

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 3, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

The Daily Independent, Ashland, Kentucky, Friday, March 31, 2000

Bach to the Future

MSU gala to feature
composer
in time-travel fantasy



Redwine said.

In the Crager Room — "Time to Bach Hall" for the evening — the sounds will alternate between J.D. Baird and the Baroque Bombers and

The Big Bach Bebop Band.

Along with the music, there will also be food.

"This year, we'll be offering more gourmet foods, heavy on desserts," Redwine said. "The Bach Porch will offer more traditional desserts, while the more gourmet foods will be offered along with the classical music."

Again this year, those attending may bid on a wide variety of items in a silent auction. Among the items already garnered are a hand-made wooden bench, Fenton art glass pieces, a folk art rooster created by Minnie Adkins, get-away packages to places like Gatlinburg, Tenn., and Memphis, gold packages and coins.

Three levels of sponsorship are available. The cost for corporate sponsors is \$1,500, which includes a

table for eight with a reception at p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30, and all the gala events that follow. The fee includes a \$1,260 contribution to the MSU Foundation, Inc.

The cost for patrons is \$125 a person, which includes a \$95 donation to the foundation. Patrons will also enjoy the reception and dinner, as well as the other gala events.

Those selecting the individual level of sponsorship at \$50 per person will be making a \$20 contribution to the foundation. They will enjoy a light buffet and reception at 7 p.m. and the music and other events of the evening.

Reservations should be made April 19. For an invitation and reservation card, call the president's office at (606) 783-2022.

By CATHIE SHAFFER
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

MOREHEAD — Johann Sebastian Bach writing hip-hop music? It boggles the mind.

And that's just what the organizers of this year's gala at Morehead State University had in mind as they chose "Bach to the Future" as this year's theme. During this time-travel fantasy, set for April 29, Bach himself (or a close approximation thereof) will greet gala-goers and lead them through a time warp into the future.

Now in its eighth year, the gala has raised more than \$250,000 since its inception. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to create an endowment to support visiting artists and professors in the humanities department. The state will be asked to match the funds on a dollar-

for-dollar basis, says Bonnie Eaglin, who serves on the gala executive committee with Al Baldwin, Dr. Christopher Gallaher and Susette Redwine.

The evening will begin for corporate sponsors and patrons with a reception and dinner. After the dinner, they'll join the other gala-goers for an evening of music, food and fun.

Kicking things off will be a musical presentation, "Bach to the Future," by the Keyboard Whizzards in Button Auditorium.

The Bach Street Boys will entertain on the Bach Porch (otherwise known as the grill of the Adron Doran University Center), while other rooms of the center will serve as stops on the timeline with a variety of music from classical to futuristic,

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 2, 2000

Council reviewing college degree programs

"It has been my experience that most universities will prefer to close programs on their own."

Gordon
Davies
President
Council
on Post-
secondary
Education

By Holly E. Stepp
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

It's been nearly seven years since Kentucky's public universities did a little spring cleaning.

The state's Council on Postsecondary Education has decided that it is time to clean the academic house of degree programs that produce few graduates.

An initial screening already has found that nearly half of the 1,120 degree offerings at Kentucky public universities graduated fewer than 12 students from 1994 to 1999.

Nearly half of those 530 low-degree-producing programs are at the bachelor's level, and many fall in the sciences, education and visual and performing arts.

State officials have suspected for (MORE) years that many university programs

DEGREES:

too few graduates to be considered productive and were eating away at the state's limited state dollars. But before, the agency didn't have explicit power to cut programs. The powers given to the council by the General Assembly in 1997 changed that. The council's staff and the university officials will spend the next couple of months determining which degree programs should be kept, closed or merged with others.

Many of the state's universities already conduct periodic productivity reviews, but the Council's effort puts the issue on the front burner. And the response from university presidents has been mixed — some welcoming the opportunity, others criticizing the council for overstepping its boundaries.

Council President Gordon Davies said the review was necessary to make sure that universities are operating as efficiently as possible. The council may encourage colleges to close programs, if universities balk.

But Davies said he thought that was likely.

It has been my experience that universities will prefer to close programs on their own," he said.

Even if universities agree to cut programs, they won't likely see any savings for several years. It is nearly impossible to lay off faculty, and schools can't close classrooms until all the current students majoring in the field have graduated.

Nonetheless, Davies said, universities will be able to strengthen other pro-

grams by moving faculty positions.

"You have one stronger, richer program, rather than two weak ones."

Programs at the community and technical colleges will be reviewed next year.

Focus on productivity

Productivity reviews have become increasingly common in higher education, particularly among public universities.

They are seen as a way to make sure that universities are spending tax dollars wisely and are responding to students' needs.

Reviews are part of the evolution of universities, said Patrick Callan, president of the San Jose, Calif.-based National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

"Higher education has moved out of the institution-building phase, where adding programs and campuses was the goal," he said.

The state last went through a productivity review in 1994, initiated by then-Gov. Brereton Jones' Higher Education Review Commission, which was convened to overhaul the state's colleges.

That commission cited more than 200 degrees that should be discontinued. That review identified a core of liberal arts courses that all colleges should offer that included most foreign languages, sciences and the humanities. It also used more generous measures to determine productivity.

Davies said the council staff

involved excluding programs from the review because they felt that efficiency in all areas should be examined.

"(A list) takes them off the table," he said. "We may need to offer those courses, but that doesn't mean we can afford to offer them inefficiently."

Some universities have already closed some of their low-degree productivity programs. Morehead State University closed two degree programs in human sciences last year.

Michael Moore, Morehead's vice president for academic affairs, said the state review requires them to think differently about their process.

"Before the assumption was that the program should continue and our job was to find its strengths and weaknesses," said Moore.

"Now we have to think more about if what we are doing is the best way to do it."

Making the cut

The low-degree-producing programs cited by the council run the gamut, covering everything from certificates in executive assistant and secretary training to doctoral degrees in art history.

In the specialized areas of education, engineering technology, foreign languages, physical sciences and visual and performing arts, few colleges met the standard, although they are very active in those fields. For example, none of the universities that have a bachelor's program in geology

met the standard.

Some university presidents have called the council's screening method simplistic. The council used only graduation averages.

"But if we have faculty that are teaching a full course load, that wouldn't count as productive," said Eastern Kentucky University President Bob Kustra.

Kustra said that the council should allow universities to review them on their own before conducting a statewide review.

Other university officials said the statewide review was an opportunity to be more critical in their own internal reviews.

"We are the most underfunded among the universities, so it is critical that we put our resources where there is the highest demand," said Northern Kentucky University President James Votruba.

"In some cases that will mean scaling back programs," he said.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 2, 2000

Not a good session for education legislation; funding in doubt for the few successful bills

By Linda B. Blackford and Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITERS

The 2000 General Assembly distinguished itself more for what it didn't do in education than what it did.

Teacher quality, elementary arts programs, adult education and dropout prevention efforts all fell victim to an uncertain budget and political wrangling in a session dominated by debates over posting the Ten Commandments in schools.

"There is nothing of significant policy that has come through this session," said Wayne Young, director of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators.

Council on Postsecondary Education President Gordon Davies agreed, but said he didn't think the lack of action was the result of a lack of support. Higher education is likely to get its budget request.

"I don't think we were the targets, but instead fell victim to the debates over revenue and taxes," Davies said.

A few success stories are headed to

the governor's desk: bills that would require libraries in all schools; national certification, an exacting level of professional development, for at least one teacher per district; and free testing for high school students to find out how well they'll do in college math classes.

But none of those measures is likely to get funding when the state budget is finally settled.

Kentucky Association of School Council's director Susan Weston said she was pleased some student achievement measures passed, most notably Senate Bill 265. That bill would require school councils to analyze test score data by race, gender and poverty and create plans to address the gaps.

Few substantive higher education measures were offered during the session, and even fewer were approved.

Rep. Jim Wayne, D-Louisville, offered House Bill 322, which requires colleges and universities to compile more thorough campus crime logs and notify students of public safety crimes. The bill,

known as the Michael Minger Act, was a result of a 1998 dorm fire at Murray State University in which Minger died.

However, its most controversial element — holding colleges liable for non-compliance — was removed before it got Gov. Paul Patton's signature.

Another higher education initiative, House Speaker Jody Richards' "New Economy Initiative," is caught up in the state budget debate and hasn't had a final vote. The \$53 million initiative included a loan fund and training to support high-tech businesses.

Robert Sexton, director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence said he was disturbed that legislators killed such legislation as teacher quality, but passed more damaging bills, such as one that would allow about 592 school principals to hire their spouses.

"Teacher training is out, nepotism is in," he said. "I'd call that a bad deal for Kentucky's schoolchildren."

"All in all, a very disappointing session for public education," he said.

Lots of degrees, few graduates

The state's Council on Postsecondary Education and the eight public universities are in the midst of a review of academic degree programs. Nearly half of all the academic programs offered by the universities produce too few graduates to be considered productive.

Here are the five-year averages the Council uses to determine a lack of productivity:

- Associate degrees: Fewer than 12 graduates over five years.
- Bachelor's degrees: Fewer than 12 graduates over five years.
- Master's and specialist degrees: Fewer than seven graduates over five years.
- Doctorate degrees: Fewer than five graduates over five years.

Type	Number offered	Percent not productive
Pre-Associate Certificates	4	100
Associate	85	64
Bachelor	538	47
Post-Baccalaureate	4	100
Master	292	45
Specialist	25	96
First Professional	8	0
Doctorate	84	68

Minorities at Morehead have GUSTO

By Emily B. Moses
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Morehead State University's office of retention has found a way to ensure a smooth transition for minority students from high school to college life with the Guiding Undergraduate Students Toward Opportunities program.

GUSTO is a mentoring program that pairs incoming freshman minority students with faculty or staff members. About 50 freshmen participate each year.

Sophomore Nic Wilson, a government/psychology double major from Somerset, said the program helped him feel right at home in Morehead.

"Last year, when I came here, I didn't know anyone," he said. "It kind of helps you with fitting in; it makes you more comfortable in college."

Wilson said the mentor is supposed

to act as an adviser, but that he and his mentor didn't feel the need to set boundaries for their relationship.

"When I see him on campus it's more like seeing a friend of the family," he said.

Wilson's mentor, Ric Caric, associate professor of government, agrees.

Caric said they discuss topics such as school, home life and short-term plans.

Caric thinks the program is important for both student and mentor.

"For minority students it's another friendly face they can recognize in the crowd," he said.

"It's really been good for me as a white professor to be in contact with minority students. Not only is this a vast majority white area for students, but a vast majority white area for whites," Caric said.

"It's someone who can guide you and keep you on the straight and narrow," Wilson said.

He said other students in the program had said they were not as comfortable as he is talking with a professor.

But Wilson continues to reap the benefits of GUSTO.

"Say I have a problem in a class; I can get a different point of view. He gives me the professor's point of view," he said.

Wilson thinks all incoming minority students should take advantage of GUSTO.

Wilson thinks GUSTO is an asset to the university because the program is constructed to help minority students stay in college. But he thinks its biggest asset is something else.

"It's geared toward graduation," Wilson said.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, April 3, 2000

Learning to protest, here and abroad

Class at Centre inspires sweatshop campaign

By Robert Lidowski
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students in last fall's "Religion and Violence" class surprised a Centre College professor by taking what they learned in his class to the next level.

Rick Axtell, professor of religion, has taught "Religion and Violence" for four of his six years at Centre. The class focuses on religion as both a source of and solution to violence, and not only exposes students to contemporary issues, but also teaches them how to resolve conflicts by non-violent means.

In December, a week before Christmas break, the students in Axtell's class organized a Satyagraha — a specific campaign of non-violent protest — in order to renegotiate the terms of their final examination. Protesters also impressed a pajama-clad John C. Ward, dean of academic affairs, when they took their peaceful movement to the front door of his Danville residence.

In negotiations, students agreed to take a two-hour examination, rather than a three-hour test. They were allowed to use the last hour to organize a new activist group.

The new group, called Centre Peace, started out with 20 or so members, but is quickly building membership.

The group has already sponsored a sweatshop simulation and corresponding convocation speaker, a letter-writing campaign against the School of Americas and a memorial dinner in remembrance of the assassinated Archbishop Romero.

"The goal is to raise awareness about world issues," said Andrea Zawaki, president of Centre Peace. Zawaki, a junior from Georgetown, thinks that all too often, college students, especially students at Centre, are concerned only with campus problems.

"It [Centre Peace] engenders real discussion about what it means to live ethically in the world. If you want peace," Axtell says, "you have to work for justice."

Way off track

General Assembly on the verge of failing to do primary task: Approving a budget

Somewhere along the way the 2000 General Assembly got off track — way off track. A session that began with the hope for a more fair system of taxes and bold new initiatives is on the verge of ending without a budget being approved.

The promise of bipartisan cooperation between the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives and the new Republican majority in the Senate quickly diminished into gridlock.

Instead of a session that moved Kentucky forward into the new century, this will be a session best remembered for such things as tacking the Ten Commandments on classroom and courthouse walls and for allowing citizens to carry their guns to church.

Flashback to Jan. 25 when Gov. Paul Patton stood before a joint session of the Kentucky General Assembly and boldly proposed a budget that would overhaul the state's tax code and increase funding for a wide-range of programs including elementary, secondary, postsecondary and adult education, health care and economic development.

"There's no way our outmoded tax system can support a modern state government, our colleges and universities, the basic services our people need, a quality road system, the necessities of modern life," the governor told legislators. "If our goal is to have the lowest tax rate in the nation, then let's close half our prisons. Let's make people pay all the cost of their college education. Let's not put computers in our classrooms. Let's not improve our roads. Let's slowly sink to the bottom.

"Make no mistake about it. I can write a budget that doesn't require a change in our tax code. It just wouldn't be a budget that would move Kentucky forward."

It now seems likely that this state will end up with a budget that not only fails to move Kentucky forward, but actually puts it in reverse. That is if there is a budget at all.

Patton made one huge political mistake in his proposed budget: He called for a 7-cent in-

crease in the state gasoline tax at a time when prices at the pump were soaring. Although the gasoline tax — which funds the road fund — was not at all related to the governor's other tax proposals to support the general fund, we're convinced the governor's insistence on the gas tax hike led to the demise of his other proposals.

If enacted, those other proposals would have resulted in poor- and middle-income Kentuckians sending less of their hard-earned dollars to Frankfort and would have ended the embarrassment of Kentucky having one of the nation's highest income tax rates on the working poor.

Instead, the much-needed income tax reforms were abandoned by the House of Representatives and replaced by an increase in taxes for all Kentuckians. Without the promise of tax relief for those least able to pay, those increases lost much of their appeal.

The Senate rejected any increase in taxes and approved a budget that is much leaner than the one approved by the House.

As this is written, House and Senate leaders are still trying to work out differences in their two budgets, but they are not getting far. Instead, they are spending more time trying to score political points than doing the single most important task of the General Assembly: Approving a budget.

With only two days left in the 60-day session, it now seems likely that no budget will be approved. That means the governor either will have to call a special session before the end of the fiscal year, or the House and Senate will simply vote to extend the current budget for another two years.

The latter would be like treading water, and that can only be done for so long. Sooner or later, one begins to sink.

Well, gridlock and political ambitions are on the verge of sinking progress in Frankfort. It is too late to hope for any bold, progressive initiatives to come out of this session; the best we can hope for is a budget that doesn't set this state backward.

Census takers face difficult task counting students

By Geoff Mulvihill
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

While some census takers face the challenge of counting Kentuckians who live in isolated hollows along lonely farm roads, workers in Lexington face more urban challenges: visiting soup kitchens, for example, or homeless shelters. Soon, they'll also be counting students at jails and nursing homes and at the University of Kentucky.

It's the colleges and universities in Lexington's 12-county census region that are causing the most complications here, said JD Patton, manager of the Lexington census office.

The census tracts that surround UK have most of Lexington's lowest return rates for questionnaires. Most of the other areas

in the city with return rates below 30 percent also are inside New Circle Road. Areas between Nicholasville and Harrodsburg roads had the highest rates of return.

Citywide through Thursday, about half of Lexington's questionnaires had been returned — slightly better than Kentucky as a whole, and right at the national average.

To count those who don't return their forms, about 1,200 census workers in Lexington and the surrounding counties will go door-to-door later this month.

Patton expects that work to

Citywide about half of Lexington's questionnaires have been returned — slightly better than Kentucky as a whole, and right at the national average.

continue at least through June. But many students at UK and other institutions of higher learning will disperse when their final exams end.

At UK, that's early May, so census workers will have to work fast.

Another area census-takers are struggling with a bit is the city's growing Hispanic population.

There, enumerators deal with language barriers and fears that the government will use census information to the residents' detriment.

Patton said he has four or five bilingual staff members to help.

And Abdon Ibarra, the city's immigrant services coordinator, is recruiting more. He's also asking churches and organizations such as the Migrant Network Coalitions to help spread the word that filling out census forms won't hurt residents.

"Part of our role is to reaffirm that there should be no fear in doing this," Ibarra said.

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Saturday, April 1, 2000

THE COURIER-JOURNAL
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2000

WKU student hospitalized with meningitis

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOWLING GREEN — A senior at Western Kentucky University was listed in critical condition at The Medical Center yesterday after being diagnosed with meningitis, a university spokesman said.

The hospital diagnosed the female student on Thursday after she became ill at her room in Rodes-Harlin Hall, university spokesman Bob Skipper said. The school withheld the student's name and hometown at her family's request.

Officials at the Barren River District Health Department were trying to determine the source of her illness, though it may never be known. Up to 10 percent of the population may be carriers of the sometimes-fatal disease, said Libby Greaney, director of the school's health center.

By late afternoon Thursday, people thought to have had close contact with the student had been notified and treated with Cipro, an antibiotic, Greaney said. A one-time dose usually prevents meningitis infection.

"We feel confident that we have contacted most everyone who has had arm-length contact with this student in the past 48 hours," she said.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses or bacteria. Symptoms may include a high fever, headache and body aches, nausea and vomiting, a stiff neck and a rash.

Student with meningitis in critical condition

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — A senior at Western Kentucky University was listed in critical condition at The Medical Center yesterday after being diagnosed with meningitis, a school spokesman said.

The student's illness was diagnosed at the hospital Thursday after she became ill at her dormitory room in Rodes-Harlin Hall, university spokesman Bob Skipper said. The school withheld the patient's name and hometown at her family's request.

Barren River District Health Department officials were trying to determine the source of the student's illness, though it may never be known.

By late Thursday afternoon, people thought to have had close contact with the stricken student had been notified and treated with Cipro, an antibiotic, said Libby Greaney, director of the university's health center.

"We feel confident that we have contacted most everyone who has had arm-length contact with this student in the past 48 hours," Greaney said.

About 200 people had received or inquired about treatment at the center by yesterday afternoon, she said.

No other cases of meningitis had been reported at the university.

Meningitis is spread through oral secretions. A person who came into contact with the student would be considered at risk only if exposed during the 48 hours before she was hospitalized, Greaney said.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses or bacteria. Symptoms may include a sudden high fever, headache and body aches, nausea and vomiting, a stiff neck, and a rash.

Kentucky making early childhood a priority

By Monica Richardson
HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT — Legislation regarding early childhood development in Kentucky was one of the best things to come out of this session, according to Gov. Paul Patton.

It was also one of Patton's few victories.

House Bill 706 would use \$55.7 million from the state's tobacco settlement. The bill sets the stage for improving the quality of Kentucky's child-care system and making sure all children have access to high-quality care. It also will create new and expanded health initiatives for Kentucky's 257,000 children younger than 6.

Patton noted last week that the proposal was voted on six times by legislative committees and in the House and Senate, "and never had a vote cast against it."

He is expected next week to sign the bill into law.

The plan includes money for:

- a universal immunization program;
- vision and hearing screenings for newborns;
- help for low-income families who can't afford child care;
- a child-care rating system;
- scholarships for child-care providers;
- a voluntary home-visitation program for new parents;
- and more inspectors to

monitor the places where children receive their care.

Senate leaders also added expanded services for pregnant women with substance-abuse problems to the plan.

Kentucky ranks 38th in services for the well-being of children, according to the annual Kids Count report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

With HB 706, Kentucky joins other states that have made early childhood a priority, like North Carolina, with its renowned Smart Start initiative. State plans have been driven by national research emphasizing a child's critical learning pattern in the first three years of life.

In Kentucky, work on setting

up local councils and business and professional development councils for the initiative — Kids Now — has already started, according to Kim Townley, executive director of the state's early childhood office. Other efforts, like the rating system for child-care facilities and statewide expansion of the home visitation program, will roll out near the end of the year.

"This will close the remaining gap in Kentucky's effort to reform its educational system," said Nicki Patton, the governor's daughter and head of the early childhood task force which developed the proposal.

"The passage of this bill is historic," she said.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 2, 2000

Replacing retiring college professors no elementary task

By Susan Stocum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Bob Wiley listened to the ideas of younger, visiting professors, heard about their research projects and knew he was closing in on retirement.

"It involves so many new and different techniques and ideas that I have a hard time relating to," said Wiley, 65, who retired in January from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. "I think the science that I would have to offer is kind of dated, and it's not fair to expose students to science that's not really first-class."

Back in the 1950s and early '60s, when the Cold War drove the government to pump money into research and Baby Boomers started enrolling in college, Wiley benefitted from the large-scale hiring of professors.

Now those professors are starting to retire, and the trend is being felt nationwide, said Iris Molotsky, a spokeswoman for the Washington-based American Association of University Professors.

Replacing the retirees is being complicated by the budget crunch of the late 1980s and early '90s, in which many schools had to impose hiring and promotion freezes, Molotsky said.

"You just don't have the same number of

people to step in and fill the shoes," she said. "That's a problem in a lot of institutions."

The School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Richmond in Virginia is losing nearly 10 percent of its faculty to retirement at the end of this academic year.

"We're losing a lot of the long-term loyalty; that's not insignificant," said David Leary, dean of the school.

At Iowa State University in Ames, half of the more than 1,400 professors are 50 or older and 16 percent are 60 or older.

"In the next decade, we are going to be facing a replacement of a significant number of faculty," Iowa State Provost Rollin

Richmond said.

Finding replacements isn't his only concern. New faculty members will need to establish research.

"For some areas in science, that can amount to several hundreds of thousands of dollars over a two- or three-year period to get them going so that they become competitive," Richmond said.

But Aaron Podolefsky, provost of the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls said new professors are "freshly educated out of graduate school, and they have seen the newest in technologies. ... There's a lot of new excitement, a lot of new ideas."

Lexington Herald-Leader
Saturday, April 1, 2000

NCAA may overhaul college basketball

By Joe Drape
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

INDIANAPOLIS — Four months ago the National Collegiate Athletic Association signed a staggering \$6 billion, 11-year television contract for its centerpiece event, the NCAA men's basketball tournament. This weekend, four teams — three of them unlikely participants — will try to cap an entertaining

and unpredictable run of pressure-packed games by competing for the national title.

This is supposed to be as good as it gets for college basketball and the body that rules all of collegiate sports. So why are so many people so unhappy?

Even as the tournament peaks with the Final Four here at the RCA Dome, a consensus is developing among coaches, uni-

versity administrators and the NCAA itself that something is seriously wrong with college basketball — and that sweeping changes are needed.

An NCAA committee has offered a wide-ranging proposal that would radically redefine amateurism. For the first time it would allow college players to take out loans based on their future potential earnings as profes-

sionals, and it would allow them to use that money to insure themselves against career-ending injuries.

The proposal would also permit high school graduates who go straight to professional basketball to reconsider their status should they find pro sports not to their liking, they could go to col-

(MORE)

NCAA: Coaches cool to some parts of plan

lege and still be eligible to play collegiate ball.

Cedric Dempsey, the NCAA president, made it clear this week that his organization was losing patience with a college basketball culture that is increasingly fraught with summer-league coaches who control access to teen-agers, shoe companies that sponsor teams and camps in an effort to ingratiate themselves with future stars, and sports agents or their representatives who form unofficial entourages around successful college basketball teams and their elite players.

"We need to start rebuilding the culture, wipe it out completely," Dempsey said Thursday. "We're going to change the culture and have the right people making the right decisions of where these student athletes go to school."

But there are other powerful forces pushing college coaches and administrators to consider doing away with the existing rules. The college game's star players are leaving school in record numbers, often after only a year or two on campus.

During the 1980s, between 5 and 14 players left college early each year to enter the professional draft. Since 1996, however, an average of 42 college undergraduates a year have decided to make themselves available to the National Basketball Association draft before completing their college eligibility.

NBA officials recently cited this trend as a reason its television ratings are sagging. Because so many of the best players leave college so swiftly, league officials say they no longer inherit popular stars for a national audience.

"The colleges and universities are hemorrhaging their marquee athletes," said Allen Sack, the director of the sports management program at the University of New Haven. "How is the NCAA going to retain as many of these great athletes as possible? They are going to have to start bending."

But the proposed changes to the NCAA's rules would represent not so much a bending of the rules as an abrupt break from them. An NCAA committee spent two years studying the changes and formalized its proposal last fall.

By giving high school players a chance to go pro and then come back to college — and by permitting loans and other financial assistance to college athletes — the NCAA thinks it could drive out unethical agents and other middlemen who try to ply players with money and gifts.

A final vote on the proposal by the full NCAA membership will not take place until April 2001, and the NCAA staff intends to lobby college presidents and administrators to embrace the plan over the next year.

But one of college sports' most powerful constituencies — the basketball coaches — is vehemently opposed to one part of the NCAA proposal. Over the past three months, a rash of player suspensions over everything from having received help in paying prep-school tuition to improper contact with professional sports agents has fomented public hostility between basketball coaches and the NCAA.

Mike Jarvis, the coach of St. John's, compared the NCAA to the Gestapo. John Chaney of Temple wished for a book that had "every profane word you could think of" and promised to heave it at the organization.

Basketball coaches are open to elements of the amateurism proposal, such as allowing players to get loans and insurance. But they adamantly oppose the idea of letting high school players try life as professionals before coming to college.

"It is hard enough to convince a young player that he needs an education beyond basketball," Jarvis said. "The world we live in now is that they come for a year or two, but at least they learn about things, mature and take something with them. Now more will bypass school and I'm not sure how many will ever come back."

Under the proposal, if someone plays one season as a professional, he must sit out a season upon his return to college before being awarded three years of eligibility. For each subsequent year as a pro, one year of eligibility would be lost.

"We're already recruiting high school and junior colleges," Syracuse Coach Jim Boeheim said. "Now we have to go to CBA games, even to Europe."

MSU Clip Sheet

file copy
MSU ARCHIVE

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 5, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 5, 2000

20 grads to join UK list of honor

HERALD-LEADER STAFF REPORT

The University of Kentucky will induct 20 of its graduates into the UK Hall of Distinguished Alumni. The new members will bring the total of those recognized to 224.

Distinguished alumni are chosen every five years by a committee made up of past recipients and members of the Alumni Association board of directors. Recipients must have earned a degree from UK at least 10 years before their consideration.

This year's honorees are:

Sam Abell, National Geographic Society photographer; Robert M. Carey, dean of the University of Virginia School of Medicine; Paul W. Chellgren, chairman and CEO of Ashland Inc.; Maurice G. Cook, a nationally recognized

authority on soil and water conservation practices; Constantine "Deno" Curris, president of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities;

David B. Dick, retired CBS News journalist; Eugene L. DuBow, founding managing director of the American Jewish Committee; Carol Martin "Bill" Gatton, banking and automobile dealer executive, and donor of the largest gift ever to UK; Thomas T. Hammond, sports announcer with NBC Sports; James F. Hardyman II, retired chairman and CEO of Textron;

W. James Host, president and CEO of Universal Sports America and Host Communications; the late Oliver H. Raymond, founder of Raymond

Equipment Co.; Arthur B. Still, four-time NFL Pro Bowl defensive end with the Kansas City Chiefs; James W. Stuckert, chairman and CEO of Hilliard Lyons Inc.; William B. Sturgill, former president of Golden Oak Mining;

Chris T. Sullivan, founding CEO of Outback Steakhouse; the late W. Reid Thompson, member of the Voyager 2 and Galileo Earth imaging teams with NASA; Myra Leigh Tobin, retired managing director of J&H Marsh & McLennan; Jeff A. Van Note, six-time NFL Pro Bowl center with the Atlanta Falcons and past president of the NFL Players Association; and S.J. "Sam" Whalen, retired president and CEO of the Aerobrazo Corp.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 5, 2000

Sweatshop protest at UK

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

At least 15 University of Kentucky students chained themselves together last night and staged a sit-in at the basement of the school's Administration Building in an effort to highlight the plight of sweatshop laborers.

After a day of rallying and protesting, which included disrupting a trustees' meeting, students took over the basement of the building that houses the offices of UK President Charles Wethington. He was not there at the time.

University police had locked the facility earlier to prevent protesters from entering, but the students sneaked in about 5:15 p.m.

Students — who at one point attempted to order pizza, only to have police turn away the delivery person — said they would stay in the building until the university met their demands. They want UK to join in monitoring apparel makers through an alliance that is independent of the industry and conducts surprise inspections.

"We are tired of waiting for

UK to do the right thing and take a stand on sweatshop labor," said Jay Varellas, a UK senior who was among the students sitting-in.

University officials vowed to resolve the issue by the end of the night. Officers from the UK department, Lexington and the Kentucky State Police were on the scene last night.

Wethington had offered last night to meet with the students, but made no promises that their demands would be met, said UK spokesman Lloyd Axelrod.

The students — many are honor students and recipients of some of UK's most prestigious scholarships — bound themselves together with bike locks, PVC piping and chains. Armed with cell phones, they spent most of the time sitting on the floor, chatting with administrators and UK police officers.

Some of the students' parents were at the scene last night. Jim Varellas, Jay Varellas' father, had arrived to speak with his son around 8 p.m.

At issue for the students is UK's reluctance to join the Workers' Rights Consortium, a factory-monitoring group started by students, labor unions and other workers' groups.

UK, along with 130 other colleges, belongs to the Fair Labor Association, a monitoring group organized by the apparel industry, the U.S. Labor Department and some human-rights organizations. It calls for periodic inspections by the companies themselves and by outside monitors, who would certify that the factories are engaging in fair labor practices.

Student organizer Luke Boyett said the WRC is the better organization to monitor sweatshops.

"We cannot trust Nike and the other apparel companies to monitor these conditions," Boyett said before the sit-in began. He also was part of the sit-in.

The sit-in was a continuation of an earlier rally when about 65 students disrupted a trustees' meeting. Before that more than 100 students, union leaders and community activists protested in front of the student center.

Chairman's promise

The protest at the trustees' meeting resulted in a promise from board chairman Billy Joe Miles that the students' concerns would be addressed at the board's May 2 meeting.

"I assure you that many on this board are sympathetic to this issue," Miles said, asking that the

(MORE)

students allow the trustees to conduct their meeting.

"No one knows more than I do about the working conditions you

are protesting," said Miles, who said he was traveling to Bolivia today on business.

Students participating in the sit-in said that timetable was not good enough.

"We have been talking and meeting with the university for more than a year, trying to get them to take a stand," Varellas said last night. "It's time for UK to stand on sweatshop labor."

Which group to join

Many colleges and universities are caught in a tug of war between two groups set up to end sweatshops.

The Fair Labor Association calls for periodic inspections by the companies themselves and by outside monitors, who would certify that the factories were using fair labor practices.

The Workers' Rights Consortium calls for surprise inspections by outsiders. However, major manufacturers of college apparel, such as Nike Inc., are not included in the consortium, and the group's lack of funding and staff has led some to question its effectiveness.

the WRC, among them Georgetown and Indiana universities and the universities of Illinois and Michigan.

In some cases the decisions were the result of protests similar to those staged by UK students. Purdue University students are entering the second week of a hunger strike in efforts to make that university join the WRC.

But the apparel industry has taken a tough stance against the consortium. Last week, Nike ended its agreement with Brown University to supply sports equipment and uniforms, after the school joined the WRC.

Wethington's view

Wethington said earlier in the day that UK could not join WRC until the administration knew more about the organization, which has its founding meeting in New York this week.

"We didn't join the Fair Labor Association until almost a year after it began," Wethington said.

"It is not that we are unwilling to join WRC, but at this time we are not willing to withdraw from the FLA and join a group we know so little about," he said, adding that he has sent a letter to all students and faculty and staff members outlining his position.

UK junior Amanda Lewis, 20,

said during the afternoon protest that UK should use its power and clout to make industries improve working conditions.

"This university has an enormous amount of influence and can say it won't allow its logo on clothing made in sweatshops," Lewis said.

Yesterday's protest was one of the most confrontational between students and administrators to date. Students have been holding rallies for the past year and have targeted local retailers such as Old Navy, and they have met with the UK administration.

Similar student groups also have formed at other Kentucky colleges, including Transylvania University and Centre College.

Reach Holly E. Stepp at (606) 231-3484 or at hstepp@herald-leader.com.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 5, 2000

UK presidential search panel non-student members named

By Holly E. Stepp
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

Save for its student members, the committee that will help select the next University of Kentucky president is set.

Board of Trustees Chairman Billy Joe Miles yesterday announced the trustees and alumni members who will serve on the search committee. Student members will be selected next week.

The group will screen potential successors to President Charles Wethington, who steps down in June 2001.

Trustee members are:

Paul Chellgren, CEO and chairman of Ashland Inc., Covington; Jack Guthrie, partner, Guthrie/Mays Associates,

Louisville; Elissa Plattner, businesswoman, Versailles; Grady Stumbo, doctor, Hindman; and JoEtta Wickliffe, banker, Harrodsburg.

Faculty members: George Herring, history; Alan Kaplan, dentistry; and Judith Lesnaw, biological sciences.

Alumni member: James Stuckert, chairman and CEO, Hilliard Lyons Inc.

Staff member: Don Witt, university registrar.

Wickliffe will serve as chairwoman. The committee could begin work in the next two months.



Wickliffe

Reach Holly E. Stepp at (606) 231-3484 or at hstepp@herald-leader.com.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2000

Students stage sit-in, urge disclosure of conditions where UK goods are made

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — University of Kentucky students staged a sit-in and candlelight vigil yesterday inside the school's administration building to protest sweatshop labor.

Students said they wanted the university to sign on to the Workers' Rights Consortium, an independent monitoring system for factories where university goods are made.

The consortium requires disclosure of the locations, conditions and safety standards for the factories and supports higher wages for workers.

