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120 JOBS GONE



PHOTO BY SILAS WALKER • HERALD

President Timothy Caboni listens to fellow speakers at the Board of Regents Meeting on Feb. 23 in Jody Richards Hall. Caboni announced plans for dealing with the budget and its shortfalls going forward. "This is the worst decision anyone in a leadership position has to make," Caboni said at the end of the meeting.

Job eliminations trim \$5 million in salaries from budget

BY MONICA KAST &
ANDREW HENDERSON
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU has eliminated 119 full-time positions and one part-time position across the university, President Timothy Caboni announced on Monday.

Of the full-time positions eliminated, 62 were filled at the time of elimination and 57 were vacant. There are 2,100 full-time university employees.

Among the filled full-time positions eliminated were the chief enrollment officer, director of the office of sponsored programs and the regional chancellors for WKU's Elizabethtown/Fort Knox and Owensboro campuses, as well as the regional vice chancellor for the Glasgow campus.

Five vacant professor positions were eliminated, as well as five vacant associate professor positions and seven vacant assistant professor positions. No filled professor, associate professor or assistant professor positions were eliminated, according to the information provided by WKU.

The part-time position eliminated was the NCAA academic compliance coordinator, which was filled at the time of elimination.

The College Heights Herald request-

ed information about position eliminations, including position title, the department the position was in and how long each faculty or staff member was employed by the university on Wednesday, March 7. The information was released shortly after 3:30p.m. on Monday, March 19.

68 | Positions eliminated in Academic Affairs

According to documents given to the Herald by WKU director of media relations Bob Skipper, the total budgeted salaries of the vacant and filled positions amount to over \$5 million.

In his email, Caboni said the reductions "reflect that WKU is a smaller institution than we were five to ten years ago."

"While difficult, these decisions were necessary to move us toward a more stable institutional budget that matches the revenues we generate each year," Caboni said. "Unfortunately, our work in this area will continue once the Kentucky General Assembly completes their work. Decisions regarding our state appropriation and pension obligations will have further budgetary implications for us. The steps we take

now will allow us to restructure operations to meet our immediate needs and are designed to ensure future budgets are more stable, predictable and support our core missions."

Departments informed those whose positions were being eliminated in meetings and through emails, which informed them not to report to work or instructed them to meet with human resources in Downing Student Union to pick up their packets.

Caboni also said that "we must con-

12 | Positions eliminated in Information Technology

tinue to reimagine and redefine our institution as we move forward together."

"As part of our strategic planning process, we will think creatively about our organizational arrangements and investments; we will support efforts to recruit, retain and graduate students; we will define how an applied research university creates knowledge that elevates our region; we will demonstrate how the WKU experience differentiates us in the marketplace; and we will position ourselves for the next decade of successes," Caboni said.

Academic affairs had 68 positions

eliminated, the highest of any division at WKU. Information technology had the next highest, at 12 positions eliminated. Finance and administration had 8 positions eliminated. The chief facilities officer, chief international officer, philanthropy and alumni engagement and student affairs each had seven positions eliminated. Public affairs had two positions eliminated, and the divisions of athletics and the president each had one position eliminated.

These eliminations come as the university was recommended by the Budget Council to reduce the university's workforce. Originally, Caboni had accepted the council's recommendation to eliminate 40 vacant positions and to terminate 90 to 100 already filled po-

8 | Positions eliminated in Finance & Administration

sitions.

The Budget Council did not recommend which specific positions should be terminated. Caboni said the decision would fall on the vice presidents and deans. WKU will pay terminated employees through June 30.

SEE JOB LOSS • PAGE A7

Admission requirement could change diversity

BY EMMA COLLINS
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In an effort to reduce WKU's budget deficit, the Budget Council released a list of suggestions for potential changes, one of which was potentially raising the Composite Admission Index score cutoff to 65 or higher instead of the current CAI threshold of 60.

The Budget Council also suggested terminating the admission of students with a CAI of 59 or below to "enhance

retention and persistence," according to the plan. President Timothy Caboni approved this suggestion but said he would evaluate the other suggestion to raise the cutoff to 65.

The CAI score is a way for applicants who do not meet the required ACT or SAT score or high school GPA to still be admitted to WKU. CAI is calculated by multiplying the unweighted high school GPA by 20 and adding the ACT score, according to WKU's website. SAT scores are converted to the equivalent ACT score.

Under the current policy, applicants

with a CAI of 65 or greater are guaranteed admission to WKU, according to the website. Applicants with a CAI between 60 and 64 are considered on a competitive basis.

Jace Lux, director of recruitment and admissions, said the CAI minimum was 55, so students with a CAI below 60 have been admitted. He said the CAI minimum was raised to 60 in fall 2017 for those in the incoming fall 2018 class.

Caboni has approved the CAI change that will prevent applicants with a CAI less than 60 from being admitted.

If the other suggested change is approved, applicants with a CAI between 60 and 64 would no longer be admitted to WKU.

During a press conference following the presentation of the Budget Council's proposals at the Board of Regents meeting in February, President Timothy Caboni took time to address the potential changes and the reasoning behind increasing admission requirements.

"Anytime we admit a student, we

SEE CAI • PAGE A2

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CAI
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

need to make sure that student has a reasonable chance of being successful," Caboni said. "I think that has not been our past practice."

Retention rate

According to data provided by the Office of Admissions, of the fall 2017 first-time freshmen admitted to WKU, 179 of them were admitted with a CAI below 60, and 255 were admitted with a CAI between 60 and 65. They made up roughly 4.6 percent of admitted students.

Only 70 of the students admitted with a CAI below 60 and 87 of the students admitted with a CAI between 60 and 64 enrolled at WKU, making up 5 percent of the total enrolled students.

Lux said it is typical for a university to admit considerably more students than it enrolls. In fall 2017, WKU admitted 9,352 students, but only 3,064 enrolled.

Caboni has said multiple times that it is not fair to admit students to the university who are unable to succeed and leave with loans once they leave WKU.

Over half of the students with a CAI of 60 to 64 who did not return the following fall left with loans. Of the fall 2016 students who were admitted with a CAI of 60 to 64 and left before fall 2017, about 73 percent left with loans, and the average cost of those loans was \$4,837.

"If there's a cohort of students we've admitted that have, essentially, a zero percent chance of graduating in six years, the question is, 'Should we admit them?'" Caboni said. "I've said no. It's not fair to them. It's not fair to their families. It's not fair to the folks that subsidize that education."

The overall six-year graduation rate for students with a CAI below 65 was just under 15.5 percent for the fall 2011 cohort. About 6.4 percent of that 15.5 percent were students admitted with a CAI below 60.

The one-year retention rate of those students admitted with a CAI between 60 and 64 has consistently declined since fall 2014, when 42.3 percent of those students returned the following fall. In fall 2015, 39.6 percent of those students returned the following fall, and in fall 2016, 33.3 percent of those students returned.

In contrast, the one-year retention rates of those students admitted with a CAI below 60 consistently increased in those same years. In fall 2014, 18.8 percent of those students returned next fall. In fall 2015, 24.6 percent returned next fall, and in fall 2016, 26.2 percent returned the following fall.

Student demographics

Caboni said despite the changes, WKU will continue to focus on maintaining diversity at the university.

"I also am concerned and we will focus on ensuring that we remain a diverse institution," he said during the press conference.

A majority of the 2017 first-time freshmen who were admitted with a CAI between 60 and 64 were African-American, with 113 applicants admitted, followed by white, with 106 applicants admitted, according to the data from the Office of Admissions. Of the applicants with a CAI less than 60, a majority were African American, with 93 applicants, followed by white, with 67 applicants.

The total number of students admitted with a CAI between 60 and 64 was 255, but only 87 of those students proceeded to enroll at WKU. Of those 87, 60 percent were African-American and 30 percent were white, with the other 10 percent identifying as Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and two or more races, with one non-reported student.

Of the 70 students who enrolled with a CAI less than 60, 54 percent were African-American and 33 percent were white. The other 13 percent identified as Hispanic and two or more races, with one non-reported.

The demographic of students hit the hardest by the change in CAI requirements would be first-generation college students. In fall 2017, 99 first-generation students with a CAI below 60 were admitted as first-time freshmen. That same fall, 138 first-generation students with a CAI between 60 and 64 were admitted. The first-generation students with a CAI below 65 made up less than 7 percent of the total number of first-generation students admitted that fall and 2.5 percent of the total number of students admitted.

Lynne Holland, chief diversity officer, said in an email she is not worried about the changes affecting WKU's diversity.

Other state universities

WKU is not the only Kentucky university to admit students who do not meet the standard admission criteria.

Like WKU, Morehead State University has a formula it uses to admit students, according to the university's website. Unlike WKU, Morehead's admission index is used for all students, but it has parameters for students who do not meet the standard requirements.

Morehead's admission index, like WKU's CAI, uses an applicant's high school GPA and ACT score. The GPA is multiplied by 10; the ACT score is multiplied by 10, and the two numbers are combined. Applicants with an admission index score of 500 are admitted unconditionally in the same way WKU unconditionally admits applicants with a CAI of 65 or above.

Applicants with an index between 475 to 499 and 450 to 474 are admitted provisionally or conditionally, respectively and must participate in student

"If we have students who are first-generation college students that we admit in the fall semester because we want more of them, but they're not here in the second semester, have we really increased our diversity?"

Western Kentucky University President
TIMOTHY CABONI

success programming.

Other schools take a holistic approach to admissions and don't set GPA or test score requirements. The University of Kentucky, for example, looks at an applicant's test scores and GPA while considering other factors such as completion of pre-college curriculum, according to the university's website.

Lux said WKU implemented the CAI in fall 2012. He said he wasn't working in admissions at the time, so he could

sions.

Raising the threshold

Although the number of students enrolled with a CAI below 65 is relatively small compared to WKU's overall enrollment, terminating admission for applicants with a CAI below 60 and possibly applicants with a CAI between 60 and 64 would slightly reduce the number of minority students at WKU and the number of first-generation students. Of the fall 2017 first-time freshmen enrolled with a CAI below 65,

about 69 percent, were minority students.

A majority of the students at WKU are white, and they have consistently made up at least 75 percent of the student body in the past five years. That percentage of white students at WKU has remained relatively stable in the years between fall 2012 and fall 2016 with a less than 2 percent change, according to the WKU Factbook.

In those five years, the numbers of African-American students, white students and American Indian or Native Alaskan students have decreased, with white students seeing the largest drop followed by African-American students. At the same time, the numbers of Hispanic students, Asian students, Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students, non-resident alien students and students who identify as two or more races have increased.

When discussing WKU's diversity and the CAI requirement changes, Caboni questioned whether enrolling minority students or first-generation college students but failing to retain them counted as diversity.

"If we have students who are first-generation college students that we admit in the fall semester because we want more of them, but they're not here in the second semester, have we really increased our diversity?" Caboni said. "And so, we want to make sure that as we admit students that we're paying very close attention to are they ready to be at a four-year university, are they prepared and can we get them to graduation? That's the most important work that we're doing."

While Caboni has yet to make a decision on the potential admission requirement changes, Bob Skipper, director of media relations, said the information provided by the Office of Admissions and used in this article will be similar to what Caboni will use to evaluate the Budget Council's suggestions.

News reporter Emma Collins can be reached at 270-745-6011 and emma.collins399@topper.wku.edu. Follow Emma on Twitter at @mccain_emma.

