WKU privatizes Health Services in response to budget troubles.

**News Article:**

Happy Gas enthralled a crowd at 15th anniversary performance.

BY JACKSON FRENCH

Host of Happy Gas alumni joined the improv troupe’s current generation in the Russell Miller Theatre on Saturday night in celebration of the group’s 15th anniversary.

As the crowd gathered in the theater, the sound system played a selection of hit songs from 1999, the year of Happy Gas’ inception.

Muhlenberg County senior and Happy Gas member Stephen Korfhage introduced Josh Chapman, one of Happy Gas’ founding members, before the show kicked off with a performance from Chapman and other Happy Gas alumni.

Colin Thornton, a founding member of Happy Gas, as well as the troupe’s first president, said the group has grown far larger since he left than he ever thought it would.

Happy Gas founder WKU alumnus Josh Chapman (far left) performs an improv skit called “Freeze Frame” with WKU alumni Sebastian Kearney (center), Franklin, Tenn., senior Nick Benson and approximately 25 other members of the comedy troupe during the 15th Anniversary Show at the Russell Miller Theatre in the Fine Arts Center on Saturday. TYLER ESSARY/HERALD

The founders of Happy Gas, WKU alumni Joshua Chapm man and Colin Thornton, upon the close with with members of Happy Gas’ ‘older generation’"Happy Gas, Kentucky’s longest running improvisation troupe, was formed in 1999.

**Sports News Article:**

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 • WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY • WKUHERALD.COM • VOLUME 89 NO. 42

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MARCH 25, 2014

A college height HERALD
drew a $3.1 million budget reduction as we prepare next year’s budget before we deal with covering our
fixed-cost increases, a state budget cut, or a salary
and/or benefits increase.”

The loss wasn’t unexpected and was a smaller loss than in spring 2013, Ransdell said.

In addition to the $3.1 million guaranteed budget cut, WKU faces a potential $1.8 million loss from a 2.5
percent cut proposed by Gov. Steve Beshear. This cut
has loomed over the heads of state universities since
it was announced in January, and it’s made it to the
Senate with little changes.

“It’s really just the worst of both worlds,” Ransdell said. “We’re facing a $3.1 million cut
next year, and we’re also facing a potential $1.8 million loss from a cuts from the Governor.”

Current state universities and colleges await an inevitability tuition cap from the Kentucky Council on
Postsecondary Education, setting the maximum percent-
age students’ tuition will increase. Since late Jan-
uary, WKU officials expect between a 3 to 4 percent increase.

“We’ve got a lot of challenges, but tuition is not the
answer,” Ransdell said. “There will be an increase,
but we’re not going to be able to balance the budget
with that increase, so we’ll have to balance it with our
spending.”

Most budget decisions will be made by mid-April
present to the Board of Regents, and Mead expects
further decisions closer to that date. One factor the
university won’t be using to balance the budget is an-
ticipated enrollment increases, Ransdell said.

“We’re going to hold it in what we know, which is
what we’ll finish this year with,” he said. “If we do
have better enrollment growth, we may have created
an opportunity to put some out. We’re working
to improve the numbers, but we’re not going to
take a risk and assume anything.”

HAPPY GAS
CONTINUED FROM FRONT

agement of Theatre & Dance.

“It was his first year teaching,” Thornton said. “I
thought, ‘What if we did these acting games in front of
an audience?’”

He said he enlisted fellow student Josh Chapman
because “Josh was the funniest guy around the theater
deptartment” and got a troupe together.

The group decided on the name Happy Gas, prac-
ticed for the rest of the Spring 1999 semester and put
on a few shows toward the end of the school year.

“Honestly I thought it would just go away,” Chap-
man said. “I kind of thought it would at least last for
another year or two, but not nearly fifteen.”

Chapman said that the group has built a legacy for itself.

“I think people don’t want to let it fall apart,” he said.

Thornton agreed.

“One of the amazing things is how this group has
affected people’s lives,” Thornton said. “We’ve had
people meet and get married, and we’ve had people
get into careers in comedy.”

After an intermission, a number of current Happy
Gas members took the stage before both troupes unit-
ed for a final show.

