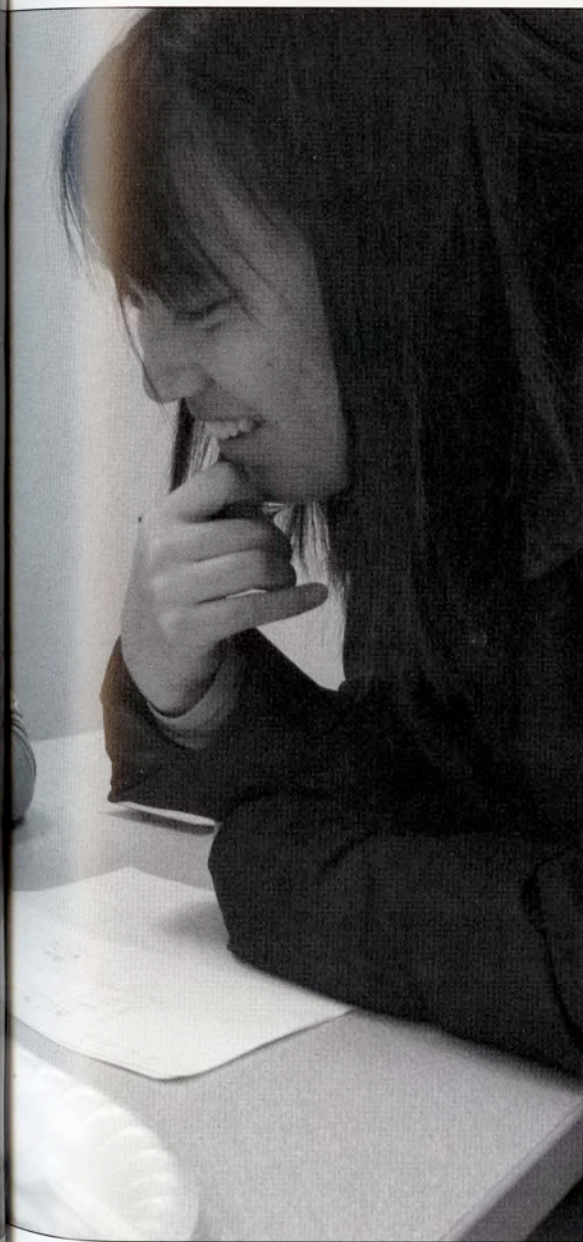
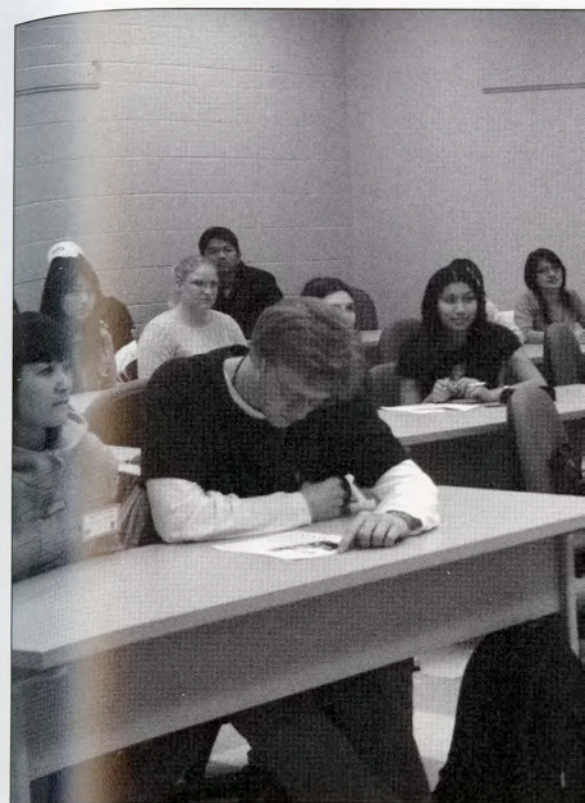
"I come to the meetings to make friends, teach Chinese, share the culture and share the food," Huang said.

"I really love to share my experiences with a foreigner so they can know more about Chinese and Taiwanese culture,"

Joyce Pei-Jhen Wu,  
senior in commercial graphics

photo by Ashley Reiher

Chia-Chun Mei, middle, graduate student in business administration, assists Brandi Unruh, left, freshman in communication, and Jihye Park, senior in international studies, in learning Chinese pronunciations at the Chinese Culture Class.







*photo by Ashley Reiher*

Jingwen Ma, junior in psychology, hands out fortune cookies to John Franklin, associate professor of English, and his daughter, Josie, at the Chinese Culture class

top: Wilson Chien-Ming Wang, right, sophomore in economics, gives the class a lesson in the Chinese language.



# Off-campus, hands-on learning

By Stephanie Graham

The various large green tractor parts lie in an 80-by-120 foot room that lacks chairs and doesn't look much like a classroom. But for 18 Pittsburg State University students, this setup looks like home. They attend classes at the John Deere Technology Center in Frontenac, where much of their education and training takes place.

While the students attend some classes on the PSU campus, the majority of their time is spent working at the technology center with tractors.

"There's more hands-on work and shop time than class time," Kurt Hilliard, sophomore in applied science, said. "We tear down engines and rebuild them. For our final test before we are allowed to graduate, we have to be able to build an engine that runs."

*photos by Ashley Reiher*

right: Josh Finley, senior in ag technology, cleans a piston at the John Deere Technology Center in Frontenac.

far right: Jared Costin (front) and Kurt Hilliard, seniors in ag technology, use the computer to practice running diagnostic tests on a John Deere tractor.

The John Deere School of Technology works in cooperation with PSU and Fort Scott Community College to provide students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree in applied science. At the school, students learn knowledge and skills to build and repair large tractors.

Shawn Lueger, sophomore in applied science, says he first became interested in working on tractors and diesel mechanics when he worked at a neighbor's farm. He said the John Deere and Pitt State combined program looked like a good one.

"I like how they work with PSU so you can go on to get a bachelor's degree after you earn your associate's," Lueger said. "You also get to experience more of a college atmosphere here as compared to the other John Deere programs."

Before students can attend the school, they must

have a contract with a tractor company. Many students are sponsored by various tractor companies that they have agreed to work for after they graduate from the school. Most of the agreements will keep students employed for two or three years, initially.

According to Tony Maurer, John Deere Technology Center instructor, the school provides students the opportunity to work for corporations and do internships between the semesters they spend at the school itself.

"We get to use what we learn at the internships and dealerships so we don't forget it," Hilliard said.

Maurer also says another good thing about the program is that there is a lot of one-on-one interaction with the students. The separation from PSU's regular campus creates a unique atmosphere. Lueger says the small class sizes allow students and faculty to get to know each other better.

"We're all a big family," said Maurer.







*Photos by Ashley Reiher*

John Deere agricultural technology students listen as their instructor, Matthew Keller, lectures.

left: Shawn Lueger, senior in agricultural technology, buffs off the surface of a John Deere engine head, while instructor Tony Maurer watches.







The gymnasium in the Weede Physical Education Building was standing room only during the 2006 Spring Commencement Ceremonies Friday, May 19.



# A fond farewell



Photo by Adam Vogler

Many graduates choose to individualize their caps. Three members of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority display the Greek letters of their organization and another student displays the university logo.

## Graduates take with them degrees, experiences

By Stephanie Graham

Students, friends and family members gathered on Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20, for the graduation ceremonies of more than 1,000 PSU students. The ceremonies were held at the John Lance Arena inside of the Garfield W. Weede building and honored several students for their achievements.

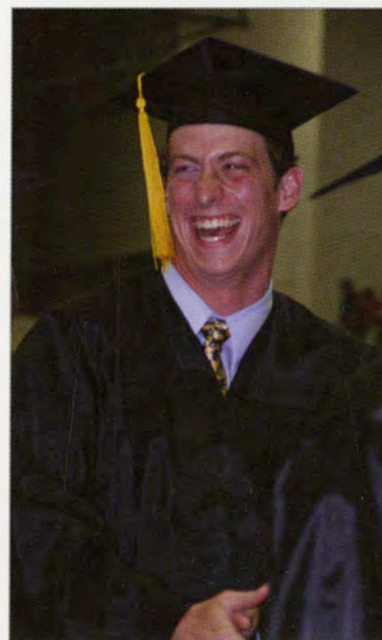
Sixty-eight of the graduates were given red, green and white medallions and ribbons to wear during the ceremony to represent honors for grade point averages of 3.85 and above.

Brent Cameron, a graduate of biochemistry with summa cum laude honors, plans to attend medical school in the fall at Case Western Reserve University. Meryl Twarog, also a graduate of biochemistry with summa cum laude honors, plans to pursue her medical education there as well.

According to Twarog and her friend Lindsey Winters, graduate in biology who will attend the school of physical therapy at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, one of the classes they enjoyed the most during their time at PSU was human dissection class.

Many others from the PSU class of 2006 plan to continue their education, including Kimberly Jordan, a graduate in family and consumer sciences. In the fall, Jordan said, she plans to attend Flint Hills Technology College.

*Continued on page 68.*



David Blanco lets his emotions show as the line of 2006 graduates slowly moves toward the stage and that long awaited diploma.





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# Sports













# Gorillas<sup>take fans on</sup> roller coaster ride

By Brett Dalton

There are no big-time amusement parks in Pittsburg, but that didn't stop the Pittsburg State football team from taking itself and its fans on a 14-week-long roller coaster ride during the 2005 season.

The regular season was full of ups and downs, the peak being Pitt's 56-35 beating of rival Northwest Missouri at Arrowhead Stadium, and the valley coming a week later when the Gorillas were routed by Central Missouri, 83-21, in the season finale.

*Continued on page 74.*





# Gorillas take fans on roller coaster ride

*Continued from page 73.*

"This season was a little different from years past," senior quarterback Andy Majors said. "There were a lot of ups and downs. When we were up, we were really up; at times we looked unbeatable. When we were down, we showed we can get beat by just about anybody."

Despite the loss to the Mules, which knocked Pitt's record down to 8-3, the Gorillas still received the fifth-seed in the Southwest Region and qualified for the NCAA Division II Playoffs for the 14th time in Chuck Broyles' 16-year tenure as head coach.

While some players admitted to feeling fortunate for even making the postseason tournament, the Gorillas wasted no time in showing that they belonged.

Even with All-American running back Germaine Race out for much of the playoffs with a leg injury, the Gorillas beat Nebraska-Kearney, 49-20, on the road in the first round, then traveled south and routed West Texas A&M, 41-3, the following week.

Senior defensive back Jeremy Neville said after giving up 83 points to CMSU, the Gorillas were even more determined to play well in the playoffs.

"Anytime you get beat that bad and give up that many points, there are questions about how you are going to react," Neville said. "We know we're capable and we can play well. We went out there and did that."

Riding the momentum, the Gorillas needed just one more win to be regional champs and advance to the national semifinal, with hopes of playing in the national championship game for the second straight year.

Just as in 2004, the opponents were the Bearcats of Northwest Missouri. However, unlike the previous year, the Gorillas, despite playing at home and despite the outcome of their

match-up just weeks before, were beaten 21-10.

"We knew going in they were a good football team and it's never easy to beat them twice in one year," Neville said.

The loss, which Majors described as "very bitter," brought to a halt the thrill ride that was the 2005 season.

The Gorillas finished with a 10-4 record and created memories and broke records along the way.

The year started with Pitt falling to Delta State, 44-31, the first season-opening loss for PSU since 1996. Played in Pittsburgh, the loss was also the first season-opening loss at home for the Gorillas since 1976.

"I don't know if I could talk about good team defense or good team offense," Broyles said after the loss. "I don't think we had any."

Two games later, in a win over Missouri Western, Race, junior, tied a school record with five touchdowns. The MIAA Offensive MVP would go on to break Ronald Moore's record for career rushing touchdowns and earn conference, regional and All-America honors in 2005.

One of the most memorable games was played on Oct. 1 in Topeka. After erasing a 21-point halftime lead to force overtime, the Gorillas fell by a point, 35-34, to eventual conference champion, Washburn. The loss, which was Pitt's first to the Ichabods since 1980, came after the Gorillas drubbed Washburn by 56 points in 2004.

"That's one of the things you have to guard against," Broyles said. "When you beat somebody one year 70-14, and they have about three players different on their defense ... it's hard to convince your players that they're going to be pretty good."

At the end of the regular season, 15 Gorillas earned All-MIAA honors, seven of whom earned first-team honors.

*photos by Carla Wehmeyer*

right: Brandon Jones, senior defensive end, sacks Northwest Missouri quarterback Josh Lamberson for a loss of 14 yards in the third quarter of the quarterfinals at Carnie Smith Stadium. The Gorillas lost 21-10.

On previous page: Jeremy Neville, senior free safety, hangs his head in disappointment during the last seconds of the Delta State game at Carnie Smith Stadium on Aug. 27, 2005. The Gorillas lost their first home opener since 1976, 44-31.

On previous page: Brian Barta, sophomore tight end, celebrates after the Gorillas beat Northwest Missouri State University at the Fall Classic at Arrowhead, 56-35.







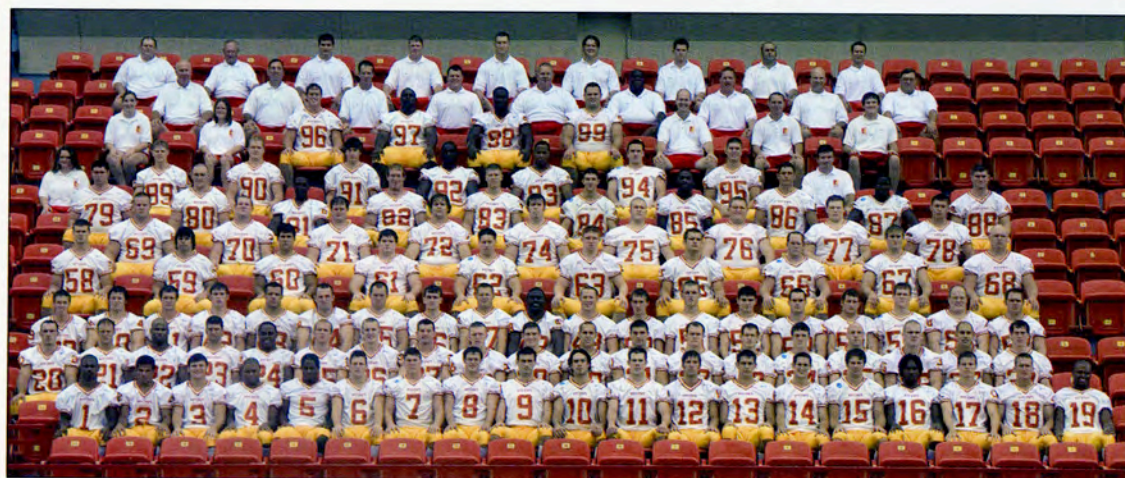
photos by Carla Wehmeyer

far left: Chris Jaax, senior line-backer, stops Washburn's Cason Lehman on the 29-yard line for a nine-yard reception in the first quarter of the game at Washburn University. Gorillas went to overtime to lose 35-34.

left: Faking out Ron Evans, Justin Bean, junior running back, rushes 25 yards in the beginning of the fourth quarter of second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs against West Texas A&M on Nov. 19. Gorillas dominated the Bison to a 41-3 victory.

bottom center: Germaine Race, junior running back, tries to push off Nick Oberle for the first down during the third quarter of the first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs against University of Nebraska-Kearney. The Gorillas won 49-20 to advance to the second round.

bottom right: Bryan Pray, junior wide receiver, fights for the 39-yard pass from Andy Majors, senior quarterback, for the touchdown during the second quarter



Front row: Bryan Pray, Nate Thomas, Caleb Farabi, Bryan McMurtrey, Justin Bean, Brett Shamblin, Chadd Snyder, Geno Waters, Ryan Nutt, Grant McDonald, Andy Majors, Pierce Curran, Noah Dumpert, Mark Smith, Eric Clawson, E.A. Boyd, Noah Hoppe, Nick Smith, David Love. Second row: Joe Taylor, Derek Ryan, Germaine Race, Nick Dellasega, Antonio Graham, Derrick Rider, Tyler Collums, Jeremy Neville, Andrew Tuggle, Dustin Walters, Taner Neighbors, Nathan West, Trac Hendrix, Grant Stephenson, Matt Sauber, Brian Johns, Rusty Morgan, Chris Jaax, David Blanco. Third row: Eric Moberg, Josh Lattimer, David Lee, Chris Swartz-Rogers, Austin Cartright, Jason Northern, Ryder Hill, Brennan Hurt, Brian Bauer, Cameron Akil, Kenny Hallacy, Chris Hill, Brandon Smith, Damien Stephens, Josh Jacobsen, Doug Schibi, Brock Lohr, Scott Walker, Ryan Belcher. Fourth row: Justin Shepard, Todd Hertzog, Jay Nunez, Ryan McInerney, Chris Beyer, Derrik Jones, Mitch Crawford, Anthony Voegeli, Matt Davis, Kendall Molz, Drew Brown. Fifth row: Billy Cox, Jason Stithem, Sam Oram, Travis Greer, Dennis Kimzey, Brandon Harmon, Chad Weeks, Josh Paoni, Zac Robinson. Sixth row: Shane McGinnis, Caleb Guernsey, Lamar Ibrahim, Brandon Twito, Martin Burke, Kade Dunbar, Marques Nelson, Brian Barta, Jeremy Moss, Casey Donahoo. Seventh row: Jamee Kelly, trainer, Nathan Alleman, Craig Pauly, Jed Neet, Brandon Jones, Rashad Pittman, John Brashears, Ryan Meredith, Nick Cheney, trainer intern. Eighth row: Angie Vail, trainer, Tish Troutt, trainer, Kenny Blanco, Jaudis Eaton, Ike Eguae, Cole Vap, Phil Carr, Certified Athletic Trainer, Licensed Athletic Trainer, Todd Brynds, Certified Athletic Trainer, Licensed Athletic Trainer, Andrew Hurst. Ninth row: Larry Garman, tight end coach, John Pierce, running back coach, Bill Kroenke, offensive line coach, Tim Beck, offensive coordinator, Chuck Broyles, head coach, Anton Stewart, defensive coordinator, Carl Roth, inside linebacker coach, Lance Cullen, defensive secondary, Frank Naccarato, wide receivers coach. Last row: Scott Broyles, equipment manager, Sam Adams, kickers/punters coach, Sergio Molina, graduate assistant, Josh Homolka, graduate assistant, Neal Philpot, graduate assistant, Ryan Hellwig, student assistant, Jeremiah Brittingham, student assistant, Greg Warlop, outside linebacker coach.





# Out of the shadows

## Andy Majors leaves his own mark on Pitt State history

By Brett Dalton

It took three years of watching, learning and mostly waiting. But by the time the 2005 football season got under way in late August, Pittsburg State quarterback Andy Majors was ready for his chance and more than ready to make the most of it.

In the three seasons playing backup to Neal Philpot, Majors started just two games at quarterback, in 2004, while Philpot nursed a toe injury. In his first start, a home game against Truman State, Majors not only led PSU to a 77-7 win, but to a then-school record 718 yards of total offense and gave fans a glowing preview of things to come.

"Luckily, I got quite a few reps (in 2004) and the previous year, so being in the starting position wasn't too new for me," Majors said.

During spring training in 2005, Majors admitted to having big shoes to fill following Philpot, one of the most productive quarterbacks in PSU history. In true Majors fashion, however, he denied feeling any pressure, preferring to label it as "just expectations."

"Neal left me with a tough act to follow, I know that," Majors said before the 2005 season. "Neal trained me very well and I learned so much from him, now I'm ready to go out there and do it 100 percent of the time. It's fun."

And just like his predecessor, Majors left his mark on Pitt State history and its record books. While leading the Gorillas to a 10-4 season and into the national quarterfinals, the Overland Park native passed for 3,065 yards and gained 4,028 total yards, both school records. In a 70-38 win over Southwest Baptist, Majors passed for a single-game Pitt State record 358 yards. His 430 total yards against SBU was also the most ever in a game.

"The passing game was great," Majors said after the game. "Their secondary was a little subpar and we took advantage of that."

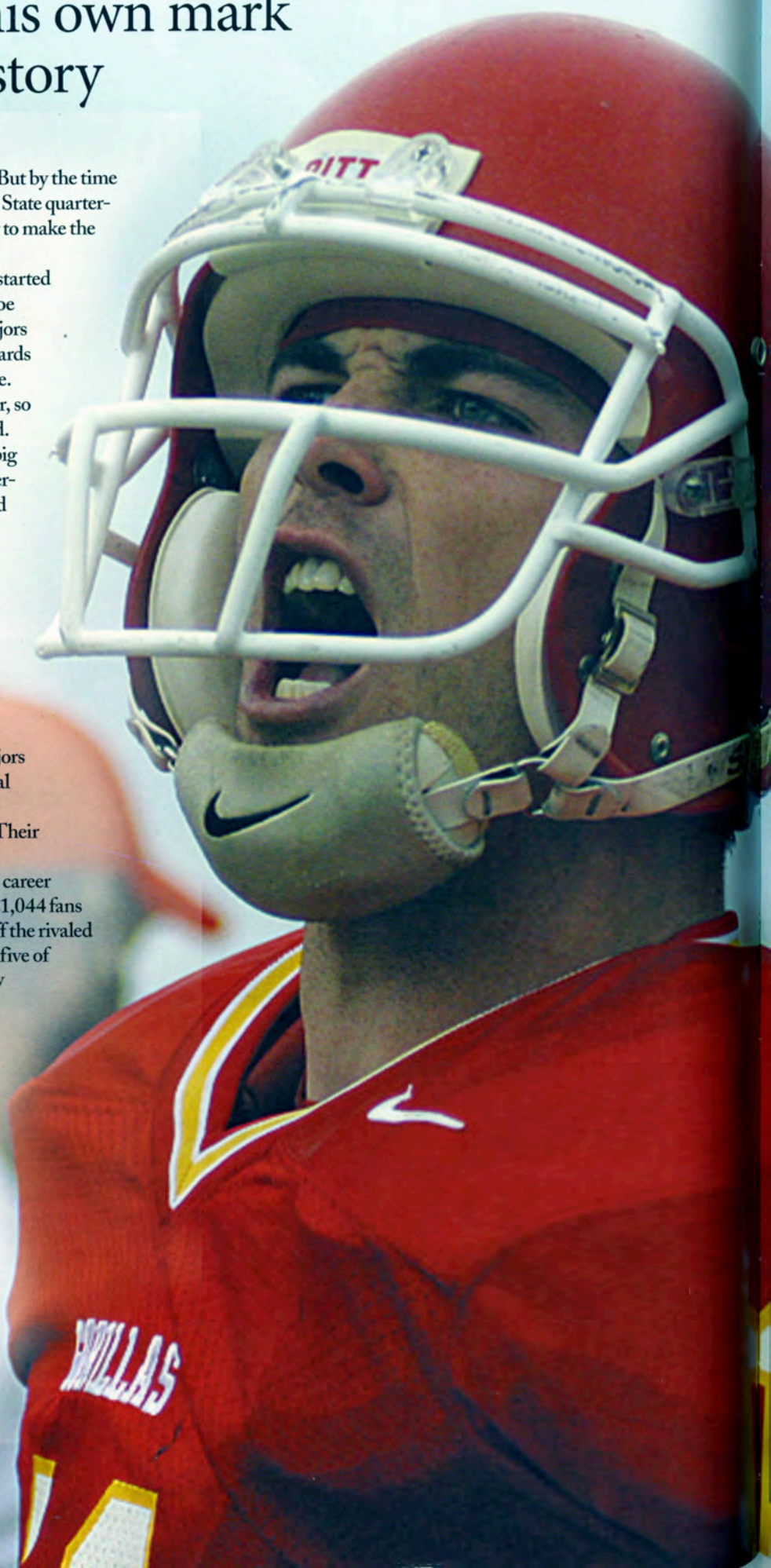
Perhaps one of the most memorable performances of Majors' career came in the biggest game of the 2005 regular season in front of 21,044 fans at Arrowhead Stadium. By the time the Gorillas had finished off the rivaled Northwest Missouri Bearcats, 56-35, Majors had accounted for five of Pitt's eight touchdowns. He completed 15 of 21 passes and threw for three scores. He also rushed 17 times for 52 yards and two touchdowns.

"Personally, I was just in the zone," Majors said. "It was one of those games where I felt that I couldn't miss and it kind of showed."

While he did falter at times, it appeared Majors was playing "in the zone" for nearly his entire but relatively brief career. By the time his senior season ended, Majors was selected to the All-MIAA First Team and the All-Southwest Region Second Team.

He finished his playing days as a Gorilla with the school's highest-ever completion percentage (.590). His 5,531 passing yards, 43 touchdown passes and 7,867 total offensive yards are second only to Neal Philpot at PSU. He's also just the fifth player in Division II history to rush for at least 2,000 yards and pass for at least 4,000 yards.

Majors, the 2005 Homecoming king, was also one of four Gorillas selected to play in the 2006 Cactus Bowl in Kingsville, Texas.







*Photos by Carla Wehmeyer*

far left: After a late hit on backup quarterback Nick Smith, Andy Majors, senior quarterback, tries to get the crowd riled up during the fourth quarter of the game against Emporia State at Carnie Smith Stadium on Sept. 24. The Gorillas dominated the Hornets 52-17.

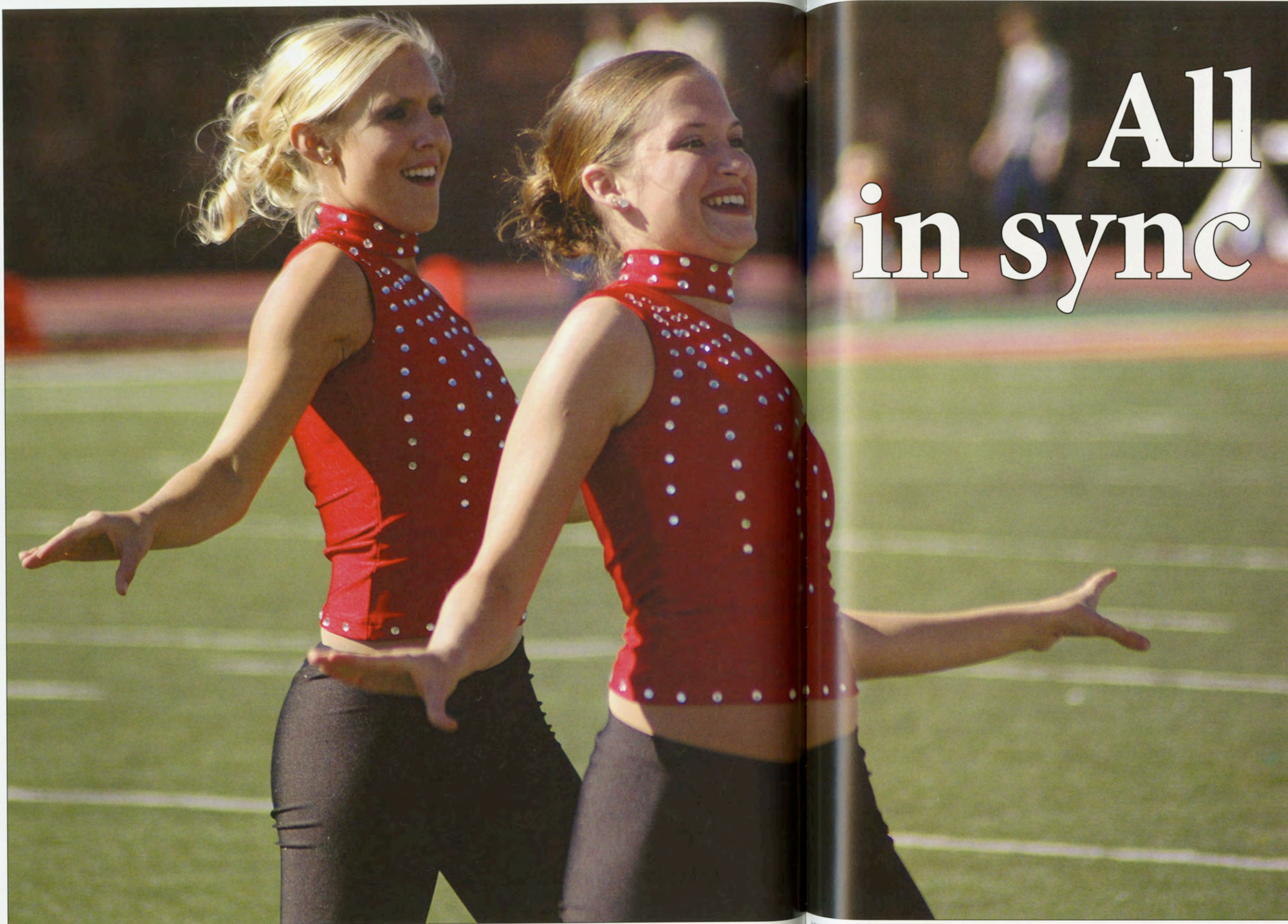
left: During the first quarter, Majors rushes the ball as Andre Burns, cornerback, stops him for a loss of one. Majors rushed for 93 yards and passed for 211 yards.

bottom left: Majors receives the snap from Drew Brown, sophomore center, during the game against Emporia State University at Carnie Smith Stadium.

below: Majors rushes past West Texas A&M Ron Evans five yards for the touchdown in the second quarter, making the score 21-0 on Nov. 19 at West Texas A&M University. The Gorillas beat the Bison 41-3 to advance to the quarterfinals against Northwest Missouri State University at home.







# All in sync

Chelsey Leonard, senior in family and consumer sciences, and Kelly Love, sophomore in family and consumer sciences, perform during the homecoming game. The Crimson and Gold Dancers performed with the cheerleaders during the games as well as half-time with the Pride of the Plains Marching Band.

*photo by Kevin Melvin*

"I like performing on the football field because it is very exciting and we know that about half of the school is present with all of their eyes on us."

~ Brandi Yates, junior in elementary education





# All in sync

## Dance team finds spirit in small numbers

By Stephanie Graham

What the Crimson and Gold dance team lacked in numbers it made up for in sheer power.

The team comprised only 13 members this year when it usually has 18 or 19.

"The best of the best were chosen so that we could incorporate harder things into our routines," said Whitney Plowman, squad co-captain and graduate student in communication.

Having a smaller number of members offered the team several other advantages as well.

"We had money left over from last year's national competition and used it to purchase new uniforms," Plowman said. "Since there were fewer girls on the squad, we were able to purchase warm-ups and many new uniforms."

Fewer people also allowed for greater unity among the members, according to Brandi Yates, junior in elementary education.

"There were no cliques this year," Yates said. "Everyone just came together as one whole group. This has been my favorite year because we're such a close-knit team. I think this factor helped at nationals as well."

The team attended nationals on Sunday, Feb. 5, in Las Vegas, Nev.

"Last year was our first year at nationals competition in Vegas so we didn't really know what to expect. But this year we were a lot more prepared and hoped to do a lot better since we had that background experience," Plowman said.

*Continued on page 80.*

"I like performing on the football field because it is very exciting and we know that about half of the school is present with all of their eyes on us."

~ Brandi Yates, junior in elementary education



*Continued from page 79.*

The team also hired Erin Novak, owner of Star Struck Dance Studio in Shawnee Mission, to choreograph a hip hop routine for nationals.

"We worked with Ms. Novak for five hours one Saturday and then practiced our routine each weekday," Plowman said.

The 2006 nationals competition was the first time the team performed a hip-hop routine.

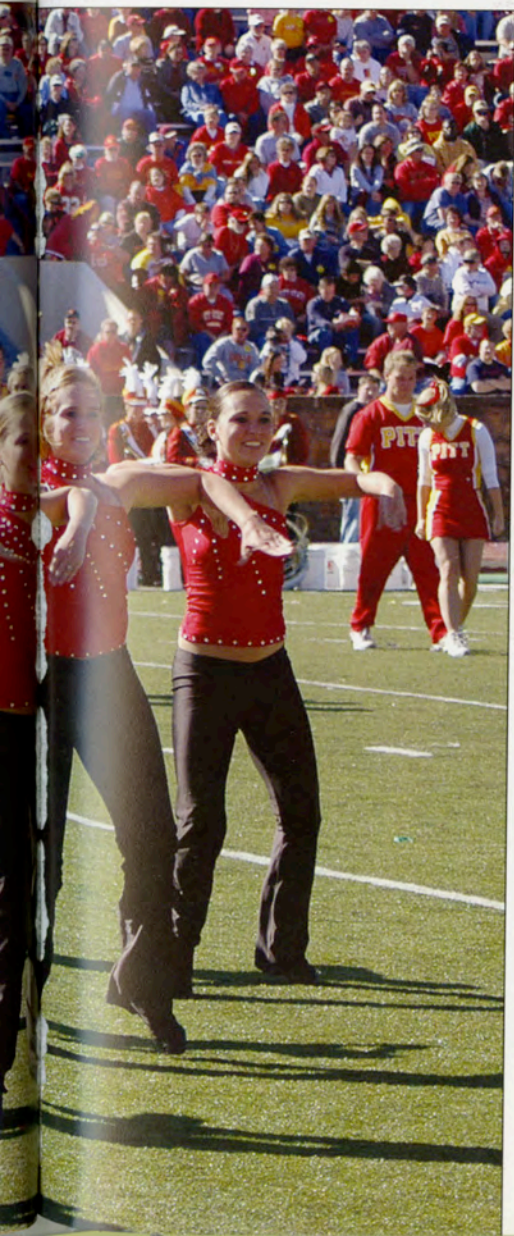
"A couple of years ago we started dancing on the football field at the same time the band performs, so all of our dances are choreographed to their music. I like performing on the football field because it is very exciting and we know that about half of the school is present with all of their eyes on us. But the reason I like performing at basketball games is because we are able to pick our own musical style to dance to," Yates said.

The team performed at every home football game and basketball game as well as prepared for nationals.

"I enjoyed working with the smaller squad this year because we had a lot of talent and the girls are so dedicated and hardworking," said Missy Hinton, Crimson and Gold dance team sponsor.







*photos by Kevin Meives*

Brooke Carver, undeclared sophomore, and Brandi Yates, junior in early/late childhood, perform during half time of the Sept. 24 game against Emporia State.

top left: Brooke Carver, Erin Paul, senior in recreation, and Stacy Barnes, undeclared sophomore, perform before the game against Emporia.

left: Members of the Crimson and Gold dance team perform during half time of the homecoming game.



# A cheer-full year

2006 Pitt State squad led school in cheers, spirit



Bailey Bishard warms up the crowd before a football game.





PSU yell leaders build a pyramid in the endzone at a football game.



The cheerleaders run out onto the field during a football game.



*photos by Kevin Meives*

The 2006 PSU cheer squad performs a stunt in Gorilla Village before a home football game.



# Squad's high hopes for season

# DASHED

By Jamie Arthur

With the return of senior Eric Sornson, Pittsburg State head cross country coach Russ Jewett had hoped this year would be far different from the last.

"Last year we weren't very good, especially when it really counted," Jewett said.

Sornson, forced to redshirt last season because of a stress injury in his right foot, returned to a squad that finished seventh at the 2004 Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championships. The only senior on the 12-man team, Sornson fulfilled the duties of team captain. In 2003, as a junior, Sornson finished ninth at the MIAA cross country championships, earning a place on the all-conference roster.

"We're hopeful and expectant, actually, that we'll take this team, this men's program into the top echelon of this conference and get out of the bottom half," Jewett said before the Gorillas' first meet of the season.

However, even with sophomore David Cox, Pittsburg State's top runner in 2004, the Gorillas couldn't outrun last year's disappointing finish.

Sept. 17, the Gorillas traveled across the stateline to Joplin, Mo., for the Missouri Southern Stampede. In Pittsburg State's second meet of the season, the team finished a disappointing 15th out of 33 teams. The performance was somewhat less than what Jewett had expected.

"As a team we didn't compete that well," Jewett said. "I think we had a good plan going in, not a real complex plan, but one that relied on us being tough when we were tired."

But Jewett said that when the team began to tire, too many runners just gave up.

"From the two-mile point several of us started folding our tents."

Cox, the Gorillas' highest finisher, placed 44th. Less than one month later, Pittsburg State placed fifth out of six teams at the 2005 MIAA Championships at Countryside Golf Course in Pittsburg.

Cox posted the Gorillas' only top-10 performance, garnering all-conference honors. Cox placed 10th out of 42 finishers. Juniors Kyle Norris and Adam Willis finished 13th and 15th, respectively, and sophomore Aaron Ballew placed 19th. Sornson crossed the finish line in 33rd.

Racing well below expectations, the Gorillas had one last chance to redeem themselves. Pittsburg State traveled to Abilene, Texas, Nov. 5, for the NCAA Division II South Central Regional championships. However, the Gorillas finished ninth in the 15-team field. The team's best finish was provided by Cox, who placed 17th.

"We didn't hit on all cylinders," Jewett said. "Had we had five great races out of our top five, then we would have placed higher."



Top: Kyle Norris, junior, gets help off the course during the championship run in Pittsburg.

Left: Members of the men's cross country team gather before the championship run held in Pittsburg.

Far left: Aaron Ballew, sophomore, runs during the championship run in Pittsburg.

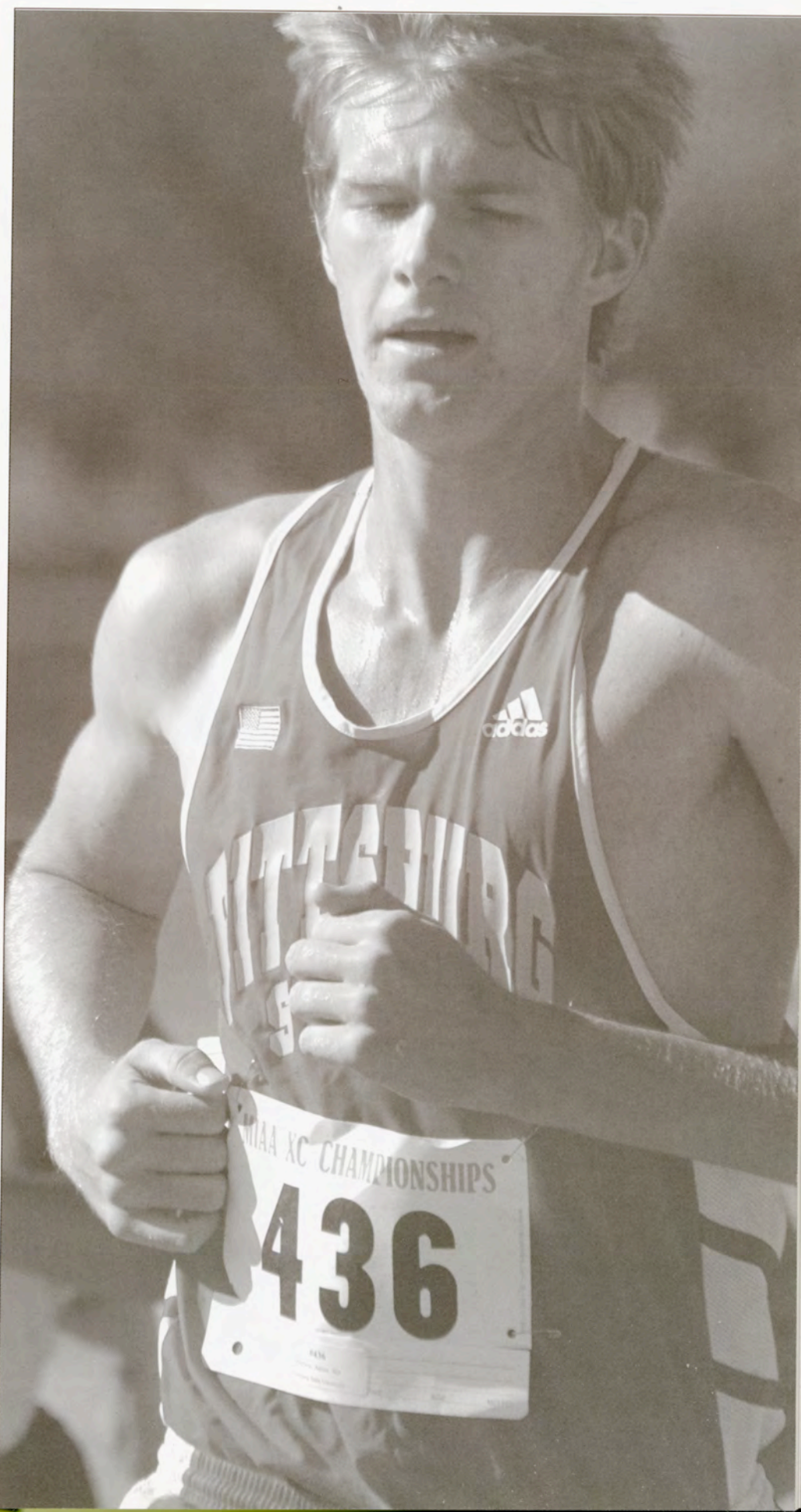
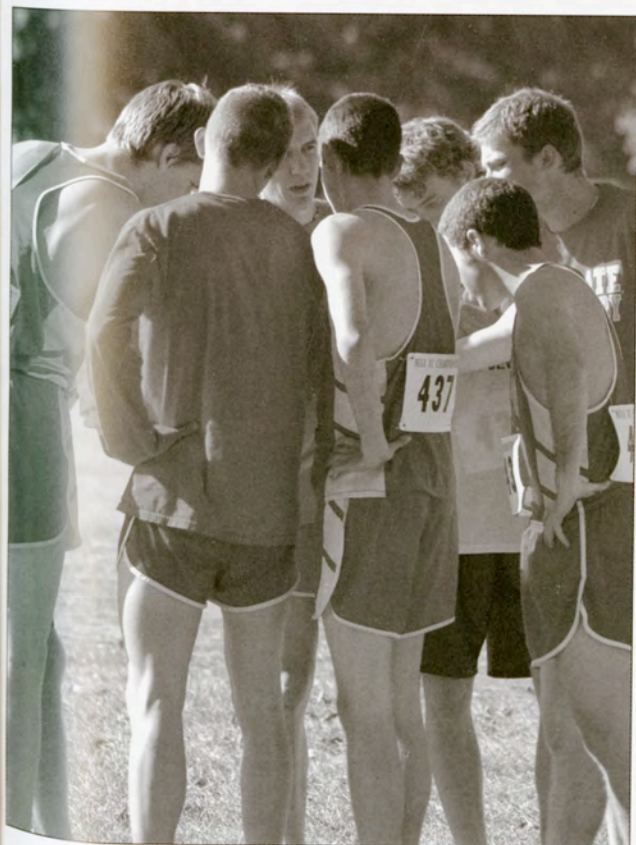
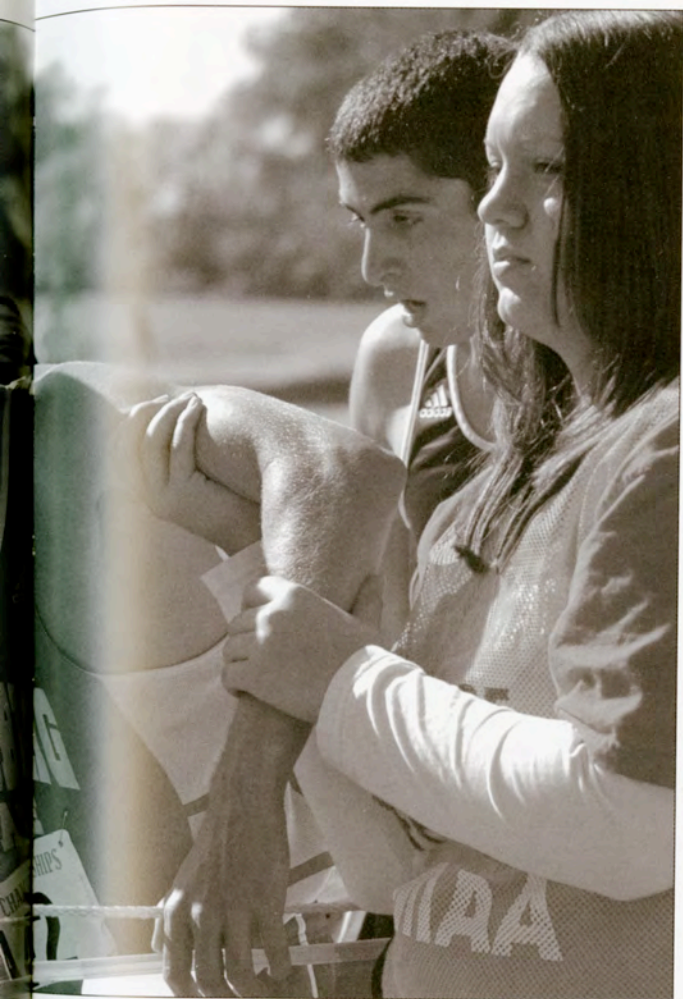


Front row: Caleb Barnwell, Nick Hansen, Adam Willis, Brandon Gibbs, Drew Beggs, Matt Seifert. Second row: assistant coach Matt Brown, Tim Hoepfner, David Cox, Aaron Ballew, Eric Sornson, Danny Cox, Kyle Norris, coach Russ Jewett



"Had we had five great races out of our top five, then we would have placed higher."