Admission Standards				
Ethnicity		Admitted CAI 65+	Admitted CAI 60-64	Admitted CAI Below 60
American Indian or Alaskan Native	Total Admitted			0
	Total Enrolled			0
Asian	Total Admitted	4	2	
	Total Enrolled	0	1	
Black or African American	Total Admitted	66	113	93
	Total Enrolled	27	52	38
Hispanic (of any race)	Total Admitted	15	15	9
	Total Enrolled	1	4	3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Total Admitted		1	1
	Total Enrolled		1	0
Non-Reported	Total Admitted		4	1
	Total Enrolled		1	1
Two or More Races	Total Admitted	11	14	8
	Total Enrolled	3	2	5
White	Total Admitted	82	106	67
	Total Enrolled	28	26	23
Grand Total	Total Admitted	178	255	179
	Total Enrolled	59	87	70

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WKUPD initiates an emergency alert system

BY AMELIA HICKS
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

The WKU Police Department has an emergency alert system to mass communicate with the student body and community.

Students have the option to sign up for the emergency alert system on TopNet.

"An emergency alert is sent out whenever there is reasonable evidence to believe that an imminent threat to campus exists either on or near the campus," Tim Gray, WKUPD's public information officer, said.

Such incidences include shots fired, emergency weather or mysterious men with swords, Gray said.

Amanda Devine, a sophomore from Owensboro, said the alert system is not always perfect.

"In the past I have found out things on Twitter, then much later I get an alert," Devine said. "The last time it happened I was near an area the alert was about, and if I had gotten the alert

sooner, I would not have gone to that area."

Devine said also the messages are usually "pretty vague" but still provide important information for campus safety.

Gray said the alerts allow WKUPD to keep campus updated.

"We are able to deploy concise, time-sensitive messaging that will help contain rumors, restore and manage campus safety, as well as keep the community informed with pertinent information," Gray said.

WKUPD relies on the alert system to effectively communicate directly with students, said Gray.

"On a university campus, disaster can hit at any moment," Gray said. "During the event of an emergency or emerging threat, it's important to have a reliable means of communication to report critical information to all on campus."

Olivia Evans, a sophomore from Cincinnati, said she signed up for the alerts "to be more aware of what is happening around campus."

"Every time a serious alert is sent,

Wed, Feb 21, 2:26 AM

WKU Alert: An unconfirmed report of shots just occurred at W 15th to Clay St. Please stay out of the area. Further information will be given soon.

WKU Alert Update: The unconfirmed shots fired call was reported by BGPD

WKU Alert: BGPD cleared the areas. They could not locate the source of the shots fired.

Mon, Mar 12, 5:41 AM

WKU Alert: WKU Owensboro will open at 10 am today, 3/12, because of the winter weather. Use caution when driving. See wku.edu for the latest.

my friends usually ask if I'm safe, and we make sure everyone is being more careful," Evans said.

WKU communication officers initiate the alert messages in the event of an emergency under the authority of a shift manager or supervisor, Gray said. Non-emergency situations are

handled by the office of public affairs, said Gray.

"In the case of an emergency, an all-clear message will be sent once the situation is under control," Gray said.

The alert system works best when all students are receiving the messages, Gray said. He said students have to manually sign up to receive messages which means "some won't and they'll be left out of the loop when it comes to the text messaging."

Officers are careful to not overcrowd the alert system with incorrect or unnecessary information, according to Gray.

"Using the network too often may lead students to become irritated with the service and either opt out of it or ignore it," Gray said. "So that too makes it all the more critical that we are able to verify a threat as quickly and accurately as possible before sending out a notification."

News reporter Amelia Hicks can be reached at 270-745-6011 and amelia.hicks852@topper.wku.edu

Community members invited to march about firearms

BY AMELIA HICKS
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A March for Our Lives event to address gun violence will be held on WKU's campus this Saturday, according to the Center for Citizenship and Social Justice.

The march, hosted by the Center for Citizenship and Social Justice, will start at Cherry Hall at 11 a.m. and end at Fountain Square for an afternoon program, according to the event page on the WKU site.

March for Our Lives events will take place across the nation this Saturday to address recent school shootings and call to end gun violence, according to the official site.

The Center for Citizenship and Social Justice plans to "explore gun violence more broadly in addition to the recent school shootings," Leah Ashwill, the director of the center, said.

"We're really just trying to look at gun violence from a broader lens," Ashwill said. "The solutions in addressing the school shootings are some of the same solutions that could be helpful in addressing a broader range of gun violence issues we have going on."

The center plans to march for all populations vulnerable to gun violence such as the LGBTQ community and victims of domestic violence, Ashwill said.

"We want to hear from all sorts of different sectors of our community and populations of people that have either been impacted or are very concerned with the recent school shootings," she said.

She said the march will end with an afternoon program with speakers and an opportunity for people to register to vote.

The afternoon program will also include a moment for attendees to call state representatives to voice their con-

cerns regarding gun safety, Greenville senior Catrinia Lambert said. Lambert is helping to organize the event.

"It is my hope that the march will create an environment of respectful dialogue and will attract the attention of state representatives," Lambert said.

Rachel Redden, a sophomore at Bowling Green High School helping organize the march, said she hopes the event will grab the attention of lawmakers "so they know we won't be pushed under the rug and something needs to actually change."

Ashwill said the event will highlight the concerns of students and the community alike.

"We want to take the opportunity to give our young people a voice that day," Ashwill said.

Redden said the main goal of the event is to end the cycle of mass shooting tragedies.

"School shootings have happened before, and nothing has changed, and

no one listens," Redden said.

Redden said her peers are mostly in agreement that gun reform must be addressed. However, she said "some of them aren't taking it seriously, and I fear they won't until it happens to us."

Ashwill said Bowling Green has not experienced a school shooting, but it has fallen victim to gun violence. She said the event will be a call for the community to directly address gun violence and start to understand it completely.

"The guns are an obvious part of the equation that needs to be addressed through legislation," Ashwill said.

Ashwill said she hopes the march will create a "heightened sense of awareness" and improve communication on a difficult subject.

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Nursing students exceed pass rate for NCLEX

BY OLIVIA EILER
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WKU's 2017 bachelor of science in nursing graduates achieved a 98 percent pass rate on their first attempt of the National Council Licensure Examination, according to a tweet by the College of Health and Human Services.

The purpose of the NCLEX-RN is to determine if a nursing graduate is capable of performing the duties required of an entry-level nurse, according to test preparation company Kaplan. The exam focuses on application, analysis and critical thinking.

The national pass rate for first time BSN graduates is 90.04 percent, according to the National Council of

view curriculum and revise it to meet student needs.

"N324 Pathophysiology was moved to a prerequisite course rather than offered in the first semester of the program," Lovan said. "This course is particularly difficult for students. Now students take this course before admission to the program which allows the ones who are unsuccessful to repeat it. This is especially important because once students are admitted to the program, they are only allowed to repeat a course one time."

Lovan said several years ago, the program began to use standardized testing materials to prepare students for the NCLEX-RN.

"These products help students identify areas of weakness and remediate in this content to improve future performance," Lovan said. "The [Health Education System, Inc.] Exit Exam, which is taken in the final semester of the program, is a highly accurate predictor of NCLEX-RN success."

Outside of the classroom, Lovan praised the faculty's dedication to student success.

"Although the BSN program has tripled in the number of students admitted since 2012, the faculty continue to offer and encourage one-on-one meetings to assist students who struggle to learn the content," Lovan said. "The faculty are dedicated to helping each student reach their dream of becoming a registered nurse."

Students in the program also learn from clinical experience and simulation labs.

Graduates of WKU's accounting and engineering programs also take licensing exams: the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination and the Praxis.

Although pass rates were not provided for either examination, department chairs for both programs say their faculty use similar teaching methods.

"The success of our program is due to the effort and dedication of each

accounting faculty member," Harold Little, accounting department chair, said. "The accounting department's mission is 'to provide quality accounting education and prepare students for successful and rewarding careers in accounting and business.' We fulfill this mission through effective teaching; applied, pedagogical, and discipline-based research; and service to the college, the university, the profession and the business community."

Little provided a specific example of the effectiveness of one of his colleagues in creating student interest.

"This morning, I was told that two students from Dr. Mark Ross' principle of accounting course decided to change their major to accounting," Little said. "I am sure their decision was based on the excellent teaching of Dr. Ross. The professors in the accounting

sell the program because they are so very good at what they do."

The director of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Stacy Wilson, said faculty in the engineering department bring professional experience to their classrooms.

"Professional licensure is extremely important to the faculty in the engineering programs," Wilson said. "All of the faculty in our programs have a [Professional Engineer] license in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. We see this as evidence of our commitment to engaging our students not only in learning the theory of engineering but the practice as well."

News reporter Olivia Eiler can be reached at 270-745-6011 and olivia.eiler789@topper.wku.edu. Follow Olivia on Twitter at @oliviaeiler16.

"The success of our program is due to the effort and dedication of each accounting faculty member."

Accounting department chairman
HAROLD LITTLE

State Boards of Nursing. WKU BSN coordinator Sherry Lovan attributed the program's success to the adaptive teaching styles of the program's faculty members and the focus on student needs.

"The faculty are experts in the content presented in the program and use a variety of teaching strategies to meet the diverse learning needs of students," Lovan said. "The faculty are excellent examples of lifelong learners, always eager to improve teaching methods."

She said the faculty continually re-

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

SLICE TO SAVOR

Bring your focus back to healthy after break

BY SHAWNA AUD
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As with any break, holiday or vacation away from your normal routine, unhealthy temptation becomes greater than ever. Your focus on making healthy eating and drinking choices was probably thrown out the window on the way to your destination. If this was you over Spring Break, do not worry! We're all allowed a vacation from our routines every now and then. But now that our break has come to a close, our unhealthy habits need to vanish as well. Jumping back on the healthy bandwagon won't be as hard as you may think.

Start with a healthy grocery haul to fill your empty fridge, pantry or backpack with easy grabs to start your week back at school off on the right foot. This haul could consist of anything from peanut butter sandwiches to carrots and hummus to a bag of mixed nuts. Make sure to have them handy for your busiest days so you won't feel the need to hit up the drive-thru window for your meals.

Maybe water wasn't your drink of choice over the past week. We all know it happens. Now that it's time to get back to business, up your intake to at least eight cups a day. Over half of your body is composed of water. When your fluid intake is low, your body may mistake its thirst for hunger in hopes that it will get some type of fuel. Anytime you feel hungry, try drinking a cup of water first. This will help to replenish your body's fluid needs as well as keep you feeling fuller for longer. Consider it a win-win.

Get some sleep! I'm sure sleep wasn't high on the spring break to-do list either. Make it a priority to get at least seven hours a night. Your brain can't perform to its full potential without its proper rest. After a good night's sleep you'll feel more alert, focused and ready to crush the last half of spring semester.