Glasgow freshman and new Happy Gas member Mat-
thew Zuccari said he thinks Saturday’s show was one of
the best improv performances he’s been involved with.

“Some communications can happen, but all in all, I
think we’re doing pretty well.”

Korfhage, who is Happy Gas’ public relations offi-
cer, said he thinks the group’s independence is what
has enabled it to last so long.

“We are not affiliated with WKU so we do get the
sponsorship that some of the other extracurricular
events on campus get,” he said. “We also don’t have
to live by their rules and we survive on our own.”

Korfhage said he believes the group has a bright fu-
ture ahead of it.

“We have a phenomenal group of freshmen,” he
said. “I am really excited for them in the future.”

Happy Gas
CONTINUED FROM FRONT
Corrections

Due to a Herald error, apartment pricing of College Suites was incorrectly listed in last Thursday’s Housing Guide section.

College Suites offers three- or four-bedroom apartments. Three-bedroom apartments begin at $396/month. Four-bedroom apartments are $418/month. The College Heights Herald regrets the error.

Due to a Herald error, Mary Sparr’s status as a graduate of WKU was incorrectly stated in last Tuesday’s A1 feature story about her.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters’ or editors’ attention. Please call 745-6611 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at editor@wkuherald.com.
EDITORIAL

The Issue: Steak ‘n Shake is coming to WKU next fall and will be the restaurant and bring in a healthier option for WKU. After all, three burger joints is more than enough.

Food Fumbles

We aren’t saying that options don’t exist, but perhaps alongside a Steak ‘n Shake will provide yet another burger option on campus.

It’s already difficult enough to eat healthy on campus without worrying about yet another unhealthy optionjoining the bunch, which brings us to our second point: repetitive menu options. A prime example of this is the burger joints on campus. Not only do we have Grille Works at the top of the Hill, Burger Studio next to Pearce-Ford Tower and Topper Grill in Topper Cafe, but Steak ‘n Shake will provide yet another burger option on campus. We understand that location is everything and that some people don’t want to walk all the way to the DSU food court, but this is a perfect opportunity for WKU to cut one burger restaurant and bring in a healthier option onto campus.

It’s definitely important to cater to a student’s needs than it wants when it comes to food options.

This editorial represents the majority of the Herald’s b-member editorial board.

Kristen Nugg: Fresh

planning on students’ diets based on dates of billings

is dumb. #NoHappyIxes #HaveOfPayIn

— Sent 3:43 PM - 23 Mar 14

Banna Freeze: The state of Kentucky is gonna be divided this entire week #WKU GoTop #FRBN

— Sent 2:54 PM - 23 Mar 14

VOICE YOUR OPINION

OPINION@WKUHERALD.COM

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 @WKUHERALD

College Heights Herald

WKU dining options leave room for improvement

One of my weaknesses these days is that I eat too much. Luckily, I’ve found a great way to counter that: the internet. Coincidentally, one recent article I read was about the need for healthier options for college students. The article stated that the majority of college students are not getting a balanced meal because the food options on campus are not healthy enough. This is a problem because a healthy diet is necessary for a healthy mind and body.

Many college campuses, including WKU, offer a variety of options for students to choose from. However, I believe that more healthy options need to be made available.

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Many college campuses, including WKU, offer a variety of options for students to choose from. However, I believe that more healthy options need to be made available.
use caution when answering ads, especially when asked to send money or provide credit card information. The College Heights Herald is not service positions. Chemistry/Biology experience helpful but not required. Fun atmosphere. Great summer job. Apply in person from 10-10 a.m.

Aquastar Pools is seeking full-time and part-time retail clerk and outside salesperson for immediate opening. Responsibilities include answering phone calls, helping customers make preparations, order equipment. Deliver and install. Must have willingness to work flexible hours. Must be able to lift and move equipment. No experience necessary. This is a full or part-time position. The College Heights Herald screens ads for accuracy and content. Submit your ad to advertising@wkuherald.com.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Adapt to change with flexibility and op- timism. Renew your love with one you lose. Opportunities and new ideas hide in the chaos. Discard old relationships.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Adapt to changes with flexibility and optimism. Renew your love with one you have lost. Opportunities and new ideas hide in the chaos. Discard old relationships.

