Canceling classes for snow up to provost

By JONATHAN LINTNER

More than 10 people liked Bowling Green junior Josh Ames’ Facebook status Wednesday night posted in response to a e-mail from Bob Skipper, director of media relations, that classes would be starting at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday.

“Just Bob Skipper has spoken. Thank you Bob.” the status read.

Even though it’s Skipper who relays the message, the decision to cancel classes is ultimately up to Gordon Emslie, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, who began his job on July 1 of last year.

“We communicate the decision as soon as we get it, and that’s the best we can do,” Skipper said. “There are a lot of factors that come into play in making the decision in those classes. It’s not a simple or easy decision to make.”

Ames said he had no idea — and doubted other students did too — that canceling classes is up to Emslie. Though it is all Bob Skipper who did that,” he said. “I didn’t even know if Bob Skipper was a real person because of the nature, you know.”

It’s safe to say Emslie hasn’t had the kind of winters as his first on the Hill. Class has been canceled four different times on WKU’s main campus during the 2010-2011 school year morning classes on Dec. 14, night classes on Monday and Wednesday, and morning classes on Thursday.

A single-day record 3.8 inches of snow fell on Wednesday, eclipsing the 3.1 inches that blanketed Bowling Green on Feb. 9, 2010, according to the National Weather Service.

Stress levels higher now for students

By CAITLIN CARTER

Recent studies have shown that stress levels of incoming college freshmen are at an all-time high.

Of more than 200,000 incoming full-time college freshmen polled, 51.9 percent of students reported their emotional health to be “above average,” according to the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA’s survey, “The American Freshman: National Norms Fall 2010.”

This number dropped by 3.4 percent from 2009 and has decreased by 11.5 percent in the past 20 years, while emotional health was not measured by the survey.

Brian Van Brunt, director of the Counseling and Testing Center, said this increase in stress can come from multiple places.

“Some students who are coming in have the experiences of traveling, being with someone else, the new, the requirements to complete all their different syllalls and coursework,” Van Brunt said. “They also need to learn the bus schedule. The adjustment is a critical stressor for any college student.”

With tuition increases each year and the recent recession, Van Brunt, also president of the American College Counseling Association, said there is also a greater financial burden on students these days.

“They are helping out with students on secondary things such as gas, food money, food and books, there’s less money to go around,” he said.

Van Brunt said tuition is more than $800 million in student loans, according to a CNBC report.

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Making a difference

Greeks comprise more than 40 percent of student government

By MIKE STUNSON

Members of the Student Government Association insist a disproportionate number of Greeks in the organization isn’t a problem.

“There are 21 members of WKU’s Greek community consisting of about 1,600 members,” said Charley Pride, director of Student Activities and Organizations.

“That means more than 10 percent of SGA is Greek while less than 9 percent of WKU’s student body is a fraternity or sorority,” he said.

SGA President Colton Jones said Greeks play a large role in the organization.

“If I don’t think it is a bad thing that so many Greeks are in SGA, said Jones, who isn’t a in a fraternity. “It doesn’t matter what other organizations you’re in as long as you’re making a difference, and most of the time it is.”

Billy Stephens, director of academic and student affairs for SGA, said Greeks members like himself care about more than just themselves.

“Most of us care a great deal about the campus as a whole,” said Stephens, a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. “It doesn’t matter approximately and from Charley Pride, director of Student Activities and Organizations.

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CRIME REPORTS

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Williams discusses state of race relations

By TAYLOR HARRISON news@chherald.com

Juan Williams, a political commentator for Fox News, spoke on Tuesday night with what Hopkinsville freshman Erin Spencer called "a different approach." "He told it through a story," she said. "I think it made people pay attention." Williams, who was fired from his job at NPR last October for saying he gets worried and nervous around Muslims on airplanes, wasn’t at WKU to talk about what he said on "The O’Reilly Factor." He was WKU’s keynote speaker for Black History Month, and he made his topic: current race relations.

But Williams made sure to lighten the mood with a few jokes first, noting that many students might have been at a mostly crowded Downing University Center Theatre on Tuesday night for extra credit. Williams had statistics prepared, but he didn’t just list them off. Instead, he began to tell a story.

He told the audience to imagine that an elderly Martin Luther King Jr. came running in, interrupting the speech to ask about the current state of race relations. "He captured my attention by encouraging us to live through the spirit of Martin Luther King," said Anna Schreiner, a Louisville freshman.

Williams used statistics about poverty, the rise in single-parent households and immigration while keeping to the King story. He continued to impress upon his audience how shocked King would be when shown how America has changed—both in good and bad ways.