Amy Shelton, a UK student and member of United Students Against Sweatshops, said 18 students were participating in the sit-in at the Administration Building on campus. Shelton said the sit-in began at 5:15 p.m., and she said a number of students were gathered outside.

Police and several administrators were in the building with the students, and no food was being allowed to be brought to the students inside, Shelton said.

Students said they planned to rally the rest of the week.

Coach pay to be same for sports, academics

Johnson's parity may be state's 1st

By Lee Mueller
EASTERN KENTUCKY BUREAU

PAINTSVILLE — Johnny Ray Turner will receive an extra \$4,500 next season for coaching Johnson Central High School's boys' basketball team.

For the first time, Brenda Porter, the schools' academic team coach, also will receive \$4,500 for her extra duties.

Both won their regional championships this year, and last week the Johnson County school board voted unanimously to pay the coaches of its high school and middle school academic teams as much its athletic-team coaches.

Superintendent Orville Hamilton said it might be the first time such a measure has been approved. That could not be confirmed yesterday as spring break began in most Kentucky school districts. The state Department of Education does not track the differences between pay for athletic coaches and academic coaches, said spokesman Jim Parks.

But equal pay for athletic and academic coaches is a rarity in a state where schools frequently are accused of putting too much emphasis on their ball teams.

"To my knowledge, there's not a school district in Kentucky that pays its academic-team coaches what it pays its athletic coaches," said John Bennett, executive director of the Kentucky Association for Academic Competition. "It may exist, but let's say that would be highly surprising to me if that were the case."

Louis Stout, commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, was more cautious. "I would kind of doubt they're the first, but they're probably the first to make it public," he said.

The Anchorage Independent School District in Jefferson County, for example, has only one school — kindergarten through the eighth grade — and pays all faculty members, including coaches, the same \$25 an hour for extra duty, said office manager Blanche Pedigo.

However, such equity apparently is rare in bigger systems.

Jefferson County, the state's largest school district, pays all first-year high school football and basketball coaches an extra \$2,770 a year, while its first-year academic coaches receive a \$1,662 annual bonus, said spokeswoman Cathy Craven.

In Johnson County, Pam Burton, one of four Johnson County Middle School academic team coaches, will receive an extra \$3,000 next year, the same as the school's basketball coach, Les Trimble. Burton and her fellow coaches received \$1,500 extra after winning the middle school Governor's Cup championship last month for the second straight year.

"It's overwhelming to me that they're actually doing this," Burton said yesterday. "It's nice to be appreciated."

Hamilton, the superintendent, admits to a personal conversion that changed his focus from athletics to academics.

He is in his second tenure as Johnson County's superintendent. Between 1973 and 1982, Hamilton, a star athlete in high school and college, concentrated on upgrading athletic facilities on the Johnson Central campus. He oversaw the building of a football stadium, an indoor swimming pool, a large basketball gymnasium and a baseball park good enough for a local minor-league franchise.

Hamilton resigned in 1982 after a state police investigation into his administration, in which no charges were filed. Hamilton was succeeded by his brother, Frank Hamilton.

Orville Hamilton says he returned to the job in 1994 with a new perspective.

"What I've tried to do the last six years is give a boost to our academics in Johnson County," Hamilton said. "And I think it's paying off. We've really got some good academic coaches and I want to take care of them. And this is not the only raise I'm going to get them."

Academic competition at the middle school level lasts longer than it does in high school, said Hamilton, so he hopes to increase the pay for middle school academic coaches further by allowing them to teach about 20 extended or extra,

days in the summer.

"By the time I finish, I hope it's going to amount to about \$10,000 extra a year for these academic people in our middle schools," he said.

Academic coaches in the county's six elementary schools receive less extra pay than their counterparts at the middle and high school levels, but the rate is the same as for athletic coaches at elementaries, he said.

Bennett said he is not aware of any academic coach in the state who receives as much as \$4,500 for extra duties. He hopes Johnson County's example will put pressure on other districts to follow suit.

Paintsville lawyer Mike Endicott wondered drolly whether the extra money might also create another kind of pressure.

"Whether it's \$4,500 or \$10,000, you're talking about a lot of extra money now," Endicott said. "That's going to create competition for the job — and pressure on the person who gets it. How long will it be, do you think, before an academic coach loses his or her job because the team keeps getting waxed in science and humanities?"

MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2000—

Kim
Hamilton
Staff Writer

Re-working college degrees

The state's council on Postsecondary Education has decided it is time to get universities to revamp or get rid of academic degree programs that produce few graduates.

A preliminary study has found that about half of the 1,120 degrees offered at state universities graduated fewer than 12 students from 1994 to 1999.

About half of the 530 low degree-producing programs are at the bachelor's level and many fall in the sciences, education, visual and performing arts.

(MORE)

Re-working

It has been nearly seven years since Kentucky's public

universities studied the lack of graduates from certain programs and now, since the legislature passed a law in 1997, the council has the power to cut programs as it sees fit.

Gordon Davies, president of the council, said most universities will probably want to close programs on their own without being forced to do so by the council.

Morehead State University closed two degree programs in human sciences (similar to home economics) last year.

The council said the low-degree producing programs

cover everything from certificates in executive assistant and secretary training to doctoral degrees in art history.

In specialized areas of education, engineering, technology, foreign languages, visual and performing arts, few colleges met the standard, although they were very active in those fields, the study said.

Some university leaders say they should be able to review the programs on their own before conducting a statewide review. Other university leaders say the university leaders say the statewide review is an opportunity to be more critical in their own internal reviews.

Maybe some programs will be scaled back; maybe some will be eliminated and some could be lumped together.

In 1994, a review commission cited more than 200 degrees in the state's universities that should be discontinued.

Why has it taken the commission another seven years to look at degree programs that aren't producing?

With the advancement of technical colleges and their power to certify students and give some associate degrees, universities should review themselves every year.

Some university programs overlap technical degrees and other college programs don't teach enough.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2000

Murray State scales back building plans

Associated Press

MURRAY, Ky. — Murray State University has scaled back its plans for a new Hopkinsville campus, hoping to bring the cost closer to the \$5.3 million that had been projected for start-up costs.

Murray State officials insist they need the 36,000-square-foot building

that will eventually house 1,200 students, although there won't be that many students initially. And they say it's cheaper to build one building now instead of constructing two smaller buildings.

So when the bid specifications go out later this month, they will give contractors several options to bid on.

Depending on the final bid

amounts, the second floor of the West Regional Postsecondary Education Center may remain a shell until more money becomes available, said John Yates, Murray State dean of continuing education.

Advertisements seeking the bids will run April 26, and the bids will be opened May 23. The building is scheduled for completion by the fall of 2001.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 5, 2000

EKU hires ex-Cat Ford as new coach

By Rick Balley

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND — Travis Ford didn't wait long to make his first sales pitch as Eastern Kentucky's new basketball coach.

A couple of hours after his introduction as Scott Perry's successor yesterday, Ford met with one of his most critical audiences: the Colonels' returning players.

"I want to find out which players want to make the commitment to get this program to the top of the OVC," said Ford, who had a 58-40 record in three years at Campbellsville.

"Do they want to make the commitment on the court, in the weight room and in the classroom? If they say no to any of those questions they don't need to be here. If they say yes I hope everyone stays. The talent level is very good."

Some of the players were reserving judgment; others were excited about playing for Ford, a former All-Southeastern Conference performer at Kentucky.

"I'm not sure about anything," said sophomore Whitney Robinson, the

Colonels' point guard. "He made a good first impression."

"I just hope he does all the stuff he said," junior George Selden said. "I want to win, and I'm not leaving."

Junior Darcel Williams said it was hard to persevere during a 6-21 season, but he was optimistic with the coaching change. Ford "seemed very impressive," Williams said.

"He was a childhood hero," said Chris Garnett, a 6-foot-10 freshman from Tucker, Ga. "I re-

member he was a little guard in the SEC who didn't back down from anybody. He has a lot of energy and enthusiasm."

With those traits and a plan to bring winning basketball to Eastern, Ford, 30, won over President Robert Kustra and Athletic Director Jeff Long during interviews last week.

"When Travis laid out how he would turn things around, it was very impressive," Kustra said. "He focused on practice, the importance of discipline and structure and how to get the job done on the floor. Everyone was impressed with his talent, his winning ability and the commitment he makes to us. It's a great investment for Eastern."

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 5, 2000

An article on Page B1 Sunday about the Council on Postsecondary Education's degree productivity review may have been unclear. Productivity is determined by the average number of degrees produced over five years.

Ex-UK star Ford takes Eastern job

Inherits program without a winning season in 7 years

By C. L. BROWN
The Courier Journal

RICHMOND, Ky. — Travis Ford discarded his gray sport coat in favor of an Eastern Kentucky University maroon blazer yesterday after being named the Colonels' new basketball coach.

Though the sleeves were a little long, Eastern hopes Ford proves to be tailor-made for its program. He replaces Scott Perry, who resigned last month.

"Eastern Kentucky basketball can be great," Ford told about 100 people at yesterday's news conference. "I'm not getting into wins and losses, but I do promise that you will see a team that will be exciting and, most importantly, a team that will improve each game."

Ford, a native of Madisonville, spent the past three seasons as head coach at Campbellsville University. He played college basketball just down the road at the University of Kentucky. But unlike at UK, he'll have to build the Colonels into a winner.

In three seasons Perry, who resigned March 7, led Eastern to a 19-61 record, including 6-21 this past season. The Colonels haven't had a winning season since going 15-12 in 1992-93, and their last 20-win year was 1978-79.

Despite the team's recent history, Ford said he doesn't view it as intimidating.

"I don't really look at it that way," he said. "I look at what this school has to offer. If I didn't believe we could win, I wouldn't be here right now."

Ford, 30, received a four-year contract with a base salary of \$80,000.

Whether playing or coaching, he isn't accustomed to struggling. He played in a Final Four as a star guard at UK under Rick Pitino. He led Campbellsville, an NAAU school, to a 67-31 record in three seasons, including back-to-back 20-win seasons. He said he expects success to become the norm at Eastern, too.



Travis Ford predicts the Colonels will "enjoy the style that I bring."

"Do I have a time limit? No, I don't. But it will be quick," he said. "I do not deal well with losing."

Before he can win on the court, he must win over the players. Darick Mattox was the only senior on this year's team, but several

players still feel emotional ties to Perry and might transfer.

Perry, a former assistant at Michigan, used his recruiting connections to lure five Detroit natives to Eastern. Other players, such as George Selden of Burbank, Calif., said they came to Eastern because of Perry.

"Everybody felt like crying or leaving," Selden said about the day of Perry's resignation. "People have to think about their situations. I'm a rising senior, so I'm going to stay."

Basketball's national signing period will begin next Wednesday. Ford planned to meet with the players last night.

He said he believes they will

want to play in his up-tempo, aggressive system, which he said is similar to UK's teams under Pitino.

"I would be disappointed if they weren't loyal," Ford said. "Does that mean they won't want to play for me? No. I think they'll enjoy the style that I bring."

Athletic director Jeff Long interviewed 13 candidates, but only three were brought to campus. Former Virginia coach Jeff Jones and Charlotte Hornets assistant Jerry Hayes were the first to be interviewed on campus.

Ford apparently made the biggest impression.

"When he came on board, his excitement affected everybody," Long said, adding that Ford was the only candidate to be offered the job.

Campbellsville President Michael V. Carter said in a statement: "I know Travis will always hold a dear place in his heart for Campbellsville University since we were the place that gave him his first opportunity to coach college ball. Even though we will greatly miss him, we know he will be successful at EKU."

THE COURIER JOURNAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2000

Centre team escapes injury in bus crash

Associated Press

EAST RIDGE, Tenn. — A bus carrying members of the Centre College women's softball team was in collisions with two tractor-trailers as the players returned home from a rained-out game. One person was hospitalized with minor injuries.

Joe McDaniel, athletic director at Centre in Danville, Ky., said the bus collided Monday with a tractor-trail-

er along Interstate 75 in Tennessee, just north of the Georgia border.

The second truck struck the bus from behind.

The bus driver, Matt Babbs, was taken to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga for observation and later released. The team's coach, manager, trainer and six players escaped injury.

The truck drivers also were not hurt.

charter bus company, Bluegrass Tours, based in Lexington, Ky., sent another bus for the team, and the team arrived home Tuesday.

East Ridge police Chief Joe Sebenick said the wreck forced authorities to close the northbound lanes of I-75, causing delays of up to two hours.

The team was returning from Atlanta, where it was scheduled to play Agnes Scott College. The team, in its second year of fast-pitch softball, is

Young players no guarantee for Florida's future

By Jerry Tipton

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

In the old days, a loss in the national championship game would have been a beginning, not an ending for a fuzzy-cheeked team like Florida.

But, of course, these aren't the old days.

Florida used only one senior in a 10-player rotation that advanced the Gators to the NCAA Tournament finals. Yet, after losing 89-76 to senior-led Michigan State Monday night, Florida's future was filled with question marks.

On the back page

■ Michigan State players return home to warm welcome from fans

Will sophomore star Mike Miller enter this year's NBA draft, as is widely speculated?

Will heralded freshman Donnell Harvey do the same?

Will low-post strong man

Udonis Haslem?

No wonder, sophomore guard Ted Dupay only shook his head when asked whether he thought a hugely talented Florida team would return intact next season (minus that one senior, guard Kenyan Weaks).

"You never know," said Dupay, who faces surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff and then a six-month rehabilitation. "You never know. Mike definitely has options. Donnell has options. U.D. has options. I hope (all three stay). But you never know what will happen.

"Selfishly, I'd love to have him come back. The NBA, that's everybody's goal. Their main goal. These guys have got a chance. They're good. God, so good. They have to look at the broad picture."

Miller, who admitted earlier in the week that he spoke numerous times with agent Andy Miller (no relation) during the season, was coy about his plans.

When asked after Florida beat Oklahoma State in the East Region finals whether he'd turn pro this spring, Miller said with a smile, "I'll plead the fifth."

Miller was vague when asked again after the Michigan State game.

"Who knows?" he said. "It's difficult to say

anything right now after a loss like that. I have to sit down and talk to coach. We'll figure out something."

Swearing an oath of impartiality, Florida Coach Billy Donovan saw his young stars needing to return next season.

"I don't think anybody on our team is remotely close to turning pro right now," said Donovan.

truth, they were hard to guard," he said. "You know, they come in with two or three shooters, two or three muscle men, and they can do both things.

who noted that he sharpened his eye for pro readiness as a Kentucky assistant. "They're just not ready emotionally, physically and mentally.

"I'm saying that sincerely, not to keep the team intact. But a lot of time, it's not up to me."

Miller's play in the Final Four suggested he should stay at Florida. He made only five of 18 shots (one of eight from three-point range) and averaged 10 points in the two games in Indianapolis.

After Monday night's game, former Michigan State All-American Earvin "Magic" Johnson took Miller aside and advised him to return to Florida next season.

"Mike's skill level is probably not going to get a whole lot better," Donovan said. "But (NBA officials) want to know if he can play 82 games without breaking down. He played tired against

North Carolina and Michigan State."

Miller also showed his youth in the championship game when he lost the ball needlessly trying to begin a move with a behind-the-back dribble.

Florida did not stand still this recruiting year. The Gators added one impact player in Orien Greene, a 6-foot-5 swingman from Gainesville. He was Florida's Mr. Basketball this season.

Without a mass exodus, Florida figures to be a Final Four contender again next season. Michigan State Coach Tom Izzo needed no more convincing.

"Defensively, to tell you the

"I think next year they could be scary because each guy's going to get better."

But Florida's prospects next season may depend on whether several players show that improvement in Gainesville or on the NBA circuit.

That unknown left the Gators lamenting the missed opportunity.

"We definitely want to try to get back here again," Haslem said. "The fact is we wanted to win tonight and nothing's guaranteed in life."

MISU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 6, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

Lexington Herald-Leader
Thursday, April 6, 2000

PROTEST AT UK

School stands by decision to have students arrested

By Holly E. Stepp,
Linda B. Blackford
and John Cheves

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITERS

The University of Kentucky is standing by its decision to allow the arrests of 12 students early yesterday after an eight-hour sit-in at the campus administrative building.

The arrested students, however, are vowing to conduct daily protests and marches until UK joins a labor-backed sweatshop-monitoring alliance. Yesterday, students rallied at UK before marching to the Fayette County Courthouse for the arrested students' arraignments.

About 17 students entered the administrative building around 5:15 p.m. Tuesday and bound themselves together with bike locks, PVC piping and chains. After hours of negotiating, 12 of them were arrested by UK and Lexington police at 1:40 yesterday morning.

The arrests are thought to be the first during a protest at UK since 1970, when more than 40 were arrested during a protest in response to the shooting of four students at Kent State University in Ohio.

UK spokesman Lloyd Axelrod said the university wants to keep the dialogue open with the protesters but only in a "civil and respectful manner." "It's unfortunate that it ended as it did, but as an institution, we have the responsibility to protect our property," said Axelrod.

At issue is which sweatshop monitoring organization UK should join.

UK, along with more than 130 other colleges, is a member of the Fair Labor Association, a group supported by the apparel industry.

Students say the group is dominated by the industry and that the Workers' Rights Commission, which has 33 college members, is the better group to monitor labor practices. Transylvania University belongs to the WRC.

For now, the UK administration and students seem to be at an impasse. UK has said it won't renounce the FLA, nor will it join the WRC.

Roughly 40 protesters rallied again at noon yesterday.

David Stockham, dean of students, said he wouldn't officially comment on the situation. But at one point during the protest, he took the bullhorn to address students who had gathered in front of the UK Student Center.

"There is willingness to discuss, but to come forward simply with a new set of demands, is not discussion," he said.

Some students said they were taken aback by the arrests.

"I'm not very informed but I think the arrests were a little extreme," said

student Jay Albright. "The whole situation could have been handled a lot more professionally."

Stephanie Blessing, one of the students who was arrested, said she was surprised by the administration's actions.

"They made it very clear that they weren't willing to negotiate with us at all," she said.

However, student Darin Holloway, a self-described heckler at yesterday afternoon's protest, said students had not given FLA long enough to work.

"Cops should have tear-gassed the bunch of them," he said, holding a copy of the student handbook. "I look at it as a waste of time."

After yesterday's protest, the 12 students were arraigned in Fayette District Court.

The students entered not-guilty pleas. Chief Judge Kevin Horne set preliminary hearings for April 26.

The 11 students arrested inside the administration building were charged with second-degree trespassing, a Class

B misdemeanor that carries a potential penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$250 fine.

Another student, Gabriel Sperber, 19, was arrested outside the building while shouting protests at police; he was charged with harassment, also a Class B misdemeanor.

It is unlikely that any of students will face jail time. Prosecutors are offering the students a plea deal: Each case can be settled for a \$250 fine, Assistant County Attorney Jack Miller said.

The students' attorney, James Varellas, said he'll discuss the offer with his clients before their next court appearance.

Varellas said he was asked to take the case by his son, Jay, who participated in the sit-in but was not arrested.

"I'm sure we can reach a reasonable agreement," Varellas said.

"These are good kids, good students. They're acting on their conscience."

The misdemeanor convictions would remain on the student's criminal records permanently. However, after five years, if they are not arrested again, they can ask a judge to expunge their records, effectively clearing them.

After their arraignment, the protesters met with UK officials, including

Stockham, the dean of students; UK attorney Richard Plymale; and Kyle Moats, an assistant marketing director.

But President Charles Wethington, who has refused to meet with the students, did not attend. Wethington's stance has been at the heart of students' complaints.

Wethington, in an open letter sent to all students and faculty and staff members, said that UK has "no sound basis" for concluding the FLA doesn't work.

"We hope you appreciate our view that it would be premature to withdraw from FLA and premature to join WRC," he wrote.

But administrators emphasized they are willing to look into the WRC.

"We are not wedded to any organization that does not meet the standards of fairness and decency to students," Plymale said.

Protesters said they weren't especially encouraged.

"It was all right, but it's the same kind of thing we've been doing for some time," protester Luke Boyett said after the meeting.

The group also made plans to speak at the university Board of Trustees meeting on May 2. Board chairman Billy Joe Miles had made the same promise on Tuesday, when protesters disrupted the board meeting before staging the sit-in.

Miles was traveling outside the country yesterday and could not be reached. Board vice-chairman Steven Reed said he was committed to making sure the students' concerns are aired before the board.

UK officials meet with protesters after sit-in

Students demand that school fight sweatshops more

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A dozen students were arrested during a sit-in at the University of Kentucky's administration building early yesterday, and one was treated for minor injuries, a spokeswoman for United Students Against Sweatshops said.

Amy Shelton, a junior from Louisville, said the students were demanding that the school support stronger monitoring of apparel makers.

The sit-in capped a day of rallying and protesting that included disrupting a meeting of university trustees.

Student Anna Morgan Ellis was treated at the UK Hospital for neck pain, then discharged, after her arrest, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Eighteen students chained themselves together Tuesday night and took over the basement of the building that houses the office of UK President Charles Wethington. University police had locked the building to keep protesters out, but the students sneaked in about 5:15 p.m.

Students said they would stay in the building until the university met their demands. Officers broke up the demonstration about 1:30 a.m. when they arrested 12 students on charges of second-degree criminal trespass, Shelton said.

The group wants UK to join an alliance that monitors apparel makers through surprise inspections. The alliance is independent of the industry. The students plan another rally later today.

UK, along with 130 other colleges, belongs to the Fair Labor Association, a monitoring group organized by the apparel industry, the U.S. Labor Department and some human-rights organizations. It calls for periodic inspections by the companies themselves and by outside monitors, who would certify that the factories are engaging in fair labor practices.

But the students want the university to join the Workers' Rights Consortium, a factory-monitoring group started by students, labor unions and other workers' groups.

"We are tired of waiting for UK to do the right thing and take a stand on sweatshop labor," said Jay Varellas, a senior who joined the sit-in.

Officers from the UK department, Lexington and the Kentucky State Police were on the scene Tuesday night. At one point, the students tried to order pizza, but police turned the delivery person away.

Many of the protesters are honor students who hold some of UK's most prestigious scholarships. The students bound themselves together with bike locks, plastic pipe and chains. Equipped with cellular phones, they spent most of the time sitting on the

floor, chatting with administrators and campus police.

Some of the students' parents were present Tuesday night.

Student organizer Luke Boyett, who took part in the sit-in, said the Workers' Rights Consortium is the better organization to monitor sweatshops.

"We cannot trust Nike and the other apparel companies to monitor these conditions," he said.

The sit-in was a continuation of an earlier rally at which about 65 students disrupted a meeting of trustees. Before that more than 100 students, union leaders and community activists protested in front of the student center.

The protest at the trustees' meeting led Chairman Billy Joe Miles to promise the students that the trustees would address the issue at their May 2 meeting.

"I assure you that many on this board are sympathetic to this issue," Miles said, asking students to let the trustees conduct their meeting.

The students said Miles' promise was not enough.

"We have been talking and meeting with the university for more than a year, trying to get them to take a stand," Varellas said Tuesday night.

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 7, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

Lexington Herald-Leader
Friday, April 7, 2000

The money game

NCAA rule changes unlikely to solve real problem

The National Collegiate Athletic Association issued a report last week full of hand-wringing over losing some of its most talented players to the National Basketball Association.

After two years of study, an NCAA committee has recommended allowing college players to take out loans based on potential earnings and letting high school players try life as professionals before even coming to college.

Some college coaches have already pointed out pitfalls in this approach; over the next year, the practicalities and consequences will surely be explored.

But it seems that the debate ought to begin with something much more fundamental. It should be less about how to compete with the pros for the marquee players and more about the NCAA's basic mission: running amateur sports programs with athletes who are also students.

If the superstar players want to bypass or leave college, let them. Fill the teams with the remaining talented players who also want an education.

The fans won't leave. While a high-profile player recruited from another country may add some

spice to the play, fans support a college team primarily because it is the college team. And they follow a player into the pros mostly because of the loyalty and respect earned during the college years.

It's hypocritical of NCAA officials to complain about the big-business environment surrounding college athletes: the agents and entourages, the hangers-on with hand-outs, the summer-league coaches with shoe contracts. After all, the NCAA has made college sports a big business. Right now, it has a \$6 billion, 11-year television contract for the men's basketball tournament.

It won't be easy to stop a slide down such a slippery slope — if that's really the aim.

The NCAA is worried more about what it sees as a talent drain. During the 1980s, 5 to 14 players left college early each year to enter the professional draft. Since 1996, however, an average of 42 college undergraduates a year have decided to make themselves available to the NBA draft before completing eligibility.

And why shouldn't they? At the rate things are going, college sports are as much a business as the pros, except the athletes don't get paid.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Friday, April 7, 2000

Madison County

Fumes send 24 at ECU to hospital:

Twenty-four employees from Eastern Kentucky University were taken to Pattie A. Clay Hospital in Richmond yesterday after an employee spilled some cleaning fluid. Richmond Assistant Fire Chief Elra Perkins said an employee cleaning a printing press on campus promptly wiped up the spilled fluid, but fumes filled the air and people in the building complained of nausea and headaches. The 24 people were treated and all had been released from the hospital by last night. Perkins said safety guidelines for the chemical don't indicate any serious consequences from short-term exposure.

Hazing victim to get \$1 million

By KIM WESSEL
The Courier-Journal

A fraternity that once had a chapter at the University of Louisville has agreed to pay \$1 million to a former student who was severely beaten during a hazing ritual three years ago.

Shawn A. Blackston, 26, had been awarded \$931,428 by a Jefferson Circuit Court jury last July. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity initially appealed the verdict, but now it has agreed to settle the case for \$1 million and drop the appeal.

Blackston, who was beaten with a wooden paddle and hospitalized with renal failure, called the settlement a "blessing."

"I'm glad that everything is over and done with," he said yesterday. "I can move forward with the rest of my life."

Blackston is fully recovered and now works at Sam Swope Auto Group in Louisville, detailing cars.

He said he hopes that "something good" will come from his case.

"I think it has made a powerful statement that hazing will not be tolerated," he said. "I hope everyone will take heed."

Neither the National Pan Hellenic Council nor the National Interfraternity Council, which govern fraternities and sororities, keep statistics on the amounts of such settlements across the country. But Blackston's attorney, Glenn Cohen, said he's not aware of a bigger settlement — or a larger verdict — in a fraternity hazing case.

Omega Psi Phi, a traditionally African American fratern-

ity, has had problems with hazing elsewhere, as well. Its chapters have been banned at times at Indiana University and Eastern Kentucky University. As a result of what happened to Blackston, U of L banished the Omega Psi Phi chapter from its campus for at least 10 years.

IN 1997, A jury awarded a former Indiana University student \$774,500 for a hazing incident, involving two weeks of beatings, at that school's chapter of Omega Psi Phi. Also in 1997, a jury awarded \$375,000 to a former University of Maryland student who was hospitalized for a week after being severely beaten by members of the same fraternity.

Officials at Omega Psi Phi's national headquarters in Decatur, Ga., referred all questions to their lawyer, Steve Bowden, who was not available for comment yesterday.

Willie Peale, an attorney in Frankfort who represents Omega Psi Phi's chapters in Kentucky and Tennessee, could not be reached for comment either.

Sheryl Snyder, the attorney who handled Omega Psi Phi's appeal in Blackston's case, said he was not authorized to say why the fraternity decided to settle, nor could he say

where the fraternity is getting the money.

According to the settlement agreement, which was filed in Jefferson Circuit Court this week, Blackston was paid \$600,000 when the settlement was reached, and will be paid the rest over the next four years.

Snyder noted that the jury's verdict of \$931,428, which was awarded in July, carried 12 percent interest annually. And if Omega Psi Phi pursued its appeal — which could have taken another year or more — and lost, it might have had to pay another \$1 million in interest.

SNYDER SAID that, according to the agreement, the fraternity will not pay interest on the \$400,000 it has yet to pay.

After a four-day trial last year, a Jefferson County jury found that Omega Psi Phi's national organization knew — or should have known — that its U of L chapter was hazing initiates and that it didn't take appropriate actions to prevent the hazing.

It ordered the fraternity to pay \$750,000 in punitive damages and to reimburse Blackston \$181,428 for his medical expenses, lost wages and pain and suffering.

According to testimony at trial, Blackston and other initiates were struck repeatedly with paddles. The pledges were made to eat dog food, stay up all night and run around a track carrying bricks, Cohen said.

Blackston was beaten between 11:30 p.m. April 2, 1997, and 3 a.m. the next day. He was admitted to Columbia Suburban Hospital, now Norton Suburban Hospital, in critical condition.

After the incident, the national Omega Psi Phi fraternity suspended U of L's chapter, and U of L revoked the fraternity's charter. Blackston filed his lawsuit in June 1997.

AT THE TIME of the jury's verdict, Peale, the attorney who represented the fraternity, said he thought only the people who administered the beating should have been held responsible, not the national organization.

The national organization's "statement position" on hazing, which was provided at the time of the incident, said the fraternity "strictly prohibits and expressly denounces the practice of hazing in any form" against anyone seeking admission.

The handbook of the National Pan Hellenic Council, the governing organization of the nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, specifically opposes "any form of hazing in the membership development and intake process."

MSU Clip Sheet

file copy
MSU ARCHIVES

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 10, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

THE MOREHEAD NEWS
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2000



Stephanie Davis photo
Dr. Earl Bentley, left, received the university service award, presented by Gene Caudill. At far left is Bonnie Eaglin.

Dr. Bentley honored

By STEPHANIE DAVIS
Managing Editor

"Now I can lie down and have pleasant dreams," said Dr. Earl Bentley, reflecting on his 30-year career at Morehead State University.

Bentley, professor emeritus whose professional background includes coaching as well as classroom teaching, was honored with the MSU 2000 Founders Day Award for University Service on Thursday. "It's great to know people have that much confidence in someone," Bentley said.

The festivities marked MSU's 78th anniversary as a public institution of higher learning.

"MSU provided me an opportunity to do the many things I had dreamed about," said Bentley, an Alabama native who was

chairman of MSU's Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation when he retired in 1989.

Bentley has continued to support activities on campus since his retirement. He is a member of the MSU Retiree Association where he works alongside his wife LeMerle who retired as an assistant librarian after more than 20 years at MSU.

Other Morehead residents recognized at the Founders Day luncheon were outstanding faculty and staff fund raisers April Haight and Madonna Weathers, and MSU Fellows.

"What's really important is when you are recognized by your alma mater," said Dr. Lucian Yates III, Founders Day speaker.

"I cherish many of the memories I had here," he said.

Yates is a two-time graduate of MSU and is currently superintendent of the 9,000-student Harrisburg, Pa., school district.

That morning, a memorial brick ceremony was held at the university's memorial plaza near the bell tower in front of the Camden-Carroll library.

Recognized were 39 deceased faculty and staff members, who had contributed 580 years of service to the university. An inscribed brick showing their name and years of service will be placed in the memorial plaza.

During the ceremony, names and years of service were read aloud, followed by a tolling of the bell.

"We're grateful to the friends and family of these honorees," said MSU President Ronald Eaglin. "This will be a permanent record of those who have gone before."

Let's recycle

Construction of new center to begin soon

By CHRIS TURNER
Staff Writer

The new recycling center is close to becoming a reality with construction beginning as early as the end of this month.

Packs' Inc., of Morehead, was the low bidder at \$209,900 to construct the new center. The bids were opened at a meeting of the recycling board on March 23.

April Haight, manager of the recycling program at Morehead State University and chair of the recycling board, said that construction is ready to begin as soon as the paperwork regarding the land is completed.

The board is purchasing approximately one acre of land for \$65,500 across from the Montessori School on Triplett Street from Perkco Inc, which is owned by Clayton Perkins.

Haight said the paperwork will probably be completed next week and that a ground breaking could be held as early as April 20.

"I'm pretty excited. It should be a lot nicer for employees and the public. We've had school groups out at the old center and had to scream over the traffic on U.S. 60," she said. The new center will have rooms to hold educational classes.

Construction is expected to take approximately three and a half months.

Haight also said that they had received the 90 day notice on March 31 to vacate the old center,

which is located on U.S. 60. The state is acquiring the land for the new bypass.

The total cost of the new center and the land will be approximately \$274,000.

The city and county was awarded a loan from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority for \$150,000. The Recycling Board was also awarded a \$150,000 loan from the Kentucky Area Development District.

Haight said that the remaining \$26,000 would be used to cover miscellaneous expenses.

The Recycling Board, which will oversee the the new center, was created out of an inter-local agreement between Rowan County, the city of Morehead and Morehead State

University. Each agreed to contribute \$23,000 annually to run the center and for debt service.

The operating cost of the new center is expected to be approximately \$58,000 a year.

Of the \$69,000 that the city, county and university will contribute annually, \$30,000 of that will go to debt service, the remaining \$39,000 will be used to help with operating expenses. The center itself will also generate revenues.

The Recycling Board members are Troy Perkins and Phyllis Tremmer, representing Rowan County; Allie Secor and Alan Baldwin, representing the city of Morehead; April Haight and Darrell Grimes, representing MSU.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 9, 2000

Student demonstrators are standing up for other people, not just themselves

By Holly E. Stepp
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

At the University of Kentucky, students are often more likely to complain about the number of Wildcat basketball tickets or the parking woes on campus.

And even then, they are unlikely to be so upset that they would stage public protests.

So when 12 UK students were arrested last week for staging an anti-sweatshop sit-in in the university administration building, it marked a change for a campus that's relatively quiet in political terms.

Some university observers say protests like the one at UK and similar ones at other universities are a sign of bigger change in student activism.

"These students are willing to take a stand on something that doesn't affect them directly," said Clark University sociology professor Robert Ross, who has been following the protests.

A student sit-in at Tulane University has gone on for more than a week. Students at Purdue University ended a hunger strike Friday.

Ross compares the recent wave of protests to those of the mid-1980s, when university students pushed their schools to divest holdings in companies that did business in apartheid South Africa.

"Students are realizing that their universities have the power to influence businesses and their practices," Ross said.

"The anti-apartheid demonstrations are a very powerful model for these students," he said.

UK's protesters agree. "We have seen what student activism can do," said junior Luke Boyett.

It has been awhile since UK students have taken such strong public stands on global issues. Protests in recent years have centered on tuition increases and drew fewer students.

