By ZACH GREENWELL

WKU basketball Head Coach Ken McDonald, left, listens as Athletics Director Ross Bjork announce the university’s athletics department alcoholic beverage policy last Thursday. The policy will be March 29-30, with votes cast through TopNet. Candidates can begin their campaign after an informational meeting on Tuesday. “I was expecting another opponent or maybe even two,” Stephens said. “I got a call from (current SGA President) Colton Jessie and he said I was the only one running and I was excited but at the same time surprised.” 

Stephens, the current director of academic and student affairs, said he is unopposed. “I’d like to get out there and tell people of my platform and my goals,” he said. “I don’t want students not to know about that just because I am the only person running.”

Stephens unopposed for president

By MIKE STUNSON

The WKU Americans for Informed Democracy have been working on declaring WKU as a fair trade university for the last two years, but still has not been approved within the next week. Charlie Harris, co-founder of WKU AID, said he would like President Gary Ransdell to sign the declaration at the conference. “WKU meets all of the requirements,” Harris said. “All that is left is to do is officially declare WKU.”

According to the month’s Staff Council minutes, Harris and his colleagues made a presentation about fair trade to the Staff Council. The council voted to support the initiative, which will have already approved the declaration by April 29.

SEE SGA PAGE 5

WKU close to fair trade designation

By MIKE STUNSON

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Billy Stephens was surprised to find out he was the only student who chose to run to be next year’s student body president. Student Government Association elections will be March 29-30, with votes cast through TopNet. Candidates can begin their campaign after an informational meeting on Tuesday. “I was expecting another opponent or maybe even two,” Stephens said. “I got a call from (current SGA President) Colton Jessie and he said I was the only one running and I was excited but at the same time surprised.”

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tuesday
Summer Sessions Registration Rally 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Cherry Hall and Grise Hall Information about summer 2011 courses, with giveaways including hot chocolate, T-shirts and pens.
Freshman Academic Expo 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Downing University Center Student Government Association senate meeting 5 p.m., DUC 305
Big Red’s Trivia Bowl 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Gary Ransdell Hall Fair Trade Universities Conference 6 p.m., Van Meter Hall Concert: Tale as Old as Time Orchestra Kentucky presents “Disney in Concert” 4 p.m. to 10:45 p.m., DUC 310 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mass Media and Technology Hall 118
Saturday
Big Red’s Trivia Bowl 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., fine arts center 189 270-745-5204 or email cultural.enhancement@wku.edu .

wednesday
Study Abroad Fair 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Garrett Conference Center Ballroom 2011 Junior Kentucky High School Speech League State Championship 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Grise Hall, Cherry Hall and College High Hall Speech and debate tournament for elementary and middle school students.
Solo performance by guest violinist Melissa Hoffman, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., fine arts center 189 Baseball vs. Middle Tennessee 6 p.m., Neil Denis Field
Sunday
Fair Trade Universities Conference 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Gary Ransdell Hall “Jakyl and Hyde: The Carl Nielsen Clarinet Concerto” 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., fine arts center 189

MCDONALD CONTINUED FROM FRONT
McDonald said those talks, which included five separate discussions, were largely about staying over.
“When something goes at the level you want it to pick it up. I’m looking at myself and now our staff is in line with me, making sure not just a time and making sure the players follow it. What has gone on right now is not acceptable. It's our job to make sure we're getting back on track. WKU went 16-16 this season, which is the most losses in more than a decade. The Toppers will be young next year, with the only senior being guard Kahlil McDonald. McDonald’s entire coaching staff will be retained. Only John Oldham for most victories by a WKU basketball coach at his first three years. Byrkh said these achievements and others played large factors in retaining McDonald, as well as his belief that three years is too “small of a window” to gauge a coaching career. He said he turned to several people for advice, including coaches and his former player, including Ohio State’s Thad Matta, Arizona’s Kevin O’Connor and the Huskies’ Jim Crews. “This is a very, very unique situation,” Byrkh said. “We have lost the past three years, but we were not always bad, personal matters, unnecessary ups and downs, media issues, and the fact that he won more games. That's the bottom line of why we're here.” It was also announced Monday that McDonald’s entire coaching staff will be retained.