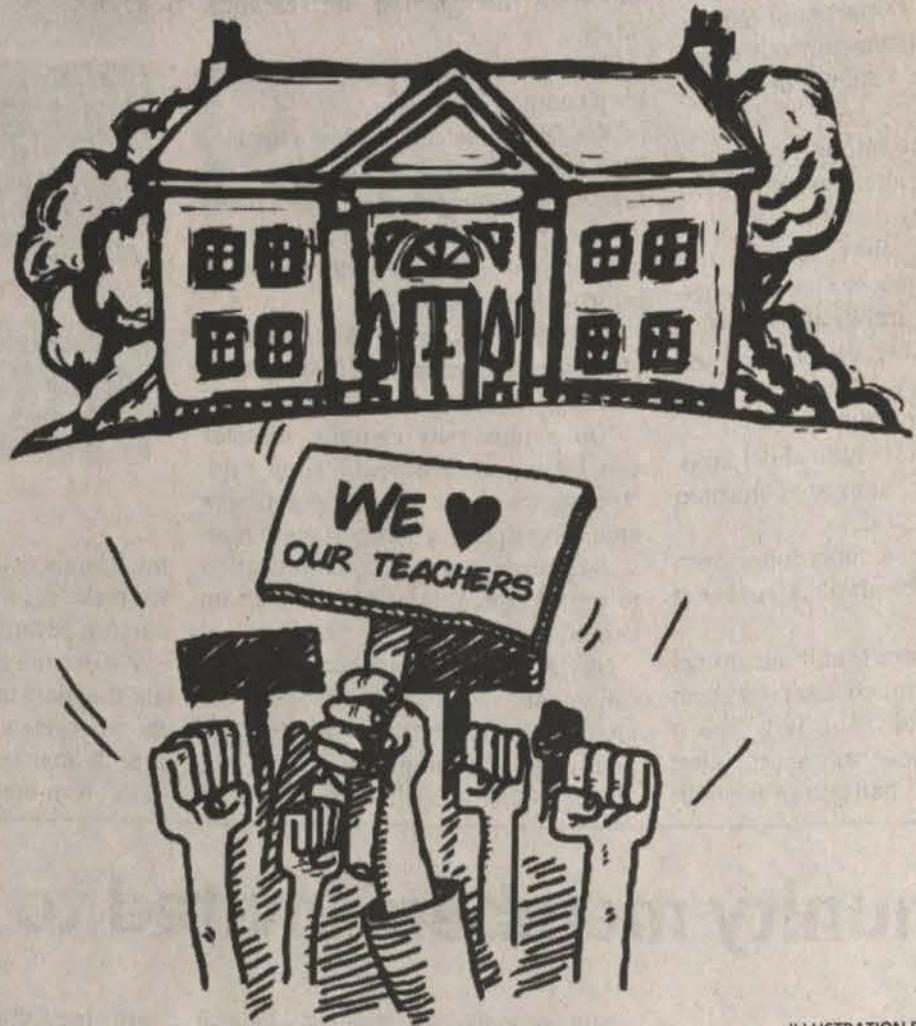


ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLER • HERALD

PENSION PROTEST

Give teachers a seat at the table

BY HERALD EDITORIAL BOARD
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ISSUE: The state of Kentucky is currently in the midst of financial chaos. In order to aid the state pension system, which has been massively underfunded due to failure to take action by previous administrations, state leadership has proposed balancing the budget on the backs of state employees, specifically teachers, in the form of Senate Bill 1. Under this legislation, traditional pensions for future teachers would cease to exist and cost-of-living allowances would be cut for teachers who have retired.

OUR STANCE: Instead of rallying behind the educators who are understandably protesting this attack on their promised benefits, Gov. Matt Bevin has taken to pitting the public against teachers by trying to label them as "wanting more than their fair share." Instead of demonizing public school teachers, state leadership should give them a seat at the table when discussing this particular legislation where they have the most to lose.

Ask just about any teacher you know and they'll tell you they've had to pay out of pocket for basic classroom supplies. Talk to a teacher who, instead of taking the summer to recuperate after months of working in a high-stress environment, chooses to volunteer to teach summer school to help kids who are falling behind. These individuals, who play a major role in shaping the minds of our next generation, are far from "selfish" and certainly not "ignorant."

This financial crisis Kentucky currently faces is not the result of a single person, but rather a by-product of collective inaction on the part of previous administrations to properly address the failing pension system. Under the plan proposed by Gov. Bevin, the pension system would be fully funded, but at a tremendous loss to teachers who are exempt from collecting a social security check. In exchange for not collecting on social security, teachers rely on this pension plan to get them through retirement.

It's not a matter of teachers "wanting more than their fair share," it's about pushing back against the state's intention of taking from them what's

rightfully theirs. Can you really blame teachers for fighting for their benefits that have been promised to them for years while the state government continues to give away billions of dollars each year through tax breaks?

One need only to look as far as the neighboring state of West Virginia, whose schools completely shut down for almost two weeks, to predict what will happen if Kentucky's state government refuses to follow through on their promise to properly fund the pension system.

Perhaps, instead of trying to fix this mess all by themselves, state leadership would find it worth their time to give educators a seat at the table when discussing such a controversial issue as cutting benefits.

Teachers have a wealth of experience and knowledge to draw upon that could forge a path to a compromise that balances the budget without placing it fully on the backs of educators and other state employees. They are not the ignorant, self-serving individuals Gov. Bevin has tried to make them out to be.

Whether Gov. Bevin's ego will allow this reasonable action remains to be seen.

STUDY ABROAD

iPhone escapades: the one with the armed robbery

BY EMMA AUSTIN
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Hello, Hilltoppers! As you may know, I'm writing from Buenos Aires during my study abroad experience in Argentina, which is where I had my first near-death experience.

Not really, but today I feel like Ross in "The One with the Ride Along" after the car backfires and his life flashes before his eyes. I have a newfound respect for life. I am lucky to be alive.

Let me back up a few weeks. My iPhone stopped working seemingly for no reason, and it was the kind of broken where pressing the power button

off and on wouldn't fix anything. Apple Support online couldn't help me either, so I made my way to the nearest certified Apple retailer downtown.

I won't bore you with all the details, but I will say it took me spending five afternoons at iPoint in Palermo during a span of three weeks before I finally got a replacement phone. And let me tell you, living in a huge city where everyone speaks a language you're still learning without a phone is a topic that could have a column all to itself. I'm basically a cartographer now.

Anyway, this morning I was cheerfully scrolling through Twitter for the first time in three weeks as I ate breakfast (It's the small things we really take for granted. As the band Cinder-

ella once said: "you don't know what you've got till it's gone") when my host mom came into the kitchen and started telling me about a story she saw on the news: there was an armed robbery on Saturday at the iPoint in Palermo.

Three robbers came in at around 2:30 p.m., threatening customers and employees with their guns, according to Clarin. When the robbers saw police arrive, they started shooting before hopping into the getaway car parked by the entrance and driving away, leaving behind their bags of haul.

Unfortunately, I don't have my host mom's reenactment of the shooting recorded, but even if you can't read Spanish, definitely check out the on-

line coverage to watch the security camera video if you want a thrill.

The most surreal part for me watching the video was when my host mom pointed to the innocent female customer who entered the store just before the robbery's climax and told me that it could have been me.

Luckily, there was only one minor injury from shattered glass. Also luckily, I got my iPhone back before all this occurred. It was hard enough to get help with no guns pointed at them.

My mom thinks it's a good thing I was not there because she says getting shot is not worth getting a good story. I told her I'm a journalist, and anything is worth a good story.

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Odds and Ends

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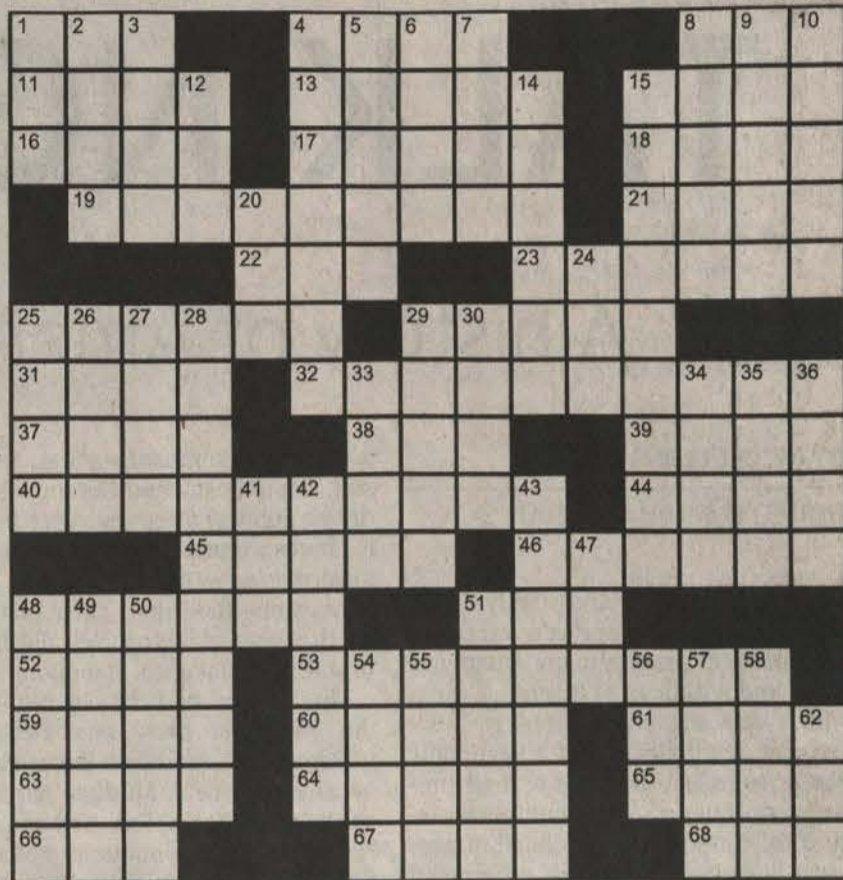
- In what year did Grunge musician Kurt Cobain die?
(a) 1996 (b) 1994 (c) 1992.
- If someone suffers from agrapahia, what can they NOT do?
(a) Write (b) Speak (c) Read
- What is an alewife?
(a) Keg for brewing beer (b) Foul tempered woman
(c) Species of herring
- In the sport of curling, how many stones does each team
have to slide down the ice?
(a) 6 (b) 8 (c) 10
- What is the longest river in Texas?
(a) Brazos (b) Rio Grande (c) Perdido
- Approximately how long after WWI did the U.S. declare war
on Germany?
(a) 18 months (b) 3 years (c) 3 weeks
- What is a sobriquet?
(a) Headscarf (b) Type of wine (c) Nickname
- In what year did Magellan discover the strait named after
him?
(a) 1520 (b) 1532 (c) 1547
- What classic American car came first?
(a) Thunderbird (b) Corvette (c) Firebird
- Who left the TV show *House M.D.* to work for the Obama
administration?
(a) Omar Epps (b) Jesse Spencer (c) Kal Penn

Solution

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. b | 6. b |
| 2. a | 7. c |
| 3. c | 8. a |
| 4. b | 9. b |
| 5. a | 10. c |

Across

- Havana residue
- Mythology anthology
- Make tracks?
- Word in French restaurant names
- Provides vittles
- Set down
- Pop singer Amos
- Aspect
- Face-to-face exam
- Deli slice
- Soccer announcer's cry
- Switch settings
- Padre
- Gecko
- Museum piece
- March time
- Like some tumors
- Throgs
- It may be stroked
- Caspian feeder
- Gorgonzola
- Go yachting
- Wear
- Ogres
- Diplomat
- Back at sea
- Crème-filled snack
- Deicer
- Waterfront walk
- Miscue
- Not at home
- Lays down the lawn
- Friars Club event
- Large butte
- Print measures