The last arrests of student protesters are thought to have been in 1978, when 12 members of UK's Iranian Student Association and their supporters disrupted a speech by CIA Director Stansfield Turner. They accused the CIA of supporting Iranian secret police, controlled by the Shah of Iran.

More than 40 students were arrested in 1970 in probably the most well-known protests at UK. Students were protesting the shooting of four students at Kent State University in Ohio, and protesters set fire to an Air Force ROTC armory on campus. The National Guard was called in to prevent further violence.

Ross said the students' demands are also different — and more focused — than in the past.

"In the late '60s and '70s, protests started with the war and ranged from everything to getting fired professors rehired," he said.

The students are offering alternatives, Ross said.

The lack of a personal connection to the issue is also a big change.

"Most of these students have never seen a sweatshop, let alone met those who have," said Maria Roeper, a staff member of the New York-based Workers' Rights Consortium. "They simply believe that sweatshops and inhumane working conditions are wrong."

Others say that standing for one's convictions is what universities should encourage.

UK trustee vice chairman Steven Reed of Louisville said that although he hadn't formed an opinion on the students' demands yet, he defended their right to express them.

"When free speech is not encouraged in higher education on a university campus, it doesn't bode well for the rest of the country," he said.

Today's protester is serious about the cause — and about grades

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

When the University of Kentucky talks about its best and brightest, officials often mean such students as sophomore Stephanie Blessing, a Gaines fellow, part of an academic organization for high-achieving students.

They also mean Leslie Merrill, a junior honors student, or Jay Varellas, a senior who is one of the student finalists to serve on the presidential search committee.

But when they talk about students who break the student code and are unwilling to hold civil and respectful conversations about such issues as sweatshops, they also mean Blessing, Merrill and Varellas.

These students and many of their high-achieving, academically gifted peers have been the driving force behind the recent anti-sweatshop protests on campus. Many of them are part of UK's Honors program and hold some of the university's most prestigious scholarships.

For them, being a good student means protesting wrongs.

"We are taught about the world around us and are expected to take a stand on the issues," said Amanda Lewis, a junior Honors student.

The issue of the moment is sweatshop labor. Over the past year, a coalition of student groups — UK Students Against Sweatshops, Amnesty International UK, the Leftist Student Union, to name a few — have staged protests against apparel manufacturers that use sweatshop labor.

The U.S. Department of Labor defines that as factories that violate one or more fair labor law standards or health and safety practices.

Last week, 12 UK students were arrested after an eight-hour sit-in in the basement of the administration building. Students bound themselves together with bike locks, PVC piping and chains; they had to be forcibly removed by UK and Lexington police.

Lewis, Blessing and Merrill were among those arrested. Varellas was part of the original group of protesters but left the building to talk to reporters before the arrests.

The arrested students have been charged with criminal trespassing and harassment and will probably only have to pay fines on the misdemeanor charges. But they

will face punishment under UK's student code, which could include probation, suspension or expulsion.

Last week's protests and sit-in focused on which sweatshop-monitoring organization UK should join.

The students support the Workers Rights Consortium, a monitoring alliance started by students and labor and human-rights organizations. It has 33 member colleges.

"We are the Top 20 students that they say they want to make the university great," she said. "He should respect us enough to at least meet with us face to face."

UK spokesman Lloyd Axelrod said the university is willing to talk to the students, provided the environment is civil, "without screaming and yelling and chanting."

'Part of higher education'

The students' passions stem from a variety of areas, but most cite their college educations.

"In our classes, we have learned about economic and political choices and the results of those choices," said Amy Shelton, a Louisville junior and a campus organizer for Amnesty International. "This is part of higher education, deciding when and for what to act."

The Leftist Students Union grew out of a class discussion, said founding member Luke Boyett, also one of the students

UK, along with 130 other colleges, already belongs to the Fair Labor Association, a monitoring group of apparel companies, the U.S. Labor Department and some human-rights organizations.

UK President Charles Wethington has said it is too early for the university to abandon the FLA. He has refused to meet with the students directly. Other university officials have, but have not reached an agreement with the students.

Lewis said that the fact that the protesters are good students should be reason enough for Wethington to meet with them.

arrested.

The issue crystallized for Boyett after he visited a sweatshop in El Salvador last summer.

"You saw real people and their inhumane working conditions," he said. "You realize that your decisions in this country affect the lives of people a world away."

The students' actions have gained them support and praise from some professors and, in some cases, their parents.

"I am proud of all of them," said Shelda Hale, whose son, Lawrence Orion Weil, also was arrested. "This is exactly what we should be teaching them," she said.

Dan Rowland, director of the UK Gaines Center for the Humanities, said he wasn't surprised that so many top students were involved in the protests. About half of those arrested are Gaines fellows.

"They are very thoughtful and engaged students," Rowland said.

"We have encouraged them to explore the learning and doing aspect of their education," he said.

But Rowland says he worries that the protests and arrests will hurt the students' academic careers.

A plea for leniency

UK officials have declined to comment on how the students will be disciplined. Fayette District Court prosecutors have offered that the students pay a \$250 fine and face no jail time.

Rowland said he has talked to Dean of Students David Stockham and asked him to be lenient.

"These students were protesting what most people would agree is wrong," he said.

The students said last week's events have strengthened their resolve to continue the protests.

"This only makes us that much stronger and creates that much support for our key issue," said junior Kristin Hall, who was also arrested, "that UK should not support the abuse of workers' rights."

UK course linked to exhibit details horse's history in China

By Maryjean Wall
HERALD-LEADER RACING WRITER

Once there were horses that Chinese emperors believed would carry them beyond the grave to the next world.

As students in a history class at the University of Kentucky have learned, these weren't just mythical horses.

China's Emperor Wu thought he'd found real heavenly horses in herds he'd had kidnapped from a place called Ferghana, in Turkmenistan.

How close he got to heaven on his stolen horses is something only heaven knows. But students in Associate Professor Kristin Stapleton's course, Horses in Chinese History, now know all about Wu and other emperors.

They've studied dynasties with the magical names of Han, Tang, Song, Qin, Yuan and Ming, not to mention Qing, and the horses or horse art associated with each era.

The class coincides with Imperial China: the Art of the Horse in Chinese History, an exhibition that will run May 1 through Aug. 31 at the Kentucky Horse Park. The exhibit will look at the role of the horse in more than 3,000 years of Chinese history.

Some of the students will work as docents at the exhibit. Others have an interest in East Asian history or art history and are getting three credit hours for one of the most unusual courses offered in UK's history department.

"The exhibit was definitely behind it," said Stapleton about the class. Her research speciality is 20th century Chi-

nese history, and she has traveled widely in China and South Korea. She got the idea for the course last summer from Jane Peters, an art historian at UK, and says this might be the only semester it is offered.

During one guest lecture in the course of the class, the director of the Horse Park's International Museum of the Horse, Bill Cooke, showed slides of some of the more than 300 artifacts that will go on exhibit. Some are being shown outside of China for the first time.

One artifact coming to the Horse Park is a gilded heavenly horse. A theory holds that the heavenly horses were ancestors of the ancient Akhal-Teke breed still found in Turkmenistan.

Akhal-Teke horses living in that part of the former Soviet Union have pink colored sweat, apparently due to a parasite endemic to that region. In Chinese stories, the heavenly horses of Ferghana also sweated pink.

These horses from Ferghana were especially prized by the Chinese for their speed and stamina, along with their size; they were bigger than the ponies native to China. Discovery of these horses by the Chinese led to the expansion of the silk road, a major trade route, that ran through Asia to Europe. It also led to Chinese dominance of the silk road, as they traded for more horses, often with tea.

Emperor Wu and his heavenly horses were from the Han Dynasty of 206 BC to 220 AD.

From an earlier era, that of the Qin

Dynasty, the Horse Park has received some of the famous life-size terra cotta army that was unearthed from tombs in the Yellow River valley.

The \$100 million exhibit will also display chariots, along with jade, gold and porcelain figures.

Stapleton's students will be quite familiar with all these. She is requiring them to write a term paper on any one object in the exhibit catalog. The papers will be presented in the class.

Walt Robertson Jr., 21, is a junior with a minor in history; he was attracted to the course because of his family's background in horses. His father, Walt Robertson, is an auctioneer for Fasig-Tipton Co., and various relatives have been prominent in the American Saddlebred industry.

"I've always been interested in horses," he said, "and with the Horse Park having the exhibit, it interested me."

Others taking the course include Jamie Nicholson, 21, a junior majoring in history. His uncle, Nick Nicholson, is president of Keeneland; another uncle, John Nicholson, is executive director of the Kentucky Horse Park, and his father, Joe Browne Nicholson, owns an equine and general insurance agency.

Chadney Spencer of Charleston, W. Va., is an art history major taking the course because he plans on working as a docent for an internship.

He said, "I'm learning a lot more than I've ever learned about non-western cultures."

Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, April 10, 2000

UK's place in fight against sweatshops

University committed to letting FLA prove it can police garment-makers

It is heartening to see students of the University of Kentucky express concern about the welfare of workers throughout the world and stand up for fair and humane working conditions. The students and the university as a whole agree on the position against sweatshops. Our disagreement with the position of some of our students at this time turns on the best approach to ensuring that we do business with enterprises that uphold basic standards of fair and humane working conditions for their workers.

I expect and hope that lines of reasoned communication remain open. We are eager to continue having thoughtful discussions about ways our university can exercise its values of personal integrity, mutual respect and collaboration, leadership and stewardship in this area.

My understanding of the students' current demand is that UK should join the newly forming Workers' Rights Consortium, which is being organized by the United Students Against Sweatshops, and withdraw from the relatively new Fair Labor Association. We cannot agree to take this action at this time, for reasons I want to outline here.

We are seriously concerned about the issues involved and, thus, intend to continue to learn about the newly forming WRC. Indeed, I have asked that two

representatives of UK attend the organizational meeting of the WRC framers that will occur in New York this week. We are trying to obtain permission of the

meeting organizers to attend as observers so we may learn more about the organization. It is not yet formed, and we do not have sufficient knowledge on which to base a judgment about membership.

Even if we were to find that joining WRC would be in UK's best interests as a means to uphold principles of integrity and sound stewardship on this matter, we are not likely to withdraw from the FLA so soon after joining it and so early in its development. To our students' credit, UK became a member of FLA at their urging and after we investigated closely its intended principles.

(MORE)

UK:

structure and methodologies.

Helpful to us also was the American Council of Education, which put forth to its member institutions background information about the issue and the developing FLA. We joined in May 1999.

The FLA continues to be at a formative stage in its development, but appears to be making rapid progress in getting organized for its intended work. We have made a commitment to participate constructively in its development. We are represented well and take seriously our responsibility to support the work of a purposeful organization until such time as we believe it no longer serves the university's interests. There is no basis on which to make that judgment at this time. To the contrary, FLA is making progress, and it is not realistic to expect to see results until it is in full operation.

The chairman of the FLA board began his duties just seven months ago. Charles Ruff has a strong background for leadership in this organization, having served as an U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, White House counsel, Watergate prosecutor and chairman of an international panel looking into violence in the first multiracial South Africa elections.

Even more recently, we have

seen the appointment of the university representative, Robert K. Durkée of Princeton University, and subsequently the hiring of the full-time executive director, Sam Brown, who has a great deal of experience in human rights issues in this country and abroad.

Member colleges and universities, including UK, have played an active role in the development of the organization. Specifically, the schools have helped in the appointments of the chairman and executive director, getting specific language about women's rights into the criteria, drafting the accreditation criteria and outlining the protocols that state the precise requirements under each provision of the FLA code of conduct and monitoring principles.

FLA membership includes 11 companies, 15 non-governmental organizations and 134 colleges and universities. FLA is not run by the companies. It is a volunteer organization that will monitor fair labor practices of businesses bearing the insignia of the member institutions.

It invites trust in the businesses and institutions (an American tradition of expecting proof to judge otherwise) and yet it also provides for independent monitors that will be accredited under FLA's new criteria.

The latter process is not unlike the practice of collegial accreditation of our higher education institutions through organizations composed of member institutions who elect to police themselves with high standards and are willing to submit to peer review and judgment.

FLA will require full disclosure of the corporations and locations in its operating practices on our behalf, and it will make announced and unannounced visits to corporations to observe the labor practices. FLA principles do expect that workers be paid the minimum wage prevailing in that country or region.

It would be premature to withdraw from FLA and premature to join WRC. We remain open to continuing discussions with interested students, faculty and staff as new knowledge emerges on this subject.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, April 10, 2000

Wethington should hear students out on WRC

By Matthew Thompson

Tuesday's sit-in and subsequent arrest of 12 students has finally attracted the attention that UK Students Against Sweatshops has fought for since its creation a year ago. Our fellow University of Kentucky students and the administration have several misconceptions about our demands.

We find the administration's uninformed position perplexing, considering that UK Students Against Sweatshops has not only held rallies and forums stating our position but also has sent information packets to President Charles Wethington and other administrators. These packets were the result of hours of research and work on our part, and we find it absolutely degrading that Wethington either has not taken the time to read them or finds them so unimportant that he can simply forget them.

It is our contention that UK's logo represents the students, and we do not want our logo displayed on any object manufactured in a factory where workers do not earn a decent living and work long hours under harsh conditions. Along with students at the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Indiana University, we

think a monitoring group would be the most effective way to ensure that companies producing UK merchandise do not use sweatshop labor.

From the very beginning, we stressed that the Fair Labor Association, a group that trusts corporations to monitor themselves and does not disclose the locations of factories, would not serve those purposes. Ask anyone involved in the United States' own fight for labor rights exactly how much a company can be trusted to police itself.

So we proposed that UK sign onto the Workers Rights Consortium, which requires full disclosure and uses monitoring groups without corporate affiliation. That's a definite advantage over the FLA. Since this was our message from the beginning, imagine our shock when Wethington said that UK became a member of the FLA at students' urging.

Wethington also says that UK is not joining the WRC because it is too new. Watching as other universities take a stand on this issue hardly seems the action of an institution that aspires to be America's next great university. Great universities lead, not follow. Besides, he also argues that UK cannot drop the FLA because it is too early to determine exactly how effective that group is. Why does the FLA merit time, but the WRC doesn't?

Some people who say they support our cause complain that we are trying to achieve our goals in an unsuitable manner. In actuality, UK Students Against Sweatshops did follow what UK's administration considers appropriate channels of communication. All of

(MORE)

Wethington:

these channels led to dead ends and deaf ears. We are tired of Wethington's unfailing talent for keeping communication closed while he

claims to hope that "lines of reasoned communication remain open." We urge Wethington to adhere to that idea, as we have from the start.

We also urge the UK community to voice its opinions on this sensitive issue. Only through patient debate can we acknowledge deficiencies in any of the monitoring groups.

UK could at least join both groups until it can determine which is the most effective. And, at the very least, the president of our university could meet with us to discuss this issue. A great university needs a great leader. And a great leader is not afraid to talk to his students.

■
Matthew Thompson of Lexington is a junior with a double major in anthropology and English.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, April 10, 2000



COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

oncampus

Tax time doesn't have to be taxing

Transy program trains students to help others file

By J.K. Wall

HERALD-LEADER BUSINESS WRITER

It's nearly April 15, and most students are clueless about taxes.

So say four Transylvania University students who help people file their tax returns as part of Transy's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program.

"Before I did this, I had never even seen a tax return," said Jill Tannehill.

Transy's VITA program offers free help to lower-income residents, as well as professors and students. Accounting professors Dan Fulks and Judy Jones lead about 20 accounting students during three-hour sessions every Wednesday in February. But the work goes on after that.

"I'm doing one this week," said Brent Gilfedder last Tuesday. The number of returns filed through VITA grew from about 30 to nearly 150 in the last three years. These students' tax-time popularity among their peers has grown as well.

VITA helped large numbers of students, including many from the University of Kentucky. Gilfedder even filed a return for one of his professors.

These are some of the tax issues students often deal with:

■ Whether it's better for students to file independently or remain a dependent on their parents' return. Filing independently exempts more income from taxation but may diminish value on other exemptions and credits.

■ For instance, students can claim the Hope Education Credit on their tax returns during their freshman and sophomore years, and usually claim the Lifetime Learning Credit after that. But since the credit only reduce owed tax and don't yield a refund, it may be best for parents to claim the student as a dependent and then claim the credit.

■ Scholarships are taxable for the amount exceeding a student's costs for tuition, fees, books and supplies.

■ Work-study money is taxed. "It's oftentimes not beneficial to the student because (schools) usually don't take any taxes out of it," said Transy's Patrick Wallace. "So they get hit pretty hard."

■ Students must pay taxes on self-employment income, including the full 15 percent for Social Security that is usually split between employer and employee. Self-employment income often comes from cash business such as baby-sitting, mowing lawns or independent contract work.

"That hit me hard last year," Gilfedder said of his contract work at a golf course.

■ Investment income is taxable. Transy student Kevin Staton said he helped a student who had paid her tuition by drawing from a mutual fund. So she owed large amounts of tax come April. Investment accounts can surprise student filers because they were often opened by parents.

"A lot of times they don't even know they have them," Gilfedder said.

■ Multiple jobs can unexpectedly cause students to owe tax, said IRS Revenue Agent Jewel Vanderhoef. Combined income from several jobs often exceeds the amount each employer withholds. Staton said most VITA clients who owe are stu-

(MOR

tax time.

dents.

■ Students with income earned in two states should file two state tax returns. Vanderhoef said international students' situations require looking at the tax treaty the United States has with their home country to determine whether U.S. taxes apply to the wages they made here.

VITA students said most other college students struggle with taxes because their parents always handled them before.

"I'd never even done a tax return before I stepped into the VITA class," Gilfedder said.

The students said they enjoy researching, then explaining the tax code to people and making them aware of the credits and exemptions that can save them significant money.

"What these students know is the questions to ask," Fulks said.

Students prepare for tax assistance with a four-hour class, or through Fulks' tax class. But help sessions are the best teachers.

"I probably learned more in this than actual tax class because it's a hands-on experience," Tannehill said, sitting next to Fulks, her tax class professor.

"That's the idea," Fulks responded with a smile.

Reach J.K. Wall at (859) 231-1473.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2000

College financing often demands negotiating skill

Many high school seniors find out this month if the colleges they want to attend want them to enroll.

It's also the time when they and their parents are told just how much their sojourn down the halls of higher education will cost them.

Average college tuition has more than doubled in the past two decades, while median incomes for families with college-age children has risen 22 percent, according to The College Board, which administers

the SAT college entrance exam.

During the past school year, \$64 billion in financial aid was distributed nationally, about 58 percent of it in student loans.

The increased availability of federal and state education loans gives many more students the opportunity to attend college. But it also saddles graduates with debts that are often difficult to manage and pay off.

Before accepting any admissions offers, carefully consider

the full financial ramifications of a college choice.

Students with aspirations of attending law, medical or business school need to think twice about taking on a lot of debt in their undergraduate years.

Those who plan careers in modestly paid professions, such as education or social services, may have to worry about earning enough to handle loan payments after graduation.

So before you commit to a school, negotiate for the best

financial aid package you can get.

Calculate costs carefully.

It's almost certain that no two financial aid offers will look the same. Pay close attention to how much in grants and scholarships the school is giving you vs. how much money you will have to earn or borrow. Find out if outside scholarships are used to reduce the amount the student and family must contribute or if the money will be used to lessen the school's grant amount.

Make a case in writing.

Outline where the shortfalls are. The estimated transportation budget, for example, may not cover a round-trip airline ticket home for winter break or the true cost of the daily commute. You also may want to include better offers from comparable schools with a note stating your preference for the school with which you are negotiating. Present all this information in person or by fax, letter or e-mail and follow up with calls.

Have a good reason. Colleges are likelier to make adjustments in aid if something has happened that significantly alters a family's finances — for instance, illness, divorce or unemployment.

Mention other situations that strain your family's income, such as caring for an elderly relative or paying medical bills.

Ask, don't demand. Polite and diplomatic behavior will get you closer to what you want.

— The New York Times

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 9, 2000

Sweatshop labor also an issue at Transy, University of Louisville

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

Students at two other Kentucky colleges are also pressing administrators to take a firm stand on sweatshop labor.

Transylvania University has signed on to the student-organized Workers' Rights Consortium. The University of Louisville has set up an advisory committee to determine what should be done to prevent the use of sweatshop labor in the manufacturing of its apparel.

Last fall, Transy President Charles Shearer appointed an advisory committee to study the issue. The panel recommended joining the WRC and working on a code of conduct for manufacturers of

Transy apparel. Both students and administrators from Transy attended the founding meeting of the WRC this weekend in New York.

Shearer credits senior Carrie Brunk with pushing the issue.

"She was really the one that presented all the options to us," he said. "The students have taken a very professional approach."

Brunk has become a key leader in the national group, United Students Against Sweatshops, and recently traveled to Germany to attend an international conference on sweatshop labor.

At U of L, a group of administrators and students recently began studying the issue. Rae Goldsmith, associate vice president for

communications and marketing, said the discussions are wide open.

"At this point, we have realized that we have a lot to learn about this topic," said Goldsmith, who is leading the committee.

U of L students have also held protests and rallies on the Louisville campus and support membership in the WRC.

U of L's committee is holding two hearings next week to gain input from the community.

"We want to hear from all possible viewpoints," she said.

Goldsmith said the committee is expected to present recommendations to U of L President John Shumaker by the end of the year.

KCC classroom building nearly finished

BY BEN FIELDS
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GRAYSON — There will soon be more breathing room at Kentucky Christian College.

A new classroom building, known unofficially as the "Smith Center," is near completion, college officials said. Construction began on the project about one year ago.

With 513 students, one of its highest enrollments, the college is running out of space, according to KCC Registrar and Grayson Mayor George Waggoner III.

"Classroom space is at an absolute premium. We've been using every building we've got and we're still crowded," he said. "We're having to hold classes in the chapel building and in the library."

Waggoner said KCC keeps setting new records for enrollment, though the number of students enrolled at the college is down somewhat this semester.

"Enrollment was higher in the fall, it always is," he said. "Kids come in during the fall, and then some drop out. You know how that goes."

While enrollment might be down slightly from the past semester, Waggoner said the college is still desperate for classroom and office space.

He said the new building should alleviate the college's space problem. It will be used for teacher education and Bible ministry.

The dedication for the building will be May 3.

KCC is currently seeking a bond agreement with Grayson to help cover the cost. An ordinance authorizing Grayson to issue industrial building revenue bonds, the proceeds of which would go to KCC, was given a first reading at a city council meeting Tuesday. The bond issuance is not to exceed \$1,275,000, according to the ordinance.

A special meeting of Grayson City Council is scheduled April 20 to give the ordinance a second reading.

Julie Peterson, spokeswoman for Ross, Sinclaire and Associates Inc., a Lexington financial firm, said Grayson will act as a conduit for the college, allowing KCC to receive loans from the city at a lower interest rate than if the bonds were issued through a standard financial institution such as a bank.

BEN FIELDS can be reached by phone at (606) 326-2656 or by e-mail at bfields@dailyindependent.com

Lexington Herald-Leader
Saturday, April 8, 2000

Students' arrest speaks poorly of Wethington

On Tuesday, 12 University of Kentucky students were arrested and charged with second-degree criminal trespassing and one with harassment. Dean of Students David Stockham said it best, "It's a sad day when the university has to do this its students." It is, indeed, a sad day when a university has so lost touch with its students that it feels the need to use police force against the very students it exists to serve. Shame on President Charles Wethington. How dare he employ some of the same bullying techniques used in the sweatshops of Third World countries against those who would oppose them?

He should have some integrity and humility. He sits in a position of judgment with the idea that students exist to serve him. Some of the other 23,060 UK students and I are here to tell him that his position exists to serve the students.

He can either be a leader or a dictator. If we want UK to be America's next great university, we must lead by example. It is inexcusable that the administration should be so fearful of losing Nike's support — as Brown University did when it joined the Worker Rights Consortium — that UK is willing to send students to jail instead. Wethington's decisions turned this half-hearted believer into a full-fledged activist. I'll see him at the next protest.

Paul Karl Arthur Kell
Lexington

Stray cats a problem on MSU's campus

By CHRIS TURNER
Staff Writer

Stray cats are usually thought of as little more than a nuisance.

They can make too much noise and sometimes they'll rummage through garbage, not things that most people would get too upset about.

But when a stray cat scratches a child bad enough to require a trip to the emergency room, who is responsible for the animal becomes an important question.

This is what happened to Pam Kitchen and her four-year-old daughter.

The Kitchens live below Eagle Lake in one of Morehead State University's married housing duplexes.

After her daughter was scratched and suffered puncture wounds on her head and ear, which required a trip to the St. Claire Medical Center Emergency Room, she reported the incident to the MSU's Office of Public Safety.

"We're caught between a rock and a hard place," said MSU's Interim Police Chief Gary Lanham.

"We can't take them to the dog pound or call the dog warden," he said, "and we can't just exterminate them."

The Rowan County Dog Pound doesn't take stray cats, nor is the dog warden required to pick them up.

Lanham said that there were several cats around the Lakewood Terrace Housing Complex and that public safety gets calls about them occasionally.

"We can't catch them and kind-hearted people see them and feed them," he said. "There's really nothing we can do."

Kitchen said that she believed that the cats actually belong to some residents living in the complex, which violates university policy.

But Lanham pointed out that it can be difficult to prove ownership when the cats are outdoors.

Kitchen said that she had spoken with university officials who told her the problem would be resolved.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Saturday, April 8, 2000

Fraternity to pay hazing victim: A fraternity has agreed to drop an appeal and pay \$1 million to a former University of Louisville student who was severely beaten during a hazing incident in 1997. Last July, a jury in Jefferson County Circuit court ordered the Omega Psi Phi fraternity to pay \$931,428 to Shawn A. Blackston. Blackston, now 26, was beaten with a wooden paddle, suffered renal failure and was hospitalized as a result of the April 2-3, 1997, hazing. The school banished the chapter from its campus for at least 10 years as a result of the incident. Blackston called the settlement, filed this week, a "blessing." "I'm glad that everything is over and done with," he said Thursday. "I can move forward with the rest of my life." Blackston is fully recovered and now works at an auto shop in Louisville. Neither the National Panhellenic Council nor the National Interfraternity Council, which govern fraternities and sororities, keep statistics on the amounts of such settlements across the country. But Blackston's attorney, Glenn Cohen, said he's not aware of a bigger settlement or a larger verdict in a fraternity hazing case.

MSU Clip Sheet

file copy
MSU ARCHIVES

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 11, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2000

Budget agreement restores projects

Compromise also adds 200 projects with no net tax increase

By TOM LOFTUS
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — House and Senate budget negotiators revealed a tentative compromise on a state budget yesterday that gives both sides what they wanted.

The Republican-controlled Senate got a budget that its leader said does not include any net tax increase.

The Democrat-controlled House got the more than 400 community development projects and spending on public schools that the Senate had cut from the budget because the Senate would not pass Gov. Paul Patton's \$178 million tax increase.

In fact, the compromise adds funding for about 200 projects in addition to those the House passed — projects concentrated in districts of Republican senators.

"I feel very positive about what's going on over here and that we can do the things that we need to do — including these community development projects — without any tax measures that aren't revenue neutral," said Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville.

The House-backed projects restored in the compromise include the Home of the Innocents and Muhammed Ali Center in Louisville and the expansion of Rupp Arena in Lexington.

The General Assembly reconvenes today after an 11-day break, and the budget is just one of many important issues it must resolve with just two official days left in the 2000 regular session.

Other matters to be finally addressed by the end of this week include expanding workers' compensation benefits for injured workers; deciding how to spend Kentucky's share of the national tobacco settlement to help agriculture; and dealing with adult education and teacher training.

House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, also said that the compromise budget does not raise taxes.

However, the compromise apparently assumes two hefty new jolts of revenue that Williams and Richards do not consider tax increases:

■ The 6 percent tax now levied on long distance calls within Kentucky would be extended to interstate calls, which currently aren't taxed. This move would generate nearly \$92 million in new revenue during the two-year budget period, which begins July 1. But Williams said this will be offset by a cut of at least the same dollar amount in the unemployment insurance tax on employers.

This would help lawmakers out of the budget mess. The unemployment tax revenue goes into a special fund so a cut there would not reduce money available for projects. Revenue from the tax on interstate calls, however, would go into the general fund, which pays for most state expenses, including the new projects.

■ The Patton administration plans to begin collecting a tax that is on the books but not now collected — on the access fees that long distance companies pay local phone companies.

Crit Luallen, secretary of Patton's executive cabinet and a participant in the budget talks, said she understood that the pending budget assumes that the administration would begin collecting this tax on long distance companies and that it would generate about \$78 million over the two-year budget.

Williams and Richards insisted that as of yesterday they had not been informed that the administration in-

tends to begin collecting this tax. They said that is strictly an executive branch decision and they've based the compromise budget on revenue estimates provided by the executive branch.

The revenue from the access fee tax, or some other extra money, would apparently be needed because until the compromise began to fall into place late last week, the House and Senate were \$178 million apart.

The House had passed a version of the budget that included the \$178 million from a tax bill that Patton proposed and the House passed. But the Senate rejected the tax bill and cut \$178 million in spending from the budget. The most controversial cuts were about \$20 million in funding for public schools and all funding for more than 400 community development projects.

At the time the Senate made the cuts, Williams said that leaner times required state government to fast and that the state could not afford to pay for "pork" projects.

But the compromise includes some 200 additional community development projects and 12 more court-

house construction projects in addition to the three courthouses the House budget had funded.

Projects added under the compromise range from small grants (\$10,000 to the Hardin County Historical Society) to significant construction projects (\$3 million for a convention center and farmers market at Cave City).

"If we had been in a situation to increase taxes for any of these projects, we wouldn't have done that," Williams said later yesterday. He said House negotiators had insisted on funding all of its projects. When that became clear, and funding for some

additional projects became possible without raising taxes, projects requested by senators were added.

"We'd be willing to walk away without any community development projects. We'd be willing to sit down and negotiate to cut the community development projects in half. But it is not fair to the people of our districts that these community development projects are going to happen in the rest of the state," he said.

Williams' own district got more than a dozen projects added at a cost of more than \$12.2 million.

Richards said the deal was possible because of a pending bill that cuts the unemployment insurance tax on employers. That bill can be passed during the session's two final days and would reduce taxes on employers by an amount equal to what would be raised by levying the 6 percent tax on interstate long distance calls. There's now a surplus in the unemployment insurance fund, because of low unemployment.

Both Richards and Williams strongly resisted suggestions that they had struck the compromise with either a hidden tax increase or creative accounting.

"I think this budget will be very solid," said Richards.

"We are not raising taxes," Williams said. And he disputed the suggestion that the compromise involves cutting the unemployment insurance tax paid by business and replacing it with a new tax on long distance paid by individuals. "More long distance phone calls are made by businesses than by individuals," he said.

However, the telecommunications industry is saying that the moves being used to balance the compromise budget amount to a significant tax increase.

Beth Canuteson, manager of state government affairs for Sprint Communications, said both moves constitute new taxes that "will be passed onto consumers."

Telecommunications lobbyists also argued yesterday that a study by the consulting firm of Ernst & Young showed that the tax on interstate long distance calls would generate far more revenue than the legislators are saying.

The conference committee comprised of House and Senate leaders that is crafting the compromise recessed last night without finishing its work and approving the compromise for a final vote in each chamber. That will probably happen today.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Tuesday, April 11, 2000

UK students 2nd in robot contest:

University of Kentucky engineering students placed second in a robot competition Saturday in Nashville. The robot built by Galen Rasche, Jason Cheatham, Chris Brockman, James Roller, Thomas Slaughter and Doug Maultsby bested 17 other schools but lost in the final to University of Alabama-Huntsville. Tennessee Tech University hosted the 2000 Southeastcon Hardware Competition put on by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. The students began designing their robot in October to negotiate an arena, dropping ball bearings into receptacles for points.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Wethington seeks meeting with protesters

Invitees were among those who demonstrated against sweatshops

HERALD-LEADER STAFF REPORT

Some of the 12 University of Kentucky students who were arrested last week as part of an anti-sweatshop sit-in have been asked to meet individually with President Charles Wethington today and Wednesday.

The students were arrested early last Wednesday after staging an eight-hour sit-in in the administration building's basement. They have been protesting the university's participation in the Fair Labor Association, an apparel industry-backed sweatshop monitoring group.

The students want UK to affiliate with the Workers' Rights Consortium, which is backed by mostly labor and human rights groups.

The contacted students said they weren't told much about the meetings. "We haven't been told what to expect, just that President Wethington wanted to meet with us," said Lindsey Clouse, a freshman from Fortville, Ind.

Wethington could not be reached for comment last night.

Clouse said she thought that all the students would agree to meet with Wethington.

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 12, 2000

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THE COURIER-JOURNAL • KENTUCKY • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2000

Senate passes bill on high-tech recruiting

By MICHAEL QUINLAN
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Senate passed a bill yesterday that sets out how \$53 million will be spent over the next two years to attract more high-tech companies to Kentucky.

The actual money is in the budget bill, but House Bill 572, which passed the Senate 38-0, directs how the money will be spent.

The new programs include:

■ \$40 million for a loan fund to build and promote networks of tech-

nology-driven and research-intensive industries, and to pay for projects with a special emphasis on creating high-tech jobs.

■ \$4 million to create a science and technology foundation that promotes research and tries to land more federal and private research grants for Kentucky universities.

■ \$3 million for a research-and-development fund to help universities work with private companies, which must put up matching money.

■ \$1 million to help small research initiatives in rural areas.

■ \$5 million for a wide variety of programs to make Kentucky a more competitive player in the knowledge-based economy of computer software, cellular phones, the Internet, and other high-tech goods and services. Some of that money will go to small manufacturers to modernize their workplaces.

The bill, sponsored by House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, and supported by Gov. Paul Patton, also sets up a new department in the Cabinet for Economic Development to address the recruit-

ment and retention of high-tech jobs. The Office of the Commissioner of the New Economy will, among other things, recommend construction projects for high-tech industries and oversee other efforts to modernize the state's industries.

Most of the money for the new programs will come from a low-interest loan fund of the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority and from the budget for the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Because of changes made in the Senate, the bill will go back to the House for final passage on Friday.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • KENTUCKY • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2000

Remnants of teacher bill pass

The House and Senate passed a bill with remnants of a teacher-quality initiative yesterday.

The final version of the measure (Senate Bill 77) was negotiated by House and Senate conferees. The House passed it 98-0 last night, and the Senate followed suit, 36-1.