Williams also pointed to two very successful people to celebrate during Black History Month: Oprah Winfrey and Bill Cosby. However, he also said King would not be impressed by current rap music videos and shows such as "Flavor of Love."

Louisville freshman Allison Riedling said the speech taught her to respect diversity. "It inspired me to be a better global citizen," she said.

Williams said most Americans tiptoe around the issue of race. "America has become the land of the living dead when it comes to race," he said.

Williams ended his speech by encouraging the audience to "recognize that the greatness of Dr. King lives in you."
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — While Americans are worrying about the economy, others are living with the daily stress of poverty, a national survey finds.

The surveys found that more than half of American adults were struggling to pay for basic necessities like housing and food. The findings come as the country recovers from the recession and as the government prepares to release data on joblessness and food stamp usage.

The surveys, conducted in May and June, are part of a larger study by the National Center for Health Statistics, a federal agency that tracks health and social conditions. The study surveyed more than 40,000 people in 14 states.

The survey found that 51 percent of adults said they had trouble paying for medical bills, 47 percent said they were unable to afford prescription drugs, 39 percent said they had trouble paying for utilities, and 37 percent said they had trouble paying for housing.

The National Center for Health Statistics said the findings were consistent with previous surveys that showed a growing number of Americans were struggling to make ends meet.

“While the overall economy is improving, many people are still facing significant financial hardships,” said Barbara Bollier, the director of the National Center for Health Statistics. “This study underscores the need for continued action to address the root causes of poverty and improve access to affordable health care.”

The survey also found that people with incomes below the federal poverty level were more likely to report difficulties paying for medical bills and prescription drugs than those with higher incomes.

The survey was conducted online and included a sample of 4,611 adults. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points for the overall results and a margin of error of plus or minus 2.6 percentage points for the results by income level.
in the rain.

happiness. Take a chance. Dance joyfully

it was a stretch for me.

after I had an opportunity like this again.

or maybe missing classes for a few days

zone, even if it means getting over a fear

too. Never be afraid to exit your comfort

year.

skiing is slipping down an icy sidewalk

been able to manage in even the lightest

gan has to offer.

press tour of everything northern Michi-

and a group of other journalists had a

when you take a break from your routines

that are inescapable — academics, jobs,

and have fun, endorphins are released, and

accordingly.

These are the best years of our lives; we

responsibilities overshadow our youth.

or my life, certainly a worthwhile experi-

money.

my high school, that classmate has

ded, along with a few others who gradua-

with me. Their young lives ended

died, along with a few others who gradu-

have an opinion? Write a letter to the editor (250 words or less) or a commentary (500 words and a photo). E-mail them to opinion@chherald.com.
Students who are looking for an inexpensive way to spend Valentine’s Day can do so at White Castle.

The fast food restaurant is offering a special Valentine’s Day dinner for customers that includes a free chocolate and mints. “We provide a table-side service with a fresh-cut flower arrangement, special menu and a white linen table cloth along with a ‘candlelit dinner,’ a special ‘fine dining’ experience for couples at WKU and in the Bowling Green community, according to a press release. Reservations can be made via phone between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. through Feb. 14.

Dave Williams, manager of the White Castle at 1058 Scoville Road, said along with a “candlelight dinner, a special menu and a white linen table cloth with a fresh-cut flower arrangement, we provide a table-side service with chocolate and mints.”

He also said they give couples a free digital photo available on the website.

“We’ve got a memoir — something they can remember,” he said. The local White Castle has been offering this dining opportunity for three years.

Jamie Richardson, vice president of government and corporate relations for White Castle, said the tradition has been withstanding nationwide for the past 20 years. White Castle has hosted this special Valentine’s Day dinner for our most loyal and romantic customers,” Richardson said in a press release. “Love is always in the air at White Castle.

“A good number of our customers have met, shared a first date or even gotten married at White Castle restaurant,” she said. The restaurant is also offering a “Sweetheart Meal Deal” coupon available on Facebook pages. Clarksville graduate student Casey Arriaga said she would be open to spending Valentine’s Day at White Castle with her husband, who is in Iraq, if he were in town because of the “unconventional experience.” She wouldn’t go, but if he were home, sure. Why not? Arriaga said: “It’s funny, and a little bit different.”

Kalen Gerber, a graduate student at UT Austin, Texas, she said they would prefer to eat “something that wasn’t fast food.” “It doesn’t seem romantic at all,” she said.

Established in Wichita, Kansas, the restaurant is celebrating 90 years of business this year. White Castle has more than 40 locations in 31 states, according to the press release. The local White Castle is known as the first fast food hamburger chain in the nation, according to the press release.

