Agenstein renovation plans await Board’s approval

Weston’s Agenstein Hall, which houses several different departments, is set to undergo huge renovation and expansion in the coming years.

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Guest Writer
Lara Crawford
New Editor
crawford@missouriwestern.edu

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Shove’s absence will certainly be felt. Two out of ten regional universities and several private schools presently rely on a text message alert system that informs faculty of the type of emer- gency and of its location. The projected cost of installing this safety feature is $8,000. Two out of ten schools report having and indoor beacon system. The beacon system has been tested and works as a check that alert the building of the emergency and would be installed in the fire alarm system. The cost of planning and installation of one of these in each of Missouri Western’s halls is estimated at $14,000. Unique to Missouri Western would be an outdoor public address system installed in the clock tower, parts of the residence halls and sports stadium. Potentially, this outdoor system will be a very effective way to get timely infor- mation out to all parts of campus in the case of an emergency. This part of the plan will cost an estimated $20,000.

The final stage is the VOIP system. This will include an Ethernet network connection in each classroom to install telephones. This will allow two-way communica- tion across campus during emergencies.

The cost of implementing all phas- es of the system is $380,000 and a annual service and maintenance fee of $14,900. At the request of the fin- ally senate sources of funding were checked. Presently there are no federal grants available for the improvement of emergency alert systems in higher edu- cation institutions so the money to fund the plan will come from the university’s reserve fund.

“The text message system that all col- leges are using is a real quick fix; it’s something we need to do this and do it now,” Olinger said after presenting this information to the board.

The Extreme Team shows off their astatic basketball moves during the halftime of both the men’s and women’s games at the Denney Hayes state game on January 13.

MATTW FOWLER / Photographer

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Election year '08 promises to be a bloody brawl

Vote smart, you are students, it's your future, it is your responsibility

After his Uncle Ben was killed by a desperate criminal, Peter Parker was given spider-like powers that allowed him to use his amazing spidey-sense to defeat crime. With great power comes great responsibility. That lesson was one Peter Parker learned while attending the prestigious Western State University. At Western, he had to balance his academic responsibilities with the crime-fighting duties of being Spider-Man.

Even today, students face similar challenges. They must balance work, school, and personal responsibilities. But unlike Peter Parker, they do not have spider-like powers to help them. They must rely on their own skills and determination to succeed.

When it comes to voting, students are just as important as any other citizen. Elections are about choosing the leaders who will shape the future of our country. But if students do not vote, the political process becomes skewed towards those who are more likely to vote. This is a problem because it is the responsibility of all citizens to participate in the democratic process.

Some might argue that students don't have enough experience to vote. But voting is not just about experience. It is about responsibility. It is the responsibility of all citizens to vote and ensure that their voices are heard.

I urge all students to vote in the upcoming elections. Even if you think you don't know enough about the candidates, remember that the most important thing is to vote. Your vote can make a difference. By voting, you are taking an active role in shaping the future of our country.

Let's not waste this opportunity. Let's show the world that students care about their future. Let's vote.
Campus Voice

What would you like to see happen as an outcome of the coming Presidential Primaries?

Laronda Harris, Freshman

“I will vote for Barack Obama. I will vote for Iran and Iraq. I think President. I would like to see how differently the country would be run. They would be run more with an African American due to different cultures and different beliefs.”

RebeccaWarner, Freshman

“I like Hillary Clinton. I liked them better in offices and she seems to continue that and she is a woman. It is time women started running this country.”

Jeff Testa, post graduate student

“Bottom line is the election is going to come down to the south. It draws in the most money due to the bottom line the guy that is going to come through in November.”

Mearche Davis, Freshman

“I kind of want to see Barack Obama win and I want to see seeing what other culture would be in the White House.”

Benjamin Van Der Horst

U-Wire

Once long before the age of internet con- spiracy theory, there was a Greek philoso- pher named Plato. He took a very enlight- ened understanding of the ramifications of people not exercising their political rights. He said “The price of apathy towards pub- lic affairs is to be ruled by evil men”. That is all the mud that’s being thrown. The sticky issue of race has come up be- cause the different cultures and different views as having racial overtones. For- mer President Bill Clinton is still a must-win for Barack Obama.

But things boiled over on Martin Lu- ther King Day at a Democratic debate in South Carolina. Moderator Wolf Blitzer of CNN did not enforce any rules and Hillary and Obama let it rip. Obama brought up that he was helping people as a community organizer when Hill- ary was working as a corporate lawyer in New York. Therefore, the voters were never told that she was working as a corporate lawyer in New York. With McCain’s win over Huckabee in South Carolina, many now say he is the front runner. The polls show that he could tell you that every- thing that the candidates have said all that?