The legislation focuses on middle school teachers, with an emphasis on math teachers. If the money is made available, \$2 million would be set aside in the next two years for stipends and other assistance to teachers wanting to hone their skills.

The bill would create a "center for middle school academic achievement" to assist teachers in the core disciplines of math, language arts, science and social studies.

"Mentor teachers" who take on extra duties to help train other teachers would get extra pay. But a provision to give extra pay to teachers willing to fill critical shortage areas was deleted.

Also deleted was a penalty for school systems still assigning teachers outside their subject areas in the 2002-2003 school year.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 12, 2000

KERA celebrates a decade

By Linda B. Blackford
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

FRANKFORT — Even 10 years ago, in the hectic last days of a legislative session, lawmakers knew they had something big on their hands.

It was a 900-page bill that would overturn just about everything in Kentucky's schools, from how schools were funded to how children were taught.

"We talked of it in those terms, as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we couldn't not pass," said Joe Wright, then Senate majority leader.

And 10 years after the General Assembly approved the Kentucky Education Reform Act, Wright is amazed at its many successes.

"I'm shocked we got it so close to being right," he said.

Wright returned to Frankfort

yesterday to celebrate those successes at the Kentucky History Center. He joined a crowd of politicians, educators and citizens, including Gov. Paul Patton, House Speaker Jody Richards and Senate President David Williams, one of three Republicans who voted for the bill.

Patton called it "the most significant act of our government in our lifetime."

"When I have the opportunity to travel around this nation, I realize anew how unique, important and unusual it is what Kentucky has done," he said.

Patton also praised Franklin Circuit Judge Ray Corns and then-Chief Justice Robert Stephens for their part in creating KERA.

In 1988, Corns ruled in favor

of 66 school districts that argued they could not provide an adequate education to children with the money they could raise.

That decision went on to the state Supreme Court, where Chief Justice Robert Stephens not only agreed that school funding was a travesty, but that the entire school system should be thrown out and recreated.

With the help of experts from around the country, the legislature created House Bill 940, and after weeks of heated argument, it was signed into law on April 11, 1990.

In the words of Kentucky Board of Education Chairwoman Helen Mountjoy, the bill was "more than 900 pages of risk and opportunity, more than 900 pages of hope and promise."

But, she said, "we've stayed the course and this is now the nation's longest running school reform effort."

(MORE)

KERA:

Pluses and minuses

Also part of yesterday's celebration was a new report from the Kentucky Department of Education. Titled "Results Matter," the report concentrates both on what has been accomplished and what yet needs to be done.

According to the report, on average, the gap between rich and poor districts is less than \$1,000 a year.

State test scores show a rise in achievement from every demographic group in the state, as they also score higher than average on national tests called "the nation's report card." And some of the highest scoring schools are also among the state's poorest.

In addition, Kentucky is recognized as a national leader in school technology, and has almost reached its statewide goal of a student/computer ratio of 6 to 1.

Extended school services, which provide after school tutoring and support, now reach more than 200,000 students a year, and

1,000 family resource centers help families with child care and other social services they may need. Nearly 50,000 teachers, parents and administrators are involved with school councils, which make crucial spending and curriculum decisions for their schools.

However, KERA has not been able to solve all of the state's educational woes.

The dropout rate has stayed steady at roughly 20 percent over four years. Basic illiteracy is still at 40 percent among adults. National ACT scores for college-bound students have remained flat, as has the large achievement gap between minority and white students as well as boys and girls.

"We have to say 'we expect high performance in every school,' and change it from something more than rhetoric and live up to the promise we made," Mountjoy said.

KERA has faced many challenges, and has seen many small and large changes. In 1998, in particular, the General Assembly split over whether state test scores should continue to be used to hold schools accountable.

But Sen. David Karem, a staunch defender of reform, said that most opponents have picked

on about 20 percent of the reform act, which allowed the other 80 percent to continue unhindered.

"The big, good news is that in reality, most of the pieces have not been under attack," he said.

While different pieces of KERA will continue to be tweaked over the years, the core of the reform act has made an incalculable difference to teachers and students in Kentucky's poorest areas, said Larry Hammond, superintendent of Rockcastle County.

"Financially, it's enabled us to do things we would not have been able to," like building a new high school and elementary school.

But more important, Hammond said, is a different attitude toward learning, both from students and the community.

"I think that our general population has a better feel for education today because of involvement that's required," he said. "We feel like we've developed a

The bill was "more than 900 pages of risk and opportunity, more than 900 pages of hope and promise."

Helen Mountjoy
Chairwoman,
Kentucky Board of Education

THE COURIER-JOURNAL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2000

Educators hail 10 years of KERA

Party marks progress, unmet goals

By LONNIE HARP
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — A decade after lawmakers overhauled Kentucky's public school system, state education leaders yesterday marked the anniversary by claiming progress and describing unmet goals.

The Kentucky Education Reform Act turned 10 yesterday with a short party at which officials glowingly recalled KERA's birth, praised its survival and listed what it still needs to accomplish.

"It took many decades to be 49th in the nation in education, and in the past 10 years there has been monumental progress," said interim Education Commissioner Kevin Noland.

The state Education Department used the Kentucky History Center to mark the anniversary of KERA, the nation's most sweeping school-reform law. It was produced after the state Supreme Court wiped out all of Kentucky's school laws in a 1989 ruling that found the state's education system needed to be rebuilt, not repaired.

"The things we did in KERA 10 years ago will mean a tremendous difference in the lives of

kids all over the state," said Eugene Binion, superintendent of the Elliott County schools. Binion began his education career teaching in a remote one-room school and during the 1980s was a leading force behind the lawsuit that led the Supreme Court to overturn school laws.

"A lot of people stepped up to the plate and did the right thing," he said. "I think that 50 years from now we'll all be very proud of what happened in 1990."

Lawmakers in 1990 huddled with top national school-reform consultants to design a law that created new preschool programs, family resource centers, after-school programs and an aggressive technology initiative.

KERA added strong anti-nepotism provisions in its overhaul of school governance, which included creating school councils to decide curriculum and training issues at local schools. The law also defined for the first time what the state expected public school students to know, built tests to measure their achievement and set goals, incentives and sanctions for schools based on those results.

Gov. Paul Patton hailed KERA yesterday as the legislature's "finest hour" and said the education reforms launched a decade ago continue to distinguish the state.

"It's the most significant act of our government in my lifetime, and I'm proud to be the defender of it," Patton said.

Patton and Noland also applauded the work of schools and teachers to implement the re-

forms. Noland said the anniversary was a tribute to the 90,000 teachers and staff members who work in Kentucky's schools, and Patton also said teachers deserve credit.

"We asked them to do the impossible, and by and large, they've succeeded," he said.

LAWMAKERS WHO worked to produce the bill of more than 900 pages in 1990 said they were pleased with the state of education a decade later.

"It shows that some things will last in politics," said former Sen. Joe Wright, a leading force behind KERA. "I'm glad there have been so few changes — we must have gotten it close to right."

National education experts said that on its 10th anniversary, KERA is an old-timer as far as school-reform plans go. But they said it has stood the test of time.

"Kentucky still serves as an example for other states," said Mary Fulton, a policy analyst for the Education Commission of the States in Denver. "We refer to it often, and it still shows up on lists of states to watch because Kentucky really took the lead in building a system that's about getting results and trying to link all the parts to make that happen. You'd think that after 10 years the spotlight would fade, but it really hasn't."

But yesterday's birthday party was not just about singing KERA's praises.

The law, particularly KERA's testing and school-rating program, has seen its share of controversy. The testing program underwent a major overhaul in 1998.

And most schools' test scores are still far short of the targets they are expected to meet by 2014.

Helen Mountjoy, chairwoman of the state Board of Education, said that middle schools have not matched the progress of elementary and high schools; dropout rates have not improved and are much too high; achievement gaps based on sex, poverty level and race need to be addressed, and teachers need better training.

"We should celebrate, but then we should get right back to work," she said.

THE ANNIVERSARY also comes at a time when the state's current legislative leaders have shown little resolve for bold education changes. A comprehensive teacher-quality bill, backed by Patton but strongly opposed by the Kentucky Education Association, stalled and was never discussed in the state Senate this year. Late yesterday a few of its non-controversial provisions were passed by both chambers.

Ed Ford, Patton's education aide and a former state senator who was on the KERA task force in 1990, said that lawmakers' lack of passion for moving forward on school reforms is

"disappointing." He added, however, that the 2000 session marked the first time that KERA did not face a strong attack in the legislature.

Several people attending yesterday's anniversary party said that such acceptance is good political news as KERA turns 10.

(MORE)

KERA

(Continued)

"We agree on the game plan now. It's simply a matter of putting it into action," Mountjoy said.

Binion, the Elliott County superintendent, also pointed to tangible results of the education reforms across the state.

Test scores have generally improved, the state's emphasis on writing is noticeable, and statistics show that more students are taking tougher classes in high school. The number of students taking a solid load of basic math, science, social studies and English has gone up dramatically. And more students are taking Advanced Placement courses.

BINION SAID that in Elliott County, new school buildings, more counselors, safer buses and computer access are also a legacy of KERA. "It is a much more level playing field," he said.

Mountjoy said that while many of the education changes have been difficult and the payoff is still a distant goal, KERA has helped Kentucky move up from the bottom in state-by-state education comparisons.

"Ten years ago we started down this road together," she said. "It's been long and winding and full of potholes, and we still have many miles to cover, but it's the right road."

As part of the 10-year anniversary, the Education Department has produced a documentary on its effects. "Education Reform: A Decade of Difference" will be shown April 21 at 10:30 p.m. EDT on KET.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Abbreviated teacher quality bill approved

Original was aimed at improving teacher preparation and training

By Linda B. Blackford
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

FRANKFORT — What started as a comprehensive teacher quality bill got more trimming in a conference committee yesterday. The House and Senate last night then approved it.

The original bill, which was aimed at improving college-level teacher preparation and on-the-job training for teachers, has been through several incarnations during the session.

The new changes to Senate Bill 77 would:

- Remove language that would allow school districts to pay bonuses to teachers who teach in shortage areas.

- Delete the requirement for a commission that looks at better cooperation between K-12 and college-level academics;

- Delete the requirement

that holds school districts accountable when teachers teach classes they are not trained for;

- Allow school districts to give additional pay to teachers and administrators who serve as mentors to new teachers;

- Delete the requirement for the Department of Education to provide grants to pilot programs for teacher recruitment.

The compromise between House and Senate further whittles down a bill that would have originally created an independent standards board to

oversee teacher quality efforts and required more training for middle school teachers. Both those programs were taken out last month.

The bill would, however, provide grants and training to middle school teachers in every subject.

The bill was approved 98-0 last night by the House and 36-1 by the Senate. It now goes to Gov. Paul Patton.

House Education Committee Chairman Frank Rasche, who also served on the free conference committee, said he was disappointed that the bill didn't survive in its original form.

"There is at least a beginning of ideas on teacher quality," the Paducah Democrat said. "This puts the issue on the radar screen for the next time around."

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Wethington says he'll meet with protesters

By Holly E. Stepp
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

University of Kentucky President Charles Wethington said he wanted to meet with the 12 students arrested during a sweatshop protest out of concern for their welfare.

Wethington met with some of the students yesterday and planned to meet with several others today.

"I care about them as individuals and as University of Kentucky students," Wethington said in statement released yesterday, his first public comments since the arrests.

"I want to assure them that this institution believes in and encourages free thought and the development of ideas and that I will continue to defend their right to express their opinions," he said.

Twelve students were arrested after an eight-hour demonstration in the basement of the administration building, amid a yearlong debate over alleged sweatshop abuses.

Yesterday, Wethington characterized the debate as a simple disagreement about which organization "can have the greatest impact on sweatshops."

Student protesters say UK should join the Workers' Rights Consortium, an alliance of 33 colleges backed by labor and human rights groups. UK, along with 130 other colleges, has affiliated with the Fair Labor Association, which has been backed by the apparel industry.

Students who met with the president yesterday said they didn't talk with Wethington about how they had been treated by the university.

"We decided that since there are criminal charges filed against us that it would be inappropriate to talk about that without legal counsel present," said Kristin Hall, 21, a junior from Alexandria.

Hall said she thought students and the administration are at an impasse.

"He wasn't willing to even set up a committee with the students to just study the two groups," Hall said. "(The conversation) was certainly civil but I don't think we made any progress."

MSU Clip Sheet ^{File Copy}

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 13, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

Mountain music to get permanent home

Morehead to open center to preserve bluegrass

By Frank E. Lockwood
NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY BUREAU

MOREHEAD — Mountain music has outlasted 78s, 45s, LPs and eight-track tapes.

And if a new Morehead State University program is successful, the sound of banjos, fiddles, dulcimers and mandolins will be here long after cassette tapes and compact discs disappear.

Morehead is launching the Kentucky Center for Traditional Music, an organization that will honor and preserve Appalachia's musical heritage and train the next generation of musicians.

The center makes its public debut in June, sponsoring a concert by Carter County native Tom T. Hall, as well as a song-writing workshop, a mandolin-building seminar and banjo-playing lessons, all part of Morehead's annual Appalachian Celebration.

Morehead officials also hope to begin offering a minor degree in traditional music studies within the next year. Eventually, they would like to build a small performing arts center and a museum area, modeled on the university's Folk Art Center, which

exhibits artwork from across the region.

Right now, organizers have more dreams than dollars, but "you've got to dream or you can't get anywhere," Morehead President Ron Eaglin said.

"We'll take it carefully and slowly, but once it gains its momentum, I think it'll be a tremendous asset for this area," Eaglin said.

Local educators, economic development officials and musicians share that enthusiasm.

"This'll be one-of-a-kind," said Sandy Knipp, a Morehead bluegrass artist and promoter who hosts *Bluegrass Diversion*, a weekly show on the university's WMKY-FM.

The new center will attract music fans from across the country, said Knipp, who is serving as the center's founding director.

"The music doesn't stop at the bottom of the hills. It's spread all the way from Maine to California," Knipp said. "It's music that anybody can identify with and practically anybody can learn to play."

These are sounds that helped shape Eastern Kentucky.



"It's a pretty lively kind of music and it's what people used to play on the back porches, around the stove, down at the country store, even in the churches," said Kentucky Folk Art Center director Garry Barker. "You're looking at an area of the country where bluegrass and folk music have a lot of roots."

The new center has strong backing from many traditional music stars, including Sugar Hill Records recording artist and Morehead alumnus Don Rigsby, who lives in rural Elliott County.

"The sound of these old Appalachian songs really needs to be preserved and somebody needs to step forward and take the lead," Rigsby said.

Rich Kirby, the manager of Appalshop's WMMT radio station in Whitesburg, said the program could be good for traditional music.

"It's like putting fertilizer on the roots if it's done with knowledge and respect," Kirby said.

'An Adoption Story' appeals to all ages

By Art Jester
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

The first 15 years of their marriage were filled with love and affection, yet Melinda and Wayne Willis were burdened with a deep sadness. They tried and tried to have children, with no luck.

A doctor had even told them the grim news, that they would never be able to have children. Finally, though, it seemed as if a miracle happened. It occurred in 1991, when the Morehead couple adopted their daughter Suzannah, now 8 and a second-grader at Morehead Elementary School.

"After years of no children, it seemed like a dream come true," says Wayne Willis, a professor of education at Morehead State University. "We thought, 'What a wonderful thing this is and what a treasure she is.'"

This joy propelled Willis toward writing — and illustrating — his first book, *This Is How We Became a Family: An Adoption Story* (Magination Press, \$14.95).

While it is technically called a children's book, it is really for peo-

ple of all ages, especially if they have been involved in an adoption.

"I primarily wrote the book to communicate with my daughter," Willis says. "But all along, we thought the feelings we had were probably universal among families who have adopted children. ..."

"But then it occurred to me that there might be adults who were adopted as children for whom this retelling of their story might be very affirming. I have a friend who is 50 years old who had been adopted as a child. He stood in the kitchen, read the book and wept and hugged me."

The problem — and thus the push toward his goal — came from Willis' observation that "other books give information about adoption, but they don't convey the emotions."

To do that required coming up with evocative illustrations. Willis studied painting with two fellow Morehead professors, Joe Sartor and Sam McKinney, and then for 4½ years worked on the 23 paintings that serve as the book's illustrations.

Some of the paintings, especially

Lexington Herald-Leader
Thursday, April 13, 2000



COURTESY MELINDA WILLIS

in the book's earlier stages, are haunting in the stark emptiness, reminiscent of the work of famed American artist Edward Hopper. "He's my hero," Willis said. "I've always responded to his work."

In reality, it took the contributions of several people to write the book.

Willis, 43, had studied journalism and photography in college and was an interim Methodist pastor, earned a theology degree and then got his doctorate in education.

His wife, Melinda, 44, was a university and elementary librarian before she went back to school to earn a doctorate in education. She is now an associate professor of education,

teaching reading and children's literature at Morehead.

"She has really been a consultant on this book," Wayne Willis says.

Melinda Willis says the story "parallels a lot of people's experiences."

Finally, there is Suzannah, 8, without whom there would have been no story to tell. "I'm really happy and really excited" about the book, Suzannah says.

School vouchers best hope for poor

Rick Christman

CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST



In the years since the implementation of the Kentucky Education Reform Act, the learning gap for disadvantaged students has widened. In 1992, 62 percent of African-American fourth-graders in Kentucky scored "below basic" on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, increasing to 65 percent by 1998.

Academic achievement within those impoverished school districts, for which KERA was ostensibly fashioned, falls further behind their more affluent counterparts with each passing year. After a steady decline in teen-age dropout rates from 1986 through 1992, dropout rates have since increased precipitously.

In an era when knowledge and economic security have never before been so closely entwined, these growing disparities in academic achievement between people of privilege and the disadvantaged serve as a clarion call for a new and effective method of education reform. The type of reform that may be the one best hope for low-income families is school vouchers.

Initially proposed by economist Milton Friedman, vouchers would, in essence, enable parents to redirect the financial resources necessary to educate their children to public or private schools of their choice. Most voucher proponents today seek to implement Friedman's idea by providing vouchers only to low-income families, families that would otherwise have no other option other than the public schools.

The market-based consumer power inherent within a voucher system would not only enhance the responsiveness of schools to learning needs of each low-income child, but also serve to improve education for all children. When compelled to compete for the business of voucher-holding families, those indifferent teachers and superfluous administrators who are sapping resources from our public schools would no longer be tolerated, thus improving public education for everyone.

Vouchers pose a major threat to the status quo because they would reverse the relationship of power between families and educators. Accordingly, a barrage of spurious arguments against school vouchers has been launched by the education establishment.

Opponents contend that vouchers would result in the financial collapse of public schools. In reality,



BARRIE MAGUIRE

ty, for each voucher directed away from a public school, there also would be a child whom the public school is no longer responsible for educating. Accordingly, any loss of income would be mitigated by a countervailing reduction in expense, making vouchers no serious threat to the overall financial vitality of the public schools.

It is also claimed that vouchers violate the constitutional separation of church and state. The state constitutions of Kentucky and Wisconsin contain similar language dating back to 1891 regarding the issue of the public support of sectarian and other faith-based schools. In 1998, the Wisconsin Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of Milwaukee's voucher program, ruling that vouchers are a matter of parental choice, rather than government imposition.

Finally it is argued that our private schools have insufficient capacity. This is a most hypocritical argument since it is the very opposition to vouchers that has stifled the expansion of private schools. If vouchers were made available, popular demand would give rise to increased supply. Satisfaction among the low-income families that participate in Milwaukee's voucher program is an astonishing 98.7 percent.

The objections to vouchers are without merit and merely serve as the straw men behind which lurk the two unstated motives of voucher opposition.

The first is the belief that poor folks are incapable of determining what is best for them and therefore are incompetent to select schools for their own children. Such insolent presumption is the mother's milk of welfare state paternalism, which has devastated low-income families and nourished

liberal politicians for years.

The second is the fear that vouchers would diminish the power of school administrators and teacher organizations. The hostility of the education establishment toward vouchers was evidenced by an interview with Bob Chase, president of the National Education Association, that appeared in the Atlantic Monthly last July.

When asked if he could support a voucher plan for inner cities which would double or even triple per-pupil spending, Chase flatly said no. Clearly for the NEA, the

maintenance of an educational monopoly is far more important than the futures of disadvantaged children.

Voucher opponents insist that parents should wait patiently while the public schools attempt to fix themselves.

It seems that Kentucky's attempt to fix the public schools

through KERA has inflicted an even greater harm upon disadvantaged children. In an economy that places ever-increasing emphasis upon knowledge and skills, time is a luxury that disadvantaged children can ill afford. Asking them to continue to wait is futile and wrong.

During the 1950s and '60s political demagogues blocked the entrances of public schools in an attempt to relegate a portion of America's youth to the status of second-class citizens by refusing to let them in. Now, nearly a half-century later, the futures of young people are jeopardized by those who refuse to let them out.

Rick Christman is chief executive officer of Employment Solutions, a Lexington human-services organization. Reach him by e-mail at employsolutions@mind-spring.com.

Committee approves \$14 billion budget with last-minute changes

By Jack Brammer

HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT — House and Senate budget negotiators wrapped up their work on a two-year spending plan for the state early yesterday morning after adding more projects and providing tax breaks for the state's two largest racetracks.

Shortly before 4 a.m., after hours of wrangling — featuring jokes, shouting matches and gigantic jars of puffed cheese balls and pretzels — the House-Senate Budget Conference Committee approved a \$14 billion state bud-

The full chambers will vote on it Friday, the last day of the 2000 General Assembly.

The budget depends on a bill that adds a 6 percent sales tax on interstate phone calls and cuts the tax paid by employers into the unemployment insurance fund by \$37.5 million a year.

The Senate approved the tax package earlier this week, and the House will consider it Friday.

Here are some of the last-minute changes the conference committee made:

- Added a tax credit for Keeneland Race Course in Lexington and Churchill Downs in

Louisville if they spend the money on improvements or purses.

The cost to the state would be \$300,000 in the first year of the budget and \$1.2 million the second year.

- n Provided a tax credit for Thunder Ridge, a trotting facility in Prestonsburg. The fiscal impact to the state, said House Majority Leader Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, would be about \$228,000 over two years.

- Approved transferring \$1 million out of the Cabinet for Health Services to pay for reimbursements to foster-care parents.

- n Allocated funds for more road projects not yet identified. House budget chairman Harry Moberly Jr., D-Richmond, said the projects are still being selected. The item did not include a specific financial allocation.

- Approved installation of a stoplight at Georgetown Road and Briarwood Drive in Lexington.

- \$1 million for design of a new classroom building at Lexington Community College.

- \$250,000 for a group home in Washington County.

- Created of a third campus for the Governor's Scholars Program for high school students.

- \$150,000 a year for a drug and alcohol abuse program for Boys' Club of America.

- \$44,000 for a dropout prevention program in Clay County.

- \$300,000 for the Natural Resources Cabinet to clean illegal dumps.

- Allowed businesses to give money to the state's Adopt-A-Highway cleanup program.

- Gave legislative leaders power to adjust funding for projects — now totaling more than 500 — as long as no more money is spent. They wouldn't have to get the approval of the full House and Senate.

Senate Minority Leader David Karem, D-Louisville, expressed concern that legislative leaders could slight members who disagreed with them.

- Approved measure to keep family courts operating in Kentucky for two more years.

- \$178,000 to improve salaries of trial commissioners.

- Gave House members \$250 a year and Senate members \$500 for stationery.

- Dropped Senate requests for equal number of staffers for leaders in the House and Senate and equal number of members on statutory committees of the two chambers.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • KENTUCKY • THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000

Both parties praise deal on budget

Legislators can still claim taxes not raised

By TOM LOFTUS
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — After weeks of sometimes bitter partisan bickering, House and Senate leaders finally agreed early Tuesday on a \$35 billion, two-year budget bill that both sides say will continue to move Kentucky forward in education and other areas.

The budget fight stemmed from the Republican-controlled Senate's refusal last month to accept a tax increase passed by the House. As a result, the Senate had to cut about \$178 million from the budget bill that the House sent it.

But faced with the prospect of ending the session without a budget — which would force Gov. Paul Patton to call a special session to pass one before July 1 — the Senate agreed to a tax plan cobbled together with the help of the Patton administration. It generates the needed \$178 million but provides members of both parties just enough political cover to say they did not raise taxes.

The result was a budget that provides almost everything Patton and legislative leaders had sought — including huge increases for post-secondary education and bond issues to finance more than 600 so-called "community-development"

projects. Those projects range from \$5,000 to improve a softball field in Hardin County to \$15 million to renovate and expand the convention center and Rupp Arena in Lexington.

"It's an excellent budget because it builds on Kentucky's strengths; it continues the momentum we have in education and many other areas," said House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green.

Sen. Richie Sanders, the Franklin Republican who chairs the Senate budget committee, said: "We gave good increases to every area of education. . . . And I think it's important that a lot of the community-development projects we included were water and sewer projects that our communities need."

Most of the hundreds of community projects in the budget will be paid for by borrowing through bond issues. Patton and key legislators had said at the beginning of the session that they did not want the budget to

increase Kentucky's debt payments to more than 6 percent of its annual revenue. Sanders said yesterday that he believes that the budget calls for about 6.15 percent of revenue to go to pay off debt — a level Sanders said should not be high enough to hurt the ratings of Kentucky bonds.

A conference committee of top leaders and other key members of the House and Senate finally agreed on the budget after a marathon meeting that ended at 4 a.m. Tuesday.

That final version of the budget now goes to the House and the Senate, which are expected to approve it on Friday — the last day of the 2000 legislative session.

The budget bill, House bill 502, is a plan for spending about \$35 billion during two years beginning July 1. The key part of that is \$14 billion in state General Fund revenue, with much of the rest federal matching dollars that are largely contingent on how the legislature appropriates its General Fund dollars.

Agreement on a budget seemed doubtful a week ago, as the Senate refused to budge from its no-tax stance and the House insisted on a budget that restored funding for all community projects and \$20 million in public school funding that the Senate had cut.

But late last week, Richards and Senate President David Williams agreed to a package to increase revenues that would replace the \$178 million lost by the Senate's rejection of Patton's tax plan — which largely consisted of a new 7 percent tax on telecommunications services to replace existing state and local taxes on the same services.

The new package adds a 6 percent sales tax to interstate telephone calls and requires collection of a sales tax on fees paid by long-distance companies for the use of local telephone exchanges. The latter tax is on the books but has not been collected.

These taxes are offset by a reduction in the tax on businesses to fund unemployment insurance. The offset allows legislators to claim they did not raise taxes.

After closing the revenue gap, the conference committee largely accepted the budget passed by the House. It restored the Senate's small funding cut for public schools and even found revenue for nearly 200 new local grants and projects, including money for 15 new courthouses requested by the judicial branch.

The final conference-committee meeting saw a flurry of last-minute efforts by members to include even more projects and special provisions. House Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark, D-Louisville, won a tax break for Churchill Downs and Keeneland. House Democratic Leader Greg Stumbo, of Prestonsburg, won a break for Thunder Ridge race track in his district. The committee also added a third campus for the Governor's Scholars program.

And the committee adopted the House's earlier approach to highway funding, which generally calls for placing millions of dollars in escrow each time a project is started, though the project might take years to complete. This approach will allow an accelerated construction schedule for two years, but the schedule will revert to its slower pace once the money in escrow is spent.

BUDGET BILL HIGHLIGHTS

- Provides \$120 million for the "Bucks for Brains" program to endow chairs at state universities.

- Increases funding for post-secondary education by about 20 percent over two years. This includes \$25 million for a research building at the University of Louisville and \$39 million for a research building at the University of Kentucky.

- Funds significant expansions in adult education and in early childhood education.

- Provides at least \$12 million — to be matched with more than \$36 million in federal funds — for services and community homes for the mentally retarded.

- Finances more than 600 community-development projects across state, including \$10 million for Muhammad Ali Center and \$7 million for the Home of the Innocents in Louisville and \$15 million to improve the convention center and Rupp Arena in Lexington.

- Increases at least 2.4 percent per year base funding for public schools.

- Authorizes construction of 15 courthouses across the state.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000

Richards: Squabble with Senate killed annual sessions

Bill equalizing committee seats died in House

By AL CROSS
C-J Political Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. — House Speaker Jody Richards said yesterday that his bill to start annual sessions of the legislature has died because he refused Senate President David Williams' request to give the Senate an equal number of members on joint standing committees of the House and Senate.

Williams said Richards "knows better than that," but wouldn't say why the speaker's proposed amendment to the state constitution is languishing in the Senate. Williams did say, though, that it still has a chance to get on the November ballot.

"I don't think it's dead yet, is it?" he asked.

That reflected what Senate Majority Leader Dan Kelly said last Thursday night — that they hadn't "pre-

cluded the possibility" of passing the bill.

Told what Williams had said, Richards said he still thinks House Bill 936 will not pass the Senate tomorrow, the last day of the legislative session, because of the dispute over the committee assignments. "I think the two are connected," he said.

The flap is the latest prompted by Republicans' recent takeover of the Senate. The House remains firmly Democratic.

Williams sponsored a bill to equalize House and Senate representation on permanent joint committees, such as those that review government contracts and regulations. The House now has a majority on most of the committees.

Williams' bill died in the House State Government Committee after House Speaker Pro Tem Larry Clark objected to it, saying legislative leaders should hash out the issue.

Richards said yesterday that Williams had brought up the issue too quickly. "It's a very important decision that's going to take a lot of thought before changes can be made," he said.

The tradition of a House majority

on joint committees is supported by the fact that there are 100 representatives and 38 senators, Richards said.

Asked whether he considered the committee issue more important than annual sessions, Richards said, "I do think annual sessions are important, and I won't give up until they become a reality."

Richards' bill calls for adding 24-day legislative sessions in odd-numbered years and limiting them to consideration of the current budget and executive-branch actions. Williams has said he would prefer that the sessions be open to any subject, but that

they require a three-fifths vote to consider tax and budget matters.

The legislature now meets for 60 days in even-numbered years.

Lawmakers have approved one constitutional amendment, to abolish the outmoded Railroad Commission. Another amendment to clear up legal questions about family courts, a hybrid of circuit and district courts, appears to be dead — the victim of another House-Senate squabble over a House-passed amendment to authorize a referendum on container-deposit legislation, the "bottle bill."

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2000

Faculty senate survey rips KSU president

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky State University's Faculty Senate has given President George Reid failing marks and blistering criticism in almost every category of leadership.

In a survey, members with positive remarks about Reid still found fault with his administrative and management skills, and his relations with faculty and staff.

Reid, who has been at the KSU helm for more than 18 months, declined comment on the survey. It will be used by the Board of Regents during discussions on a contract extension for Reid at a meeting April 28.

He still has a little over a year remaining on his contract.

Early this year, the Faculty Senate decided to do its own evaluation of Reid, whose tenure has been marked at times by stormy relations with the regents and the administration staff.

That evaluation, in the form of a ratings scale and personal comments, was given to the regents and Reid late last month and was not intended for public disclosure.

Frankfort's State Journal newspaper, however, obtained a copy officially titled "Faculty Opinion Survey on the President." Eighty-two of 126 full-time KSU faculty responded.

Reid is criticized far more than he is praised. The personal comments about him are not signed, and there is no indication of the authors' academic departments or divisions.

The personal criticism ranges from his lacking vision to running a "scandal-ridden" administration "bordering on lawlessness."

Some strongly disapprove of Reid's student-recruiting practices. Others say KSU cannot survive under his leadership and say the university has become the "laughing stock of the state."

The comments also allege that the quality of new students has declined and that there are no efforts to recruit students from the surrounding area or the state.

One wrote that Reid gave "directions to the head of admissions to give priority to recruitment in Cincinnati, Louisville, Toledo, Cleveland and Detroit, cities from which many

of our students with severe academic problems come. . . ."

Another wrote, "I am also troubled by the students we are recruiting at the apparent failure to recruit from our six-county service area, who are (the) easiest, most economical recruitment base."

One faculty member commented on student recruitment, praising Reid's overall leadership, saying, "like him on a personal level and I respect him on a professional level."

The member added, "Giving chance to a small number of unprepared students is one thing. We are . . . in the business of targeting those who could not get into other state university in order keep our admission numbers up. . . ."

Study: Faculty salary gap harmful

Schools that offer doctorates fare better

WASHINGTON (AP) — There is a growing salary gap among faculty at schools that are educating most college students, according to a study for the nation's largest professors' union.

Faculty salaries rose an average of 3.7 percent last year at all institutions, while professors at schools that offer doctorates did a little better, increasing 3.9 percent.

But the study found a huge gap — roughly \$26,000 per year — between the average salary for a full-time professor at a research university and a professor at a two-year school.

"There is a rising gap between elites and non-elites," said Linda Bell, an economics professor at Haverford College in Pennsylvania who did the study for the American Association of University Professors. "There is a widening difference between what are good jobs and bad jobs."

The problem is especially acute at colleges and universities that lack the wealth and prestige of major research schools and elite private colleges such as the Ivy League schools. These two- and four-year public and private schools, which educate the majority of students, often have trouble attracting and keeping faculty.

"The difficulty is keeping faculty members at the senior rank," said John Shumaker, president of the University of Louisville, a public institution. "Lots of our faculty salaries are lagging behind."

Shumaker, who plans to re-allocate 10 percent of his budget to beef up salaries, said Louisville is losing "really good people" because other schools pay more.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Thursday, April 13, 2000

KSU president earns criticism, failing marks in faculty review

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT — Kentucky State University's Faculty Senate has given President George Reid failing marks and blistering criticism in almost every category of leadership.

In the survey, members with positive remarks about Reid still found fault with his administrative and management skills and his relations with faculty and staff.

The survey was conducted after Reid's more than 18 months at KSU's helm.

He declined comment on the survey, which will be used by the regents during discussions on a contract extension for Reid at an April 28 meeting.

He still has a little over a year remaining on his contract.

Early this year, KSU's Faculty Senate decided to do its own evaluation of Reid, whose tenure has been marked at times by stormy relations with the Board of Regents and the administration staff.

That evaluation, in the form of a ratings scale and personal comments, was given to the Regents and Reid in late March and was not intended for public disclosure.

The State Journal of Frankfort, however, obtained a copy officially titled "Faculty Opinion

Members with positive remarks about Reid still found fault with his administrative and management skills and his relations with faculty and staff.