~ Russ Jewett, head coach





# Keeping pace

## Team provides strong individual races

By Jamie Arthur

Head coach Russ Jewett knew, before the season even started, that the Pittsburg State women's cross country team would be navigating unfamiliar terrain.

The Gorillas were competing without the leadership of 2004's top two runners, Megan Nelson and Stacy Kentzler.

"We had a pretty good team last year that finished fourth in the conference, in a very close conference race," Jewett said. "Probably the best fourth place team you would ever see in this conference. We lost our number one runner to graduation and we lost our number two runner to transfer."

Pittsburg State's number one runner, Megan Nelson, wrapped up a four-year career at Pittsburg State earning All-MIAA honors after finishing second at the conference championships. The Gorillas also lost All-MIAA runner Stacy Kentzler when she transferred to the University of Kansas.

Despite Jewett's concerns, the eight returning runners stepped up and paced the Gorillas to a second-place finish at the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association Championships on Oct. 22, at Pittsburg's Countryside Golf Course.

Three Gorillas landed on the All-MIAA roster after posting top-10 finishes. The top 10 runners in the men's and women's divisions

qualify for the all-conference honors.

Sophomore Erica Ogle led Pittsburg State, placing second in a field of 56, completing the 6-kilometer course in 21 minutes, 59.3 seconds.

Ogle was followed by sophomores Julie Jones and Venessa Lee. Jones finished sixth in 22:22.5 and Lee placed seventh in 22:24.6.

"Erica Ogle had a fantastic race," Jewett said. "I think Julie Jones had a great race, she actually pressed the pace in the middle ... Venessa Lee might have had the best race of anyone compared to how she raced coming in."

"All the girls probably had their best race of the year."

Ogle, who emerged early as a leader for the Gorillas, once again paced Pittsburg State in the NCAA Division II South Central Regional on Nov. 5 in Abilene, Texas. With 127 runners finishing the race, Ogle placed 12th in 23:47.20. Jones was the Gorillas' next highest finisher, completing the course in 24:21.70.

The Gorillas, ranked second going into the regional championships, failed to qualify for the nationals, finishing fifth out of 18 teams. Only the top two teams in each region advanced to the national meet in Pomona, Calif.

"I think that we could have done a little better, but I also think that while our finish as a team was disappointing, most of these girls gave everything they absolutely had," Jewett said.



First Row: Rachel Sneddon, Stephanie Karleskint, Vanessa Lee, Amy VanGundy, Erin Floyd, Amanda Zoglman. Second Row: assistant coach Matt Brown, Julie Jones, Lucinda Fortney, Megan Cox, Erica Ogle, Brittany Streiff, coach Russ Jewett.



# ce

## al races



*photos by Kevin Meives*

Amy VanGundy, senior, and Julie Jones, junior, change into their running shoes before a race.

Top: Erica Ogle and Julie Jones, juniors, compete in the MIAA championship run held in Pittsburg.

Left: Erica Ogle, junior, Amy VanGundy, senior, Stephanie Karleskint, senior, and Megan Cox, warm up before the MIAA Championship run.





Laura Toman, sophomore, jumps for the ball during a game against Washburn.

*photos by Carla Wehmeyer*



The PSU volleyball team gathers during a game against Saint Mary's.



top, from left: Maya White, assistant coach, Darcy Peach, Lindsay Quall, Cate Rogers, Ashley Rigby, Linda Igbinigie, Laura Toman, Sammie Williams, Sarah Wohlgemuth, Jodi Bahr, trainer  
bottom, from left: Sarah Brannock, Lacey Fisher, Lindsey Conrad, Lindsay Shine-man, Pam Radell, Pamela Cartagena, Emily Vosseler, Kyla Reed





The PSU volleyball team gathers during a game against Saint Mary's.



top, from left: Maya White, assistant coach, Darcy Peach, Lindsay Quall, Cate Rogers, Ashley Rigby, Linda Igbinigie, Laura Toman, Sammie Williams, Sarah Wohlgemuth, Jodi Bahr, trainer  
bottom, from left: Sarah Brannock, Lacey Fisher, Lindsey Conrad, Lindsay Shine-man, Pam Radell, Pamela Cartagena, Emily Vosseler, Kyla Reed

# A team effort

By Brett Dalton

Despite losing two key seniors from the 2004 team that advanced to the NCAA-II National Tournament, the Pittsburg State volleyball team was confident heading into the 2005 season.

"We believe we will be where we left off last year," head coach Ibraheem Suberu said before the season.

But with only one senior and just four juniors on the 16-player roster, the Gorillas struggled at times and finished the season with a 13-20 record. Their season ended with Central Missouri winning three straight games in the first round of the MIAA tournament. The Gorillas went into the tournament game having won their previous two matches.

"They just had better balance than us," Suberu said after the loss to CMSU. "We played our hardest, and it was actually our best game in seven or eight matches."

The season began with Pitt dropping four of its first six matches. But it would respond to win five of its next seven, and looked poised and confident heading into conference play. But things didn't go quite as planned for the Gorillas.

In a stretch of nine days, the Gorillas dropped four straight matches, including three MIAA matchups. In fact, Pitt was swept in three games in all four matches.

Things didn't get much better from there.

After beating Northwest Missouri State, 3-1, on Sept. 28, the Gorillas lost seven of their next eight matches, only one of which was not a conference match. Junior setter Sarah Wohlgemuth said the struggles frustrated and took a toll on the team.

"Individually, we need to be better," Wohlgemuth said during the losing streak. "We need to understand what each of our assignments are and come together to get them done."

Junior Kyla Reed may have said it best.

"We just need to play better," Reed said.

And play better they did. The Gorillas would close out the regular season winning four of their next five matches. But the momentum they carried into the MIAA tournament wasn't enough to get past Central Missouri.

Senior Pam Radell had impressive numbers. She ranks second all-time in PSU history with 1,788 digs and ranks fourth in school history with 440 games played.

"We are going to miss Radell," Suberu said. "She was our backbone this season."

Radell and freshman Sammie Williams were selected to the All-MIAA second team after the season. Williams also received the conference's Freshman of the Year honor. Wohlgemuth and sophomore Laura Toman received all-conference honorable mention honors.





photos by Carla Wehmeyer

Anna Nimz, junior guard, tries to steal the ball from Brooke Ubelaker during the game against Washburn. Gorillas lost 95-65.

# A year of struggle

By Brett Dalton

When the Pittsburg State women's basketball team took the floor for the 2005-2006 season, it did so looking quite different than the squad that finished 18-10 the previous year.

Gone were four starters from the season before, one being junior forward and all-conference player Janelle Klein, whose shoulder injury sidelined her for the entire season. So, instead of experience, the Gorillas relied on a fresh, new look to get them through the year. But new isn't always better, and the Gorillas struggled to an 11-17 record.

Junior center Maggie Apt was the lone returning starter, while the rest of the lineup was made up of former bench players and transfers. In fact, of the 11 players the Gorillas began the year with, seven of them were new to the team. But head coach Steve High said before the season that his team was not about to give up, even if they were without their best player.

"We can't sit around and feel sorry for ourselves," High said.

"Everybody, every year had a player that gets hurt."

From the way the season began, it appeared as if the revamped roster would be no problem for Pitt as it jumped out to a 5-1 record. But as Pitt entered MIAA play, inconsistent play and other nagging injuries took a toll on the team. Of the 16 conference games, the Gorillas won just four, and never won consecutive conference games.

Sophomore forward Tracy Patry, who started in Klein's place, said one factor in Pitt's struggles was the lack of depth. Often-times, the Gorillas played with just eight women in uniform.

"It's obviously hard with so many people out," Patry said. "There are times when we get tired and need a sub, and we don't have one."

Despite the team's regular season struggles, the Gorillas did earn the No.7-seed in the MIAA championship tournament. As they prepared to take on Emporia State, a team that beat Pitt State twice during the regular season, the Gorillas were confident that they could contend for the

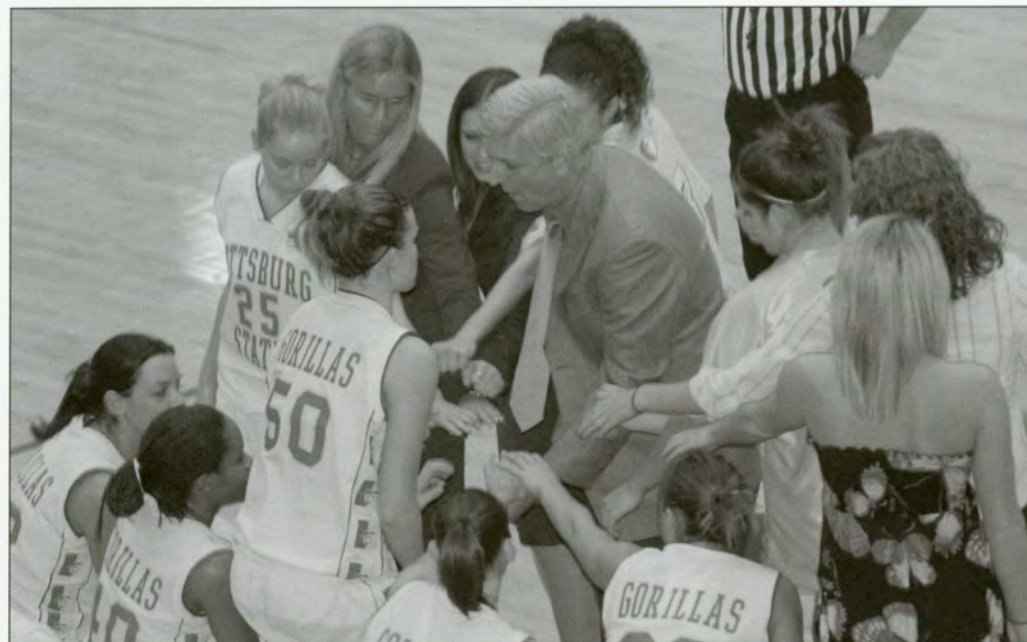
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right: Anna Nimz, junior guard, shoots over Carolyn Dorsey, of Emporia State University, for the jumper during the first round of the MIAA Tournament on Thursday, March 2 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City. PSU lost 78-58.









photos by Carla Wehmeyer

bottom, top row from left: Kara Kinney, Janelle Klein, Tracy Patry, Emily Sloan, Maggie Apt, Nikki Pierce. bottom row from left: Kelsey Theobald, Anna Nimz, Heidi Compton, Chloe Jones

right: Whitney Brunetti, freshman guard, plays defense on Emporia State's Deolinda Ngulela during the first round of the MIAA Tournament on Thursday, March, 2, at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City.

top: The PSU basketball team huddles to prepare for a game.

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conference championship.

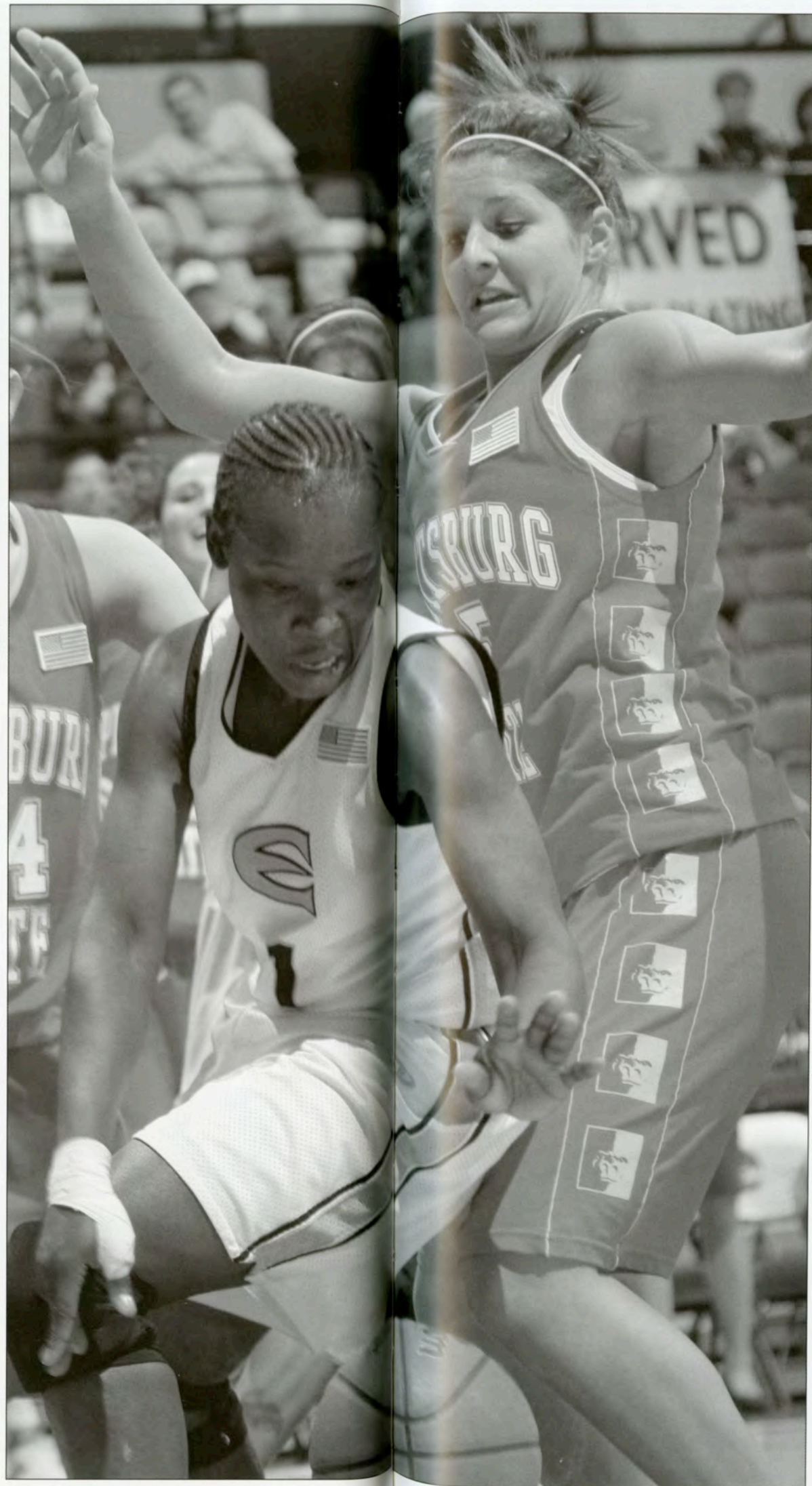
"We're going in, not just to play in the tournament, but to win," junior guard Nikki Pierce said. "That has to be our mindset. But we're going to take it one game at a time."

Unfortunately for Pitt, one game was all they played in the tournament, as the Gorillas fell to the Hornets 78-58, ending their season.

But while the Gorillas struggled at times as a team, certain individuals enjoyed success during the season. Patry, who earned All-MIAA honorable mention honors, led the Gorillas in scoring, averaging 15.2 points per game. Patry put in a career-high 28 points on Dec. 31 against Harris-Stowe.

Anna Nimz, a junior transfer from Dodge City Community College, averaged 10.6 points per game, the team's second-highest mark. At one point during the season, Nimz had a streak of six games in which she scored in double digits. That run included a 20-point performance on Jan. 14, her highest output since joining PSU. She also scored 20 points in Pitt's last game against Emporia State.

Pierce, who averaged just under five points per game in 2004, scored 9.3 per game, including a career-best 29 points against Northwest Missouri State on Feb. 4. Apt also set her career-high in points with 22 on Feb. 22 against Southwest Baptist. Her 18 rebounds against Harris-Stowe were also her career best.







# Patry proves leader for PSU

By Brett Dalton



photo by Carla Wehmeyer

With their leading scorer from the previous year lost to graduation and their leading returning scorer out for the season with a shoulder injury, the Pittsburg State women's basketball team needed somebody to step up and carry some of the offensive load during the 2005-2006 campaign. Sophomore Tracy Patry did just that.

Patry, a 6-foot-1 center from Andale, led the Gorillas in scoring, averaging 15.2 points per game. She scored in double figures in 22 of Pitt's 28 games and led the team in scoring 15 times. For her efforts, Patry earned All-MIAA Honorable Mention honors.

During her freshman season, Patry was more of a role player and though she did play in all 28 games, she averaged just 6.2 points in 20 minutes of playing time each game. While her role was to increase some during her sophomore season, it wasn't planned that Patry would lead the team in scoring. However, things changed when junior Janelle Klein's shoulder injury forced her to sit out the entire year.

"My role kind of changed when we found out that Janelle wasn't going to play," Patry said. "I was going to have to come in and step up my play."

Head coach Steve High said Klein's injury forced Patry to become a bigger part of the offense.

"It put Tracy in a position where she either had to respond or we would really be in a tough situation," High said. "To her credit, she responded very, very well."

High added that the key to Patry's performance was her newfound attacking mentality.

"What she's done that she wasn't doing last year is she's aggressive with the ball," High said.

While Patry said that she did attack the basket more than in her freshman season, she also gave credit to the Gorillas' guard play for putting her in positions to score.

"Our guards do a great job of getting us the ball, and then we'll kick it out, they'll hit open shots from the outside and that helps open up the middle," Patry said.

Perhaps what's most impressive about Patry's accomplishments is not what she did, but how she got there. Though recruited out of high school by PSU, Patry decided she did not want to play and sat out a year before joining the team for the 2004-2005 season.

"When she came in (as a freshman), she was a little behind because she had taken a year off," High said. "She had to play catch-up. Then in the spring and summer, she really dedicated herself to getting something accomplished and she worked really, really hard."

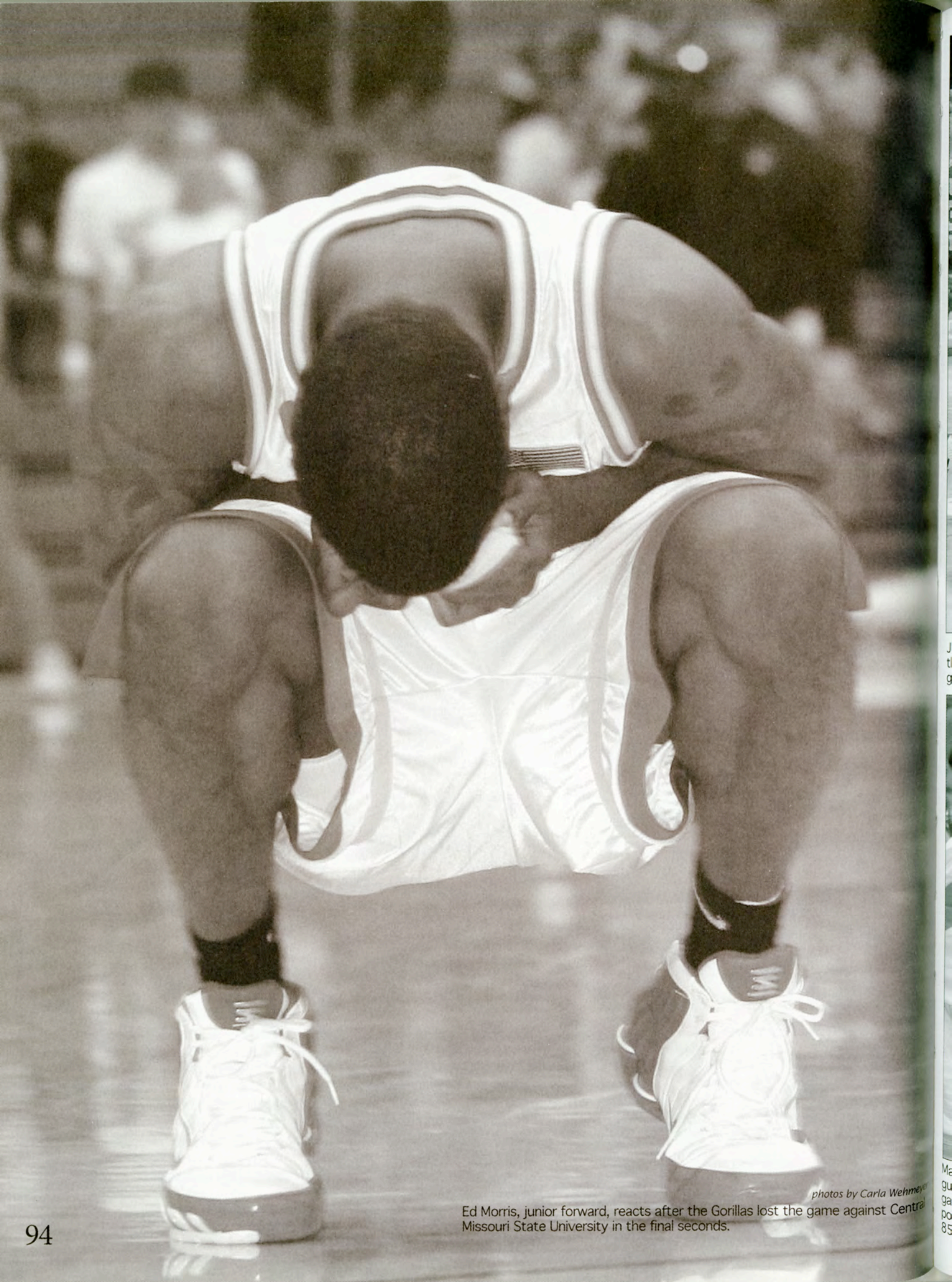
Her improved fitness was certainly vital last season. Patry started all 28 games for the Gorillas, and averaged 33 minutes per game. And with players out of the lineup here and there due to injuries, oftentimes the players who did suit up had to play almost the entire game.

"It's obviously hard with so many people out, but it had brought our team a lot closer and I think we handled it real well," Patry said. "There are times when we get tired and need a sub, and we don't have one. But it wasn't too big of a problem."

Because of all the hours of practice and conditioning that Patry put in during the off-season, High said she is earning everything she gets.

"It's nothing anyone has handed to her," High said. "She has done it all with hard work."





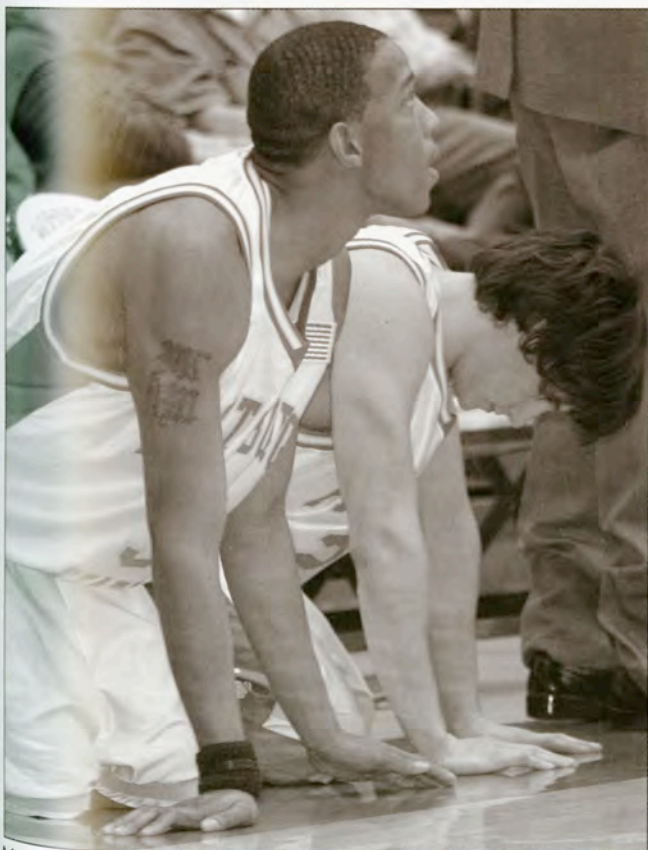
Ed Morris, junior forward, reacts after the Gorillas lost the game against Central Missouri State University in the final seconds.

photos by Carla Wehmer





Justin McCoy, freshman forward, and Julian Wright chase the loose ball during the second half of the exhibition game against KU. The Gorillas lost 73-47



Marcus Madison, junior guard, and Andy Wachter, senior guard, watch the lead slip away in the final seconds of the game against Missouri Southern. The Gorillas were up by 28 points but let the Lions roar back with a three-pointer to win 85-84.

# Tough year for Gorilla basketball

By Jamie Arthur

Gene Iba can't recall a tougher time for the Gorillas than the 2005-'06 season.

In 11 years at the helm of the Pittsburg State program, it was the first time Iba's Gorillas finished the season below the .500 mark (9-19, 5-11 MIAA).

"It's the only year in the last 11 years that we've had a hard time and it's pretty easy to figure out why," Iba said. "We had a number of new guys and a couple of them didn't work out as well as we thought, but most of all we overscheduled."

Iba said the schedule was geared more toward the talent and skills of the previous year's team, which had won 23 games and earned an invitation to the national tournament.

"We had some really tough games and we had some games against really good people that ended up being playoff-type teams," Iba said. "With new players and everybody trying to find their role it was really difficult for us. That got us off to a poor start."

After an 0-5 start, the Gorillas recovered with a five-game win streak that was capped with a victory over conference rival Missouri Western.

Then, in January, the Gorillas were dealt a heavy blow when senior forward Zac Shepherd suffered a career-ending knee injury during practice.

Iba said the loss of Zac totally altered the already fragile team dynamic.

"In Zac's case, he was not only one of our captains, he was our emotional leader," Iba said. "He got everybody going, when Zac started playing the way he could play, it picked our team up."

The injury could not have come at a worse time for a Pittsburg State team that was in the middle of a tough conference schedule.

"It was at a point when we had started to play very, very well. . . we were getting back to right where we needed to be," Iba said. "You don't want to whine an awful lot about injuries, but they came at particularly tough times for us and they came to people that we just absolutely needed."

Lacking depth and experience on the roster, the Gorillas relied heavily on the MIAA's leading scorer, senior guard Eddie Jackson.

"Did we have a choice?" Iba said. "Not really, our younger perimeter guys weren't really ready to step up and carry the load."

Jackson left Pittsburg State after three years, as the school's leader in career 3-pointers (273) and he was second in career scoring (1,772 points).

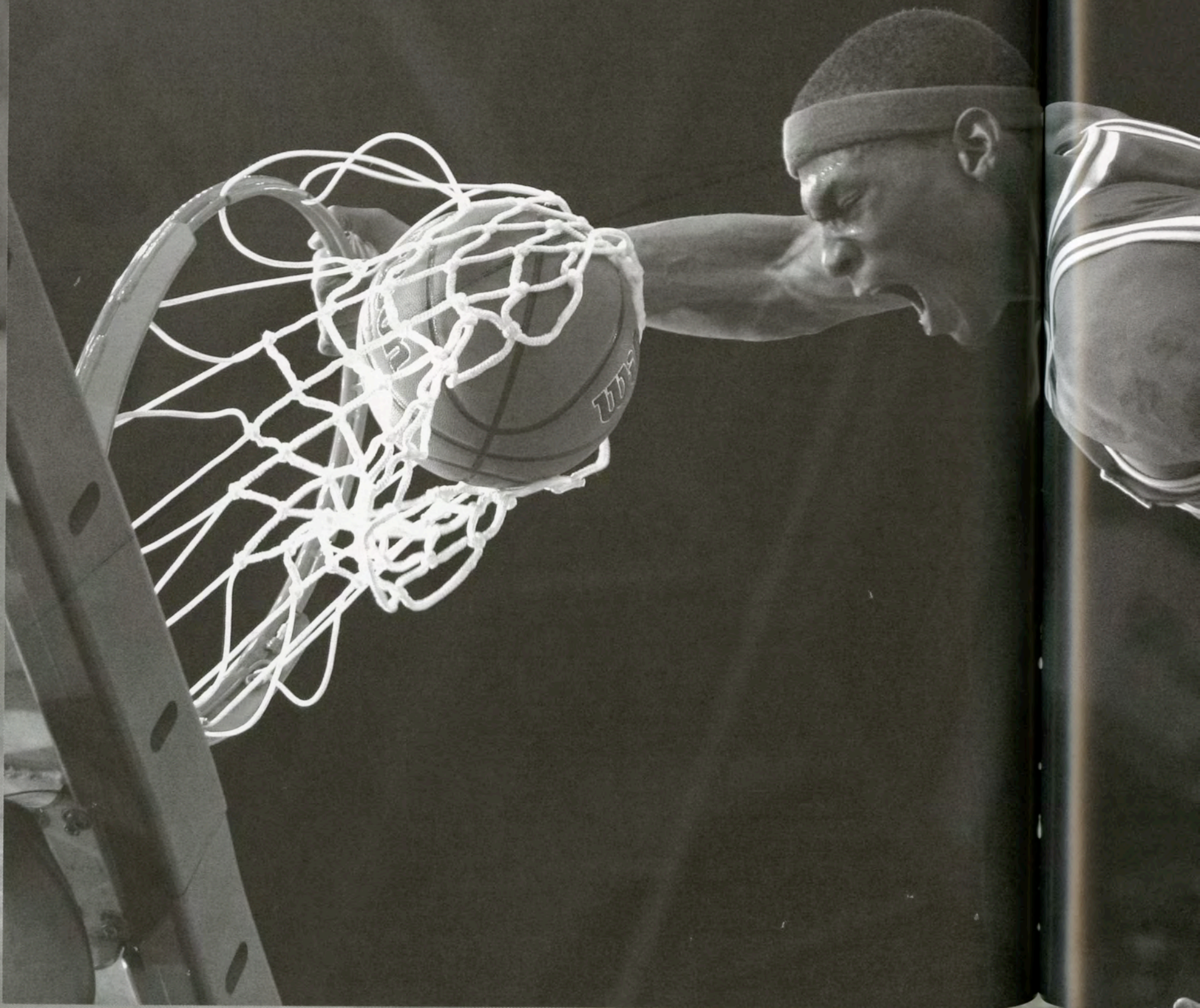


Driving to the basket, Eddie Jackson, senior guard, gets past St. Joseph's James Hughes to get the lay-up at John Lance Arena.



*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*

Slam dunking the ball, Edward Morris, junior forward, gets past Christian Moody and other KU players during the exhibition game against the University of Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence on Monday, Nov. 14. Marcus Madison, junior guard, assisted Morris on the dunk. The Jayhawks beat the Gorillas 73-47. The Gorillas held the Jayhawks to their lowest points in an exhibition game.









# Softball team ends on skid

By Jason Armstrong

A season of streaks for the Pittsburg State softball team ended on the wrong side of one.

The Gorillas (22-22) swept Southwest Baptist in late April, which pushed their record to six games over .500, but failed to claim victory the rest of the year. Though Pitt State backed its way into the MIAA tournament at Shawnee as the eighth seed, the Gorillas quickly played themselves out of their bracket, falling to Missouri Western and Northwest Missouri before nightfall.

First-year head coach Brad Horky, who returned to lead his old team after a 10-year hiatus, says the inconsistent performance of his team was expected.

"Anytime you go .500, it's a disappointing year," Horky said.

"But it's not unusual for a first year taking over a program. It's shaky. Everywhere I've been, the worst year has been the first."

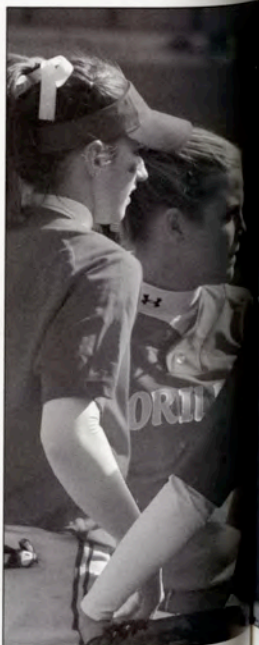
Horky's rebuilding process will not be aided by the loss of nine seniors, including all-region outfielder Ashley Loncarich and all-time home run leader Emily Gastineau.

Loncarich led PSU with a .414 batting average and was named to the All-North Central Region second team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. Gastineau added nine home runs this year with 38 RBI.

Pitt State started off strongly, winning 15 of its first 23 in non-conference play. A 4-2 showing at the University of West Florida Invitational in Pensacola highlighted a tough schedule, but the poise the Gorillas showed heading into the MIAA slate soon dissipated.



Fielding the ground ball, Lyndsey Crosswhite, senior, second baseman, throws the ball to first for the out.







*photos by Carla Wehmeyer*

Gregan Ketcham attempts to avoid a tag at second base.

Coach Brad Horky addresses his team between innings.

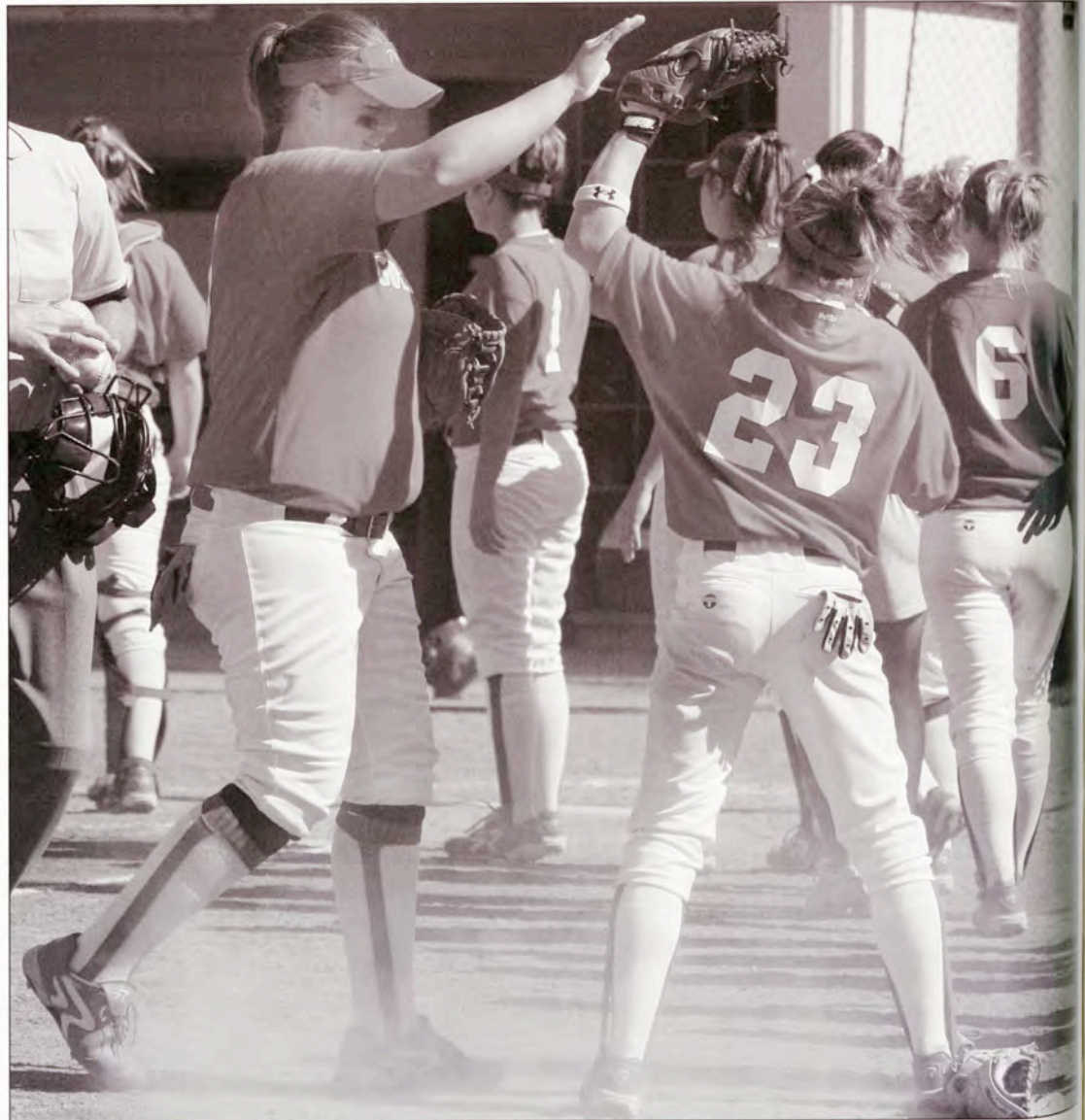




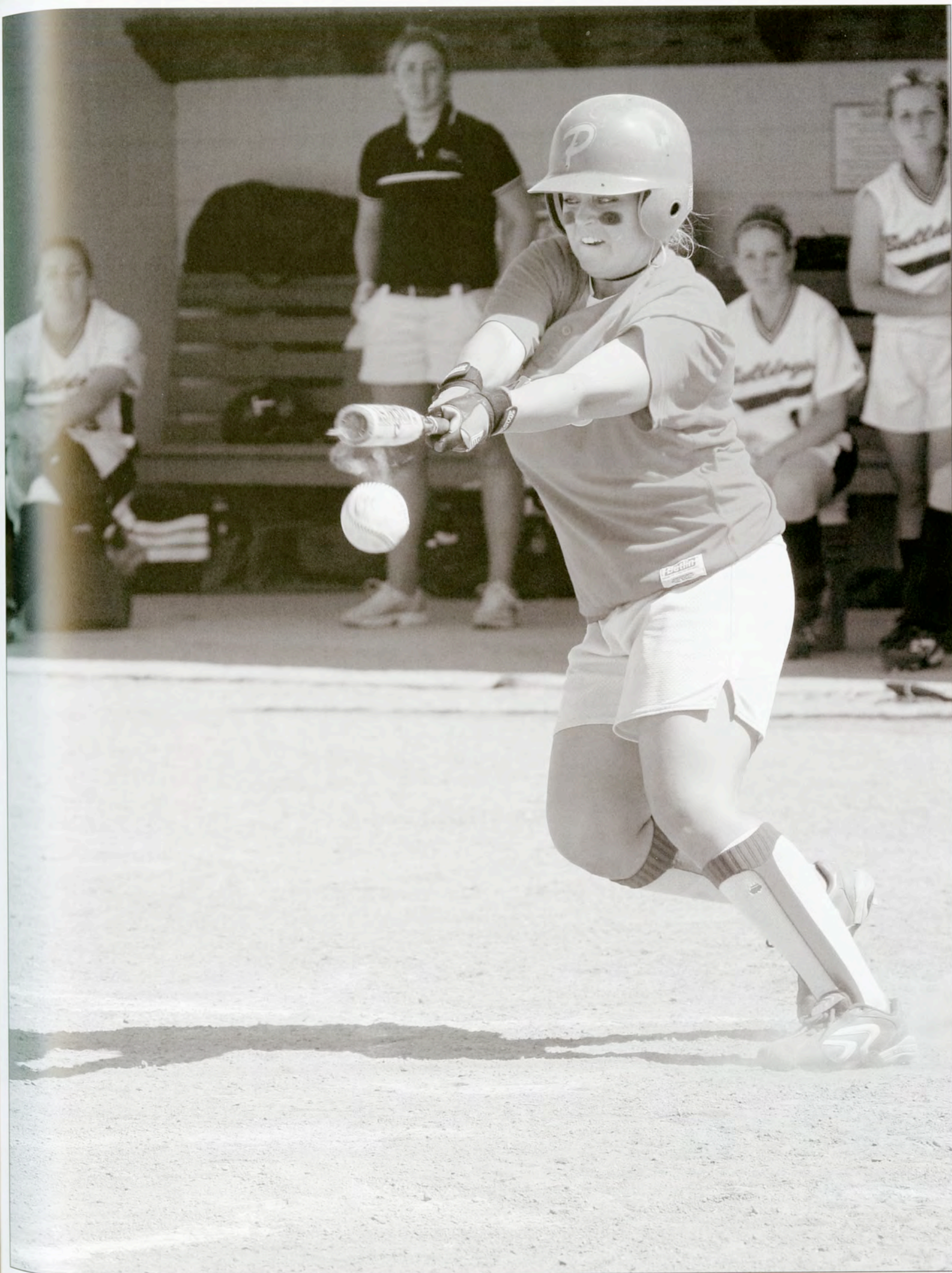
Front Row: Libby Overman, Sara Kratzberg, Emily Gastineau, Ashley Rich, Cassie Buche, Tera Swartslander, Lyndsey Crosswhite. Second Row: Alisha O'Brien, Stephanie Moore, Taylor Rich, Gregan Ketcham, Jill Havens, Melissa Skelly, Ashley Loncarich, JoAnna Brozovich, Eileen Treff, Chelsea Clark, Allison McCartney, Anna Bott.

near right: After sweeping SBU, Emily Gastineau, senior first baseman, congratulates Ashley Loncarich, senior left fielder, at the Softball Complex on April 20. Loncarich scored the winning run in the first game to win 1-0 over the Bearcats. The day was a celebration for the team as it won its fifth straight game and secured a spot in the MIAA conference tournament.

far right: Taylor Rich, sophomore third baseman, bunts during the second inning of the second game against Truman State University. The Gorillas lost to the Bulldogs 8-0 and 11-1 on April 22 at the PSU Softball Complex.