You should. It is imperative. We cannot be like in the White House”.

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Goppert Foundation gives scholarships

Gerry Tracey

The Goppert Foundation of Kansas City recently gave the Missouri Western State University $100 thousand to establish an endowed scholarship to give students a new opportunity to help pay tuition.

"While students from Lathrop, Mo. and Norborne, Mo. are preferred, the scholarship is open to all fulltime students 12 hours or more and having financial need," Jerry Pickman, Western's director of development, said. "Their gift will benefit Western students for years to come."

Clarence Goppert, the founder, gave the Goppert Foundation in 1960 and his grandson, Thomas Goppert, now gives the foundation.

Missouri Western will hold the $100 thousand donated by the Goppert Foundation in investments and the interest will pay for the scholarships. So, potentially, there will be more funds available each year. This particular scholarship is renewable, which means if a student qualifies for the funds this year, they could continue to receive the funds as long as their GPA remains 2.5 or greater.

According to an MWSU press release, Dick Hutchinson, president of LaMonte Community Bank, said, "The foundation wants to be a good-steward and help the young people of the communities where their banks are located."

"I would hope that students would take for granted the freedoms we have history about King and sometimes they vide an opportunity to do 'something' leaders. Black inventors, athletes and civil rights. That Blacks went thorough during the 1950's. If your organization would like to announce an event, e-mail the information to Griffinnews@mwsuwestern.edu.

Campus Information

Calendar of events

Tuesday, Jan. 29
• Men’s Basketball vs. Washburn Baptist in Topeka, KS at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 30
• Western Activities Committee meeting at 4 p.m. in Union, SRCC.

Thursday, Jan. 31
• Women’s Basketball vs. Southeast Baptist in Bolivar, MO at 5:00 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1
• Black Heritage Ball Alumni Mixer 4 p.m. in Kargath Community Room.

Saturday, Feb. 2
• Black Heritage Ball at 3 p.m. in the Rollow Center.

Monday, Feb. 5
• Women’s Basketball vs. Washburn Baptist in Topeka, KS at 5:00 p.m.

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Campus crime report

1. Off Campus Information
   Jan. 10, 2008
   Blum uniform
   Officer received a report that 3 people were in the residence hall.

2. Non Criminal
   Jan. 23, 2008
   Yassekous Hall
   Officer received a report that 3 people were in the residence hall.

3. Disorderly Conduct
   Jan. 23, 2008
   Murphy Hall
   Officer responded to a disturbance in the computer lab at Murphy Hall. The officer completed an Off campus Incident Report.

4. Burglary
   Jan. 24, 2008
   Living Learning Center
   Officer received a report regarding a burglary in the Living Learning Center. The officer completed an Off campus Incident Report.

Western’s Police Chief appointed to state panel

Jonathan Kelley was appointed to the new higher education subcommittee of the Missouri Homeland Security Council (HASC). Kelley believes campus safety is a worthy topic, and he said he hopes to work with Western as those issues are talked about.

The appointment was made by Mark James, Missouri Department of Public Safety director and HASC chair.

Dr. Robert Stein, commissioner of higher education in Missouri and a member of HASC, will chair the subcommittee.

The task force wants this committee to not just keep colleges and universities informed about recent homeland security developments.

James requested that the subcommittees consider a number of challenges related to higher education that are of interest to HASC.

The subcommittee’s first meeting will be scheduled soon.

Student internships in Washington, D.C.

Seth Logston, a government and public affairs major, is an intern for Senator Christopher ‘Kit’ Bond in Washington, D.C., for the spring semester.

Logston is glad to have this experience and recommends that anyone take up an opportunity like this if given the chance.

His first week was a lot to handle as he became familiar with the extensive operations of the Senate, but now he enjoys drafting letters and working with staff on legislation.

Logston claimed to be familiar with the workings of the state legislature in his hometown, but is grateful to have this experience and increase his knowledge.

He began his internship working in Washington last week and eventually will serve as a government consultant or lobbyist.

Student receives P.E.O. scholarship

Junior Rebecca Black, an elementary education major, was awarded a P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education grant.

Established in 1973, the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) Program for Continuing Education is a great program for women who need financial help to continue their schooling has been disrupt ed.

Black was presented with this grant by Chapter ED Staletzke at the annual meeting of the organization.