Survey on the President." Eighty-two of the 126 full-time KSU faculty responded.

In both parts, Reid is far more criticized than praised and the written portion of the survey provided a format for Reid's critics to vent their feelings toward him anonymously.

The personal comments are not signed and there's no indication of the author's academic department or division.

The personal criticism ranges from lacking vision to running a "scandal-ridden" administration "bordering on lawlessness."

Some strongly disapprove of Reid's student recruiting practices. Others say KSU cannot survive under his leadership and the university has become the "laughing stock of the state."

The comments also allege that the quality of new students

has declined and there are no efforts to recruit students from the surrounding area or the state.

One wrote that Reid gave "directions to the head of admissions to give priority to recruitment in Cincinnati, Louisville, Toledo, Cleveland and Detroit, cities from which many of our students with severe academic problems come ..."

Another wrote, "I am also troubled by the students we are recruiting and the apparent failure to recruit from our six-county service area, which are (the) easiest, most economical recruitment base."

Reid also "seems to be much more interested in increasing our numbers than in recruiting high-achieving students," read another comment.

A third faculty member commenting in the area of student recruitment praised Reid's overall leadership, saying "I like him on a personal level and I respect him on a professional level."

But this member added, "Giving a chance to a small number of underprepared students is one thing, but we are currently in the business of targeting those who could not get into any other state university in order to keep our admission numbers up."

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 14, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1889 (606) 783-2030

THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
Thursday, April 13, 2000

A MUSICAL MISSION



By TERESA HOWELL/FOR THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

The Morehead State University band takes a bow after a show in the Beijing Concert Hall.

MSU group bridges cultural gap

Musicians receive warm reception on trip to China

By BEN FIELDS
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

MOREHEAD — Members and faculty of the Morehead State symphony band and percussion ensemble experienced culture shock of a different kind during a recent trip to Beijing.

"We experienced overwhelming shock from such a pleasant reception," said Richard Miles, MSU's director of bands. "I don't know that I've been anywhere in the world where I've met people more friendly, more helpful or more genuinely sincere towards Americans."

The two groups performed five concerts in Beijing over their nine-day stay last month, including performances at the prestigious Central Conservatory of Music, and world-renowned Beijing Concert Hall.

Seventy-seven students and seven faculty members took part in the March 9-18 trip. The group hauled more than 4,000 pounds of equipment with them, and had



MSU senior Heather Brown plays piccolo during the performance.

(MORE)



to design special cases for the instruments in order to ensure safe passage.

Miles described the atmosphere of Beijing as safe and comforting.

"We were never accosted by any negative or bitter sentiment; something we would expect in any of our inner-cities," he said. "It epitomized a culture that was extremely safe and friendly."

Jeremy Miller, a member of both the symphony band and percussion ensemble, said many members of the band were apprehensive about the trip given the political history between the United States and China. However, he said the attitude of the Chinese people he encountered quickly put him at ease.

"I was a little cautious at first as to what to expect, but from the first moment we stepped out of the airport and got into the city, it was amazing," the senior from Warsaw, Ind., said. "Everyone we ran into was so helpful. We felt safer than we would in New York City."

That helpful attitude also helped with the language barrier.

"We knew a few Chinese words, we took some courses before we went," he said. "But a lot of the people we ran into knew English very well. If they didn't, they would be back in two minutes with someone who did."

Frank Oddis, Morehead State's coordinator of percussion, said warm and accepting attitude carried over to performances.

"I had a lot of students come up to me at the universities we performed at and said that we (both cultures) could come together in this sort of exchange," he said.

At one performance, Oddis was interviewed for the school university by the student communist league.

"They didn't ask me any pointed, political questions at all; they just wanted to know what we thought of the culture and how we prepared for our trip to China."

The performances all went well, Oddis said.

"The kids really rose to the occasion," he said.

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THE COURIER-JOURNAL

Miles said the concert at the conservatory was one of the highlights of the trip for him.

"That one was special because we had to be found worthy to perform for them by the faculty," he said. "Then to receive the unbelievable ovations and continuous applause at the end of our concert was overwhelming."

The Beijing Concert Hall performance was also quite memorable, Miles said, because of the venue's prestige and the fact that it was a packed house.

Miller said the crowd's enthusiasm helped him perform.

"I was playing and looking out at these hundreds and hundreds of people, and they were all smiling with their eyes lit up real big, and you know that you're touching them in a way," he said. "I was blown away."

When the groups weren't performing, they were touring the many sights of the Beijing area, including the Great Wall of China and the Temple of Heaven.

"Now I can say I've seen the Great Wall," said Scott Corbin, a senior from Mt. Sterling. "I've walked on the Great Wall and that's not something that everyone has done."

The students also had some free time.

"The night life there was amazing," said Meghan Russell, a music education major. "There are all kinds of nightclubs on every block, you could hit five different places in an hour. There was even one on the 25th floor of our hotel."

Miller said the Beijing youth culture was similar to that of the United States.

"Every club or night spot we hit they were playing rock

and roll music," he said. "They like to do a lot of the same things we do."

Miller said the trip left him with a sense of respect for the world's most populated nation.

"This trip is one that I'll never forget, and I'm definitely going back," he said. "I took away a lifetime of memories from Beijing."

Miles hoped the trip could be repeated.

"Through this kind of cultural exchange, we took away cultural implants, and we left some of our own," Miles said. "There's a need for cooperating and for understanding. There's a need for this exchange."

Center to preserve mountain music

Morehead State program to make its debut in June

Associated Press

MOREHEAD, Ky. — Morehead State University is planning to preserve a key part of mountain culture by creating The Kentucky Center for Traditional Music.

The center has strong backing from many traditional music stars, including Don Rigsby, a Sugar Hill Records recording artist and Morehead alumnus who lives in Elliott County.

"The sound of these old Appalachian songs really needs to be preserved, and somebody needs to step forward and take the lead," Rigsby said.

The center will make its debut in June, sponsoring a concert by Carter County native Tom T. Hall, as well

as a song-writing workshop, a mandolin-building seminar and banjo-playing lessons.

The center will feature teaching, instrument construction and song writing, and will begin during the school's annual Appalachian Celebration, according to Garry Barker, director of the university's Kentucky Folk Art Center that exhibits artwork from across the region.

"The plan is to get a facility where we can eventually have a small performing area," Barker said.

"We would have access to Tom T. Hall's fabulous instrument collection and tapes. He's not performing regularly anymore and is retired from the touring end of it," Hall's instruments include Johnny Cash's black guitar that he used in performances, Barker said.

"We'll take it carefully and slowly, but once it gains its momentum, I think it'll be a tremendous asset for this area," said Morehead State President Ron Eaglin.

Local educators, economic devel-

opment officials and musicians share Eaglin's enthusiasm.

"This'll be one of a kind," said Sandy Knipp, a Morehead bluegrass artist and promoter who is the host of Bluegrass Diversion, a weekly show on university radio station WMKY-FM.

The new center will attract music fans from across the country, said Knipp, the center's founding director.

"The music doesn't stop at the bottom of the hills. It's spread all the way from Maine to California," Knipp said. "It's music that anybody can identify with and practically anybody can learn to play."

The music is the type that helped shape Eastern Kentucky, Knipp said.

"It's a pretty lively kind of music, and it's what people used to play on the back porches, around the stove, down at the country store, even in the churches," she said. "You're looking at an area of the country where bluegrass and folk music have a lot of roots."

"It includes bluegrass, but it's more of an old-time country, mountain music and includes gospel as well," Barker said. "Songs like 'Little Rosewood Casket,' 'I'm Movin' On all of Flatt and Scruggs and old-time fiddle music."

Teachers' union proposes higher initial standards

National testing for prospective instructors would raise quality

By Kate Zemlke
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Pre-empting a growing national movement to impose tougher standards on teachers, the American Federation of Teachers, the nation's second-largest teachers' union, today will propose a national test and rigorous new standards for those who want to become teachers.

The proposal, a departure from traditional union opposition to increased teacher testing, comes amid heightened worries from educators, parents and politicians about the declining quality of the nation's teaching force and those entering it.

About a third of all teachers lack a major or minor in the subjects they teach, meaning that about 4 million children every year learn math from someone who may not have taken a math class since high school. While most states have teacher tests, most require only the equivalent of a high school education to pass, in part because unions have blocked efforts to set the bar higher.

Some 2 million teachers are due to be hired or replaced nationwide over the next decade, with many states struggling to find enough qualified people to add their classrooms.

The union said it wanted to take advantage of that opportunity, and was making its recommendations after two years of studying teacher preparation programs. The proposal would not affect current members.

"We've taken an honest and hard, critical look at what's out there, and most of it is terribly inadequate," said Sandra Feldman, president of the one-million-member union. "If we could get folks to follow this prescription, we would have a much rosier future."

Unions have long said that tests are a poor measure of the gifts that make a good teacher. But ultimately, Feldman said, tests and tougher standards can give the teaching profession the same rigor, and the same status, that board and bar

exams give doctors and lawyers. With schools in almost every state subjecting students to tougher tests, she said, it only makes sense to demand the same of teachers.

While the union proposal comes late to the bid for better teachers, it also adds a crucial voice to the lawmakers and parents who have called for reforms.

"People from the outside need permission to talk about teacher quality without it seeming like bashing teachers," said Kati Haycock, executive director of the Education Trust, a Washington-based

nonprofit group that has studied teacher preparation and advocates for poor and minority students. "When the second-largest national teachers' union talks about teacher quality, it gives other people permission to talk about it, and to do something."

Any attempt to adopt such a national program will be bucking a long tradition of strong local control over education.

Still, Arthur Levine, president of Teachers College at Columbia University, said the proposal would give impetus to about 39 states that are now considering some form of tougher teacher standards.

"Several states were afraid to act for fear unions wouldn't support them," Levine said. "Given the huge number of teachers we have who are uncertified in math and science and English as a second language, this is a godsend."

In Kentucky, a bill passed by the General Assembly this week will provide grants and training to middle school teachers in every subject. But the original version would have also launched an independent standards board to oversee teacher-quality efforts, and re-

quired more training for middle school teachers.

The National Education Association, the nation's largest teachers' union, said yesterday that it had not yet seen the report, and so would not comment even on whether it supported the notion of a national test.

The smaller union has consistently talked about the need to improve the nation's teaching force, but has never before proposed or endorsed such a high series of hurdles.

The proposal would require that prospective teachers pass two tests, one after their sophomore year in college and a second before entering the classroom. Addressing the common complaint that teachers learn too much pedagogy and not enough subject matter — that is, they learn how to teach but not what to teach — the test would require prospective teachers to demonstrate college-level knowledge in math, science, English, history and geography.

The report also calls for creating a national core curriculum for what teachers need to know, much like the standards that states have begun using to test students over the past few years.

The report, "Building a Profession: Strengthening Teacher Preparation and Induction," also calls for raising entrance requirements for teacher education programs, demanding that students have a college grade point average of 2.75 initially, with a requirement for a 3.0 average phased in over time.

Prospective teachers would also have to have a major in the subject they wanted to teach.

The report makes no mention of higher salaries. But Feldman, the union president, said that it was clear that if teachers were asked to meet higher standards, they would have to be paid better.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Friday, April 14, 2000

KEA president re-elected

By Linda B. Blackford
HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

The president of Kentucky's largest teachers' union will stay at the helm for two more years.

Judith Gambill, 51, who has led the Kentucky Education Association since 1998, fended off a strong challenge from Barren County teacher Frances Steenburgen.

Gambill won 52 percent of the vote in last week's election.

"I always have a tough race, but it was a good race," she said yesterday.

Gambill attributed her success to an increase in membership to nearly 30,000 active members, new KEA training and seminars for teachers, and a successful legislative session.

"We're still waiting for the final analysis of the budget, but I think we had a good session," she said. "We stopped the school-voucher bill, and started a discussion of better health care for state employees."

KEA also got the credit for gutting a teacher-quality bill that would have required new training for some middle school teachers. The union also pushed for a teacher majority on the standards board that would have overseen teacher-quality efforts.

"Judith did her part as advocate for those issues, and she's a very, very hard worker who puts in many, many hours on behalf of teachers," said Pam Hammonds, director of the Fayette County Education Association, an affiliate of KEA.

Gambill, a 25-year teaching veteran from Ashland, said the low point of her term was a weeklong strike by the KEA staff over health benefits and working conditions.

The strike was finally negotiated, but Gambill said it was difficult to be a union president who crosses any picket line.

"When I came to KEA, I said I would be management and I was responsible to the membership, so I had already made a decision," she said.

Gambill has been on leave from the Russell Independent School District since 1995, when she became involved with KEA leadership. She has also been president of the Eastern Kentucky Education Association, and currently sits on the board of trustees of the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System and the Kentucky Commission on Women.

Gambill's vice president, Kenton Cooper, also won re-election. Cooper, a Fayette County teacher, will also be on leave.

Gambill said her membership drive will continue over the next two years. She also wants to offer more training to teachers on issues such as school safety and different teaching styles.

Legislature to take up budget, vetoes

Child-safety bill also among issues as session ends

By Jack Brammer
HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's 2000 General Assembly officially ends today with legislators tackling several weighty subjects, including a two-year spending plan and how to divide the state's share of the tobacco settlement money.

Legislators also will decide the fate of an adult education bill pushed by Senate President David Williams, a measure that would make it second-degree manslaughter to leave a child unattended in a car if the child died, and five vetoes from Gov. Paul Patton.

The most controversial of those vetoes deals with a bill that would allow churches to refuse the use of their facilities to people on religious grounds.

Patton said yesterday that he had not yet decided on other possible vetoes or whether he would veto anything after the legislative session ends.

The last day of the 3½-month lawmaking session, which will cost taxpayers about \$6 million, will begin at 10 a.m., when both the House and Senate convene. Many legislators will get their first look at the proposed budget House and Senate negotiators finalized early Wednesday.



The \$14 billion state budget, contains huge increases for higher education and money for more than 600 projects, including \$15 million to renovate and expand Lexington's convention center and Rupp Arena.

The budget is balanced on a plan that puts a 6 percent sales tax on interstate telephone calls to raise \$89.4 million and cuts the tax paid by employers into the unemployment insurance fund by \$75 million.

It also includes \$82.5 million from the imposition of a sales tax on fees paid by long-distance companies to use local telephone exchanges. Telephone company officials say the tax would be passed on to consumers.

Williams, R-Burkesville, acknowledged yesterday on *The Jane Norris Show* on Louisville's WHAS-AM radio station that the Republican-controlled Senate did "place a 6-cent tax" on out-of-state phone calls that matches the current tax on long-distance calls within the state.

He said the tax increase would affect businesses more than consumers and that the overall tax plan was "revenue neutral."

Tobacco report on agenda

House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, agreed in an interview, and said the budget compromise "moves Kentucky forward."

House and Senate members also today will consider a conference committee report pounded out this week on dividing Kentucky's share of the national tobacco settlement fund.

The conference committee decided Wednesday that 65 percent of future payments for agriculture's share will go to a state board to undertake broad initiatives. The remaining 35 percent will go to counties based on their own economic reliance on tobacco. County boards would still have to obtain state permission to spend any money.

Kentucky could get as much as \$3.4 billion over 25 years from cigarette manufacturers as a part of their settlement with the states to cover the medical costs of smoking-related illness.

The legislature had previously decided to use a fourth of the money for early childhood development and another fourth for health-care initiatives. The other half would go to agriculture — an estimated \$50.5 million in the 2001 fiscal year and \$60.8 million in 2002, plus nearly \$70 million already received.

Last shot for education bill

Several other bills are pending. Williams' adult education measure, Senate Bill 1, has been stuck in the House since Jan. 20. SB 34, which would allow state agencies to hire outside lawyers without the attorney general's consent, is in the Senate.

Another measure, known as Bryan's Law, dealing with unattended children in cars, has been approved in the House but never called in the Senate. It was prompted by the heat-exposure death of 11-month-old Bryan Puckett in Lexington last July. Police said he was left unattended in a car by his baby sitter.

MSU Clip Sheet

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copy

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 17, 2000

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The Daily Independent, Ashland, Kentucky, Saturday, April 15, 2000

MSU basketball gets 2 signees

Women land Bryan Station standout

By **ROCKY STANLEY**
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

MOREHEAD — Indiana high school player Levi Adams is Morehead State University's first men's basketball signee of the spring period.

Adams, 6-foot-9 and 205 pounds, averaged 11 points and seven rebounds as a senior at Terre Haute North High School.

"Levi comes from a good high school program," said MSU head coach Kyle Macy. "His size is a plus. We believe his best basketball is definitely ahead of him as he gets stronger."

Adams played for legendary coach Jim Jones, the prep coach of basketball Hall-of-Famer Larry Bird.

MSU signed three high school players during the November signing period: Casey Lowe of West Carter, Ricky Minard of Mansfield, Ohio; and Corey Seegers of Columbus, Ind.

Lowe, a 6-2 guard, averaged 21 points and 4.7 rebounds last season and was named Player of the Year in the Eastern Kentucky Conference. Minard, also a guard, averaged 22.8 points and 8.0

rebounds for Mansfield High School. The 6-8, 230-pound Seegers collected 16.6 points and 7.0 rebounds per game at Columbus North.

MSU women add Williams

Morehead State women's coach Laura Litter is excited about the program's latest addition.

Lexington Bryan Station standout DeVonda Williams has signed a national letter-of-intent to attend MSU.

The 5-foot-11 forward averaged a double-double in points and rebounds each of the past

two seasons. As a senior tri-captain at Bryan Station, Williams helped lead the Lady Defenders to a 27-2 record. Bryan Station won 24 consecutive games before losing in the semifinals of the 11th Region Tournament.

Williams, who averaged 14.5 points and 10.4 rebounds, was named first team All-City and second team All-State.

"DeVonda is perhaps the most underrated player in the state," Litter said. "She has the size, strength and athleticism to become an impact player in the Ohio Valley Conference."

Litter describes Williams as a multi-position player who fits perfectly into the Lady Eagles' up-tempo style of play.

Williams comes from a basketball family. Her father, LaVon, and mother, Debra (Oden), played at the University of Kentucky during the

late 1970s and early '80s. LaVon was a member of UK's 1978 national championship team.

Morehead's recruiting class also includes Kentuckians Kandi Brown of state champion West Carter and former Madison Central standout Travece Turner, a sophomore transfer from Richmond. Both signed with MSU during the fall.

"We are attracting the very best players in Central and Eastern Kentucky to our program," Litter said. "That bodes well for the future of women's basketball at Morehead. Area players are forming the nucleus of our rising program."

MSU also signed 6-3 center Frances Montgomery of Cincinnati State Technical College in the fall period.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2000

Bill to aid adult education passes; each county to have long-term plan

MICHAEL QUINLAN
of the Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Senate voted 36-0 yesterday to give final passage to a bill aimed at teaching Kentuckians to read and write and bringing other improvements to the state's adult-education programs. Earlier in the day, the House passed bill 98-0.

Senate Bill 1, sponsored by Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville, coordinates the state's adult-learning programs and develops better local networks of agencies that provide adult education.

The bill also improves training for people who educate adults and provides financial incentives to encourage more people to participate in adult education. The bill now goes to Gov. Paul Patton for his signature.

Rep. Charlie Siler, R-Williamsburg, said the bill's floor manager in the House said it was "an important investment in adults that needs to be made if we're going to reach all our goals for our children."

Because of a House-added amendment to bring state adult-education employees into the merit system, the legislation had to go back to the Senate for another vote.

The bill was drawn from the recommendations of a task force set up by Patton.

The task force found that although 1 million adult Kentuckians lack basic reading skills or a high school equivalency certificate, only slightly more than 45,000 took part in an adult-education program. The group also found that programs are uneven and often provide poor service to

each county to develop a long-term plan for improving local adult-education programs.

Although there is no funding in the bill, the legislature followed Patton's recommendations and doubled the state's budget for adult-education programs over the next two years by putting \$5 million in additional money in the first year of the 2001-2002 budget and \$10 million on top of that in the second year.

Some of the new money would go to financial incentives for communities to run programs and for adults to take advantage of them.

Under the bill, dropouts who have been out of high school for at least three years can earn up to \$1,000 in tuition discounts from a Kentucky public university, community or technical college.

school equivalency test. The bill also would provide a state income-tax credit for employers who provide time for workers to pursue GEDs.

Although the Department of Adult Education and Literacy in the Workforce Development Cabinet will continue to administer programs, the bill would have the Council on Postsecondary Education develop a 20-year plan to raise adult literacy and high school completion rates by using a new network of services available in each county.

It would be up to each community to evaluate its needs and particular problems and to customize local plans to address those.

Teacher qualifications plan

pared

By LONNIE HARP
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Ten years after the state gained a national reputation for taking bold steps to improve public education, the 2000 legislature showed little interest in invigorating classrooms.

Only portions of a sweeping plan to raise teacher qualifications survived.

The final version that passed Tuesday included stipends and assistance for middle school teachers to improve their skills, with emphasis on math teachers. It also calls for a "center for middle school academic achievement." Middle school achievement-test scores have showed little improvement over the past 10 years while elementary and high school scores have risen steadily under tests mandated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act.

But a provision in the bill to pay teachers to mentor other teachers was deleted, along with a provision to pay teachers extra to take jobs in areas with teacher shortages.

Still, Acting Education Commissioner Kevin Noland said he was pleased with what survived.

"Particularly during the last week or so, the results were better than I expected," he said. Noland said he was glad that portions of the teacher-quality bill were enacted.

Lawmakers did not approve a provision to create an independent standards board to oversee teacher training and qualifications; instead it will remain under the Education Department. However, the governor could order it to be made independent.

Robert Sexton, director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, a statewide citizens group based in Lexington, said failure to create an independent board will hurt efforts to make aggressive changes.

"It's just critical that that be done," Sexton said.

And efforts to change the makeup of the board by adding more members failed; it will remain dominated by a majority of teachers. The Kentucky Education Association, a teachers group, had bitterly fought the change, which some educators said was critical to a board expected to take a more active role in upgrading instruction.

A plan to start new arts and foreign-language programs in elementary schools across the state was easily approved but never made it into the state budget. And plans to increase

minority recruitment in all education positions failed to win approval.

On a positive note, education advocates said, lawmakers did provide the requested funding to continue higher-education reforms passed in 1997. They increased the budget for post-secondary programs by 20 percent over two years and provided \$120 million for Gov. Paul Patton's "Bucks for Brains" program to add endowed professorships at state universities.

But the budget was not entirely kind: Teacher raises and funding for elementary and secondary schools may not keep pace with the cost of living.

Observers said that overall, lawmakers showed little passion for taking steps to improve public schools.

"We've got a stripped-down teacher-quality bill and more nepotism is in,"

Sexton said. "I was hoping for a better session for education than we had."

Sexton said the session stands in stark contrast to a decade ago, when lawmakers passed KERA, which drew national acclaim.

"It's a tragic lost opportunity on many fronts," Sexton said of the latest session. "I don't know how it could have been much worse."

Lawmakers who allowed the teacher-quality bill to stall on the last regular day of the session said they ran

out of time to deal with the issue, but supporters of higher standards disagreed.

The top education achievements of the 2000 General Assembly consist of passing a bill to teach flag etiquette, one requiring greater tornado-preparedness drills and a requirement that all schools close on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Lawmakers passed a bill that relaxes KERA's anti-nepotism provisions to allow many principals to hire their spouses.

The legislature also approved a bill requiring schools to conduct criminal background checks of regular parent volunteers.

In what may be remembered as the most lasting achievement of the session's education panels, legislators quietly passed a bill that will allow parents to pre-pay their children's college tuition at Kentucky universities.

Under House Bill 180, pushed by state Treasurer Jonathan Miller and already signed by Patton, parents could pay current tuition rates at any Kentucky university and avoid what are sure to be higher prices when children reach college age.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2000

LOST in the partisan struggle that has consumed Frankfort is a great victory for public education. Both the Governor and his partisan antagonists in the Senate can take credit for it.

Not only was the Kentucky Education Reform Act preserved and extended. The General Assembly also, with help from leaders in both parties, added a bold early childhood initiative.

Even more historic is the precedent set in funding higher education. For decades, the leaders of our public universities have maneuvered against one another like a bunch of Chinese warlords. They have resisted every effort to establish some reasonable level of central control.

But in this session, the recommendations of the state Council on Postsecondary Education were run through the much-maligned SCOPE committee, incorporated into the Governor's budget and largely adopted.

The council also given a

tion and in the knowledge-based economy bill, actually emerges from this session stronger, much to the surprise of those who once scoffed at Gov. Patton's vision for it.

His new system worked. Whether it will work as well without the insight and determination of an extraordinary governor (or without the work of a tough, brilliant council administrator like Gordon Davies) remains to be seen. But it worked this time, setting a precedent that future meddlers will ignore at their peril.

This General Assembly also appropriated money, lots of it, for higher education: a 19 percent boost over two years and another \$120 million in Bucks for Brains.

The council must watch carefully to see that universities use this largesse to meet specific goals in enrollment, retention, graduation and coordination. They can't be allowed to take the money and run.

But the council will approach this task with new leverage, having survived legislative attempts to undercut it.

The push to put campus presidents in charge of

benchmark funding failed.

So did an effort to give them substantial control of content in the state's virtual university.

Business leaders helped make this possible

by quietly supporting the Patton reform. So did brave souls like Mike McCall of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the University of Louisville's John Shumaker, Northern Kentucky University's James Votruba and, in one critical appearance before legislators, Gary Ransdell of Western Kentucky University.

Yes, this legislature left unfinished some major business: easing the heavy tax burden on our working poor; making the tax system grow with the economy; financing obvious highway needs.

But the size of the task ahead in building a better, fairer tax system shouldn't keep anyone from recognizing the achievements this session did leave behind, especially in public education.

Budget approved without debate

Patton says \$14 billion plan fulfills his key goals

By Jack Brammer
HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT — After weeks of intense bickering, the House and Senate yesterday approved without debate a two-year state spending plan loaded with 718 projects worth \$293 million.

Gov. Paul Patton, after Kentucky's 2000 General Assembly officially ended at 8:48 p.m., said the \$14 billion plan was a victory for his administration. He said it accomplished two of his major goals: the early childhood development program and more funding for higher education, specifically the "bucks for brains" programs, which give universities money to attract top researchers.

"At this point, I'm not going to get political," Patton said. "I'm celebrating a victory despite the Republicans. They did everything they could to frustrate our plan for political reasons."

Patton said he has the right to veto specific items in the budget, "and I most likely will." He did not elaborate.

Among other things, the budget provides a 5 percent annual pay raise for state workers and keeps construction projects recommended by the higher education council, including \$39 million for a biomedical sciences building at the University of Kentucky and \$25 million for a research building for the University of Louisville.

It funds significant expansions in adult education and in early childhood education; and provides at

least \$12 million — to be matched with more than \$36 million in federal funds — for services and community homes for the mentally retarded.

The projects in the budget include \$15 million to improve the convention center and Rupp Arena in Lexington and \$10 million for the Muhammad Ali Center and \$7 million for the Home of the Innocents in Louisville.

The budget is based on a compromise pounded out earlier in the week by House and Senate negotiators and depends on a plan that places a 6 percent tax on out-of-state phone calls.

That tax increase would raise \$24.8 million in the coming fiscal year and \$64.6 million the next year, for a total of \$89.4 million.

The tax package also would cut the tax paid by employers into the unemployment insurance fund by \$37.5 million a year, a total of \$75 million for the two-year budget.

The measure did not include \$82.5 million that is integral to balancing the budget. That money comes from a 6 percent sales tax on the fees paid by long-distance companies for the use of local telephone exchanges.

Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville, has said the legislature has nothing to do with that tax, which has been on the books for decades but never collected.

Patton said last night that his administration would collect the tax, but noted that his initial tax bill repealed it. "The legislature refused to repeal it," he said.

The Republican-controlled Senate, which had advocated no tax increases but yielded this

week to what it called a "revenue neutral" compromise, voted 31-6 on Tuesday for the tax package in House Bill 996. The House approved that bill yesterday on a vote of 58-36, with six members not voting.

On HB 502, which outlined the spending plan, the House voted 90-8.

The Senate approved the budget bill on a 36-0 vote. The chamber initially had planned to vote on it at 11:45 a.m. but had to wait until 3 p.m. to make some technical corrections.

"This is bipartisan confusion," said Senate Minority Leader David Karem, D-Louisville.

The final votes on the budget and tax plan came after a chaotic session.

In January, Patton proposed a series of tax increases and decreases. But legislators balked, largely because that plan called for a gasoline tax increase of 7 cents a gallon at the pumps.

Patton scaled down his plan with a call for a 7 percent tax on the telecommunications industry to replace existing local and state taxes on telephone and cable television companies. The House passed it and used the \$178 million it would generate over two years to help finance its budget.

But the Senate did not embrace the plan and presented a budget that cut \$20 million in funding for public schools and money for more than 400 community development projects.

The stalemate between the two chambers was not broken until this week.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • KENTUCKY • SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2000

Bill clears up Derby ticket issue for Patton

By AL CROSS
C-J Political Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Senate gave Gov. Paul Patton a parting gift last night, sending him a bill that would clear up legal questions about his allocation of hundreds of tickets to each Kentucky Derby.

House Bill 511 had been stalled in the Senate because President Pro Tem Richard Roeding, R-Lakeside Park, filed a floor amendment to replace Patton's language with a ban on fund-raising at the governor's mansion and other state facilities.

That was aimed squarely at Patton and his fellow Democrats, for whom the mansion is a popular fund-raising venue, so Roeding's measure would never have passed the Democratic-controlled House.

Roeding said he finally withdrew the amendment last night because he thinks the last six governors' use of Derby tickets has been useful to the state in recruiting economic-development prospects.

The Courier-Journal reported last fall that Patton got 553 tickets to last year's race and sold them at face value to people of his choice — largely his political supporters. The state buys only about 60 Derby tickets, those designated for economic-development prospects.

That did not bother Senate Republican Caucus Chairman Charlie Borders of Russell, he said in an interview after the Senate sent the bill to Patton on a 23-0 vote.

"I don't have a real problem with political supporters," Borders said. "A lot of times, they are the very

same people who are going to help us in economic development."

Patton asked for the bill because the Executive Branch Ethics Commission said in a non-binding opinion that he should stop acting as a ticket agent, because the market value is much more than tickets' face value.

The governor indicated that he did not put much stock in the commission's opinions. But to clear up the legal question, he got House Democratic Floor Leader Greg Stumbo to quietly add an exemption to HB 511, a minor ethics measure.

The amendment allows state officials to allocate tickets to sporting events. It also declares an emergency, which will make it law as soon as Patton signs it. Derby Day is May 6. Staff writer Joseph Gerth contributed to this story.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFS

Bill directs money for high-tech jobs

The House voted 96-1 to give final passage yesterday to a bill that sets out how \$53 million will be spent over the next two years to attract more high-tech companies to Kentucky.

The actual money is in the budget bill, but House Bill 572 directs how the money will be spent.

The new programs include:

- \$40 million for a loan fund to build and promote networks of technology-driven industries.
- \$4 million to create a science and technology foundation.
- \$3 million for a research-and-development fund to help universities work with private companies.

Bill prompted by child death passes

A catch-all health-care bill, including a provision that sets a specific criminal penalty for anyone who causes a child's death by leaving the child in a motor vehicle, was given final passage by the General Assembly last night. Under House Bill 608, a person is guilty of second-degree manslaughter if that person leaves a child under 8 years old in a motor vehicle and the child dies.

The provision is the result of a campaign by a Winchester couple, whose 11-month-old son died last year after his baby sitter allegedly left him in a car for two hours with the windows closed.

The multi-faceted bill also allows adult day-care centers to use skilled nursing employees to dispense medication, makes a wider range of drugs available to Medicaid patients, and authorizes a study to see if pharmacists are being reimbursed a fair rate by Medicaid.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2000

Local projects swelled to 718

By TOM LOFTUS
The Courier-Journal

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The state budget that passed on the final day of the 2000 session might be described as "bucks for bricks and brains."

That's because new buildings and other pet local projects of lawmakers, as well as funding for postsecondary education, got huge shares of the increased revenue in the two-year budget that begins July 1.

It is a \$35 billion budget that continues a practice Gov. Paul Patton started in 1998, when he had a large surplus to spend: designating money for hundreds of community development projects, at least a little something for each county.

The Democratic-controlled House added to the governor's list. The Republican-controlled Senate decried the pork-barrel spending but later gave in when it convinced itself it was not raising taxes. The Senate then slapped its own projects into the list.

Before it was over, there were 718 community development projects costing \$293 million. They ranged from \$2,000 for each of five schools in Greenup County for in-

structional materials for science teachers to \$15 million for the renovation of the Lexington Civic Center and Rupp Arena.

And that list did not count funding for other construction, including \$145 million authorized for courthouse projects, \$87 million for a new prison in Elliott County, and higher education projects that included \$39 million for a biomedical sciences building at the University of Kentucky and \$25 million for a research building for the University of Louisville.

Jefferson County was a big winner. Besides the U of L research building, it got \$10 million for the proposed Muhammad Ali Center, \$12.5 million for waterfront development, \$7 million for the Home of the Innocents, \$400,000 for the Belle of Louisville and much more.

The state will issue bonds for most of the projects, spreading the cost over the next 20 years.

Patton, a Democrat, said late Friday he was pleased to reach a tax-and-budget agreement with the Senate that restored the projects. "From the Home of the Innocents in Louisville and water and sewer improvements in Eastern Kentucky to Rupp Arena in Lexington and dozens of community improvement projects in the western part of the state, this budget and our winning legislative agenda will mean progress," he said.

The other main feature of the budget is that it provides a 20 percent funding increase over two years to postsecondary education — Patton's top priority. This boost includes \$120 million for Patton's "Bucks for Brains" program to establish more endowed professorships at state universities to attract top scholars.

The budget also gives significant increases to early-childhood development, adult education, services for people with mental retardation, economic development programs designed to bring high-tech companies to the state, foster care, and juvenile justice.

The budget will pay for 70 new Kentucky State Police officers. It will pay for annual 5 percent raises for all state employees, with some in lower-paying jobs getting a bit more.

Lawmakers scrambled to fund an annual increase in basic public school funding of 2.4 percent per year. And the budget includes money for 47 new family resource and youth service centers at public schools and provides \$17 million for teacher quality initiatives.