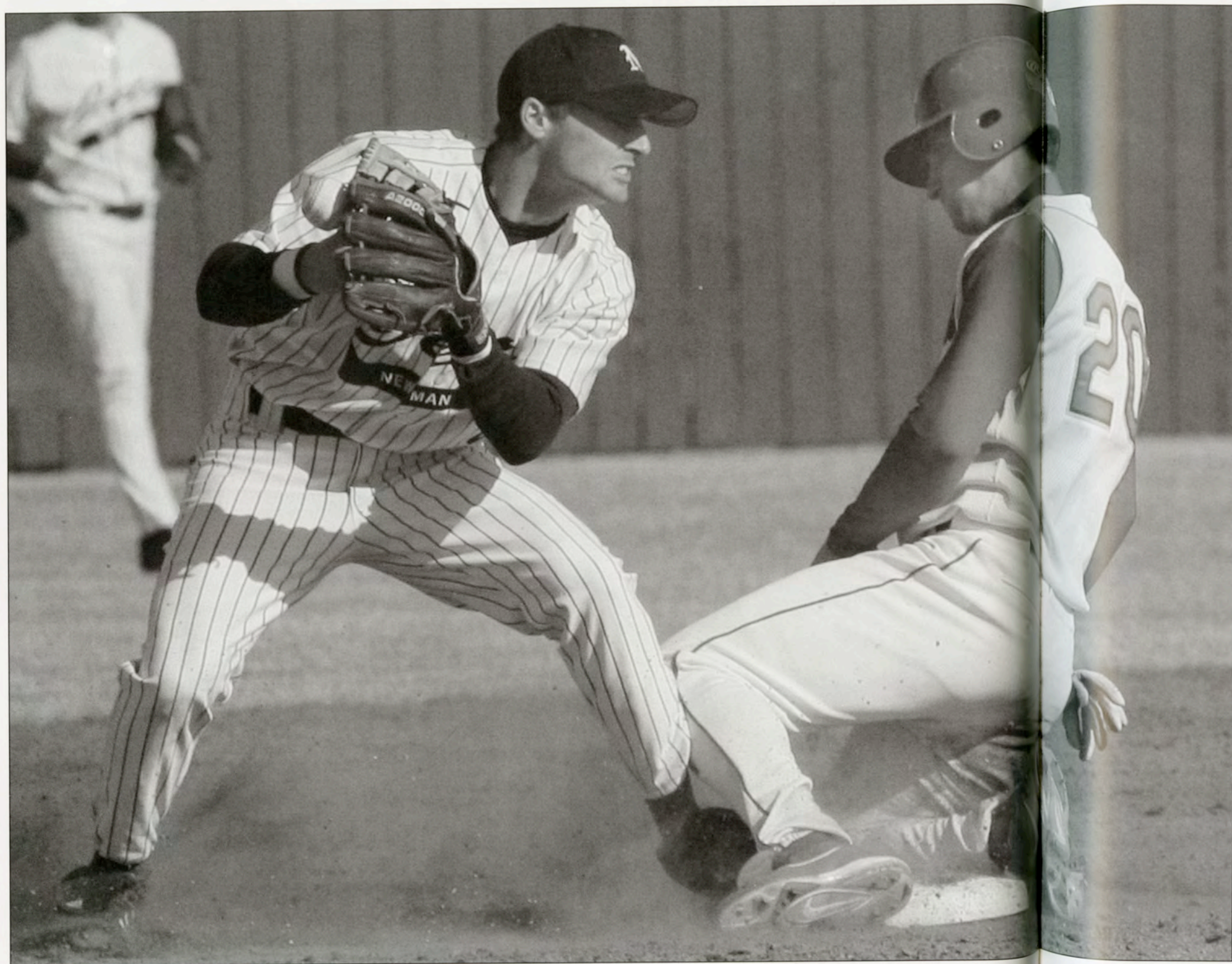








# Injuries spur late- season



*photos by Carla Wehme*

During the bottom of the third inning, John Brummett, senior designated hitter, gets out at second base by Drew Schulte's hit to the shortstop for the fielder's choice to second baseman Jason Einhardt at Al Ortolani Field. The Gorillas won 7-6.

top right: Jacob Bowman, sophomore right fielder, makes a tumbling catch for the third out during the top of the second inning of the game against Newman at Al Ortolani Field. Bowman caught a pop up and line ball for the first and second outs of the inning.



# season collapse



By Jason Armstrong

Despite battling injuries throughout the latter half of the season, the Pittsburg State baseball team controlled its own destiny going into a stretch run against nationally-ranked Central Missouri and Emporia State.

The Gorillas (27-25) were hovering around .500 in the conference, but could have made a late-April move in the standings by beating the MIAA leaders. Instead, Pitt State lost five of six, and missed out on the conference tournament open to the top four teams.

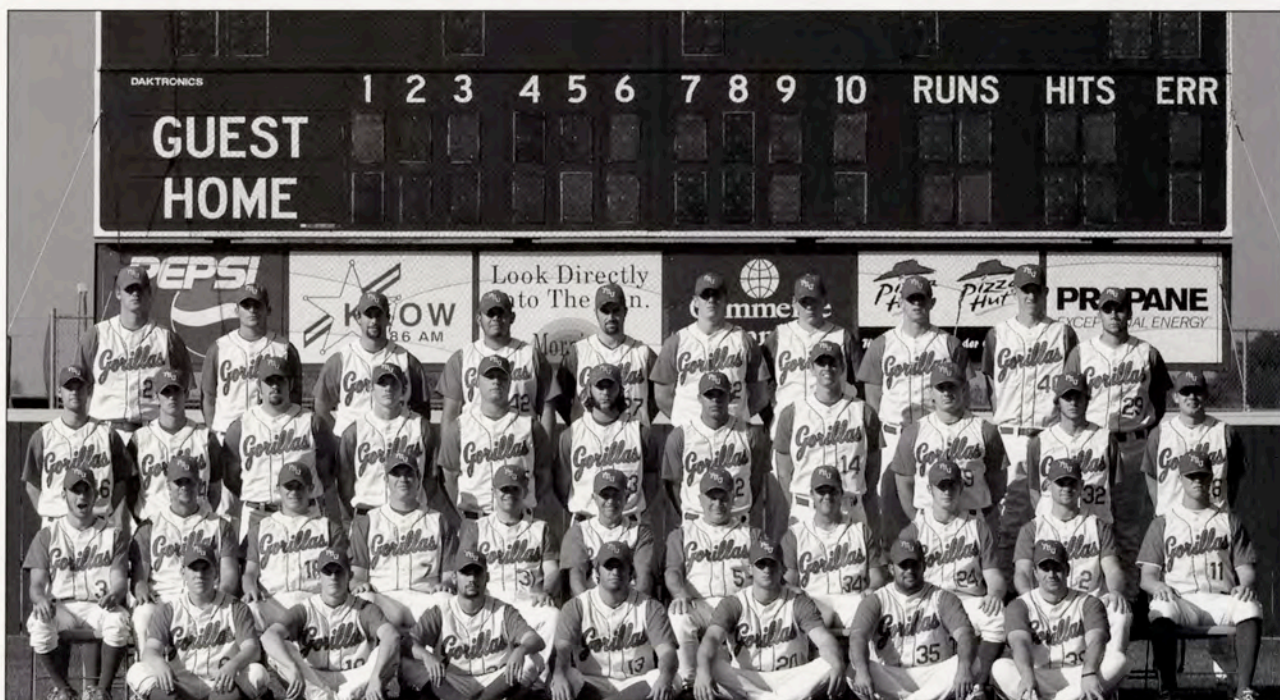
"We had a chance to beat Emporia State three out of four games, but it didn't work out," head coach Steve Bever said. "We felt like we were a better hitting team than Emporia. We were a better fielding team than Emporia. But baseball is about pitching and they had the pitching that we didn't."

Pitt State was left without pitching because of a nasty injury bug that swept through the roster while the Gorillas were still in contention for a playoff spot.

"We lost seven out of our top 10 pitchers," Bever said. "We had four out with Tommy John surgery. It's tough when you lose that many."

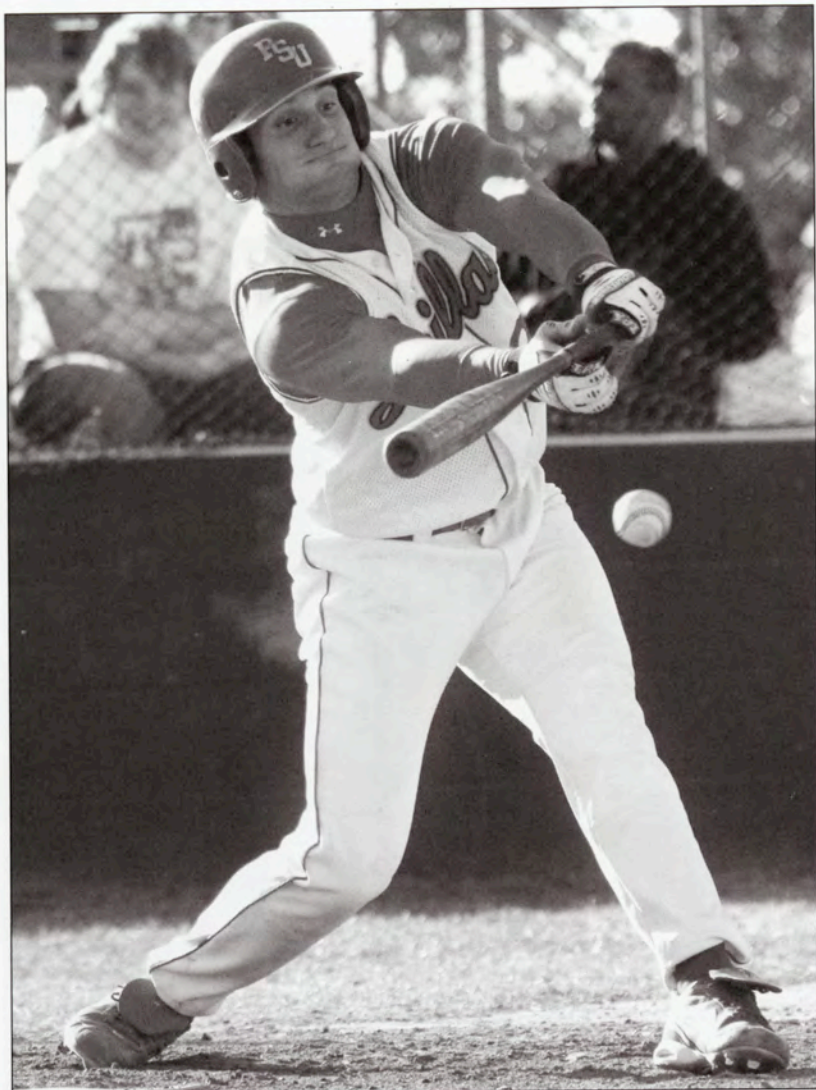
The injuries didn't just infect the pitching staff, either. Infielders Drew Schulte and Brad Smith were among the many impact players who had their seasons shortened.

Senior catcher John Brummett, a transfer from Nicholls (La.) State University, emerged as the Gorillas' offensive leader, hitting .434 with 13 home runs and 53 RBI. Following the season, he was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings NCAA Division II All-America first team.

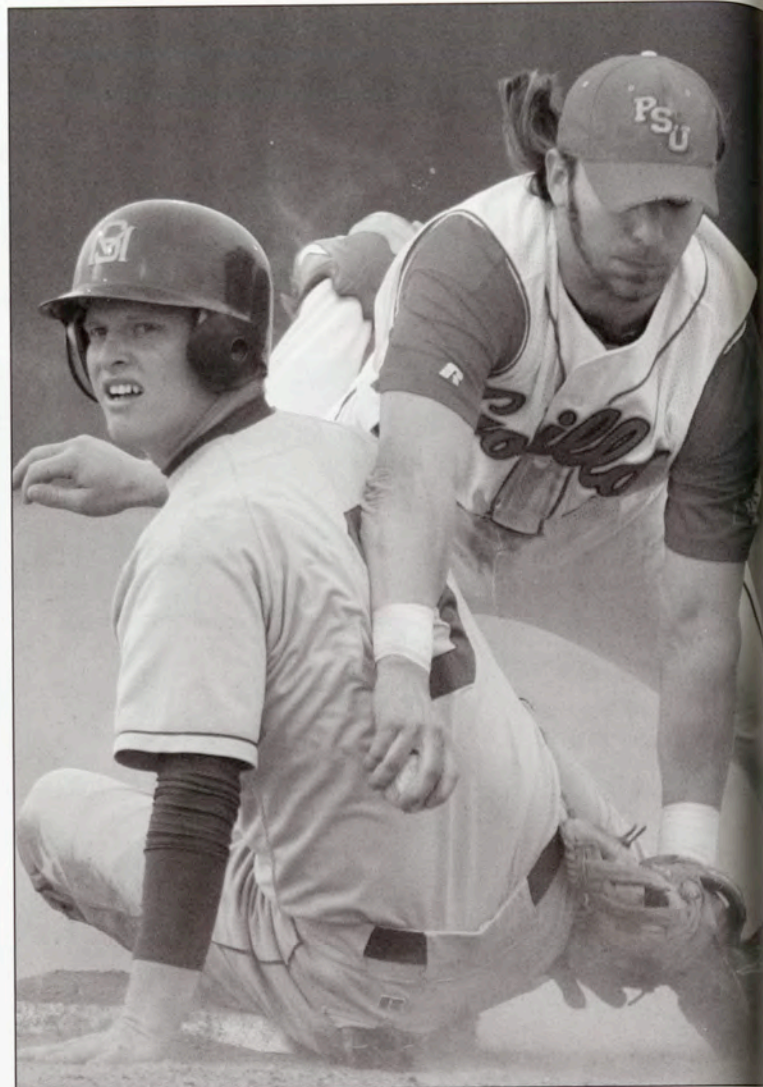


1st row: Michael Campbell, Brent Lamaster, Anthony Martinez, Garrett Forsythe, John Brummett, Drew Schulte, Luke Cheney 2nd row: Daniel Shepard, Brad Smith, Ryan Ulrich, coach Brad Stroud, coach John Hill III, coach Steve Bever, coach Gary Grimaldi, coach Chris Klick, Robby Oldaker, Brian Smith, Jordan Nelson 3rd row: Kyle Sosna, Kevin Deao, Nathan Maxwell, Shane Lankford, T.J. Franklin, T.J. Prentice, Brandon Beyer, Andy Smith, Travis Jensen, Chris Dunlap, Bunk McCullough 4th row: Chris Reddout, Michael Grossdidier, Greg Rawlings, Robert Chavana, Ben Jordan, Mike Eckel, Cole Moore, Jeff Deao, Jason Porter, Jacob Boan

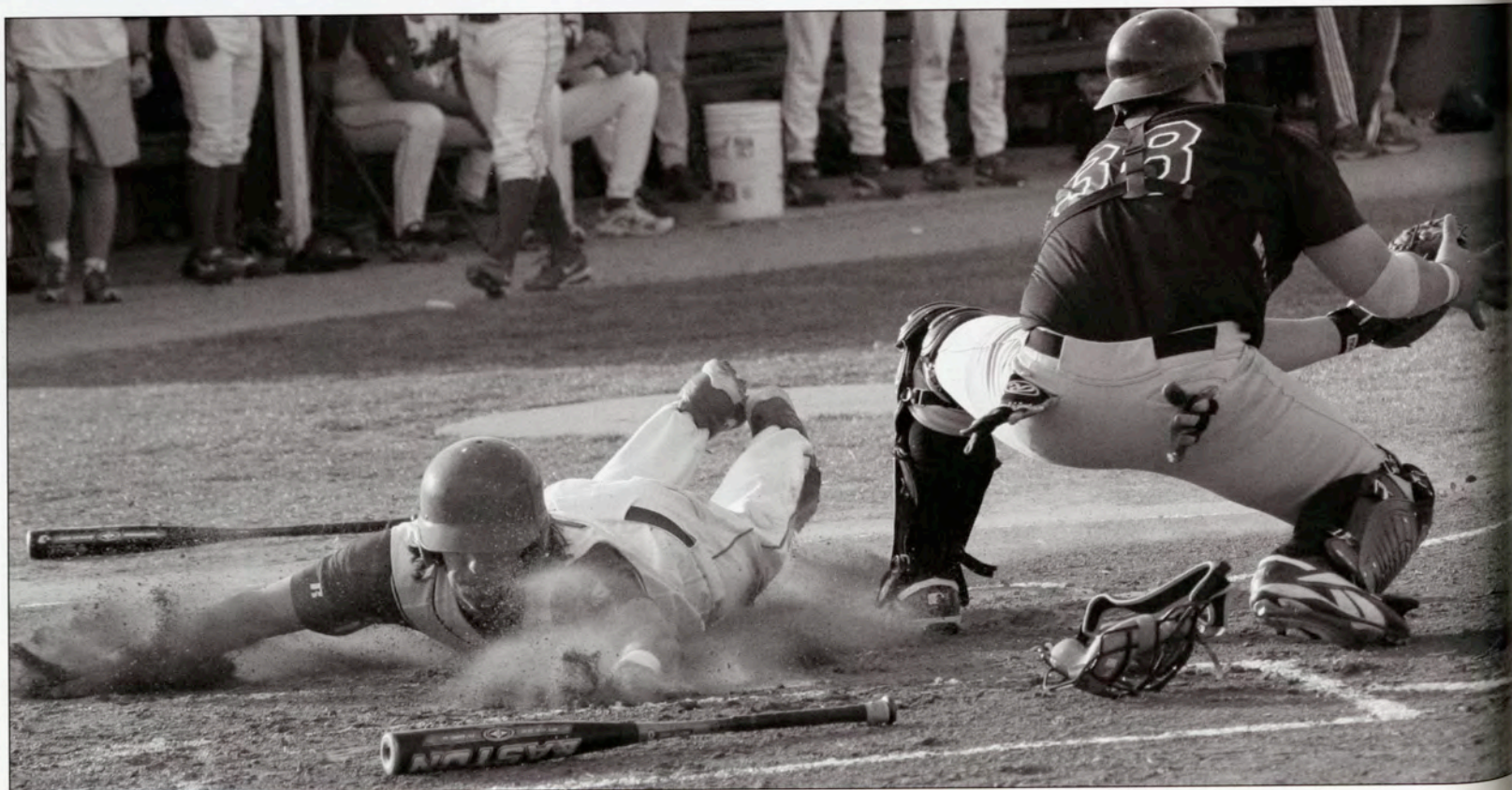




John Brummett, senior designated hitter, hits a single down the first base line during the bottom of the eighth inning during the game against Newman at Al Ortolani Field. The Gorillas won 7-6.



T.J. Prentice catches the ball to record the out in a game against Missouri Southern State University.



T.J. Prentice, second baseman, slides into home in a game against Missouri Southern State University at Al Ortolani Field.

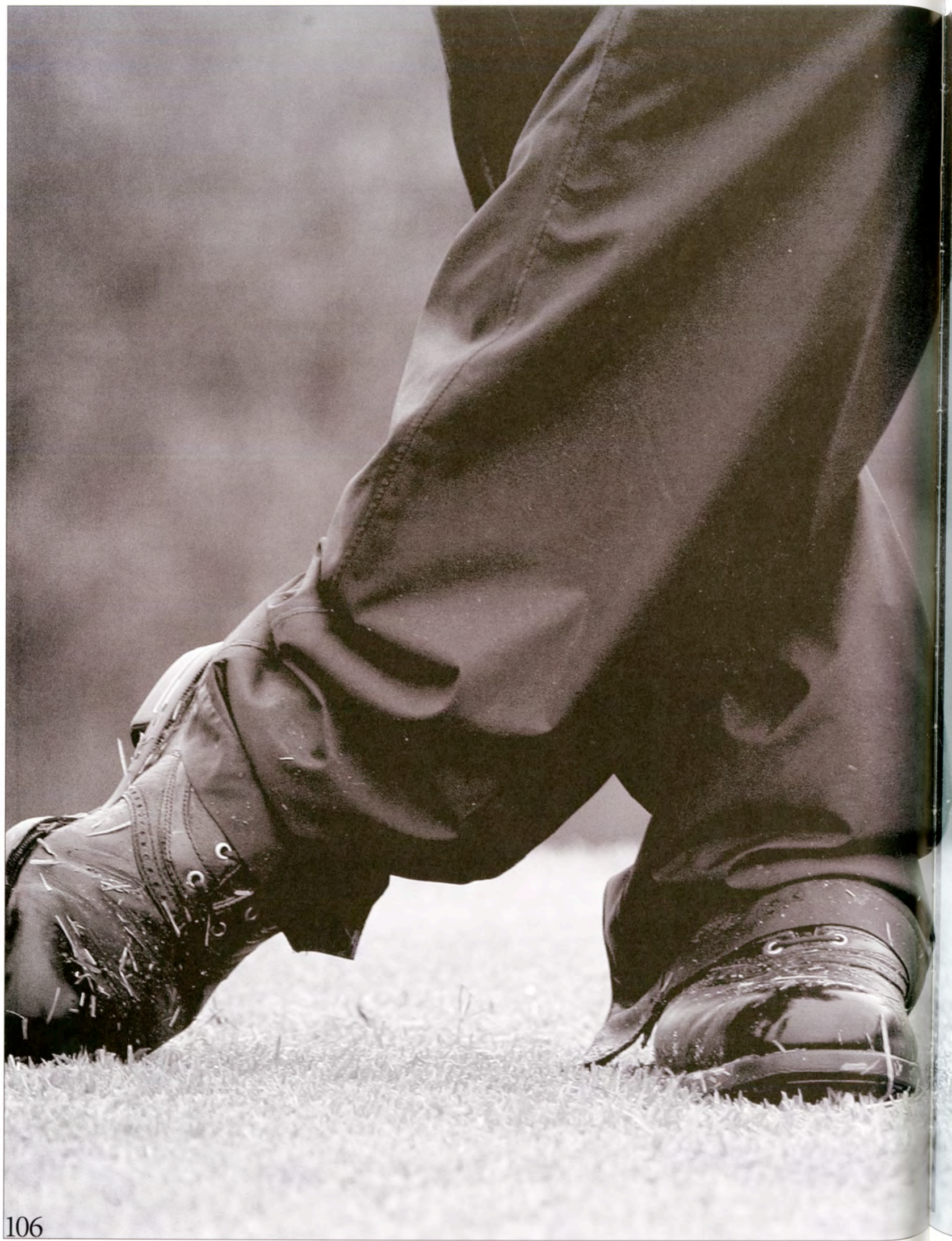





Garrett Forsythe, sophomore pitcher, throws a strike to Sam Walker during the top of the seventh inning in the first game against Missouri Western at Al Ortolani Field. The Gorillas lost both games to the Griffins.

photos by Carla Wehmeyer









# In the rough

By Jason Armstrong

The bright side for the Pittsburg State golf team is its youth. For a team that perpetually finishes last in the MIAA, the dark and dreary side is also its youth. The Gorillas, who have three juniors and a freshman, placed last in four of five conference-sanctioned tournaments.

However, the freshman, Brandon Malick, qualified for the Super Regional and finished tied for 38th.

"We were last in the conference, but we were young," head coach Jeff Hafer said. "It was a good year of improvement ... I think you see the result of that with our newest golfer, Brandon Malick."

Malick, a native of Salina, shot 22-over par in the Super Regional at Crest Hill, Ill. His two-over par 74 on the final day of the tournament gave him and the Gorillas some much-needed confidence for next season.

"I think, with the crop of new guys coming in, we can compete," Hafer said. "They will be mixed in with the guys we already have, who have another two or three years left to improve."

Pitt State finished last at the MIAA Tournament at Blue Springs, Mo., a whopping 24 strokes behind six-place Truman. Junior Chad Leivian led the Gorillas with a 230, good enough for 20th. Malick trailed Leivian by just two strokes.

PSU took last in the overall standings for the third straight season. The Gorillas finished in sixth at the Central Missouri State University Fall Event on Oct. 9-11, which marked only the second time in three years that Pitt placed above last in a conference-sanctioned tournament.

Photo by Teresa Gawrych



# Women's track soars in 2006

By Jamie Arthur

A national title is something all athletes dream of, but few ever achieve.

Venessa Lee is one of those lucky few.

Following a successful indoor season in which the sophomore middle-distance runner captured the conference crown in the 800-meter run and took second in the mile run, Lee cruised to victory at the NCAA Division-II Indoor National Championships.

"I just couldn't believe it," Lee said.

Crossing the finish line in 2 minutes, 8.95 seconds, Lee won the 800 meters, shattering her career-best time of 2:11.75.

PSU head track and field coach Russ Jewett said the improvement was "incredible."

"You just don't have people knock almost three seconds off their personal best from one meet to the next, especially at the end of the season," Jewett said.

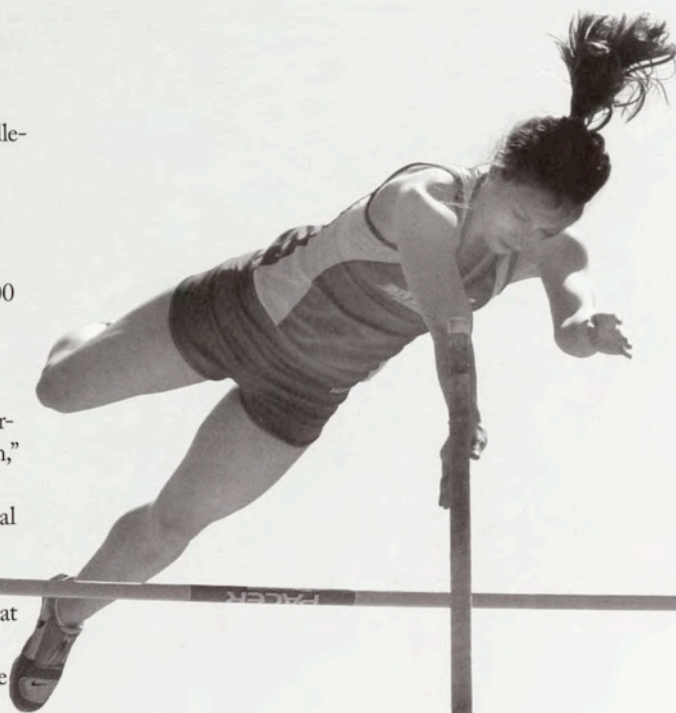
Lee became the first Pittsburg State athlete to bring home a national

title since 2002. In May, she raced to a second-place finish in the 800 at the NCAA D-II outdoor championships.

Other national qualifiers included seniors Lisa Douglass in the pole vault; Chelsey Leonard in the long jump and triple jump; junior Traci Werner in the hammer throw; and sophomore Kiley Lund in the high jump.

Douglass capped her career with a fourth-place finish in the pole vault to earn All-America honors. She also earned All-American status with a sixth-place performance at the indoor championships.

The Gorillas were runners-up in both the 2006 MIAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships.







*photos by Carla Wehmeyer*

Chelsey Leonard, senior, jumps over the hurdles to run the 100-meter hurdles in 14.77 for first place at the PSU Quadrangular.



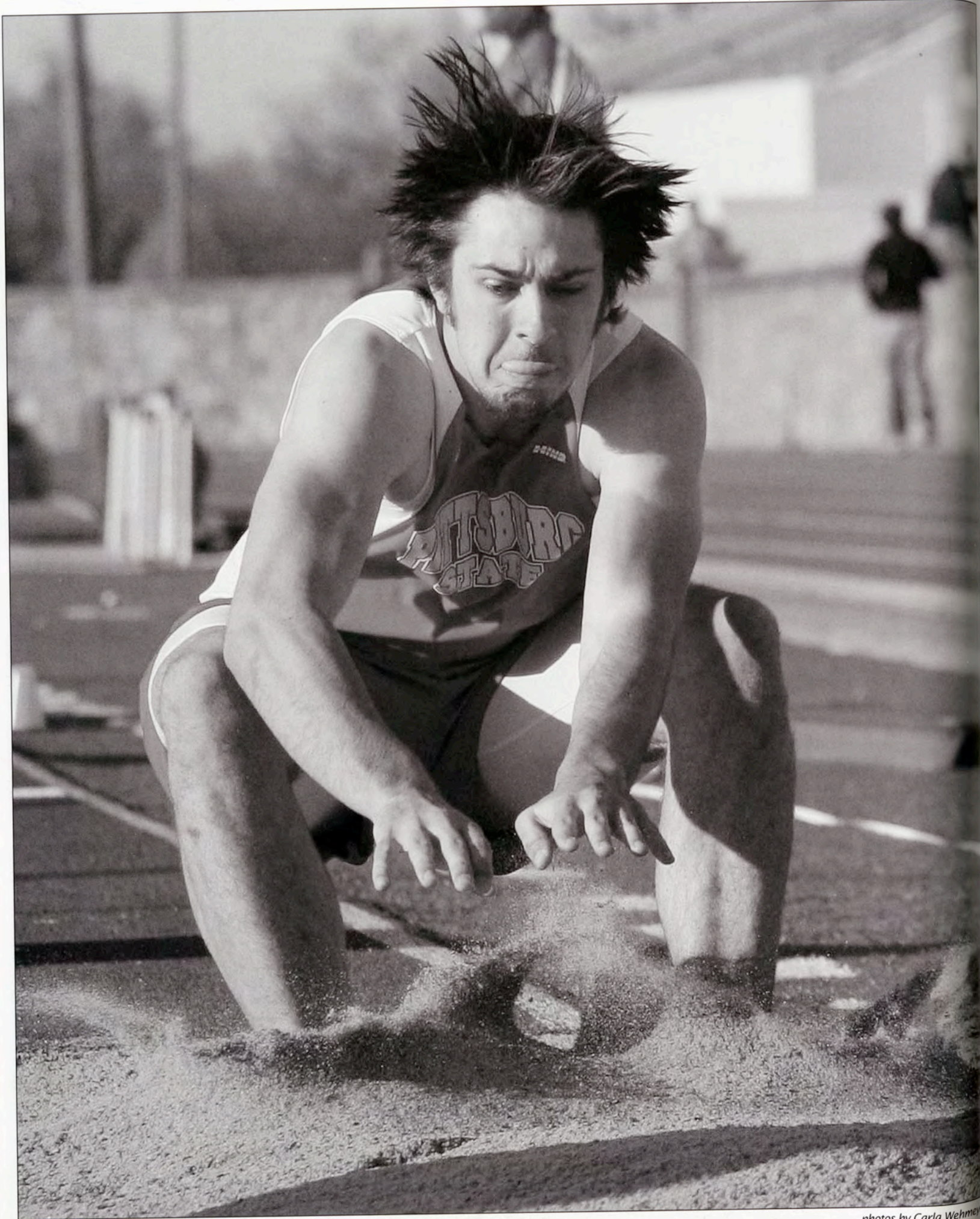
Traci Werner, junior, throws the hammer 44.03 meters during the PSU Open. Werner had a final throw of 48.51 meters, to claim second place.



Kiley Lund, sophomore, tries to clear the bar in the high jump at the PSU Quadrangular.

left: Lisa Douglas, senior, vaults over the bar to first place with a vault of 3.75 meters during the PSU open.





photos by Carla Wehmeier

Noah Dumparte, sophomore, jumps 42-10.75, giving him sixth place in the triple jump.



# Carpenter leads men's track

By Jamie Arthur

When Jermaine Carpenter decided to return for his final year of eligibility, he never expected that he would spend the entire indoor season watching from the sidelines.

But in January, during the Gorillas' first week of practice, Carpenter was in the middle of a sprint workout when he tore a hamstring.

"It was a feeling I'd never felt before, so immediately I knew something was wrong," Carpenter said. The two-time All-American didn't want to let his teammates down.

"All I could think was here goes my season, my senior season."

Pittsburg State placed fifth at the 2006 MIAA Indoor Championships, qualifying three athletes to the NCAA Division-II Indoor National Championships.

Junior Matt Pappas and sophomore Vinnie Wuertz earned All-America honors in the shot put and pole vault, respectively.

Carpenter returned to the track in time for outdoor competition and led the Gorillas to a second-place showing at the conference championships. For the second straight year, Carpenter took High-Point honors with 30 points.

The senior won the 100-meter dash and long jump, and was second in the 200 meters. Carpenter also helped the men's 4x100-meter relay team to a second-place finish.

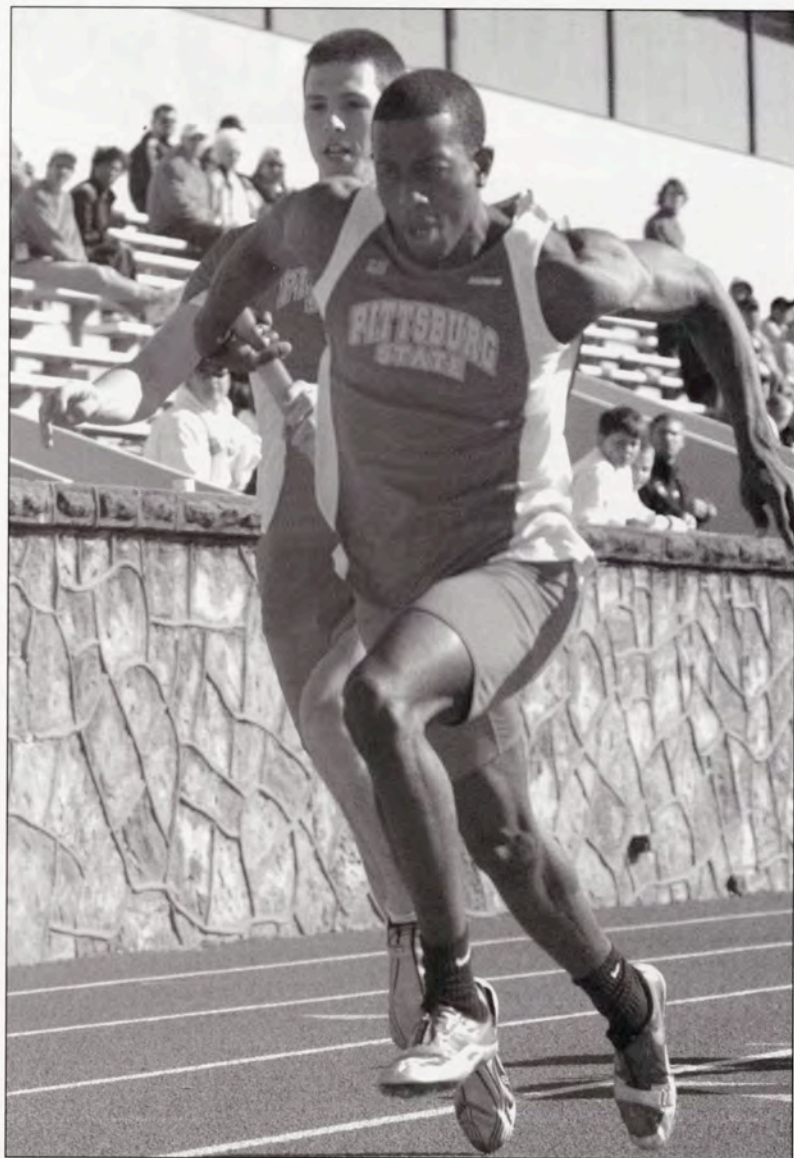
PSU head track and field coach Russ Jewett said that Carpenter was "one of the best competitors" he's ever coached.

"He was really under a lot of pressure because without him doing extremely well, we didn't have a chance," Jewett said. "...it was a lot to expect of him and he came through."

Despite falling behind in training, Carpenter was the runner-up in the 100 meters at the outdoor championships.

"He was really under a lot of pressure because without him doing extremely well, we didn't have a chance ... it was a lot to expect of him and he came through."

PSU head track and field coach Russ Jewett



EJ Willard, senior, takes the baton from Bryan Peters, junior, during the 4X100 relay. The Gorillas took second place with a time of 42.46.



Greg Clawson, freshman, clears the bar at 6-0.475 in the high jump. Clawson tied for fourth place.



# Rugby sport reaches fever pitch



Jimmy Wyland protects the ball while running down the field during a home rugby game.



A rugby player darts between players during a home rugby game at the Rugby Pitch.



Members of the Gorilla Head rugby team try to regain possession of the ball during a home game at the Rugby Pitch.

*photos by Teresa Gawrych*







# Gus: the gorilla, the myth and the legend

By Stephanie Graham



Gus struts in his thong at a PSU football game.

Who is the only primate in Kansas that can drive a four-wheeler? Why, PSU's school mascot, "Gus" Gorilla, of course. Gus, with his large furry coat and permanent smile, can be seen driving small mechanical machines down the middle of Broadway during the annual Homecoming Parade, which is just one of the many events he attends. He can also be found at every Pitt State football game as well as home basketball and baseball games. Gus is always around to support the spirit squad and athletes.

"Gus works really closely with the cheerleaders. He travels with us and comes to team meetings once a week so he knows the squad and can interact with them," said Linda Graham, Spirit Squad sponsor.

Whenever Gus is present in a crowd, he wears a large gorilla mask and is not very talkative. In fact, the true identity of the person behind the mask is a mystery.

"That's kind of a standard in the world of mascots. You try to keep their identity anonymous so that when they interact with people it's a little more spontaneous," said Graham.

While she revealed that "Gus" is a local kid and male, very few people know who Gus actually is. She also said that it is fairly easy to keep his identity a mystery, but some people do discover the secret.

"Word does get out, but people are pretty discreet about it," said Graham.

After all, it could become fairly difficult having to continuously explain to friends or roommates why he is never at any of the athletic events yet is always gone whenever they are taking place.

Not only must Gus stay quiet about who he really is, but he also has the responsibility of washing his very heavy, black and fuzzy costume. The outfit must be washed regularly because it becomes odorous. It also has to be hung up to dry and then brushed.

"You have to brush it, kind of like a dog. It would melt if you dried it in the dryer," Graham said.

Gus must also be able to withstand hot temperatures and stay hydrated, as his costume can get extremely hot during events. Icepacks are located inside of the gorilla costume, but last for only about 20 minutes. Gus also does a lot of public relations for the university, in addition to caring for his costume and keeping his identity a mystery until he retires and passes on the costume to a new Gus. Some retired "Gus" Gorillas include alumni Brett Enos, Kevin Fry, John Phoenes and Chandler Buzzard.



photos by Carla Wehmeier

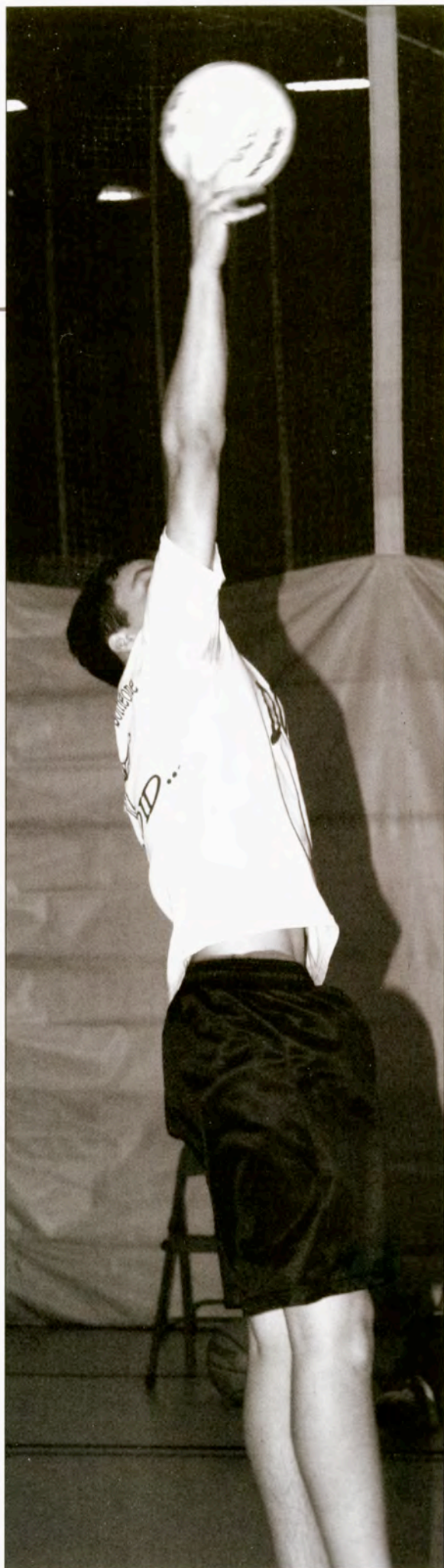
Gus walks in front of the Pride of the Plains marching band during a football game.

right: Gus kneels and talks to two children before a game, wearing his red and gold cape.









# The games people play

By Kristi Darr

This year's intramurals jump-started on Feb. 20 with 5-on-5 basketball. The championship winning teams were the Nicks and the Some Chicks teams.

Teams are started independently by gathering friends who are PSU students and filling out a roster.

The games were played Monday through Thursday and were 30 minutes each.

Referee Lindsey Klemencic, senior in communication, says that the NCAA rules are followed during the games.

"We play two-minute halves and the clock runs continually," said Klemencic.

There are only three timeouts a game. The clock can be stopped after only two minutes are left at the end of each half. Overtime is three minutes long.

"I like playing 5-on-5," said Klemencic. "It's more challenging to referee it than play it."

There were 37 men's teams and 10 women's teams that participated.

"There are more teams now than there were my freshman year," said Klemencic.

Evan Besperat, senior in chemistry, says that the love of the game wasn't all that interested him in participating.

"It was the perfect chance to play and get to meet new people," said Besperat.

Besperat says that he is with a core group of guys who play a lot of sports. Even though tempers flare at times, they get along for the most part.

"Sometimes, when playing against friends, issues can come up off the court," said Besperat. "It's all light-hearted joking, but we all still want to win."

Justin Hobbs, senior in communication, says that playing 5-on-5 isn't too demanding of his time.

"The games are only twice a week," he said. "We only practice about three times a week."

Practices are a good opportunity to hang out with friends and take a break from classes.

"My teammates are my fraternity brothers," said Hobbs. "We know guys on almost all of the teams. We play pickup games of 3-on-3 for practice."