Orchestra Kentucky plays Valentine’s concert this weekend

Orchestra Kentucky, a professional orchestra in Bowling Green, is coming to Van Meter Hall this weekend to celebrate Valentine’s Day with their concert “Emotion Love.” The orchestra combines a 24-piece orchestra with a rich band and singers, said Jeff Read, music director for the orchestra.

This weekend, they will be performing classic love songs from the 1940s through the 1990s, including songs from artists such as Eric Clapton, Huey Lewis and the News and Aretha Franklin, he said. The concert is the last one in Orchestra Kentucky’s season.

“Every concert has the recorded song as part of the selection,” he said. “If students like the music of their parents, they’ll love it,” Read said.

The concert will be tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m., tickets are 25 to $35, depending on seat location.

The concert is the last one in Orchestra Kentucky’s annual Emotion Series that celebrates great songs from the past, the series.

“There are different kinds of love songs,” said Read. “We have songs from the 1950s, love songs about having been in love with somebody after the relationship is over. There are a lot of different topics for love songs to be about.”

By ELIZABETH BEILMAN

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Derek Noem is among those who can. He has been trying to focus on recruitment and letting other people start stuff so after he graduates, he can step down. "I'm trying to get up Guild membership and letting other people start stuff so after the older generation is gone there's still a home to the organization," he said. "I really believe people that can actually keep it going."

Noem said he taught nine of the residents to play Dungeons and Dragons last semester. "One of them is Simpsonville junior Tate Wilcox, who is also a member of the Guild. Wilcox said he had been gaming since age 7, but he had never been into pen-and-paper games until meeting Noem.

"I would be lying if I said I wasn't enjoying it," he said. "I can actually have conversations while you're playing," he said. "It's more interaction with people. I like that aspect of it a lot more."

"The Gamers' Guild meets on the second floor of Downing University Center from 4:30 to 10:45 p.m. on Saturdays. Noem said that when he got to WKU, he immediately joined the Gamers' Guild. He plays games such as Dungeons and Dragons, Magic: The Gathering, Flames of War and Warhammer 40K. Noem became Guild Master after Guild elections in the spring.

"It's basically like hanging out with your friends, only it's more fun than sitting around talking about life," he said. "You'd just be sitting around saying, 'Damn, it's cold. We can't play football. Well, let's play just be sitting around saying, 'Damn, it's cold.'"

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CONTINUED FROM SPORTS WATCH
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though the teams. But the fans — because they don't like me.

get the people here stirred up."

hopes that it continues for Western than any other.

...had to get this other chance, I mean."

stay focused, stay together."

of things.

38 for their final game of the season."

just to pick up a win down in Mur-

simply "frustrating."

I'm the only one, but

"You've got to be hyped. I mean, we're not saying I'm the only one, but we're about to pick up a win down in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Feb. 27 for their final game of the season."

ward Arnika Brown's final

The Lady Toppers have learned how to pick up a win down in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Feb. 27 for their final game of the season.

It's always been by myself, I think. Being a part of the team thing is very important to me because it is Europe and it was only about something.

We're the only two things we're both out with tournaments, she said. "If you look at any tournament..."

"We generally start with that many new faces."

"We're pretty confident, we're prepared, and we're not going to go back and we get a loss or anything; but we are ready to go out there and win five games."

"It's best that all Lady Toppers start with a very small amount of..."

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We're chomping at the bit. "I've always done that."

"He said every team in the Sun Belt has plenty of..."

But the fans — because they don't like me.

"I'm the only one, but we're about to pick up a win down in Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Feb. 27 for their final game of the season."

The Lady Toppers will have a reunion in Diddle Arena.

It's best that all Lady Toppers start with a very small amount of..."
Immediate impact

Latvian transfers bring experience from overseas

By Lucas Aulbach

Laura Ignatre and Tom Andersons may have been in America only since last September, but that's all right.

“Sometimes some tragedies too, but that’s only after satisfy,” Andersons said.

Andersons and Laura Ignatre are one of the top-three performers in the Sun Belt Conference this year. However, despite their experiences overseas, Andersons and Ignatre definitely make a difference in the league.

“Some are used to new places. They’re used to new places,” Andersons said. “It was a big change.”

Laura Ignatre, who came to WKU in her freshman year, also played a big part in wearing the new red.

“Got me a blue one.”

Donald said. “The guys stressed that they’re not good, to wear the same uniform everyone. When asked whether another athlete they participate in camps, the first word both said was “analyzing.”

Igaune, who has posted season-best distances in several jumping events this year, said he and Ignatre definitely make a difference soon.

“I had a great day,” he said. “It was a big day.”

Laura Ignatre

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See TRACK, PAGE 7

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