In the end, the budget promises to do just about everything Patton and legislative leaders had hoped it would, even without the major tax increase/tax reform plan that Patton offered in January but that was later killed by lawmakers.

The additional money was found through late-session negotiations among the Senate, House and Patton administration.

The House had passed a scaled-back tax plan put forward by Patton after the defeat of his original proposal, but the

Senate last month refused to go along and was forced to cut from the budget the \$178 million in new revenue the tax plan would have raised.

Among other things, the Senate cut \$20 million in public school funding and money for all community development projects. In final negotiations the House insisted on restoring the money for schools and the projects.

In the end, all parties agreed to a scheme to raise the money — yet in a way that gave them enough political cover to claim they didn't raise taxes.

The solution was to apply a 6 percent tax to out-of-state long-distance calls — a move that will raise about \$89.4 million over two years for the state's General Fund to pay for programs and projects.

Even though the same bill cuts the unemployment insurance tax paid by employers by nearly the same amount, the key point is that it doesn't cut revenue to the General Fund but to a special fund that pays only unemployment benefits. That fund can afford a cut now because of low unemployment rates. (In fact, the fund is doing so well lawmakers were able to increase unemployment benefits in the same bill.)

Senate President David Williams, R-Burkesville, said the two moves offset each other and the budget is revenue neutral. However, many lawmakers disputed this suggestion.

A second part of the revenue solution was for the state to begin collecting a tax it currently is not collecting — a 6 percent sales tax on fees paid by long-distance companies for the use of local telephone exchanges.

That move will raise about \$82.5 million over two years. Williams and House Speaker Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, each said their respective chambers passed different bills this session that would have eliminated this tax. However, the two chambers did not pass the same bill and the tax remains on the books.

Friday night Patton said the telecommunications tax reform he proposed would have repealed the tax on the long-distance companies, but the Senate rejected that plan. "The legislature refused to repeal it," he said, and his administration will now begin collecting it.

Budget awaits Patton's signature

Area lawmakers satisfied

By TOM MARSHALL
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

FRANKFORT — After traveling a road pitted by legislative battles, a state budget steamrolled through the state House and Senate on its way to final passage Friday.

The budget passed the House 90 to 8 late Friday afternoon, paving the way for a number of local road projects. The projects include \$24.5 million over the next two years for an industrial parkway, which will eventually link U.S. 64 and U.S. 23.

“This is a tremendous budget for Eastern Kentucky.”



—Rocky Adkins, Sandy Hook Democrat

The Senate gave its unanimous approval to the budget earlier Friday. Gov. Paul Patton was expected to sign it into law.

”

Area legislators gave the budget generally favorable reviews.

“This is a tremendous budget for Eastern Kentucky,” said state Rep. Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, whose district includes Boyd, Elliott and Lawrence counties. “It continues the momentum started in 1998 ... We’ve waited a long time to get our fair share.”

Fellow Rep. Hoby Anderson, R-Flatwoods, who took credit for the \$34 million slated for

Greenup County, backed Adkins’ assessment.

“I’m like Rocky, I think it’s the best budget you can hope for,” he said. “We have to take advantage of having a governor from Eastern Kentucky. I may have spent the money a little differently, but everybody would have.”

Rep. Robin Webb, D-Grayson, whose district includes Carter and Lewis counties, voted for the budget, but against the tax which supported it.

Webb was disapproving of the 6 percent tax placed on out-of-state telephone calls, which replaced a tax package proposal from Patton that included a 7-cent-a-gallon gasoline hike.



Webb

She said she could not vote for the tax, passed 58-36, in good conscience because it didn’t adequately address the needs of the working poor. Lewis County has been stifled with one of the state’s worst unemployment rates in recent months, reaching nearly 22 percent in Carter County.

Patton’s tax plan originally passed the House, but was defeated when it went before the Senate.

From there the buck was passed to a bipartisan conference committee which gutted the Patton package and instead put the phone tax in place. The state already has such a tax on calls made within the state.

Many in the region were anxiously awaiting the outcome of Friday’s legislative session.

Among those were workers at Ashland’s Paramount Arts Center. Passage of the revised budget cleared the way for the center to receive \$3 million for renovation and expansion.

Paramount’s funding had been stripped with the defeat

of Patton’s tax plan, but reappeared in conference committee.

Reached by telephone in Owensboro, Kathy Timmons, executive director at the Paramount, said she was “ecstatic” with the news. She credited a local petition drive with getting the Paramount back in the budget.

“I think what the community did may have had some influence,” she said. “They certainly made a lot of noise and

let the legislators know this was a project that’s important to them.”

“I think it was great the way the community pulled together.”

Another legislative onlooker, C.W. Stevens of Grayson, had interest in two other major projects which made it into the final budget document — a \$2 million training center at EastPark industrial park and \$5 million for a golf course at Grayson Lake.

Stevens serves on the board of the Northeast Kentucky Regional Industrial Authority, EastPark’s developer, and is executive secretary of the Grayson Chamber of Commerce.

“I’m very pleased with how it turned out,” he said. “It’s going to be a terrific boost to Grayson and the surrounding area,” he said.

(MORE)

(continued budget awards)

Projects funded under state budget

Boyd County

- \$6.9 million for the Ashland Technical College Renovation.
- \$3 million for the Paramount Arts Center.
- \$2 million for a training center at East Park regional industrial park, located on the Boyd-Greenup county line.
- \$200,000 for the Highlands Museum and Discovery Center.
- \$90,000 for parks and recreation.
- \$90,000 for volunteer fire departments.
- \$75,000 for the Ashland National Little League Project.
- \$25,000 for the Catlettsburg Baseball Field.
- \$20,000 for Summer Motion.

Carter County

- \$7 million for construction of a new courthouse.
- \$1 million for county water projects.
- \$230,000 specifically for the Hanna Lane water project.
- \$213,000 for land acquisition toward the building of a new county jail.
- \$150,000 for the Olive High School Preservation project.

Elliott County

- \$8.74 million for a new medium security prison.
- \$5 million for a golf course at Grayson Lake State Park along the Elliott-Carter line.
- \$750,000 for the Elliott County Board of Education Pool Project.
- \$100,000 for volunteer fire departments.
- \$50,000 for the Elliott County Board of Education for playground and recreation enhancement.
- \$50,000 for the Sandy Hook Beautification Project.
- \$25,000 for Sarah's Place women's shelter.
- \$25,000 for the Elliott County Library.

Greenup County

- \$24.5 million for an industrial parkway between U.S. 64 and U.S. 23.
- \$1,475,000 for expansion of Pond Run Road, also known as Ky. 750.
- \$1 million for a bridge across the Little Sandy River at Naples Princess Branch.
- \$950,000 for improvements to Red Devil Lane in Russell.
- \$600,000 for county water projects.
- \$200,000 for improvements to Diedrich Boulevard in Russell.
- \$124,000 for school site-based councils.
- \$72,000 for rural fire departments.
- \$35,000 for playground improvements at Russell Primary School and \$15,000 for the same purpose at Russell-McDowell Intermediate.

Lawrence County

- \$1.2 million in coal severance projects.
- \$160,000 for Lawrence County school system enhancement.
- \$110,000 for the Blaine Community Center and park enhancement.
- \$105,000 for volunteer fire departments.
- \$75,000 to Lawrence County Fiscal Court for the Stella Moore Recreational Complex.
- \$50,000 for the Louisa beautification and their September festival.

Rowan County

- \$10 million for Phase I of Morehead State University's student center renovation.
- \$525,000 for Morehead water system expansion.
- \$400,000 for the MM-RC Industrial Park Fire Department.
- \$75,000 for the city of Lakeview Heights.

The counties, combined, received several million dollars in other, smaller road projects.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 16, 2000

Session spins to a close in Frankfort

By Peter Banlak and Jack Brammer

HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT — The political poker game came down to the last few hands.

And it appears most of the players left Frankfort with enough chips to claim some measure of victory heading into the November elections.

There was a late stumble by Senate Republicans, who appeared poised to claim a clear victory on taxes, but muddied the waters with a late vote to increase taxes on out-of-state phone calls.

And there was a stand by House Democrats, whom Patton largely credits for his budget win.

In the final days of the 2000 General Assembly, the cards and chips changed hands at a furious pace as legislators wrangled over the \$14 billion state budget.

There was an unexpected recovery by Gov. Paul Patton, who took his lumps early over a failed tax plan but ultimately won passage of most of what he wanted in the budget.

Expect debate over the winners and losers of the 2000 session — especially on the budget and taxes — to continue through Election Day.

The political spinning began even as the final gavel fell.

"The budget contains most of the Democratic initiatives that Kentucky needed to keep moving forward," said Nicki Patton, chairwoman of the state Democratic Party. "But our plan to pay for it was more fair for the average Kentuckian."

"The price we had to pay for progress was accepting the Republicans' unfair tax plan."

Not surprisingly, Ellen Williams, chairwoman of the state GOP, sees things differently.

Even though they approved a 6 percent tax on out-of-state calls, Republicans blocked the governor's two tax proposals, the first of which would have generated

"We can go to the voters and say we stopped a half-billion dollars of irresponsible taxes," she said. "Republicans stopped casino gambling, stopped the gas tax, stopped the tax on services."

"Republicans changed the way Frankfort works."

Still, the most intriguing twist of the session's final week came when Republicans appeared to give in to the pressure of budget negotiations and approved the tax on out-of-state calls. GOP leaders said their budget was "revenue

neutral" because the tax boost was balanced by a cut in unemployment insurance taxes paid by employers.

For most of the session, Republicans, led by Senate President David Williams, had said they would not vote to increase taxes.

That stance, coupled with the Senate's initial decision to cut hundreds of community projects from the House budget, forced Republicans into a difficult box, said

House Majority Leader Greg Stumbo, D.Pa.

(MORE)

(Cont. from previous session)

Stonsburg.

They either had to vote for a tax to balance the budget, or go home and explain to their constituents why money had been cut for water lines, sewer projects and facilities such as the Home of the Innocents in Louisville, he said.

"They were damned if they did, they were damned if they didn't," Stumbo said.

As soon as the session adjourned, Democrats gleefully seized on the GOP's tax vote.

"I'm actually looking forward to Republicans' verbal gymnastics as they try to explain their tax increase as 'no new taxes,'" said Nicki Patton, who is the governor's daughter. "If it looks like a tax and raises money like a tax, it's a tax."

The leader of a statewide anti-tax group said he thinks Republicans were afraid to go home without a budget. They knew they would face accusations of shutting down government, much as congressional Republicans did five years ago, said Rand Paul,

chairman of Kentucky Taxpayers United.

Paul pointed out that Republicans had said they would pass a budget that would favor people over pork. But they later added to the budget 200 projects, most in their home districts.

"They know that when they go home to their districts, nobody is going to slap them on the back and say, 'Great job, you got us a revenue neutral budget,'" Paul said. "So they all got projects in their districts."

Ellen Williams, of the state GOP, said Republicans realized all along that it was important to fund such things as education and infrastructure projects.

She said it was remarkable that Republicans were able to stand up to Patton and the Democratic House, where they're outnumbered 2-to-1, and find a way to pay for such programs in a way that won't be as onerous for average Kentuckians.

"It's the reality of the situation," she said. "We have virtually no authority in the state House. ... So you have to negotiate for the good of the people of Kentucky."

If anything, Republicans' decision to go along with a tax increase and the bulk of the governor's budget gave Patton's political profile a late boost after he got off to rough start when his first tax-proposal stalled.

In the end, Patton won approval for his sweeping program on early childhood development, for a proposed high-risk health insurance pool and for portions of other initiatives, such as changes in workers' compensation.

"When you look through the budget, the key things (Patton) wanted are all there," said House Majority Caucus Chairman Jim Callahan, D-Wilder.

"I think this session again showed something about this governor. Don't ever take him for granted."

The Daily Independent, Ashland, Kentucky, Saturday, April 15, 2000

Gambill wins another term as president of KEA union

LEXINGTON (AP) — Judith Gambill, a teacher on leave from Russell Independent Schools, fended off a challenge to win another two-year term as president of Kentucky's largest teachers' union.

Gambill, who has led the Kentucky Education Association since 1998, received 52 percent of the vote to defeat Barren County teacher Frances Steenburgen in last week's election.

The 25-year teaching veteran from Ashland attributed her success to an increase in membership to nearly 30,000

active members, new KEA training and seminars for teachers, and a successful legislative session.

"We're still waiting for the final analysis of the budget, but I think we had a good session," she said. "We stopped the school-voucher bill, and started a discussion of better health care for state employees."

KEA also got the credit for gutting a teacher-quality bill that would have required new training for some middle school teachers. The union also pushed for a teacher majority on the standards board

that would have overseen teacher-quality efforts.

Gambill said the low point of her term was a weeklong strike by the KEA staff over health benefits and working conditions. The strike was finally negotiated, but Gambill said it was difficult to be a union president who crosses any picket line.

Gambill has been on leave from Russell since 1995, when she became involved with KEA leadership.

Gambill said her membership drive will continue over the next two years.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 16, 2000

UK must learn to connect with students

The arrest of 12 University of Kentucky students in the Administration Building on April borrowed a page from a yellowing rapbook of the 1960s and '70s.

Since that Vietnam War era, when campus protests reached their height, the administration still isn't fully grasped how to forge positive relations with students who strongly disagree with it.

That's disconcerting, whether the sides with the students or the administration about which

toring organization will be more effective in stemming companies' abuse of foreign workers who make the team athletic gear. This business is pure financial gravy for universities, UK included.

The arrest of the students shows to what extreme both sides were willing to go to press their respective points. Rather than understanding, there was confrontation. In place of deliberative policy-making, there was protest and punishment. It's excellent material for a

we suspect would be truly eye-opening for the administration.

It's easy to understand the students' frustration. Before their arrests, they were granted one meeting with President Charles Wethington in December and then were largely shunted aside by unresponsive administrators.

Contrast what happened at UK with Transylvania University, where officials were light-years more cooperative about students'

(continued, UK)

From the outset, Transylvania valued the students' research and knowledge of labor abuses and set about to find out more. President Charles Shearer considered the issue so important that he joined the fact-finding committee, as did an array of stakeholders, including students. The meetings were an exercise in good leadership.

Even after Transylvania joined the fledgling Workers' Rights Consortium on March 1, rather than the Fair Labor Association as UK

did, the committee remained active. At the University of Louisville, a similar committee of students and administrators was formed, although President John Shumaker is not a member.

If UK continues its hard-line stance and walls off students from the decision-making process, the administration shouldn't be surprised when its resistance is matched by the students'.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, April 17, 2000

UK law students gain experience, give free legal counsel at clinic

By Shawn Hopkins

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

Law school can teach you how to file a case, find precedents to back it up and follow it through to the end.

It can't teach you how to calm an elderly woman facing tremendous debt she didn't run up.

Stephanie McGehee, a third-year law student at the University of Kentucky, found herself doing that while working at the University of Kentucky College of Law Legal Clinic, where law students act as lawyers for people who have few other options.

McGehee is one of 14 third-year law students who work approximately six to eight hours a week at the clinic at 630 Maxwellton Court. The students can do everything a real lawyer can do to help people. The clinic operates on a need-based basis, serving people who can't afford a lawyer or haven't been able to find one who will take their case. The services are free.

It's a popular class, according to Allison Connelly, associate professor of law and clinic director, who approves every motion made, goes to court with the students and catches them if they make a mistake.

"They're in the same position as a lawyer, but in a sense I'm their whispering counsel," Connelly said.

What type of law the students practice depends on the problems faced by their 42 current clients, most of whom are elderly and poor.

McGehee said she has handled several cases where someone, usually a caretaker, is taking advantage of an

elderly person. That leaves her and her clients in a delicate position.

McGehee said the goal then is to "get them as much help as you can without taking away their care."

Student Jeff Middendorf said his views about clients have changed by working on cases in which the client would probably do without representation if not for the clinic.

"It opens up your mind to a segment of the population that you don't typically have in mind as the type of client you want to come through the door," said Middendorf, noting that lawyers sometimes shy away from people whose cases aren't going to earn them money.

The clinic helps people like Grace Cook, a retired state employee whose car was repossessed after her last payment was lost and the bank refused to believe that she had paid it.

"I just woke up one morning and my car was gone," Cook said.

to get back her car; a 1994 Toyota Corolla, and when she did, it wasn't in the same condition. Ashtrays, money and parts of the car were missing or damaged.

Cook complained and asked for compensation, but she got nowhere. She didn't have money to hire a lawyer, and no one would take the case.

Cook finally tried the legal clinic, which was eventually able to recover \$3,000 for the damages.

Cook said it was a tremendous relief to find someone who would take her seriously.

"I found someone to stand up for me and follow through on it," Cook said.

Though most clients aren't UK students, they are eligible to use the clinic's services if their cases meet the criteria.

Emily Ward Roark has been working with other students for more than a year to help a UK student get her money back for a faulty computer.

The legal system can be intimidating to anybody without a lawyer, said Roark, holding up the computer case file, which is 12 inches thick.

"That file is a killer to go through," Roark said.

Connelly said that lawyers who had been students in the clinic sometimes come back to assist on clinic cases. She said she hopes this means they have learned something besides practical case experience.

"I think they learn a valuable lesson that when both sides have an equally prepared lawyer, the playing field is leveled," Connelly said.

Sculptures sprout on UK's campus

As you walk through the University of Kentucky campus, you cannot miss the fact that spring is exploding around you. Just as the flowers are blooming, this year's Sculpture on Campus exhibition has blossomed as well.

Advanced-level undergraduate and graduate sculpture majors are invited to submit their proposals to Sculpture on Campus, which is in its 13th year. A committee then selects five designs, said Jack Gron, chairman of the art department.

The sculptures are varied in their themes. Kyle and Kelly Phelps, fine arts graduate students, sculpted *Master*, a piece outside the Student Center.

cement, oil paint, stains and galvanized steel.

Gerard Masse, also a fine arts graduate student, took a more natural approach. *Mother Nature Won* is a 14-foot tall piece based on the literary *Man vs. Nature* conflict and the fight to coexist. He used mild steel and poplar trees in his construction on the LCC campus.

The sculptures, Gron said, benefit the artists and the UK community.

"The experience in this program gives students firsthand knowledge of the issues concerning public art. It helps them compete on a national level with students from prestigious institutions," he said.

— JENNY GRON, KENTUCKY KERNEL

Some Murray students receive malicious e-mail

It was either a cruel joke or an act with dangerous implications.

Either way, Murray State University officials are taking seriously a malicious e-mail sent to about 40 of the school's Richmond College students.

A criminal investigation for harassing communication is under way, Public Safety Interim Director Mittie Southerland said.

"We are going to do everything in our power to ensure students remain safe," Southerland said.

The e-mail writer was disguised as "James Richmond," the namesake of the residential college. It slandered several residents, using profanity and implying threats to express a deep resentment for the college. The return address on the e-mail did not name the sender.

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 19, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2000—MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY

Literacy volunteers honored

By CHRIS TURNER
Staff Writer

Volunteers who help adults learn how to read or get their GED were honored at a luncheon on Friday at the Guardian Industries Plant cafeteria.

Approximately 50 volunteers, guests and dignitaries attended the luncheon, which recognized the volunteer tutors who donate their time to the Morehead State University Adult Learning Center.

Dr. Cheryl King, deputy secretary for the Cabinet for Workforce Development, was the guest speaker.

"I think Morehead has more tutors than anywhere else in Kentucky," King told the audience. "I've never heard of any program having as many."

Forty percent of Kentuckians are reading at the lowest two reading levels

and that Kentucky is the last in the nation with the number of working age adults with a high school diploma, King said.

She also praised Senate Bill 1, which was up for a vote before the Kentucky Legislature on Friday.

King highlighted two key issues of the bill: a \$250 college tuition discount for people who get their GED and a tax credit for employers who allow employees to spend a portion of their work week preparing for their GED.

The GED college tuition discount would be in effect for the first four semesters that the person attends school.

Bryon Davidson, general manager of Guardian, told the audience that it is important for the corporate community to help ensure the success of organizations like the adult learning center.

Carole Karwatka, volunteer services coordinator, and Jenny McKinney, learning center coordinator, recognized each volunteer with an award packet.

The center was started in 1967 and currently has 30 volunteers.

Fifteen of these volunteers are current or former teachers, two are retired Morehead State University professors, five are college students and the remaining volunteers are from the community.

Volunteer tutors have contributed approximately 1,500 hours to help adults in Rowan County improve reading skills, earn a GED diploma and learn English as a second language.

Bonnie Eaglin, chair of the Rowan County/MSU ABEL Advisory Council, introduced

each speaker and acted as master of ceremonies for the luncheon.

Volunteer tutors who were recognized: Anne Beane, Pat Boodry, Grace Cassity, Billie Jean Clayton; Carolyn Cogswell, Kelly Dixon, Sr. Marylyn Ehrman, Jill Gaines. Tamalyn Glasser, Robert Gould, Wilma Grote, Susie Halbleib, Judy Hendrix,

Katherine Herzog, Dawn Hood, Mary Ingles, Hao Liu. Nell Mahaney, Allan Perkins. Emma Perkins, Bill Riley, Lou Royse, Nancy Sartor, Ann Scott, Joy Stanley, Wayne Stinson, Betty Thompson. Kathy Viton, Lance Williams and Orlena Wylie.

Sponsors of the luncheon include: St. Claire Medical Center, Coffeetree Books, Kentucky Folk Art Center MSU Bookstore and MSU Greenhouse.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2000

UK law students provide free aid to poor

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The University of Kentucky's law school helps people who can't afford professional legal advice.

More than a dozen third-year law students work at the University of Kentucky College of Law Legal Clinic, where they act as lawyers for people who have few other choices.

Stephanie McGehee is one of the 14 students who staff the clinic, working six to eight hours a week. The students can do everything a real lawyer can do — and their services are free.

McGehee said she has handled

several cases in which someone, usually a caretaker, is taking advantage of an elderly person. That leaves her and her clients in a delicate position.

McGehee said the goal then is to "get them as much help as you can without taking away their care."

The law students get academic credit for their work in the clinic, which is directed by an associate professor, Allison Connelly. She approves every motion made, goes to court with the students and catches them if they make a mistake.

"They're in the same position as a lawyer, but in a sense I'm their whispering counsel," Connelly said.

The clinic currently has 42 clients,

most of them elderly people.

One grateful client is Grace Cook, a retired state employee whose car was repossessed after her last payment was lost and the bank refused to believe that she had paid it.

"I just woke up one morning and my car was gone," she said.

It took the better part of a month to get her car, a 1994 Toyota Corolla, returned, and ashtrays, money and other parts were missing or damaged.

Cook complained and asked for compensation, but got nowhere. She didn't have money to hire a lawyer, and no one would take the case.

Cook finally tried the legal clinic,

which eventually got her \$3,000 for the damage.

Cook said it was a tremendous relief to find someone who would take her seriously.

"I found someone to stand up for me and follow through on it," she said.

Though most clients aren't UK students, students are eligible to use the clinic's services if their cases meet the criteria. Emily Ward Roark has been working for more than a year to help a UK student get her money back for a faulty computer.

Connelly said that lawyers who had been students in the clinic sometimes come back to help.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 19, 2000

WKU Journalism school wins award:

Western Kentucky University's School of Journalism and Broadcasting won its first overall intercollegiate title in the William Randolph Hearst Foundation's journalism awards program. Western finished with 673 points, followed by the University of Florida with 666. The University of Missouri was third with 650 points. Jo-Ann Albers, director of the school of journalism and broadcasting, and Western seniors Matt Batcheldor of Bardstown and Aimee Reed of Columbia will travel to San Francisco on May 19 for Hearst finals and awards presentations. Batcheldor is a finalist for national writing honors while Reed is a finalist for national radio broadcasting honors.

WKU journalists win national award

By CHRIS POYNTER
The Courier-Journal

For the first time, a Kentucky university has won the national title in the Hearst Foundation's journalism award program.

Western Kentucky University's School of Journalism and Broadcasting won the honor, based on students' work in writing, photography and broadcasting.

WKU topped more than 100 accredited journalism schools in the 40th annual competition, sponsored by the Hearst Foundation in San Francisco. The University of Florida was second, and the University of Missouri was third.

Western has placed in the top 10 for the last five years.

"This a credit to our teachers and our students," Jo-Ann Albers, director of the school, said yesterday. "We've always known our students are super, and this proves it."

The Hearst Foundation was founded in 1945 by publisher and philanthropist William Randolph Hearst. Its college competition began in 1960.

In addition to the top award, individual honors are given in each division. Western has won the photography division of the Hearst awards for 11 consecutive years and has consistently placed in the top 10 in newspaper writing.

Until last year, Western had separate departments for journalism and broadcasting. The two merged, and ground will be broken this year for an \$18.5 million building for the journalism school.

Two Western students who won national honors as part of the Hearst competition will go to San Francisco May 19 for the finals and award presentation.

Matt Batchelder of Bardstown is a finalist for national writing honors, and Aimee Reed of Columbia is a finalist in radio broadcasting.

Albers will be honored Friday at WKU as the Freedom Forum's national journalism administrator of the year. The Freedom Forum is dedicated to a free press and free speech.

The Daily Independent. Ashland, Kentucky, Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Firefighters in area react to measure

Training, certification both controlled by KCTCS

By TOM LEWIS
OF THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND — A new law that will give Kentucky's firefighter certification duties to the state community and technical college system drew a restrained reaction from members of some area fire departments Monday.

House Bill 631 — unanimously approved by the General Assembly and signed by Gov. Paul Patton on March 31 — will transfer the Kentucky Fire Commission from state government to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System in July.

As a result, KCTCS, which provides training and education to firefighters, and the Fire Commission, which ensures the quality of firefighter training programs, will be joined.

The move will improve firefighter training by combining the resources of the two entities, making more funding available for firefighter training, proponents said.

That came as good news to Duane Suttles, fire/rescue training coordinator assigned to Rowan Technical College.

"Right now we're about as poor as you can get," Suttles said.

He said much of the training that departments request has to be turned down because of a lack of funds and equipment.

He said the mobile training fleets used by state instructors are housed in

three depots. The closest one to his service area is in Hazard, and it serves 40 counties.

Extra funding could be used to buy more mobile training equipment, he said.

Members of some area fire departments contacted Monday said they knew little about the bill or did not have a strong opinion about it.

"I really haven't dug into it just yet," Morehead Fire Chief Dale Adkins said.

Billy Selvage, Raceland Fire Department chief and president of the Greenup County Firefighters Association, questioned the claims of greater funding. He said most mergers are designed to cut costs.

Selvage also wondered why certification responsibilities were being given to KCTCS, rather than giving training duties to the Fire Commission.

"As far as I'm concerned, if it's got to do with fire protection, it ought to be kept together," he said.

But Ashland Fire Chief Mark Osborne said as long as the educational and training standards are maintained or improved, it doesn't matter which agency oversees training and certification.

"Anything that's going to improve the situation, we are for," Osborne said.

Suttles said he would have preferred to see training put under the Fire Commission's authority. But he was glad to see training and certification put under one agency.

Firefighter training programs are currently based at 14 KCTCS institutions, including Rowan Technical College, Ashland Technical College and Mayo Technical College.

The Fire Commission requires new volunteer firefighters to receive 150 hours of approved training to be certified and 20 hours of training each year on an ongoing basis.

New career firefighters must go through 450 hours of training to be certified and 100 hours of elective training annually.

State Fire Commission Chairman Gerald Stewart said volunteer firefighters are currently guaranteed only 20 hours of training each year because of a lack of funding. This summer's merger will make funding available to increase that training, he said.

In the past, firefighters did not receive college credit for their training. As part of the merger, KCTCS will award college credit for appropriate courses and will develop a related associate degree program.

The State Fire/Rescue Training Program has served Kentucky firefighters for more than 20 years. In 1998-99, KCTCS trained 60,061 people from 1,091 agencies.

“
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”

— Ashland
Fire Chief
Mark Osborne

MSU Clip Sheet

MSU ARCHIVES

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UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1889 (606) 783-2030

Lexington Herald-Leader
Sunday, April 23, 2000

Sorting through the debris

General Assembly managed to score some successes

The 2000 General Assembly responded to some of Kentucky's urgent problems with productive, even progressive, legislation. So, why, a week after adjournment, does this session still leave a bad taste in the mouth?

One reason is that lawmakers could have done so much more than they did. For instance, instead of simply raising taxes on long-distance telephone service to balance what is a fairly commendable budget, they could have enacted tax reform that would have helped the state and lightened the nation's highest tax burden on working poor families.

The bad taste also lingers because so many legislators spent so much time exploiting the basest human emotions. The session was dominated by appalling displays of religious bigotry. Aspersions were cast on ethnic minorities. It was, well, embarrassing to the max.

Then there was partisanship. Boy, was there partisanship. The public's interest often was secondary to the fight for future control of the state Senate and to House Democrats' fear of casting a tough vote for naught if the Senate wouldn't go along.

Education

The best news is that education continues to be a priority. Postsecondary education received a second successive big boost in funding. Early-childhood development and adult education will get some long overdue attention and money.

But there were downsides, too. Nepotism in public schools, banned 10 years ago, got a temporary reprieve when lawmakers cleared the way for principals to hire their spouses. Gov. Paul Patton wisely vetoed this

bill Friday. An ambitious teacher-quality initiative was cut and slashed within an inch of its life. And legislative friends of a few state universities managed to give their favored institutions more money than the Council on Postsecondary Education had recommended. That not only leaves underfinanced universities playing catch-up with their rich brethren, it also undermines the authority of the council and casts doubt on the ultimate success of higher education reform.

Environment

Patton's regulations for factory farms survived an attack by the Kentucky Farm Bureau and Agriculture Commissioner Billy Ray Smith.

But Kentucky's landscape got no protection from littering and dumping; bottlers and retailers killed the bottle bill and mandatory garbage collection. Efforts to control urban sprawl died. And the coal industry remained free to strip-mine over property owners' objections.

Tobacco settlement

The sausage-making machine went into overdrive on the tobacco settlement. Some of the wrangling was distasteful. But, in the end, a promising plan emerged for balancing statewide

and local interests in deciding how to restructure agriculture.

Philip Morris carried a big (cancer) stick. A measure to protect growers in contract tobacco production was heavily diluted. Lawmakers feared that if they stood up for farmers, Philip Morris would quit buying Kentucky leaf.

The state with the deadliest smoking habit finally put some, but not enough, money into protecting children from nicotine addiction. Lawmakers increased

Patton's proposed spending on smoking prevention, but \$10.5 million over two years falls short of what is needed.

Health care

Lawmakers and Patton gave health insurers a convenient spot to dump lung-cancer victims and other sick Kentuckians. The high-risk pool comes at an initial cost of \$39 million from the tobacco settlement.

Lawmakers who think it will solve their constituents' problems with health insurance should think again.

On the positive side, measures were approved that will improve mental health insurance coverage, give consumers a way to appeal HMO decisions short of going to court and strengthen services for the mentally retarded and mentally ill.

Reproductive rights

Reproductive choice survived without further infringement for the first time in recent sessions. But lawmakers killed a bill that would have required that contraceptives be included in prescription drug insurance benefits.

Economy

Lawmakers modernized the state's economic development strategy with a package that encourages creation of high-tech jobs and partnerships between universities and business.

But an untimely death met a reasonable bill that would have required a living wage and decent benefits from companies that receive state incentives and that would have brought more openness to economic development decisions.

(MORE)

Jones in
Assembly
Cont.

Religion

Lawmakers had a chance to make a good law providing for comparative religion classes in schools. They opted instead for an unconstitutional measure urging posting of the Ten Commandments in public buildings and requiring a monument to the Decalogue on the Capitol grounds.

Making matters worse, they overrode Patton's veto of a bill exempting churches and religious institutions from civil rights law. That leaves a terrible taste for anyone who cherishes religious freedom.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2000

School nepotism bill among three vetoed

Legislators say they don't mind Patton's decision

By AL CROSS
C-J Political Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Gov. Paul Patton vetoed three bills yesterday, including one that would have greatly relaxed an anti-nepotism provision of the state school-reform law.

Senate Bill 287 would have allowed principals to hire their spouses in districts that have only one high school and one middle school. Other vetoed bills would have weakened the executive branch's rule-making power and would have given tax credits to small information-technology companies.

The legislature cannot override the vetoes because it has adjourned, but authors of the nepotism bill, which had gotten the most attention, said they did not object to its death. The bills were among several passed last week, on the next-to-last day of the legislative session, one normally reserved for overriding vetoes.

In his veto message on the nepotism bill, Patton echoed critics who had said it would greatly undermine a key element of the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act and the 1989 state Supreme Court decision that led to KERA.

Patton noted that the decision held that the state constitution envisions schools operated "without waste, duplication, mismanagement or political influence," and that KERA was passed in large part to meet those goals. But the bill, he said, "compromises this important purpose and violates both

the spirit and meaning of KERA."

Rep. John Will Stacy, whose broadening of the bill had prompted the criticism of it, said he didn't agree with Patton's assertion but wasn't upset about the veto.

Stacy, D-West Liberty, said the bill had caused such controversy that its enactment might unintentionally send the wrong signal about nepotism laws as they exist, and I don't want to do that."

Stacy said he generally supports the anti-nepotism rules in KERA but

was trying to help two constituents "who were trying to hire their spouses because they had particular qualifications they needed. I wasn't trying to do anything to KERA."

THE REFORM ACT bans principals from hiring their spouses unless they were employed in the school when KERA was passed, and only if the school is in a district with only one high school, middle school and elementary school. Fifty-three districts with 134 schools meet those criteria, the state Department of Education said yesterday.

In its original form, as introduced by Senate President David Williams and passed by the Senate, SB 287 would have erased the grandfather clause. Supporters of the bill said it would keep teachers who are married to principals from having to find work in another district.

Stacy got the House, on a voice vote, to make the exception apply to districts with more than one elementary school, but only one middle school and one high school. That brought protests from school-reform proponents, such as Robert Sexton, executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, who said yesterday that it "had great potential for weakening public confidence in the schools."

Sexton said KERA's message to the public was "you will be paying more for public schools, but the schools will do their very best to hire the best people and educate kids well." He said the bill "sent the opposite message. It said hiring the best people isn't the most important thing. Even if that doesn't happen many places, the perception is very negative."

The potential effect of Stacy's change was unclear, because there are different ways to define schools.

Under the education department's definitions, the bill would have applied to 72 districts with 248 schools, but if alternative schools and those with "unusual grade configurations" were not counted, it could have applied to schools in 130 of the state's 176 districts.