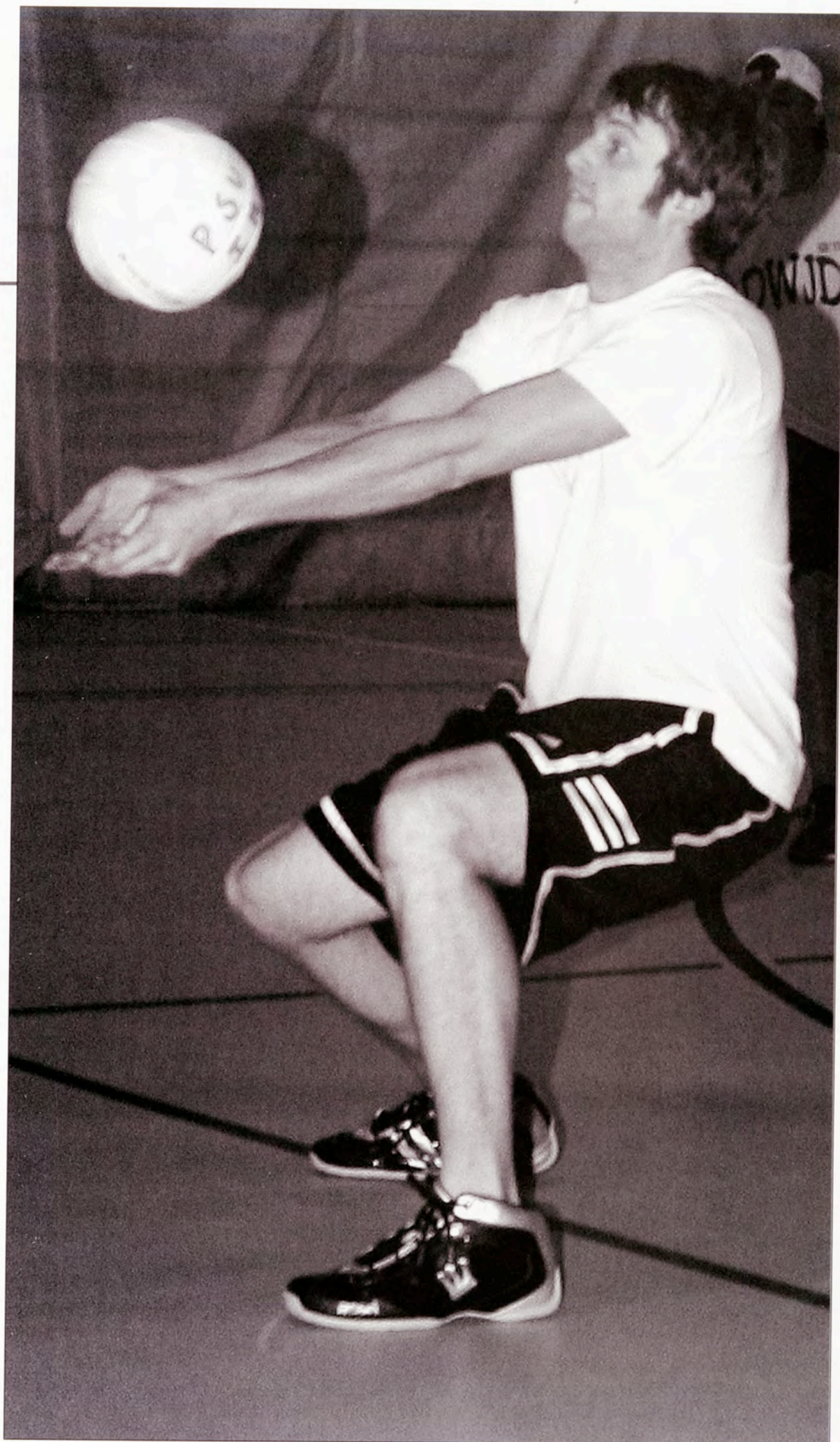
Hobbs says that it is easier to play with friends than people he doesn't know well.

"It's difficult to criticize them when they need it," said Hobbs.

*photos by Brett Armbruster*

Freshman Gabriel Spurgeon, math and physics, works hard to defend and score a point for Afternoon Delight during his team's first intramural indoor volleyball game.





Participating in Pittsburg State University's intramural indoor volleyball, junior Rye Addis, communication, and his team, Afternoon Delight, play their first game.



# Groups



*photo by Carla Wehmeyer*

Jeremy Leithoff, Andrew Webster, Jared Foster, Benjamin Nwagwu and Jeff Beckwith, all part of a group called the Kiltsmen, cheer on PSU at a football game. The Kiltsmen are students who attend various Pitt State athletic events donning kilts and either painted chests or old basketball jerseys.







# Sororities unite to play Powder Puff football

By Stephanie Graham

Women from PSU's three sororities, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Alpha Gamma Delta, gathered together on Monday, March 6, for a competitive game of "Powder Puff" football.

As spectators arrived at the football practice field southwest of the Weede gymnasium, players temporarily let go of their Greek allegiances to be randomly divided into two teams, wearing either crimson or gold flag football belts.

The women stayed to play in two games in order let everyone have a shot at flag football glory. During the games, other students, both Greek and non-Greek, lined the edge of the field and laughed while cheering and clapping for the players.

The players also shared laughs and smiles, particularly when six girls ended up in a dog pile after attempting to make a tackle. Some players, like Joy Leek, sophomore in communication, made more impressive plays, like bypassing all of the opposing team's players and running past the goal line.

The teams' competitive spirits led them into overtime when there was a tie at the end of the second game.

Ginger Neimann, junior in political science, scored the winning touchdown to end the game.

"I think it was a positive Greek activity and brought everybody together," said John Adkins, senior in physical science. "It was fun for both the girls and guys."

Adkins was one of several fraternity members who attended the games as cheerleaders for the teams. Meagan Hastert, freshman in early childhood development, said the men benefited from showing their support.

"I was glad to represent Pi Kappa Alpha as a referee," Adkins said. "I hope they call me back next year so I can do it again. The girls did a very good job of playing and it was a good deal."



photos by Cecilia Stumpff

A group of women look on and laugh as their teammates fight for the football during the Powder Puff football game.

Right: Korri Tener, a freshman in Alpha Sigma Alpha, runs with the ball while Courtney Robinson, a freshman in Sigma Sigma Sigma, tries to stop her during the Powder Puff football game.



The Crimson Team forms a huddle before beginning its Powder Puff football game.



# Phi Sigma Kappa



**David Barr**  
Construction Engineering Technology/Overland Park

**Ryan Clark**  
Automotive Service Technology/Independence

**Neal Copenhaver**  
Communication/Pittsburg

**Jonathan Gilligan**  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Hartford

**Kyle Green**  
Undeclared/Overland Park



**Corey Hamm**  
Management/Kiowa

**Aaron Hampel**  
Wood Technology/Olathe

**Kevin Hemenway**  
Management/Overland Park

**Lucas Hibbs**  
Automotive Technology/Overland Park

**Dane Holady**  
Undeclared/Ochelata, Okla.



**Andrew Johnson**  
Electronics Engineering Technology/Wellsville

**Donald Lovett**  
Accounting/Joplin, Mo.

**Matthew Medenci**  
Accounting/Olpe

**Sean Millhouse**  
Psychology/Kansas City

**Jason Porta**  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Overland Park



**Travis Proehl**  
Construction Engineering Technology/Emporia

**Andrew Rangel**  
Communication/Olathe

**Scott Riemann**  
Automotive Service Technology/South Hutchinson

**Jake Siebenaler**  
Construction Engineering Technology/Emporia

**Nathaniel Thurston**  
Automotive Technology/Kansas City



**Matthew Trego**  
Automotive Technology/Cheney

**Jameson Williams**  
Electronics Engineering Technology/Wichita

**Douglas Wright**  
Wood Technology/Lexington, Va.

**Nathaniel Wright**  
Computer Science/El Dorado

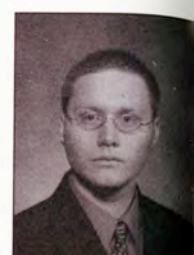
**Megan Rausch** Sweetheart  
Communication/Cheney



# Sigma Tau Gamma

Josh Albin  
Undeclared/Lane  
Tony Aligo  
Finance/Tonganoxie  
Anthony Anguiano  
Undeclared/Topeka

Jack Barnes  
English/Coffeyville  
Corey Battaglear  
Management/Coffeyville



John Bretthauer  
History and Government/Tonganoxie

Christopher Brumley  
Technology Studies/Catawba, N.C.

David Burnett  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Olathe

Paul Caesar  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Germantown, Tenn.

Jim Cleary  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Prairie Village



David Coady  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Russell

Nathan Craft  
Commercial Graphics/Lenexa

Matt Davied  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Dewey, Okla.

Matthew Fagan  
Management/Shawnee Mission

Isaac Fox  
History and Government/Osawatomie



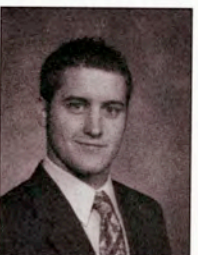
Jay Hackett  
Automotive Technology/Wichita

Derek Hopper  
Technology Studies/Princeton

Alex Koehn  
Automotive Technology/McPherson

Matthew Ledbetter  
Construction Management/Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

Nicholas Lobmeyer  
English/Manhattan

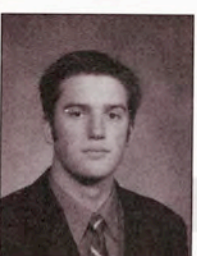


Aaron Moore  
History/Nevada, Mo.  
Benjamin Moore  
Technology Studies/Hanna City, Ill.

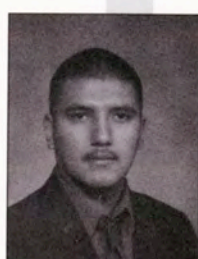
Chris Reed  
Management/Osawatomie

Griffin Reome  
Technology Studies/Auburn, Calif.

James Richter  
Automotive Technology/Shawnee Mission







Kyle Roberts  
Automotive Technology/Harrisonville, Mo.  
Scott Schneider  
Music/Kansas City  
Michael Turner  
Wood Technology/Hutchinson  
Jose Vazquez  
Construction Management/Kansas City  
Brian Young  
Recreation/Kansas City



Kyle Zahn  
Nursing/Derby  
Crystal Paxson White Rose  
Early/Late Childhood/Shawnee

## Rowing Greeks



Senior Ben Moore of Sigma Tau Gamma paddles off the shore to begin the canoe race in the 2006 Greek Games.  
*photo by Cecilia Stumpff*



# Pi Kappa Alpha

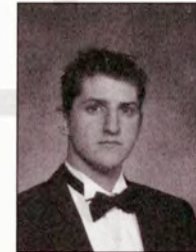
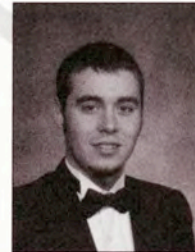
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Physical Education/Newton

Colby Benham  
Automotive Technology/Olathe

Jason Bigler  
Automotive Technology/Overland Park

Jeremy Carter  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Kansas City

William Cichy  
History/Marysville, Ohio



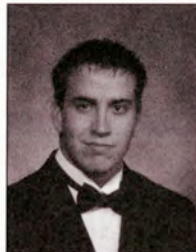
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Wood Technology/Leawood

Mike Donahue  
Automotive Technology/Overland Park

Jake Fontes  
Biology/Cherryvale

Aaron Hazard  
Technology Studies/Wakarusa

Scott Hopson  
Biology/Overland Park



Brentin Huey  
Automotive Technology/Shawnee

Brandon Jaixen  
Construction Management/Kansas City

Frank King  
Construction Engineering Technology/Independence

Kegan Konrady  
Communication/Roeland Park

Jon Kujawa  
Automotive Technology/Atchinson



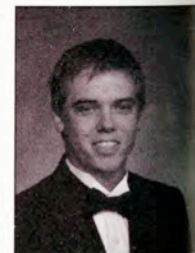
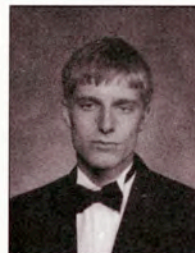
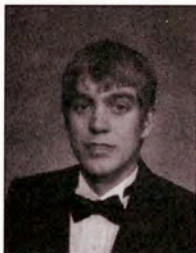
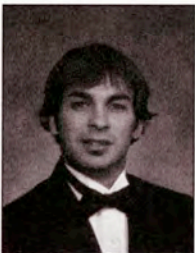
Derrick Lamm  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Parsons

Deron Lundgren  
Automotive Technology/Overland Park

Andy Martin  
Commercial Graphics/Mount Hope

Chris Meyer  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Shawnee

Dusty Meyer  
Biology/Shawnee



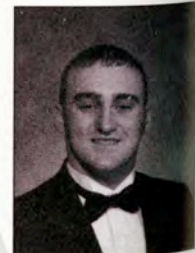
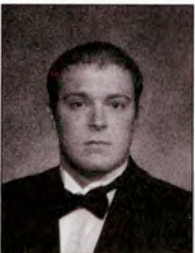
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Andrew Newberry  
Psychology/Overland Park

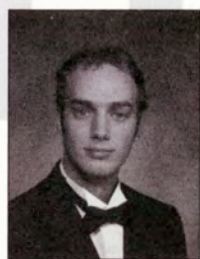
Mike Ramsey  
Automotive Service Technology/Andale

Joe Reed  
Justice Studies/Kansas City

Harry Scherzer  
Economics/Kansas City







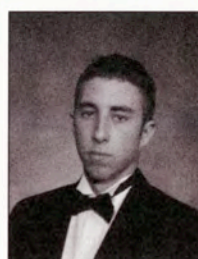
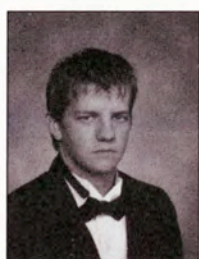
Jon Seeliger  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Winfield

Tyler Selvage  
Automotive Technology/Colwich

Michael Skiles  
Marketing/Ottawa

Adam Smith  
International Business/Marion

Peter Speck  
Communication/Andale



Britt Stephens  
Finance/Colwich

Kevin Sweeney  
Management/Parsons

Eric Thomas  
Automotive Technology/Olathe

Brian Varner  
Automotive Technology/Denison

Tyler Winter  
Recreation/Colwich



Kyle Zenner  
Finance and Accounting/Colwich

Stephanie Seutter Dream Girl  
Communication/Olathe

## Air Band



Photo by Adam Vogler

Chris Even's impression of Forrest Gump impressed the judges during the Air Band competition. The sophomore in business and marketing won the Greek God competition for Sigma Phi Epsilon.



# Sigma Phi Epsilon

Steven Barker  
Political Science/Clinton, Mo.

Bauer Jake  
Political Science/Oak Grove, Mo.

Jon Boldt  
Marketing/Gardner

Kevin Bourland  
Management/Hot Springs Village, Ark.

Hunter Brandt  
Biology/Merriam

Patrick Cribbs  
Psychology/Overland Park

Joshua Cunningham  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Iola

Jordan Currier  
Wood Technology/Overland Park

Joey Donatelli  
Construction Management/Newton

Jonathan Erman  
Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Joplin, Mo.

Andrew Esser  
Management/Lenexa

Chris Even  
Marketing and Management/Overland Park

Eric Hanson  
Construction Management/Ottawa

Justin Hobbs  
Communication/Richmond

Joshua Holland  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Columbus

Christopher Hutchings  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Lenexa

Josh Ingold  
Automotive Technology/Ottawa

Bret Kahl  
Nursing/Neosho, Mo.

Jonathan Kane  
Finance/Carl Junction, Mo.

Chris King  
Management/Belton, Mo.

Karl Launchbaugh  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Dresden

Mike Lowry  
Accounting/Overland Park

Justin Morgan  
Automotive Technology and Manufacturing Engineering  
Technology/Topeka

Luke Papp  
Construction Management/De Soto

Luke Raynor  
Management/Overland Park

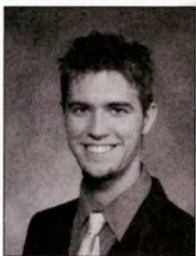
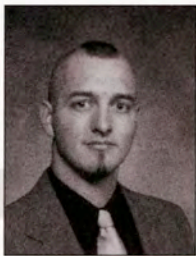
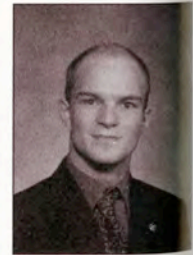
Garrett Reist  
Communication/Ulysses

Austin Rice  
History/Caldwell

Chad Robbins  
Construction Management/Spring Hill

Josh Rusk  
Construction Management/Ottawa

Jake Shoemaker  
Psychology/Oronogo, Mo.







Jared Smith  
Art, International Business/Topeka

Tony Thompson  
Information Systems/Overland Park

Cody Vernia  
Accounting/Rose Hill

Mike Wagner  
Construction Management/Oronogo, Mo.

Greg Welch  
History/Government/Osawatomie



Thomas Winford  
Automatic Technology/Olathe

Melanie Rambo-Sweetheart  
English/Olathe

Max Mascot

## Gorilla Idol



photo by Adam Vogler

Marshall Estes puts on a show at the karaoke contest held by Gorillas in Your Midst on Thursday, Feb. 16. The fashion merchandising freshman was awarded a Wal-Mart gift certificate for the best on-stage performance.



# Sigma Chi

Jeremy Apt  
Manufacturing Engineering Tech/ Neosho, Mo.

Austin Baldwin  
Physics/ Pittsburg

Kevin Benjamin  
Commercial Graphics/Wichita

Scott Benjamin  
Commercial Graphics/Wichita

Nick Bono  
Management/Leawood

Bernard Budenbender  
Construction Management/Shawnee Mission, Mo.

Michael Campbell  
Communication/Lenexa

Shawn Chappell  
Commercial Graphics/Gardner

Daniel Chavez  
Marketing/Tecumseh

Patrick Coughlin  
History/Overland Park

Justin Dusselier  
Psychology/Shawnee

Jeffrey Fahey  
Construction Management/Kansas City, Mo.

Scott Fischer  
Construction Management/Leawood

Scott Friday  
Management/Olathe

Derek Glauser  
Commercial Graphics/Olathe

Drew Guntert  
Undeclared/De Soto

Aaron Livingston  
Automotive Technology/Overland Park

Joshua Lutz  
Commercial Graphics/Overland Park

Zachary Mabry  
Biology, Finance/Bentley

Joshua McDowell  
Undeclared/Gardener

Bobby McFadden  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Wichita

Kevin Meives  
Communication/Olathe

Noak Ney  
Automotive Technology/Olathe

Ryan Quinlan  
Marketing/Topeka

Keith Richer  
Psychology/Lenexa

John Rowe  
Physical Education/ De Soto

Derek Schirer  
Psychology/ Newton

Roger Shafer  
Finance/ Nevada, Mo.

Chris Shively  
Automotive Technology/ Lenexa

Russell Simpson  
Marketing/ Olathe







Clinton Skaggs  
Marketing/ De Soto  
Timothy Wass  
History/ Parsons  
Jimmy Watson  
General Studies/Lenexa  
Nathan Weddum  
Finance/ Hiawatha  
Jack Wright  
Automotive Technology/ Shawnee



Brandon Yates  
Automotive Technology/ Wichita  
Jen Neiswener- Sweetheart  
Marketing/ Topeka

## The joust



*photo by Adam Vogler*

Dagorhir group members Isaac Fugate (right) and Adam Grillot face off in the Oval Wednesday, March 15. Fugate is a commercial graphics sophomore and has been a member of the group, which does Medieval combat games, for two years.



# Alpha Sigma Alpha

Maggie Apt  
Management/Iola

Jenn Baldwin  
Nursing/Ochelata, Okla.

Jade Barnes  
Justice Studies/Osawatomie

Amity Bastion  
Undeclared/Pittsburg

Kari Benard  
Recreation/Sedgwick

Abby Best  
Undeclared/Kansas City, Mo.

Ashley Boyle  
Nursing/Arkansas City

Ashley Carmichael  
Nursing/Harrisonville, Mo.

Elizabeth Clark  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Holton

Kathrine Demott  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Clearwater

Molly Frederich  
Communication/Wichita

Becky Gast  
Marketing/Easton

Teresa Gawrych  
Communication/Leavenworth

Beth Gibson  
Communication/Bonner Springs

Rebekah Grieb  
Communication and Spanish/Olathe

Jessica Hardison  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Wichita

Erin Hebert  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Olathe

Lisa Hemenway  
Biology/Overland Park

Shauna Hillman  
Nursing/Cheney

Amanda Hoaglan  
Social Work/Iola

Briana Hotchkiss  
Nursing/Prairie Village

Aubrey Jensen  
Undeclared/Hillsdale

Lindsey Jullian  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Greenfield, Mo.

Kim Ketterl  
Accounting/Oberlin

Kendra Kruse  
Undeclared/Overland Park







**Kelly Love**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Derby



**Sarah Lynch**  
Geography/Wichita



**Kirbie Macary**  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Girard



**Melissa McCoy**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Cherryvale



**Jillian McGrew**  
Psychology/Kansas City



**Melanie McMahon**  
Undeclared/Richmond



**Erin Mehl**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Overland Park



**Amy Mertens**  
Nursing/Cunningham



**Sara Monrad**  
Biology/Overland Park



**Kathleen Musgrave**  
Communication/Kansas City, Mo.



**Hailey Poss**  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Lane



**Stephanie Rogers**  
Undeclared/Windsor, Mo.



**Mandy Saunders**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Lee's Summit, Mo.



**Caitlin Scheurich**  
Biology/Joplin, Mo.



**Melissa Skelly**  
International Business/Lenexa



**Brittney Smith**  
Communication/Overland Park



**Jennifer Smith**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Erie



**Rachel South**  
Undeclared/Derby



**Valerie Spiser**  
Biology/Arkansas City



**Laurel Spriggs**  
Communication/Galena



**Amanda Steuernagel**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Wagoner, Okla.



**Korri Tener**  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Kansas City, Mo.



**Audra Tope**  
Psychology, Arkansas City



**Megan Villamaria**  
Communication/Pittsburg



**Andi Wiederholt**  
Communication/Greeley



**Areke Worku**  
Mathematics/Shawnee Mission



**Jonna Yencic**  
Accounting and Mathematics/Overland Park



# Sigma Sigma Sigma

Christina Barker  
Communication/Topeka

Lindsey Baumann  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Overland Park

Christina Bishop  
Commercial Graphics/Coffeyville

Ashley Bowers  
Nursing/Manhattan

Katy Burton  
Undeclared/El Dorado

Moriah Buster  
Undeclared/Manhattan

Kelly Carroll  
Social Work/Sheridan, Wyo.

Emily Crenshaw  
undeclared/South Haven

Mary Cutcliff  
Justice Studies/Kansas City, Mo.

Kristen Delmez  
Management, Webb City, Mo.

Tara Dickerson  
Social Work, Leavenworth

Emily Duethman  
Biology/Augusta

Kendra Geiger  
Plastics Engineering Technology and Biology/Lenexa

Meagan Hastert  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Garnett

Lindsay Heck  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Louisberg

Elizabeth Henderson  
Psychology/Caney

Jennifer Heydon  
Undeclared/Lee's Summit, Mo.

Katelyn Humphreys  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Lansing

Maudie Irsik  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Liberty, Mo.

Katherine Kanatzar  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Overland Park

Ashley Kelley  
English/Miami, Okla.

Codi Kersey  
Undeclared/Pittsburg

Jacqueline Kline  
Marketing/Overland Park

Holley Kohlmeyer  
Justice Studies/Perry

Bethany Lee  
Nursing/Olathe

Joy Leek  
Communication/Pittsburg

Jessica Marsh  
Justice Studies/Lenexa

Amanda McCune  
Nursing/Parsons

Joanna Mills  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Ottawa

Kelsey Monke  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Shawnee Mission







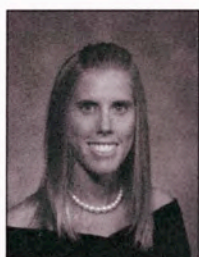
Ginger Niemann  
Political Science/Nortonville  
Krista Nucci  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Overland Park  
Katie Palmer  
Marketing/Wichita  
Jessica Paterson  
Undeclared/Overland Park  
Crystal Paxson  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Shawnee



Alexandria Pitts  
Accounting/Joplin, Mo.  
Jessica Pope  
Undeclared/Pittsburg  
Tricia Price  
Commercial Graphics/Lenexa  
Melanie Rambo  
English/Olathe  
Amanda Rhorer  
Communication/Wichita



Courtney Robinson  
Chemistry (Pre-Pharmacy)/Towanda  
Marcy Seyl  
Nursing/Olathe  
Jessica Sigg  
Accounting/Iola  
Brooklyn Small  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Chanute  
Lisa Snowden  
Nursing/Smithville, Mo.



Emiliana Stewart  
Marketing/Shawnee  
Louise Swanson  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Lenexa  
Landis Tompkins  
Commercial Graphics/Overland Park  
Renee Urton  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/El Dorado  
Annie Walker  
Undeclared/Chesterfield, Mo.



Erin Walton  
Early/Late Childhood K-6 Olathe  
Susan Wegman  
Justice Studies/Shawnee  
Cassandra Wilson  
Marketing/Oak Grove, Mo.  
Kara Wolf  
Nursing/Garnett  
Kendra Wolf  
Accounting/Garnett



Ashley Woods  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Girard  
Matthew Chick Man of the year  
General Administration/Desoto



# Alpha Gamma Delta

**Maggie Adams**  
Elementary education/Joplin, Mo.

**Mel Akins**  
History/Government/Pittsburg

**Samantha Arnold**  
Mathematics/Prairie Village

**Stacy Barnes**  
Undeclared/Olathe

**Rachael Barney**  
Nursing/Joplin, Mo.

**Haley Beckman**  
Accounting/Girard

**Ashley Birk**  
Undeclared/Lenexa

**Hannah Burdette**  
Management/Grenola

**Adrienne Carson**  
Physical Education/Joplin, Mo.

**Emily Conrad**  
Undeclared/Overland Park

**Audrey Conway**  
Art Education/Nevada, Mo.

**Jenny DeGroot**  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Overland Park

**Mindy Degroot**  
Marketing/Shawnee

**Ashton Erwin**  
Nursing/Nevada, Mo.

**Cortnee Farris**  
Justice Studies/Gardner

**Brandy Fausnaught**  
Undeclared/Parsons

**Taylor Ford**  
Graphic Communication Management/Iola

**Jodie Frew**  
History/Government/Overland Park

**Chancy Gerbitz**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Augusta

**Jackie Harwig**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Lenexa

**Lauren Heidenburg**  
Undeclared/Shawnee

**Lauren Hess**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Overland Park

**Erin Higdon**  
Commercial Graphics/Joplin, Mo.

**Mila Hoover**  
Management/Mound City

**Samantha Horner**  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Cassville, Mo.

**Kondja Kamatuka**  
Music/Lawrence

**Tara Kemp**  
Family and Consumer Sciences Education/Linwood

**Tara Kiest**  
Management and Marketing/Nevada, Mo.

**Jennifer Koelsch**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Lee's Summit, Mo.

**Shelli Larrison**  
Commercial Graphics and Graphic Communication Management/Wetmore







**Amanda Larson**  
Management and Marketing/Lenexa  
**Megan Lethem**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Overland Park  
**Brooke Letourneau**  
Art Education/Prairie Village  
**Amanda Lovell**  
Undeclared/Kansas City  
**Caroline MacClymont**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Olathe



**Rebekah Mages**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Tonganoxie  
**Carrie McDowell**  
Chemistry Option II/Jasper, Mo.  
**Christine Megee**  
Biology/Shawnee  
**Malissa Miller**  
Marketing and Management/Joplin, Mo.  
**Terra Monslow**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Kansas City



**Jessica Monson**  
Management and Finance/Columbus  
**Jenna Myers**  
Commercial Graphics/Greenfield, Mo.  
**Kelly Pummill**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Overland Park  
**Ali Reals**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Wichita  
**Ashley Rucker**  
Undeclared/Joplin, Mo.



**Kate Scaletty**  
Nursing/Lawrence  
**Manal Siam**  
Chemistry/Pittsburg  
**Laura Sirridge**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Kansas City  
**Amanda Smith**  
Commercial Graphics/Nevada  
**Anne Speck**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Andale



**Jill Stephenson**  
Psychology/Sedan  
**Marie Stiens**  
Nursing/Shawnee  
**Lauren Swan**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Leawood  
**Nicole Thomas**  
Undeclared/La Russell, Mo.  
**Jennie Unruh**  
Nursing/Coffeyville



**Catherine VanLeeuwen**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/St. Paul  
**Kristen Vaughn**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Harrisonville, Mo.  
**Michelle Vosters**  
Communication/Olathe  
**Amy Waggoner**  
Accounting/Osawatomie  
**Katie Walsh**  
Chemistry (Pre-Pharmacy)/Wichita



**Kaitlin Weddum**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Hiawatha  
**Rachel Wiley**  
Nursing/Olathe  
**Jennifer Wilmoth**  
Early Late Childhood K-6/Iola  
**Katie Wolfe**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Kansas City



## Student Government Association



Front row: Jarred Smith, Jacqueline Rodriguez, Whitney McLeod, Danielle Bortmes, Grant Pierson, Travis Grove. Second row: Debbie Shinkle, Jacque Kline, Analia Saldivar, Shakila Stewart. Third row: Scot Schiefelbein, Heather Tersinar, Shawn Hough, Lusine Ghukasyan, Emily Alley. Fourth row: Jullian McGrew, Kirbie Macary, Josh Holland, Brett Longmore, James Nelson. Fifth row: Ginger Niemann, Amanda Larson, Mike Slach, Hailey Poss, Brian Ray, Steve Erwin. Back row: Neal Copenhaver, Tyler Selvage, Anthony Moreno, Ed Wirthwein.

## Chemistry Department



Front row: Juanita Shepard, Khamis Siam. Back row: Dilip Paul, William Shirley, James McAfee, Robert Pavlis.

## Business Office



Barbara Saker, Becky Messinger, Christina Davis, Geri Krumsick, Barbara Winter, Lynn Grant.

## Japanese Student Association



Front row: Mitsuru Watanabe, Yu Ando, Xiao Wu, Dean Cortes, adviser. Back row: Rina Yamazaki, Hiroyo Isaji, Yumiko Isoyama, Yukie Motokawa, Tomoko Shinjo, Ikue Hashimoto.

## Psi Chi/SPA



Front row: Dawn DeLay, Sarah Ersland, Petra White. Back row: Erin Hagemann, Leslie Hines, Sara Puckett, Allison Waldron, Stephanie Kyger, Sean Lauderdale.



## Gamma Epsilon Tau



Front row: Amanda Smith, Stefanie Anschutz, Erica Wilson, Sheena Mapes. Second row: Erica Persels, Carla Baker, Lindsay Waters, Melissa Kipp, Amy VanGundy. Back row: Eric Sornson, Damien Hal-lacy, Danelle Thiessen, C.J. Marlin, Songhee Choi.

## Admissions Office



Front row: Eric Wilkinson, Mysti Byrd, Deb Thompson, Dana Blubaugh, Val-erie Engstrom. Back row: Betty Remmich, Melinda Roelfs, Pat Duncan, Penny Cook, Heather Eckstein, Glenda Susnik, Robyn Hess

## Biology Club



Front row: Cole Sims, Nolan Williams, Alexis Sanders, Brett Balocca, Kelsey Lackey, Brooke Voth, Adam Merando, Jennifer Stanley, Sara Gorjestani, Lance Jepson, Peter Chung, adviser

## Automotive Technology



Front row: Michael Olenhouse, Ken Gordon, John L. Iley, Richard Weathers. Back row: Ron Downing, John Thompson, Bob Schroer, Tim Dell, Bob Fris-bee, Debbie Gray

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes



Front row: Ryan Meredith, Melisha Meredith, Nikki Pierce. Second row: Derrick Rider, Chris Swartz-Rogers, Brad Wells, Wilson Payne, Kala Truman, Sarah Brannock, Anna Bott, Gegan Ketcham, Lyndsey Crosswhite, Travis Grove, Brett Longmore. Third row: Rachel Rank, Randi Jurgensen, Aril Com-mons, Carrie Campbell, Anna Engelman, Nate Thomas, Will Bailey, Kody Borg, Brad Smith, Krystal Troutman. Fourth Row: Andrew Money, Jared Foster, Bradley Grimm, Kimberly Flory, Kristie Julian. Back row: Jeffrey Beckwith, Vicki Rowland, Kelley Currie, Josh Lauer, Nate Maxwell, Shane McGinnis, Jeremy Leithoff, Erica Ogle, Brittany Streiff



# Jungle Humpers

## Fans bring flair to sporting events

By Brett Dalton

At a Pitt basketball game last year, some less-than-spirited fans were not entertained by Damian Kiesling and some friends' clapping and loud cheering in the student section. Apparently their enthusiasm was not welcome.

"We were kicked out of the student section because, basically, we were standing up," Kiesling, automotive technology junior, said.

To avoid any confrontations, he and his friends quietly removed themselves from the section of John Lance Arena, which, as Kiesling points out, has "the words 'Standing Encouraged' painted on the bleachers."

Because of that experience, and his belief that students should proudly support student athletes, Kiesling started the "Jungle Humpers," an unofficial group of PSU men and women dedicated to openly supporting Pitt State athletics and its athletes.

"It seems like the crowd feeds off of us," Rye Addis, communication sophomore, said. "We get

their juices flowing."

Addis says they want to promote school spirit in a non-violent fashion by keeping the cheers appropriate and not out of control.

The group, which has been present at PSU football and volleyball games this season, as well as the lone cross country meet in Pittsburg, was actually formed, according to Kiesling, in preparation for the 2005 basketball season.

"We started before football season so we could get the name out before the basketball season started," he said. "I think when you stand and cheer at the games, you are helping in rallying the troops."

And they're not hard to spot. No matter where they go, the Jungle Humpers, who often wear masks or hats and bring props to the games, are always decked out in blue-gray T-shirts with a yellow gorilla paw print on the front. They call the extra objects "humper flair," and most members have an alias, like the Rainbow Warrior or the Pirate Captain.

And while Kiesling admits that most of the

particulars have little meaning, he says the shirts do.

"The shirt was something to say that we are all Jungle Humpers," Kiesling said.

Not to mention the slight jab at those basketball fans last year; the back of the shirts read, "We're not sitting down."

However, as the basketball season progresses, Kiesling hopes the need for the shirts will fade out.

"We don't want to alienate anybody because they don't have a shirt," Kiesling said. "We don't want our group to be an exclusive one."

Addis hopes that the basketball season brings more than enthusiasm, but also a union between the Jungle Humpers and the Kiltsmen, since both groups have similar goals and several members of each are friends.

"We want to try to unite with the Kiltsmen to be twice as strong and twice as powerful," Addis said.

Kiesling, a resident assistant in Nation Hall, says he was able to spread the word about his idea through other club meetings and friends.

"The group is not about us," he said. "It's about them, the athletes."

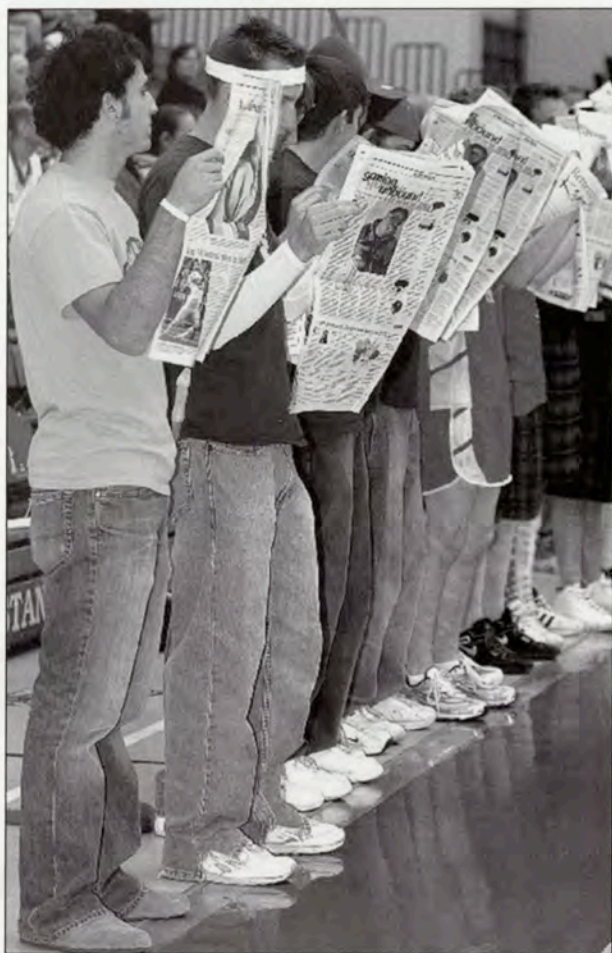


photo by Carla Wehmeyer

Members of the Jungle Humpers stand beside the court and rattle copies of the Collegio while the opposing team's roster is announced.



Photo by Carla Wehmeyer

The Jungle Humpers dance to the banana cheer during a football game. The Jungle Humpers are a group started by Damien Kiesling, junior in automotive technology, to support PSU athletics.



# mpers

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## Phi Upsilon Omicron



First row: Lynette Olson, adviser, Becky Moore, president, Hilary Evans. Second row: Betty Jacobs, Cynthia Fecke, Brianna Garten, Jacqueline Chee, Loren Coppola, Kimberly Dechand, Alison Chance, Kim Castagno. Third row: Sarah Green, Autumn Fecht, Jenny DeGroot, Robyn Nienstedt, Renee Walcher, Kaylee Hollinger, Kimberly Jordan

## Alpha Psi Omega



First row: Lucy Miller-Downing, Dan Williams. Second row: Daley Leintz, Rachel Ayers, Jacob Schreiner, Bekah Grieb, Kim Anderson, Cynthia Allan.

## Kappa Kappa Psi



First row: Darla Stubenrouch, Neva Gardner, Haley Stovall, Rachel Weber, Toni Dobratz, Katie Hockman, Lindy Davison, Jamie Yoder, Karalyn Lenox, Haley Rouser, Cynthia Fuqua, Amanda Cottrell, Kris Stephens, Melissa Smith. Second Row: Brandon Buck, Amber Wingerter, Nick Marti, Christa Weber, JoAnna Dokos, Jeff Gibbens, Devin Walker, Jenny Harter, Shiloh Davis, Erin Smith, Matt Bennett, A. Douglas Whitten, adviser. Third row: Timothy McVey, R. Michael Pommier, Jared Lytle, Jay Curran, Beau Malan.



## Residence Hall Assembly



Lying down: Aaron Cadman, adviser, Missy Burgess, adviser. First row: Samantha Yates, Neva Gardner, David Rudnitsky, Haley Ruther, Karalyn Lenox, Samantha Graham, Kellie Borders. Second Row: Bridget Johnson, Emily Johnson, Meghan Kranz, Ron Rice, Mike Carroll, Natalie Puentes, Meagan Cooper, Brittany Kjonegaard, Emily Alley, Ashley Weis, Kathy Denney, adviser, Ke'o Verzon, Megan Stephens. Third row: Jason Wright, Damian Kiesling, Christy Baker, Anthony Carver, Amy Willey, Beatriz Johnson, Josh Dooley, Eric Richardson, DeAnna Goering, Jeff Venning. Fourth row: Nate Thomas, Andrew Kleinberg, Jeremy Wade, Kathy Raymaker, Kris Floth, Zackary R. Buddish, Ryan Fell, Eric Bluml, Rye Addis, Chad Hicks.

## Marketing Association



Front row: Lacey Page, Sheena Mapes, Lisa Murphy, Sara Patry. Back row: Emilie Hellwig, Rachel Lamar, Sami Cleland, Kasey Stafford, Eric Harris, adviser.

## Campus Scouts



Donna Sue Stuckey, adviser, Marissa Ritter, Nicole Adkisson, Sarah Dees.

## PELP Phase II



Front row: Ashley Lopez, Carrie Campbell. Second row: Megan Metzler, Samantha Arnold, Hadyn Barnes, Jill Kunshek. Third Row: Beth Perrey, Samantha Pinkal. Fourth row: Jeremy Johnson, Ashley Moore. Last row: Audra Tape, Brooklyn Small.

## ACM

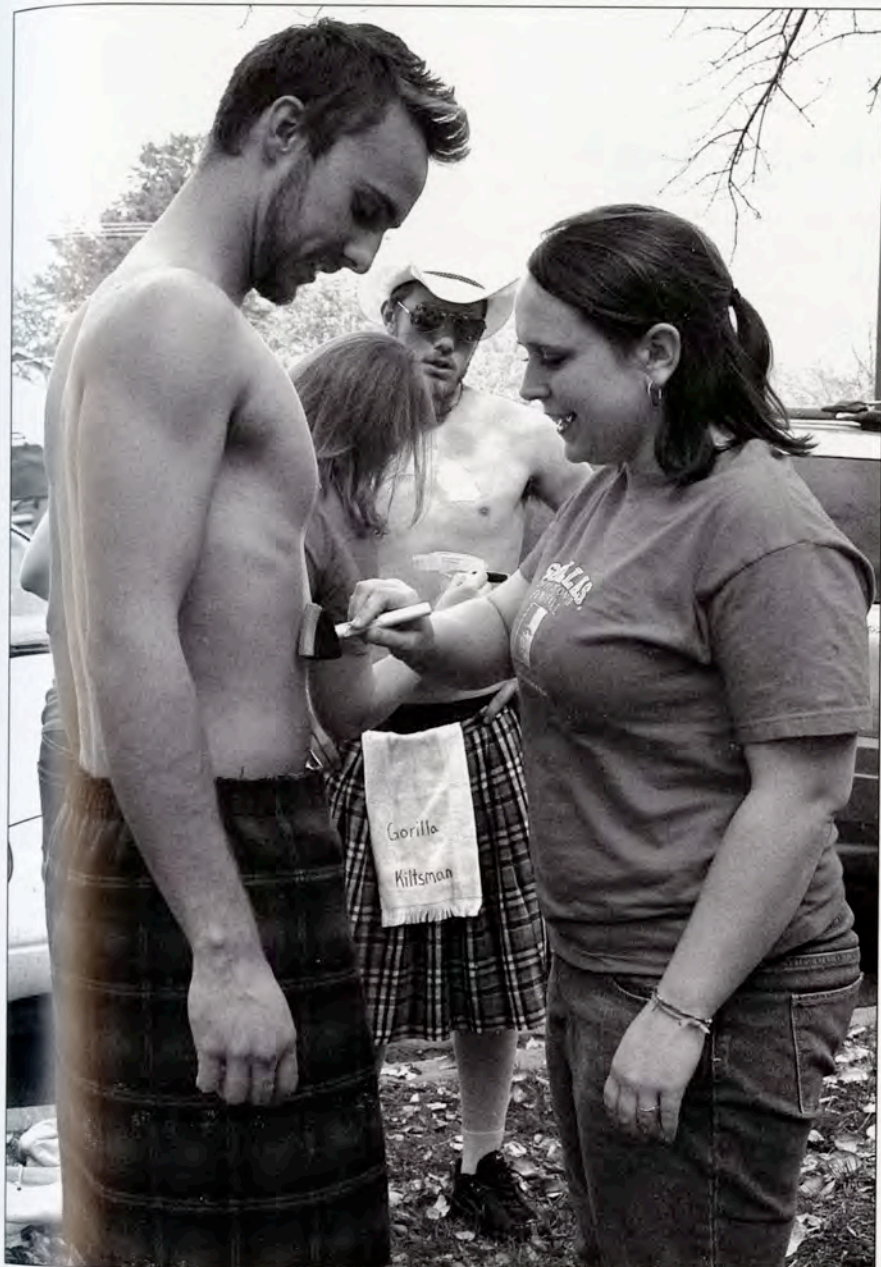


Front row: Kyle Smith, Jarrod Pfalser, Zackary R. Buddish. Back row: Dominic Conare, Brian Peters, Jeff Beckwith, Nathan Glass.



# Kiltsmen get dressed up for Pitt football

Story by Mackenzie Garst



Decked out in chest paint and makeshift kilts, a group of PSU men can be found offering rowdy support in the front row at recent Pitt football games. The loud cheers and chants of the self-named "Gorilla Kiltsmen" have been attracting some stares and even a few people who call them crazy.

The group, which made its first appearance at this year's Fall Classic against Northwest Missouri, wears kilts, some of which are actually sewn and some that are a little more last-minute, along with chest paint and as burly of a beard as each member has been able to grow.

Though still new, the Kiltsmen are certainly dedicated, traveling recently to both Warrensburg, Mo., and Kearney, Neb., to support the football team. They have also made appearances at the occasional volleyball game.

The cheering group consists mainly of guys involved in the religious organization CrossQuest.

"We go to football and volleyball games, and will soon be going to men's and women's basketball games," Collier said. "We've been told that we better be at a few track meets, too."

How the Kiltsmen came to be is a little foggy.