KLOSTERTON
CHUCK TUESDAY MARCH 22 7:36 PM VAN METER HALL 3000 SAVINGS TO FELLOW
Tuesdays are free for guests to shop, locally made and get great deals. For more information, visit wkuherald.com.

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WKU signs agreement with Hopkinsville CC

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THE ISSUE: The steam flow in downtown Bowling Green, KY, is up until spring commencement. Our STANCE: facilities management should work harder to stop the steam flow, so it has extreme negative effects.

For months now, a broken hot water pipe that carries steam to the Central Heating plant has caused a constant steam flow in downtown. Though it is a mistake of more than an absolute horror, the steam still causes problems that should be addressed more aggressively by facilities management.

However, our students that live on campus are being told to enjoy the steam because it is good for your health. This is false, as the steam is killing the entire area. This area is affected by the steam in a hot spot for admissions tours, which are not going to be much fun.

Barely hypocritical is to give the reasoning for tailgating, then all other people who populate that area at all times.

Furthermore, administrators reseed the park to prevent tailgating, reasoning that cars damaged the lawn, especially on many days, and make them susceptible for visitors. They also said the damage would be too expensive to fix.

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Furthermore, administrators reseed the park to prevent tailgating, reasoning that cars damaged the lawn, especially on many days, and make them susceptible for visitors. They also said the damage would be too expensive to fix.

I feel that this effort is misguided because the university is trying to eliminate decades of tradition for the sake of marketability. Since its creation in 1906, as the Western Kentucky State Normal School, “Western” has been a moniker that has been synonymous with the college, here in Bowling Green and throughout Kentucky. The school would not have a marketable nickname if it was not Western Kentucky University, as we know it, until 60 years later.

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Students can expect a Taco Bell within walking distance to be opened near WKU's campus this fall.

Fugate Enterprises, a company based out of Virginia, plans to start construction on a Taco Bell in April at 1802 Russellville Road, near where Burger King recently closed. The company owns numerous Taco Bells, Pizza Hut and Sonic restaurants, and was recognized for the survey.

"There was a Taco Bell license in Bowling Green, with the closest campus right now at 1166 31-W Bypass. Cincinnati freshman Laura Fugate said she thinks Taco Bell's hours are the restaurant's biggest positive. "It's a good thing, and I think we should have it because campus restaurants aren't always open," Fugate said. "It's close to campus and convenient."

Fugate said she will go to the Taco Bell probably every other week, even at night with friends, just as many students do with GADSD and Waffle House.

"It's a good thing, and I think we should have it because campus restaurants aren't always open," Fugate said. "It's close to campus and convenient."

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HRL conference tackles gender, language

By KATHERINE WADE
kwa052@wku.edu

Students are invited to step outside the box at the "Check Your Box!" Language & Gender Conference on Friday.

The conference, sponsored by Housing and Residence Life, is designed to explore language and gender issues that are relevant to students.

Peggy Crowe, assistant director of HRL, said the past HRL has hosted two separate conferences, one for men and one for women.

This year they are combining the two.

We decided to encourage cross-gender dialogue and push students to engage in discussions about topics that they probably think about but may not engage in regularly or on their own," she said.

The conference will take place at 1 p.m. Friday in Downing University Center and will be broken up into four sessions:

Gender as the Media, Gender and Spirituality, Gender and the Workplace and Gender and Self-Image. The sessions will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be followed by a Q&A session. Participants can sign up for two of the four sessions.

All of the sessions are presented by WKU faculty or staff.

Kari Laves, assistant director for the Consulting and Testing Center, will be facilitating the Gender and Self-Image session.

He said they plan to talk about reasons people delay on things and how their own sense of who they are affects others’ opinions.

"We’re all vulnerable to not giving ourselves enough credit," he said. "All of us get3 mailed from the time we were important and who we are.”

Laves hopes students who attend the conference will get a better idea of why it is natural and healthy to not always be like other people.

Marybeth Burnett, hall director for Gilbert Hall, said the presenters are there to guide conversations and answer any questions the students may have.

Students must register to attend the conference on HRL’s website. Crowe said if 75 students have registered, and everyone who registers will receive a t-shirt, a mug and most importantly, valuable knowledge.

