



Sporting green beanies as a sign of their freshman status, students obediently rolled up a pant leg and carried a freshman girl on Walkout Day in the late 1950s. Walkout Day signaled the end of having to wear the beanies, which were abolished in 1962.

### BEARCAT ROAR

"Bearcat Roar" gives you the opportunity to share your Northwest memories or stories with other alumni and friends.

Please submit remembrances along with your name, year of graduation, address and telephone number to Mitzi Lutz, editor, *Northwest Alumni Magazine*, Alumni House, Maryville, MO 64468-6001 or by e-mail to mitzi@nwmissouri.edu.

## I remember when ...

I remember Homecomings at Northwest. Homecoming was always special, even after graduating and residing in Maryville for many years. The whole experience was unlike any that could ever be experienced at larger schools.

The most memorable Homecoming was in 1981 when I

was in charge of building a float. The float theme was Snoopy and the Red Baron, with Bobby playing the role of Snoopy. I remember on the day of the parade the float had a major malfunction in the animation, and we all came together to put the pieces together and make the float work with what we had. The float won first place, and we were amazed, considering the happenstance.

Whenever I need an uplift, I think back to my days at Northwest. I tell the people I now work with some of my college experiences, and they are amazed that one can get so much in four years.

*Todd Schuler '82*

Although my college diploma doesn't read Northwest, I've always considered myself to be a true Bearcat. I grew up in Maryville, next door to the old Sigma Tau Gamma house, and my dad, David Howell '73, is a proud supporter of his alma mater.

One of my earliest Northwest memories occurred Dec. 1, 1984. This was my third birthday, and there was nothing I wanted more (except perhaps a Cabbage Patch Doll) than to have Bobby Bearcat attend my birthday party.

Needless to say, when Bobby showed up at the door I was thrilled. I went running to give Bobby a huge hug and to inspect the gifts he had brought. Soon I was lifted into the furry arms of my personal hero, although I was in for a big surprise. For the first time in my short life I was face to face with Bobby Bearcat, and able to take in his costume from a much closer vantage point. (Remember, at the age of 3, I thought Bobby was a real bearcat).

From where I sat in Bobby's arms, I was able to see through the mesh screen covering his mouth and recognize a human face looking back at me. I let out a sharp scream and began to cry.

Bobby quickly put me down, and I went running to my mom. She asked, "What's wrong? It's Bobby, you love Bobby." I quickly retorted, "But Mommy, Bobby ate somebody!" With this exclamation my parents, Bobby and all the party guests began to laugh hysterically.

Quickly, Bobby knelt down and removed the costume's head, revealing the college-age guy inside. He explained that Bobby was a costume mascot, kind of like dressing up for Halloween. Relief came over me as I realized that I would not be a man-eating bearcat's next victim, and I could go on to enjoy my birthday party in safety!

*Meagan Howell*

## Do you remember these events?

### 1958

Classes for the fall semester are \$5 per credit hour. With fees, textbooks and room and board included, a semester's total tuition is about \$243. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

### 1968

Northwest dress codes are relaxed, and women are allowed to wear slacks in the library. The curfew for women is extended, and open housing for junior and senior women is available. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

### 1978

Northwest's new all-weather track is named for 1930s track star Herschel Neil. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

Bobby Bearcat gets a fellow mascot, Roberta Bearkitten. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

### 1988

Dr. Shaila Aery, Missouri's commissioner of higher education, suggests closing Northwest. State Sen. Pat Danner says, "Read my lips: Northwest Missouri State University will not close." Aery eventually drops her plan. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*

### 1998

The Bearcat football team defeats Carson-Newman College 24-6 in the NCAA Division II National Championship game in Florence, Ala. *Transitions: A Hundred Years of Northwest*