P.E.O. is a society dedicated to promoting educational opportunities for women.

Over the years, this project paid more than $22,300,000 in the form of small grants to more than 24,700 women.

Staff reports

Western’s Police Chief appointed to state panel

Governor’s Special assistant is in charge of homeland security

Michael Allen

News Writer

A program entitled “A Day On, Not A Day Off” was presented by Western’s Center for Multicultural Education in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 21.

In observation of the holiday, the most recent homeland security developments were discussed.

Homer said that a day that talked about many people were a part of the Civil Rights Movement. Some of the key events that went on during the day informed the students and the St. Joseph community about the key figures in black history.

Sophomore Emily Feger is the one of the brilliant brains behind this event. Feger coordinated and came up with ideas for how the MLK day should be coordin ated. With the help of CME Director Ray Triggs and Student Development Program Coordinator Sherry Logston, Feger put together a museum of famous black inventors, athletics and civil rights leaders.

The purpose of the MLK Day events is to help participate pass on an understanding of the legacy of King, pro vide an opportunity to do ‘something’ relevant to social justice or service on this day to inform the students and the St. Joseph community about the key figures in black history.

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The associate dean will report to the dean of Student Services, overseeing the Financial Aid department, Information Technology, campus police department, and Facilities. Olinger will work closely with Scanlon to ensure interoperability between departments and to address any instances of duplication of services. Olinger is also excited about the enhanced career services that will be made available to students.

The new renditions are now 52 thousand square feet, 17 thousand less than what was expected. Since the project began, the cost to $38 million, which was above the state allocation. Prices of steel, labor and energy have all increased. According to Judy Grimes, the dean of Liberal Arts, the cost to construct the new building was $250,000, and the new building will have a $30,000-per-year endowment.

Missouri Western State University has received a $250,000 grant from Project Kaleidoscope, a program of the American Association of Universities. The grant will be used to purchase and move the windows of Agenstein Hall, a bioscience building on campus. The grant will also be used to convert the laboratories in this building and to build a new building for science.

The new building will be named the Missouri Western State University Science and Math Building. The building will be located on the north side of campus, near the student union.

The new building will have 32,000 square feet of office space, 24,000 square feet of laboratory space, and 4,000 square feet of classroom space. The building will also have a 1,000-seat lecture hall, a 500-seat classroom, and a 200-seat classroom.

The new building will house the biology department, the chemistry department, and the mathematics department. The building will also have a large student center, a computer lab, and a student lounge.

The new building will be constructed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) silver standards. The building will use energy-efficient lighting and heating and cooling systems. The building will also have a green roof and a rainwater harvesting system.

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The new building will be completed in 2009. The building will be named the Missouri Western State University Science and Math Building. The building will be located on the north side of campus, near the student union.

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Republican

John McCain

McCain returns to the Republican election process with a new found surge that has not been seen in previous election attempts. While drawing on issues like Iraq and illegal immigration, McCain has aligned himself with several of the key ideas of the Bush administration but differs severely when it comes to a few key issues. McCain endorses reinvesting gas profits into research for renewable and cleaner energy sources such as ethanol. McCain endorses the troop surge in Iraq and considers setting a date for troop withdrawal, but it is not clear if he is looking for increased competitiveness in health care to drive prices down instead of approaching a universal health care plan.

Mitt Romney

Romney stands from a strong business background and has aligned himself with the conservative branch of the Republican Party. While he is probably the most qualified for the job, he is called for increased efficiency in federal spending to help stimulate the economy. He is taking a different approach to health care, calling for citizens to obtain their own insurance. Also, he plans on encouraging immigration to bring more skilled workers to the country legally by changing current immigration policies.

Mike Huckabee

Huckabee hails from Bill Clinton's hometown but the similarities seem to stop there. Huckabee is a social conservative who has been known to take a tough stance on immigration issues. He encourages drilling in the Arctic reserves to tide our gas needs over while he fund research for alternative energy sources. He is encouraging a scaled border with Mexico while calling other candidates plans as racially motivated and ineffective. Huckabee is also supporting the Iraqi troop surge, but has been refuted from being attacked by the current administration because of the present involvement of troops.

Rudy Giuliani

The former Mayor of New York City has yet to have a major impact in the present campaign, instead focusing his attention on the Super Tuesday primaries. He has a unique approach to immigration that would require all foreign workers to have documentation and to be tracked in a national database. His approach to the Iraq conflict is critical of the current administration because of the present involvement of troops.