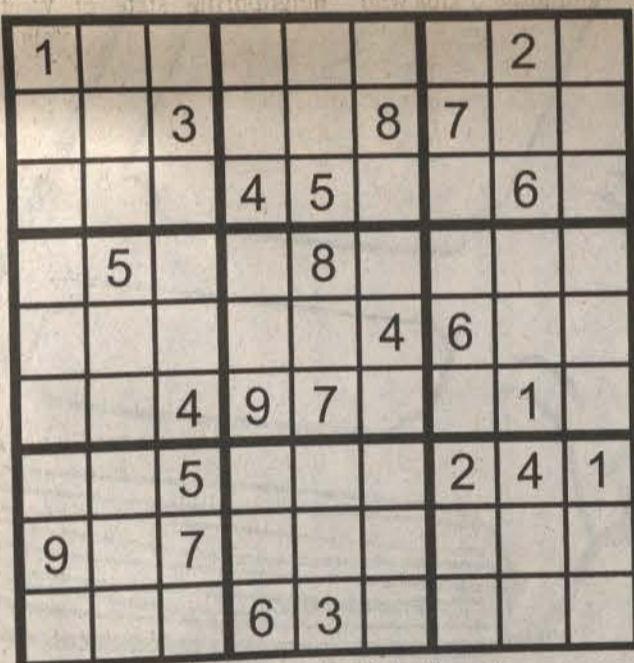
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- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 67 Takes to court | 12 Kind of code | 36 Building additions |
| 68 Dashboard abbr. | 14 Suppress | 41 PC "brain" |
| | 15 Inevitable failure | 42 Bearer |
| | 20 ___ favor (please, in Spanish) | 43 Attempts |
| | 24 Balloon filler | 47 "___ De-Lovely" |
| | 25 Life's partner | 48 Thicket |
| | 26 Object of worship | 49 Lover of Eos |
| | 27 Domesticated Asian ox | 50 Exigencies |
| | 28 Judges | 51 Popped up |
| | 29 Man of many words | 54 Love god |
| | 30 Heroic poem | 55 German courtesy title |
| | 33 ___-do-well | 56 Scottish cap |
| | 34 White rice's lack | 57 Porcelain piece |
| | 35 Positioned | 58 Wood file |
| | | 62 Starchy tuber |

Down

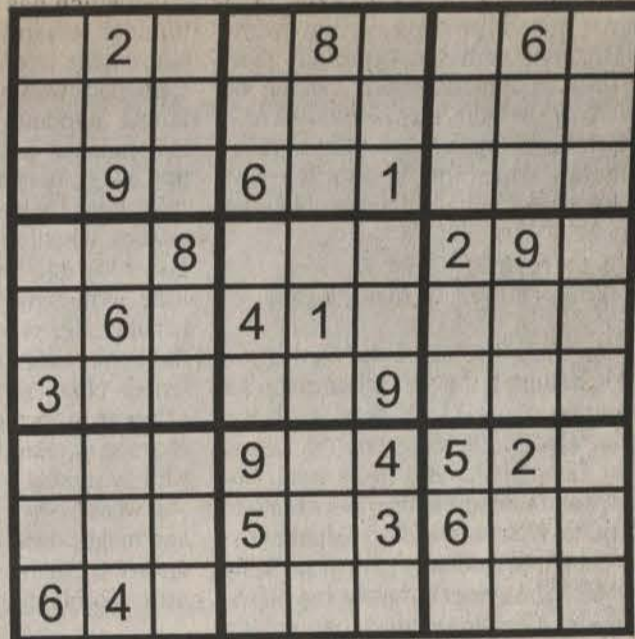
- Be in a cast
- High school course
- Roll call reply
- Former Turkish term of respect
- Beloveds
- Art ___
- Yemeni city
- Vaughan of jazz
- Scoundrel
- Ne'er-do-well

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.



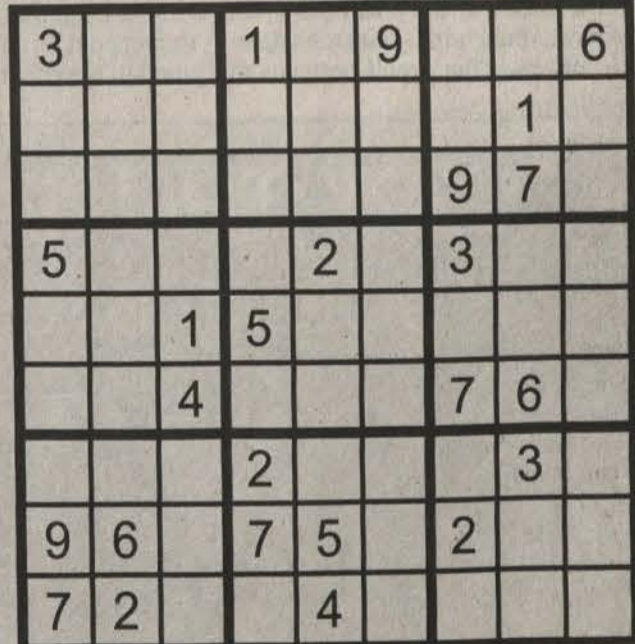
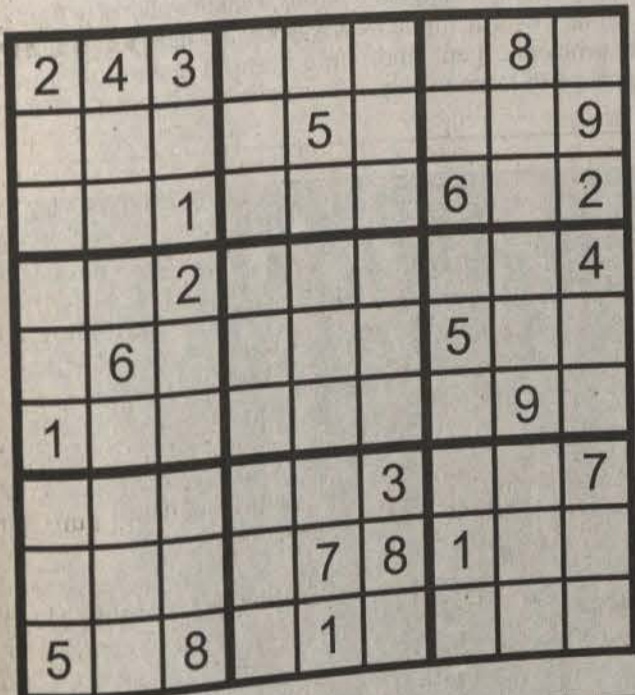
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OPINION

LISTEN UP!

TALKING POLITICS

A history of America's two-party system

BY NICOLE LEONARD

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

Given the divisive and starkly disparate ideologies of America's two dominant political parties, many Americans likely find it difficult to imagine a world with a different political reality. Modern-day Republican and Democratic platforms reflect the ideas of their predecessors but include contemporary issues the founding fathers had not necessarily foreseen. As time progressed and major historical successes, failures and conflicts ensued, the perception of what an ideal governmental structure entails altered.

For the purposes of this column, it is important to focus on the official platforms of the two major parties. The influence of smaller parties such as the Green and Tea parties is evidenced by their ability to draw votes from candidates of the larger parties. However, the electoral system of winner-takes-all in presidential races and first past the post in Congress almost inevitably produces

a two-party dominant system. As a result, Republicans and Democrats have driven political discourse since the early 1800s, representing congressional majorities as well as all but four presidents since that time. Their platforms are the focus of this article's discussion of shifting ideological standpoints.

The election of 1820 saw the end of the Federalist party and Democratic-Republican candidate James Monroe became president. Multiple parties including the Whigs, Free Soil and Know Nothings gained popularity before the Civil War. The end of the Civil War forged the two parties that exist today.

As the ideological gap between the dominant parties grew, their official platforms got longer and more complex. On the topic of immigration, from 1876 to 1960, both Democrats and Republicans shifted their platforms from skepticism toward Asian newcomers to a support for increased immigration based on familial ties and increased quotas. Six years later, Republicans began a campaign for heavily limited immigration while Democrats advocated for citizenship based on a merit-based

system. The divide was, to this point, undeniably sharp.

This trend towards stronger discrepancies in policy stance generated the context for the discourse of public officials and individuals of opposing parties that exists today. Republicans were increasingly adamant about protecting the rights of gun owners with limited regulation. Democrats urged additional regulatory procedures for gun ownership and maintained a basic regard for the Second Amendment. Abortion has been one of the most divisive arguments between Democrats and Republicans, whose stances have combated one another since its legality came into question. Democrats upheld the woman's right to choose, while Republicans fought for the right to life of unborn children.

As Democratic and Republican platforms drift further from one another, the focus then is on a specific constituency, rather than a common good. This us-against-them rhetoric is a bastardization of productive political discourse.

The political system the American

people reinforce is inhibitory to compromise. Outspoken leaders of both parties often employ false or hyperbolic narratives to hurt their opponents and render support for their personal agendas. It is about money and reputation circulated within a minority of the country's citizenry. Empathy, attention to detail, sincerity and integrity are qualities that reside in the false personas of politicians. In reality, they call on vague, easily manipulated ideological structures to obtain or maintain power and influence that contradicts the facets of that personality.

Political parties gather around the notion that their opponents are inherently immoral. When the identity of a group is constructed around the existence of a common enemy and the struggle to gain control over that enemy, political belief systems are degraded in favor of personalistic appeals.

Contemporary politics have created an environment that frames morality around glorified characters rather than an ethical code perpetuated by legal policy.

BOOK CLUB

Female protagonists rejoice - it's Women's History Month

BY MONICA KAST

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

Every month is a good month to read a book written by a female author or with a strong female protagonist, but Women's History Month is an especially good time to do so. Whether you're looking for a celebrity memoir, a classic novel or a newly released novel about life in Alaska, there's something for almost everyone to enjoy this month as we celebrate women.

"Why Not Me?" by Mindy Kaling

I don't know what we did to deserve Mindy Kaling, but if you ask me, she's a national treasure. Her first book, "Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me? (And Other Concerns)," is a great read, but her second memoir is the perfect one to celebrate Women's History Month. Kaling is unapologetically herself in "Why Not Me?" She writes honestly and hilariously about being a woman, particularly about being a woman of color in Hollywood. She writes about confidence and appearances with brutal honesty that's refreshing. Reading "Why Not Me?" feels like hanging out with your best friends talking about your lives. If you need more convincing, here's a quote from the book that seems fitting to celebrate Women's History Month: "Well, guess what, young girls. You aren't damsels in distress. You aren't hostages to

the words of your peers. You aren't the victims that even your well-meaning teachers and advocates think you are."

"Emma" by Jane Austen

I've read every Jane Austen book, and "Emma" remains my favorite, by far. It follows the life of Emma Woodhouse, a spoiled, well-off woman in England. Emma appoints herself as the local matchmaker and begins meddling in the love lives of those around her. As in most Jane Austen novels, slight disaster ensues, teaching our young protagonist about life and forcing her to grow up a little. While Emma is not immediately likeable, I grew to love her by the end of the book. Jane Austen created a strong female character with a life and a mind of her own. Though there are many male characters, Emma shines as a woman who is unafraid to go after the things she wants. She's young and privileged and makes mistakes, but I found myself drawn to her more than any other Jane Austen protagonist.