Williams, R-Burkesville, said he told Cabinet Secretary Grit Luallen last week that he would have no problem if Patton vetoed the bill because it went too far.

Stacy said he had jealously guarded the anti-nepotism portions and other portions of the Kentucky Education Reform Act, and I felt like John Will's amendment had made it overbroad," Williams said. "I told her I wasn't asking him to veto it, but if it was, I wouldn't be offended."

Hunt Helm, associate education commissioner for communications, said the veto pleased state education officials.

"The need for these provisions was well-documented before 1990," he said. "They are an important component of the reform, and they are in the best interest of children."

PATTON ALSO vetoed SB 277, which had passed without a majority

ing vote. He said it attempted to keep agencies from imposing fines for violation of emergency regulations and would have given too much authority to the legislative employee who oversees the processing of regulations.

Early this month, Patton vetoed a similar measure, House Bill 856, that was designed to keep a tight rein on regulations, but the legislature overrode him.

The other bill vetoed yesterday, HB 902, was designed to attract Internet start-up companies. It would have allowed businesses to qualify for state tax credits if they employed 15 to 25

people, instead of the current threshold of 25, if they paid their employees 135 percent of the state's annual average pay, about \$35,000.

Another provision, which drew Patton's objection, would have allowed companies to transfer their tax credits to their investors, lenders or landlords. Patton said that would cut state revenue, but the bill's main advocate, Lexington lawyer Bill Lear, said Patton's analysis erroneously presumed that Internet start-ups would have no other positive economic impact.

Patton said another bill, HR 572,

offers Internet start-up companies low-interest loans, an incentive that he said is "preferable" to the tax credits he vetoed.

Patton also vetoed House Joint Resolution 122, which directed the state to take responsibility for Fox Hollow Road in Clay County. He said the measure "sets an inappropriate precedent" because a process for adding roads to the state system already exists.

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Barbara Colter, R-Manchester, who said the road is heavily used by employees of a federal prison.

Local leaders need more support

By Sylvia L. Lovely

The opening days of this year found our newspapers full of lists. We had the top 100 media stories, the 100 best books, the 100 most respected movies, and rankings in numerous other categories as the experts (some real, some perceived) told us what we should and should not care about.

One of the more interesting of these exercises listed the top 100 leaders of the 20th century. The requisite criteria in this case (the compilers' attempt at a preemptive strike against criticism, perhaps) noted that only leaders with accomplishments of a statewide nature had been considered.



Lovely

This could lead us to one of two assumptions: Local leaders just don't measure up to their statewide counterparts, or we have an embarrassment of riches in that the number of notable local leaders is so vast that it is impossible to single out any individual.

Several weeks later, the newspaper brought another form of communication: an editorial reacting to a vote-buying scandal in Eastern Kentucky and the connections made by the United Nations between bad government and persistent poverty. The editorial included these assertions:

- "Local governments must play a crucial role in poverty reduction."
 - In "some of Kentucky's poor places," local officials "also often have a tradition of shortsighted, self-interested and even corrupt leadership."
- There undoubtedly was truth in the editorial, which pointed out that its ob-

At issue

April 7 Herald-Leader editorial "Common problem; bad government fosters poverty in Ky., the world"

servations applied only to some areas of the state. But what is difficult for editorial writers to address — indeed, what is difficult for most of us to recognize — is the changing nature of communities and their governments.

The political boundaries of states and nations are beginning to blur as local communities thrive and grow according to their own patterns. This is bringing some long-deserved attention to local leaders, but it is also bringing them new responsibilities of incredible weight. It is becoming their charge to create and sustain quality, livable communities for citizens.

And those demanding citizens, after all, are still the foundation of the entire governmental process, whether or not they choose to participate.

There is no doubt that Kentucky's problems are rooted in many ills, with corrupt local governments perhaps among them. But it isn't that simple. Government at any level doesn't rise like some monster from the earth to devour the good and promote the evil. Government is made good or bad through the involvement of citizens.

Many will argue that citizens have been shut out of government in this state, but I find that argument puzzling. Studies by the Long-Term Policy Research Center tell us that Kentuckians are active volunteers. Still, I sense that citizens here are becoming active in ways that are less arduous than getting involved in government and that personal gratification, rather than societal

benefit, is frequently the motivation for involvement.

Clearly, it is becoming more difficult to find Kentuckians willing to serve — as most do in local government — for little or no pay and very little gratitude from others. Managing conflict, in fact, is becoming the skill du jour for many local officials because of the lack of consensus on important issues.

And those who hold positions of influence in communities consistently fail to see the connection between their arm's-length attitude toward government service and the quality of the government that draws their complaints around the dinner table every night.

"You'll never catch me running for office," one business leader noted recently in a room crowded with her colleagues. These folks had just complained about inept government leaders, but the irony of her response to my inquiry escaped them. Even their chagrin at being reminded of it failed to produce any takers on the public service offer.

Thus, I return to the newspaper lists and editorial comments. The great leaders of modern and earlier times do, indeed, warrant a tribute. But to paraphrase a common saying: To whom much credit is given, much responsibility should be proportionately distributed.

As we pay homage and look with hopeful eyes to the state and federal governments, perhaps is it to our detriment. If we bestow recognition only on leaders at those levels, how can we then expect — demand — miracles from those who serve locally? It is, after all, a virtual miracle that anyone serves at all.

Sylvia L. Lovely of Lexington is executive director and chief executive officer of the Kentucky League of Cities.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2000

Mock takeover staged at Prestonsburg college

By KIMBERLY HEFLING
Associated Press

PRESTONSBURG, Ky. — On the first anniversary of the shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., law-enforcement students at Prestonsburg Community College staged a mock takeover yesterday of the college's administration building.

Some student spectators expressed reservations about the event, saying it could be considered offensive. Participants, however, said that it was helpful law-enforcement training and was not disrespectful to the Columbine victims.

"We are doing this in honor of the people who died that day so we can know how to respond in those situations," said Juli Adkins, a student who participated.

"It is in no way a re-enactment," said Ginger Scott, an

other participant. "What happened there at Columbine could just as well happen here."

As part of the scenario, a hostage situation occurred after a protest over student loan payments. Local law-enforcement officials served as the assailants, and students in uniform responded to the situation.

Fake gun shots echoed through the halls, and women with mock injuries were heard screaming "help." SWAT teams entered the buildings, and the school administrators "injured" or "killed" were taken out by stretcher to an ambulance.

Some student spectators said the event could be considered offensive. "It's a bunch of yelling and this could be looked at as a mockery" of Columbine, said Steve Arnett, a computer student.

Jonathan Hiner, another stu-

"I don't think this was a good time to do it out of respect for the students that got killed," he said.

Fifteen people, including the two assailants, were killed in the shootings at the suburban Denver high school.

Crystal Yates, a law-enforcement student who served as public information officer for the Prestonsburg event, said some students and faculty had expressed reservations about the event.

But Yates said the law-enforcement students need to know how to respond in these types of situations.

Mike Dixon, law-enforcement coordinator for PCC, said the students are commonly taken through mock situations. With the Columbine anniversary approaching, he "thought it was appropriate" to learn about a school-crisis situation.

A new leader for a new time

UK needs a president who can spur its transformation

THE RECENT death of Herman B Wells, who lifted Indiana University into the front rank of public higher education, suggests just how decisive one person can be in the life of an institution.

Those who remember the relatively short but certainly dynamic tenure of John Oswald as president at the University of Kentucky recall how he shook things up there. The place was better for it, although some cursed the day he arrived from the University of California, whose own emergence as the great megaversity was overseen by another educational giant, Clark Kerr.



DAVID HAWPE

Certainly, the Oswald era was more exciting than the extended quiet of the years in which Otis Singletary

lived at Maxwell Place, the UK president's residence.

The current occupant, Charles Wethington, will leave behind a campus much changed by his efforts: enlivened with a more able student body, refocused on a splendid new library and seated on a better financial base.

A search committee meets for the first time on Tuesday to begin looking for Wethington's successor.

Here are some thoughts for its members to keep in mind:

■ The university has a new athletic director. No need to hire another one.

■ There's also no need to approach anybody hat-in-hand. This is a great job you have to offer. The place is in pretty good shape. The next president will get help from a

supportive governor whose signature issue is higher education. There's money in the budget for real quality, and more is coming.

■ The state system, in which UK is the flagship, finally has been rationalized. It's run by one sharp operator, Gordon Davies, who survived his first encounter with a General Assembly in which every other member is on some university's payroll. He'll help, too.

■ Choose somebody who is open to seeing the Lexington campus in a new way. Somebody capable of believing that mediocre isn't the best UK can do. Somebody with the personal energy and political finesse that are needed to lift everyone's aspirations and push for something better.

■ Look for an academic entrepreneur who understands the demands of the emerging information-based economy. And who knows how to raise money.

■ Select a team-builder. While the president is out there selling the institution, a leadership team has to run the place — well. These days, a president has to operate as a CEO. And raise money.

■ Hire somebody who understands that most universities, and certainly UK, can achieve greatness in a limited number of areas. A campus leader must know how to target. And raise money.

Take John T. Casteen III, president of the University of Virginia. He is a formidable fundraiser and a focused administrator. Even at an academic powerhouse like UVA, he has targeted a few areas in which the institution should not be satisfied with itself, such as science and technology, performing arts and service to the state. He is determined to focus resources on those challenges.

Like most successful presidents, he's also something of a salesman. He has a good story to tell, even though he's had

little enough help from the Virginia governor's office. He goes out and tells it.

■ UK also needs someone who is tough enough to transform a place and who is willing to be disliked as a result. Someone like Stephen Joel Trachtenburg at George Washington University. He's an entrepreneur, willing to try remaking a workaday institution into something really special in some of its programs.

To do that, a president must be willing to take risks, even risk being disliked, as both Trachtenburg and Casteen are in some quarters. (As Charles Wethington is in some parts of his university, which suggests he has done more than just occupy Maxwell Place.)

Virginia Tech President Charles Steeger predicted in his acceptance speech to the board that a great shakeout will leave the nation with only 50 or 60 top research institutions. VPI is not now among them, he told the board, but it will be.

It's that kind of tough, honest self-assessment that the great William Friday used in deciding how to nudge even higher in the public university rankings the already-superb University of North Carolina Chapel Hill campus. And how to make the state's system even better.

The committee needs to find somebody who will be equally honest about UK's strengths and weaknesses.

■ Be honest and open with the public. No more closing the door on the citizens who pay the bills. Well, some of the bills.

Having seen the full Board of Trustees humiliate itself with secret machinations over extending Wethington's contract, the search committee should opt for maximum exposure.

A series of forums on the UK presidency, held in different parts of the state, would be a good beginning. Critics love to complain, "They never asked my opinion." So ask.

Nothing in the open meetings statutes requires closing the selection process from public view. Why do it?

Chairman JoEtta Wickliffe should insist on public participation. She should insist that the committee look at a diverse group of candidates. She should tell the committee that its decision will reach far beyond the politics and personalities of the moment.

One person can be fateful in a university's history. So can one decision.

David Hawpe's column appears Sundays and Wednesdays in *The Forum*. You can read his columns at www.courier-journal.com.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Monday, April 24, 2000

NYU grad assistants may go union

By Arlene Levinson

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — In her climb up the academic ladder, Laura Tanenbaum teaches freshman writing at New York University while working on her doctorate. It pays \$11,500 for a nine-month stint, a pittance in high-priced New York, the 25-year-old complains.

What graduate teaching and research assistants need is the right to bargain collectively for better pay and benefits, Tanenbaum and some of her colleagues say.

This week, in a move NYU officials warn could shatter academic freedom for students, insists means survival, 1,400 graduate teaching and research assistants at the university will vote whether to form a union represented by the United Auto Workers.

A "yes" vote could make NYU the first private American university subject to collective bargaining with graduate assistants. About two dozen public universities already are.

"What we're looking for is recognition from the university that we're adults who provide a service," Tanenbaum said.

NYU officials argue that teaching and research duties come with students' financial aid packages, so they're not workers entitled to a union.

They also say private universities lack the protection state laws give their public counterparts, such as curbing strikes and barring interference with course content.

"It will be impossible, or virtually impossible, to separate the educational issues from employment

issues," said Robert Berne, NYU vice president for academic development.

Union organizers deny this.

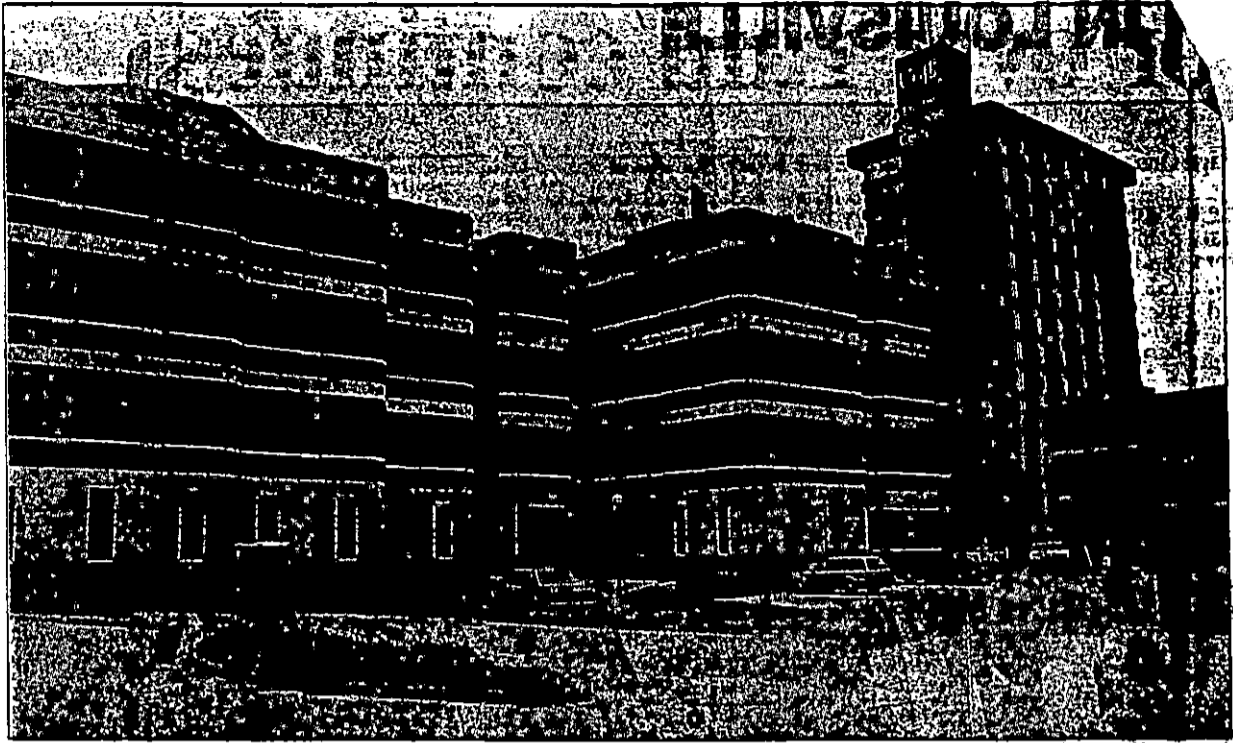
"We are not looking for and we do not believe we could legally obtain any say in curriculum," said Patrick McCreery, 33, an NYU doctoral candidate in American Studies.

The National Labor Relations Board will supervise balloting set for Tuesday through Thursday.

Last week, NYU appealed to the NLRB to stop the election, or at least hold results while the board hears the case.

The agency said Friday that the election would take place unless it rules on the appeal by Thursday, the votes will be impounded until the case is decided. Any outcome could be challenged in federal courts.

U of L wants to be stronger, trimmer



BY SAM UPSHAW JR., THE COURIER-JOURNAL

The new Baxter Biomedical Research Building on Preston Street is evidence of the university's expanded commitment to medical research. Another area getting extra attention is entrepreneurship.

By HOLLY CORYELL
The Courier-Journal

Come 2008, the University of Louisville is going to be leaner, more focused and more elite, with fewer students and fewer departments.

It will be aligned with the community's needs, providing entrepreneurial training and top-flight medical research to fuel the local economy.

That's the vision of President John Shumaker, who is in the midst of his 11-year "Challenge for Excellence" plan to raise U of L to top status as a metropolitan research university. He plans to announce this evening the progress so far.

"We're doing a lot of things pretty well, and we should be doing fewer things very well," Shumaker said in an interview last week. "We have too many programs and too many students for the resources we've got."

The school had 20,793 students last fall. Admission standards are being raised to trim enrollment by about 350. Shumaker also wants to attract more doctoral candidates and admit better-qualified freshmen who will stay and graduate.

Some departments may be eliminated if they're not attracting and graduating enough students, said Shumaker, who de-

clined to be specific. But faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences seem to fear the axe the most because many of the college's 23 departments aren't listed in Shumaker's "Challenge for Excellence."

"It's a really tough decision, but we're already seeing more institutions that have decided to disband departments because of economics," said Larry Goldstein of the National Association of College and University Business Officers in Washington. "A university that has multiple schools is going to look at where they can get the best leveraging."

Shumaker said departments not listed in his plan aren't necessarily excluded. He said he wants a university that's strong overall but with selected areas that stand out.

CENTRAL TO HIS PLAN is the recently completed Bicentennial Campaign, which has raised \$362 million — far above the original goal of \$120 million set in 1995. The money includes \$33 million in state "Bucks for Brains" matching money to create million-dollar endowed faculty chairs.

With that influx of money, the university has more than doubled its endowment to \$413.7 million; created 34 new endowed faculty positions; built a medical research building, dormitories and other facilities; brought top medical researchers to campus; and increased the number of scholarships.

Much of the money from the campaign has gone to two areas: entrepreneurship and medical research. Of the school's 59 endowed faculty positions, 34 are in medical fields and six are in entrepreneurship.

These areas fit Shumaker's strategy to focus on "specific academic programs that are so strong that they will put the University of Louisville on the map."

They're also connected to the local economy, taking advantage of Louisville's research hospitals and what the university contends are the city's favorable conditions for starting new businesses. That has won Shumaker kudos from Louisville's business community.

Mike Bosc of Greater Louisville Inc., the chamber of commerce, said Shumaker "is on a roll, and we're all for it."

He noted the "entrepreneurship fever that's gripping the community," which he attributed to the U of L entrepreneurship program. The program includes a small-business incubator and a venture fund for students who want to start businesses.

"As U of L makes waves and continues to get recognition as a university on the move, that makes it easier to attract people" to Louisville, Bosc said.

Universities nationwide are taking the same approach, said Goldstein, of the College and University Business Officers. To be a community-focused "engine for economic development" is an important mission of all public universities, he said.

"If you think about where the money is, in a lot of instances in higher education you set your agenda based on where you can be successful and also where you can get support," said Goldstein, who was formerly U of L's treasurer and vice president for finance. "It doesn't mean you ignore the other areas, but it means you don't approach them in the same way."

U of L departments that aren't on Shumaker's list will probably have to do their own fund-raising, Goldstein said.

Response from faculty members has been mixed, depending on whether their department stands to benefit.

"I can honestly say that this has been one of the best experiences that we've had in my entire academic career," said Dr. Suzanne Ildstad, who moved her 40-member research team to U of L two years ago from Allegheny University of the Health Sciences in Glenolden, Pa., near Philadelphia, where she headed the Institute for Cellular Therapeutics.

Allegheny had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy when U of L recruited Ildstad under a state-funded program designed to use endowed faculty positions to lure top researchers.

Ildstad, a surgeon known for her research in bone-marrow transplants, said donations to the university have allowed her to expand her work into diabetes and sickle cell disease.

SOME FACULTY don't share her enthusiasm, however.

"Faculty morale in the College of Arts and Sciences is as low as it's ever been," said history Professor Justin McCarthy. "Most faculty believe that (Shumaker's plan) has nothing to do with them and their teaching, and research won't particularly benefit."

But English Professor Thomas Byers, also in arts and sciences, is pleased with Shumaker's attention to the humanities. "My morale is as high as it has ever been in 20 years, in terms of the direction of the institution and what is possible here," he said.

(MORE)

Cont.

University's Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society, an interdisciplinary program created in 1997 to stimulate research and organize public programs, such as lectures, films and festivals. It's part of Shumaker's long-range plan.

Physics department Chairman Joseph Chalmers praised Shumaker's fund-raising ability and the high-profile faculty he's brought to the medical school. But he said he's concerned about his department, which is in arts and sciences and has lost two professors in the last two years, reducing the total to 12. One position was shifted to the English Department, which needed more teachers for its introductory course, he said. He doesn't know if or when the other position will be filled.

"They read the writing on the wall," Chalmers said. "If you're not on the list, then forget it."

Chalmers, who is nearing retirement, along with about half his department, fears the department will continue to shrink.

The university has about 40 physics majors this year. It graduates about three physics majors a year, which is comparable to other physics departments without doctoral programs around the country, Chalmers said.

In addition to his long-range plan, Shumaker wants to increase faculty salaries by 15 percent over the next three years. U of L salaries are below those at comparable metropolitan universities, which places the school at risk of losing professors to higher-paying institutions.

Full professors at U of L earn nearly \$12,000 less on average than their counterparts at the university's benchmark schools, such as the State University of New York at Buffalo,

University of Pittsburgh, according to a 1998 report by the American Association of University Professors. The study did not include medical faculty.

"We will be glad to accept any increase in salary, of course, but it will take considerably more for U of L to be competitive," said McCarthy, the history professor.

Tonya Ramsey, a 21-year-old U of L senior and outgoing student government officer, said some students in the College of Arts and Sciences feel left out of Shumaker's plan. But even though she's majoring in political science and communication, she said she recognizes the university's need to focus on medical research.

"Eventually that will fan out to other academic disciplines," Ramsey said. "I think the things that the University of Louisville is doing now will make my diploma more credible."

From the capital campaign, \$28 million has been allocated for scholarships in an effort to lower the school's dropout rate. Last fall, U of L granted 309 more scholarships than the previous year. The total number of scholarships for this year and last year was not available, but Denise Fitzpatrick, the university's spokeswoman, called the increase "substantial."

MANY U OF L students work their way through school, Fitzpatrick said. Some take time off to earn money, delaying graduation, while some get sidetracked and never come back, she said. The university hopes to raise its retention rate for first-time freshmen from 69.7 percent in 1995 to 78 percent by 2005, Fitzpatrick said.

Synthia Shelby, 30, of Louisville, was struggling to get a master's degree in education at U of L last year

when she was advised by Joseph P. Atkins and William L. Husk Minority Teacher Scholarship. The scholarship was created with private money through the capital campaign.

"It literally allowed me not to worry about a financial strain on myself, and I was able to complete the program and graduate on time," said Shelby, who completed her internship at Newburg Public School.

Shumaker wants to raise the academic level of students. He is phasing out remedial education and referring weaker students to a joint program with Jefferson Community College until they're ready to make the grade at U of L.

The average American College Test score for entering U of L freshmen was 20.8 in 1995 and 21.5 as of Feb. 28, Fitzpatrick said. The university wants to raise that to 24.5 by 2008, which would be competitive with similar urban universities, she said.

To help retain brighter students, Shumaker has beefed up the honors program with smaller, seminar-style classes to keep them challenged and a new residence hall where they can support each other.

"If we want to attract and retain high-quality students, we have to treat them like our primary customers," Shumaker said.

"I'd like to have this university compete for bright students the way we compete for athletes," he said.

Lexington Herald-Leader Monday, April 24, 2000



COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

On campus

Student-run program at UK strives to make a habit of recycling

By Amanda York

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Some people smoke, some people bite their fingernails and some people chew with their mouths open. But habits don't always have to be bad.

Jennifer Crawford has had a habit or years — she recycles.

"My parents did curbside recycling and I always knew to put my stuff in the recycling bin and in the trash," she said.

Crawford, a natural resource conservation management senior at the University of Kentucky, works to help others pick up that habit with the student-run Residence Life Recycling Program.

Melanie Tyner-Wilson, assistant director of Residence Life at UK, said the program started about seven years ago after students suggested it. They wrote a proposal that was approved by the university's board of trustees.

Tyner-Wilson said all of the residence halls at UK come equipped with special recycling containers. Students are hired to pick up the recycling bins.

"The students literally go from hall to hall and floor to floor and collect the recyclables and put them in the large container that the companies come to pick up," she said.

The program usually hires 10 students each semester, Tyner-Wilson said.

Crawford, the coordinator of the program, became involved with recycling at an early age and said recycling helps link people to their environment.

"It teaches people to get involved with respecting their community and respecting their natural environment," she said.

Building respect for the community

serves as only one of the standards Crawford sets for the recycling program. She said recycling can benefit more than just the community. It can benefit the world.

"If enough people are recycling and buying recycled, then there is not as much demand for the earth's resources and we can keep the earth preserved," she said.

Currently, the program exists only in UK's residence halls, but Crawford said she wants to see it expand to apartments, fraternity houses and sorority houses near campus.

"I would like to see the Residence Life recycling work more with UK recycling and have UK, while striving to be the next great university, also be the next green university," she said. "The best university for students to come to for civic responsibility, for involvement."

Crawford said the program also strives to educate people about the importance of recycling and buying recycled.

"Recycling is not just putting your plastic bottles in the bin or crushing your aluminum can. It's buying recycled. It's knowing that you can recycle

all you want but if you are not buying recycled, you are not completing the loop," she said. "Recycling is reduce, reuse and recycle."

Along with stressing education, Crawford also stressed the importance of recycling at an early age.

"I grew up recycling and that's why I took this job," she said. "I think it is really important because it's hard to teach an old dog new tricks. My parents started recycling because they knew it was something that needed to be done."

Like her parents, Crawford plans to teach her children the importance of recycling, she said.

"If you are informed about recycling, then you have more of a chance to buy them (recycled items). My children will definitely be recycling and buying recycled."

Collected volume by year

'97-'98	10,816 pounds
'98-'99	17,874 pounds
'99-'00	23,414 pounds

The program is open to all students and faculty. For more information, contact Jennifer Crawford at (606) 255-2222.

Approximately 42 tons of waste are produced on campus each year. Recycling helps reduce that waste and provides a home for 10 cents.

Millions in projects approved

By KIM HAMILTON
Staff Writer

Rowan County is set to receive \$108 million in Rowan projects, according to the state Legislative Research Commission and two elected leaders.

Rep. John Will Stacy said legislative democrats successfully persisted in getting funding and Sen. Robert Stivers said republicans successfully prevented new taxes in this legislative session.

Both claim victory for Rowan County's monetary needs.

"We had a choice between moving the state and our communities forward, or choosing

to go backward at the expense of our children, region and future," Stacy said. "Because the democrats stuck together, our state is moving forward with a budget that recognizes the basic needs of our region and state."

"This budget validates what the republican caucus has been saying all along - that we can fund projects that move Kentucky forward without enacting massive tax increases," Stivers said. "Our presence as the majority party in the senate prevented \$784 million in new taxes. Without enacting these taxes, we were able to increase funding for education, vital water and sewer service, road construction and other worthwhile projects."

Rowan's projects will include \$28 million in state funding for community programs and construction projects and more than \$80 million in road projects over the next two years, Stacy said.

The state's budget contains the following projects for Rowan County:

- \$750,000 each year of the biennium to purchase land for the new airport in Rowan and \$150,000 in general aviation entitlements for the airport project;

- \$1,770,300 over the biennium for one additional circuit judgeship for the 21st judicial circuit serving Rowan, Bath, Menifee and Montgomery;

- \$525,000 to upgrade the water plant;

- \$75,000 for the City of Lakeview Heights;

- \$150,000 to design a one-stop technology training center at the regional industrial park;

- \$45,000 for Rowan/Morehead child advocacy center construction;

- \$400,000 for industrial park fire department;

- \$1.5 million for airport land acquisition;

- \$30,000 for Route 32 volunteer fire department construction;

- \$100,000 for radiological imaging equipment at MSU;

- \$10 million for Phase 1 renovation of MSU's student center, which is a partner with the city and county for a conference center;

- \$13 million for Phase 1 construction of the Blackburn science building at MSU;

- \$2 million for MSU family housing;

- \$200,000 for the university's agriculture program;

- Base level funding of \$2.71 million in the first biennium year and \$3.72 million in the second year;

- \$210,000 over the biennium for professional development of faculty technology skills at MSU;

- \$240,000 for the Eastern Kentucky Wellness program at MSU.

Road projects are as follows:

- \$12.5 million for a new I-64 interchange east of Morehead;

- \$14 million to reconstruct KY 519 from Clack Mountain to the bypass;

- \$5 million to widen KY 32 to five lanes from I-64 to the KY 377 interchange;

- \$5 million to reconstruct KY 519 from Warren Branch to bypass;

- \$5.7 million to extend the bypass from Stadium Drive to KY 32 east;

- \$7.75 million to construct a westbound entrance for a weigh station on I-64;

- \$508,000 for preliminary work to improve Second Street to Wilson Avenue;

- \$500,000 to construct a walkway overpass on KY 32 at the middle school;

- \$11.9 million to repave I-64 from the Bath County line to Bullfork Road;

- \$2 million to reconstruct KY 801 from I-64 one mile to the industrial park;

- \$4.3 million to widen KY 519 from the KY 519/KY 801 intersection two miles north.

The state budget also includes a 5 percent pay raise for state employees; \$4.8 million to hire 70 additional state police officers over the next two years; \$375,000 in state library and archives funds for construction and renovation; more than \$100 million over the biennium to create 94 new Family Youth Resource Service Centers and a 2.4 percent increase in base per pupil level; Support Education Excellence in Kentucky funding each year of the biennium above the current level, creating approximately \$1.6 billion in total funding each of the next two years.

The Sunday Independent, Ashland, Kentucky, Sunday, April 23, 2000

School adds master's program

CAMPBELLSVILLE — Campbellsville University will offer the master of business administration degree beginning this fall.

The program is a two-year, 36-hour program with all classes scheduled for Saturdays.

Trimester one begins in late September and ends in mid-November; trimester two begins in mid-January and

ends in mid-March; and trimester three begins in late March and ends in mid-May.

Classes run from 8 a.m. to noon and afternoon classes from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuition for three-hour classes is \$325 per credit hour.

For more information, call (270) 789-5220 or 1-800-264-6014.

Professor plans survey about sex at state prisons

Morehead State sociologist hopes data can improve safety

By Frank E. Lockwood
NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY BUREAU

MOREHEAD — A Morehead State University sociology professor is polling thousands of Kentucky inmates about prison sexuality — information that could be used to combat the spread of AIDS and improve prison safety.

The sweeping 46-question survey, asking about jailhouse consensual sex, autoeroticism and rape, is the first of its kind in Kentucky, professor Christopher Hensley said.

Funded in part by a \$1,600 grant from Morehead State, the anonymous questionnaires have been sent to inmates at three of the state's 12 male prisons and to inmates at the state's only female prison.

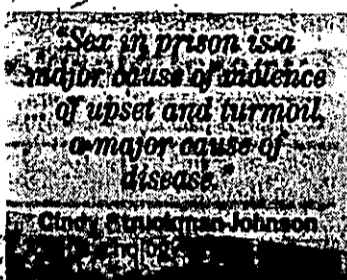
About 3,600 of Kentucky's 15,300 prisoners have been asked to participate. Results will be released this fall.

"It's a topic that's been shrouded in silence," Hensley said.

Despite the discomfort, it's a topic that must be dealt with, said Hensley, who serves as director of Morehead State's Institute for Correctional Research and Training.

Hensley studied prison sex in Oklahoma and found that nearly one in four male prisoners had engaged in sexual activities with fellow inmates. Overall, 13.8 percent of all prisoners said they had been "threatened sexually" by other inmates and 1.1 percent said they had been raped.

"These people are going to be getting out of prison and



they're going to be having sex with their wives or husbands," Hensley said.

And if they have AIDS or another sexually transmitted disease, they'll be spreading it to their partners, he said.

"It's a health issue," Hensley said.

Hensley recently co-wrote an article on conjugal visitation in Mississippi. And his study on consensual homosexual activity in male prisons in Oklahoma is scheduled for publication in December in a prison-related academic journal.

Hensley's research has "extraordinary value," said Cindy Struckman-Johnson, a professor of psychology at the University of South Dakota. But the topic is so taboo that few scholars focus on it, she said.

"We should have hundreds of people studying it," Struckman-Johnson said. "Sex in prison is a major cause of violence ... of upset and turmoil, a major cause of disease."

Some prison administrators try to quash these kinds of studies, Struckman-Johnson said, out of concern about negative publicity. But Morehead State administrators and Kentucky prison officials ap-

proved Hensley's study.

"We tend to respect academic freedom," said state corrections department spokeswoman Carol Czirr. "We regularly allow

legitimate surveys to be conducted."

This year, for example, scholars are polling Kentucky's Death Row inmates about their religious preferences. University of Kentucky researchers just finished surveying inmates about substance abuse.

Prisoners' rights advocates say the sexuality data could be useful.

The questions don't offend

Kara Gotsch, a public policy coordinator with the Washington, D.C.-based National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, because the survey is voluntary and anonymous.

"Prison is a very violent place and if (officials) can get a better idea about the reality of prison rape and what's going on, hopefully they can be more prepared to deal with that issue," Gotsch said.

Kentucky professor studies prison sex

Survey of 3,600 could help improve inmate safety, health

Associated Press

MOREHEAD, Ky. — A Morehead State University professor is studying prison sexuality, a topic he says has been shrouded in silence but must be dealt with.

The information could be used to combat the spread of AIDS and improve prison safety.

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MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University April 25, 2000

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY UPO BOX 1100 MOREHEAD, KY 40351-1689 (606) 783-2030

Lexington Herald-Leader
Tuesday, April 25, 2000

Universities boost efforts to raise funds

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

When the University of Louisville announced yesterday that it had completed its five-year capital fund-raising campaign, the final total — more than \$352 million — stood as the most raised by a Kentucky public university in a single effort.

But that figure will probably be surpassed as other public universities prepare for their own fund-raising efforts.

Western Kentucky University President Gary Ransdell is expected to announce a fund-raising campaign Thursday night at a Bowling Green gala. Officials have kept a possible goal under wraps.

The University of Kentucky will launch the public stage of its existing effort this September, and the goal will probably be well over \$400 million.

For the state's public universities, fund raising has taken on a new urgency — the schools have been directed to raise their national stature by attracting more top students and professors, and the state has anted up more than \$230 million in match-

ing money to help them build their endowments.