"We just started throwing ideas out there," Andrew Webster, sophomore in biology, said. "Someone said we should wear kilts and paint our chests; then another said we shouldn't shave until football is over."

That's right; they haven't shaved their facial hair since the group started at the Arrowhead game. In fact, most members signed a "contract," allowing the others to shave an eyebrow if any facial hair is trimmed.

The goal of the Gorilla Kiltsmen is simple: to show support to Pitt State athletics.

"We just want to increase the school spirit and crowd involvement at the games, and of course to have fun," Webster said. "We want to have clean fun, though, and I think this is a good way to just goof off but show that you can be crazy and have fun without abusing substances and such."

Gorilla Kiltsmen have been seen cheering, chanting and jumping up and down to get fans and players excited.

"We want to get people excited and show support, not just be spectators," Collier said.

"Being a kiltzman is so fun because every time we show up, we always are able to get the crowd going, either from us looking goofy in our kilts or they just love the school spirit we have," Webster said.

"We get some funny looks from people, they stare at us because they think we are ridiculous or they enjoy it," Collier said.

photos by Carla Wehmeyer

Top left: Before the game against Central Missouri, Aril Commons, senior in recreation, paints Jonathan Sperry's, undeclared freshman, chest. Behind, Laura Garrison, senior in social work, paints Jeremy Leihoff, sophomore in justice studies.

Ben Nwagwu, sophomore in auto technology, Jared Foster, senior in physical education, Jonathan Sperry, undeclared freshman, and Jeremy Leihoff, sophomore in justice studies, help get the crowd going before a game.





# Students rock for a cause

"It's a great way to show the community we're not the stereotypical fraternity and sorority kids."

— Jeffrey Fahey, Sigma Chi member

By Stephanie Graham

Fifty members of the Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority and 30 members from the Sigma Chi fraternity were part of the March 7-10 "Rockin' for Robbie" Marathon. The event is Sigma Sigma Sigma's national philanthropy. The spirited marathon, which involved rocking chairs and lots of music, was held from noon on Tuesday to noon on Friday to raise money to build play areas inside of hospitals.

According to Scott Benjamin, sophomore in commercial graphics and Sigma Chi member, local businesses and fraternity and sorority members' parents donated money before the students took turns rocking outside in four rocking chairs for 72 hours straight.

The rocking chairs were situated atop a wooden platform on the large porch of the Sigma Chi house during the fundraiser. The groups bought the chairs at the Salvation Army and then wrapped them in plastic to shield the wooden chairs from the rain, which plagued the three-day event. Some of the students doing the rocking wrapped themselves in blankets to stay warm during the cold and rainy weather.

While some of the participants took their turn rocking in the chairs at 3 a.m. Wednesday in the rain, they still managed to have fun.

"We just laugh and play and have a great time," said Jeffrey Fahey, junior in construction management.

In addition to the fraternity and sorority members' continuous rocking, radio station Rock Revolution 99.1 parked its red van on Sigma Chi's lawn to play and broadcast music during the event.

"They decided to come out and help," said Daniel Chavez, junior in marketing and Sigma Chi member.

Students also coordinated other activities for fun during their event.

"We had a dinner and movie on the front lawn one night," Benjamin said.

Students also chatted with one another or used their laptop computers to pass the time.

"Our main priority is hanging out and benefiting the community," Fahey said. "It's a great way to show the community we're not the stereotypical fraternity and sorority kids."



## Student Ambassadors



Front row: Ashley Klemencic, Sara Ozbun, JungHa Kwon, Mayra Garcia, Jason Wright, Ashley Lopez, Joy Leel, Bethany Lee, Erin Walton, Jacque Kline, Ginger Niemann, Robbie Kinney, Melanie Rambo, Connie Hanika, Hadyn Barnes, Erin Paul, Kristen Vaughn, Aubrey Parsons, Ryan Ulrich, Jennifer Stanley, Megan Wenzelburger, Audra Tope, Areke Worku. Second row: Tracie Young, Alicia Dumm, Danielle Herman, Tim Bettega, Cassie Embry, Callie Graber, Lindsey Klemencic, Andrew Johnson, Carrie Neet, Jillian McGrew, Amanda Lutjen, Jeffrey Beckwith, Karisa Erwin, Tracee Brim, Brett Palmer, Breana Sheffler, Ryan Key, Jackie Slater, Katie Holloway, Stacy Scherschligt, Kara Chastain, Chelsey Evans. Back row: Jared Smith, Jennifer Werner, Ken Wagner, Bekah Grieb, Kim Anderson, Adam Merando, Lisa Gruver, Dany Jolly, Adriane Wiltse, Garrett Reist, Anna Bott, Elsie Zimucha, Sergio Taboada, Christa Weber, Cameron Carlson, Jennifer DeGroot, Michelle Vosters, Gegan Kecham, Jaye Bea Downs, Kendra Geiger.





photo by Brett Armbruster

Waiting to make their goal and get out of the rain, Daniel Chavez, junior in marketing, Courtney Robinson, freshman in chemistry (pre-pharmacy), Mary Cutcliff, freshman in justice studies, and Jeffrey Fahey, junior in construction management, get ready to stand and get out of the rockers.

## PELP Phase II



Front row: Ashley Lopez, Carrie Campbell. Second row: Megan Metzler, Samantha Arnold, Hadyn Barnes, Jill Kunsheck. Third row: Beth Perrey, Ashley Moore, Samantha Pinkel. Back row: Jeremy Johnson, Audra Tope, Brooklyn Small.

## Physics Department



Serif Uran, Kyla Scarborough, Bruce Daniel, Chuck Blatchley, David Kuehn, Rebecca Butler and Tom Shoberg.

Walton, Jacque Kline,  
n Ulrich, Jennifer  
ja, Cassie Embry, Callie  
Brim, Brett Palmer,  
Jennifer Werner, Ken  
cha, Sergio Taboada,



"We want to reach out. We want to give and touch the community."

Dave Hartman, Titus adviser

Titus, a Christian organization, helps students adjust to college life.

Tennyson Williams, Titus president, said. "We're trying to help students have a groundwork for their life."

The organization, started by Covenant Harvest church in Pittsburg, has been around since the fall of 2000.

"There were five students taking Bible classes," Dave Hartman, Titus adviser and an electrician at Pitt State, said. "It was called the Titus Project at the time."

Hartman says that even though Titus is now a student organization, Covenant Harvest is still involved

"Several church members work here at Pitt State, so they help us out and tell us what's going on at the college," Hartman said.

Titus has grown considerably since its inception, but it's uncertain by how much because it is a non-pledging organization.

"We have around 20 to 30 members on campus right now," Williams, an undecided sophomore, said.

Despite this, Titus still is doing everything it can to advertise the organization.

"That's why we chose to do Yell Like Hell, to get our name out. Winning second place was just an added bonus," Hartman said.

His wife, Teresa, an employee at the Alumni Center, agrees.

"When they announced our name, I heard a lot of the audience members say, 'Who the heck is Titus?'"

The organization has a house on Broadway, across the street from Russ Hall and next door to the Pi Kappa Alpha house.

The Hartmans live at the house on the third floor. Nine male students, including two international students and Williams, also live at the house. The Hartmans had 14 girls in the house their first year. Teresa says it can get interesting living in a house full of men, but added, "We're like a family."

"You have to be silly to live here," she said. "It's been a lot of fun. Both of my kids are gone, and people keep telling me that Dave and I should have a house of our own. Now I live with nine guys. I can't imagine not being here."

The occupants are taught everything about running a house, from keeping a checkbook and buying groceries, to paying bills and cleaning house.

Williams, on top of being president, is also house leader.

He says he is still trying to figure out what that position entails.

"I make sure you're responsible for your actions," Williams said. "Problems come to me. I issue out the food money and I'm in charge of the cooking and cleaning schedules. I just make sure that things get done. It's a lot of coordinating."

The Titus House has rules against smoking, drinking, using pornography or profanity in the house, but not all of the rules are set in stone.

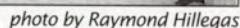
"We have curfew, but we don't force anyone to be here when curfew rolls around," Hartman said.

"If you're in a study group or something, then by all means, stay and study."

Some find it ironic for an organization such as Titus to have neighbors like the Pikes.

"It's always interesting. It's not a major deal. I have them on speed dial," Hartman said, laughing.

"They've been pretty cooperative," Williams added.



Daniel Williams, left, Titus bible student, Liang Zhaowei, center, graduate student in engineering technology, and Tennyson Williams, undeclared sophomore, all of whom are members of the Titus organization, cook quesadillas at the Titus house. Those who live in the house trade off between cooking and cleaning duties.



## Alpha Phi Omega



First row: Casey Kunn, Jim Rajchell, Evan Besperat, Melissa Hicks. Second row: Jered Windorski, Emily Johnson, Areke Worku, Amy Fruits, Amanda O'Neill, Dan Ferguson, adviser. Third row: Galen Carter, adviser, Jenny Clark, Christy Baker, Chelsey Evans, Courtney Call, Ashely Hirt, Jared Richards, Jonathon Dirks.

## Gorillas in Your Midst



Front row: Ashlee Matthews, Ashley Netzer, Heather Edmonson, Shannon Ware, J.T. Knoll, adviser. Second row: Danielle Epley, Megan Stewart, Brenton Garrett, Meredith Ballantyne, Marianne Wonderly.

## Early Childhood Development



First row: Marissa Trotnic, president, Kim Dechand, Jan Venter-Barkley, adviser, Hilary Evans, Dee Dee LeFever, Jacquelin Chee, Alicia Miller. Second row: Andrea Honsicker, Brianna Garten, Kelsey Lewis, Kylee Shaffer, Meghan Bretches, Loren Coppola. Third row: Crystal Paxson, Krista Nucci, Katie Duran, Jennifer Heatwole.

## Lambda Sigma



First Row: Adam Bennett, Ashley Davis, Ashley Moore, Melissa Troth. Second Row: Chris King, Jessica Pope. Third Row: Veronica Reveles, Jenna Brown, Kathleen Fischer, adviser. Fourth Row: Aaron Dold, Kimberly Harms, Jessica Harrison, Anthony Stonerock. Fifth Row: Becky Schlagel, Brittany Streiff, Trisha White. Sixth Row: David Schuler, Joy Leek, Jessilyn Humble, Jill Kunscheck. Last Row: Kathy Raymaker, Mandy Smith, Jenny Harter, Tim McVey.

## PELP Phase IV



Katie Stockstill, Ryan Fell, Blair Croan, Cassie Stuckey, Ed Wirthwein, adviser, Kendra Geiger.

## Womens Studies



First row: Kylie Quick, Angel Asunaon-Reed. Second row: Brenton Garrett, Goldie Prelogar, Marshall Estes, Stephanie Lachowsky, president.





Marchers walk down Broadway with protest signs on Monday, May 1. They were protesting in favor of immigration and against the proposed HB 4437.



Daniel Castaneda, sophomore in psychology, leads the chants down Broadway during a march on May 1 that was part of Coming Out of the Shadows, a day to boycott, protest, and learn more about immigrants and immigration. Some of the chants included, "The country united will never be divided," and "Si se puede! Si se puede! Si se puede!"

# iSi se puede!

By Greg Grisolano

Cindy Perez had a message for all the students who skipped classes so they could participate in a pro-immigrant rally at PSU's Cleveland Plaza on Monday afternoon.

"Congratulations," Perez told the crowd of about 90 milling around the plaza. "Normally we don't support not going to class, but today is a special occasion."

Around the nation Monday, thousands gathered at similar rallies in small towns and big cities for a series of protests against a controversial piece of immigrant legislation, and to rally in support of immigrant rights. Boycotts were encouraged, as was skipping school or work. Reports estimate more than 1 million people participated in demonstrations nationwide.

The student group Hispanics of Today organized the local event, which was co-sponsored by the African Student Association, the Black Student Association and the Chinese Student Association. It featured guest speakers, informational fliers and a march down Broadway to Pittsburgh's City Hall.

According to Perez, the group's goal was to raise awareness and opposition to House Bill 4437, which proposes building a wall between the United States and Mexico, as well as classifying all illegal immigrants and those who assist them as felons.

"We are here to oppose HR 4437," said Perez, president of H.O.T. "Not only does this law affect immigrants, but it affects anyone who comes in contact with them." Many students sported T-shirts saying "I'm a Felon" on the front.

"We don't want to be called felons, because a felon does not walk through the desert in search of a better future," said Daniel Castaneda, member of Hispanics of Today who addressed the crowd. "We don't want to be called felons because felons do not get up at 5 a.m. to work a minimum-wage job while trying to support their family. We are not felons, so please do not treat us like one."

The crowd erupted into chants of "Si, Se Puede!" the "Yes, it can be done" chant that has become a national rallying cry at similar events.

After Castaneda finished speaking, organizers distributed signs and began the march down Broadway. While many passing cars offered supportive honks or cheers to the chanting throng, some Pittsburg residents and students were less supportive.

"I don't support you," shouted Sarah Johnson as she rode by the crowd on her bicycle. Johnson, Pittsburg, says she believes immigrants should be allowed to enter the country only through appropriate channels.

"I think the illegal ones should not be in here," she said. "Everybody has to go through the channels. It's just like the ones who came over here through Ellis Island."

Many business owners watched the protesters as they chanted, "Black, brown, red, white - all people must unite." The ranks of marchers swelled to more than 130 before the group reached City Hall, as whole families, old and young people, even men on bicycles joined ranks.

Members of the Pittsburgh Police Department and University Police and Parking Services rode along on bikes and in cars, making sure protesters obeyed the laws and stayed on the sidewalks.

At one point, police were accosted by a passing motorist who was angered that they weren't arresting what she called the "illegals."

Anthony Moreno, vice president of H.O.T., shook his head, saying the negative reaction from some in the community didn't bother him.

"Everybody has the right to speak their own mind," he said. "I know how I feel, and I know how everybody who marched with us feels, and that's just really joyful, really proud to be with people from different backgrounds united together."

Cora Hardy, who watched from the steps of Porter Hall as the marchers returned, says she thought the group's rally was misguided.

"Why don't they put all of this time and effort into reforming their own country?" asked Hardy, senior in art education.

Moreno says he considers the event a success and was surprised by the turnout. "I knew we sold a lot of T-shirts," he said. "But then when I saw all the T-shirts show up, that's when the numbers hit me."

In addition to students, dozens of community members and some PSU faculty and staff participated in the rally on campus, as well as the march.

Representing the African Student Association, group president Andy Ikpeeme spoke on behalf of exchange students, who could also be affected by changes proposed by HB 4437.

"Do not look to see a felon, but behold an immigrant who has come to live in the land of immigrants," he said. "This is not a Hispanic walk, but a walk for all."

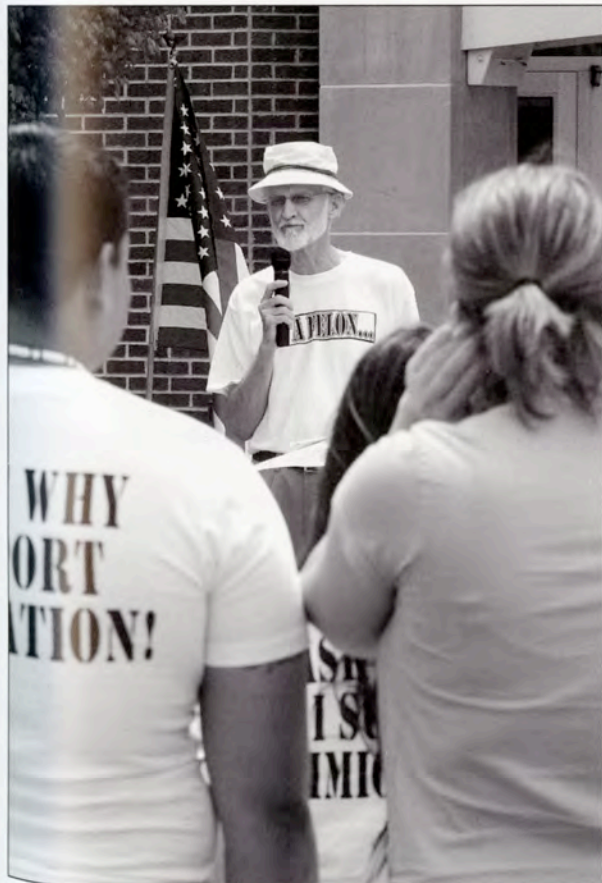
Paul Smith, professor in Modern Languages and Literatures, was one of the guest speakers.

"You need to appreciate the people here who are helping us, who are an important part of the economy," he said. "I haven't found anybody who wants to pay \$10 for a head of lettuce."





Marchers stop on Broadway to chant and wave.



Paul Smith, PSU Spanish professor, addresses a crowd outside of the Overman Student Center.



*photos by Raymond Hillegas*

T-shirts and posters in support of immigration were on display during the march and rally.





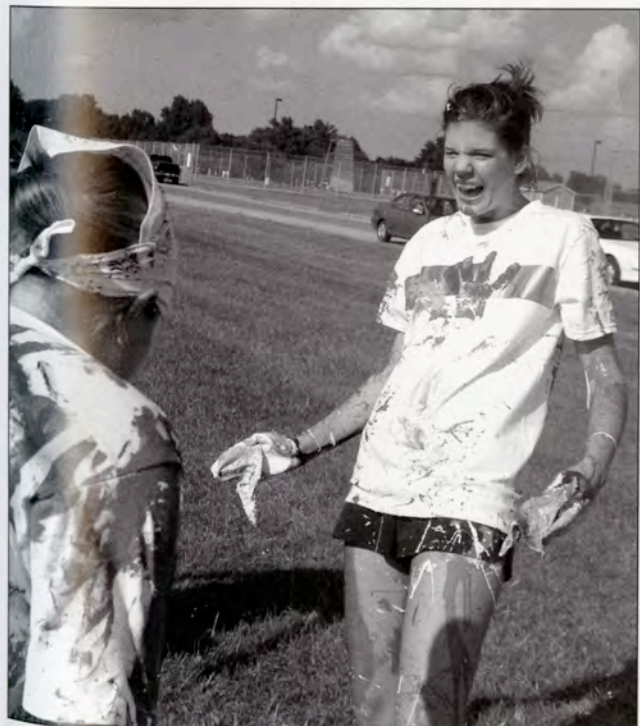
Katherine Kanatzar, left, freshman in early/late childhood development K-6, laughs while undeclared freshman Jessica Paterson, throws a handful of paint at other sorority women during the first annual all sorority Paint Splash outside of the Weede. Several women chose to wear protective items on their head and eyes.



# Color me Greek



Rachel Barney, left, of Alpha Gama Delta, runs after Jessica Paterson with a rag drenched in paint. The all sorority paint splash was sponsored by Panhellenic as a means to help increase sorority relations among the local chapters.



*photos by teresa Gawrych*

left: Katherine Kanatzar, left, freshman in early/late childhood K-6, laughs while undeclared freshman Jessica Paterson throws a handful of paint at other sorority women during the all sorority Paint Splash outside of the Weede. Several women chose to wear protective items on their head and eyes.



Cody Jo Kersey, of Sigma Sigma Sigma, runs through the middle of the all sorority Paint Splash with two rags soaked with paint.



## Honors College



First row: Cecilia Stumpff, Jennifer Werner, Jamie Wildschuetz, Becky Brannock, adviser. Second row: Stephanie Lachowsky, Dawn DeLay, Amy Crisler, Petra White. Third row: Ene Tuyliyeva, Emily Patterson, president, Donna Durkee. Fourth row: Chelsey Evans, Ke'o Verzon, Alison Stephens. Fifth row: Timothy McVey, Jackie Slater, Eddie Penner. Sixth row: Eric Bluml, Andrew Kleinberg, Rye Addis. Last row: Justin Uhler, Evan Besperat.

## Chinese Culture Club



Ko Jiun-Da, Lo Hui Yun, Lu Yu Chi, Jiang Yan-Yan, Chen Wen Chin, Mei Chia-Chun, Hsu Ya-Chi, Wu Pei-Jhen, Ma Jiug-Wen

## Blank Page



James Langer, Ericka Melby, Marshall Estes, Karen Mayse, Donald Clark

# Mapping Pittsburg



## Circle K



First row: Sarah Dees, Marissa Ritter, Jennifer Stanley, Jessica Prelogar, Stephanie Graham. Second Row: Brian Lamb, Kayla Hill, Lindsay Hill, Briana Hotchkiss, Gopal Chandrasekharan, Jacob Metz. Third Row: John Erb, Elsie Zimucha, president, Bill Bradrick, adviser, Lance Jepson



# Mapping Pittsburg



## Circle K



First row: Sarah Dees, Marissa Ritter, Jennifer Stanley, Jessica Prelogar, Stephanie Graham. Second Row: Brian Lamb, Kayla Hill, Lindsay Hill, Briana Hotchkiss, Gopal Chandrasekharan, Jacob Metz. Third Row: John Erb, Elsie Zimucha, president, Bill Bradrick, adviser, Lance Jepson

# Geography interns help city correct mistakes

"It's a real tedious job and it takes a lot of concentration,"

Richard Yakle, graduate intern



photo by Raymond Hillegas

Deep Bhari, senior in geography, jots down the last street address on a map that is being used to help revise the current digital map of Pittsburg.

By Greg Grisolano

When the city of Pittsburg hired an out-of-town firm to create a digital map to route emergency vehicles to 911 calls, they got more than they paid for.

Like streets that don't exist.

So, to correct the problem, the city hired Pitt State students to check streets on the field and transfer the corrections to the digital map.

Deep Bhari, senior from Nepal, is one of five students in PSU's geography department that the city is now paying to find and correct mistakes.

"We find some segments that don't exist in the field," Bhari said. "It's very confusing."

Some problems with the city's map include incorrect address ranges, streets that don't exist and "roads" that are actually driveways.

Every time Bhari comes to an intersection, he stops and records the address of the first and last house on the block.

Levi Gahman, senior in geography, has been involved in this and similar projects for more than a year. Lately, he has taken to streets in his van, armed with a sophisticated device that uses satellites to record latitude and longitude.

"You turn on the GPS unit," he said. "The satellite reads where you're at, and as you drive down the road, it takes readings about every

second."

Once Gahman, Bhari and others have gathered data in the field, they bring it back to the GIS lab in Russ Hall Annex where Richard Yakle, a graduate intern with a degree in geography from PSU, edits the city map.

"It's a real tedious job and it takes a lot of concentration," said Yakle. However tedious, Yakle says it's a job worth doing.

"You've got to do it, this is a 911 map," he said. "You can't be sending them to an address that doesn't exist on a particular block."

Digital city maps offer a variety of uses, including properly routing emergency vehicles to accidents and providing comprehensive information on city infrastructure.

Bob Hough, information systems manager for the city of Pittsburg, says the interns are working on a "multi-pronged" project.

With the completion of the initial map corrections, students will begin compiling a digital map of the city sewers and drainage systems. The interns will plot the location of every manhole in the city and add database information such as the diameter, flow direction and material in each line.

Hough says the student interns have been professional and hard-working.

"I'm not out there on a day-to-day basis," he said. "But the contacts I've had with them have been very positive."

## Campus Democrats



Stephanie Lachowsky, Mindy Townsend, Stephanie Schartel, president, Jon F. Kaleugher, Megan Fowler, Anthony Carver

## Finance Club



Nikhil Ahuja, Kevin Bracker, adviser, Ashley Church, Carina Criger, Kellie Borders, Stephanie Love.



## Business Technology Institute



1st row: Tammie Hawkins, Sara Riddle, Xianmei Wan, Laura Moore, Tylicia Davis 2nd row: Yubao Dai, Claudia Schiefelbein, Wei Zhang, Ivan Javni, Alisa Zlatanovic, Heather Tersinar, Samantha Kunshek, Ivana Cvetkovic, Xiao Jing 3rd row: Eric Ferrell, Charles Heath, Zoran Petrovic, Steve Robb, Tomas Vlcek, Steve Davis, Andrew Guo, Scot Schiefelbein, Kathryn Richard

## Physical Plant Administration



1st row: Becky Stephenson, Tonya Barbee, Marie Seward, Matt Shields 2nd row: Sarah Tosh, Joyce Row, Wylie DeGruson, Kurt Kasjaka, Kenny Edwards

## Ticket Office



1st row: Laney Beaman, Stephanie Love, Jill Pjesky, Rachael Rank 2nd row: Cassie Stotts, Anthony Carver, Mark Seeley, Wes Hinman, Tim Bettega, Mary Wolfe

## Health, Physical Education and Recreation Family and Consumer Sciences



1st row: Jenny Layden, Rob Hefley, Bill Stobart, Julia Spreser 2nd row: Scott Gorman, Sandy Bauchmoyer, John Oppliger, Susan Downing, Chuck Killingsworth

## Alumni Relations



1st row: Mindy Cloninger, Theresa Keller-Swink 2nd row: Diane James, Jon Bartlow

## International Programs & Services



1st row: Huey Shi Chew, Marsha Palmer. 2nd row: Jeff Hashman, Chuck Olcese, Crystal Pihl, Lori Hall

## Black Student Association



1st row: Shakila Stewart, BJ Butler, Jermaine Carpenter, Cherelle Jones 2nd row: Darlene Freeman, Taurean Staten, Denise Trout, Angela Walker. Third Row: Tracee Brim, Aaron Morrison



Holley Viets, Jan Venter-Barkley, Cris Elliott, Lynette Olson, Denise Bertoncino, Duane Whitbeck, Angie Dowell



## International Club



1st row: Ikue Hashimoto, Thiri, Meltem Tugut, Surendra Shrestha, Jeff Hashman, adviser  
2nd row: Xunzhuo Xu, Analia Saldivar, Siau Hung Gouw, Ankit Jain, Chaitanya Gogula, Piyush Goyal, Rendy Basuki

## Music



1st row: Joanne Britz, Patrick Howle, Jessie Wright Martin, David Hurley, Matthew Montague, Douglas Whitten 2nd: Craig Fuchs, Russell Jones, Stella Hastings, John Ross, Selim Giray, Susan Marchant, Reena Berger, Robert Kehle 3rd row: Todd Hastings, Linda Hoffman

## Custodians



1st row: Sandra Keltner, Sue Phelps, Jerry Meyer, Anna Meyer, Rita Tierney  
2nd row: Marion Patton, David Castagno, Eddie Spragg, SueAnn Barnes, Tina Gregory, Jana Giles, Ruby Pingree, Yvonne Gaddy, Wanda Endicott 3rd row: Jake Keltner, Grace Pugh, David Redd, Evelyn Nutt, KayLynn Jiles, Jan Keith, Kit Collins, Connie Baker, Claude Reno 4th row: Blake Cameron, Ace Redden, Hank Sanley, Terri Centers, Ed Collins, Lewis Stewart, Kevin Malle, Randy Marietta

## Budget and Human Resource Services



Lauren Werner, Hanna Stringer, Michele Sexton, Deborah Nokes, Diane Letner, Debbie Amershek

## Social Work Students



1st row: Cary Smith, Deanna Lorenz, Mayra Garcia 2nd row: Mark Mathews, DeAnna Holeman, Jamie Tyler 3rd row: Brett Longmore, Laura Garrison, Mickey Ewing, Stacy Collins, Kristalle Dougherty 4th row: Stephanie Hardesty, Debbie Blessant, Rhonda Bouvier

## Nurses Christian Fellowship



1st row: Joan Aura, Jessica Johnson, Amy Crisler, Megan Coltrane  
2nd row: Ruthellyn Hinton, Seleipiri Akobo, Renay Stuhlsatz, Charity Guilfoyle, Megan Durr, Dana Claus, Stacy Scherschligt, Amanda Calton, Becky Butts, Amy Croan, Debre Wass, Lacy Million, Jamie Kwon

## Housing Maintenance



1st row: Brent Bernot, Ray Nims 2nd row: Michael Row, Travis Morgan, Jeff Burns, Larry Reese

## Arts and Sciences



1st row: Karen Lasota, Edith Ramage, Lynette Olson 2nd row: CJ Kentler, Mark Flood, Keith Chadwick, Mike Modaress



## Panhellenic Council



1st row: Kristen Vaughn, Jacque Kline, Tara Kiest, Alexandria Pitts, Krista Nucci 2nd row: Hailey Poss, Ashley Boyle, Lindsey Baumann, Jessica Marsh, Amanda Larson

## Interfraternity Council



1st row: Josh Ingold, TS Wass, Brandon Yates, Josh Holland, Kyle Roberts, Landis Tompkins 2nd row: Scott Schneider Jr., Mike Wagner, Scott Benjamin, Bobby McFadden, Cesar Hemosillo

## Physical Plant General Services



Jerry Wilson, Eddie Craddock, Mike Redd

## Nation Second Floor East



1st row: Brian Franz, Shuin Sahn, Gabe Linn, Damian, Keisling, Brandon Kebert 2nd row: Timo Siikanen, Tim Mingher, Brent Lamaster, Dillon Fullerton

## Dellinger Fourth Floor Long



1st row: Erin Floyd, Bryronni Baker 2nd row: Heather Guilfoyle, Brittany Gehle, RA Jamie Stuhlsatz, Cassie Sump, Sarah Glavin, Jamie Wildschuetz 3rd row: Dorothy Shrader, Aisha Sandage, Jenae Halstead, Sarah Didde, Lauren Hull, Jenna Myers, Lindsey Julian

## Dellinger Fifth Floor Short



1st row: RA Jeremy Wade, Brandon Smith, Chris Swartz-Rogers, Chadd Snyder 2nd row: Jared Nafziger, Dylan Galloway, Dan Mozdren, Ben Ewbank, Matt Beverlin, Kyle Green

## Dellinger Fifth Floor Long



1st row: Andrew Zuiss, Corey Base, Tyler Ahrens, RA Jim Rajchel, Emery Baughan, Earl Johansen, Hui Chang 2nd Row: Sam Oram, Martin Burke, Jay Nunez, Eric Jones, Jeremy Schoen, John Spriggs, Sam Cortright

## Dellinger Third Floor Long



1st row: Kyle Walker, Luke Smith, John Casady, Dominic Canare, RA Steven Tarchala, Aaron Downs 2nd row: Lyle Volavka, Clay Lamb, Kyle Kovich, Jarrod Rogol, Ross Starcher, Kyle Hutchison



## Math Department



1st row: Tadek Dobrowolski, Cynthia Woodburn, Terry Martin, Hazel Coltharp, Tim Flood 2nd row: Ananda Jayawardhana, Yaping Liu, Bobby Winters, George Kaemmerling Jr, Elwyn Davis.

## Dellinger First and Second Floor



1st row: Kelley Currie, Leah Benzin, Lacey McIntosh, Bridget Johnson 2nd row: Heidi Compton, Beth Schulte, Anna Passley, RA Micki Bogart, Dana Pugh, Megan Kirk

## Nation Second Floor West



1st row: Tim Good, Ming-Chuan Hsiao 2nd row: Mike Early, Devin Walker, Gabe Spurgeon, Bobby Lovett 3rd row: Lucas Stallbaumer, Eric Wittler, Todd Hertzog, Dan Brown 4th row: Steve Adams, Rye Addis, Caleb Pazzie, Steve Settle, Eric Herbers

## Dellinger Fourth Floor Short



1st row: Heather Jones, Krista Nucci, RA Nicole Adkisson, Lindsay Quall, Ke'o Verzon, Katharyne Silva 2nd row: Emily Sloan, Emily Vosseler, Ali Robertson, Pam Cartagena, Ashley Rucker, Kelsey Theobald

## Printing and Postal Services



Randy Rosenbaum, Steven Hellwig, Donna Martin, Kevin Elrod

## Greek Council



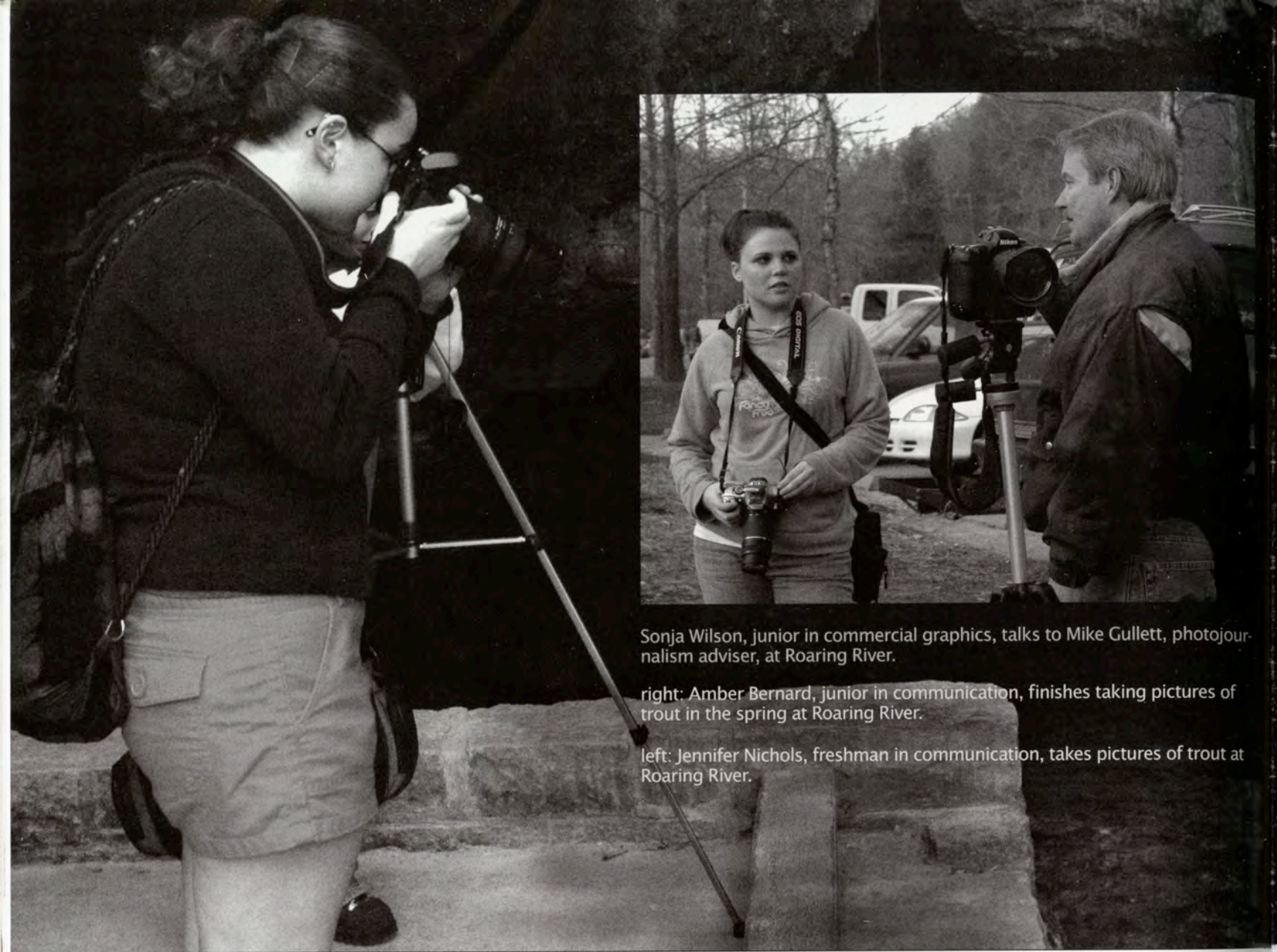
1st row: Kristen Vaughn, Jacque Kline, Tara Kiest, Alexandria Pitts, Krista Nucci 2nd row: Hailey Poss, Ashley Boyle, Lindsey Baumann, Jessica Marsh, Amanda Larson, Landis Tompkins 3rd row: Josh Ingold, Bobby McFadden, Brandon Yates, Scott Benjamin, Jay Hackett, Kyle Roberts 4th row: Scott Schneider Jr., Mike Wagner, Josh Holland, TS Wass, Cesar Hermosillo

## Management and Marketing



1st row: Eric Harris, Henry Crouch, Don Baack, Shirpa Paul, Richard Dearth, Thomas Box, Arthur Fischer





Sonja Wilson, junior in commercial graphics, talks to Mike Gullett, photojournalism adviser, at Roaring River.

right: Amber Bernard, junior in communication, finishes taking pictures of trout in the spring at Roaring River.

left: Jennifer Nichols, freshman in communication, takes pictures of trout at Roaring River.

## Financial Assistance



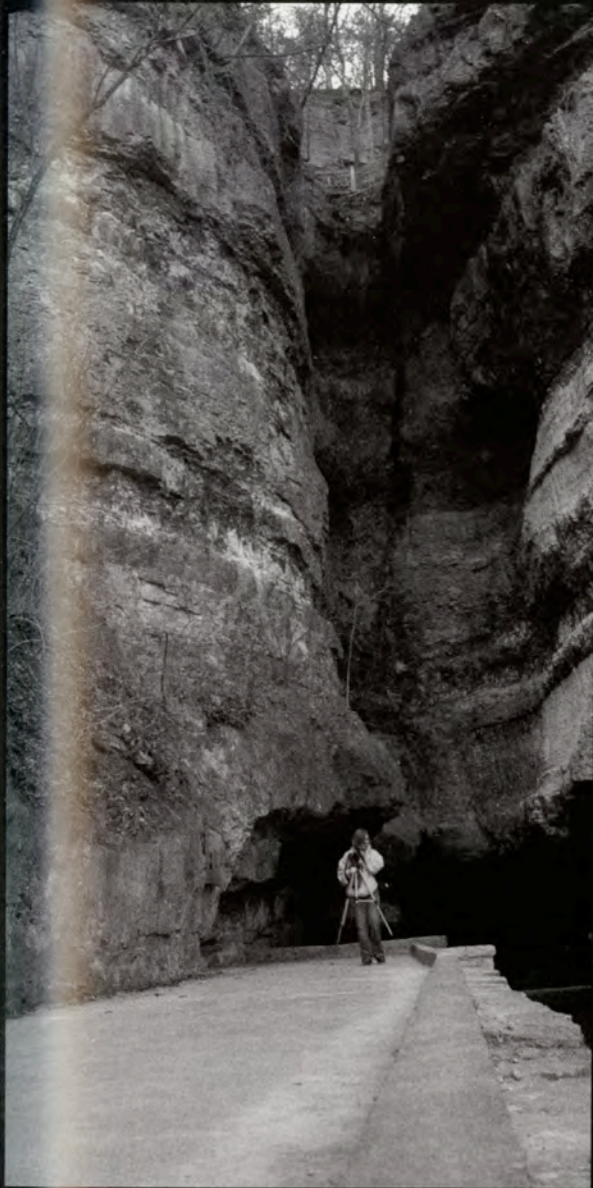
Front row: Sheena Mapes, Stephanie Sprague, Marilyn Haverly, Nicole Pflug, Mary Ellen Rinehart. Second row: Carol Clark, Elanda Brubaker, Melissa Sullins, Courtney Schmidt. Third row: Julie Blanken, Patti Ballard, Janice Bernot. Back row: Evelyn Woodrum, Emily Patterson, Ginger Owen, Tammy Crays, Brenda Mishmash, Anna Powers.

## Library and Learning Resources



Front row: JoAnne Beezley, Betty Geier, Alyssa Glenn, Janet Davis, Marsha Blalock, Dee Buffalo, Stephanie Willis, Randy Roberts. Second row: Jane Victor, Linda Grotheer, Heather Winzer, Bill Pfannenstiel, Cynthia Pfannenstiel, Earl Lee, Barbara Pope. Back row: David Nance, David Paul Hensley, Richard Samford, Bob Walter, Robert Lindsey, Susan Johns-Smith.





students document  
real life

# Roaring River

By Kristi Darr

Photography students went to Roaring River on March 1 for the opening day of trout season.

Photojournalism instructor Mike Gullett said it is a good way for students to document real life and take real pictures.

"I hope they learn how to approach strangers," said Gullett. "I hope they learn to take their pictures and get the information that they need for their cutlines."

Gullett finds it important for students to take photos in a variety of lighting settings.

"From about 8:30-9:30 we had some direct light before it was too intense," said Gullett.

Amber Bernard, junior in communication, said the best time to take pictures was early in the morning.

"It was really calm and shady," said Bernard. "The sun was just coming up over the hills."

Students learned to come to events pre-

pared for anything.

"I learned to bring the right equipment," said Bernard. "I forgot my flash and tripod."

Students went on a hike above the hatchery where the natural spring was.

Haydn Barnes, freshman in communication, ventured off on her own hike.

"It was really pretty," said Barnes. "There were no leaves, but there seemed to be a lot of color even though everything was dead and brown."

"Down by the water everything was green," said Barnes.

Barnes said she didn't realize trout fishing was such a big deal.

"There were a lot of news crews there," she said.

The most rewarding part of the day was watching the little boys who came with their grandfathers.

"They would have to bait their hooks for them," said Barnes. "It was fun to watch their faces when they caught one."

## International Interior Design Association



Front row: Andrea Meierhoff, LaShae Stinson, Becky Moore, Meagan Byrnes. Back row: Christina Williams, Kelly Love, Micki Bogart, Gretchen Sleep, Sarah Green, Kari Scholz, Caitlin Furnish, Brandi Bryan, Annie Peterson, Denise Bertoncino.

## History Club



Front row: Jake Ersland, William Cichy, Sarah Ersland. Second row: Megan Fowler, Jennifer Carnes, Wilson Payne. Back row: Mark Dulek, Tim Campbell, James Schick, adviser.





Debris and FEMA trailers line a street in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

*continued from page 159*

going home again until Christmas, but if the city is open by then, he plans to visit once again.

Rodrigue says he's worried that the public will forget about the refugees of the disaster once media attention begins to fade.

"Long after coverage stops, a lot of them won't be back in a home for months. They definitely still will need some help."

For the students at Louisiana and Mississippi colleges and universities, getting on with their academic careers in the wake of the disaster will be an uphill battle.

Lori Umbarger, a non-traditional junior in social work at PSU, says her daughter, Abby O'Brien, 21, was about to start her senior year at Tulane University when she had to evacuate New Orleans and head to Lafayette, La.

Accustomed to the evacuation process, the daughter didn't expect to be out of town long, Umbarger says.

"She loaded up thinking she'd be able to go back," she said.

After realizing how badly the situation deteriorated, O'Brien decided to come home to St. Paul, Kan. For Umbarger, her daughter couldn't get home soon enough.

"It's scary enough down there without the dang hurricanes," she said. "When she got home and into bed, it was like, 'Whew!'"

It's unlikely that Tulane will reopen this semester, so O'Brien is considering taking some hours at PSU or possibly an internship.

While Umbarger says her daughter's situation is "awful", she knows it's not as bad as it could be.

"She's one of the more fortunate ones," she said. "She's got a home and family to come to. I see just the problems she's having ... I can't imagine what it's like to be one of the less fortunate."

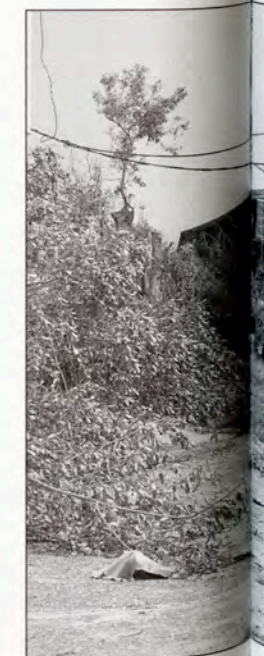
Damage in Louisiana and Mississippi has been estimated at a minimum of \$25 billion, likely making Katrina the costliest Atlantic hurricane to date. Troops are forcing the remaining residents in New Orleans to evacuate for fear of diseases rising from the putrid waters. The Army Corps of Engineers recently completed repairs to the levee, and water is slowly being pumped out of the city.

The Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and other charitable organizations are collecting donations to send to the victims of Katrina. For more information on donating to the relief effort, log onto the Red Cross Web site, [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).



*photos by AP*

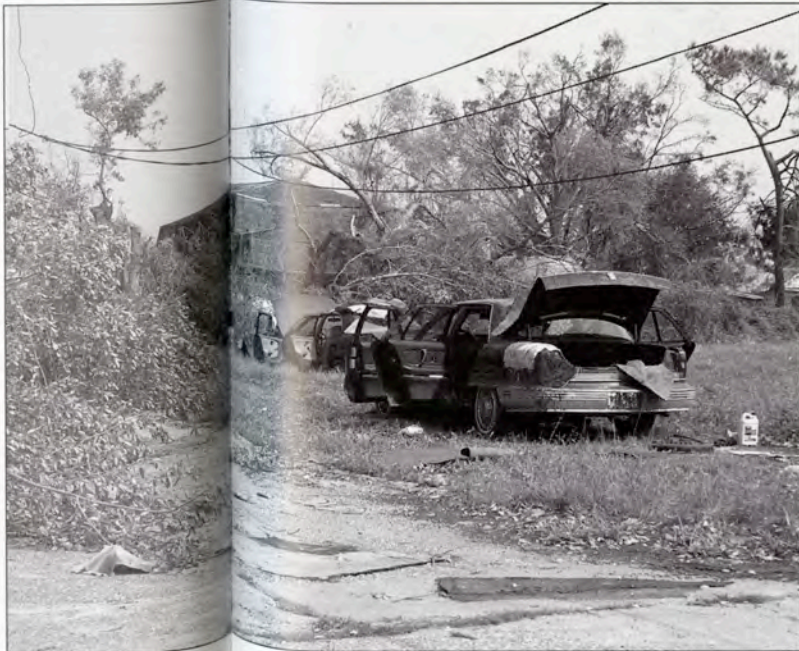
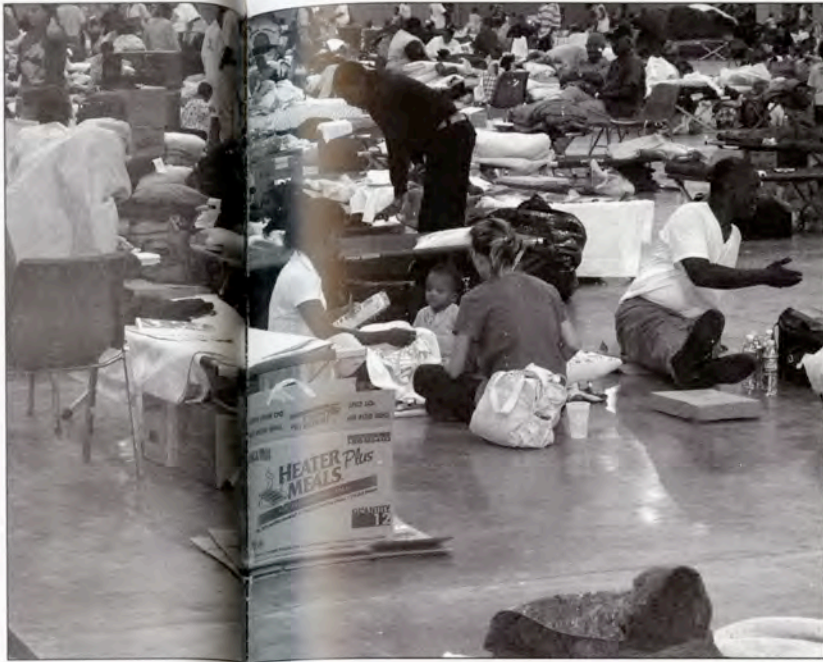
A destroyed neighborhood in Bay St. Louis, Miss.





# PSU student captures devastation

By Greg Grisolano



For Oleksandr Tymoshenko, the scariest thing about being in New Orleans wasn't the corpses, the looters or the threat of disease. It was the silence.

"I was in the city, which was crowded a little while ago, and now it's like empty boxes," he said. "There wasn't any sound except helicopters sometimes."

A graduate student in media management, Tymoshenko spent Labor Day weekend in the areas hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina, gathering information for news articles for a newspaper in his native Ukraine. Traveling by car to the affected area, Tymoshenko says the trip took 14 hours.

While the silence in the areas he visited was unsettling, Tymoshenko's initial impression of the ravaged city was not one conveyed by television or newspapers.

"The first impression of New Orleans is the smell, the smell of sewer system and the swamp," he said.

A professional journalist with 10 years of experience covering everything from sports to politics to war back home, Tymoshenko, 32, says a colleague from his old newspaper emailed him with a request to get a first-hand account of the disaster area. Even with his press credentials, certain flooded areas of the city, including the Superdome, were still off-limits.

"We tried to get inside, but it was impossible because of military prohibitions," he said. "They said it was too dangerous, even for journalists."

Tymoshenko was warned to be on the lookout for wildlife as well.

"They told me there were snakes and alligators, but I didn't see any ... only empty streets."

While exploring a section of the levee that the Army Corps of Engineers was scrambling to rebuild, Tymoshenko interviewed a group of displaced residents, waiting for the waters to subside so they could return to their homes.

"The main question (they have) is, 'Why so long? Why did we wait almost a week for military to help?'" he said.

How many have died and when residents will be allowed to return to the city are other questions that remain unanswered.

Tymoshenko says the military, police and disaster relief officials he spoke to still don't know how long the restoration of New Orleans will take.

"Red Cross estimated at least one month to dry out and three months for disinfection of the city," he said.

He also visited a shelter in Baton Rouge, La., that is housing 6,000 refugees. After speaking with some of the refugees, Tymoshenko says he thinks the biggest obstacle to overcome won't be repairing the damaged buildings, but overcoming the psychological devastation.

"New Orleans will never be the same," he said. "Big Easy, as Americans call the place, isn't the Big Easy anymore."

Tymoshenko arrived in the United States for the first time this summer to study in PSU's Intensive English Program. Since he doesn't have a valid driver's license, he says the trip would have been impossible for him had it not been for the help of a friend from Fort Smith, Ark.

"He was a real hero because he spent the whole time at the wheel," he said.



photos by Oleksandr Tymoshenko

The photos with this story were taken by Oleksandr Tymoshenko during his trip to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit. Tymoshenko was covering the disaster for a newspaper in his native Ukraine.



# People

After demolishing West Texas A&M 41-3, Kiltsmen Jeremy Leithoff, sophomore in justice studies, on top of pyramid, Andrew Webster, left, sophomore in biology, Jared Foster, center, senior in physical education, and Ryan Collier, right, senior in marketing, celebrate getting the home quarterfinal playoff game against Northwest Missouri.







Curtis Adkins  
Social Work/St. Joseph, Mo.  
Nikhil Ahuja  
Finance/India  
Seleipiri Akobo Iboroma  
Nursing and Biology/Nigeria  
Keith Alquist  
Chemistry/Edwardsville  
Maggie Apt  
Management/Iola

Samantha Arnold  
Mathematics/Prairie Village  
Aaron Ashcraft  
Political Science/Olathe  
Joan Aura  
Nursing/Moscow, Russia  
Steve Barker  
Political Science/Clinton, Mo.

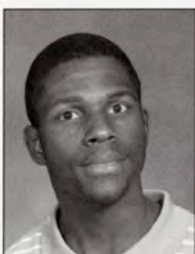
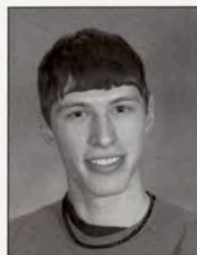
Jack Barnes  
English/Coffeyville  
Rachel Ayers  
English/Independence  
Hady Barnes  
Communication/Freeman, Mo.  
Brandon Bauer  
Political Science/Oak Grove, Mo.  
Amber Beasley  
Management/Pittsburg  
Peggy Bechdoldt  
Recreation/Girard

Whittney Behney  
Commercial Graphics/Gardner  
Karim Bekka  
English and Mathematics/Broken Arrow, Okla.  
Daniel Benson  
Justice Studies/Mount Hope  
Stacy Berry  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Pittsburg  
Bhanu Bhattarai  
Accounting/Kathmandu

Daniel Blair  
Recreation/Suger Land, Texas  
Eric Bluml  
Biology/Wichita  
Jacob Boan  
Accounting and Finance/Overland Park  
Kellie Borders  
Finance and Spanish/Sterling  
Brian Bourbina  
History and Government/Parsons

Seth Bowin  
Automotive Technology/McCune  
E.A. Boyd  
Physical Education/Raytown, Mo.  
John Brady  
Management/South Yarmouth, Mass.  
Amy Bright  
Psychology/Mulberry  
Elanda Brubaker  
Nursing/Lamar, Mo.

Jennifer Bugni  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Pittsburg  
BJ Butler  
Management/DeSoto, Texas  
Sarah Cadwallader  
Communication/Garnett  
Genaro Camalillo  
Physical Education/DeQueen, Ark.  
Ruthie Cameron







**Jennifer Carnes**  
History and Government/Fort Scott



**Jordan Carrier**  
Construction Management/Carthage, Mo.



**Anthony Carver**  
Communication/El Dorado



**Brandi Chandler**  
Family and Consumer Science Education/Pittsburg



**Gopal Chandrasekharan**  
Biology/Bartlesville, Okla.



**Sarah Chenoweth**  
English/Baxter Springs



**Yu-wen Chiu**  
Human Resource Development/Taiwan



**Rina Choi**  
International Studies/Japan



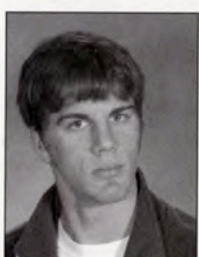
**Songhee Choi**  
Commercial Graphics/Korea



**William Cichy**  
History/Marysville, Ohio



**John Clark**  
Management/Arma



**Greg Clawson**  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Pittsburg



**Eric Clawson**  
Mathematics/Pittsburg



**Aril Commons**  
Recreation/Baxter Springs



**Paul Cope**  
Political Science/LaCygne



**Scott Corner**  
School Psychology/Wichita



**Tera Cox**  
Biology/Joplin, Mo.



**Jenna Crawford**  
Marketing/Pomona



**Robert Criger**  
Manufacturing Engineering Technology/Shawnee Mission



**Shantelle Cruickshank**  
Nursing/Independence, Mo.



**Jennifer Cumming**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Neosho, Mo.



**Elizabeth Darling**  
Art Education/Pittsburg



**Benjamin Davis**  
Mathematics/Riverton



**Lindy Davison**  
Commercial Graphics/Louisburg



**Sarah Dees**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Prairie Village



**Erin Dietz**  
Psychology/St. John



**Toni Dobratz**  
Music/Wichita



**Joshua Dooley**  
Physical Science/Humboldt



**Shanna Duncan**  
Psychology/Andover



**Marla Eccles**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Altamont



**Heather Edmonson**  
Psychology/Pleasanton



**Rhonda Egidy**  
Biology/Greeley



**Michael Eisenhut**  
Electronics Engineering Technology/Topeka



**Anna Engelman**  
Psychology/Weir



**Ashley Entrikin**  
Physical Education/Rich Hill, Mo.



Jacob Ersland  
History/Greenleaf  
Sarah Ersland  
General Studies/Ft. Scott

Matt Esau  
Music/Newton  
Rama Etekallapalli  
Plastics Engineering Technology/India  
Chelsey Evans  
Communication/Wichita

Jin Yi Fang  
Undeclared/Kaifeng  
Andrew Farmer  
Counseling/Miami, Okla.  
Jannah Farrington  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/El Dorado Springs, Mo.

Toni Fitzpatrick  
Management/Rogers, Ark.  
Larry Fleury  
Psychology/Pittsburg

Kris Floth  
Management/Shawnee  
Erin Floyd  
Chemistry Option II/Wichita  
Carol Ford  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Cherokee  
Lucinda Fortney  
Recreation/El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
Megan Fowler  
History/Government/Towanda

Brian Franz  
Psychology/Salina  
Darlene Freeman  
Political Science/Kansas City, Mo.  
Clark Fritton  
Biology/Topeka  
Christopher Fritton  
Biology/Topeka  
Jessica Fulkerson  
Mathematics/Girard

Fermin Garcia Lugo  
Automotive Technology/Garden City  
Sarah Garner  
Spanish/Baxter Springs  
Laura Garrison  
Social Work/Prairie Village  
Lusine Ghukasyan  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Yerevan, Armenia  
Belinda S. Ghumm  
History/Girard

Sarah Glavin  
Undeclared/Shawnee  
Shanda Goetz  
Management/Zenda  
Chaitanya Gogula  
Technology/Maharashtra  
Timothy Good  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Newton  
Kyle Gould  
Commercial Graphics/Parsons

Ladonna Graham  
Art/Pittsburg  
Samantha Graham  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Vinita, Okla.  
Stephanie Graham  
Nursing/Pittsburg  
Doug Graham  
Communication/Assaria  
Jason Greer  
Automotive Technology/Derby





# Nursing student's education a life-saver

By Kenna Patterson

What began as a typical Sunday evening at Meadowbrook Mall turned into a life-saving experience for Sarah Thom, nursing junior, when her CPR training came in handy.

Thom was working on a floor set in Bath & Body Works on Sunday, Sept. 18, when she saw people running back and forth in front of the store. Thom heard others calling out for CPR assistance.

"I thought to myself, I know CPR. I have to help," said Thom.

Sprinting under the security gate at the shop entrance, Thom rushed over to the 18-month-old boy who had wandered away from his parents and fell into the wishing fountain located just yards away from Bath and Body Works. Thom observed the child's mother trying to perform CPR but noticed some improper techniques.

"She was just doing a lot of unproductive little things that added up to something big," said Thom. "I told her I was CPR certified and asked if I could take over."

Moments after readjusting the boy's position, Thom prepared for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. But when the boy began to cough up water and gasp for air, she knew he had started to breathe again. Emergency Medical Services arrived shortly after to give the boy a full examination and a clean bill of health.

Fortunately, Thom had taken a required CPR/First Aid class as part of her education in Pitt State's nursing program.

"I've been told you don't know how you will react until you're in that situation," Thom said. "Now I know that my classes have really prepared me for the future."

Todd Ewing, Meadowbrook Mall general manager, awarded Thom with a \$200 gift certificate. Thom was also presented with a check from Great Plains Real Estate Development to help cover her spring tuition.

"It's phenomenal that Sarah took her education and training and applied it to a real-life situation," Ewing said. "You can't stress enough how important it is to be aware of life-saving techniques."



photo by Kyle DeRodes

Todd Ewing, general manager of Meadowbrook Mall, presents Sarah Thom, junior in nursing, flowers and a gift certificate for her actions that saved a young boy who fell into the fountain at the mall.

"I've been told you don't know how you will react until you're in that situation, now I know that my classes have really prepared me for the future."

— Sarah Thom, junior in nursing



Greg Grisolano  
Communication/Pittsburg  
David Grote  
Recreation/Eudora  
Jennifer Hagerman  
Psychology/Nevada, Mo.  
Jenae Halstead  
Undeclared/Wichita  
Brian Hargrave  
Music/Overland Park



Lu Ann Hargrove  
Family and Consumer Science Education/Mound City  
Tyler Hartman  
Wood Technology/Lamar, Colo.  
Tetsuya Hatta  
International Business and Marketing/Japan  
Michelle Haupt  
Finance/La Cygne  
Sara Hayes  
Nursing/Peculiar, Mo.



# Student balances work and school

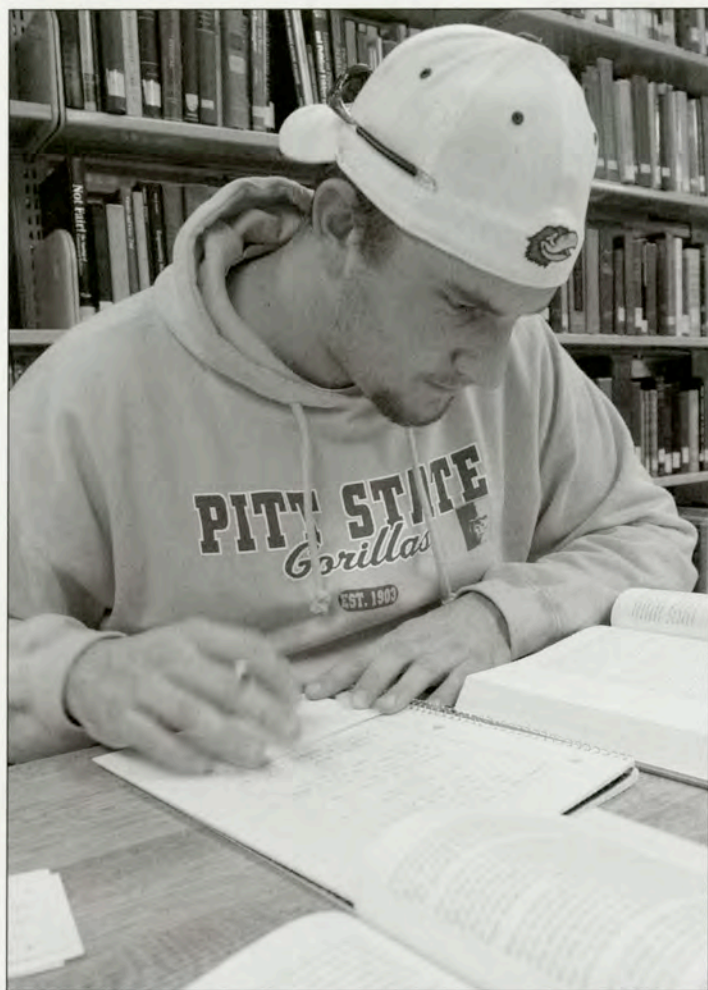


photo by Ashley Reiher

Copenhaver is a member of Phi Sigma Kappa and is required to spend three hours a week studying at the library.

"When people say that something is impossible to do, I want to be the guy that proves them wrong."

—Neal Copenhaver, junior in communication

By Stephanie Graham

Don't tell Neal Copenhaver that something can't be done.

"When people say that something is impossible to do, I want to be the guy that proves them wrong," said Neal Copenhaver, junior in communication.

When Copenhaver isn't studying for one of his 24 hours of class, he's busy with a club or organization. As a member of Phi Sigma Kappa, Copenhaver ran for homecoming king in the fall. He also was a student government senator for the College of Arts and Sciences and served as a drummer in the marching band.

When he can take time out from those activities, he works 50 hours a week for Elm Acres.

"Working at Elm Acres is the first time I've only had one job. I've always had two or more before that," Copenhaver said.

He worked at Wal-Mart for seven years before becoming a drug and alcohol rehabilitation counselor.

"At Elm Acres, I work with kids that are addicted to drugs. I teach them how to cope when they are sober and what life is like without the need of alcohol," Copenhaver said.

He says it is not unusual for him to work 16 hours a day on weekends or to get only

four hours of sleep a night. But the job is rewarding.

"The thing that gets me is when the kids realize that they don't need alcohol and you know that you've helped them better their lives," he said. "Every now and then you get kids that call back or send letters after they leave and tell you that they are doing well."

And Copenhaver doesn't take a break after the spring semester ends. Last summer, he worked 60 to 65 hours a week while also attending summer courses. He stays busy, but says he still finds time to have fun with friends.

According to Copenhaver, his ambition won't stop at graduation. While considering a career in photojournalism and advertising, he says he hopes he could make a creative contribution to the world.

"What I call creative, other people call weird," he said. "However, I think my ideas are good for advertising."

Copenhaver plans to graduate in December 2006 and says that what he has enjoyed most about Pitt State is the people.

"Before coming here, I went to Emporia and it just wasn't right for me. Everyone here is so laid back and it feels like a family environment," he said.

Alan Hibdon  
Physical Education/Mc Cune

Ryan Hill  
Construction Management/Kansas City, Mo.

Heidi Himebrook  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Overland Park

Trisha Hines  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Erie

Wes Hinman  
English/Eudora

Megan Hizey  
Music/Erie

Katherine Hockman  
Psychology/Verona, Mo.

Derek Holmes  
Mathematics/Columbus

Mila Hoover  
Management/Mound City

Briana Hotchkiss  
Nursing/Prairie Village

Jeremy Houser  
Recreation/Solomon

Chung-Chieh Hsieh  
Management/Taichung, Taiwan

Min Yi Huang  
Management and Marketing/China

Miranda Huber  
Management and Marketing/Girard

Katelyn Humphreys  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Lansing







**Carl Hutchison**  
Electrical Technology/Cherryvale



**Jennifer Hutchison**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Pittsburg



**Ashleigh Hutton**  
Biology/Fredonia



**Andrew Ikpe**  
Construction Engineering Technology/Calabar, Nigeria



**Joshua Ingold**  
Automotive Technology/Ottawa



**Hiroyo Isaji**  
Finance/Ku, Tokyo, Japan



**Ankit Jain**  
Automotive Technology/India



**Lance Jepson**  
Biology and Chemistry Option II/Overland Park



**Gabriela Johnson**  
Art Education/independence



**Jeremy Johnson**  
Mathematics and English/Pittsburg



**Amy Jones**  
Accounting/Bendena



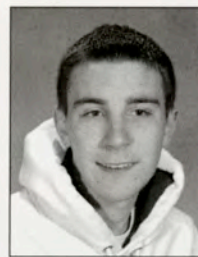
**Eric Jones**  
Undeclared/Topeka



**Cherrelle Jones**  
Biology/Wichita



**Kimberly Jordan**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Beloit



**Matthew Kaaz**  
Construction Management/Leavenworth



**Lindsey Kaminski**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Lenexa



**Holly Karnes**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Riverton



**Stephen Keltner**  
History/Government/Waseca, Minn.



**Hrishiksha M. Kharalkar**  
Technology/Pune, Maharashtra



**Melissa Kipp**  
Commercial Graphics/Topeka



**Lyndsi Kjonegaard**  
Management/Chouteau, Okla.



**Janelle Klein**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Valley Center



**Jiun-Da Ko**  
English/Yunlin



**Joni Kramer**  
Accounting/Longton



**Lisa Kratzberg**  
Nursing/Olathe



**Siddharth Kulkarni**  
Electronics Engineering Technology/India



**Sushil Kumar**  
Technology/Andhra, Pradesh, India



**Brett Kunshek**  
Accounting/Frontenac



**Samantha Kunshek**  
Justice Studies/Girard



**Stephanie Lachowsky**  
Biology/Topeka



**Crystal Lagalle**  
Biology/Colony



**Rachel Lamar**  
Marketing/Osawatomie



**James Langer**  
Communication/Vinita, Okla.



**Venessa Lee**  
Biology/Cleveland, Mo.



**Pei-Jung Li**  
Marketing/Keelung, Taiwan



Chia-Te Liao  
Human Resource Development/Taiwan

Dan Lind  
Marketing/Derby

Caleb Linn  
Political Science/Pittsburg

Kelly Love  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Derby

Sheena Mapes  
Graphic Communications Management  
and Commercial Graphics/Arma

Rebekah Markham  
Accounting/Independence

Sanae Masuda  
Chemistry Option II and Biology/Japan

Leslie Matson  
Art/Vermillion

Karen Mayse  
English/Lawrence

Rahul Mazumda  
Engineering Technology/Bengal



# Michelle Keeling's many passions

By Mindy Townsend

Michelle Keeling is easy to pick out in a crowd.

A junior in English with an emphasis in creative writing and a minor in women's studies, Keeling has 23 tattoos and over 50 piercings. She says that it is her way of expressing herself.

"I believe piercings and tattoos are a way of accenting your body," said Keeling. "It's kind of like eyeliner and mascara to me."

She also says that if she were a color, she'd be lime green, or any color that was hard to look at. Ironically, Keeling is legally blind, as well as partially color-blind. She says that it is hard for her to tell the difference between green, gray, purple and blue.

Keeling graduated from Frontenac High School in 2003, but was born in Fairfield, Calif., when her father was in the Coast Guard. Her mother died when she was 9 years old. Keeling says her favorite book is "She's Come Undone" by Wally Lamb, in part because of the similarities between the mother's death in the book and her own mother's passing. For most of her life, Keeling has had her dad and stepmom.

"I didn't really understand or appreciate what they did for me until I was older," she said.

Keeling is the poetry co-editor of the Cow Creek Review. She says that she was drawn to creative writing in her adolescence.

"I was never an athletic kid," she said. "I was a stay-home-and-read kid."

She says poetry is her passion. She



photo by Raymond Hillegas

wants to reach the heart of whoever reads her writing.

"My goal with writing, I want to write a poem that when a person reads it they feel like I felt when I wrote it," she said.

Eventually, Keeling would like to teach poetry and literature at the college level.

In addition to her work with poetry, Keeling is vice president of the Women's Studies Club. She says that she's always been a big advocate of women's rights.

Keeling works at Sunset Manor, a

nursing home in Frontenac, dispensing medication. However, she has also worked in a tattoo parlor and is a licensed body piercer. She has acted as a "substitute piercer" at Electric Art in Joplin, but is currently affiliated with the Music Center in Neosho.

Even with her other activities, she plays bass guitar in a rock band, Dynamite Kitten. Keeling describes their sound as "happy club girl rock." This incarnation of the group has not played in the area, but she says they want to in the future.

"We hope to grace an open mike night," she said.

Keeling also enjoys the poetry of Charles Simic because, she says, his thoughts are "completely original and pleasantly confusing."

Lately, she has been listening to the Fall Out Boys non-stop. She says "Sugar We're Going Down" is a song that has particular meaning because of the line "we're going down swinging."

"That's how I fight my battles," Keeling said. "Sometimes you have to go down, but I go down swinging."





**E. Ruth McCall**  
Psychology/Neodesha  
**Mary Helen McCloud**  
French/St. Louis City, Mo.  
**Austin McClure**  
Nursing/Columbus  
**Clint McCorkle**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Wichita  
**Josh McElhaney**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Grove, Okla.



**Jessica McEndree**  
Spanish/Shawnee  
**Christopher Means**  
Management/Galena  
**Chia-Chun Mei**  
Non-degree seeking/Gueiren  
**Brandon Mein**  
Construction Management/Lockwood, Mo.  
**Brandon Meister**  
Marketing/Tahlequah, Okla.



**Jacob Metz**  
Communication/Joplin, Mo.  
**Megan Metzler**  
Nursing/Maple Hill  
**Angela Meyer**  
Justice Studies/Pittsburg  
**Christopher Meyer**  
Construction Management/Lee's Summit, Mo.  
**Kabrey Miller**  
Communication/Altamont



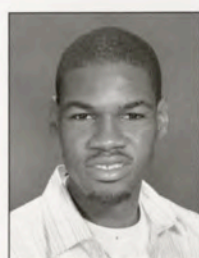
**Ryan Miller**  
Technology Education/Peck  
**Robert Miller**  
Construction Management/Dewey, Okla.  
**Emily Mitchell**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Lane  
**Saptarshi Mitra**  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/India  
**Erik Moberg**  
Marketing/Leawood



**Kenton Mobley**  
Justice Studies/Pleasanton  
**Mandy Moore**  
Accounting and Management/Baldwin City  
**Rebecca Moore**  
Family and Consumer Sciences/Girard  
**Rumpa Mukherjee**  
Counseling/West Bengal  
**Jennifer U. Muoghalu**  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Nigeria



**Eddine Mureke**  
Accounting and Finance/Burundi  
**Ben Naumann**  
Mechanical Engineering Technology/Winchester  
**Taner Neighbors**  
Construction Management/Overland Park  
**Amelia Newman**  
English/Osawatomie  
**Yadira Nunez**  
Commercial Graphics/Parral, Mexico



**Ugochukw Nwagwu**  
Chemistry/Nigeria  
**Michael O'Rourke**  
Recreation/Lenexa  
**Ashley Ogden**  
Psychology/Overland Park  
**Miho Ohkubo**  
**Anthony Omerikwa**  
Industrial Education/Nairobi



# Couples find unique

## *Damian and Whitney*

By Stephanie Graham

On Thursday, May 4, Damian Kiesling, senior in automotive technology, began to get a little worried. The weather had been rainy and the next day was supposed to be a special day outside for him. So on Friday morning, he hoped that it would not rain and went with a friend to the practice field, located southeast of the Weede gymnasium, to rake the baseball field in order to repair the places where the rain had created mud puddles.

"We raked the field for two hours," said Kiesling.

Why go to all of that trouble? Because that afternoon was when the dorm resident assistants' annual baseball game was scheduled to take place. But the main reason was that Kiesling was planning to ask his girlfriend, Whitney Plowman, graduate student in communication, for her hand in marriage during the game.

With a unique idea for his proposal, Kiesling recruited several of his friends for help, including Lance Reichenberger, junior in biology, Shaun Wright, junior in physical education, Rye Addis, sophomore in communication, Gabe Spurgeon, freshman in mathematics, Jeremy Wade, junior in business, Evan Besperat, junior in finance, and Andrew Kleinberg, junior in biology.

Before the game began, all of the men gathered together and painted letters on their chests and backs to spell out "Will you marry me."

When the game started, Plowman stood near the home plate to serve as a

catcher for the game. Everyone carried on and acted as if it was just a baseball game. But when the time came for Kiesling to step up to the plate to bat for a second time, he intentionally missed the pitcher's serve and acted as though he was bending down to tie his shoes.

His friends, who were all in the outfield, then quickly ran to assemble in the middle of the field and removed their shirts to reveal the red letters before saying "Will You Marry Me?" in unison.

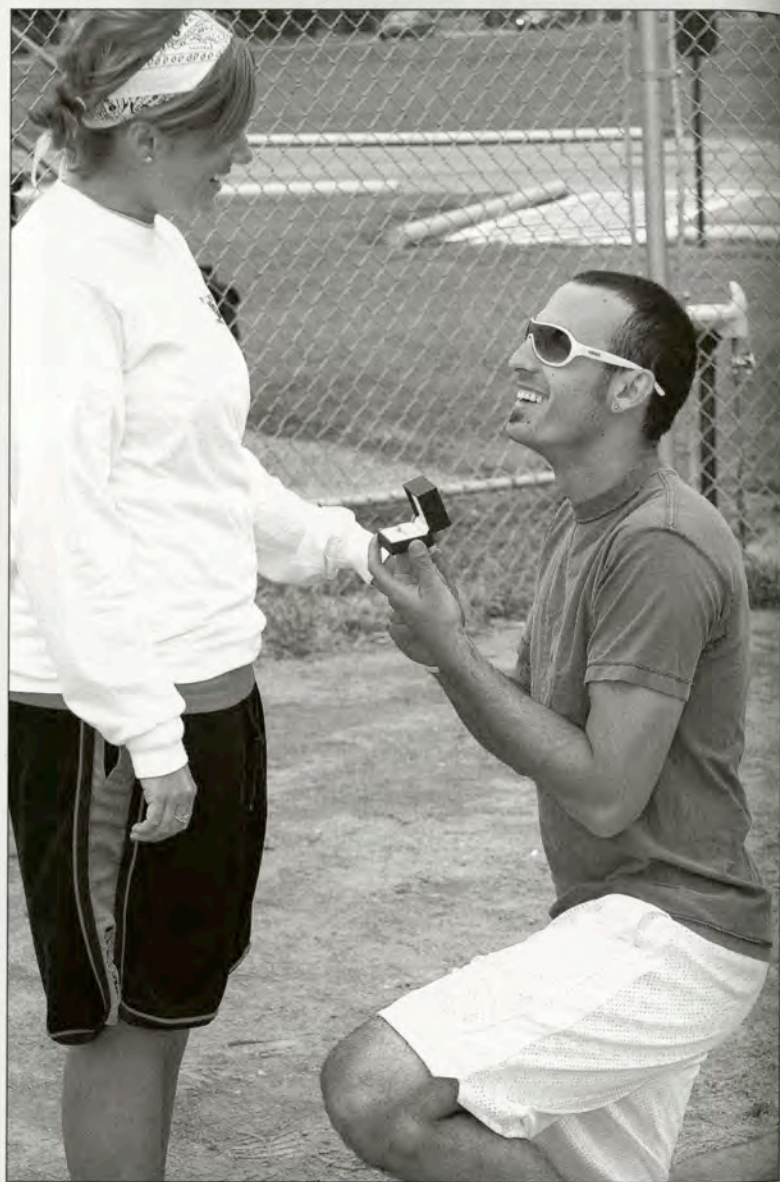
Kiesling then stood up and revealed a black box, which held a ring inside, and walked toward Plowman with a big, happy smile on his face. Plowman then said yes to the proposal and the couple embraced as the audience clapped and gave its approval.

"The reason I decided to do it that way was because I'm an outgoing guy. Also, I wanted to do something big but not overdone and I wanted to embarrass her," said Kiesling.

According to Kiesling, he had been planning to ask Plowman to marry him for a little over two weeks and that it was quite a task keeping his plan a secret. But he managed to keep it a secret, as Plowman was unsuspecting of the proposal at the game when all of the boys began to run toward the middle of the field.

"I thought they were going to dance and I thought 'What's happening?'" said Plowman.

After the proposal, the game continued on with Dellinger and Nation Dormitory Halls competing against Bowen, Tanner and Trout with about 45 people in attendance.



Photos by Brett Armbruster

Kiesling drops to a knee and finishes asking his girlfriend, Plowman, to marry him during the RA softball game.

below: Current and future PSU resident assistants take off their shirts on the pitcher's mound to expose "WILL YOU" on their backs and "MARRY ME" on their chests.





# e ways to propose

## Matthew and Katie

By Jim Bowman

Katie Wells knows a thing or two about the Civil War.

Since 2002, she's participated in about 50 re-enactments of famous battles of the Civil War, all around the country.

Before coming to PSU to finish a degree in communication, Wells attended Rogers State University in Claremore, Okla., and there she had a teacher who offered extra credit for participating in a local re-enactment.

"I had two weeks to make all of my own clothes, petticoats, the works," Wells said. "And I was thinking, '110 degrees in layers and layers of clothing ... great ...' but I absolutely loved it."

In the years since, Wells says that the people who participate in such re-enactments become like an extended family.

"There are sometimes three or four months between re-enactments, so when you show up, you see people you haven't seen for a while," she said. "It's like a reunion of long-lost siblings."

Sometimes the relationships made at these events are even more serious.

Usually participants set up on a Friday night and battle on a Saturday.

Saturday night is for dancing and celebrating. It was at one such event that Wells would meet her future husband,

Matthew.

"You basically kill each other all day and then dance at night. So at this event I decided to stay for the dance. We were in a big tent lit up by lantern lights, and I saw this man across the room. I told my friend Sarah, 'Wow, he is good lookin.' He finally got up the courage to come invite me to dance. As I got up, my hoop skirt got caught and fell off. When he asked me for the dance I said, 'I'd like to but my skirt just broke.' From that point on, I saw him dancing with a blond girl all night."

Several months later, Wells would discover that the blond girl was actually Matthew's sister. But it wouldn't be until the big battle of Gettysburg that the two would finally make a connection.

"Here we are in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in the midst of 60,000 people, and we found each other," Wells said. "I said, 'I know you!'" This time Matthew asked Katie if she would dance with him that night, but with four huge tents set up for the festivities, it seemed unlikely the two would meet again.

"The first tent we came to, we found him standing on a hay bale with his hands to his eyes, looking for someone."

The two finally had their first dance.

On Sunday, Matthew had to fly home and couldn't bring his gun on board the airplane. He asked Katie if she



*courtesy photos*

Matthew proposes to Wells during a dance after a re-enactment in Bentonville, Ark.

would take it with her on her car trip, since he lived in Fort Scott, only a few hours from Claremore, Okla.

Katie agreed and found out later it was a clever plan. Matthew's mother-in-law, also a re-enactment enthusiast, could just as easily have driven the gun home in her car.

"When he called the next Wednesday to ask about the gun, he asked me

out," Wells said.

It was at a re-enactment in Bentonville, Ark., that Matthew popped the question.

And the rest is, well, history. The two had a Civil War wedding.

"We made all the clothes, the bridesmaids' dresses, the men's suits, we even had suits made for the pastors. They thought that was pretty fun."





# Gorillas<sup>that</sup> ROCK

By Kristi Darr

Alex and Austin Ward know how to rock the stage when the occasion calls for it. With their fellow band members from The Noise, these two brothers are having a blast performing on weekends at area clubs and coffee houses. Their hard rock sound makes them stand out from other mainstream music. They say some of the band's major influences are Muse and Cave In.

"If we could open for any band, we would open for Muse," Alex, junior in political science, said. "They give the best

live show we've ever seen."

Although they know how to have fun, they have a lot to juggle between classes, band practice and performances.

Alex, 21, started playing the piano when he was in the second grade. He took up guitar in sixth grade. He played electric guitar with Austin in a former band called the Pond Monkeys. Now, he plays electric guitar and keyboard with The Noise. Austin, 19, started playing drums in the third grade.

As part of the Pond Monkeys, the brothers say they were more restricted when it came to trying new ideas and sounds. Everyone in The Noise agrees to be open-minded about experimenting with the music. The band is currently

writing and recording in what the two call a team effort. Alex generally comes up with an idea and Austin plays off of it.

"Poppa fixes it up," Austin, undeclared freshman, said.

Between schoolwork and band practices, Alex also gives guitar lessons.

"It's a fun job," Alex said. "It takes energy and quite a bit of focus."

A big achievement for the band was getting into some of the venues in Lawrence. They managed to get their foot in the door at the Bottle Neck. Getting this exposure presents some challenging times for The Noise. They have to play in bars that wouldn't typically be their ideal place to perform. They have been paying their dues, once even playing in the doorway of

a bar.

Alex and Austin say some tasks are easier for them simply because they are brothers. Growing up together has allowed them to share the same musical tastes.

"It's more comfortable playing if we make fools of ourselves in front of each other," Alex said.

"And it's easier because we live together," Austin said.

But spending every waking minute with each other does cause some competitive tension in the band.

"Alex has bad ideas sometimes," Austin said. "I call him out on it."

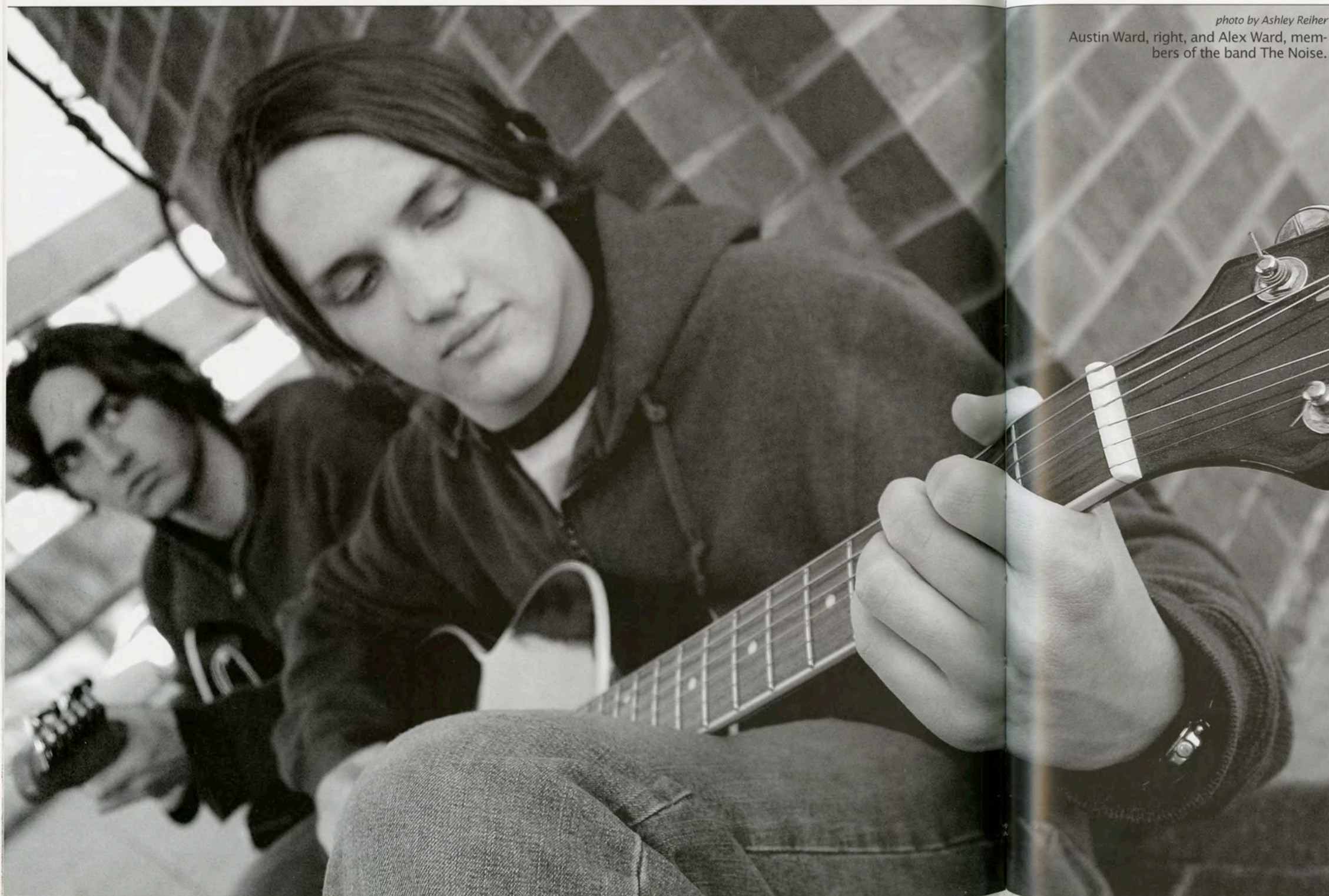
The brothers' parents are involved with the band, too, if only to try to offer some wisdom.

"We want to play shows far away on school nights and our parents sometimes don't think that's the wisest idea," Alex said.

"The band doesn't interfere with the school, the school interferes with the band," Austin said.

photo by Ashley Reiher

Austin Ward, right, and Alex Ward, members of the band The Noise.





a bar.

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*photo by Ashley Reiher*

Austin Ward, right, and Alex Ward, members of the band The Noise.



**Natalie O'Neal**  
Early/Late Childhood k-6/Baxter Springs  
**Lacey Page**  
Marketing/Arma



**Emily Patterson**  
Biology/Carl Junction, Mo.  
**Kenna Patterson**  
Communication/Girard



**Wilson Payne**  
History/Fort Scott  
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Accounting/Joplin



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Accounting/Erie  
**Jessica Pope**  
Undeclared/Pittsburg



**Hailey Poss**  
Family and Consumer Science Education/Lane  
**Erin Purdon**  
Social Work/Ozawkie



**Michael Purdon**  
Biology/Ozawkie  
**Kyle Puskas**  
Automotive Technology/Shawnee





Abhishek Rateria  
Automotive Technology/India

Lindsey Rauter  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Kansas City

Katherine Raymaker  
Mathematics/Overland Park

Ashley Reiher  
Communication/Washburn, Mo.