"The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah

This novel was just released in February, and I hadn't heard much about it before picking it up over spring break. It tells the story of Leni Allbright, a young girl who moves to Alaska with her family after her father inherits a piece of land. The Allbright family is completely unprepared for life on the Alaskan frontier, but the community of Kaneq quick-

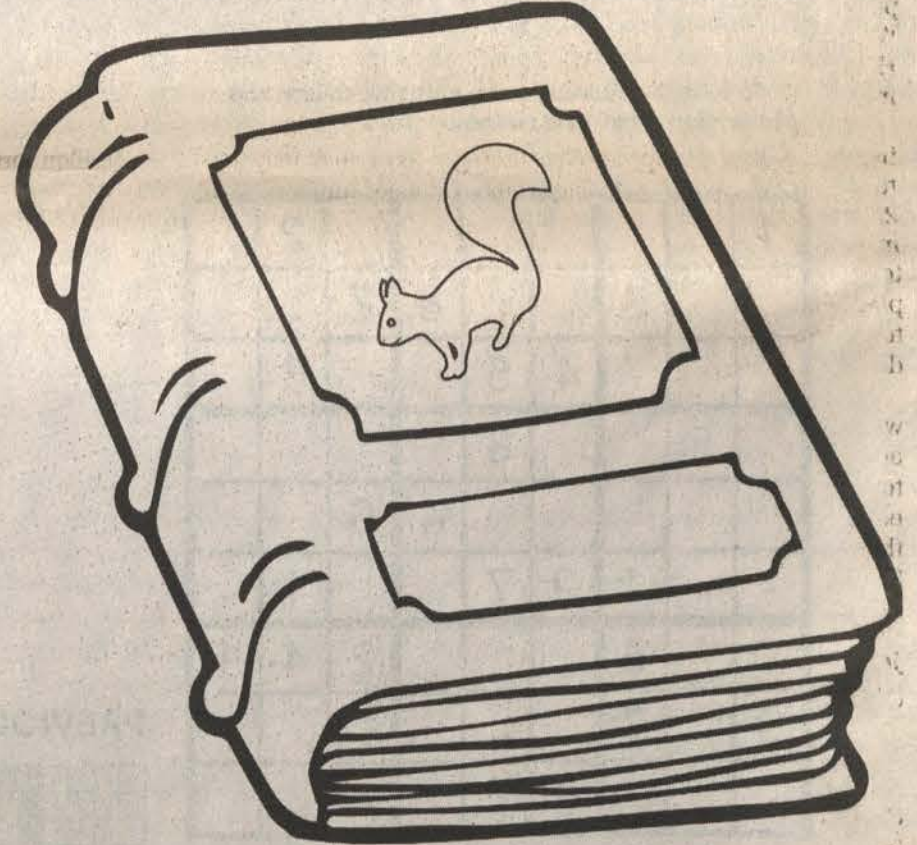


ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLAR • HERALD

ly surrounds them and helps them start building their lives there. However, the Allbrights continue to face trouble, as Leni's father, an alcoholic who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, struggles to face Alaskan winters with a myriad of mental health problems. Leni and her mother, Cora, have to learn to rely

on each other for survival in both literal and metaphorical unknown territory. The story follows Leni over many years, and the reader gets to see her become a strong woman who has to fight for nearly everything in her life. Seeing Leni come into her own makes this a perfect pick for celebrating Women's History Month.

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SILAS WALKER • HERALD

Guthrie Bell Tower was constructed in 2001-2002 and is one of the most iconic landmarks on WKU's campus. While the bells used to be played manually, budget constraints have resulted in the tower being run by a computerized system.

Guthrie Bell Tower now fully computerized

BY GRIFFIN FLETCHER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

The Guthrie Bell Tower was once played manually on special days at WKU, such as after football wins at Houchens Smith Stadium, commencement ceremonies and funeral services.

Guthrie Bell Tower was constructed in 2001-2002 and is operated according to a carillon system that weighs about 25,000 pounds and consists of 45 cast metal bells made in France, according to WKU archives. The system could be played on a keyboard housed in a janitorial closet on the top floor of the Academic Complex.

Around 2002 or 2003, a scholarship was developed in the names of Groom and Lowell Guthrie, who helped fund the tower's construction, which was awarded to piano and organ majors within the department of music, Groom said. Scholarship recipients were awarded

\$1,000. Groom taught them how to operate the carillon and they were given weekly carillon-playing responsibilities.

Budget constraints and loss of faculty involved in the scholarship forced the department to halt the scholarship and the bell tower's manual function, said head of the music department and associate professor of music Scott Harris. Harris, who first joined WKU's faculty in 2013, said much of the tower's history as a manually operated carillon predates him.

"The Guthrie Tower seemed like an opportunity to have a real carillonneur," Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs David Lee said.

Former head of the WKU music department Mitzi Groom, who served as head of the department from 2001 to 2013, said she and former WKU president Gary Ransdell helped decide the Guthrie Tower should feature a playable carillon system.

"You get the donor, you build it, and I'll play it," Groom said she told Rans-

dell.

Groom, also a trained organist, said she played the bells from the time she retired. She said she played for all kinds of occasions, sometimes just for fun.

"I'd play a lot of times just because I wanted to," Groom said. Groom later said, "It was used for a lot of different stuff."

Amid WKU's recent budget cuts, Harris said he believes the department's cessation of this function is no surprise.

"I think it's a testament to the times," Harris said.

Though the tower does not currently feature a manual operator, Harris said it still operates according to a computerized system and is relatively unchanged.

"Whether it's played live or through a computer, you're hearing the same thing," Harris said.

Groom said she believes "live music is always more fun," but she is happy the bells are still in use.

"It cost a lot, so I would think we'd like

to honor that investment that the Guthrie family made," Groom said. Groom later said, "It's important that the bells keep ringing somehow."

Groom said she enjoyed her time as WKU's primary carillonneur.

"It was a lot of fun for me to play it," Groom said.

Lee said he does not believe the carillon's manual function is permanently gone.

"I'm sure we will again," Lee said. "A faculty member or a student is going to come forward and say, 'I want to do that.'"

Lee said he believes the tower's manual carillon function is special to WKU and should be continued.

"It adds to the campus atmosphere," Lee said. "Part of what sends the message this is a special place."

Features reporter Griffin Fletcher can be reached at 270-745-6291 and griffin.fletcher398@topper.wku.edu.

JOB LOSS

CONTINUED FROM A1

"This has nothing to do with talent," Caboni said during a press conference following the Feb. 23 Board of Regents meeting. "It has everything to do with resources."

At the press conference, Caboni said WKU will continue to provide support to those individuals who will lose their jobs. He said human resources is ready to "wrap its arms around folks and support them" through the technical aspects of finding a new job.

Of the 120 positions eliminated, 16

came from WKU's three regional campuses. WKU will be returning its regional campuses, Glasgow, Owensboro and Elizabethtown-Fort Knox, to the management of the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach (DELO).

One of those positions included Elizabethtown/Fort Knox regional chancellor, Evelyn Ellis, who had previously confirmed with the Herald that her job had been eliminated on March 9.

"I've enjoyed my time at Western Kentucky University and have had the privilege of working with the wonderful staff at Elizabethtown," Ellis said.

Ellis said her release date as chancellor is March 30, which means that is

the last day she will have the responsibilities as chancellor.

At that point, she said, the DELO will take over management.

WKU's deficit stems from a decrease in enrollment and state funding in the past few years. The deficit is expected to continue to grow this year. Gov. Matt Bevin has proposed a 6.25 percent cut to state funding. If approved, WKU could lose \$4.6 million.

Earlier this year, Caboni said WKU could have a budget deficit as large as \$40 million. The \$40 million comes from our \$15 million deficit, the anticipated \$4.6 million cut, WKU's nearly \$9 million pension obligation and an

anticipated \$10 million deficit from enrollment changes and fixed costs. Additionally, WKU may also lose \$750,000 if Bevin's proposal to eliminate the Kentucky Mesonet, a statewide weather and climate monitoring system, is approved.

Caboni has said more cuts can be expected after the legislature releases Kentucky's final budget model in April.

A full list of positions eliminated, including the department and division within the university from which they were eliminated, is available on the Herald website.

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PHOTO



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

Six-foot Harlem Globetrotters' guard "Flip" (19) flips off the hoop after climbing on top to block the General's Shots during their performance in E.A. Diddle Arena on Monday, Mar. 12.

SPRING BREAK RECAP

BY NIC HUEY
HERALD.PHOTO@WKU.EDU

Our photo staff traveled far and wide over spring break, cameras in hand, and returned with some

spectacular images. Chris Kohley went to Chicago where he captured the St. Patrick's Day festivities, including the annual dying of the Chicago River, a tradition that dates back to 1962. Abigail Dollins travelled to Los Angeles where she visited the Urban Light

art installation and the Point Vicente Lighthouse. Silas Walker stayed here in Bowling Green, where he had the opportunity to photograph the Harlem Globetrotters, a performing basketball group that's known for their extreme drunks.



ABIGAIL DOLLINS • HERALD

The Urban Light, located at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, features restored street lamps from the early 1900s that once shined on the streets of Los Angeles.



ABIGAIL DOLLINS • HERALD

The sun sets over the Point Vicente Lighthouse just north of Los Angeles, California. The lighthouse was opened in 1926 and stands on the most southwesterly point of the Palos Verdes Peninsula.



CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

Thousands gather along the Chicago River on St. Patrick's Day to watch it be dyed green. The dyeing of the river dates back to 1962.



CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

Members of the Chicago Plumbers Union spray green dye into the Chicago River on St. Patrick's day 2018. Thousands of spectators gathered along the river at 9 a.m. to watch the more than 50-year-old tradition.

LIFE



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

Senior Brenden Ward shows off his school spirit and support for WKU athletics with his handmade red towel outfit. The hat, shirt, pants and cape took a year in total to make. Ward's favorite sport to attend is basketball because "the players and coaches are close enough to hear me."

CAPE-ABLE

Start of a new tradition

BY LAUREL DEPPEN
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU



Brendan Ward has made a name for himself at WKU. More commonly known as the "Red Towel Guy," Ward said he wants to promote spirit in WKU athletics.

What makes Ward stand out from other Hilltopper fans at sporting events is his outfit that he made completely out of Red Towels. The outfit features a variety of towels that Ward said he has collected since the beginning of his academic career at WKU. He recalls having over 30 towels sitting around his room and deciding to turn them into a cape.

"I used to wear [the cape] around campus a lot to see how people would take it in," Ward said.

Soon after, Ward said he still had a lot of Red Towels, so he made pants and a shirt.

"I always like to do things," Ward said. "It was something I was doing whenever I was bored. I would just pick up my towels and stitch them together, and then it became a whole outfit."

Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Ward is a broadcasting major. He recalled finding WKU and growing to love it.

"I can come here, I can learn, enjoy free games, get my education and still be a college student who learns and makes mistakes," Ward said. "All of this is in one place and I still have people to support me. That's the sense I get from WKU. It's very supporting. You can be crazy. You don't have to worry about being judged. You can be you. That's what I became when I first started wearing my outfit."

Ward channels this love for WKU in his spirit at athletic events. Ward met Aaliyah Hawkins, who he calls his game buddy, at a football game in 2017. Ever since then, the pair has been attending games together.

Hawkins described her game experiences with Ward as "exciting."