Fund-raising experts say that multi-year efforts with multi-million and in some cases billion-dollar thresholds have become the norm in higher education.

"Success breeds success," said Patricia Jackson, vice president for education at Washington D.C.-based Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

"When universities see their peer institutions raising money with ease, it encourages them to do the same," said Jackson.

Setting goals for the fund-raising campaigns starts with feasibility studies to determine how much donors are likely to give and how that matches with the schools' needs. A quiet, less public, period of fund raising allows schools to test their studies.

By most accounts, U of L's campaign has been a success. It has met its goals of creating more endowed faculty positions and new scholarships for top students.

The number of endowed professorships and chairs has more than doubled during the five years, going from 25 in 1995 to 58 at the end of last year. The university has created scholarships for minority students interested in teaching, for women and for those interested in music.

And the fund-raising efforts have more than doubled the university's endowment, which now stands at \$413.7 million. According to the National Association of College and University Business Officers, that figure puts the school above much larger institutions such as the University of Tennessee and Georgia Tech. It is also larger than UK's endowment, \$361.5 million.

Endowments are investments; universities typically spend a portion of the interest earned to support continuing projects such as annual scholarships. Most colleges have seen significant growth as result of fund raising and the strong stock market.

U of L President John Shumaker said the campaign's success is the result of alumni's commitment to the school. Some 47,000 individuals, foundations and corporations contributed to U of L's fund drive.

"A lot of our gifts have come from alumni who feel that the university has touched their lives decades ago," Shumaker said.

Shumaker said although the broader public campaign has ended, the university will continue to raise money for a limited number of areas such as financial aid and improving campus resources.

"We know that there is about \$60 million in gifts that we left on the table when this campaign ended," he said.

CASE's Jackson said she doesn't doubt that U of L and others will be able to continue to raise

such quantities.

"(Philanthropy) is really supply driven," Jackson explained. "As the money available grows, so does the demand for ways to distribute it charitably."

And if fund drives under way at other colleges across the nation

are an indication, Jackson is right. The Ohio State University is in the fifth year of a \$1 billion campaign, and it has already raised \$850 million in outright gifts. Harvard University has just completed a \$2.6 billion campaign.

CASE estimates that more than 150 four-year universities are in the midst of campaigns.

Fund-raisers at other Kentucky universities say they aren't worried about the number of fund drives in the state or nationally.

"We all have our unique constituents, and there really isn't that much overlap," said Terry Moberly, UK's chief development officer.

UK matched the \$66.7 million allocated to it in the state's so-called \$110 million "bucks for brains" plan in less than a year.

The General Assembly this year approved \$120 million more for the program. UK and U of L will share \$100 million; the six regional comprehensive universities will share the remaining \$20 million.

Jackson said that matching programs like Kentucky's encourage universities to undertake such ambitious efforts. "The opportunity to leverage dollars is a big lure to donors," she said.

About \$37 million of the \$352 million U of L raised was its portion of bucks for brains dollars.

But Jackson wonders if the current spate of mega-campaigns will continue or if smaller, more targeted efforts will become in vogue.

"The question is now is how big is too big."

Lexington Herald-Leader
Tuesday, April 25, 2000

Presidential search

No more important decisions will be made in Kentucky this year than the recommendations reached by a search committee that begins its work today.

Finding the right leader for the University of Kentucky is the committee's huge challenge, but the state and UK have much to offer.

The attractions for would-be presidents include:

■ A governor who has staked his legacy on improving higher education and, as tangible proof of that commitment, a burgeoning uni-

versity endowment.

■ The opportunity to work with Gordon Davies and the Council on Postsecondary Education to propel UK into the ranks of top research universities.

■ An undergraduate student body that continues to improve in quality, a pool of talented graduate students, a sprawling medical center and dedicated alumni.

■ A talented faculty that's hungry for leadership.

■ A community that's eager to work in tandem with UK to im-

prove the regional economy and quality of life.

Obviously, the next president must possess a great breadth of talent, experience and potential. The university needs someone who is comfortable in the highest reaches of academia and the new economy, but who can also navigate the shark-infested waters of Kentucky politics. Someone with vision.

The University Senate's Futures Committee issued an ambitious, yet realistic, checklist of presidential (MOF

qualifications last month. The futures committee also stressed the importance of a selection process that leaves members of the university community feeling they have had a voice in the process.

Indeed, the search committee should listen to a diverse range of voices, on and off campus, as it hones its list of presidential qualifications.

The committee also should commit itself to a process that will be open to public view. When decisions about who will lead a tax-supported university are made behind closed doors, those decisions are prey to manipulation by forces that may not have the university's or public's best interests at heart. UK's history provides ample evidence of this.

The public has a huge stake in this committee's work. And there should be no shortage of strong candidates for the job of UK president. Public access to and involvement in the selection process can only improve the results.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2000

UK center awarded \$10 million to study toxic chemicals' effects

PCBs are linked to environmental, health problems

By STEVE BAILEY
Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — The University of Kentucky's Graduate Center for Toxicology will receive more than \$10 million over the next five years to study the effects of toxic, man-made chemicals on the human body and the environment.

The grant, awarded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, will continue the school's research into harmful polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and their link to various health concerns, including cancer and heart disease.

PCBs originally were produced as insulating fluids for electrical equipment and were released by large industrial facilities, including paper mills and electronics factories. Although the manufacture of

PCBs has been banned in the United States for more than two decades, chemical remnants still can be found in the soil and water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has labeled PCBs as probable human carcinogens.

Absorbed through the skin by contact, and by eating meat and fish from contaminated areas, they also have been found to affect learning in animals and humans.

The grant will fund seven research projects, involving 24 faculty members from 17 academic areas, under the banner of the national Superfund Basic Research Program. Congress established the Superfund program in 1980 to clean up the nation's worst hazardous-waste sites.

There are 16 federally designated Superfund sites in Kentucky considered high-risk areas for PCBs and other chemicals, said Larry W. Robertson, a professor in the Graduate Center for Toxicology.

"What we've done is put to-

gether an approach to solving environmental problems involving PCBs that would take advantage of all the different talents and backgrounds that we have here," Robertson said. "The different projects will focus on how these compounds are toxic, how we can detect them, how we can remediate them and how we can protect humans against the toxic effects of these chemicals.

"What we want to do is identify the people most at risk and then look for ways to intervene in an effort to preserve public health."

One of the research projects deals with PCBs and their effect on the cells that line human blood vessels. PCBs can cause inflammation of those cells, which is one of the early signs of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries.

Researchers at the school have found that such damage can be minimized or blocked with the consumption of Vitamin E, thus reducing the risk of heart disease.

"It's exciting because we are the first to look at the nutritional influence on PCB toxicity,"

said Bernhard Hennig, a professor of nutrition and toxicology. "We've found what we believe is a nutritional means of prevention, and we are learning more and more."

Robertson said the projects will benefit not only people in high-risk Superfund chemical areas but also those whose risk may not appear to be as great.

"The average person should be interested in this research and these chemicals because the average person is exposed to them," Robertson said. "We all carry around residues of these chemicals in our blood and fat tissue, albeit at low levels. What we don't know, however, is what the long-term effects are.

"We know that PCBs are carcinogens in rodents. But we don't know for sure if they are carcinogens in humans at the levels that they are found in the current food supply and in the population. And we don't know if they will increase the average man's risk of cancer or atherosclerosis. Those are things we're hoping to find out over the course of the study."

Lexington Herald-Leader
Tuesday, April 25, 2000

Harvard proposes tightening cyberspace rules for faculty

By David Abel
THE BOSTON GLOBE

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — In Harvard's first university-wide effort to revise its conflict of interest policy since 1948, a high-level committee has released a set of new, Internet-minded guidelines that, if adopted, would subtly tighten rules regulating the faculty's outside teaching, research, and consulting.

While some professors view the proposed rules as a necessary step to define the boundaries broadened by cyberspace, others see them as a potential violation of their academic freedom.

Once unimaginable educational opportunities, such as professors' distributing lectures over the Internet or setting up Web-based firms dispensing advice, are not covered under the existing rules. The current policy allows professors to consult, teach or research outside Harvard so long as the

work doesn't consume more than 20 percent of their time, compromise the university or conflict with their obligations to students, colleagues or Harvard.

But time is not the overriding factor under the proposed new guidelines.

Under them, faculty members would probably be prohibited from teaching courses over the Internet for other institutions and doing certain other forms of freelance work, even if it is done on their own time — after hours, during vacation or over the summer.

That's because the ease of dissemination makes it possible to teach vast numbers of students around the world, often without leaving campus and with only a modest investment of time. That, according to a draft of the proposed guidelines obtained by the Globe, opens up new forms of competition and potential conflict

for Harvard.

The proposal follows the administration's decision in the fall to force Harvard law professor Arthur Miller to give up an online course he produced last summer for Concord University School of Law.

These new, recommended guidelines issued by the provost's faculty advisory group, Miller said, would only serve to further limit academic freedom.

"Before this proposal, I would say Harvard owned a part of my body; now they have my heart and soul," said Miller, a voluble professor once known for his TV show *Miller's Court*. "I think it's very graphic in demonstrating the expanded control Harvard is trying to exert over the faculty."

While Harvard Law School Dean Robert Clark put an end to Miller's fling with Concord, an on-

line degree-granter founded by Washington Post Co.'s Kaplan Educational Centers for which last summer he taped 11 lectures, the new rules wouldn't categorically bar professors from such ventures.

Instead, professors would have the opportunity to seek permission from the dean of their respective school and the corporation, Harvard's top administrative body. Yet, the parameters deans would have to use in arriving at such a decision make approval unlikely in most cases, the proposal's authors acknowledge in their report.

Chinese students rarely leave U.S. after education

By Michael Dorgan

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

BEIJING — Yang Zhen, one of tens of thousands of Chinese hoping to win admission to a U.S. university this spring, insists he'll return home after he graduates.

"I am the only child in my family," said the earnest 25-year-old, who hopes to study business administration or international relations.

If Yang does return to China, he'll be one of a tiny minority. China sends more students to the United States than any other country — more than 50,000 last year. And although all of them assure State Department visa officers in Beijing that they'll go home after they finish school, as many as 99 percent look for jobs in America instead.

Some qualify for special visas for high-tech fields. Some marry Americans. Some simply disappear. "Once they're in the U.S., they're pretty much free to do what they want to do," concedes Charles Bennett, the chief of visa services at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

The impact of China's massive and unofficial immigration on the United States depends on one's point of view. For high-tech companies, it's a boon. For colleges and universities, it's a source of world-class scholars. For other applicants, particularly to top graduate science programs, it means tougher competition.

For China, the defection of top scholars to U.S. schools and employers is a worrisome brain drain.

"It's well-known in the society that the first-class students go abroad," said a professor at the International and Comparative Education Institute of Beijing Normal University, speaking on the condition that he not be identified. "The second-class students go to joint ventures (in China, with foreign companies), and the worst students go to the state-owned enterprises," he said. "It's a big loss to the country."

Luring the brainpower home won't be easy. Enhanced personal freedom aside, the economic argument for staying in the United States is compelling. Top pay for a senior engineer at China's largest software company is 80,000 yuan a year, or about \$9,780. The same engineer can make 10 times that in California's Silicon Valley.

While it is possible to live more cheaply in Beijing, China's cost of living approaches California's when the comparison entails a Western-style basket of goods and services, according to figures provided by HR International, a human-resources consulting firm based in Waltham, Mass.

Bottom line: The return rate for Chinese students in the United States is so low it that could be used as an argument for reducing the number of visas granted, said a former U.S. visa official in Beijing who asked not to be identified.

She noted that the nearly 50-year-old law guiding U.S. visa policy says non-immigration visas should not be granted if the interviewing officer suspects that the applicant does not intend to return to his or her home country.

"An honest evaluation would virtually end visa issuance (to Chinese applicants)," she said. Indeed, the very "eagerness and desperation" that many applicants show would be evidence against

granting them visas.

So keen are Chinese students to get into U.S. schools — or at least into the United States — that a cottage industry has sprung up to help them.

Special schools prepare students to meet the English language requirements. Consultants help fill out applications to universities and prepare candidates for their interviews with U.S. Embassy visa officers.

"We can provide service to all types of people, from (prep school students) to graduate students, who want to study in America," said Lucy Liu of the Weilian International Co. in Beijing. "There are lots of U.S. schools that have relations with our company. The charge ... will range from 10,000 yuan to 70,000 (\$1,200 to \$8,500), depending on the type of service you need."

Some are spies, officials say

For up to \$10,000, some consultants will create phony letters of recommendation and false evidence of economic support. Some even provide professional actors or actresses to stand in for applicants in their brief but crucial interviews with visa officers, said William Lesh, the anti-fraud officer at the U.S. Embassy.

Once in the United States, some Chinese visitors may be undertaking another kind of fraud. U.S. counterintelligence officials say some Chinese students, especially in physics, computer science and other high-tech disciplines, are actually Chinese spies. And some real students are ordered to report what they learn about U.S. high-tech research to the Chinese government, the officials say.

A commission on Chinese espionage chaired by Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., reached a similar conclusion in May. A headline in the third unclassified chapter of the commission's 872-page report was "(Chinese) Students Have U.S. Citizen-Like Access to High Performance Computers at the National Weapons Laboratories."

Without more specifics, the report said "threats to national security can come from (Chinese) scientists, students, businesspeople or bureaucrats" in addition to professional spies.

Despite these suspected side effects and strained U.S.-Chinese relations, the flow of Chinese students to the United States — many of them related to senior government and party officials — appears to be growing.

During the past academic year, 51,001 Chinese nationals studied in the United States, according to the Institute of International Education, a New York non-profit. That was nearly 5,000 more than second-place Japan, until recently the largest source of foreign students in the United States. Chinese were about 10 percent of the total foreign-student population of 490,933 in the United States.

Ohio State University, with 637 Chinese students among its total enrollment of 55,000, had the most Chinese students in the 1998-99 academic year, according to a partial list of Institute for International Education figures made available to Knight Ridder. In all, 128 American universities and colleges had at least 100 Chinese students. Among states, New

York led with 4,287 Chinese students, followed by California, with 3,515; Texas, with 3,060; Ohio, with 2,640; and Illinois, with 2,373.

Three-quarters were graduate students; 12 percent undergraduates. The rest are non-degree students or students of English.

A U.S. immigration official in Beijing, speaking on the condition that he not be identified, said experience shows that more than 99 percent of Chinese students remain in the United States after graduating.

'We skim the cream'

Even Yang Zhen wouldn't return immediately. "I don't pretend I don't have plans to work a while in the U.S.," he said over a cup of coffee at a downtown Starbucks.

Yang, a top student in the 1997 class of the respected Beijing Foreign Studies University, is optimistic as he awaits the outcome of admission and aid negotiations with, among others, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and the University of Miami.

He picked them from friends' recommendations and the annual rankings by the magazine U.S. News & World Report.

"We know that the United States has lots of famous schools and that we can get a world-class education, especially at the graduate level," Yang said in impeccable English, his undergraduate major.

Yang's parents are reluctant to part with their only child. But as they sipped tea one recent evening in a modest south Beijing apartment tinted blue by an exercise program on TV, both endorsed their son's decision.

"I think an MBA (a master's degree in business administration) would probably be best," said his mother, Pan Lili. Her own education was cut short by the turbulence of the Cultural Revolution, when China's universities were closed. "It's fashionable in China, and very useful."

The drama of the student visa quest is played out by a cast of hundreds each working day at the U.S. Embassy. The stage is the Spartan room where supplicants, dozens at a time, line up for two-to-three-minute individual interviews that will set the course of their lives.

Outside, a dozen or so travel agents wait with offers of cheap airplane tickets for anyone who emerges with a smile. Most visa-seekers, however, emerge crushed.

Because visa officers conduct as many as 200 interviews per day, they've no time to verify documents or confirm stories. Likeliest to get the nod, according to one former visa officer, are top scholars from well-known Chinese universities who've been accepted, with financial aid, by well-known U.S. schools.

"We skim the cream," she said. "It's a wrenching, emotionally racking experience for both sides," she continued. "The visa officers must steel themselves to try to follow the law, and the applicants sometimes end up screaming that they've ruined their lives."

"One man fainted on me," she recalled. "I thought he was dead, that I had killed him. I rushed to his side, shouting, 'Are you all right? Are you all right?'"

"He opened his eyes and said, 'Yes. Now can I have my visa?'"

MSU Clip Sheet

A sample of recent articles of interest to Morehead State University

April 26, 2000

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THE COURIER-JOURNAL • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2000

UK, U of L students teaming up to work on Louisville's problems

Design studio will tackle public projects

By HOLLY CORYELL
The Courier-Journal

In a renovated South Third Street storefront, architecture and urban planning students are going to try to solve some of Louisville's building, parking and transportation problems.

The new Louisville Urban Design Studio, a cooperative venture of the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville and the city's development authority, will provide students with practical experience and give residents a say in how the city will look in the future, officials said yesterday.

They'll be tackling some major projects — a study of the Bardstown Road corridor and parking needs; planning and work sessions involving the Russell neighborhood west of downtown and north Old Louisville; drawings for the Cornerstone 2020 plan; planning studies for Slugger Field restaurants; and planning for the Broadway corridor development.

"Today's announcement inviting young people and our citizens to come together here at this design studio is sure to change the face of our community," Mayor David Armstrong said at a news conference yesterday. "This will surely be a place where people will want to come, express their ideas and energy."

UK President Charles T. Wethington Jr. said the venture provides "a perfect venue" for students to learn in an urban environment.

"We want to help Louisville in whatever ways that we can to grow and build for the future with awareness, understanding and knowledge, all of which we hope to provide here at the design studio," he said.

Using students will save the city some money, although it's unclear how much.

"There's a lot of ground work that has to be done on any project," including taking photographs, drawing maps and building streetscape models, said Charles Cash, assistant director of the Louisville Development Authority. The studio is "an economical way of doing these things."

UK, U OF L and the city each chipped in \$25,000 for the studio this year, and each will give \$50,000 next year. A six-member board will determine the annual budget after that, said David Mohney, dean of UK's College of Architecture, who developed the storefront studio idea for Louisville and Lexington.

Mohney envisions the studio as a place where students, professionals and residents meet and exchange ideas on the city's development. He established a similar design studio in Lexington four years ago. It's operated by UK students.

The public is invited to browse through the studio and share their ideas on the various projects.

"I don't want it to have a purely academic focus," Mohney said. "What we want to have happen here is to reach out broadly to the public and to the best of the design community with the resources of the city and the universities and make something substantial happen."

To that end, UK graduate Matt Myers, 26, designed the studio to be "a very flexible space" with one large, open room that can be arranged with drafting tables one day or displays of building or street models another, depending on the project.

Since the end of January, Myers has been renovating the storefront with the help of about five other students. In one corner of the hardwood floor, they've built a 14-foot-by-14-foot blackboard where children can draw what they want to see in their neighborhoods. A loft provides extra work space, and sliding wood panels provide a place to display drawings, as well as a way to divide the room and hide pipes and ducts.

In the front windows, Myers has created multi-level open boxes where students can display models of the projects they are working on.

"THE PUBLIC is free to go everywhere," said Myers, who will work under a UK fellowship as an assistant professor at the studio's summer school. He's still putting the finishing touches on the studio, including the installation of some new windows and a railing across the loft.

The studio will accommodate as many as 20 students from UK's undergraduate architecture program

and U of L's new master of urban planning degree program, which will begin this fall. They'll get the chance to put their course work into practice and work with professionals who will help oversee the students, along with UK and U of L professors.

"We are focusing here on our students, giving them real work, real opportunities," U of L President John Shumaker said. Part of the \$352 million that the university raised in its recent Bicentennial Campaign will go to the studio, he said.

For the Bardstown Road project, students will try to solve traffic and parking problems that have clogged the Highlands neighborhood, where a popular district of restaurants, stores and clubs has developed.

"We need to find a way to accommodate more automobiles and not interfere with the quality of life of the people living around that area," Armstrong said. "I'm curious to see what they (the students) come up with."

In the Russell neighborhood, just west of downtown, Armstrong wants the students to design new affordable and market-rate housing. In addition, he is looking for ideas to revitalize the neighborhood's business district.

"For that neighborhood to be connected to downtown is very important," Armstrong said.

Panel starts planning search for UK president

Forums to learn Kentuckians' views on university to accompany process

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

The University of Kentucky could know who its next president will be as early as March.

The 12-member presidential-search committee, charged with screening candidates and giving the university's trustees a list of finalists, met for the first time yesterday and set out an ambitious agenda.

The meeting starts the process of choosing a successor for President Charles Wethington, who steps down next June. The search is the first in 10 years, and has greater significance given UK's aspirations of gaining top 20 university status by 2020.

Board of Trustees chairman Billy Joe Miles told the committee members that their work would determine the future for the state's flagship university.

"This could be the most important thing that any of you have been involved in," said Miles, telling the committee that its only charge was to bring the best possible finalists to the board.

"The course we set for this university will help determine the future of this state," he said.

The search committee is made up of five trustees, three faculty members, one alumnus, one staff representative, an undergraduate

student and a graduate student.

Search committee chairwoman JoEtta Wickliffe said it was important that the committee begin work immediately. The group has four meetings planned for the next month.

"I think this committee is very eager and excited to get to work on this most important task," said Wickliffe, president of State Bank & Trust Co. in Harrods-

burg.

The group's tentative time line has it selecting a search firm by July, advertising for the position over the summer, and conducting off-campus interviews in November.

Finalists would be determined in January and would visit the campus in February. An offer could be made to the trustees'

choice as early as March.

But committee members said a key part of their work would come during statewide public forums to be held throughout the summer.

The forums are a new approach for UK search committees. In the past, the search committee has not met with interested groups.

Trustee Grady Stumbo said the forums would be an opportunity to find out what Kentuckians want from the university.

"We should make sure that we are engaged with the people out in the state," he said.

Miles agreed.

"We need to emphasize the 'of Kentucky' part of the University of Kentucky," he said.

The committee plans to establish a Web site to help get feedback from the public.

The search committee also discussed the confidentiality and integrity of the search, as well as a tentative budget of \$184,000 for the process.

Lexington Herald-Leader
Wednesday, April 26, 2000

Entrants screened at site of UK sit-in

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

Three weeks after 12 students were arrested as part of a sit-in at the University of Kentucky's Administration Building, the facility is still being monitored by university police.

Visitors to the building, which houses the president's office, must be admitted by UK police. Both side entrances have been sealed off with police tape, and officers are at the back and front doors.

Vice President Joe Burch said the monitoring has continued to ensure that there isn't a repeat of the April 4 eight-hour sit-in.

"It's unfortunate to have to do this, but it is better than being in the situation we were in that night," Burch said.

The building has been under watch since the early-morning arrests. Seventeen students entered the administrative building and bound themselves together with bike locks, PVC pipe and chains.

The administration had stationed officers at the building that night, after students disrupted a Board of Trustees meeting earlier that afternoon. But some students distracted officers, and others slipped inside during the confusion.

After hours of negotiating, 12 of the students were arrested by UK and Lexington police.

Some of the students involved in the protests said they haven't planned any demonstrations. This week, known as Dead Week, includes the last days before final exams begin.

"I think at this point most of us are focusing on academics and finals," said Jay Varellas, one of the students who participated in the sit-in.

At issue for the students is which sweatshop-monitoring organization UK should join. UK, along with more

than 130 other colleges, is a member of the Fair Labor Association, a group supported by the apparel industry.

Students say that group is dominated by the industry, and that the Workers' Rights Commission, which has 33 college members, is the better group to monitor labor practices.

Burch said he didn't know when admittance to the building would return to normal, but that he didn't think people have had problems getting into the building.

Smoldering boxcar disrupts Danville, Centre

Families, businesses, students evacuated to escape fumes

By Greg Kocher

CENTRAL KENTUCKY BUREAU

DANVILLE — A railroad boxcar filled with a potentially explosive material continued to burn south of Danville hours after causing the afternoon evacuation of 900 students from Centre College.

No injuries were reported, and students were allowed to return after a few hours.

But several evacuated families remained at a Danville motel because of the ongoing blaze, and the U.S. 127 bypass, a major four-lane connector around the town of 16,000, was to remain closed through at least part of today, officials said. In addition, the burning boxcar forced the rerouting of Norfolk Southern trains all over the region.

A railroad spokesman said last night he didn't know how long the boxcar might burn, and declined to say what measures officials might use to extinguish it.

Hazardous materials experts said that the chemical involved, sodium hydrosulfite, has been known to explode. Because the material reacts violently with water, firefighters allowed the car to burn rather than trying to extinguish it.

"Right now, it's a real slow process," Danville Fire Chief Jim King said. "There's no way for us to estimate the time it will take for this stuff to go through its final stages."

King said it could take a week for 50 pounds of the material to burn within a closed container. The Norfolk Southern boxcar contained more than 148,000 pounds of the material, King said.

Anyone within a mile of the car was told to evacuate, said Boyle Judge-Executive Tony Wilder. That perimeter was re-

duced last night to a half-mile, an area that still included five families and at least two major plants, both of which were to remain closed to workers today, officials said.

No one could say how the fire started. Fire officials said last night that seven of 32 aluminum containers on the boxcar were believed to have ruptured or exploded.

As the northbound train entered Danville, Norfolk Southern employees on a passing southbound train noticed smoke pouring from the boxcar. Shortly before 11:30 a.m., the railroad notified local officials that a boxcar was burning, and Danville firefighters responded to the rail yard.

The train brought the car into the Danville rail yard so it could be put on a side track, and then moved south into a relatively uninhabited area. Of the 94 cars in the train, only one carried the explosive material, said Susan Bland, a spokeswoman for Norfolk Southern's office in Roanoke, Va.

Heather Cash, a religion-major freshman from Princeton, said she was eating in the Centre College dining commons when an announcement was made that students should not return to fraternity and sorority houses located near the rail yard. A few minutes later, all 900 students on campus were told to evacuate to Lexington Avenue Baptist and First Christian churches. Classes are scheduled as usual today.

In addition, about 300 students from Toliver Elementary School two blocks north of the rail yard were moved to First Baptist Church. The students will be allowed to return today.

Shortly after 2 p.m., the smoldering boxcar was slowly moved south of town. Centre students were allowed to return to campus at 2:45 p.m. Other residents were told by local radio stations and by sheriff's deputies to keep their

windows shut and to turn off air-conditioning, King said.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Rod Raby said five families were evacuated from their homes near the yard where the car was left to burn. "It was the most remote area we could find," King said.

Norfolk Southern shut down the north-south track so no other trains could pass the burning car. A railroad spokesman said that up to 60 trains a day pass through the affected area, forcing the railroad to reroute traffic throughout the region.

Sodium hydrosulfite is used to bleach pulp and in the manufacture of dyes. Breathing or ingesting it could cause severe injury or death, and when it's on fire, it can cause irritating, corrosive and/or toxic gases. This shipment of the material was en route from Knoxville, Tenn., to Cincinnati, Bland said. Its eventual destination was Quebec, Canada, officials said.

THE COURIER-JOURNAL • FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2000

WKU fund-raising drive aims high

\$78 million goal designed to make national impact

By SARA SHIPLEY
The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University announced its first major fund-raising campaign yesterday, a \$78 million goal aimed at helping Western in its quest to become one of the nation's best undergraduate schools.

"State support will allow us to be a good university," WKU President Gary Ransdell said. "That's not enough. We want to be a great university."

It's an ambitious plan for a school founded in 1906 as one of several "normal schools" that evolved into Kentucky's regional university system.

The six regional schools, from Murray State in the west to Morehead State in Appalachia, frequently serve rural, lower-income students. On average, only 39 percent of students who begin college in Kentucky end up graduating within six years.

State education officials think improvements at regional institutions are crucial to bringing Kentucky in line with national standards for enrollment, retention and graduation rates. And Western — which has the largest fund-raising goal of the six regional universities — wants to lead the pack, becoming "the best comprehensive public institution in the state."

"I'm trying to get to the point where Western has its own identity, where it's not 'one of the regionals,'" Ransdell said.

Western's fund-raising experts already have garnered more than \$42.3 million in

pledges toward meeting the \$78 million goal within three years. The latest gifts, announced yesterday, included a \$1.1 million commitment from Trace Die Cast CEO Lowell Guthrie of Bowling Green for a scholarship fund and construction of a new plaza and bell tower on campus.

In contrast, three of the other five regional institutions do not have active capital campaigns. Morehead State and Murray State each hopes to raise \$25 million in the next few years.

Not everyone likes Western's aggressive moneymaking techniques, which have included

naming a professorship after a felon who donated \$500,000 to the university. The J. Clifford Todd Professor of Longevity and Healthful Living is named for a man who served six months in prison for a bribery scheme.

BUT IF THERE'S any jealousy over being left in the dust financially, the other regional universities aren't showing it.

"More power to Western," Morehead State President Ron Eaglin said. "Any money that comes into higher education is very positive, so I wish them luck."

Western is able to raise larger amounts of money, in part, because of its location in Bowling Green, a thriving community of 50,000 between Nashville and Louisville. The university also has historic connections to Louisville and its business community.

One of the chairwomen of the campaign, for example, is Mary Nixon, vice president of Tricon Global Restaurants, a Louisville-based company that owns Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and KFC. Nixon, a Western graduate, made a personal \$500,000 donation last year for an endowed professorship in accounting.

Endowed faculty positions are the biggest focus of the campaign, capitalizing on the state's "Bucks for Brains" matching money program. About \$20 million is slated for faculty positions, and another \$5 million for visiting scholars and faculty incentives.

Donors choose the academic area to benefit from their gift. Donations for endowed faculty programs are matched dollar for dollar by the state. The money is then invested, with the proceeds going for salaries, bonuses and research grants.

Tom Hiles, vice president for development, said Western is more than halfway toward maxing out its \$4.6 million state matching money. The university could use much more, he said, because donors find it to be a huge incentive.

"Fundamentally," he said, "donors want to know their gift is going to have an impact."

Other major goals of the campaign include \$17 million for endowed student scholarships; a \$1 million endowment for international students; \$2.5 million to catch up on deferred maintenance of campus buildings; \$5 million for academic program endowments to pay for travel and related items; and \$5 million for athletics.

The campaign marks a watershed change in the university's attitude, Ransdell said. Before he became president in 1997, Western had never had a gift of \$1 million or more. Now the university has 14 such commitments.

Raising money is one way of rais-

ing the university's profile and self-esteem, he said. "The campaign is the quickest way to do this."

Western's goal, as stated in its 1998 strategic plan, is to become nationally recognized, rather than settling for regional status.

"The only way we can achieve our full potential in south-central Kentucky, achieve economic development, and all the other things we're supposed to do, is to be nationally competitive," Ransdell said. "We've got to have the best students and faculty."

State higher-education leaders say Western's ambitions meet the goals of Kentucky's 1997 higher-education reform act, which encourages public universities to differentiate and excel in chosen programs. Eastern Kentucky, for example, has a renowned law-enforcement program.

TROUBLE LURKS, however, when public universities pursue only the best and brightest students. It could be a thorny problem in a state such as Kentucky, which ranks 46th in the percentage of adults with a high school education and 42nd in the percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree.

"The idea that the institutions in Kentucky ought to have high aspirations is a positive thing," said Patrick Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a non-profit policy organization in California. "The tricky part is what that means. . . . Often with higher ed, 'best' means becoming more like Harvard or Berkeley, which means less serving the needs of the state."

Gordon Davies, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, thinks there is a "tension" between seeking academic excellence and serving undereducated students in Kentucky. But he is confident Western and other universities can do both.

"If our universities get better and better, but we haven't drawn in additional students, we've failed," he said.

Western officials say their high goals will help the university serve the region better.

AIMING TOO high is not the problem, said Jo-Ann Huff Albers, director of the School of Journalism and Broadcasting, which was recognized as the top undergraduate journalism school in the country last week by the Hearst Foundation.

Albers used to be afraid to mention that her program attracted students from around the country, for fear that some legislator would question why the state should pay to serve non-Kentuckians. Now, Albers thinks that excellence is accepted, ever celebrated.

She doesn't see it as hurting Western's goal of serving its portion of the state.

"Our first obligation is Kentucky," she said. "In the process of doing that well, we hope to serve the nation."

WKU starts \$78 million endowment campaign

By Holly E. Stepp

HERALD-LEADER EDUCATION WRITER

Western Kentucky University launched a \$78 million comprehensive fund-raising campaign yesterday to boost its endowment for faculty positions and student scholarships.

Western Kentucky President Gary Ransdell made the announcement last night during a gala to recognize the university's supporters. It comes days after the University of Louisville announced that its five-year fund-raising drive raised more than \$352 million.

Western Kentucky's goal is the second-largest ever set by a public university in the state. However, the University of Kentucky will launch its public campaign in September and will probably have a goal of at least \$400 million.

Western's campaign will run through June 30, 2003; more than \$42 million has already been raised during the effort's two-year "quiet phase."

Ransdell said a successful campaign was crucial to making sure Western Kentucky can attract top professors and students.

"Public support for Western in tax dollars has provided a secure base, but it is not enough to be truly excellent," Ransdell said.

"This campaign will put us in the same context as other nationally recognized universities with which we compare ourselves."

Matching up with other national universities has become increasingly important for the state's schools.

The higher education reform act passed in 1997 by the General Assembly mandated that the regional universities should have nationally prominent academic programs.

The state has committed more than \$240 million in matching money to help the university leverage private dollars.

Ransdell said endowments are vital to the permanence of a university.

"Buildings, people, programs may come and go, but an endowment is forever," he said.

Western Kentucky's endowment is about \$36 million. Other schools with similar-sized endowments are Central Michigan, East Tennessee State and Kent State universities. It also has one of the larger endowments of other Kentucky regional universities.

Western Kentucky's campaign, like most others, is tied to the university's strategic plan, in this case titled "Challenging the Spirit," which sets specific goals for enrollment, endowments and academic programs.

Tom Hiles, Western Kentucky's vice president for development and alumni relations, said this campaign will be broad-based.

"We will look to people, both alumni and friends, who recognize and support what we are trying to accomplish," Hiles said.

The majority of the goal, \$43 million, is directed to "people" initiatives — student scholarships, international education and faculty positions.

An additional \$18.5 million will be earmarked for academic programs, the university libraries, athletics and other programs.

The remaining money will focus on campus buildings and other university needs.