Ron Paul

Considered by many to be the cowboy of the Republican race, Ron Paul has several unique approaches addressing the second round. Paul's platform includes the abolishment of the IRS, medicare, and opposition for benefits for illegal aliens. Paul is also the only candidate in the race who voted against the Iraq war and is pushing for a complete removal of all troops from Iraq. He has yet to unveil his main economic platform, instead focusing his attention on the Super Tuesday primaries. He has a unique approach to immigration that would require all foreign workers to have documentation and to be tracked in a national database. His approach to the Iraq conflict is critical of the current administration because of the present involvement of troops.

Democratic

Hillary Clinton

Clinton has been pushing an agenda that stresses a united America and calls for improvements in the international community. Another main platform he is pushing is for his country to move towards renewable energy sources which, under his plan, would account for 20 percent of our nations total energy supply. He plans on supporting the Middle East with troop deployment to help stabilize the region.

John Edwards

The former John Kerry running mate has been lagging behind in the polls as of late but Edwards is sticking to his economic recovery program that starts at the lower income portion of workers and moves up. He is pushing for an increased minimum wage, tripling of the earned income tax credit and protection against predatory loans. American troops in Iraq will be withdrawn during his first year in office, with a peace-keeping assistance ready to be loaned to the Iraqi government at their request.

---Compiled by Ryan Richardson, Entertainment Editor

Sad truth about college voters

Many students reject policies of the U.S. Census Bureau, of the voting age population.

"A population that doesn't vote doesn't get a response from govern ment. It's extremely impor tant for a college student to vote if they ever want any input in the system," Dr. Dan Cox, assistant pro fessor of government said. A new poll indicates that with the lowest voting and registration rates in the elec tors of 2004, the group experienced the largest

Charlene Divine

Features Editor

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Despite the democratic process and the right to vote being enshrined to our constitutional rights, many choose not to participate and exercise their right for a multitude of reasons. In the presidential election of 2004 the overall number of voters reached 126 mil lion, which amounted to a total of only 58 percent of the voting age population.

What appears to be die- mal voting rates, actually reflects a record high turn out for the second consecu tive presidential election. 15 million more votes than the elections of 2000. However in college aged electors according to the U.S. Census Bureau, of the voting population of 27,408 voters aged 18-29, only 1,619 par ticipated in casting a vote.

"A population that doesn't vote doesn't get a response from govern ment. It's extremely impor tant for a college student to vote if they ever want any input in the system," Dr. Dan Cox, assistant pro fessor of government said. A new poll indicates that with the lowest voting and reg istration rates in the elec tors of 2004, the group experienced the largest

"Politicians have a lim ited amount of reasons and if a campaign can't find a new field of voters to sway them, they'll just stop. The college voting rates are so low, an anec dotally, that there's really no reason to go after them," said Dr. Cox. Hot topic issues like the War on Terror, the state of the economy, and col lege funding are popular platform issues, and it is vital that a population that won't vote can clearly feel the implications of change must cast a vote and rep resent their own interests.

The first thing a govern ment will cut, and we're going into a recession, is education. They really go after college education because they feel it's safe. They don't have a big group against them and it's large ly because they don't vote. In the end, it is the college vote that will exercise their rights, and represent their own int erests. The only avenue to change is participation. "Do's and igno rants," Dr. Cox said. "A lot of times a student says their vote doesn't count, which is a right, because they're so few students. If a wide swathe of students vote, you would see candi dates coming after them."
Two scared refugees face an unknown terror in New York City. You that none of this is possible. That is how the actors portrayed the way their characters felt. It was convincing.

The scenes where the main protagonists move through the subway systems to get from point A to point B without having to deal with the insanity overhead was especially chilling simply for the darkness alone. When you add in the giant lice-like creatures that the Gargantuan monster scrapped off it’s back onto the city streets, the scene becomes a race for life and a rush of horror. Cloverfield was an excellent portrayal of what it was meant to be. It is worth the knotted guts it seems to cause. I give it an eight.

Come Falling scores a victory

Zane Callister
Entertainment Writer

A lot of questions are raised when people hear about bands that are Christian Screamo or Hardcore, but who says you can only be kind when you’re yelling about girls and drinking. This six-piece band from Springfield, Mo., know exactly what they are screaming about, and they make this perfectly clear in their 2007 release of Dr. Grace, Where is Thy Victory released on Rise Records. This album is full of enough energy to power a small city.