"You never know what he is going to say," Hawkins said. "He will make jokes about the players, coaches and the fans. He chants all the cheers at the game, even if the band, dancers or cheerleaders are not saying them. Overall, he will make you laugh and enjoy yourself."

Ward said he takes great pride in standing out at games. He said that if he didn't want to stand out, he wouldn't wear the outfit. Hawkins called him "the most dedicated fan out there."

SEE RED TOWEL GUY • PAGE B2

WKU alumni start online fashion empire Pink Lily

BY LAUREL DEPPEN
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

In just four years, WKU alumni Chris and Tori Gerbig started Pink Lily Boutique, an online fashion source that has surpassed \$50 million in sales.

The Pink Lily Boutique offers a wide range of women's and children's clothing including athletic and swimwear, formal attire and more. Co-owner Tori described the Pink Lily style as catering to women searching for trendy clothing that has a "bright, colorful and upbeat aesthetic."

Pink Lily has also expanded the range of its products by adding a custom design department that offers customers the option of adding mono-

SEE PINK LILY • PAGE B2

Former wrestler Hillbilly Jim to enter WWE Hall of Fame

BY DRAKE KIZER
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Jim Morris, 65, has been known as Hillbilly Jim for over 30 years, and his upcoming induction into the WWE Hall of Fame has given the former professional wrestler a chance to reflect on a life that remained fruitful long after his decision to retire.

Morris was born in Scottsville and after moving a few times, his family put down roots in Bowling Green just before he started high school. He has kept his home base in Warren County ever since.

During his days at Bowling Green

High School, Morris developed into an All-State basketball player, and he received scholarship offers after graduating in 1971. Morris wound up playing at five different institutions during his collegiate career, and he said the difficulties he faced helped him determine his future career trajectory.

"I was really made more for individual sports," Morris said. "I loved the concept of team sports, but I soon realized that you could do your very best every day and you would still lose if your team got beat. I didn't like that part, and I felt like that just wasn't the right kind of payoff for me."

After his time in college concluded in the late '70s, Morris played profes-

sional basketball in Europe before deciding to pursue competitive weightlifting. Morris said in the process of getting stronger and training more rigorously, he found his way to WKU.

"I'm forever grateful to WKU for affording me even though I never enrolled one semester," Morris said. "They would let me come up to Smith Stadium and work out with so many great WKU athletes. All the coaches loved me, and I even had the great Gene Keady approach me one time about helping some of his skinny and weak boys train."

Standing over 6 feet 7 inches tall and weighing 320 pounds, Morris became a successful weightlifter in his 20s.

He said as he became more impressive physically, friends would often joke that he should become a professional wrestler. Though he enjoyed watching wrestling as a kid, Morris was not sold on making that fantasy a reality until he saw a promotion outside of Kentucky on television.

"When cable TV came out, I started watching Georgia Championship Wrestling," Morris said. "It blew my mind because they had these wrestlers that looked like guys from the gym. Most of the wrestlers we used to see looked like big fat guys with their shirts off, but these guys didn't look

SEE HILLBILLY JIM • PAGE B2

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HILLBILLY JIM
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

like that.”
Soon after Morris expressed serious interest in becoming a wrestler, a local promoter named Dale Mann agreed to train him. Morris said he wrestled in promotions across North America under his real name before adopting the ring name Harley Davidson in the early 1980s.

The Harley Davidson character began to take hold with fans, and Morris said he became more confident in his ability to compete in the big leagues. He soon pursued a career in the World Wrestling Federation, and his opportunity to join its ranks came sooner than expected.

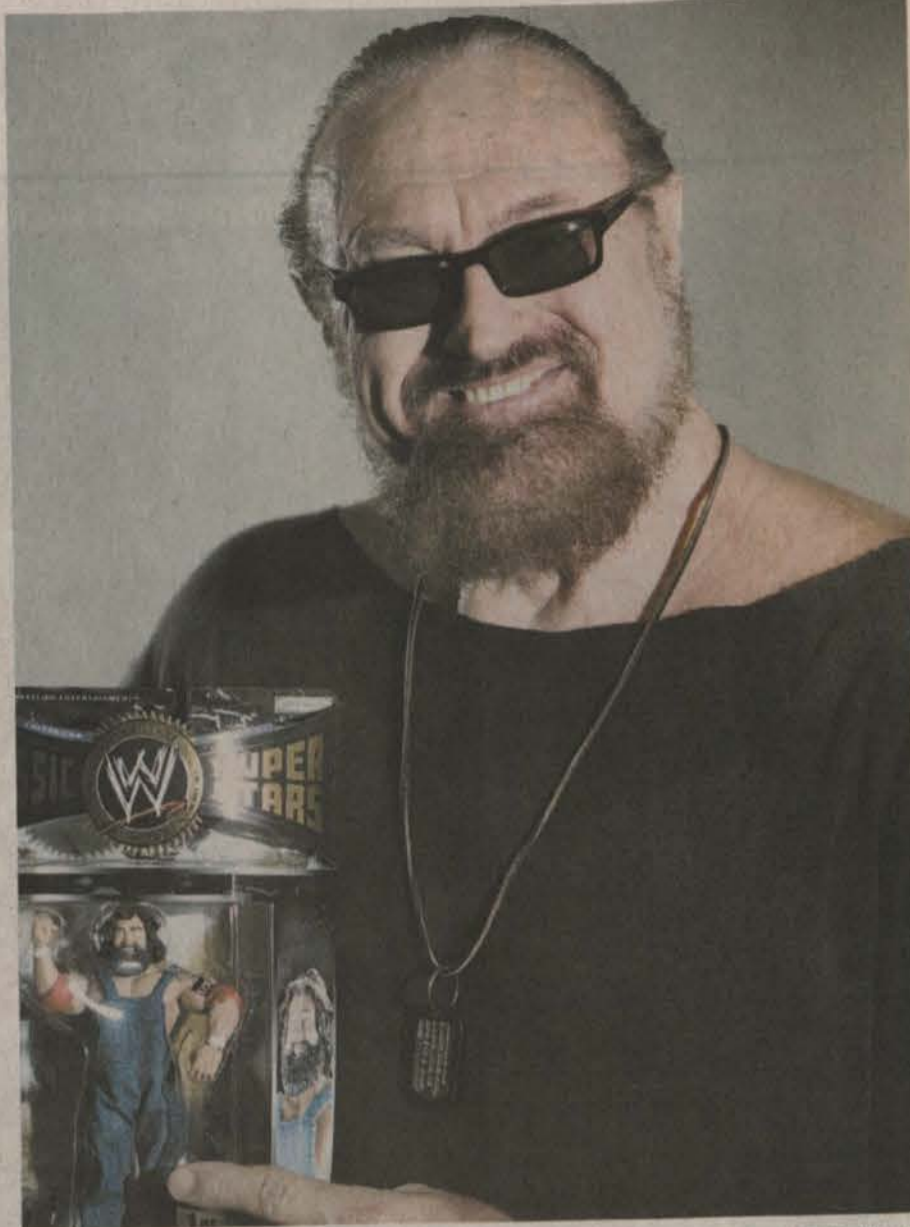
“The WWF was doing a show in Nashville, and my friend Bruce Swayze said that he would bring me into the dressing room down there,” Morris said. “They immediately went for me, and I ended up getting asked to do an opening match that night. I told them I didn’t have my gear with me, so they had some of the wrestlers give me boots, kneepads and a pair of tights.”

Morris impressed WWF officials with his performance in Nashville, and the next month he received an invitation to perform in New Haven, Connecticut for WWF owner Vince McMahon. Morris said that in a meeting with higher-ups after his match that night, the Hillbilly Jim character was born.

“Chief Jay Strongbow told Vince that there hadn’t been a hillbilly in the business for a long time,” Morris said. “Vince asked me where they could say I was from, and I came up with Mud Lick, Kentucky. Vince said, ‘That’s great, Hillbilly Jim from Mud Lick, Kentucky,’ and that’s exactly how it began.”

The Hillbilly Jim character first appeared on WWF shows in 1984 as an enthusiastic fan in the front row, but eventually the overall-clad big man stepped over the barricade and into the ring. Morris said he quickly became one of the hottest acts in the industry due to his immediate association with the WWF’s biggest star, Hulk Hogan.

“Hulk Hogan was like Elvis in the wrestling business, so when they had him start acting like he was training me, it was over,” Morris said. “When people look at you you’ve got to have something to connect to them, and because I had that charisma the fans real-



KATHRYN ZIESIG • HERALD

James Morris, 65, better known as “Hillbilly Jim” to the WWE community, will be inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame next month. Morris is originally from Scottsville, but has been living in Bowling Green since he started high school. Morris would come to WKU to train for many years before he got his start in the wrestling world. “Western has a soft spot in my heart because I think back on that journey and all these things that happened in my life, a big part of it was being able to go to WKU for all those years and train with those guys and hang out” Morris said.

ly loved me. I knew I wasn’t a hillbilly, but I became the best hillbilly that I could be.”

Hillbilly Jim experienced successes throughout the second half of the 1980s, and the highlight of his career came at WrestleMania III when he competed in front of a record-setting crowd of 93,173 people. Despite his triumphs, Morris said he knew his run at the top would end.

“I wasn’t real young when I got in the wrestling business, and I wanted to be done by the time I was 40,” Morris said. “I’d seen guys hang around too long

and I didn’t want fans to say, ‘how old is Hillbilly Jim?’ I wasn’t going to embarrass myself, so after neck surgery I decided that I was done wrestling.”

Though his time as an in-ring performer in WWF, now called the WWE, ended in 1990, Morris has worked with the company in some capacity since he retired. For the past 13 years, Morris has also hosted a radio show, “Hillbilly Jim’s Moonshine Matinee” on Sirius XM Outlaw Country.

“I knew when I began this thing that someday I’d have to end the in-ring stuff, and I was good with that,” Morris

said. “I moved on and reinvented myself in a lot of different ways, but I don’t have a Sirius XM Radio show because I’m Jim Morris. I have it because I’m Hillbilly Jim, and I never deny that.”

Sam Ford, an adjunct instructor in the Popular Culture Studies Program at WKU, has known Jim Morris for about 15 years. In 2016, Ford got the chance to work with Morris on a video project for Fusion Media Group about the Panama Papers and shell companies.

“Fusion wanted a way to make the story approachable to people who weren’t hardcore news followers, so we used Hillbilly Jim to bring a little levity to what was otherwise a really serious investigation,” Ford said. “Our idea was to have him explain how he hid his wrestling fortune offshore in a very tongue-in-cheek sort of way. Jim is such an approachable character, and his performance was really a great example of how he maintains his resonance in pop culture.”

WWE announced March 5 that Hillbilly Jim was joining the WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2018. Morris said that while he is looking forward to being inducted at the Smoothie King Center in New Orleans April 6, all the recognition does not belong solely to him.

“This business doesn’t owe me anything because I’ve already had a Hall of Fame life,” Morris said. “I’ve already had my glory, so this induction is in my name, but I’m accepting it for my family, my friends and the fans. Nobody makes it by themselves, and this whole thing wouldn’t have happened for me without help from a lot of different people.”

Morris said being a WWE Hall of Famer will not change him, but he hopes it gives his “restless spirit” some closure.

“I don’t live in the past, but I’m thankful to God I had those wonderful memories,” Morris said. “I’m more interested in what I’m going to do today, but I know I’m one lucky guy because I got to live my dream. My friend Wes Strader once said, ‘I got to do what I wanted to do, when I wanted to do it and where I wanted to do it.’ That’s a lot like my life, and it’s really a miracle.”