HILTOP HOROSCOPES

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You're full of ideas, but be cautious. Be clear about your goals, and head it off with all possibilities.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Determine priorities by eliminating the less important. Use imagination when making money. Do not get easily sidetracked. Keep your focus on your personal dream.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Keep increasing your understanding, or you can get easily two-fisted to pull you down. Avoid a disagreement. Be clear about your personal dreams. Do not take anything for granted.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) — Keep increasing your understanding, or you can get easily two-fisted to pull you down. Avoid a disagreement. Be clear about your personal dreams. Do not take anything for granted.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Plan your next trip, but don’t go yet. Handle responsibilities and make decisive decisions. Prepare or complete your equipment. Do regular or complete obligations. Verify reservations. Dream about the upcoming adventure.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Be cautious when communicating to depleted shared resources. Follow an expert’s plans. Work closely with your partner. Ride the waves, without testing physical limitations. Anticipate controversy and head it off with clarification.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You’re in a lucky winner. Wait until you’re fully developed. Don’t make extraneous predictions. No fair dealing. In other words, don’t take big actions.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You don’t have to pay for everything. Streamline a routine. You’re a lucky winner. Wait until you’re fully developed. Don’t make extraneous predictions. No fair dealing. In other words, don’t take big actions.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — The tide shifts on an unexpected direction. Get family to help everyone’s chances to voice their opinion. Have you the need deliver efficiency, and consider possibilities.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Don’t show unlimited support to a critic. Irritations and breakdowns at home could throw your personal dreams. Do not take anything for granted.

HILLTOP HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A group decision provides an op- portunity. Consider it, without taking action yet. Look at all options. A rise in status or pay is possible. Clarify your dream, map out a plan, and prepare your move.
Drumroll, please

PHOTOS BY KREABLE YOUNG
**Music Department showcases ‘An Afternoon of Choral Music’**

BY KRISTA BURTON

April 25, 2014

The Southern Kentucky Choral Society, directed by WKU Professor Paul Henderson, performs a concert at Van Meter Hall on April 25th with the WKU Women’s Chorus and the Men’s Chorus, the WKU Choral Union, and the Treble Choral Society.

**Scarecrow project yields farming possibilities**

BY WHITNEY ALLEN

March 25, 2014

The organization is open for everyone who wants to continue doing because she didn’t have enough money to do something with my house.” The project is her way of giving back to the community.

With such a wide variety of species, many farmers say some scarecrows have to be able to emit a variety of sounds and smells. "If we do the same thing every single day, we’re not going to get anywhere," said Castlen.

Some of the smells used are cedar and kaempferol urine. The purpose is that farmers could quickly learn what’s going on and have the ability to act accordingly.

"If you’re looking for new ways to control pests, it doesn’t mean that the farmer relies on explicitly new technology to create stimuli that will keep animals out of the fields as much as possible," Castlen said. "The idea is to create, from large rodents to elephants and monkeys.

Along with its out-of-state projects, the NSF is looking for new ways to support research through their joint program Basic Research through Intellectual Advancement (BREAD). The focus of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is sub-Saharan Africa, with the scarecrow project primarily serving farmers in Kenya.

"We're looking at the farmers’ behaviors here, because you're doing something for them and it's something you can do something about," Pate said. "That’s where the iPod comes in."

"I gained a lot of experience designing sounds and smells. I really think what’s going on with the iPod and the iPad is that you can do something that’s educational or entertaining."

Jeffrey Edwards, Murray senior majoring in Geography and Geology, said. "There was lots of need for new houses, and Habitat had stepped in to help make it possible for those homeowners to afford a home."
WKU football announces spring practice schedule

BY HERALD SPORTS STAFF

WKU women's softball team had a home run to place in the second half of the game against Texas Arlington.

The game went on to be won by WKU, 3-0, with the Lady Toppers out-hitting the Mavericks, 10-2.

Senior pitcher Emily Reussow had a home run to place in the second half of the game against Texas Arlington.

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(Across from Mass Media) TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION.
The Lady Toppers recuperate in the locker room after their 87-74 loss to Baylor during the first round of the 2014 NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Championship at the Ferrell Center in Waco, Texas on Saturday. (Elliott Pratt/HERALD)