Their passion and drive is undeniable which makes the music as determined as it is. In the CD’s track listing has been laid out perfectly, moving you through the emotion and mastery of their organized chaos. As for the members of this band, you will be very proud of their efforts in coming together for what is by far their biggest “hit” yet in their careers, so far. Coming together to write an album as heavy and fluid as this was difficult. But overlooking your every move has to be strenuous, but as mentioned earlier, this album moves like clockwork and for that listeners will be impressed. A few things that completely grab you and don’t let go are the drums, the catchy synth and total wall of sound coming from the guitars. The drums are more than perfect. From the first time I heard the album to writing this review I have not been able to take my ears off of the drumming. One song that displays this well is track three entitled, “The Sea Gave Up the Dead.” Every fill to every breakdown is perfect; I was very impressed. The synth is a blast on this record. I enjoyed the use of the synth on every song and was thoroughly impressed with their ability of keeping the instrument in the front line without making it the driving force of the music. Though REFB is a generally heavy band, they make great use of the piano to soothe you with truck nine called, “And We’ll Be with the Lord Forever.” The guitars themselves keep the songs pounding second after second. Every riff seems well organized with all the chord progressions in their right place making the music powerful and well-built. Overall, I would have to say that I am very pleased with this album and I highly suggest buying it the first chance you get.
In championship fashion, the Griffins (9-4) edged out the Gorillas (5-7) in the 1st half and went on to win the MWSU Fieldhouse a game to remember. Coming off of two straight losses against Central Missouri and Fort Hays State, the Griffins were looking to get their first win in the MIAA (4-0) by defeating the Pittsburg State Gorillas 77-75 in a nail-biter to the wire.

Missouri Western went into the half, leading 38-31. The Gorillas came out close in the second half. Even with the Griffins leading by as much as thirteen, the Gorillas weren't about to give up. As the second half of the contest, the Griffins would learn how crucial it was to keep their composure.

Having struggled earlier in the game with free throws, the Griffins were able to make 20 of 25 free throws in the last 30 seconds of the game. But for students in general. It will be a game plan. We need to guard against the three point shot and not let them get any three’s off,” Plett said. The plan did not work exactly as they had hoped. With 17 seconds on the clock, the Gorillas sunk a huge three point shot to tie the game at an even 75-75. Trying to avoid going into overtime, the Griffins plan was to score efficiently and hold off any other attempts of a Gorillas’ last shot. Like a finely tuned machine, the Western offense rolled the court, and passed the ball into the post where it was in the hands of senior Jill Johnson. Johnson was fouled on the shot attempt with seconds left. Exhibiting her senior poise, Johnson made both free throws, which put the Lady Griffins ahead of the Gorillas 77-75.

Not only the past five wins have developed a rhythm for the team, they also have blessed the Griffins with an impelling form confidence. Coach Plett believes that in order to keep the team’s momentum rolling against Emporia State, “We need to continue to play with confidence, maintain our focus and also be able to not get rattled by the suspense of the possibility that might be put on by Emporia’s aggressive defensive style of play.”

That is something that will be needed as the Lady Griffins seek for the No. 16 ranked Emporia State Hornets on Jan. 29.

### Sports Writer

Jill Johnson, one of six athletes nominated for the Wooden Cup award, was one of ten Lady Griffins nominated for the award. Johnson was one of six athletes nominated for the Wooden Cup award.

Jill Johnson was one of six athletes nominated for the Wooden Cup award. The Wooden Cup is given to athletes who have made a great difference throughout the community and who demonstrate outstanding leadership on and off the court. It is one of the most important and distinctive honors an athlete can achieve.

The Wooden Cup is named in honor of John Wooden. A very successful coach in college, Johnson earned the Wooden Cup for his leadership and behavior.

Johnson has also had an impact on campus. She believes the most important factors to watch out for are the huge dedication to her friends, family, and the community.

In her senior year, Johnson was an All MIAA selection. Moreover, Johnson noted she could increase her team’s lead by winning the Wooden Cup.

Many of the students at Missouri Western know nothing about the Griffins’ baseball team, hopefully in the near future this won’t be a problem.

As a part of the Max Experience, a new sports complex has been proposed to be built on campus. With this, there will be a baseball stadium on campus. Students don’t attend the softball fields, basketball courts and the new complex has been proposed for the Missouri Valley Cyclones. If you build it they will come.

The idea for the complex was formed with the help of former athletic director for the Griffins head off to face the No. 16 ranked Emporia State, “We need to continue to play with confidence, maintain our focus and also be able to not get rattled by the suspense of the possibility that might be put on by Emporia’s aggressive defensive style of play.”

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