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PINK LILY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE XX

grams or embroidery to clothing.

Pink Lily was started in 2011 as an eBay shop. Gerbig explained that when she took maternity leave, Pink Lily became a side project. After developing what she describes as a dedicated Facebook following and experiencing an increased demand for their products, the business took off.

On Jan. 1, 2014, Gerbig and her husband and co-owner Chris launched the official Pink Lily website. Soon after, Gerbig recalls the pair quitting their jobs and focusing on the boutique full time.

“Our story is one that included diving head first into the deep end of running a business,” Chris said in an email. “Along the way we learned a few things, which have greatly contributed to our success. These include ignoring the naysayers, understanding that team building takes time, continually adapting, incorporating automation when possible and accepting that this job is not ‘normal’ but rather can be unpredictable and all-consuming!”

The boutique also has a reach beyond the web with their Bowling Green shop located on the Scottsville Road that was opened in the spring of 2017.

According to a Lexington Public Relations press release, Pink Lily has plans of expanding its Bowling Green fulfillment center and has plans of creating up to 56 new jobs over the next five years.

Gerbig credited part of Pink Lily’s success to the company’s social media presence.

“The way we engage our followers on social media and incorporate them in things like picking out looks we bring into the shop, has been instrumental to our success,” Gerbig said in an email.

RED TOWEL GUY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

“I feel like I’m a third mascot,” Ward said. “There’s Big Red, the white squirrel and the Red Towel Guy.”

Ward is set to graduate in December 2018, and he hopes that before then he can make a positive impact on his fellow Hilltopper fans.

“I want to leave a positive impact on my community,” he said. “When people see me, they see me smiling and happy.”

Ward said that he wants his persona as the Red Towel Guy to encourage people to be more vocal and supportive at games.

Pink Lily’s customer-focused social media presence encourages fans to share photos of themselves in Pink Lily attire to be featured on the website. The website also includes a blog, The Lily Pad, that gives fashion advice and helps readers plan outfits.

Gerbig attributed customer satisfaction as a key part in entrepreneurship.

“As an entrepreneur you must listen to your customers,” she said in the same email. “Don’t get too comfortable in your success. Always be willing to improve, change or adapt as needed. Keep reaching for the next goal when you achieve your first one.”

The Pink Lily Instagram has reached over 300,000 followers, and its daily posts include promotional offers and showcases their new products.

According to the press release, the company ships more than 1,000 orders a day and has delivered more than 1.5 million products since their opening in 2014.

Chris explained that he and Tori often bounce new business ideas off of each other. In his email, he said that daily questions they consider have to do with outsourcing, investments and expansions.

The press release stated that Pink Lily’s annual sales surpass \$15.5 million. The Gerbig’s call the company’s successes rewarding.

“We have always had big plans for Pink Lily, but it continues to surpass our greatest goals,” Tori said in an email. “It has always been a dream of mine to have a well-known brand and I’m thankful for all we have achieved and for our amazing customers, employees, family and friends who have supported our work.”

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“We’re not loud enough,” Ward said. “We have the power to leave a positive impact on the team.”

Ward said that he wants to take pictures with as many WKU fans as he can. He emphasized that when he graduates he doesn’t want to bring his outfit with him. He said he wants to look at his pictures to remember the time, but he doesn’t want his outfit to collect dust in his closet.

“It would be amazing if it could be put somewhere on campus,” Ward said. “If it’s here, I’ll be happy. I want it to be a tradition.”

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WKU student activists travel to Washington D.C.

BY EMMA COLLINS

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Nicole Camargo has been interested in political advocacy for many years. When she came to WKU, she used that passion to help start ONE Campus, a national organization for college students dedicated to fighting poverty. A few weeks ago, the Bowling Green junior put that passion into action once again when she travelled with the group to Washington, D.C., to advocate for funding for the United States' international affairs budget.

"This is a democracy," Camargo said about the necessity of advocating. "And the people matter."

Camargo was joined on the trip by fellow club-member Amanda Collins, a La Grange junior. This was their second trip to Washington, D.C., with the group.

The trip was part of the ONE Campaign's yearly Power Submit, according to a press release. The summit brings volunteers from global organizations for training on advocating for the fight against poverty and preventable diseases. The three-day summit took place from Feb. 24 to Feb. 26, according to the release.

Collins said during the summit, they joined together with other ONE Campus groups from around the country to learn how to successfully advocate.

"They kind of trained us on the best way to use our voice to talk to the community and the legislators," Collins said.

She said the participants spent the last day of the summit advocating for the international affairs budget. She said they asked their legislators not to approve the proposed 30 percent cut to the international affairs budget. Collins said funding for international affairs makes up just one percent of the overall budget.

Cutting the international affairs budget would reduce the funding to a level not seen since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, according to the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. The U.S. provides for-



PHOTO BY ANDY DELGIUDICE, COURTESY OF SEAN SIMONS

Bowling Green junior Nicole Camargo and La Grange junior Amanda Collins traveled to Washington, D.C. the last week of February to meet with legislators to discuss the international affairs budget. The two students are part of WKU's ONE Campus group.

eign assistance to over 100 countries to encourage economic growth, spread democracy, improve health, promote peace and provide education, according to the Department of State.

Collins said the advocates with ONE did not meet with the actual legislators, but the staff members took notes and asked questions to collect information that would be passed on to the legislators.

Collins said the group was able to spread the message about the fight against poverty and the necessity of the international affairs budget be-

yond just the legislative staff. She said lobbyists talked to the students as they walked to the U.S. Capitol about the students' advocacy.

"Even if it doesn't reach the senators, it reached other people," Collins said.

Camargo said she enjoys advocating, and protecting the international affairs budget should appeal to all political parties.

A few days after their return to Bowling Green, the two students tabled an event for ONE Campus on the first floor of Downing Student Union. Camargo and Collins, with the help of two

other students, asked students to sign pre-written letters to U.S. Sen. Rand Paul. Collins said the letters would be taken to Paul's Bowling Green office. She said they wanted to give as many letters as possible to the senator.

"Poverty is a non-partisan issue," Camargo said. "There's power in numbers."

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Hilltoppers struggle in spring break competition

BY CASEY MCCARTHY
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WKU Softball (18-11, 3-3) dropped their home series this weekend against Middle Tennessee State University, losing the rubber match Sunday, 5-2 in extra innings. The series loss ends a tumultuous week for a WKU softball team that had been red hot at the start of the season.

Including a pair of non-conference games during the week, WKU is just 1-4 in its previous five games after opening the season 17-7. Despite these struggles, the team has continued to impress offensively.

WKU holds the second-best record in Conference USA. WKU leads the conference in runs earned, doubles, triples, RBIs, total bases, slugging percentage, walks drawn and on-base percentage. The Hilltoppers rank second in batting average, hits and home runs.

In the game against the Blue Raiders Sunday, the Hilltoppers held the lead going into the top of the seventh. Surrendering three runs in the top of the eighth, the Hilltoppers were unable to answer in the bottom of the inning. WKU was able to jump on the board first in the bottom of the third, but MTSU quickly responded in the fourth. An RBI from sophomore Paige Carter in the fifth looked like it would be enough to secure the victory until the Blue Raiders responded in the seventh.

Freshman Shelby Nunn (12-8) took the loss, pitching the final four innings after relieving sophomore Kelsey Aikey in the fifth. She surrendered four earned runs on nine hits and recorded one strikeout. Aikey surrendered one hit, a home run, pitching four innings.

WKU split its doubleheader against MTSU Saturday. The Blue Raiders took the first game of the day, 7-4, behind a big first inning that ended in five earned runs. The Hilltoppers responded with three runs of their own in the bottom of the inning, but were unable to close the gap. The win snapped WKU's five-game winning streak against MTSU.

Junior Kelsey McGuffin hit her third home run of the year, her first of two on the day, a three-run bomb in the bottom of the first. Nunn picked up the loss in the circle despite being replaced in the top of the first by Kelsey Aikey. Aikey had four strikeouts, surrendering two runs on five hits in relief.

The Hilltoppers took the second game of the afternoon Saturday, 8-6, in a hard fought battle that saw both teams trading runs for most of the game. The Blue Raiders held a 2-0 lead before McGuffin hit her second home run of the day to tie the game up. Both teams added three runs in the third before the Hilltoppers were able

"Kelsey McGuffin stepped up huge for us in game on while three freshmen came up with some clutch hitting in the second game"

Head Coach
AMY TUDOR



ISABEL BRINEGAR • HERALD

Sophomore Kelsey Aikey pitches during her one-hitter game March 4 against Daytona. "I couldn't have done this without this defense behind me," Aikey said. She had a no-hitter earlier in the year,

to pull ahead with runs in the bottom of the fourth and fifth. Head coach Amy Tudor discussed different people stepping up for the Hilltoppers throughout the day despite early errors.

"Kelsey McGuffin stepped up huge for us in game one while three freshmen came up with some clutch hitting in the second game," Tudor said.

Freshmen Jordan Thomas and Shelby Nunn both had home runs in the game as well, with Nunn having her first plate appearance and first collegiate home run in the same game. Nunn took the decision in the circle as well, pitching four innings in

relief with one strikeout and one earned run on six hits.

WKU played two non-conference games to end its spring break road trip last week. The Hilltoppers fell to number eight-ranked LSU 7-3, and lost to University of South Alabama 8-0.

With no conference games this weekend, the Hilltoppers are set to face Jacksonville State March 22, at home, with no games scheduled this weekend.

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Missed opportunities lead to series loss against MTSU

BY MATT STAHL
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WKU baseball lost two out of three games against Middle Tennessee State University despite solid pitching and good offensive showings from several players. WKU left too many runners on base and paid the price.

The Hilltoppers dropped to 10-10 for the season and 1-2 in Conference USA play.

"We had two one-run ball games Friday and Saturday, and it was a real test to see where our club was in the beginning stages of our conference play," head coach John Pawlowski said after Sunday's win. "And I thought that they responded [Sunday]."

In the first game of the series, MTSU scored two in the first inning off of senior pitcher Ryan Thurston, who recovered to throw a career-high 10 strikeouts. Thurston pitched into the eighth, a season-high in innings for him.

The Hilltoppers recovered to tie the game at two in the seventh inning after a sacrifice by junior infielder Tyler Robertson scored senior infielder Steven Kraft. But in the top of the eighth MTSU added another run off a solo homer by Aaron Aucker.

"Ryan Thurston did a great job for us today to get us deep into the game, into the eighth inning, and he was outstanding," Pawlowski said in a press release Friday. "He kept us in the game and we had a chance to win, you can't ask any more from your starter if he does that."

The Hilltoppers had ample opportunity to win the game as they loaded the bases twice in the last two innings, but were unable to score both times. Throughout the game, WKU left 17 runners stranded, tied for third-most in program history, since the team's records were first kept in 2005.

"Unfortunately we were unable to come up with a big hit," Pawlowski said in a press release. "They did a good job, they made some pitches



KATHRYN ZIESIG • HERALD

Junior outfielder Jacob Rhinesmith (2) runs to first base after hitting during the first of three games against West Virginia University on March 2 at Nick Denes Field.

"We had two one-run ball games Friday and Saturday, and it was a real test to see where our club was in the beginning stages of our conference play"

Head Coach
JOHN PAWLOWSKI

and plays when they needed to. Close ballgame tonight, just weren't able to come through with a big swing."