Garrett Reist  
Communication/Ulysses



# Biology teacher explores world of fiction

By Sarah Chenoweth

Killer hyenas, heroin smugglers and African sorcery.

Sound interesting? Suzanne Arruda thinks so. Those are some of the obstacles that heroine Jade Del Cameron must fight through to find the brother of a dying World War I pilot and fulfill his dying wish in Arruda's book "Mark of the Lion." The book came out on Jan. 3, 2006, and is the first in a series.

"The second book is already written in its first draft," Arruda said.

Arruda has been teaching environmental life science at Pittsburg State for six years.

"It helps that I'm only a part-time instructor," she said. Since Arruda's classes were all on Tuesdays and Thursdays, she devoted Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to writing.

"You do a little at a time when you can," Arruda said. "It's especially hard when you have little children at home or a demanding job." Arruda's children are in college now, but when they were still at home, she said, a lot of her writing "took place in the summer."

In addition to her series of novels, Arruda has written four children's books. Three are biographies and one is a Christmas book for which she was recognized at the PSU Faculty Author reception in the Axe Library on Nov. 10, 2005.

Arruda says she has received a lot of support from the Axe Library as well as from the Pittsburg Public Library. She admits she didn't tell many people when she first started writing "Mark of the Lion" just in case it didn't go over well, but her husband, Joe, has been a big supporter throughout.

Arruda began writing as a stay-at-home mom, as something to do

with the kids. She has had articles and stories published in children's and young adult magazines like Cricket and Boy's Life.

Arruda said she chose a historical time for the novel because she's read so many old travelogues. Although she has never actually traveled overseas, she calls herself an "armchair explorer." Arruda's novel is based in Eastern Africa in the savannah.

The novel's heroine is a war ambulance driver whom Arruda describes as a "composite of a lot of these adventurous women I've read about, like Osa Johnson from Chantute." One of the biographies that Arruda has published is of the local heroine Osa, who with her husband traveled extensively and explored the inner reaches of Africa.

The book is a mystery as well as a historical novel.

"I read a wide variety of things," said Arruda, "but I like mysteries and suspense."

Even if the book sells well, Arruda plans to continue teaching at PSU.

"I think if I'd quit teaching, I'd stagnate and my writing would stagnate."

Arruda provides this advice to aspiring writers: Don't be afraid of rejects, do whatever the editors want, and don't wait for inspiration to start writing.

"There are days it's really hard," she said. "You have to get something on paper, you can't edit a blank page."

Arruda's book has already been critically acclaimed by one of her favorite authors, New York Times best-seller Douglas Preston, who called the novel "one of the most memorable mystery adventure stories I've read."

"I'm overwhelmed at the moment," Arruda said, "it still seems kind of unreal."

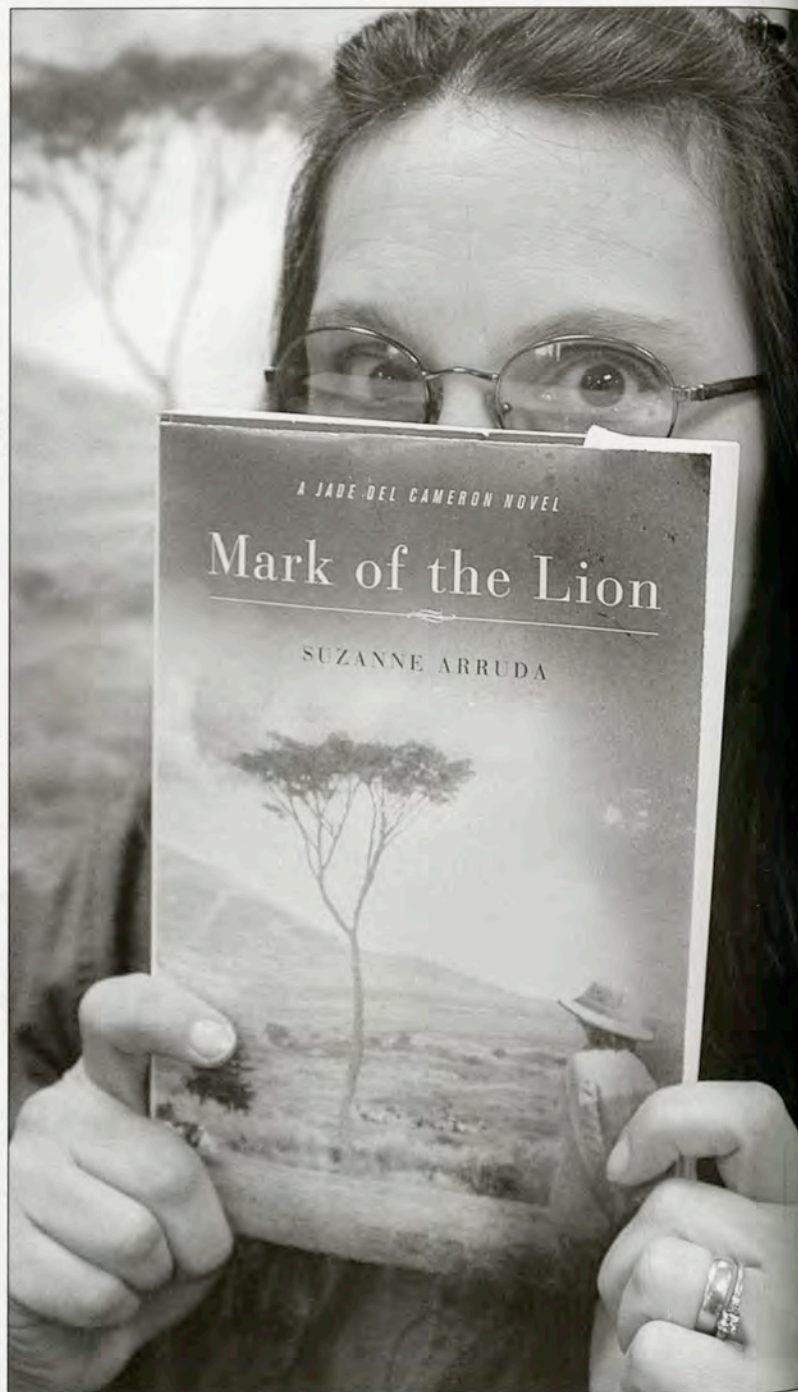


photo by Elliot J. Sutherland

Suzanne M. Arruda, lecturer in the Biology Department and mystery novelist, holds a copy of her novel, "Mark of the Lion," which hit the bookstores on Jan. 3.





**Neil Rice**  
Automotive Technology/Overland Park  
**Kayladon Richardson**  
Psychology/Columbus  
**Danielle Riddle**  
Physical Education/Olathe  
**Marissa Ritter**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Fairway  
**Megan Roberts**  
Psychology/Jay, Okla.



**Ali Robertson**  
Undeclared/Topeka  
**Chris Robinson**  
Management/Baxter Springs  
**Catherine Rogers**  
Management/Stillwater, Okla.  
**Kyle Rome**  
Electronics Engineering Technology/Shawnee Mission  
**Shawna Rosson**  
Biology/Kansas City



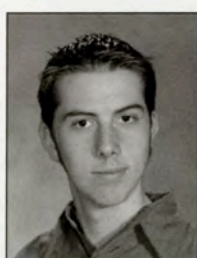
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**Beth Schulte**  
Accounting and Information Systems/Spearville  
**Fomo Sendze**  
Marketing/Cameroon  
**Christa Seritchfield**  
Nursing/Pleasanton  
**Misty Sexton**  
Psychology/Overland Park



**David Shaw**  
English/Parsons  
**Ashley Sheahan**  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Wichita  
**Justin Shepard**  
English/Topeka  
**Tomoko Shinjo**  
Psychology/Japan  
**Susan Shopper**  
Automotive Technology/Bronaugh, Mo.



**Surendra Shrestha**  
Biology/Nepal  
**Sudip Singh**  
Technology/Estherville, Iowa  
**Jackie Slater**  
History/Valley Center  
**Kyle Smith**  
Commercial Graphics/Pittsburg  
**Jared Smith**  
Art and International Business/Topeka



**Mandy Smith**  
Nursing/ Girard  
**Regina Smith**  
Nursing/Welch, Okla.  
**Lisa Snowden**  
Nursing/Smithville, Mo.  
**Kristina Sommer**  
Accounting/Parker  
**Karah Son**  
Spanish/Chanute



# Mark O'Connor



Mark O'Connor plucks away at his violin during a tune in McCray Hall.

*photos by Raymond Hillegas*



# brings down the house



Mark O'Connor's Hot Swing ensemble performs some hot American classical music in McCray Hall.

By Greg Grisolano

**M**ark O'Connor's "Hot Swing" blew the roof off of McCray Hall in October. OK, so the roof didn't move, but sophomore Rebecca Cutler, says she was "blown away" by O'Connor's ability on the fiddle.

"When you come in here as a classical violinist," Cutler, violin performance major, said, "you come in with expectations that aren't as high as they should be. A fiddler with skill, that's amazing."

O'Connor, a distinguished violinist and fiddler with a Grammy to his credit for his 2001 studio album "Appalachian Journey," has played with a veritable "Who's Who" of world jazz and classical greats such as Stephane Grappelli and Yo-Yo Ma. The members of his ensemble included bassist John Burr, a founding member of the Hot Swing Trio; bluegrass and jazz guitarist Bryan Sutton and jazz guitar great Howard Alden. Italian vocalist Roberta Gambarini, a veteran of the Fabulous Dizzy Gillespie Alumni Big Band, accompanied the group as well, singing classics such as "Fascinating Rhythm" and "Lover, Come Back to Me."

While the group has a variety of influences from classical to jazz to bluegrass, the concert emphasized mostly jazz, with standards such as "Limehouse Blues" and "Minor Swing." They also performed original pieces like "Anniversary," and the ballads "Lament" and "Fiddler Going Home."

Some students who attended the performance said they weren't familiar with O'Connor's work before the concert, but became enthusiastic fans afterward.

"I thought they were phenomenal," Cheri Avery, junior in saxophone perfor-

mance, said.

Avery was particularly impressed with Gambarini's performance during one number, when the singer mimicked a trumpet solo, using only her natural instrument.

"I never would have thought it could be done if I hadn't seen it," Avery said.

Other students, like Greg Melching, junior in communication, were already acquainted with O'Connor's music.

"He's the best there is as far as I'm concerned," he said. "I play guitar and a little fiddle, and if I was even one-hundredth as good as those guys, I'd be extremely pleased with myself."

Melching says he attends concerts from other genres of music, such as country, whenever he can get a break from work and school. He says the other guys don't compare to Hot Swing.

"I've been to a George Strait concert, Montgomery Gentry, there's a lot of smoke and lights there, but the quality of the musicianship, I've yet to see anybody better. That was just awesome."

After nearly every song, the capacity crowd treated the group to standing ovations, and vigorously applauded each solo.

But there was more to enjoy than just the music, according to Cutler.

"The guitar player (Sutton) was cute," she said. "He looked like a teddy bear."

This performance was the second event in Pittsburg State University's Solo and Chamber Music Series.





Natalie O'Neal, elementary education senior, talks about her trip to Russia and her plans for a return trip in the summer of 2006 during an international studies meeting in the Overman Student Center.



Tom Ales, from Sodexo catering, carves turkey at the International Thanksgiving festival.

## 'Taste' wraps up week of international festivities

By Greg Grisolano

Exotic foods, colorful costumes, music and dance were the hallmarks of the night during the International Student Association's gala event celebrating international students.

"Taste of Nations" brought out a dozen different displays from some of the international students who attend PSU and marked the conclusion of the U.S. Department of Education's International Education Week.

Andrew Ikpeme of the Black Student Association was dressed in traditional African garb.

"I didn't have anything matching," said Ikpeme, senior in construction from Nigeria. "My necklace is from Nigeria, my bracelet from Kenya, my shoes from Dubai. I'm trying to represent all of Africa."

More than 150 people attended the opening reception in the lobby, which also featured displays and crafts, such as handcrafted pottery and travel pendants from Taiwan.

Ikpeme and fellow African student Elaine Otuije were masters of ceremonies for the talent showcase, which featured 10 performances from student groups.

Aside from some minor technical difficulties, the performances were well-received, particularly the display of Chinese boxing and Kung Fu that closed the show.

Chinese Culture Club students paid homage to martial arts icon Bruce Lee, as one lone warrior fended off wave after wave of "adversaries" using only the skills of his Kung Fu.

Lance Morrison, undeclared sophomore, says he enjoyed the event.

"This gives you an opportunity to talk to people who've grown up in completely different places, had completely different experiences. It kind of gives you a more universal experience."

Indian students performed traditional dances and African students played drums and danced. Paraguayan students played traditional and original guitar music, and Taiwanese and Indonesian students rocked out on the guitar and piano, respectively.

The international student association also raffled off prizes, including T-shirts, a framed wall map and a Pizza Hut coupon.

It was a busy week for International Programs and Services as well, which coordinated a different event each day.

More than 50 students, faculty and staff of the Intensive English Program attended the Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 17, in the Crimson and Gold ballroom at the Overman Student Center.

It was a traditional holiday menu, featuring freshly carved turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, cranberry sauce and buttered rolls. For dessert, cherry and apple pie.

Cameras flashed, laughter rang out and piano music floated through the air at the IEP's annual event. The students were also treated to a free lesson in line dancing, compliments of IEP staff.

Christine Mekkaoui, director of the IEP, says the purpose of the Thanksgiving celebration is to show students an old-fashioned American good time.

"If you think about it, Thanksgiving is the only truly American holiday," she said. "All our other holidays come from somewhere else."

The congenial atmosphere of the holiday meal and the programs in particular make students like Camila Fustagno feel more at home.

"I love the teachers in IEP," said Fustagno, a native of Paraguay. "They make you feel very welcome. They're awesome."

Other highlights of International Education Week included workshops on international communication, study abroad opportunities, the PSU in Paraguay program and a reception for international grad students.





*photos by Kyle DeRodes*

Danny Yang, 4th level in the Intensive English Program, dances the Virginia reel with Camille Olcese, professor in the Intensive English Program, during the International Thanksgiving celebration held in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.



# History professor still enjoying the ride

By Mindy Townsend

Judith Shaw doesn't ride her bike to save money on gas.

"When I first got here," Shaw, associate professor in the Department of History, said, "my son was a toddler, and I didn't have a car."

Her son was too little to walk very far but too heavy to carry. So she sat him on the luggage bed and he hung on tight. Problem solved.

Shaw has been a history teacher at Pittsburg State University since 1959. She is a native of Bowling Green, Ky., and graduated from what was then Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1951. She received her master's degree from the University of Kentucky at Lexington. Shaw says that she didn't know what she wanted to do at first.

"When I got to be a junior, it suddenly occurred to me that I had to graduate," she said.

So she figured out the quickest road to graduation with the courses she had taken, and she graduated with a foreign languages degree, specializing in French. However, she says it's been a long time since she's spoken it.

"The French probably wouldn't think I speak French," she said.

But all those French lessons came in handy back in 1957, when she received a Fulbright scholarship that enabled her to live in Paris to do research for her dissertation. She stayed for about a year, at a time when Charles de Gaulle was coming to power and there were police with machine guns standing on every corner.

"The Algerians were trying to blow up this and that," she said. "It was exciting."

When Shaw returned from Paris, she realized she needed a job. The teachers she knew in Kentucky "weren't home," so she took matters into her own hands.

"I joined something that finds teaching jobs in Chicago, and they would send us postcards of jobs and we could pursue them or not," Shaw said.

The job at PSU opened up two weeks before the semester started. That first semester she taught what the previous teacher was going to teach, then moved on to eventually teach all of the European history courses in the catalog.

Shaw says that English history is her favorite topic. She liked reading historical fiction when she was younger and gradually switched to actual history.

"I think when I was growing up, I read all about the Tudors and Elizabeth."

Her love of books has not waned with passing years. Shaw says reading is one of her favorite hobbies. In fact, it isn't unusual to find her reading cozily in a well-lit restaurant.

"Sometimes I get to an exciting spot and they'll tell me that I have to go," she said, laughing.

Shaw may love to read, but she is also an animal lover. She's owned the usual cats and dogs, but when her son, Mike, was younger, she had a Capuchin monkey for several years.

According to Thomas Walther, professor of history, when Mike was a young teenager he accompanied Shaw and some other history faculty members to a conference in Lawrence. Mike decided that he wanted to buy a snake, but the Shaws decided against it. Walther says it was probably because they would have turned the mice meant to be the snake's food into pets as well.

Walther, a longtime friend of Shaw, says he met her when he interviewed for a position in 1968. He says that he admires her for her abilities in the classroom.

"I have the impression that she goes into the classroom and talks about history in a way that is better than most of us," he said. "I think she encour-



photo by Elliot J. Sutherland

Judith Shaw, associate professor in history, poses with her bicycle in front of Russ Hall. Shaw has been a professor at PSU since 1959.

ages her students to do the work."

Shaw had a student 20 years ago who became a Catholic priest. After he graduated, he kept in touch with Shaw, sending her books he thought she would enjoy.

"I feel he found a family in our department, primarily because of Judy Shaw," Walther said.

Shaw has also been active in university life. Shaw sponsored Phi Alpha Phi, a history honor society, for 20 years, as well as the Native American Student Association and Native American History Club. She has also served several terms in the Faculty Senate, and she and Walther worked together in the faculty union.

Shaw has been on campus longer than any other professor. In her 70s, she has seen many of her colleagues leave or retire. But Shaw says that she still has her health, and is still having fun. So, for the time being, she's sticking around.

"I haven't yet found anything I want to do more," she said.





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**Kathryn Troutt**  
Political Science/Oologah  
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Music/Columbus  
Sarah Weide  
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Lyndon Wilson  
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Adriane Wiltse  
Plastics Engineering Technology/Ulysses  
Lindsay Winter  
Biology/Columbus

Eric Wittler  
Automotive Technology/Wichita  
Jason Wright  
Early/Late Childhood K-6/Columbus  
Rachel Wymore  
Communication/Girard  
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Xiang Ye  
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Nursing/Derby  
Yingying Zhu  
Accounting/Mafangshan Hubei  
Elsie Zimucha  
Biology and Chemistry Option II



# Physics teacher has her eyes on the stars

By Greg Grisolano

Kyla Scarborough isn't like the other "eggheads" in the Physics Department. At least according to her boss, David Kuehn.

"We were always math and physics types who have never really thought about how the non-science majors' mind works," Kuehn, acting chair of the department, said. "She became a scientist after having a whole life outside that. She knows what it's like to be a student coming into a physical-science class not knowing anything."

Indeed, for Scarborough, who first started taking classes in the summer of 1998 as a math major, it was only a short while ago that she was on the opposite side of the desk as a non-traditional PSU undergrad. In fact, it was the course she's teaching this semester, a general-education physical science class, that piqued her interest in physics.

"I took physical science, and a lot of my buttons got pushed," she said.

The experience inspired Scarborough to seek a double major in physics as well.

Scarborough, who received her master's degree from PSU in May 2005, says she hasn't forgotten what it was like to be on the other side of the desk.

"I think it helps the students and myself connect," she said. "Because I go in there on the first day and say, 'Hey, I took this exact class. I know what you're thinking, and if you don't understand something, come talk to me.'"

In addition to teaching courses, Scarborough was asked to take over operations at the L. Russell Kelce Planetarium in Yates Hall as well.

"My pride and joy is being involved with the planetarium since early in my undergrad years," she said. "People don't come there unless they're interested, unless they want to learn. And most of them, whether adult or child, come with questions that they just need to ask."

For Scarborough, the fascination with stars and planets is rooted in a deeper interest in the great unknown of space.

"There's just a lot that we don't know, and I'd like to know it," she said. "With astronomy and astrophysics, people are finding out new stuff every day, and I want to be involved in it somehow."

While her passions and research may take her to the stars on occasion, Scarborough has also focused some of her research on Earth, including a project analyzing, among other things, the rate at which material components of prosthetic joints decay. Scarborough says that research is useful in finding the best materials for prosthetics.



photo by Raymond Hillegas  
Kyla Scarborough demonstrates how to use a tuning fork and a beaker of water to determine the speed of sound in air, to Egor Kirin, sophomore in economics.





photo by Raymond Hillegas

Peggy Snyder, dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies, instructs seniors on the fine points of dining, during the Senior Etiquette Dinner on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Wilkinson Alumni Center.

# Dinner serves 'class' to seniors

By Greg Grisolano

Should I eat all the food on my plate? Where do my hands go? What's the "polite" way to blow my nose at the dinner table?

Students thirsting for answers to these and other questions about the proprieties of formal dining were treated to a hands-on lesson, courtesy of Peggy Snyder and the PSU Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association and Career Services held the first-ever Senior Etiquette Dinner, a formal affair to teach students table manners during business or job-interview lunches and dinners.

Peggy Snyder, dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies, instructed the crowd of 35 students on the basics of polite eating. The students dined on chicken Copenhagen, mixed green salad, baked potato, Caribbean vegetable medley and champagne cake. Snyder answered questions and demonstrated techniques, such as the polite way to remove bones, fat or other unwanted meat without swallowing it.

"Don't go in there for a search-and-rescue operation with several fingers to get it out," she said. Rather, the polite technique is to remove the offending item as discreetly as possible, either by passing it into a napkin or removing it with the same utensil it entered on.

The goal was to help students learn strategies for good conduct during job interviews, and to put students at ease during the dining experience, so they could focus on more important things like getting the job. Which is why tips like taking small bites and ordering an easy-to-manage meal puts the interviewee in a position to focus on making a good impression. So what foods should be avoided? Snyder recommends staying away from messy fare like spaghetti or spare ribs.

"You're there for the job, not the best barbecue in the world," she said. "It's all about getting the job."

That message was not lost on the audience.

"I think it's very important to know how to eat in a formal setting," Shawn DeCoster, senior in communication, said. "So many college kids don't get the opportunity to do it until their boss is like 'Meet us wherever for dinner or lunch ...'"

Dressed in suit and tie, DeCoster says the skills he learned will be useful in his career.

"I think I'll be using it because I'll be paying and hosting to gain clients in the advertising field."

Jenna Wheeler, senior in elementary education, also dressed formally, says learning about baked potato etiquette was interesting, yet time-consuming.

"You're not supposed to put the butter on the potato, you're supposed to put it on the side (of the plate), and then put it on the potato," she said. "Slightly tedious, but correct."

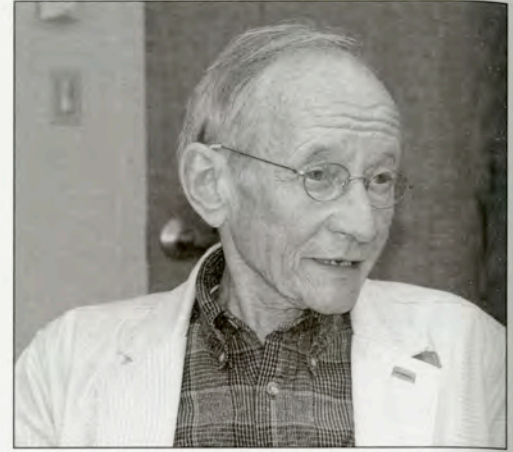
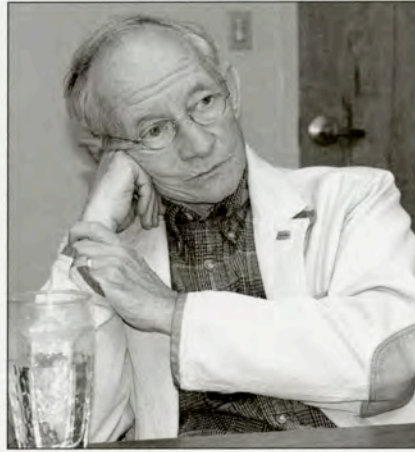
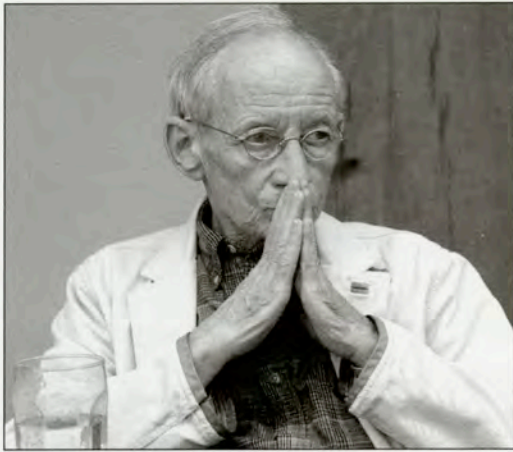
Tedious or not, Snyder says it's important that students learn how to behave appropriately during the interview.

"People think it's archaic, and they think it's old-fashioned, but manners are never, never, old-fashioned," she said.

In addition to the meal, there was a drawing for door prizes. One student received a lifetime membership to the Alumni Association. Career Services also announced the winners of the Extreme Makeover: Career Edition contest. A male and female student each won gift certificates to area businesses, providing them with business attire and accessories and a salon style package.



# The many faces



By Rebecca Bauman

Poet Laureate Ted Kooser holds a striking resemblance to Hugh Hefner ... if only Hugh Hefner would dress properly.

Still, notice the genial eyes, the thin, crisp linear smile that softens at the ends, popping two triangular dimples. Notice the wide grizzly nose, the strong cleft chin, the backward lean of a man at ease with watching the races from a distance.

But Kooser is smaller than Hefner. His ears are larger. He does not attend public events in silk pajamas or smoking jackets - just a favorite sand-dollar wind breaker, complete with dark elbow patches, a pair of denim jeans and the occasional plaid shirt.

But his voice is eerily similar to the publishing giant's. Just like the one a television viewer might have heard via some 'E!' channel documentary on the Playboy Mansion.

To make such a connection might just be remarkably appropriate, considering Kooser's initial motives in choosing to become a poet.

"I did it to get girls," he said. "I started writing poems as a teenager, and, like most young men, I was just interested in getting girls. I thought becoming a poet would make me mysterious and wonderfully attractive."

Kooser says he wore "groovy clothes," and carried around a stack of heavy, academic-looking books wherever he went. But, in time, he admitted that what he was attempting to pull off had everything to do with image and little to do with substance.

"I came to realize that I was just pretending to be a poet," he said. "And at some point pretending to be a poet got me hooked on the real thing. And that's how it all started."

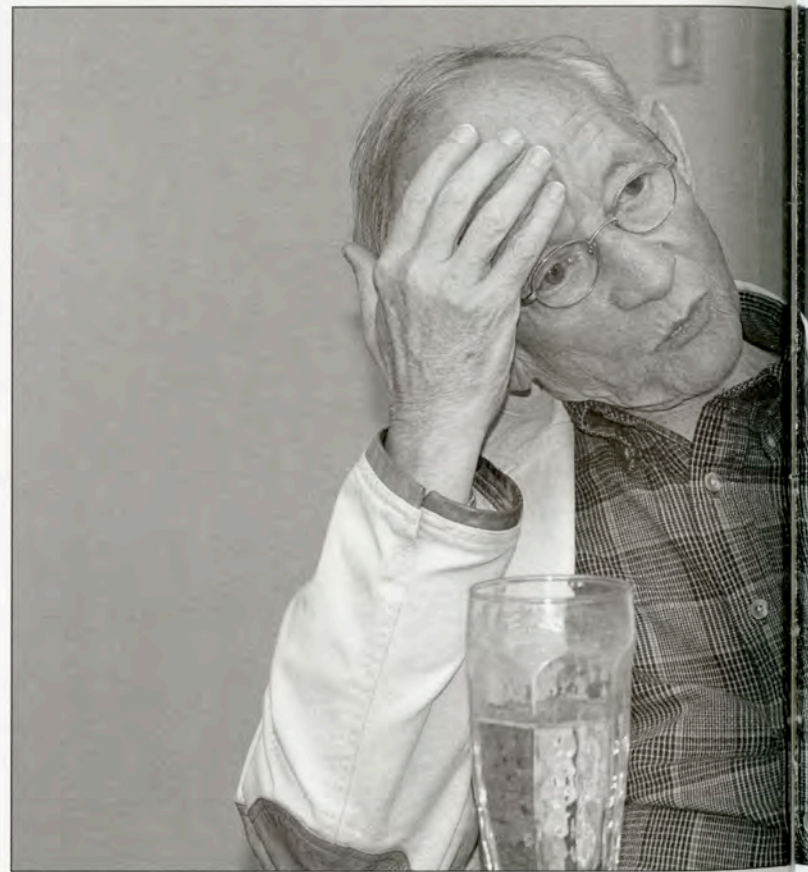
Born in Iowa in 1939, Kooser studied at Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska before being vociferously reprimanded for "screwing off" during his graduate years, spending all of his time with renowned poet Karl Shapiro and hardly any on his studies.

"It was sort of evident that something like that would happen, though," Kooser said.

He tells a story of his early days in a technical program, becoming frustrated with the work and then tossing his slide rule into a nearby college pond.

"It's still there," Kooser said with a smile. "Someone could bring it up right now and sell it on eBay. 'The poet laureate's slide rule!'"

After completing his education to his own satisfaction, Kooser continued to write poetry (sometimes ducking into an old refrigerator box he kept in his



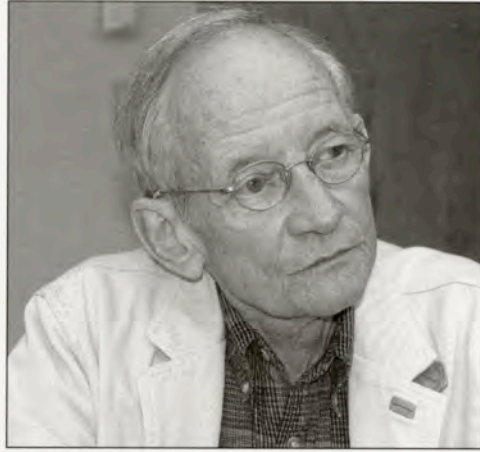
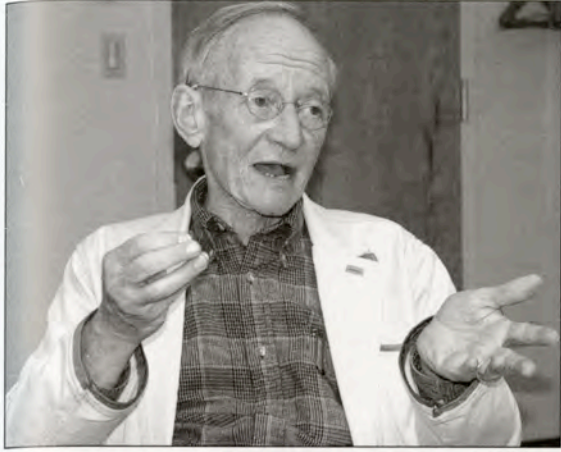
bedroom, hoping to achieve an atmosphere conducive to his work). To support his habit, he went into the insurance business, where he stayed until the late '90s. He considered it "a job," though he says his heart was held steadfast in poetry. He would awake at 4:30 every morning and write until 7 a.m. before heading out to work, hoping that the best of his energies had gone into that first project of the day.

However, it wasn't always enough.

"Selling insurance didn't provide much social worth," he said. "You could say there was something in helping a widow who had just lost her husband, I guess. But a lot of my work had to do with making other insurance agents rich, and it's hard to stretch yourself into some social worth when that is what you're doing."



# of a poet laureate



*courtesy photo*



*photos by Angie Hine*

Kooser continued on with his work, eventually earning the vice-presidency of his company. It was only after he developed oral cancer that he took leave of his job. He would later recover from his illness, but Kooser would never return to insurance sales.

Though he had been published many times during his years in the work force, it wasn't until after leaving the business world that he found true material success in poetry. After retiring, Kooser won many prizes and published his 10th book of poetry.

Kooser says he now spends most of his free time painting landscapes, playing with the dogs that share his rural Nebraska homestead and teaching classes at the University of Nebraska. And, of course, he reads. A lot.

"I tell my students that they all should read 100 poems for every poem they write,"

he said. "That's what really makes the difference. It's the reading of others' work, the good and the bad, and learning from it all."

Kooser says he read the poetry of Ezra Pound, William Carlos Williams and T.S. Eliot when he was in school. Nowadays, though, he doesn't have much time for reading poetry recreationally; he sifts through thousands of poems a year as part of his job as a judge for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. (He managed to snare the 2005 award for himself this summer.)

Kooser's own success, he says, is most likely due to a certain philosophy he maintains. Unlike Pound and Eliot, Kooser believes that poetry should be written for the masses – for everyone – as opposed to a small literary enclave.

"It's very difficult to write an accessible poem," he said. "When a poem does become accessible, it's through revision. What I find is that many graduate students, for example, have trouble with is that they're writing for too small an audience. They're trying to appeal to their peers, which is understandable, but they need to be thinking about a larger community."

Kooser takes a literal down-to-earth approach to his work, often writing of subjects found in the natural world.

"Nature," he said, "is much more assertive than what you might find in Manhattan. It's very real, very close, and of course that always makes for great inspiration."

Kooser's emphasis on writing poetry that all people can understand comes at a time, he says, when poetry needs absolute clarity. He says that poetry hasn't been as largely embraced by the public since the 1920s, and that prose seems to be a more popular form to modern audiences.

"I believe prose is less intimidating for the reader," he said. "It's much more welcoming, because people think it's more like the common language and therefore easier to get. Many people open up a book, and when they see a poem it's just like --"

He forms a cross with his index fingers, jerks back in his chair and hisses like a cat.

As poet laureate, Kooser says he hopes that he can get people, especially younger individuals, excited about poetry again. He wants to make it clear that poetry doesn't have to be steeped in profundity, doesn't have to be lofty and abstract. It can be anything anyone wants it to be.

"I think it's a great deal about the intentions of the writer," he said. "You can have a single successful poem that only you understand, and you can keep it to yourself and never share it with a soul. And, yes, it might be a successful poem – but just because it's a successful poem doesn't mean that you're a successful poet. That comes in sharing ideas, in really seeking to make a difference."



# A musical gallery

## University Choir



The University Choir rehearses under Susan Marchant.

Scott Allison, Kimberly Arzoian, Cheri Avery, Keira Bedore, Leslie Beeman, A.J. Beu, Casey Brown, Kaye Brownlee, Courtney Call, Ruth Cameron, Carrie Campbell, Richard Cook, Paul Cope, Danny Cox, Erin Crist, Jason Curran, Michelle Daugherty, Toni Dobratz, Jessica Dold, Alexandria Dressler, Will Elniff, Marshall Estes, Mariah Feist, Lucinda Fortney, Daryl Foster, Mollie Friesen, Neva Gardner, Veronica Garini, Becca Garrett, Zachary Gipson, Samantha Graham, Rebekah Grieb, Brian Hargrave, Mary Jo Harper, Drew Hayes, Timothy Henderson, Rachel Herbaugh, Megan Hizey, Katherine Hockman, Natalee Hulstine, Tyler Hutcheson, Kimberley Johnson, Kondja Kamatuka, Erik Keener, Jessica Kesler, Carrie Kesler, Ryan Key, Kimra Lamb, Shelli Larrison, Sonya Lawson, Cody Leal, Joshua Lynch, Guli Mahamuti, Breann Martin, Amy Mason, Jamie McBee, Mary Helen McCloud, Greg Melching, Hayley Miller, Kathleen Musgrave, Ginger Niemann, Robin Noblrs, Patrick O'Halloran, Krista Ohmie, Brett Palmer, Lauren Perkins, Catherine Porter, Markel Porter, Madeline Reed, Karrie Ross, Harrison Rowland, Cindy Rucker, Elisha Samuel, Fomo Sendze, Kasey Shay, Breana Sheffler, Vicky Sheffler, Ashley Shinn, Dorothy Shrader, Jackie Slater, Karen Slater, Darla Stubenrouch, Yu-Wen Tang, Kerrie Turner, William Vance, Brandon Wade, Susan Wegman, Rebekah Wells, Anna Wishall, Jason Wright, Hye-Joon Yoon

## Jazz Choir

Casey Brown, Kaye Brownlee, Paul Cope, Mariah Feist, Mary Jo Harper, Erik Keener, Ryan Key, Greg Melching, Patrick O'Halloran, Krista Ohmie, Karrie Ross, Cindy Rucker, Elisha Samuel, Nathan Thomas, Brandon Wade

## Chorale

Scott Allison, Kimberly Arzoian, Casey Brown, Paul Cope, Jessica Dold, Will Elniff, Mariah Feist, Brian Hargrave, Mary Jo Harper, Megan Hizey, Natalee Hulstine, Tyler Hutcheson, Kondja Kamatuka, Erik Keener, Carrie Kesler, Sonya Lawson, Amy Mason, Mary Helen McCloud, Robin Nobles, Patrick O'Halloran, Krista Ohmie, Lauren Perkins, Karrie Ross, Harrison Rowland, Elisha Samuel, Breana Sheffler, Kerrie Turner, William Vance, Brandon Wade, Rebekah Wells, Anna Wishall



Cameron Schmitz, principal bass, leads his section of Sam Cartright and Richard Samford in a fall SEK Symphony concert.



# gallery



Cameron Schmitz, principal bass, leads his section of Sam Cartright and Richard Samford in a fall SEK Symphony concert.



Kelly O'Bryant, graduate student, conducts the PSU Wind Ensemble.



Wilfredo Pasamba, low string strings instructor, performs as guest soloist with the SEK Symphony in October.



Trumpet ensemble in a recording session with music professor John Ross, the composer.

*photos by Malcolm Turner*





In the final minutes of the girls' water balloon dodgeball game, members of Sigma Sigma Sigma gang up on Alpha Sigma Alpha member Hailey Poss, junior in family and consumer sciences. The water balloon dodgeball was the final game in Pitt State's Greek Games and Sigma Sigma Sigma won it all.



Pitt State juniors Jennifer Baldwin (right) and Hailey Poss (left) compete in the canoe race portion of the Greek Games. Baldwin is a member of Alpha.

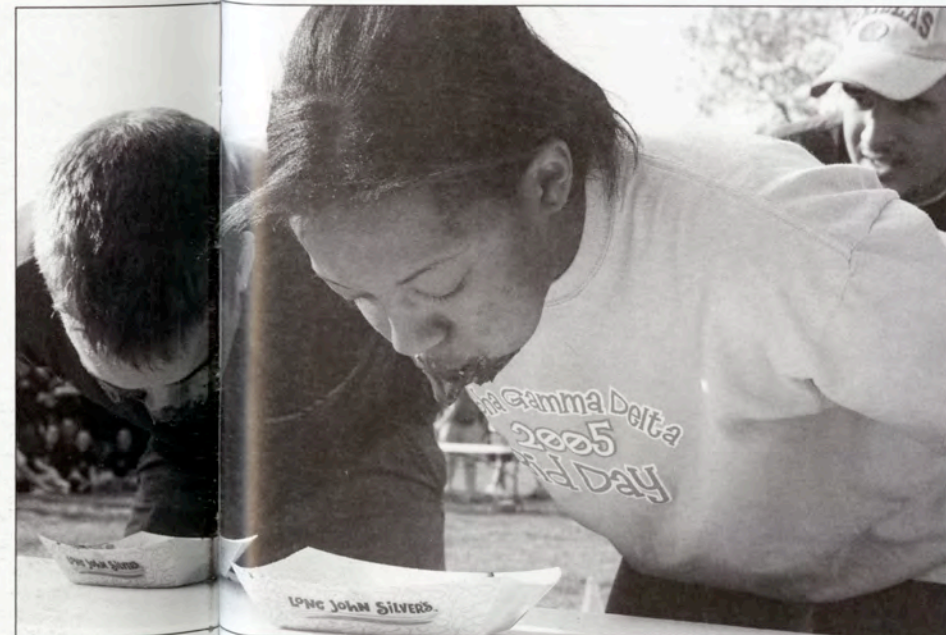
# Clown



Josh McDowell, Sigma Chi, shows his obstacle course skills.



Waiting for the guys' water balloon dodgeball game to begin, members of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity gather balloons in preparation for battle. The water balloon dodgeball game determined the winner of the games, declaring Sigma Phi Epsilon as the grand champions.



Kondja Kamatuka, right, from Alpha Gamma Delta, and Dane Shea, from Sigma Chi, race to finish "mud and worms."



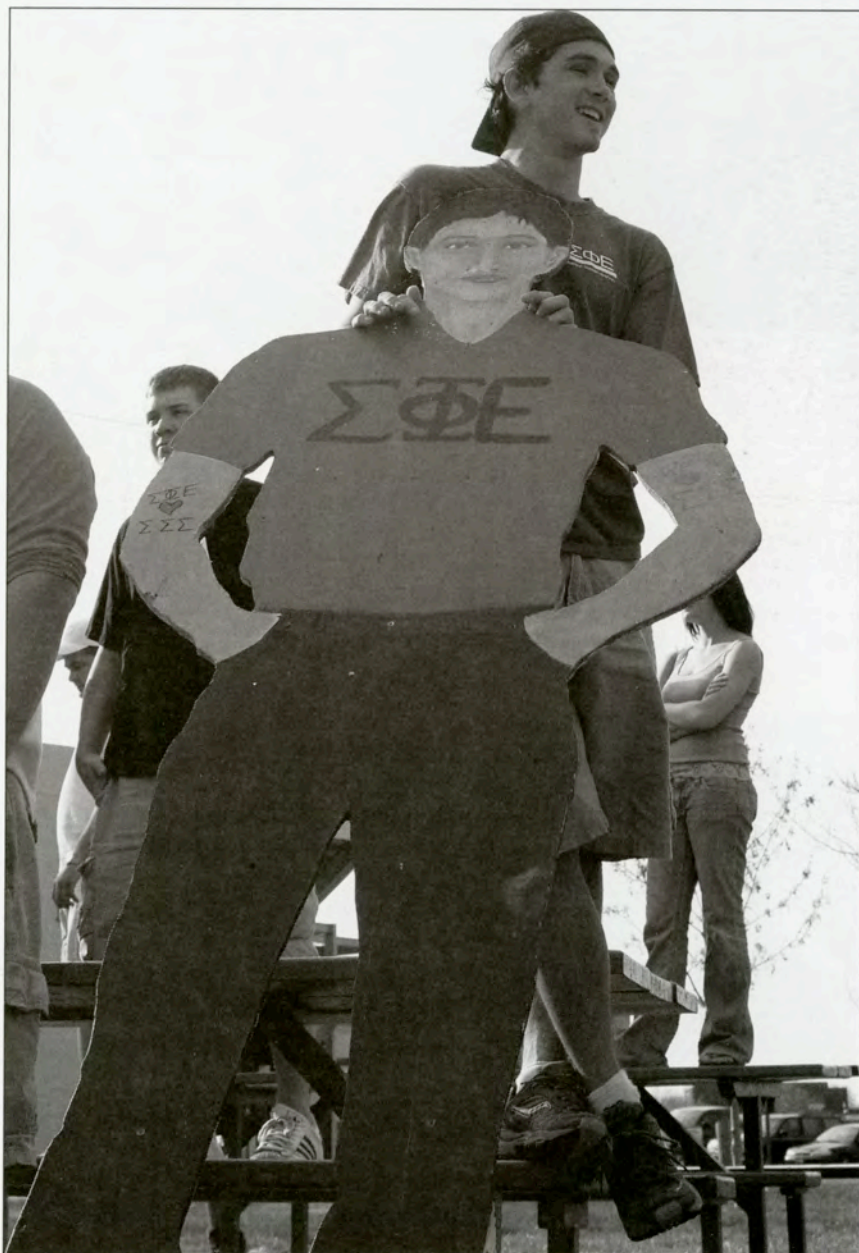


Pitt State juniors Jennifer Baldwin (right), nursing, and Jessica Hardison, elementary education, finish the last leg of the canoe race portion of the Greek Games held on Wednesday, April 5. Baldwin and Hardison are members of Alpha Sigma Alpha.