"As a result of attending, students will develop increased awareness and skills in the area of multi-culturalism," she said. "They will be like other people. Students will learn that students who attend the conference will get a better idea of why it is natural and healthy to not always be like other people."

"I hope students will engage in regularly or on their own," she said. "It also gives them an opportunity to be creative with the campus and their photography."

Eating must be submitted in color and in digital format to the PTS website by Friday. All photos must be taken on WKU-owned property within the last three years. The four content categories are campus landmarks, scenery/landscape, wildlife, and agricultural/farm.

The judging panel will consist of professionals in graphic design, website design, marketing and public relations.

Kostka said the prizes for winners will include gift certificates, Bluetooth headsets and solar cell phone chargers.

By KATHERINE WADE

No WKU members affected by natural disasters in Japan

Tom Millington, director of Study Abroad and Global Learning, said their western Kentucky students in Japan who were affected by natural disasters in Japan.

There are also no known members of the WKU community who had left overseas.

The 8.9 earthquake, which shook northeastern Japan, was the most powerful quake ever record in Japan, according to The New York Times.

--- Elizabeth Belman
**President Ransdell relaxes with tunes from his youth**

By NATALIE WEST  
**March 15, 2011 College Heights Herald**

President Gary Ransdell has 109 songs on his mp3 player. He said he doesn’t have many opportunities to listen to music, but when he does, he listens to the time, he said he listens to music that reminds him of childhood.

He enjoys songs from the 70s and 80s that he listened to when he was growing up in Lousiville and when he attended WKU.

“I use music that takes me back to an important time,” Ransdell said.

Most of these songs fall into the early classics and rock `n’ roll genres. But he likes a few contemporary artists such as Michael Buble and Faith Hill, he said.

His all-time favorite is Van Morrison, though.

Ransdell said some of his top Morrison songs are “Tupelo Honey,” “Gypsy Caravan,” “The Leaves Come Falling Down” and “Meet the Isle in Summer.”

They are ballads,” he said. “I like his style because it’s comfortable.”

He said he listens to music at the commencement ceremonies.

The Lovin’ Spoonful’s “Do You Believe in Magic” (1965):

“This is one of my favorite songs because I have a lot of high school and college memories tied to it,” Ransdell said.

The song is “Tupelo Honey,” “When the Sun Comes Out” and “Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World” (1968):

“It makes me happy every time I hear it, he said. “It provides my generation, but it’s timeless.”


“A kind of stink made me as it was reaching that milestone a few years ago,” Ransdell said about the first Buffett song. “He’s a little bit of a rebel and this song fits in. We’re going to take advantage of the opportunity to keep the support of the people we have and to regain the support of the people we have and to regain the support of the people,” McDonald said.

He enjoyed songs from the 70s and 80s that he listened to when he was growing up in Lousiville and when he attended WKU.

“It’s a factor for sure when you retain a staff because you want the best program possible,” Bjork said. “The recruiting class coming in is high level. It’s energized, and it’s formed a unique bond. "We’re going to take advantage of the opportunity to keep the support of the people we have and to regain the support of the people we have and to regain the support of the people," McDonald said. "I know the product on the floor is going to be a whole lot more fun to watch and relate with because I know the level of the guys returning and coming in."
It’s been a little more than a month since I first stepped foot outside the manor, and it isn’t America, as funny as most of my time with Harlaxton end up in Europe. A lot of students at WKU and many people speak over here. I remember that not everyone knows how to drive and use common sense, and you might fall into some big cities. Just be smart and don’t let it scare you away from exploring. You learn responsibility for yourself by planning trips and getting yourself there and back successfully. You learn to communicate and that’s the most important thing.

The experiences are worth it. Not everyone hates Americans. Not even the French hate us. What people do hate are rude Americans, but can understand and tolerate if you’re friendly. In truth, and it can’t be sugarcoated. Study abroad costs money, and lots of it. At Harlaxton, most students included, myself included, use the Saturday workshops to travel. While there are some folks for seven-time and affordable homes, it all falls into transportation, meals, recreation and food and it’s a pretty penny. Make sure you apply for scholarships and be prepared to let go of any savings you’ve accumulated.

There’s a misconception in the way that we do things, but it’s not true. If you’re not a rude American, but can understand and tolerate if you’re friendly, that’s the important thing.