The offensive fireworks went off in Saturday's game, as MTSU took a 5-1 lead through two innings. The Hilltoppers brought the score to 5-4 on a bases-clearing triple from senior left fielder Colie Currie in the bottom of the fourth.

The Blue Raiders scored a run in the fifth, sixth and eighth innings to win the game 8-7 despite another bases-clearing hit by Kraft, who extended his hitting streak to eight games. He extended that streak to nine games in Sunday's game.

"Just seeing the ball and putting good swings on it, that's all I can say," Kraft said. "They're giving me good pitches, I guess, and just don't miss them when you get them."

On Sunday the Hilltoppers jumped out to an early lead before MTSU scored four runs in the fourth inning to take the lead and chase off Kirkpatrick,

who surrendered seven hits and five runs in his worst start of the season.

The Hilltoppers tied the score at five in the fourth and would eventually win 10-7 after a strong performance over the last four innings from senior pitcher Ben Morrison, who Pawlowski spoke highly of after the game.

"It was an amazing outing for him," Pawlowski said. "We made the commitment that, you know, because we didn't use him in the first two games that we were going to put him in early if we had to and see what he can do and boy, what a response came from him."

WKU was helped by the play of junior third baseman Chase Larsen, who went 3 for 3 on Sunday and scored three runs to break out of his recent slump.

"It's nice to finally see the ball well again," Larsen said. "I mean, I've been struggling, it hasn't been a secret lately, so it's nice to finally see the ball again and be able to contribute."

The Hilltoppers will move on to their next game, which will be Tuesday at Bowling Green Ballpark against the University of Louisville.

"That's always a big game," Kraft said. "You look forward to it every year, because obviously the atmosphere is always great and then we always have a lot of fans coming out so, for us, what we've got to do is, instead of getting caught up in the atmosphere, just stick to what we've been doing. Play baseball and just have fun with it."

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WBB
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

that not sticking to Clark-Hearth's game plan was the reason for the loss.

"Our game plan was to limit their threes," Brown said. "But we didn't follow it like we should have and they hit some big shots as a result."

Oregon State was a poor matchup for the Lady Toppers. The Beavers lead the

country in 3-point percentage and held a size advantage thanks to star forward Marie Gulich, who stands 6-foot-5.

But WKU has familiarized itself with succeeding in C-USA play and making it to the tournament, and Brown says that the Lady Toppers will succeed with Clark-Hearth at the helm.

"We got the best coach here, and she'll have them ready next year and every year after that," Brown said.

Going forward, the Lady Toppers will have to chase that NCAA Tournament win without this season's stars, Tashia and Ivy Brown. The two seniors were at the forefront of WKU's C-USA Tournament championship run, as Tashia Brown led the conference in scoring with 22.5 points per game en route to being named the C-USA Player of the Year. Ivy Brown led the team in field goal percentage, as well

as 3-point field goal percentage and total rebounds. Ivy Brown was named C-USA's Defensive Player of the year, and both Ivy and Tashia Brown were named All-Conference First Team members.

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MBB
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

Rick Stansbury has preached that he wanted to consistently sell out Diddle Arena and make it a tough place to play. WKU sold out multiple games during the 2017-18 season. In the final game in Diddle Arena, former WKU assistant coach and current Boston College head coach Jim Christian was impressed by the atmosphere

Stansbury developed in just two years. "I came in 1990, Ralph Willard's first year, and the crowd wasn't like this," Christian said. "Then, Coach Willard got it rolling and it was just like this. This is a very knowledgeable and passionate basketball fanbase. It's fun. They deserve to have great teams and they do, they have a great team. It was a lot of fun being on the other sideline rather than this sideline, but a great environment to play."

WKU's win over BC was the first postseason win since the 2011-12 season, when the Hilltoppers defeated Mississippi Valley State 59-58 in a play-in game of the NCAA Tournament.



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

WKU senior guard Darius Thompson (15) is guarded by Boston College player Matt DiLuccio (22) during the first round of the NIT basketball tournament. WKU beat Boston College 79-62 on March 13 in Diddle Arena.

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SPRING FOOTBALL
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

just 791 total rushing yards. WKU was also the only Division I FBS team to not have a single 20-yard rushing play all season.

De'Andre Ferby will be returning for his final season of eligibility as a redshirt senior. After returning from

injury for the 2017 season, Ferby played in 11 games but totaled just 373 rushing yards. He was still the Hilltoppers' leading rusher last season, and will likely be the team's top running back next year.

With the Hilltoppers going through a youth movement between last year and this year, there's also the question of which young players will emerge and fight for playing

time this season.

Last year, 11 true freshmen got playing time, and 24 players got their first career start. The Hilltoppers will be looking for emerging young talents like Devon Key, a defensive back who recorded 94 total tackles, three passes defended and one interception. Those number earned him C-USA All-Freshman honors last year in his redshirt freshman

season.

WKU will have 14 spring practices this year, which will lead up to the annual Red vs. White Spring Game on April 21.

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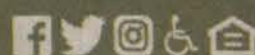
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SPORTS



WKU guard Whitney Creech (5) looks to pass against North Texas player Brittany Smith (3) during the Lady Toppers 77-61 win in the semifinal game of the Conference USA tournament against University of North Texas on Friday March 9, 2018 at The Star in Frisco, Texas.

SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

Questions to be answered during spring football

BY JEREMY CHISENHALL
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WKU's 100th football team begins its spring football practices Tuesday, looking to lay the groundwork to improve on last year's 6-7 record.

In order to do that, the Hilltoppers will have plenty of questions to answer in Mike Sanford's second year as head coach.

The biggest question for the team is who will replace Mike White at quarterback? In two seasons as WKU's starter under center, White threw for 8,540 yards and 63 touchdowns with a completion percentage of 66 percent. White's name is all over the program's record book, as he left WKU fourth in career pass completions, second in career completion percentage, second in career passer rating, second in career touchdown passes and third in career passing yards.

With White at the helm, WKU threw for more yards than any other team in Conference USA in 2017, which placed him third in the country in passing yards for the season. The Hilltoppers also featured the third-most efficient passing offense in the conference.

With White graduating and entering the NFL Draft, the battle to be his replacement starts in spring practice. The team had five other quarterbacks listed on the roster last season. Only two of those have had any experience at quarterback for WKU.

The most experienced is Drew Eckels, who will be a redshirt senior next season. In his WKU career, he has thrown for 214 yards and two touchdowns and completed 15-of-24 passes. He has appeared in 17 games. He was also involved in the quarterback battle to determine who would replace former Hilltopper and current Miami Dolphins quarterback Brandon Doughty, which White won.

Steven Duncan, who will be a red-shirt sophomore next season, has also made one appearance for the Hilltoppers. He completed two passes against UNC-Charlotte last season.

While he won't be competing in spring football, another option at quarterback could end up being Kevaris Thomas, a member of WKU's 2018 signing class, and the first four-star recruit in program history.

There is also concern about WKU's rushing attack, but for different reasons. The Hilltoppers struggled to run the ball all season in 2017. They finished dead last in rushing offense nationwide last season, putting up

IDES OF MARCH

Lady Toppers can't get over first round blues

BYALEC JESSIE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU



Friday's blowout loss to Oregon State University in the first round of the NCAA tournament reiterated a common theme for the WKU women's basketball team. While the Lady Toppers continue to have success in Conference USA, an NCAA Tournament win continues to elude them.

Under head coach Michelle Clark-Heard, the Lady Toppers have made four out of the last six NCAA Tournaments, but each time they have failed to win a game and advance on the big stage. WKU is still waiting for its first tournament win since 2000, when the Lady Toppers defeated Marquette University, 68-65.

It's not as if the Lady Toppers are facing competition they cannot beat. Usually seeded in the 11-12 range, those matchups tend to be ripe for upsets, and they don't play the top teams from Power 5 conferences.

Outside of Friday's blowout loss, most of WKU's tournament losses are close games. Last season, fifth-seeded Ohio State University beat

WKU by just seven points, 70-63. In 2015, the Lady Toppers hit 12 3-pointers in a two-point loss to the University of Texas. WKU even played one of the top programs in country in Baylor University, dropping that game 87-74 in the 2014 NCAA Tournament.

The struggles in the tournament are surprising considering the Lady Toppers' success in C-USA play. Over the past couple seasons, the Lady Toppers are 28-6 in conference

Mississippi 67-56 in last year's tournament final.

The Lady Toppers have also been dominant at home. They haven't lost a home conference game in two years and have only lost twice in Diddle Arena in that span as well.

This trend begs the question, what is holding the Lady Toppers back from advancing further in the big dance?

In this year's instance, Clark-Heard doesn't think it was because of a lack

"We competed. We just didn't make shots. But I'm really proud of who we are as a team."

Head Coach
MICHELLE CLARK-HEARD

play, finishing as a top-two team in the conference standings in each year. WKU has also won back-to-back conference tournaments in rather convincing style. WKU defeated University of Alabama-Birmingham 72-57 in the tournament championship this season and defeated University of Southern

of effort.

"Really proud of my team," Clark-Heard said. "We competed. We just didn't make shots. But I'm really proud of who we are as a team."

Following the loss to Oregon State, senior forward Tashia Brown claimed

SEE WBB • PAGE B5

SEE SPRING FOOTBALL • PAGE B5

Hilltoppers embrace postseason play in NIT

BY SAM PORTER
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Entering Monday night's matchup against University of Southern California, the WKU men's basketball team was one of 48 teams remaining across the NCAA Tournament and NIT.

Although WKU fell just short of its ultimate goal of playing in the big dance, receiving a bid to the NIT is a step forward from last year's 16-17 season that ended in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament. On top of that, the players enjoyed the luxury of traveling to Costa Rica before the regular season began in order for the newly formed group to play together before the season tipped off.

WKU played three regular season games before playing in the Battle 4 Atlantis Tournament in the Bahamas, where the Hilltoppers lost to Villanova University (a number-one seed in the NCAA Tournament) before upsetting Purdue University (a number-two seed in the NCAA Tournament) and defeating Southern Methodist University on a last second shot by freshman guard Jake Ohmer. Last night, the Hilltoppers enjoyed the luxury of playing in Los Angeles, California and entered the NIT tournament with the hopes of eventually playing in Madison Square Garden in New York City.

"I looked back at the places we've been this year," graduate transfer guard Darius Thompson said. "We've been to the Bahamas, Costa Rica, now L.A. It's been a blessing where WKU basketball has taken us this season."

"But at the end of the day I'm going to do what it takes to play to win and get to Madison Square Garden."

JUSTIN JOHNSON

For players like Thompson, senior forward Justin Johnson and graduate transfer Dwight Coleby, not winning the C-USA Tournament or playing in the NCAA Tournament is definitely

not the way the trio wanted to end their college career. But the NIT gives them one one last opportunity to impress potential pro scouts, whether it be the NBA or overseas.

"I mean I'm still going to go out and still play my game," Johnson said. "We're playing some better teams and better players and to do well against them kind of raises your stock. But at the end of the day I'm going to do what it takes to win games because I'm still trying to play to win and get to Madison Square Garden."

WKU's 79-62 win over Boston College in the opening round of the NIT marked the final home game of the 2017-18 season for WKU and capped off what has been a much improved season in the win column and attendance-wise. Head coach

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