# Clowning around

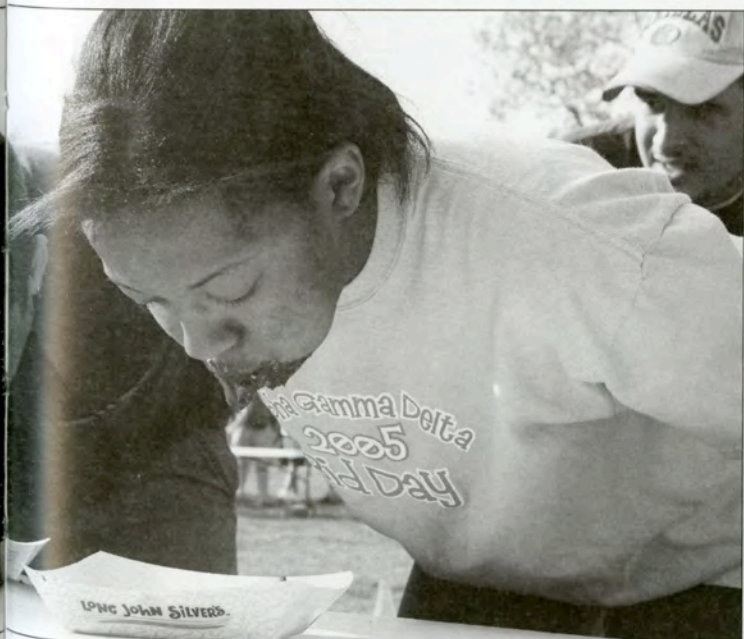


Josh McDowell, Sigma Chi, shows his obstacle course skills.



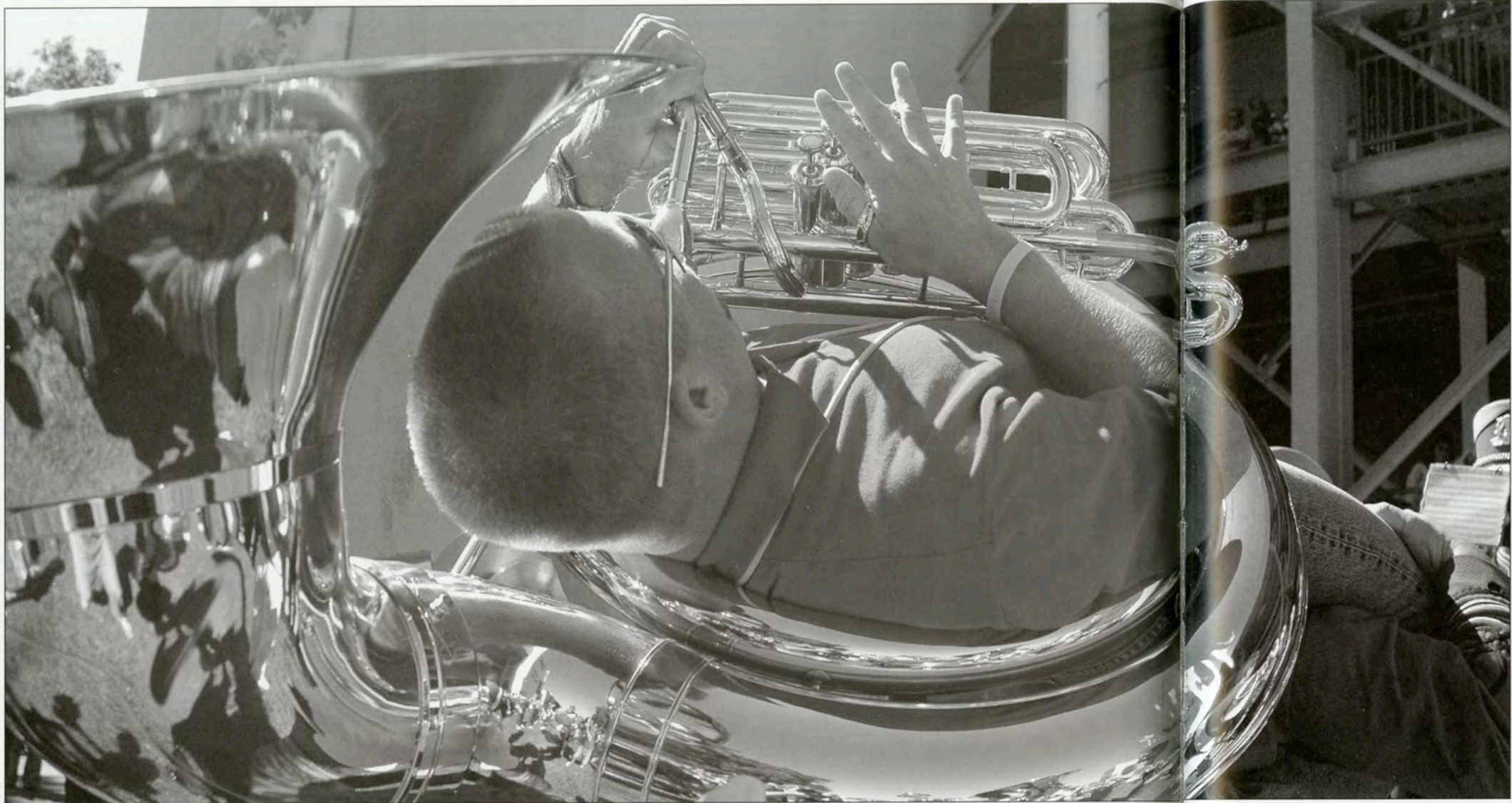
photos by Brett Armbruster

During the canoe race portion, Sigma Phi Epsilon member Chris Hutchings waits for his fraternity's turn to compete.



Kondja Kamatuka, right, from Alpha Gamma Delta, and Dane Shea, from Sigma Chi, race to finish "mud and worms."





PSU alumnus Jeremy Albright joins the Pride of the Plains Marching Band by playing the Sousaphone.

*photos by Kevin Meives*



192 Christa Weber performs on the piccolo at Carnie Smith Stadium.



Matt Bennett, drum major, performs a routine with the band.



Lindy Davison on the trombone.



# A sharp bunch



photos by Kevin Meives



Members of the marching band prepare to perform their bucket routine, in which they drop their instruments and bang on plastic buckets.



Lindy Davison on the trombone.

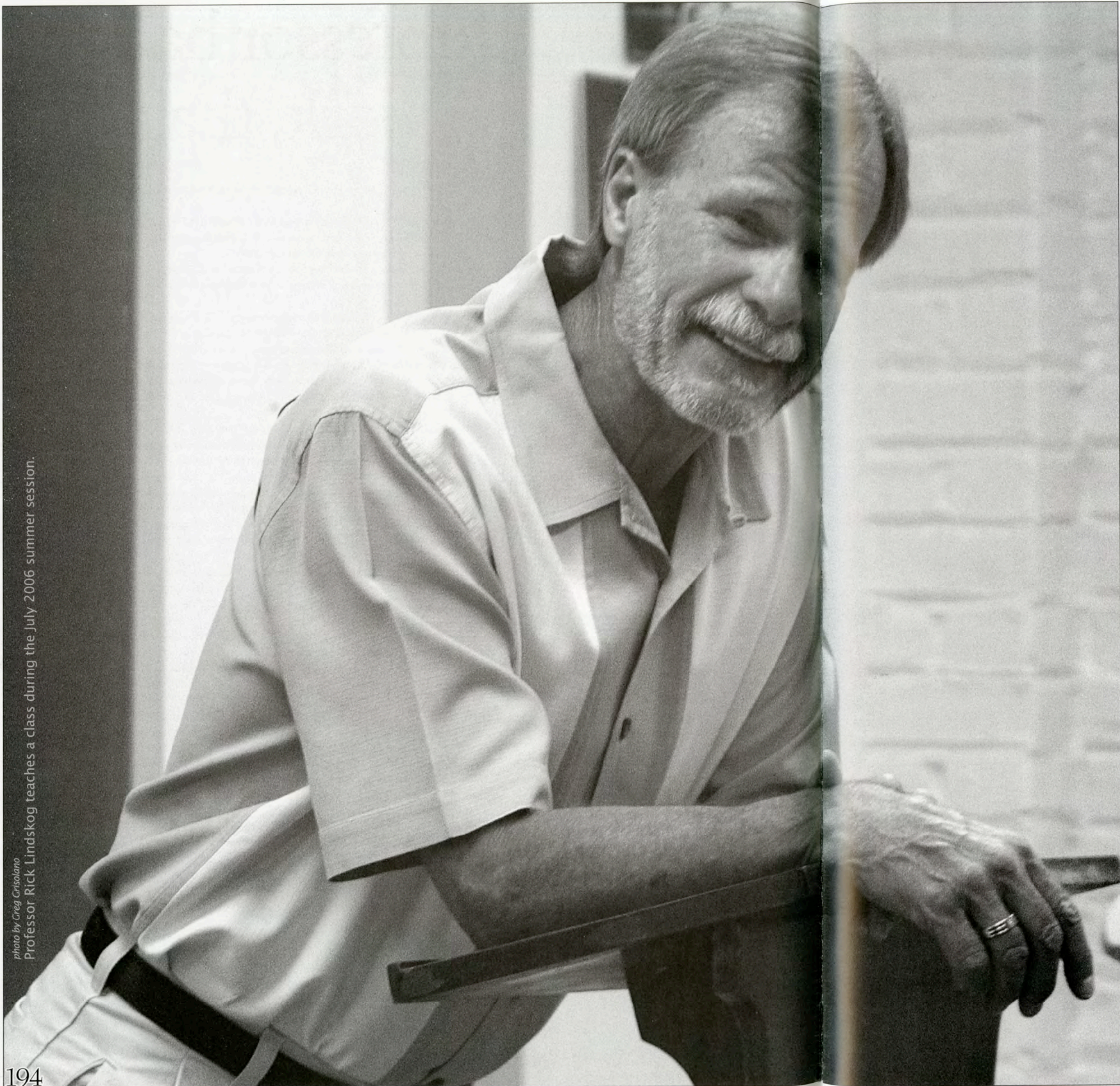


Band members Pat Tyler, Casey Brown and Harrison Rowland bang on plastic buckets, a popular feature of the Pride of the Plains Marching Band performance.




photo by Greg Grisolano

Professor Rick Lindskog teaches a class during the July 2006 summer session.







# Professor back at work, thankful

By Rebecca Bauman

Rick Linskog says that acceptance is probably the hardest part of dealing with "sudden and tragic loss."

"I imagine anger is also a fairly typical response to these things," he said, "but anger is transient, it never lasts. It's acceptance of the cards you've been dealt that often winds up being really hard. But you do have to work with those cards - there's no getting around it."

Linskog, a professor with Pittsburg State University's Psychology and Counseling Services Department, was involved in a car accident in the summer of 2005 that left him with severe injuries. His wife, Debbie, did not survive.

Since the ordeal, he has had much to come to terms with, and now that he's returned to PSU, he has made a point of not letting the fact that he is still grieving, still grappling with the results of his accident, get in the way of him "doing something important and meaningful" with his life.

"I have been flattered and even humored by how important the people here at the university seem to think I am," he said. "I don't necessarily see myself as they see me ... but their warmth and support have managed to convince me that I am needed, that I am welcome here. I have connections to this university that I believe remain very strong."

Of course, Linskog says he always thought he would return to work at PSU. While his treatment and rehabilitation would only allow him to think of his life on a "moment by moment basis," when he did begin to recover, the question of his return was never a matter of "if," only a matter of "when."

"People say that I'm brave or that I'm courageous ... but my thinking is that you just can't identify your life solely with loss and pain and limitation. You must move ahead - that's just what needs to happen. And I believe that eventually everyone comes to that understanding. So my situation isn't all that exceptional."

Linskog's friends, however, might disagree. In the July 14, 2005, issue of the Collegio, Connie Sharp, a professor of psychology and Linskog's friend and co-worker, said Linskog is strong, both physically and emotionally.

"He isn't the type of guy who would let anything stop him from living his life," she said.

Looking to the future, as well as keeping busy in general, allows Linskog to continue to move forward. Now that he's home, he keeps his eyes on the prize ... although he admits it sometimes remains difficult to do.

"I was very anxious about coming home," he said. "I'd be coming home to so many memories of my wife - I'd just be surrounded, and I worried that I'd be constantly reminded of this grief and this loss."

Linskog, however, says "this ended up not being the case." He has found much solace in his homecoming, and is not surrounded merely by memories, but by friends and loved ones, as well as his remaining obligation to his community and the university.

"People," Linskog said, "are exceptionally valuable." And although he appreciates the support of those who care about him, he remains determined to be as self-sufficient as possible.

"It takes me a lot of time to get things done now," he says, referring to the physical limitations placed upon him by his injuries. "But, really, that helps to keep me busy, too. I take my time, and I keep focused."

Linskog says he is looking forward to his "senior years" with the university. He is excited about helping younger faculty and students come into their own as members of the academic community. He says that the job he's doing right now isn't something he hangs onto for the sake of "keeping busy."

"You live your life poorly, eventually your chickens will come home to roost," he said. "But if you live your life in a positive way ... well, eventually I think your chickens will come home, too. Things will turn out as they should, and all you can do is try your best and remember what it is you're living for, and just how valuable your life really is."

"I have been flattered and even humored by how important the people here at the university seem to think I am. I don't necessarily see myself as they see me...but their warmth and support have managed to convince me that I am needed, that I am welcome here. I have connections to this university that I believe remain very strong."

—Rick Linskog, psychology professor



# Students find passion in performing opera

By Rebecca Bauman

Some parents might not want their children to grow up and be "artists." Certainly, becoming a painter or a poet or a violin player might not be the most practical answer to "what do you want to be when you grow up?" As such, some parents might cringe at the thought of their child shirking med school and, instead, choosing to be a singer.

However, for Kimberly Noel Arzoian, gaining parental support was never a problem.

"Oh, people believe in me," she said. "Everyone is very supportive. I'm the only one who has any doubts. All of the criticism really comes from me."

But Arzoian, a freshman in music, says that her passion for vocal music, which began in elementary school, has slowly but surely given her the means to become more confident in herself. The challenge of singing "complex" and "difficult" songs, especially from operas and theatrical productions, compel her to work hard, and the practice of singing in front of an audience has forced Arzoian to face her anxieties.

"I love belting songs," she said. "Forceful songs, songs that have a lot of power and emotion behind the music. It's freeing to sing those songs. You feel different."

Facing fears such as stage fright and struggling with self-confidence is common with budding performers. Conquering otherwise inhibitive anxieties seems an important part of success. Like Arzoian, Anna Wishall feels that being a vocal musician has changed the way she feels about herself and her place within the world.

"I went to a very small high school," said Wishall, senior in music, "and it seemed everything there revolved around sports and athletes. I didn't feel like I had anything to offer."

"I found that even though I wasn't really athletic, I was still talented. Music gave me something to look forward to, and although I didn't really fit in with what everyone else was focused on, I found something that I had a passion for and that really helped to boost my confidence."

Wishall entered music competitions with her school and found that she was a formidable competitor. The validation she received from these events helped her to feel that she had something to offer the world.

"I want to make a difference in people's lives," she said. "And I think there's something about music that reaches into the subconscious and does things that change people in wonderful ways. That's why I'm really interested in music therapy, especially for people with brain dysfunctions."

Wishall says that music is one of the most natural forms of therapy she can think of, and uses music as a means of reducing stress and coping with disappointment or sadness.

Brandon Wade, junior in music education, says he, too, has gotten much more from his musical studies than entertainment.

"Singing, especially, is truly the ultimate form of communication and connection," he said. "It goes beyond language and culture. There's enough emotion in a good song that when you sing it, no matter what language you're singing in, people will know what you're feeling."

Wade says he was raised in a musical family and plays a number of instruments, but singing is his favorite form of expression.

"You can say so much with what seems like so little," he said. "There's a really surprising complexity to music that has the power to bring about powerful feelings. It works on the listeners and, of course, it makes an impact on you as an individual, as a person."





nd passion  
ing opera



*photo by Kyle DeRodes*  
Kimberly Noel Arzoian sings during her recital hour in McCray Hall.



# 'How I Learned to Drive'

By Rebecca Bauman

Playwright Paula Vogel has called her 1998 Pulitzer Prize-winning play "a walk down memory lane," a work about "healing, forgiving and moving on," and "a love story." Quoted in a Pittsburgh State University press release, she says she considers the work "a comedy" in some respects.

Vogel's description of her play seems fair enough, maybe even typical, until one considers the fact that "How I Learned to Drive" is about a young girl who is seduced by her uncle. The play explores topics such as pedophilia, child abuse, sexual maturation and family influence.

When asked how these subjects could be fused into "a love story," Gil Cooper, the director of the play's PSU production, says that it's all about perspective.

"From Li'l Bit's (the main character's) perspective, this is about affection, this is about an intimate connection with someone she trusts ... And, of course, some might say that in making a choice to participate in the relationship, she's set herself up, she's playing with fire."

Cooper adds: "Some people might look at Li'l Bit and say, 'Shame on you.' But children, like Li'l Bit, aren't really capable of fully understanding what's happening when they're being victimized. Their mindset is completely different."

Having done quite a bit of research on topics such as pedophilia for the production, Cooper says that young people like Li'l Bit are "groomed" from an early age to be manipulated. This kind of victimization is rarely ever sudden, but part of an ongoing cycle within families and communities, making it difficult for young people to realize that they're being abused.

"The relationship (between Li'l Bit and her uncle) is based in trust and fear," Cooper said.

"Uncle Peck is supportive, he gives praise, he protects Li'l Bit. He teaches her how to drive which, ironically, has a lot to do with empowerment. Her experiences with him are rolled up in her blossoming as an individual."

Daley Leintz, who performs the role of Li'l Bit in the play, says that because her character was in the process of growing as well as in the process of dealing with a kind of abuse from her uncle, the role was a significant challenge to take on.

"The topic of pedophilia is such a sensitive one," said Leintz, junior in communication. "I came into the show believing that the whole idea was pretty gross. I had a specific image of what a pedophile is. But as I looked closer at the play and at the part, I realized just how little I understood about what goes on in these situations."

Greg Shaw, graduate student in communication, says he also had some reservations about his part in the play. He wanted to make sure that he wouldn't be feeding "the dirty old man" stereotype placed upon pedophiles.

"(Pedophilia) is a horrible dysfunction," he said. "And what many people seem to know about it comes from news sound bytes. Some people don't realize how seemingly genuine and nice and caring and supportive a pedophile can be. How they can be right there in the family and no one would know."

Shaw says that he did not want to portray his character as "a monster," because that portrayal wouldn't be true to life. Uncle Peck managed to build a solid, trusting relationship with Li'l Bit not by being "loud and aggressive," but by being "likeable and loveable."

"It's about manipulation," Shaw said. "He dictates the relationship in such a way that he allows the younger person to feel like she is in charge.... He's very good at making it seem like he's doing nothing wrong, he's very persistent and he's very patient. He knows what he's doing."

Cooper says that "How I Learned to Drive" is being performed by PSU's theater because "it says something about contemporary society" and its occasional misinformation on child abusers. He notes that the play wants to make it clear that victimizers comes from all backgrounds and have an overwhelming effect on the communities they inhabit.

"The statistics that I've found say that something like one-third of all girls are victimized, most before the age of 18. The victimization of boys falls in relatively the same age bracket. They're young individuals, growing individuals. Because this campus is made up primarily of people between the ages of 18-23, I think there's potential for serious impact here. Not just for those who've suffered abuse, but for those who might not understand what occurs during these situations."

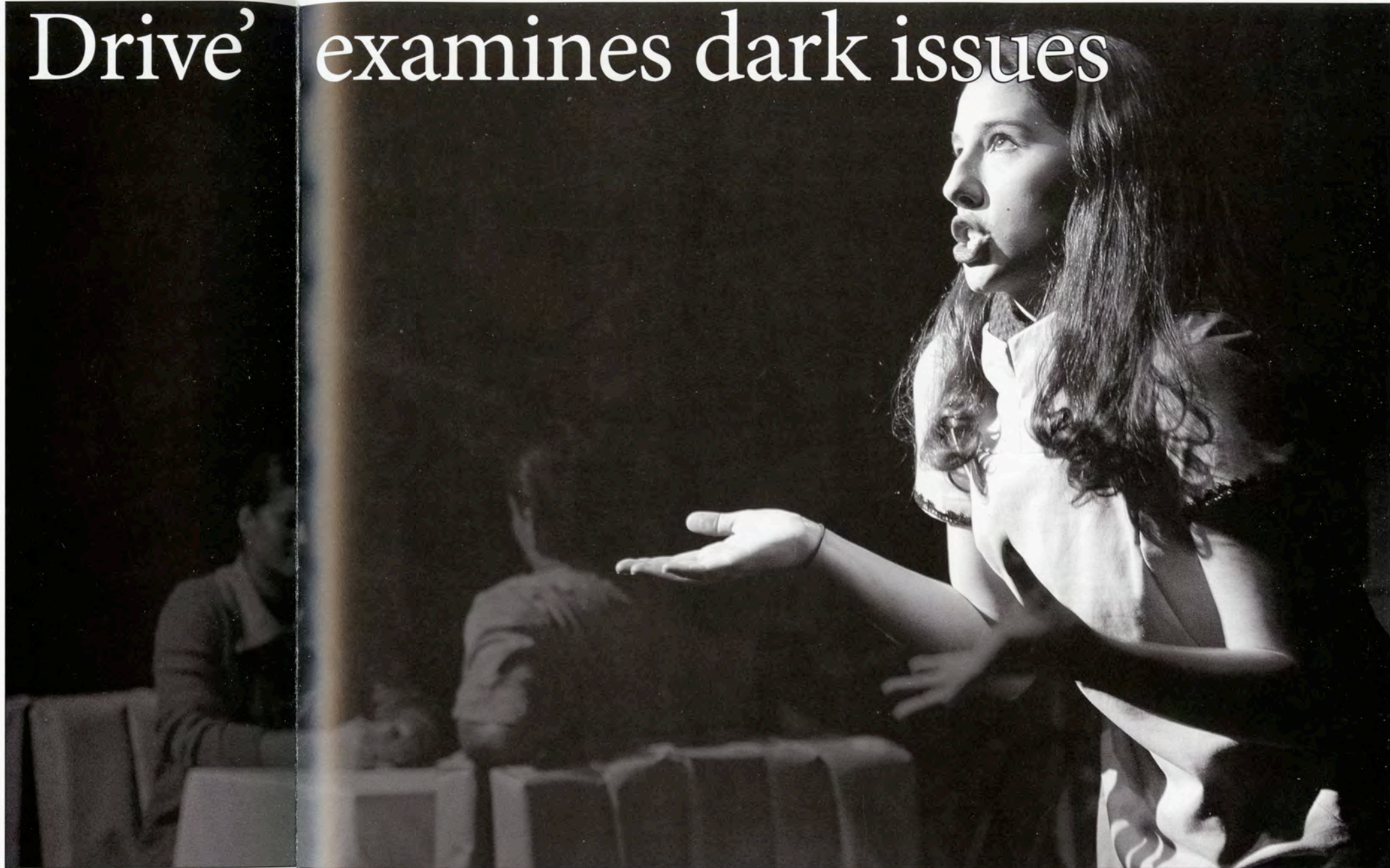
As for the comedic elements of the play, Cooper says that the play remains true to life, showing the audience that "life has both high and low points. There are moments when you can't help but laugh, even when things are very tough."

"You can't be very tense and serious about something head-on for ninety minutes," he adds. "You'll lose the audience. Besides, this play is a slice of life. It tells us that even though horrible things might happen, humor can help us to make it through, help us to grow. And I think that's just as important a message as any."





# Drive' examines dark issues



Kim Anderson gestures in the play "How I Learned to Drive."

*photos by Raymond Hillegas*



Li'l Bit (Daley Leintz) and Uncle Peck (Greg Shaw) share a fumbled kiss during PSU's "How I Learned to Drive."



The cast of "How I Learned to Drive" performs a family dinner scene. From left, Ty Davis, Greg Shaw, Kim Anderson, Daley Leintz and Lucy Miller-Downing.



# Surviving artists

## Karen Stolz, English professor, author

All stories by Rebecca Bauman

Karen Stolz's success as a writer did not come by accident. She first became "determined" to be published in the third grade.

"I credit my third-grade teacher, Miss Clough, who read us all the 'Little House on the Prairie' books out loud in the afternoon," Stolz said. "That hooked me. I knew I wanted very much to be published and I was very determined in how I went about it once I was of age, sending out manuscripts relentlessly."

A Kansas native, Stolz did her undergraduate work at the University of Kansas and earned her master's in fine arts at the much-renowned University of Iowa Writers Workshop. It was during her last graduate semester in Iowa that she sold her first story to a magazine. Shortly after that, she landed a literary agent. In 2000, her first book, "World of Pies," was published by Hyperion. This success, as well as life as a teacher and single mom, left Stolz busy, and keeps her busy still. She now teaches English at Pittsburg State University, a job that has allowed her to move home to Kansas from Austin, Texas, where she taught at a community college.

"I've always felt there's an inherent kindness of heart about Kansans," she said, "and especially small-town Kansans. After living in a big city for a couple decades ... I have been enjoying so much being back in a sweeter place to live."

Stolz says her roots have always helped to guide her life as a writer. Her father, a now-retired Episcopalian minister, would sometimes talk about writers such as Flannery O'Connor and James Joyce during his sermons. Stolz says her father "got his congregation reading" and further drew her into a tradition of storytelling already well established in her family.

But it wasn't just these practices that Stolz says helped her to become the writer she is now.

"My family absolutely supported me in countless ways in my writing endeavors," she said, "including helping out financially over the years when things were rough."

Family support was priceless during Stolz's time at the University of Iowa's Writers Workshop, a program known for being topnotch as well as "cutthroat."

"Iowa was a big eye-opener for me," she said. "I had a fair amount of miscellaneous ability in fiction before I went there ... (I) could write with great detail, convey emotions strongly. But somehow, I hadn't really learned how to construct a short story. I hadn't learned how to develop tension, knit together conflict and action, move the story to a climax."

Stolz says her first semester in the workshop was filled with "A-ha" moments of understanding. And although times within the program could sometimes be difficult, there was an upside to the work.

"As far as developing a thick skin, my heavens, you need that to go forward as a writer. The publishing world is dizzying and mystifying and brutal."

When Stolz entered the publishing world after Iowa, she says she found some frustration, some unexpected twists and turns in the road. Though her first published book did find success on the market, Stolz found the identity that came with being a published writer somewhat "odd."

"For years you're 'just a writer,' and then suddenly, you're an 'author.' I feel like I was very lucky in a lot of ways in how widely my first book was promoted by my publisher - I got to go on book



photos by Kyle DeRodes

tour. I learned from having my second book way less promoted ... how capricious the business is, and how hard it is to figure out how to keep your sense of self in the process."

And as a professor, Stolz says there's now more on her plate than the world of publishing. Although she loves to teach, her class and grading schedules are relatively heavy, leaving her less time to write. However, she will have the months of July and August off to work on her fiction.

Stolz says she doesn't mind waiting until then.

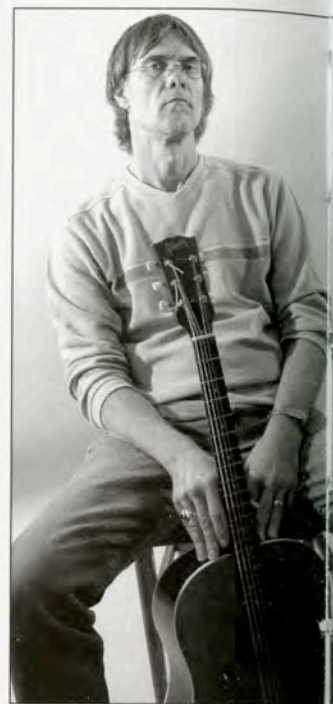
"I do like teaching creative writing because I enjoy seeing students catch on to ideas and methods," she said, "and to surprise me with new ideas of their own. I love seeing sparks of talent and stirring that talent to fuller fruition."

In the meantime, Stolz plans to write works inspired by her family, a practice she calls her "destiny." However, the presence of a family does have its ups and downs, as it certainly did before her son turned 18.

"Certainly I felt a split between my writing work, and what I needed to do to try to keep food on the table, all the time," Stolz said. "But there was so much content that came from being a mother. I had a richer sense of family dynamics and a strong desire to depict them."

Although Stolz says that her life has often spurred personal themes in what she writes, she continues to seek the balance in her audience that she seeks within her working world.

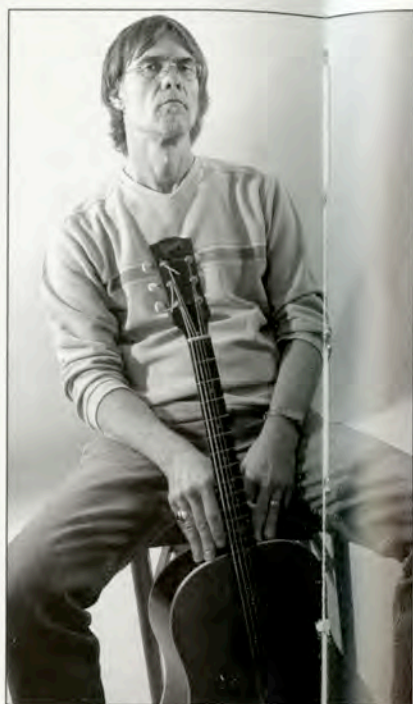
"I like to think that if you love stories and especially if you love reading about family life, then you are my audience."





# tists

## Professors lead 'dual lives' as artists, teachers



### Joey Pogue, communication professor, singer/songwriter

Joey Pogue didn't believe there was much value in scholarly pursuits. He says he thought of himself as a rebel.

"I didn't want to join the machine," Pogue said. "But I've made my share of mistakes. I took my own path, and I learned some tough lessons from it."

Pogue wanted to be a musician ever since he got his hands on an old guitar in junior high school. He says he came from "hill people," his family having put down roots in a little town just south of Joplin, Mo.

"There was an ugly side to that culture," he said. "But they played music."

Pogue says that he grew up listening not only to that "hill music," but also to the Beatles, Bob Dylan and, later on, Neil Young. He became interested in the "poetry of song," and, in time, he began to drift across the country - Illinois, Tennessee, Texas, Florida - always with his guitar.

"I wanted to be a singer/songwriter," he said. "That's how I wanted to speak to the world."

As part of his pursuit, Pogue went back to Southwest Missouri State University, now Missouri State University, in Springfield to study literature and theater. He thought that poets and performers were all rebels in their own ways, and because of that, there was no harm in making peace with the world of academia.

"I studied English and literature so I could become a better songwriter,"

Pogue said. "That's what songs do - they tell stories. They communicate truths, the little unconscious decisions we all make in our lives, the stuff that sneaks up on us in the night. Music, for me, got that stuff out in the open."

Pogue ended up taking a stab at teaching secondary school, which he says was a frustrating experience. He liked working with students, but found the lack of funding for the fine arts "unhealthy."

"Music, art, theater, it's all necessary ... I knew that songwriting could help people," he said. "You go out there and you share your pain and your mistakes, and people identify with that and they say, 'Me too. Me too.'"

It was this desire to connect to others that brought Pogue back to teaching.

"In time, I realized that I really was put on this Earth to teach," he said. "I wanted to plant those seeds. I wanted students who didn't believe in themselves to know that they could be reflexive and self-analytical. I wanted kids from rural areas to know that they could be academics, that they could be something great."

Pogue still has dreams of making music for larger audiences, although nowadays he focuses more on songwriting than performing.

"I'm still working at it," he said. "If something happens, that's great. But I'm not going to make a habit of worrying about it. I got other things on my mind now, and I think that's fine."



### Laura Washburn, English professor, poet

Poetry isn't so hard. Not for Laura Washburn.

"Writing poetry always came pretty easily to me," she said. "I just found more pleasure in it, less struggle and better results, too."

Washburn originally considered going into computer science for the sake of stability and, of course, "for the money." It wasn't until her undergraduate years at Old Dominion University that she realized she might have a calling elsewhere.

"When I went into that first poetry class, I thought all I knew about poetry and poets was Robert Frost," she said. "But as I eased into the course, I realized that I knew more than I thought I knew."

Washburn says that she had spent time in high school reading through random literature textbooks "just for fun" and challenging herself by writing out the answers to the questions that accompanied the end of book chapters. This practice seemed to give "some subconscious preparation for becoming a poet."

"There was this great diversity I had found in reading all that stuff," Washburn said. "And I just sort of became hungry for more."

Washburn says that she would take voluminous notes during her college poetry classes, often writing down the names of every poet that a professor might mention.

She read a great deal and kept journals, a lifelong habit that she says was starting to pay off, and soon decided that she could live as a writer.

"With poetry, I felt like I was getting close to saying what I wanted to say," Washburn said. "With fiction, I could look at what I had written and realize that things were wrong, but I didn't know how to fix those things. But poetry just sort of clicked."

This "intuition" was one of the reasons Washburn became a professor. She says that teaching gives her an opportunity to rediscover poetry every day. Washburn even writes and workshops her poetry with some of her former students.

"It's nice to have that prompt," she said. "It's good to know that someone is counting on you to hand them a manuscript. You don't want to let them down."

Washburn says that teaching makes her happy. However, she admits that in the end what she really wants is to see her poetry published, to see her writing in bookstores.

"It's hard to get that kind of thing done these days," she said. "But I just keep writing. And as much as I want someone to see the work, I can't say that the life I'm leading right now doesn't satisfy me. Not in the least."



### Rhona Shand, art professor, photography/multimedia

For Rhona Shand, it's about give and take.

"I'm really not one of those hifalutin professors," she said. "I learn from my students just like they learn from me. It's a dialogue. I say: 'OK, this is what I know. Now tell me what you know.'"

Born in Troon, Scotland, Shand was brought to America as a baby and has been traveling ever since. This lifestyle, she says, has helped her to become adaptable, allowing for her life as an artist to merge well with her life as a teacher.

"Artists need to be together," Shand said. "We feed off of each other. My students give me energy, they excite me."

Shand earned her bachelor's in fine arts in illustration at the Maryland Institute College of Art, and later went on to the Savannah College of Art and Design to follow her true passion: photography.

"We had been taught early on that there were only a handful of ways to survive as an artist," Shand said. "I had intended to go into commercial photography ... but when I had the chance to be a teaching assistant for one of my professors, I realized that there was so much discovery to be had in the field of art education."

Now that Shand has become an assistant professor, she says that she loves watching her students coming into their own skins as artists.

Shand says she tackled the message behind most of her artwork during her undergraduate years at MICA. She had been working in Washington, D.C., as a professional model but was hampered by the sudden onslaught of a seizure disorder. The medicine Shand took to treat her condition caused her to gain a great deal of weight, and she soon found that she was no longer wanted as a model.

"My artwork at that time showed a lot of rage," she said. "I would distort the human form, literally rip apart bodies in the images I was creating."

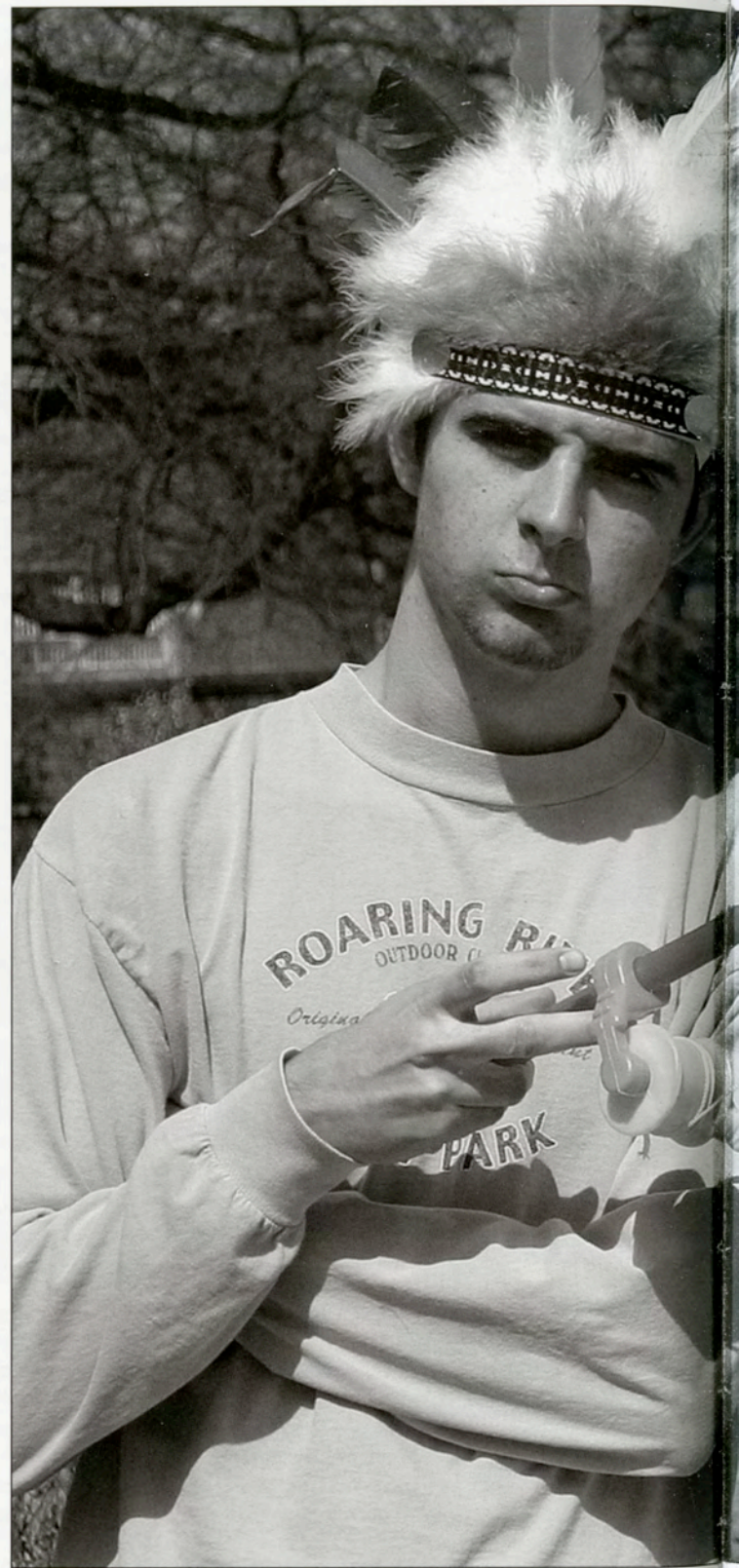
Shand says she "worked through" her pain with art. She began to feel more optimistic about her life as an artist, as well as a member of the art community.

That optimism, that hope, she says, is something she wants to share with her students.

"I'm grateful for the challenges of balancing my life as an artist and as a teacher and as a person who is still trying to figure things out," she said. "It all feeds the experience, and it makes me better at what I do."



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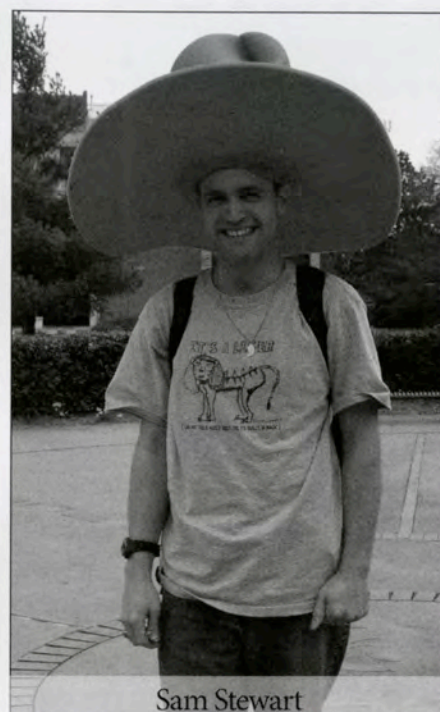




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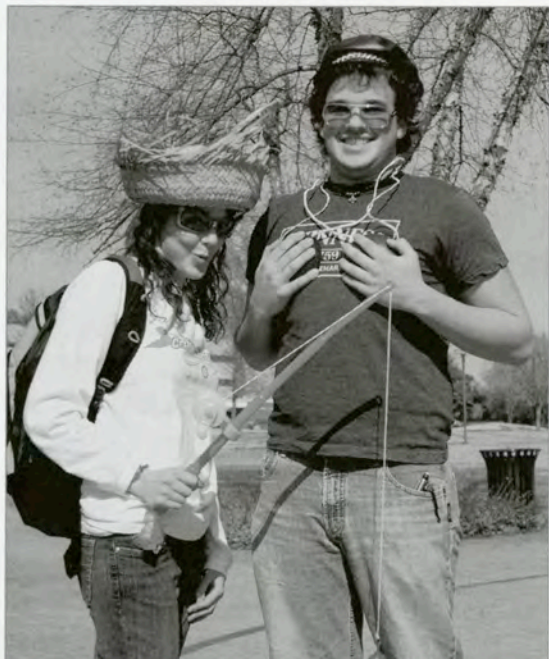
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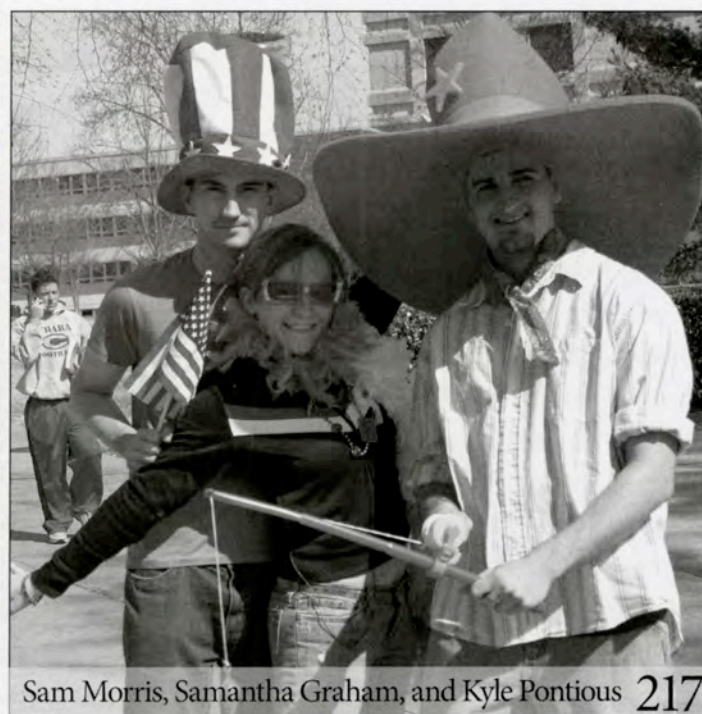
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# KANZA 2006

Gus cools off during a football game.  
*photo by Kevin Meives*







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## Colophon

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