Wish you were here

This is the fifth in an occasional series of columns by two Herald reporters who are participating in the study abroad trip this semester. They write about their experiences and provide insight for future students considering study abroad.

SMITH

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS

Jenkins said Smith’s performance was an “exciting competition.”

“We’ve never lost a championship in our time here, and I think that’s something she takes pride in,” Jenkins added.

The NCAA championships are the end of the indoor track season, with outdoor competitions taking place on March 25th.

“Going abroad doesn’t change you,” Jenkins said. “There’s a misconception that study abroad changes you, so it is when you meet foot across foreign, and you probably come change person, fake. That of simply leaving home doesn’t change you; it one that was being, but it probably, and maybe, will change you’re abroad. You learn responsibility for yourself by planning trips and getting yourself there and back successfully.

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The experiences are worth it. Not everyone hates Americans. Not even the French hate us. What people do hate are rude Americans, but can understand and tolerate if you’re friendly. In truth, and it can’t be sugarcoated. Study abroad costs money, and lots of it. At Harlaxton, most students included, myself included, use the Saturday workshops to travel. While there are some folks for seven-time and affordable homes, it all falls into transportation, meals, recreation and food and it’s a pretty penny. Make sure you apply for scholarships and be prepared to let go of any savings you’ve accumulated. The experiences are worth it.

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Three WKU golfers finish in top 10 at invitational

The WKU men's and women's golf teams had a combined three individuals record top-10 finishes in tournaments last weekend.

The Toppers finished ninth overall at the Spring Fling Invitational in Howey-In-The-Hills, Fla., led by junior Andrew Heiser.

Heiser led the tournament after the first round of play and eventually finished fifth among individuals. Senior Adam McDonald finished one stroke behind in sixth place.

On the women's side, sophomore Kristen Wilkinson paced the Lady Toppers with a second-place individual finish at the El Diablo Intercollegiate in Ocala, Fla.

Wilkinson shot a three-round total of 220, finishing one stroke behind medalist Harin Lee of St. John's. WKU finished in fourth as a team.

Bjork: Cowles will coach Lady Toppers next season

WKU Athletics Director Ross Bjork told the Herald Monday that WKU Head Coach Mary Taylor Cowles will be back next season.

Bjork said the Lady Toppers have “lots of work to do” after a season that ended with a 15-17 record — Cowles’ first losing record during her tenure.

WKU rebounded from a rough start to the season with a trip to the finals of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last week, where they lost to Arkansas-Little Rock, 66-59.

“I was already thinking about next Monday night and where we were going to be sitting in Diddle and waiting for our name to appear on the screens knowing I’d have to figure out which shoes to go dancing in,” Cowles said after the loss. “Obviously that didn’t happen.”

Todd Stewart, senior associate athletic director, said Monday that Bjork completes an evaluation of every WKU coach and program when their seasons are over. He said the review of the Lady Toppers will evaluate everything from recruiting to personnel.

“We’re looking at any and every means to improve on a 15-17 record that was obviously disappointing,” Stewart said.

WKU has not yet commented on any alterations, including personnel changes, that might happen inside the program.

BY THE NUMBERS

3 Consecutive wins for the Lady Toppers during the Sun Belt tournament, their longest winning streak of the season.

12 Points per game January Howard was averaging when she quit the team in February as its leading scorer.

3 Number of seniors WKU will have next season, with guard Vanessa Obafemi, forwards Teranie Thomas, LaTeesa Owens and Keisha Mosley and center Jasmine Johnson.

The Lady Toppers’ record after Howard left on Feb. 14. WKU went 10-4 with Howard on the roster.

There were times when we didn’t get along. There were times we were about ready to kill each other. But we held each other’s hand. What family doesn’t have problems?”

—ARNIKA BROWN, Senior Forward

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McDonald: Toppers have to limit distractions

**The Lady Toppers rolled into Louisville this weekend and are trying to translate their success into their second game against Louisville.**

By NICK BRATCHER

The Lady Toppers rolled into Louisville this weekend to test themselves against some stiff competition. WKU’s 16-16 record this season didn’t help matters, nor did issues surrounding the men’s basketball program, the coach said after the game that he was proud of the way the Toppers turned around their 2011-12 season.